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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 3, 1891.

BIRTH.

At Tokyo on the 27th ultimo, the wife of Dr. W N. WHITNEY of a Son.

MARRIAGE.

SMITH-ALDRICH.—On 15th November, at Bunnythorpe, by the Rev. Mr. Patterson, Robert Bifield Smith, Manager, Bank of Australasia, Palmerston North, to Bertha Elizabeth, fourth daughter of A. S. Aldrich, of Bunnythorpe, New Zealand, and Yokohama, Japan.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

H.I.H. PRINCE KUNIHIKO left the capital on the 26th ultimo for the hot springs at Atami.

MR. ASADA, Governor of Kanagawa, is at present suffering from an attack of influenza.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR was present at the meeting of the Cabinet on the 26th at 1.45 p.m., retiring at 2.50 p.m.

THE line of the Osaka Railway between Oji-mura and Nara, which was completed recently, was opened for traffic on the 27th ult.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE KUNI left the capital for Oiso, on the 29th ultimo, starting from the Shimbashi Station at 9 p.m.

COUNTESS YAMAGATA visited the Palace on the afternoon of the 27th ultimo, and had an interview with the Her Majesty the Empress.

THE British Minister entertained Prince Sanjo, Counts Saigo and Oyama, the Foreign Representatives, and other distinguished guests on the 25th ultimo at the Legation.

THE line between Oji-mura and Takadamura of the Osaka Railway Company, will be completed within the year, and opened for traffic about the beginning of this month.

THE Naval Department has decided to construct Government coal depôts at Aishima in Toba harbour, Shichu (Miye Prefecture), the contract for which has been secured by the Miye Doboku Kaisha.

THE resolution of the Imperial Diet as to the Bill for the postponement of the enforcement of the Commercial Code was approved by the Emperor on the 26th ultimo.

HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS paid a visit to the Aoyoma Palace on the afternoon of the 26th ultimo, and offered her salutations to the Empress Dowager, on the close of the year.

THE *Harima Maru* and *Ise Maru*, which are now undergoing repairs in the Yokosuka Shipbuilding Yard, will, it is expected, be afloat before the middle of next month.

THE Korean steamship *Soryu-go* left Jinsen on the 11th ultimo for Yokohama to take a consignment of arms of Japanese manufacture to Korea. She is expected to arrive here within a few days.

THE resignation by Viscount Torio of his seat in the House of Peers, was presented to the Emperor on the 25th ultimo, through Viscount Hijikata, Minister of State for the Imperial Household.

MR. HO KIHATSU, a member of the House of Representatives for the third district of Hyogo Prefecture, who had been suffering for some time from inflammation of the lungs, expired on the 23rd ult., at 6 p.m.

ON the night of the 25th ultimo, an outbreak of fire took place in a stable near the grand stand at the Uyeno Race-course, but the flames were prevented from extending, and were subdued before much damage could be done.

THERE are at present twenty vessels carrying freight between Osaka and Korea, of which 3 are steamships, namely the *Izumo Maru*, *Shirakawa Maru*, and *Sumidagawa Maru* of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, 6 sailing vessels, and 8 Japanese junks.

MR. HOSHI TORU, a member of the *Rikken Jiyu* party, intends to form a company with the object of sending *soshi* to America, Australia and Canada as emigrants. Count Itagaki, has, it is said, promised to give his aid to the project.

THE general meeting of shareholders of the Tokyo Fire Insurance Company was held on the 29th ultimo, at the Oyukan, Asakusa. Mr. H. Kumagai was elected Superintendent, and Messrs. T. Hoshi, S. Ando, and K. Yajima auditors of the company.

MR. NODA YASUNORI, Inspector of the Foreign Settlement Police Station at Yokohama, has been appointed chief of Kamiza, Shimoza, and Yasu districts, Fukuoka Prefecture, and Mr. Utaka Seiro, Director of the Police Bureau in the Kanagawa Prefectural Police Station, has been appointed to take his place.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR proceeded to the Aoyama Palace on the afternoon of the 28th ultimo, and offered New Year congratulations to the Empress Dowager. On the following day, the Empress Dowager paid a visit to the Imperial Palace, and had an interview with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

ACCORDING to a report compiled by the Authorities, the number of schools (including elementary, middle, and normal schools and schools of other various kinds, both private and public) teachers and students in the empire at the end of 1889, was as follows:—Schools, 28,024; teachers, 72,493; students, 3,150,614.

DURING last year the quantity of kerosene oil imported into Yokohama from America and Russia was 1,902,450 cases, of which 1,650,343 were sent to various parts of the Empire, showing a decrease of 109,482 and 136,629 cases respectively as compared with the previous year.

A CABINET meeting was held on the 26th ult., and attended by all the Ministers of State. The proceedings lasted from eleven in the forenoon till the evening. Viscount Tanaka, Superintendent General of the Metropolitan Police, Messrs. Sonoda, Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, Kiyoura, Chief Commissioner of the Police Bureau in the Home Department, and the Secretaries of various Departments were also present at the meeting.

THE Princes of the Blood now in the capital, Prince Sanjo, the Ministers of State, Counts Oki, President of the Privy Council, and Yoshii, Vice-Minister of the Imperial Household, Marquis Nabeshima, Grand Master of the Board of Ceremonies, Viscount Watanabe, President of the Bureau for the Examination of Accounts, Marquis Hachisuka, Governor of Tokyo, and Viscount Tanaka, Chief of the Metropolitan Police, had the honour of dining with the Emperor on the 27th ultimo at the Palace.

ON the 27th ultimo, at 10 a.m., all the Ministers of State, (except Viscount Kabayama Minister of State for the Navy), Viscount Watanabe, President of the Bureau for the Examination of Accounts, Marquis Hachisuka, Governor of Tokyo, and Viscount Tanaka, Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, met at the Cabinet Office and reported to the Emperor as to the various important events that have taken place in connection with the Government during the present year. The Cabinet Office was closed for the New Year Holidays on the following day.

THE recent stagnation in the Import trade has been further accentuated if possible by the advent of the holidays, and there has been nothing purchased beyond what was required by pressing need. It has been much the same with all commodities, Yarns, Piece-goods, Metals, Kerosene, and Sugar sharing the same fate. The Silk trade has been quiet, especially so during the last few days, and holders are still strong. Arrivals have fallen off somewhat, due mainly to the closing of most filatures worked by water power, and these will not reopen until the frost has gone. There are, however, nearly 16,000 piculs in stock in this market left over from last year, and there is little doubt that production up country has been slowed down for some time past in view of the loss entailed upon reelers. Of course nothing can yet be said about the new crop, but there is no doubt that an augmented quantity of seed will be laid down, as the enormous increase in mulberry plantations will make ample provision for the feeding of *kaiko* in such quantities as have never before been raised, and if leaf is good and cheap, the outturn of cocoons will probably exceed that of any previous year, notwithstanding the present price of Silk. There is a little Tea left on the market, but nothing doing. Exchange has remained steady all the week, and rates are unaltered, though there is a strong upward tendency.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS AND THE TARIFF.

THE *Fiji Shimpo* makes some very sensible remarks about the Representation voted by the Upper House on the motion of Viscount Tani with reference to Tariff autonomy. It says:—"It is perfectly clear that when Viscount Tani proposed the imposition of increased taxes on imports, he intended to indicate a protective policy for the promotion of Japanese industry. The Viscount and his supporters ought to have considered more carefully the effect which such a course might have upon Treaty Revision. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in his recent speech to the House of Representatives, distinctly pointed out how much importance Foreign Powers attach to the question of free trade and protection, and both the proposer and the seconder of the Representation in the House of Peers, being men well versed in Western ideas, ought to have perceived that this policy of protection which they clearly invited the House to endorse, will create difficulties when the Treaty Revision negotiations come to be finally commenced. It is stated that some of the leading merchants of Tokyo desiring to support the principle of recovering the nation's Tariff autonomy, contemplated a meeting to discuss the question and to endorse Viscount Tani's motion, but learning that a protective tariff was his object, they found themselves unable to support him and accordingly postponed their meeting."

* * *

Viscount Tani and many of those ranged under his political banner have long been known to advocate protection, and although it is impossible for anyone trained in the English economical school to call their view sound, it is equally impossible to condemn them unreservedly, seeing that the statesmen and political economists of many of the leading countries in the world advocate the same course. With the McKinley Tariff Bill staring them in the face, Japanese politicians cannot be greatly blamed for preaching protection. There is no doubt that this country ought to work up its own silk, and become also a large manufacturer of cotton stuffs. But the object to be compassed is access to the markets of China in the first place, and to those of Europe and America in the second, and the best way to defeat this object is to artificially foster manufactures by a protective system which raises the price of labour and ultimately has the effect of incapacitating the protected manufactures for competition abroad. If Japan aims simply at being self-supplying, and if in pursuit of this somewhat romantic notion she is willing to pay a good deal more han necessary for her articles of daily use, then here is nothing to say against her adoption of protection. But that was not what Viscount Tani contemplated when he spoke of exporting silk, not in a raw, but a manufactured state. If he had read the history of trade a little more closely he would have seen that countries whose industries have grown up under the shadow of protection can never hold their own in the open light of foreign free trade competition. Even at present, with labour so cheap and materials so accessible, Japan cannot compete with England successfully in supplying cotton stuffs to either home or foreign markets, and her ability to do so would not be improved by a system the inevitable effect of which is to raise the cost of manufactures.

* * *

Apart, however from Japan's industrial interests, the action to which the House of Peers was committed by Viscount Tani cannot contribute to the solution of the Treaty Revision problem. In the first place, the Representation might be construed to mean that the House regards the recovery of Tariff autonomy as the principal object of Treaty Revision, a verdict which would sensibly weaken the hands of the negotiators. There is little reason to think that the House really meant this. On the contrary, when the point was raised by one of the members, the Viscount himself replied emphatically that he aimed equally at the recovery of Judicial autonomy, but that the importance of the Tariff question seemed to him to demand special demonstration. This was another way of saying that the question of Judicial autonomy might be left to stand on its own merits, whereas that of Tariff autonomy needed support. The Japanese public and the Government will doubtless intrepret the Representation in that sense. Of late, however, public opinion if we may judge by the newspapers, has been turning with remarkable insistence to the question of Tariff autonomy. It appears to be thought that because little has been heard on the subject, little is being done about it. Journalists have in many cases discussed the matter in evident ignorance of the fact that countries about whose possession of Tariff autonomy no question can possibly be raised, countries like France, Germany, and England, for example, are all bound by statutory tariffs of precisely the same character as that by which Japan will doubtless be bound under the revised Treaties. These journalists talk as though a country, by signing a tariff convention for a fixed number of years, suffered some impairment of its tariff autonomy. Nothing of the kind. When the owner of a house lets it at a fixed rent for a certain term of years, he does not cease to become the absolute owner but agrees for a consideration to waive the arbitrary exercise of his right of ownership for a definite time. That is precisely the basis upon which all tariff arrangements are made. In point of fact the United States of America is the only country in the world that is not bound by a statutory tarriff. The best that Japan can hope is to be placed on the same footing as European nations in this respect. That must be the first step towards absolute freedom. If at the end of the fixed period she is resolved to inaugurate a protective system, she will be at liberty to do so, but in the meanwhile she will have to be content with a covenant similar to that existing between England and France, or England and Spain. What is absolutely certain is that any attempt to replace her present tariff by a system of protective duties would never be consented to by the British Government. England's principal interests are of a commercial character, and to expect her to agree to an arrangement by which her commerce here would be practically terminated, is absurd. She has every disposition to help Japan to emerge honourably and satisfactorily from this Treaty Revision quagmire, but she certainly will not kill and bury her own trade for that purpose. If Viscount Tani and his supporters are practical statesmen they must be well aware of all this. If being aware of it, they introduced a motion calculated to mislead the public so seriously, they certainly have not added to their reputation for sagacity. If they are not practical statesmen and if they merely framed their Representation for the idle purpose of ventilating a policy impossible of attainment, then perhaps the less note taken of their opinions the better.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE IN ASIA.

THE *Nippon-jin*, writing on the situation in the East, recommends an alliance between Japan, China, and England. After alluding in general terms to the difficult rôle Japan has to play as an independent Power in the Orient, our contemporary repeats what it had more than once remarked, that it is of paramount importance for this country to settle once for all a definite course of policy in its relations with foreign States. But before entering upon any discussion as to the particular course of policy which Japan ought to pursue, the Tokyo journal tries to introduce its readers to the international situation in Europe, for it believes that a close study of the manner in which Occidental States endeavour to maintain the balance of power between themselves cannot fail to be of great assistance in determining the foreign policy of this Empire, especially since some of the leading nations of the West have to be taken into consideration in discussing the situation in this part of the world. Thus much premised, the *Nippon-jin* briefly describes how the overpowering influence of Russia and its close relations with France, have driven Germany, Italy, and Austria to form the *dreibund*, and how England, though not directly, takes the leadership in counteracting the ambitious designs of the Northern Power. Now with which of these Powers—asks the *Nippon-jin*—is it the interest of Japan to ally herself? "It is a notorious fact that Russia looks with covetous eyes upon the Korean peninsula and British India . . . . No increase of Russian influence in Asia can fail to excite the jealousy and hatred of England. In short, Russia and England are the two irreconcilable champions in the wrestling arena of Asia. Russia's victory would seriously endanger the safety of India, while English ascendancy would prove an insurmountable barrier to the southward progress of Russia. Russia is now watching Korea, while Korea, weak and helpless, is reported to be secretly anxious to obtain the protection of Russia. The Eastern skies are indeed dark with gathering clouds of ominous character. In the event of Russia's declaring a protectorate over Korea, will England sit with her hands folded, or will China remain silent and indifferent? Is it not then plainly the interest of Japan to unite with China and England to check the progress of Russia?" The *Nippon-jin* recommends the formation of a close alliance between Japan, China, and England, and the establishment of an understanding with the Powers constituting the European Triple Alliance. In conclusion, our contemporary exhorts its countrymen not to fear European Powers, but to boldly and deliberately maintain the dignity and prestige of their country.

NINETEENTH CENTURY REPORTING.

HERE is a wonderful example of reporting, told by the *Pall Mall Budget*:—"The venerable statesman, says a Scottish contemporary, began his speech at 4.6 p.m. and finished at 5.30; the last of the reporters' 'copy' was in the printers' hands—at a distance of half a mile off—at 5.38; the formes of type were made up and sent to press at 5.50; twelve minutes were spent in the stereotyping room; the machines were set rolling at 6.2; and boys with bundles of papers were selling in all directions a minute or two afterwards, the completed report being published half an hour before any other. There were in all over six columns of a report, of which almost five columns were devoted to Mr. Gladstone's speech word for word. Nine of the reporters formed the note-taking corps proper; another took what is known as a "check note," a third acted as 'time-keeper.' No. 1 took a shorthand note for one minute, No. 2 followed; and so on. No. 1, of course, had time to write up his notes before his turn came round after No. 9 had completed his note-taking. In the later stages the 'turns' were reduced to half a minute each. One reporter had charge of the collection and arrangement of the 'copy,' and as each 'section' was ready it was handed to a boy, whose duty it was to act as go-between from the reporters to an outside messenger at the door. From this door at the Corn Exchange to the newspaper office there was a chain of boys, each with a beat of aboout 200 yards Each boy on receiving copy ran forward to his nearest neighbour, returning afterwards to his former post, and in this way the various sections were delivered at the printing office in an incredibly short time—more quickly indeed than by cab or horse. At head-quarters fifty-four compositors in their order each took a sheet of the "copy." The operation of setting up each sheet would only occupy three or four minutes. The report was out of hand within a minute or two of setting down, and all without a hitch."

THE BARRISTERS BILL.

COMMENTING on the Draft Law for Barristers lately submitted to the Diet, of which a translation has appeared in these columns, the *Fiji Shimpo* says that its intention may be to elevate the status of legal practitioners, but the practical enforcement of its provisions will tend to produce exactly the opposite result. The majority of the present barristers cannot afford

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to pay the comparatively large sums of money required by the Draft Law as security. Those who can afford to do so are barristers of long standing, who were called to the bar in days when the examination was much easier than it is at present, and who have made their fortunes by many years of labour. Without attempting to say anything about the experience they may have acquired in the meantime, it is certain that they are much inferior to young barristers in legal knowledge. Even the ablest and best educated among the young barristers will be prevented from continuing their profession owing to inability to find the prescribed sum of money. This cannot but be contrary to the intention of the Law. The *Jiji* regrets that according to its provisions the title of barrister is not conferred for life. Another defect is that barristers are placed under the control of public procurators. Barristers and procurators are often obliged to argue in Court about the application of the laws. They are, in fact, public opponents, and it is to be feared that the peculiar relations contemplated by the new Law may affect them in court, and make itself apparent in the discharge of their legal duties. The *Jiji* believes that this evil can be avoided by placing barristers under the jurisdiction of the Court alone, and allowing the Barristers' Club to establish its own regulations for their control. It will by no means be possible to raise the status of barristers by striking those off the roll who have not sufficient knowledge and skill. The *Jiji* ventures to hope that the proposed Law will not be allowed to pass through both the Houses. According to the opinion current among barristers themselves, a few changes in the present law would suffice to make it in all respects complete. There seems to be no necessity to enact the new Law now submitted for the Diet's discussion.

FATE OF THE BILL FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL CODE.

THE *Bill* for postponement having passed both Houses, the public is keenly interested to know whether the Government will accept the Diet's verdict or not. The *Nippon* says that if the Bill related to a question of administration the Government might defy the resolutions of the Houses and put the Code into operation at once, but since it is a question of law, as Viscount Aoki stated in his speech, the Government will not take such an unwise step as to disregard the Diet and thus set up serious friction between itself and the people.

* * *

It is rumoured, says the *Choya*, that Count Yamagata, the Minister President, addressed the Emperor on the 23rd instant with reference to the Bill for postponing the operation of the Code, and that the Emperor immediately gave his gracious sanction. This was the result of the Cabinet conference held in the forenoon of the 23rd, at which all the Ministers of State, except Count Yamada and Viscount Kabayama, attended, and which terminated at 2 p.m. after warm discussions, a resolution having been formed in the sense of postponement. As to the period of postponement, however, a majority of the Cabinet Ministers are said to be in favour of extension to April, 1892, only.

* * *

The same paper also says:—"The postponement of the operation of the Commercial Code would give rise to difficulties of various kinds. For instance the Bank laws, Bankruptcy law, &c., were promulgated with a view to the enforcement of the Commercial Code, and consequently the sudden postponement of the latter would necessitate some new measures in respect of these laws. But since barely a week remains before the new year, timely notice could not be given throughout all parts of this country, so that in some distant parts of the interior, the official notice of postponement not being received before the 1st of January, the Commercial Code would come into operation there under the former arrangement. There is no precedent for sending notice by telegraph, and such a proceeding would under any circumstances, be difficult. How to avoid the awkward conjuncture is giving much anxiety to the Government. The Bureau of Legislature, in consequence of the postponement, is exceedingly busy, for such points in the laws promulgated this year as have relation to the Commercial Code will have to be amended and submitted to the Diet, and besides laws in the course of preparation will have to be re-examined and amended.

* * *

All these doubts were resolved on the 26th instant, when the following Imperial Rescript appeared in the *Official Gazette*:—"We hereby sanction the Law which has received the consent of the Imperial Diet with reference to the date of operation of the Commercial Code and of the Laws relating to its operation, and Order the same to be promulgated." Then follows an enumeration of the various laws concerned, namely, Law 32 (dated April of this year); Law 59 (dated August of this year) Law 66 (dated August, 1890); the Law relating to stamps for commercial documents; Law 72 (August 1890), relating to Banks; Law 73 (August, 1890), relating to savings banks Law 101 (October, 1890), and the Commercial Code itself. The Rescript concludes with the words:—"The Commercial Code and the Laws for carrying the Commercial Code into operation will go into force from January 1st, 1893.

* * *

Up to a very late moment doubts were entertained in some quarters as to the course which the Government would pursue in this matter. It was considered extremely problematical whether in passing a Bill to fix or alter the date of operation of a law, the Diet had not encroached upon the Imperial Prerogatives as fixed by the Constitution. The 6th Article of the latter says:—"The Emperor gives sanction to laws, and orders them to be promulgated and executed." The power to order the execution of a law seems to include the power of fixing the date of execution, and in point of fact the custom hitherto has been to include the date of operation in the preamble, which contains also the Imperial Sanction and receives the sign-manual. On the other hand, if we consider the legislative habits of Western countries, it will be seen that the date of operation is usually mentioned in the body of a law, and if such has not hitherto been the case in Japan, the difference probably represented a mere point of convenience, not a question of principle. It would have been competent for the Diet, under any circumstances, to make a Representation, as duly provided in the Constitution, but since the Emperor has accepted and sanctioned the measure in the form of a Bill, we must assume that the course taken by the Houses was not unconstitutional. It is certainly a very striking illustration on the one hand of the power that has passed into the possession of the people, on the other, of the respect with which the Sovereign is evidently determined to treat every legitimate exercise of that power.

A FORTUNATE JAPANESE.

THE *San Francisco Chronicle* has this note, dated at Philadelphia on November 24th:—"The announcement that Miss Mary Elkinton of this city is to become the bride of a native of Japan at any early date, and return with him to the Orient will be, doubtless, the cause of more than a ripple of interest in social circles. Miss Elkinton is a member of one of the oldest and most highly esteemed Philadelphia families. She is a daughter of Joseph S. Elkinton, a prominent member of the Society of Friends. The young Japanese who won her heart and the pledge of her hand is a man high in rank. His family are among the most distinguished and wealthiest in Japan, and he occupies a leading position in the affairs of the Government. For six years he has been travelling through America and Europe, studying to fit himself to occupy an important Government position, and he will return next month with his bride to fill the part which has been assigned to him. A similarity of tastes drew the young pair together, and the admiration Miss Elkinton first cherished for his accomplishments soon developed into a deeper feeling, and when the young man sailed for Europe shortly afterward it is understood that she had pledged him her love. He is now back to claim her as the bride of Inazo Mitobe of Sapporo, in Japan. In personal appearance Inazo reveals all the characteristics of a student. He is of medium stature, light in figure, with sharply defined, delicate features and a persuasive expression. In his manner, conversation, and general address he appears as a man of delicate sensibilities, refined tastes, and cultivated intellect. Inazo has already adopted the faith of the Friends, and the marriage will be solemnized according to their usages."

THE COMMERCIAL CODE.

ACCORDING to the *Jiyu Shimbun*, the Vice-Minister of Justice, Mr. Mitsukuri, has expressed intense chagrin at the result of the Diet's deliberations on the Commercial Code. He says that the Code represents ten years of hard legislative labour and research; and that under the direction of the present Minister of State for Finance the greatest care was employed to collect information as to the customs existing in all parts of Japan, and to give due consideration to them in the provisions of the new enactment. He regards it as a matter of the deepest regret that the two Houses, without any thorough investigation into the details of the Code, should have yielded to the persuasions of a few eloquent advocates, and destroyed the work of ten years in almost as many hours. But although we can fully sympathise with this view, and although we should most gladly have welcomed a Parliamentary vote in the sense desired by the compilers of the Code, we do not for a moment pretend to think that no valid reasons can be advanced on the side of the opposition. It surprised us that these reasons were not set forth in the Diet, and that the vote went by sentiment rather than by logic. Speaking in the abstract, there is no reason why a Commercial Code should be published separately from the Civil Codes. In countries like Germany, where special tribunals presided over by special judges exist for the trial of commercial cases, a Commercial Code is logical and expedient. But where, as will be the case in Japan, the same Courts deal with all civil cases, there does not appear to be any sufficient reason for the compilation of a separate code of commerce. If, indeed, we consider the actual state of affairs now existing, the crying need of some laws to regulate the questions of Bankruptcy and Trading Associations makes it desirable that a Commercial Code embodying such laws should be put into force without a day's delay. But if, on the other hand, importance be attached to the country's legal system as a whole, then it is obviously better that laws bearing upon the above special subjects should be promulgated independently, and that the other provisions relating to trade should fall into their natural place in the Civil Codes. If the House entertained this view we cannot see that their verdict merits criticism. It is still permissible to hope that some compromise may be effected, and that while the main body of the Commercial Code is restored to its place in the Civil Codes, the portions immediately called for, namely, the chapters relating to Bankruptcy and Commercial Companies, will be put into force without delay.

* * *

The *Miyako Shimbun* states in an extra that the Emperor has given his sanction to the postponement of the date of the operation of the Commercial Code.

THE BUDGET.

THE House of Representatives occupies a unique and doubtless, from its own point of view, a very satisfactory position towards the Budget. It may cut down the estimates to its hearts' content, without giving itself any concern at all as to whether the irreducible remainder suffices or does not suffice to carry on the administration of the country. If the system of Government by party existed here, the majority in the House would be restrained by the knowledge that its own party leaders must ultimately

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abide by the reductions made in the estimates of their opponents. But it is not so. The House of Representatives in Japan need not be specially solicitous about the Government's embarrassments. In fact, several of the members would probably be vastly pleased could they succeed in embarrassing the Government seriously. The Committee on the Budget is said to have resolved upon recommending reductions of a sweeping character, the various Departments of State being involved to the following extents respectively :—

Foreign Office	*yen*	216,141.355
Home Office	*yen*	1,705.429.308
Finance Department	*yen*	4,034.483.349
Army	*yen*	856,564.26
Navy	*yen*	409.126.54
Justice	*yen*	1,184,871.244
Education	*yen*	563,222.728
Agriculture and Commerce	*yen*	194,086.009
Communications	*yen*	8,570.40

This gives a total reduction of something like ten million *yen*, and how the work of administration is to be carried on under such circumstances seems doubtful. Mr. Seki Naohiko, a member of the Committee, proposed a more moderate scheme, which would only have involved a saving of 5½ millions, but he failed to obtain a majority. The most sensible and practical article we have found in the vernacular press on this subject is the *Choya Shimbun's*. Premising that the Government itself is willing enough to give effect to any reasonable scheme of economy, our contemporary describes the views which, it says, is held in official quarters. Taking for basis a reduction of the Land Tax by one-fifth, it would be necessary to effect an economy of some eight million *yen* in the annual expenditure. To this end twenty per cent. of the present number of *Hannin* officials might be dispensed with, and their duties transferred to officials of higher rank, whose number would remain as before. In this way, as well as by abolishing every possible section or bureau, and uniting the functions of others, a saving of about three million *yen* might be achieved. The remaining economy would have to be effected in the Extraordinary Budget. The *Choya* says that the Extraordinary Budget increased rapidly from the time that Count Inouye came into power, his large ideas of improvement and reform involving corresponding expenditure. Some three million *yen* are now appropriated towards the building of new Houses of Parliament and other Departments of State. If the various public works now in contemplation were changed from solid brick and stone structures to wood, and if their number were limited as far as possible, the required economy might be effected. On such lines the Government would probably follow the Diet, but if it comes to a question of meddling with the organization of the Administration or with other matters lying outside Parliament's province, the Government cannot consent.

* * *

It is stated now that in consequence of the sweeping reductions recommended in the report of the Budget Committee, the Government has resolved to pursue the course indicated by the 30th Article of the Law of the Houses, where it is provided that "the Government shall be at liberty at any time to either amend or withdraw any Bill which it has already brought in." To cut down the estimates by ten million *yen*, as urged by the Budget Committee, is declared to be quite out of the question, consistently with maintaining any proper standard of administrative efficiency. A saving of about three millions may, however, be accomplished in defence to the wishes of the House, although not in accordance with what the Authorities believe to be the best interests of the public service. The Budget will therefore be taken back and amended to that extent, after which it will be again laid before the House. Should the latter still persist in attempting to enforce impracticable reductions, it is thought probable that the Government falling back upon the powers vested in it by the Constitution, will enforce the Budget for the last fiscal year without further reference to Parliament. In that case the House of Representatives, by unwisely attempting to accomplish too much, will end by achieving nothing at all.

THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION.

THE latest subject about which certain members of the House of Representatives have thought it necessary to assert their dignity is the order of their reception by the Emperor at the New Year. On learning that their audience was to take place on the 2nd proximo, after that of the *Sokan* officials, Mr. Nagai Matsuyemon asked the Chief Secretary whether this would not be putting a certain slight upon the Representatives of the people. The Secretary answered that nothing could be farther from the truth ; that the order had been determined solely to suit the Emperor's convenience, and that the admission of the members by the front gate, which was closed to *Sokan* officials, proved the Emperor's desire to treat the House with consideration. This satisfied Mr. Nagai, but did not apparently satisfy all the other members. Some ten of them, headed by Mr. Hasegawa Tai, came to the House the same evening to see the President, but in the absence of the latter and of the Chief Secretary, they had to content themselves with interviewing one of the under-secretaries. To this official Mr. Hasegawa, who, according to the *Tokyo Shimpo*, had been dining and wining pretty freely, addressed some very loud and peremptory remarks, to the effect that the place assigned to the President of the House at the opening ceremony had caused much dissatisfaction, and that the members could not consent to be received after officials of *Sonin* rank. This somewhat noisy protest was checked by Mr. Hasegawa's companions, and the matter ended for the moment. Subsequently the Heads and Managers of Sections, after consultation, addressed to the Ceremonies Bureau of the Imperial Household Department a request that the members might be received in audience on January 1st, immediately after officials of *Chokunin* rank, and that if this were not possible, they might at least have precedence over all *Sonin* officials, and be received alone on the 2nd, no other audiences being granted on that day. Failing either of these courses, they begged to be excused from attending at the Palace at all. The Chief of the Bureau of Ceremonies replied that as the order of reception had been determined solely with a view to the convenience of the Palace arrangements, and without any notion whatever of slighting the members, no change could be made. The President of the House afterwards consulted with the Minister of State for the Imperial Household, but received the same answer. It is not yet known how the matter will end, but we expect that the members of the House will appreciate the unwisdom of attempting to enforce their own wishes in such a matter. Every one understands that the first Diet has to be specially careful about precedents, but so soon as it is officially stated that the order of reception is fixed not by any principle of rank but merely to suit the convenience of the Palace, it would be veritable childishness to push the point any farther.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES.

THE *Mainichi Shimbun*, quoting a politician who has expressed his views on the subject of a Government subsidy for marine transport purposes in this country, says :—Although it may be necessary to lay rails with a view to facilitating land transportation, still at present most of those that pay fairly well are the main lines. No branch line without a subsidy from the Government is likely to prove profitable. Now what will be the result upon our transportation business if the Government lend its protection to either marine transport or land carriage? As the number of passengers and the quantity of commodities to be transported are still limited in Japan, that undertaking which receives a Government subsidy will naturally be prosperous at the expense of those that are not so aided. Considered in the light of the topographical situation of this country, it would be more advantageous to protect the marine transport business. But it would certainly be unwise for the Government to give subsidies unconditionally and indiscriminately as has been the case hitherto. A better policy would be to fix the amount according to the distance and the route, as is the case in foreign countries. To give an instance ; the amount of subsidy to be granted to a company running steamers between Hongkong and Kobe should be different from the case of those plying between San Francisco and Yokohama. If varying amounts of subsidy are thus given to different companies, the business of navigation in this country may be improved. If, however, our industries remain in such an unsatisfactory state as at present, no matter how much private maritime companies may be encouraged by the Government, they must inevitably come to grief if they cannot obtain sufficient freight. We greatly fear that this is just what will occur, owing perhaps to the fact that the Government has not the right of levying custom duties at pleasure. It is consequently a prime necessity to restore the rights referred to above, and to prevent the importation of foreign commodities to Japan, very large quantities of which enter here on account of the small duties. At present, therefore, it is necessary to restore the right of levying custom duties, which would tend to decrease the number of commodities now too freely imported from abroad, and to encourage the progress of our own industries.

THE "NAMOA" PIRACY.

THE British gunboats *Linnet* and *Firebrand* returned to port yesterday afternoon, says the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 20th inst., after an unsuccessful search for the *Namoa* pirates. The course taken by the former gunboat was, we understand, to the southward and eastward, whilst the latter gunboat went north, touching at several places. At Lam Shu Bay a number of Shaukiwan fishing junks were met with, and on Mendoza Island the Pinhoi people were unable to given any further particulars than what is already known regarding the junks that were seen in the vicinity of the island on the 10th inst. At another place named Kauto the inhabitants had never heard of the affair, whilst the mandarin of a district not far distant had rewards placarded about for the arrest of any of the piratical band. During the cruise two Chinese gunboats were met with which were also engaged in the search, but so far their efforts had been unattended with any result.

THE "TOKIO MARU"

SEVERAL attempts have been made within the last two or three days to float the *Tokio Maru*, but so far without success. The ship lies parallel with the line of the beach, and, with a considerable cant to seaward, embedded somewhat in the sand. The tide ebbs up to her shoreward bilge; there are about nine feet of water at ordinary high tides under her stern and about four feet at her bow. So far as can be seen, she is not seriously damaged—or was not prior to the blow of Sunday night—no plates being injured, but as she makes water when the tide flows various rivets have no doubt been started. As will be recollected, the *Saikio Maru* first attempted to haul her off, but this failed owing to the parting of the steel hawser employed in the operation. On Saturday the *Naniwa Kan*, placed by the Naval Authorities at the disposal of the Company for the purpose, had a try but failed to move the stranded vessel. The *Kobe Maru* went down on Sunday morning to take her turn at the tow rope, but was unable to get near enough the scene to be of any use, and returned to port. It seems that though the *Tokio* has deepest water immediately under her stern it has been found more convenient to make the towing hawsers fast to her bow, as the assisting vessel can approach more closely to her from that direction. At best, however, the ships cannot get much nearer her than a quarter of a mile, the *Naniwa Kan* having to strain on a hawser of that length. It is not the case that a bank of sand has formed outside the

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vessel; she is, as we have said, embedded to some extent, but the beach slopes away to seaward naturally, slowly from her stern, and more abruptly from her bows. The only rocks near her are some small ridges which just show their heads above the sand astern of her. The ship lies about five miles from Tateyama.

PROFESSOR KIKUCHI ON THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

WRITING to the *Mainichi Shimbun* the other day, Professor Kikuchi of the Imperial University said:—As the draft Weights and Measures Bill now under discussion in the Upper House is of a somewhat complicated nature and is thus difficult of comprehension by the general public, I would ask you to be good enough to insert the following recapitulation of its main features:—(1) The question of weights and measures has an important bearing on the economy of the State and should not be treated with indifference or silence as some people imagine. To regard the measure as unworthy of earnest consideration is to be like the *samurai* in feudal times who despised peasants, merchants, and artizans. (2) The object of the bill is not connected with any scientific or artistic theory, but arises from a desire to fix standards of weights and measures, and thus protect the public from the use of false and irregular measures, such as are employed daily in business transactions. (3) In framing the bill special care has been taken to guard against sudden changes in business methods. For instance the mercer's measure is still to be used, and both the old and new measures may be employed for three years after the bill comes into force; and other articles also show the exercise of the care referred to. (4) The bill fixes a standard of weights and of measures for Japan, the present law providing no such standard. (5) The bill fixes the standard, or exact length of one *shaku*, and the exact weight of one *kwan*, which measure and weight are not at present accurately fixed. The standard *shaku* measure preserved in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is roughly made, of brass, the sub-divisions being indicated by thick lines, and no consideration is had of the point whether, or how much of, each line is to be included in reckoning a sub-division, or at what temperature the standard is to be held as legal measure. The case is almost similar as to the *kwan*. It is therefore a prime necessity that the nature of the materials of which the *shaku* measure and the *kwan* weight are composed should be fixed. (6) The bill aims, not at changing the existing weights and measures, but at definitely fixing them. The length of the *shaku*, the measurement of the *masu*, and the weight of the *kwan* will not be altered. (7) In Art. V. of the bill the *metre* is only referred to as a legal measure, and it is a gross mistake to suppose that the bill is based upon the *metre*. (8) The bill is intended to improve the materials of which weights and measures are at present composed. The regulations for the manufacture and examination of weights and measures hitherto in force are far from complete, and are consequently of very little practical value.

ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT TREATY REVISION.

AFTER Viscount Aoki had made his long and painstaking explanation on the 17th ultimo in reply to the queries of Mr. Arai Shogo and other members, he left the House without waiting to be further questioned. A resolution was then passed that the Minister should be invited to attend again, but he declined, on the ground that he had already given the fullest explanation in his power. Thereupon Mr. Arai Shogo made an intemperate and undignified motion, and Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke moved an amendment that, if the House desired fuller information on other points, it should formulate its questions in the prescribed manner and present them to the Government. Mr. Arai's motion did not find sufficient supporters to become a subject of debate, and consequently Mr. Misaki's amendment could not be put to the vote. He has not allowed it to be drop, however, but has prepared a question in due form and presented it through the President with his own signature and those of 104 other members. The question is this:—"In negotiating for Treaty Revision, does the Government take for its object the complete and simultaneous recovery of Judicial Autonomy and Tariff Autonomy, or does it contemplate their complete recovery at a future date, and their partial recovery only at first?" It will not be difficult, we think, for Viscount Aoki to answer this question to the satisfaction of the House.

THE P. AND O. STEAMER "NEPAUL."

IT appears from a telegram in the *Singapore Free Press* that the *Nepaul* went on the Plymouth Breakwater, whilst making for the Sound. This is explained by the fact that there was a dense fog at the time, otherwise such navigation would be unpardonable, as there is a lofty lighthouse on one end of it, and the breakwater itself is visible from the deck of a vessel approaching it, and at a considerable distance, even at high water springs. The telegram states that the cargo has been salved, from which it may be inferred that the passengers are safe. In a thick fog the steamer would probable be going dead slow approaching the passage between Rame Head and the Devonshire coast, and there are consequently grounds for hoping that she is not so much injured but that she may be got off and repaired.

SATURDAY'S CONCERT IN HONGO CENTRAL TABERNACLE.

THE concert given in the Central Tabernacle in Tokyo last Saturday afternoon was a thorough success. The hall, which is built to accommodate about twelve hundred persons, was over three parts full, with an audience mostly Japanese. In the reserved seats was a large representation of missionaries, and a fair sprinkling of other residents. At the back of the centre and in the aisles, benches were arranged for the accommodation of the holders of twenty *sen* tickets, while the galleries were appropriated to students who were admitted for the sum of ten *sen* each. The interior arrangements of the hall are scarcely yet complete, and the entrance is also in an unfinished condition, but the audience had nothing to complain of in the way of comfort. The hall is an improved edition of the Koseikan, being better lighted and having more complete platform arrangements. The organ, which is a gift from Canadian sympathizers with Dr. Eby's work, is placed in a well-lighted gallery high above the platform, sufficient space being left on either side for the accommodation of an orchestra. The three other galleries are incomparably superior to the flimsy lofts of the Koseikan. The ventilation of the building seems good, and the whole structure indeed bears the marks of intelligent care in its planning and building. The concert opened with the Doxology, in which the audience joined standing. The orchestra, occupying the left side of the organ loft, then led off with Suppé's lively overture, "Poet and Peasant." The members of the efficient band engaged for the occasion received their training under Mr. F. Eckert and Mr. G. Arpe, and are retired naval bandsmen. They call themselves "The Oriental Band," and give their services, in the capital and elsewhere, at very reasonable charges. The only vocalist, if we omit the singing which formed part of the Japanese music, was a lady connected with the Canadian Methodist Mission, who gave two solos, Mr. Gauntlett accompanying on the piano These were clearly and unaffectedly rendered, and the audience showed that it would be ready to welcome the singer on any future occasion. Mr. Gauntlett, a near relative of the composer (whose name is well-known in musical circles throughout the world) gave two effective solos on the organ, a powerful and excellent instrument. Suppé's "Fatinitza," and Eckert's "Fantasie ueber Engl-Lieder," a medley in which favourite Scottish, English and Irish melodies follow each other in bewildering succession—both attractive pieces—were well rendered by the orchestra. The Japanese musicians hired for the occasion, however, came in for the greatest share of the applause of an audience essentially Japanese. Okamura Masayo and his two partners, on the *koto* and *samisen*, evoked a chorus of applause which seemed ready to burst out at intervals during their performance, and Aragi Kodo and Ishinuma Iwai, on the *shakuhachi* and *samisen*, were even more enthusiastically received. Among the humours of the concert were the erratic gesticulations in the right-hand gallery of a spectacled student, whom Aragi's flute tones seemed to inspire with uncontrollable admiration; and the loudly expressed apologies of an *obasan* in the back gallery who, entering during the first vocal solo, increased the fervour of her apologies the more she was hushed to be silent. A programme is appended:—

PART I.

1.—OVERTURE, "Poet and Peasant" ....v. SUPPÉ.
By the Orchestra.
2.—SONG, "Holy Father Hear Us".....By Miss Lund.
3.—KOTO and SAMISEN. "Shochikubai." By Okumura Masago, Uehara Masaki and Koyama Shimaji.
4.—ORGAN SOLO. "March of the Israelites." By Edward Gauntlett, Esq.
6.—"Fatinitza" ... .v. SUPPÉ.
By the Orchestra.

PART II.

1.—"Fantasie ueber Engl-Lieder" .....v. F. ECKERT.
By the Orchestra.
2.—SONG "He Giveth His Beloved Sleep" By Miss Lund.
3.—SHAKUHACHI and SAMISEN. "*Sue no Chigiri, Tsuru no Sugomori.*"
By Aragi Kodo and Ishimura Iwai.
4.—ORGAN SOLO { a. Andante in G. } { b. Andante in G. } .....BATISTE.
By Edward Gauntlett, Esq.
5.—KOTO and SAMISEN. By Okumura Masago, Uehara Masaki, and Koyama Shimaji.
6.—"Romaneska" ....v. ZICKOFF.
By the Orchestra.

CLOSING PIECE.

"God Save the Emperor." Words by Rev. A. Hardie.
To the tune of "God Save the the Queen. By the Orchestra, Organ and Audience.

Dr. Eby made use of the interval between the two parts of the musical performance to address a few remarks to the audience. He first apologized for two omissions in the programme due to the unexpected withdrawal at a late hour of Mr. Dietrich of the Musical Conservatory, who had originally promised his services. This withdrawal of a tower of strength had been partly supplied by the kindness of the Japanese musicians, who gave an extra selection. He then went on to sketch the history of the structure now filled for the first time with an audience. Next Saturday, the third of January, there was to be a formal opening, and, on the fourth, Sunday services were to be conducted in the morning and evening by Messrs. Hiraiwa and Kobayashi, pastors in the Methodist Church, and in the afternoon by Dr. Imbrie. This last service, in English, would be held at 3 p.m. The year 1890 had been for him and his friends a year of hard work in building and rebuilding. Over five months back the first building, whose estimated cost was 7,500 dollars, was destroyed in the fire which devastated the district. All but 1,500 dollars of this sum had been expended when the fire occurred, and it left them with only the foundations and wall, valued at about 2,500 dollars. To complete the building it was considered by the architect that a sum of 5,831 dollars, inclusive of fencing and furnishing, would be required. As the cash and other assets amounted to little over three thousand dollars, a deficiency has to be met of 2,670 dollars. As usual the expenses of building exceeded the estimates, and the deficiency, kindly met by the contributions of friends, was already swallowed up. They were still, therefore, in need of funds, the furniture on which the audience was seated being mostly a mere loan for the occasion. This, however, had to be said in explanation of the further appeal, that the building was throughly well-built, with no scamped work about it. Mr. Ito, the architect, had devoted a year's work, with but scanty remuneration, to its construction, and had, by direct dealings with tradesmen, saved the profits that go into the pockets of contractors. The Board of their Church had already assisted the building, in so far as it served the purpose of a regular mission station, mostly liberally, even beyond possible expectation. The further

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use of the building as a centre for lectures, free concerts, popular addresses, magic lantern displays, and the like, lay outside the sphere of ordinary mission fund appropriations, and, being a special undertaking, had to carried on with specially raised funds. The reverend doctor hoped that, by subscription concerts like the present, and by the liberality of friends, he would be enabled to carry on the work now happily commenced. He closed with an expression of thanks to the friends who had already contributed, and to the audience who had assisted by their presence and aid.

VISCOUNT AOKI'S TREATY REVISION SPEECH.

In a leading article commenting on the recen speech in the Lower House delivered by Vis count Aoki, the *Nippon* says:—The speech in the House of Representatives by the Foreign Minister has attracted general attention, as well on account of the importance of the subject as because of the complicated nature of Count Aoki's utterances. Though a well known accompaniment of the constitutional form of government, the public deliverance of speeches by Ministers of State in explanation of the policy of the Administration is a new and wonderful feature in Japan, and when in addition the topic to be dealt with was one of a diplomatic character, in connection with which the most profound secrecy had hitherto been observed, it is not surprising that the occasion and the address should have attracted the eyes of all people. We must frankly admit that the speech deserves our closest attention. Though the Viscount spoke at great length, over a third of his speech was devoted to a description of Japanese diplomatic policy in the past. This branch of the subject, though no doubt very valuable as a ground-work for reference, was not quite what we required. Yet the point which we were chiefly concerned to hear about, the policy to be pursued by Japan in the future with regard to her international relations, was very lightly touched on, the Minister, on the plea of diplomatic secrecy confining his explanation within very small limits. Even such meagre information as he did afford on the problem was not expressly and openly stated, but has to be gleaned from Viscount Aoki's language in referring to certain opinions ventilated by the *Nippon* last month (November), his comments on those opinions forming an indirect species of explanation. If the Viscount had endorsed our views on the subject, then his meaning would have been perfectly clear, but, as he himself remarked, the statement referred to only expressed a part of our hopes, not the whole. In point of fact the prevailing questions in the public mind then were: (1) the nature of the promises made in diplomatic notes with reference to the appointment of foreign judges, and the period for the preparation of the Codes; and (2) the conditions to be contained in the Treaties with reference to residence of foreigners in the interior, the system of Consular Courts, and the rights of foreigners as to the possession of land. In other words, the questions then before the public were confined to the concession of certain national and private rights; the problem of recovering Tariff autonomy, which has so grave a bearing on the finances of the nation, was not then under discussion. The draft treaties framed by Count Okuma were opposed by the public chiefly on the ground that they constituted an infringement of the national rights; that is to say, the proposed alterations were held to be more injurious to the interests of the empire than the old Treaties were. But it would be erroneous to assume that the points then attacked were the only branches of the problem in reference to which our people entertained hopes; and similarly it would be wrong to conclude that the removal of the conditions then complained of would be sufficient to make the new instruments acceptable to the nation. Last year popular opinion was expressed on certain matters from a purely defensive point of view: the nation was too much occupied in endeavouring to protect itself from the obnoxious provisions to think of formulating demands of its own. If we could have acted on the offensive we certainly would have brought up in the very front of our attack a demand for the complete restoration of Tariff autonomy. We hope the present Foreign Minister will not give his attention only to the desires of the people, as shown in their action while standing on the defensive. We can gather from his utterance regarding a quotation from the *Jiji Shimpo* of December last year, that the policy of the Government with regard to Treaty Revision is to consist (1) of the abolition of Consular jurisdiction, simultaneously with the opening of the interior to mixed residence; (2) of the omission from the Treaties of the provisions relating to the ownership of land by foreigners; (3) of the revocation of the promises made in Count Okuma's diplomatic notes, and (4) of the recovery of Tariff autonomy. We have thus endeavoured to show just what trustworthy information we have received with regard to our diplomatic relations, and in doing so we have briefly brought out for our readers' information the chief points of Viscount Aoki's speech. We would only remind the Viscount in conclusion that the recovery of Tariff autonomy is the first, the chief, the great point to which the wishes and hopes of our people are directed.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PALACE.

We have already described the difficulties raised by certain members of the House of Representatives about the order of their presentation to the Emperor at the New Year. They applied to the Bureau of Ceremonies though the Chief Secretary of the House, to have a change of programme made, but the Board of Ceremonies is never very yielding in such matters. Its reply, quoted by the various newspapers, was: "(1) The day and hour of the Reception having been already fixed, cannot be now changed. (2) The hour of Reception was not appointed by His Majesty with any reference to the audience of *sonin* officials. (3) Members coming on horseback or in carriages will be permitted to enter by the Front Gate, a privilege not extended to *sonin* officials. (4) The order of all presentations at Court is determined to suit the Imperial convenience, and no question of precedence is considered." In consequence of the receipt of this answer, about a hundred and twenty members of the Lower House met in a waiting room of the House on the 29th instant, and decided that it should be left to the choice of individual members whether they attended at the Palace on the 2nd or not, but that, so far as the House collectively was concerned, it should meet in its place on the 1st of January and vote an Address of Congratulation to the Throne, the preparation of the address to be at once undertaken by the Chiefs and Managers of Sections. Certainly want of vertebra is not a conspicuous fault of this First Diet.

MR. HENRY NORMAN.

Mr. Henry Norman was welcomed back on his arrival in London again. Some of the things he has to tell his friends, and later, the world, are no ordinary traveller's tales. The first result of his trip, we understand, will be a volume of "Japanese Essays," dealing with Japanese institutions, social life, treaty revision, and the Japanese army, navy, law, and police. A second will be a book about the Far East and the balance of power in the Pacific. Mr. Norman will attempt to forecast the political future of the various nations struggling in that part of the world. As he has brought back about 2,000 photographs of places, people, and things, most of which have never been photographed before, his books ought to be of unique value, as they certainly will be of unique interest. Mr. Norman has nothing particular to say about his Siamese mine, except that he has associated himself with a capitalist, and that the machinery for working it is being made in America. He is much more ready to enlarge on the revelation and education which his three years of travel and study and sport in the Far East have proved. "There was," he says, "not a single moment of them destitute of interest. They were not always unspiced by adventure, but they are personally memorable most of all for the endless hospitality and kindness one has received and the good friends one has been lucky enough to make. Whether or not my experiences contain anything of interest or value to other people remains to be seen." Next spring Mr. Norman will probably pay another visit to his possessions in Siam, and may, at the same time, take the opportunity of seeing India itself.

FARTHER RESIGNATIONS.

There is talk of Viscount Aoki's resigning the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. The *Hochi Shimbun* publishes the rumour, but assigns no reason for it other than a vague assertion that the Minister is dissatisfied with the course of events since he delivered his speech in the House of Representatives. Nothing short of a very powerful cause should suffice, in the *Hochi's* opinion, to drive from office after a period of little more than half a year a Minister specially chosen by the Emperor to solve the difficult problem of Treaty Revision. Some recommend the Viscount to take the House into his confidence, and get it to appoint plenipotentiary committeemen of its own in conjunction with whom the negotiations can be carried on. The Minister himself, adds the Tokyo journal, appears to incline to this view, but as it meets with strong opposition in the Cabinet, and as there seems little prospect of its being approved, his resolve to resign assumes force every day.

* * *

It is further asserted that Count Matsukata also talks of resignation. The *Choya Shimbun* is responsible for the story. It makes the Count say that the reductions recommended by the Committee of the House of Representatives on the Budget are utterly impracticable, and that if the Cabinet consents to anything of the kind, he, Count Matsukata, will at once resign the portfolio of Finance. If all these rumours have any foundation, it seems probable that the only achievement of the first Diet will be to drive some of the best and most earnest statesmen from office.

THE RAILWAY STRIKE IN SCOTLAND.

The telegram which we publish in this issue is the sequel to the following paragraph, which we find in *Industries* of the 14th ultimo:—"At various railway centres on Sunday, the 9th inst., meetings of railway servants were held for the purpose of receiving the replies of the different railway companies to a demand for reduction of working hours. The reply of the Caledonian Railway Company was to the effect that any demand must come to the Board through the ordinary channels, while the North British Railway Company and the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company had not had board meetings since the demand was formulated. It was surmised that the railway companies generally would follow the lead of the Caledonian Railway and decline to recognise the Railway Servants' Society. On this ground the executive council of the society recommended a strike. A resolution to the effect that a strike was necessary, and that the precise date on which work was to cease should be fixed by the executive, was carried at the meetings held at Glasgow, Greenock, Edinburgh, Hamilton, Motherwell, Kilmarnock, Falkirk, Stirling, and Dundee. At Aberdeen the resolution was rejected. At Forfar no decision was reached."

THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

We recently published a telegram which stated that damage had occurred to the works of the Manchester Ship Canal, of which a home paper gives the following particulars:—"Considerable damage has been done to the Ship Canal in one or two places by the heavy floods of about a week ago. In the section near Latchford, where the locks are making rapid progress, a breach was made in a temporary embankment, and the water passed into the cutting, which was almost completed. One life was lost, and a large amount of plant was submerged by the water, which rose to about 10ft. Some damage was done to a temporary tunnel afford-

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ing access from one part of the canal to another, which is pierced below the London and North-Western Railway Company's line. A partial interruption to traffic occurred in consequence, but the damage is being rapidly repaired, and the water pumped out by a number of engines. It is stated that the interruption to work will not be of long duration.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

IT is a relief to learn that the rumours so freely circulated during the past three days with reference to the Diet's attitude towards the Palace had not much more substance than such stories usually possess. The whole thing seemed to us so strange, and the inferences it necessarily suggested as to the Diet's powers of self-restraint and sense of dignity had so little in common with the conclusion we had begun to think deducible from that body's previous doings, that we refrained from credence and comment, preferring to suspend judgment until established facts were before us. The last rumour, as our readers will remember, was that something like a hundred and twenty members of the Lower House had held a meeting within the precincts of the Chamber, and decided, first, that the House should assemble on New Year's Day and vote an address of felicitation to the Sovereign, which address was to be prepared by the Chiefs of Sections; and, secondly, that attendance at the Palace on the 2nd instant should be optional for members of the House. It would scarcely have been possible to interpret such a course in any sense but one, namely, that the House being dissatisfied with the arrangements made for the reception of its members at the Palace on the 2nd instant, was determined to stand aloof from the Imperial *Levée*, and to substitute an address for personal attendance. Now it may be very well to say that the Emperor is not directly responsible for affairs connected with Imperial Receptions, *and that* the House of Representatives, in rebelling against the place assigned to its members in the order of reception, opposed itself not to the will of the Sovereign but to the action of the Cabinet by whose advice such points are virtually settled. As foreigners, we experience a difficulty in either accepting or rejecting their plea, because the true nature of the relations between the Court and the Cabinet in Japan still remain shrouded in some mystery to outsiders. But what is certain is that in neither England nor Germany would any room exist for misunderstanding a position such as that which the House of Representatives was supposed to have created. It would be construed as a distinct revolt on the part of the House against the wishes of the Sovereign, and although the abstract fact of such a revolt might not shock any one, the laugh would be decidedly on the side of the Court in this particular case. Men's dignity never runs so much risk as when they attempt to elevate it on a pedestal above the estimate of other folks. This is what the House of Representatives was apparently trying to do. It thought that the Court did not honour it enough, and it wanted to thrust up higher in the scale of reception. The Court, on the other hand, replied that there was no question whatsoever of precedence; that the whole thing was a matter of Palace convenience, and that, as for the special night-mare of the House, it had no reality since the members were to be admitted by a certain gate closed to *sonin* officials. In other words, although the members might succeed *sonin* officials in point of order, their precedence to the latter would be plainly established by the "Gate" arrangement. A paltry business at best, and one to which the House's attention had evidently been directed chiefly by the consideration that whatever was now decided would become the permanent custom, this threatened for a moment to expose the relations between the House and the Palace to some strain. Happily, however, wiser counsels prevailed. If the House really entertained any idea of asserting itself in the manner indicated by rumour, it dismissed the fancy. Meeting yesterday, it contented itself with passing a formal vote of congratulation to the Throne on the auspicious opening of the new year, and the members were left entirely free to attend the reception at the Palace to-day, where they will doubtless appear in full force.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for November, showing the foreign trade of Japan for the month:—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	1889. SILVER YEN.	1890. SILVER YEN.
Exports	7,103,675.260	5,912,913.160
Imports	6,317,740.200	4,863,037.570

Total exports and imports	10,775,950 730
Excess of imports	1,049,875 590

CUSTOMS DUTIS. SILVER YEN.

Exports	161,503 921
Imports	215,149 461
Miscellaneous	8,595.449
Total	385,248 831

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
United States of America	2,806,974.030	970,341.040	3,777,315.060
Great Britain	355,649.440	1,713,366 040	2,069,015 480
Hongkong	1,041,649.910	339,794 900	1,381,444 810
France	1,135,787.040	234,904.060	1,370,671 700
China	528,483.620	548,533.370	1,077,017.990
Germany	55,503.710	574,935 220	630,498.930
British India	81,840.400	505,442.500	587,0=8 900
Korea	103,001.570	159,190,020	262,192.190
Switzerland	739 350	69,654.740	70,434.090
Australia	60,502.690	—	60,502.690
Italy	37,851.250	10,668 930	48,520.180
Turkey	—	48,394 300	48,394.300
Anatria	45,340.560	3,016.910	48,357.470
Canada & other British America	44,051.640	1,843.580	45,895.220
Belgium	1,765.300	34,247.660	36,012.960
Russia	32,978.380	2,719.870	35,698.250
Philippine Islands	160.000	21,722.820	21,882.820
Denmark	40 000	5,462.840	5,502.840
Siam	311.350	2,747.000	3,058.350
Peru	—	1,279 120	1,279.120
Holland	135.400	1,074.210	1,207.610
Portugal	471.000	296.760	767.7[illegible]
Spain	—	433.280	433.280
Hawaii	182.250	—	182.250
Other Countries	68,128.130	12,966.740	81,094.870
Total	5,801,431.610	4,863,037.570	10,664,469.180

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Totals. Silver Yen.
Yokohama	4,015,484.980	2,462,168.590	6,477,653.570
Kobe	1,850,197.580	1,939,639 680	3,209 837.240
Osaka	98,318 350	148,496.060	246,814.410
Nagasaki	334,344.790	105,493.080	439,838.770
Hakodate	83,287.880	101,051.940	184,339.820
Niigata	—	481.600	481.600
Shimonoseki	19,034.510	73,053.120	92,737.630
Moji	25,003.500	—	25,003.500
Hakata	946.440	2,018.410	2,964.800
Karatsu	288.000	—	288.000
Kuchinotsu	71,392.500	—	71,392 500
Misumi	2,835.000	—	2,835.000
Idzugahara	1,250.140	9,596.920	10,83=.060
Shishimi	679.340	368.260	1,047.600
Tasuna	423 170	89.000	492.170
Otaru	9,371.000	—	9,371,000
Specie and Bullion { Exports			332,941 240
Specie and Bullion { Imports			87,745 130
Total			420.686 370
Excess of exports			245,196 110

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	714,665.860
	Imports	1,060,674 180
Imported by Government		26,961.650

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

THE *Tokyo Shimpo* respectfully offers the following list of New Year's gifts to members of the Diet:—

To the President of the Lower House, a box of eggs.
To the Vice President of the Lower House, a box of fried *mamushi*.
To Mr. Shimada, Chief of Committee of the whole House, a packet of bear's gall.
To Mr. Shirane, Government Delegate, a pocket-mirror.
To Mr. Mitsukuri, Government Delegate, a volume of Imperial Edicts.
To Mr. Sone, Chief Secretary of the Lower House, a *saké* bottle.
To Mr. Uyeki Yemori, an oak club.
To Mr. Oye Taku, a picnic box and a tooth-brush.
To Mr. Asai Shogo, one volume, elementary school primer.
To Mr. Nakaye Tokusuke, a gallon of muddy wine.
To Mr. Takagi Masatoshi, one dozen handkerchiefs.
To Mr. Suyematsu Saburo, a pint of hair-dye.
To Mr. Kikuchi Kanji, one bible.
To Mr. Yoshino Seikei, one queue ribbon.
To Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, a black stole and a rosary.
To Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu, a barometer.
To Mr. Hamano Noboru, a dose of quinine.
To Mr. Hayashi Yuzo, a copy of "An examination into the resources of North and South."
To Mr. Hasegawa Tai, five bottles of lemonade.
To Mr. Tanaka Shozo, a copy of the stenographic records of the House.
To Mr. Konishi Jinnosuke, a gong and a pair of clappers.
To Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro, one sheet of the "Detailed Survey."
To Mr. Nagai Mitsuyemon, a meteorogical report for three months.
To Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, a bottle of cough mixture.
To Mr. Takenouchi Ko, a cash-box.
To Mr. Yendo Hidekage, a fancy shirt with a dragon pattern.

THE CONDITION OF COMMERCE.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* remarks that from various incidents and occurrences during the year the public had been led to expect something unpleasant in financial affairs towards the close of 1890. Contrary to expectation, however, even the month of December, a trying period for monetary matters, gave rise to no serious fluctuation in the money market. The Bank of Japan, anticipating the usual pressing demand for money at this time, made all the necessary preparations, but these proved more than adequate and the same seems to be true of other banks. According to practical business men, the first cause of the present depression is the unusually stagnant condition of the silk market, which has had a serious effect on the general state of business at the close of the year, and especially affects the Tokyo market. Hitherto the money collected as the proceeds of silk sales was used to circulate almost wholly in Tokyo, owing to the principal silk producing province having close connections geographically and financially with the capital, and therefore the unfortunate result of silk transactions has told most markedly this year upon the commercial condition of Tokyo. The second cause is believed be the precautions taken by farmers in the interior. After suffering for several years through the low prices of rice, farmers had to contend with bad crops last year and a miserable harvest of wheat this year, and were obliged to buy for food imported Rangoon rice at anything but a moderate price. This, added to the difficulty they had already been suffering from, served as a severe warning to them, causing them to keep their extra rice in store for future emergencies. In spite, therefore of the unusually good harvest of rice this year, producing a surplus of some six millions *koku* over the country, and in spite of the high prices realized, they refused to sell except for their daily expenses, but kept their grain stored. They would not even buy for their families the usual new dresses, &c., for the new year. The third cause is to be found in the sittings of the Diet. Whilst farmers have been suffering for some years, government officials have been in no way affected in their incomes, and therefore their purchasing power at the end of the year are greatly relied upon in such places as Tokyo. But the rumours of reductions in the national expenses, reductions in the salaries of officials, changes to be made in official circles, &c., have caused much anxiety and in view of the postponement of the date of operation of the Commercial Code, showing the influence of the Diet, officials have become cautious and thrifty, and will not spend more than they find necessary. There may be other causes for the present state of affairs, but these seem the chief.

THE BURNING OF THE "SHANGHAI."

IN strong contrast to the treatment measured out to unfortunates by maritime disaster in China is that which obtains in Japan. In another column will be found the particulars of a terrible catastrophe on the Yangtse—the burning of a large river steamer, with probably hundreds of her passengers—and although assistance was at hand, not only was none offered, but plunder

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and assault followed those who managed to scramble on shore. The only foreign passenger was a gentleman well known in Japan, Mr. Kniffler, who jumped overboard and struggled to the bank, but no sooner had he set his foot on dry land than he was surrounded by the natives, who attempted to strip him of his clothing, as they had already done those of their wretched countrymen who had succeeded in saving themselves from fire and flood.

BRIBERY.

LONG before the Diet met men at all behind the scenes in the capital knew that the people's representatives were not coming to Tokyo to make their bed among roses. Rashly pledged to their electors to accomplish innumerable reforms, above all, to bring about a substantial reduction of taxation, the members, on arriving in the capital and beginning to think seriously of the work they had undertaken, soon perceived that things might prove much more arduous than they had imagined. On the one hand, the machine of State must be kept going; on the other, long-headed statesmen and financiers had been for years studying the most economical means of preserving the motion. Was it likely that amateurs could suddenly tackle the problem, and discover off-hand a solution hitherto hidden from the best experts? Again, it seemed not at all improbable that the Government might decline to be taught its most rudimentary duties by a number of youthful and comparatively untried politicians, in which event the Diet might find itself sent about its business one fine morning, and the members would either forfeit their hardly earned seats, or have to seek re-election at renewed expense and trouble. These were natural reflections, but no sooner did they begin to find a place in the breasts of the representatives than there sprang up a whispier that bribery and corruption had been at work, and at no time has the ugly suspicion been allowed to sleep since then. Considering that everything hitherto done by the Diet has been more or less in opposition to the Government, and that all the measures announced for debate in the course of the next month are decidedly hostile to the Cabinet, it seems to follow that if the Government has been using bribes, the results of their employment have been singularly unsuccessful. The mouth of rumour is not closed by that difficulty, however. On the contrary, the stories gain in number and detail. The most circumstantial was that a sum of five thousand *yen* had been handed to Count Itagaki to lubricate the wheels of the Budget Committee, with a promise of fifty thousand more if the operation succeeded. Then came a tale of a hundred and seventy thousand *yen* expended among the members for general purposes, and then another to the effect that fifty thousand had been paid out by a certain big steamship company to secure its subsidy. The *Nippon-jin* evidently believes all this, or is anxious that others should believe it. In the course of a plaintive article it alludes to the methods of party bribery pursued in England in the times of Walpole and Grenville and to the happy influence of Pitt's administration in putting an end to such practices. Little more than twenty years have elapsed, it adds, since Japan emerged from feudal government, and in that fact some people may find an excuse for irregularities that would not otherwise be tolerated. But the *Nippon-jin* admits no such excuse. It inveighs very powerfully and very uncompromisingly against such demoralizing doings, and asks whether it was for this that people laboured so long to achieve the bourne of parliamentary institutions.

* * *

Now we wonder whether the *Nippon-jin* and other fanners of these rumours are tilting against windmills. It looks very like it. Where can the Government procure two or three hundred thousand *yen* to distribute among the members, even supposing that it desired to do so? The secret service fund is the only source from which such monies could be drawn, but the secret service fund is neither unlimited nor elastic. Walpole, during the ten years of his administration, spent nearly eight hundred thousand pounds of the public money for secret services, whether honestly or dishonestly history has never determined quite distinctly. But Japanese Ministers have no such capacities of expenditure. The secret service fund of each Department in this country is a small and definitely fixed affair, and when people talk of the Government's exceeding its total by seventy or eighty per cent. in less than a month, they show a slight want of reflection, we think. Besides, where are the results of this lavish outlay? What is it that the members of the House of Representatives have been induced to do. Nothing, so far as we can see, and less than nothing. They have opposed the Government at every point, and their opposition shows no sign of relenting. Surely it requires something more than ordinary credulity to suppose that the Government has been distributing tens of thousands among the members, and that the latter have been quietly pocketing "the swag" without any attempt on one side to obtain, or on the other to give, a *quid pro quo*? Elsewhere, men begin to suspect foul play when they see votes cast in a manner unexpected and contrary to the known convictions of the voters. But here members keep on steadily voting against the Government, and the Government is all the while supposed to be cheerfully and liberally rewarding their obduracy by substantial payments. Very nice for the members, assuredly, but a trifle perplexing to ordinary folks.

UNFORTUNATE CAUSE.

HERE is another example of the delicate, choice and polished writing that lends so much additional beauty to "the cause":—

> But the evidence that we accept as most conclusive of the success of the movement is the frantic condition of the *Japan Mail*: in numerous leaders, and innumerable paragraphs and letters, the editor of the journal manifests his disturbance. Some of the paragraphs are almost incredible in their silly spitefulness and futility; like the growlings of a savage animal who is safely caged and can do no harm but to himself. The correspondence with Mr. Lowder, it must be admitted, is very irritating; it must be annoying to be pierced through and through over and over again in a quarrel you have drawn on yourself. The joke of this correspondence is to find the editor waving furiously in the foot note to the letter, that Mr. Lowder's letters will be rejected unless he observes the ordinary forms of courtesy, and then whining because Mr. Lowder chooses to answer the *Mail's* assaults in another journal! The *Mail's* venom and fury are the measure of the success of the meeting.

Unfortunate cause! The fact that it holds up its head at all under the weight of such championship, says much for its vitality.

WELCOME WORDS.

INTO the mouth of Count Oyama the *Jiyu Shimbun* puts words which it were doubtless fain that he had spoken. The occasion was a Cabinet meeting on the 27th ultimo. "Gentlemen," said the Minister of War to his colleagues, "is Yamada's retirement from office right or wrong. If it is right, then we ought to retire with him. If it is wrong, then it ought to be stopped at once. The Commercial Code was promulgated above the signatures of us all, was it not? Why should Yamada alone retire because public opinion is against the Code? We have the precedent furnished by the affairs of Treaty Revision last year. Let us all resign. I cannot approve of the responsibility being put upon Yamada alone." "With that," continues the *Jiyu Shimbun*, "the Count left the Cabinet, and his colleagues remained behind in embarrassed consultation. Ultimately Count Saigo was sent as the Cabinet's representative to wait upon Count Yamada at Oiso, so that perhaps, after all, we may see the resignation of the whole Cabinet."

T. R. MCCLATCHIE'S "JAPANESE PLAYS."

THE *Graphic* of November 8th, notices a recent edition of this work illustrated by the author's brother, Mr. Ernest S. McClatchie, and published by the firm of W. H. Allen. The premature death of Mr. Thomas R. McClachie was felt at the time as a severe loss to the British Consular Service in Japan, and it is pleasant to think that his work is still living after him. This London edition has succeeded, after an interval of eleven years, to the first Yokohama edition. The reviewer speaks of the freshness and novelty of the "*Plays*," which give, "in pleasant, rollicking fashion, a certain insight into old time Japanese habits of thought and customs."

THE VICE-MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

WE read with regret in the vernacular press that Mr. Mitsukuri, the Vice-Minister of State for Justice, has expressed his resolve to retire from office in consequence of the Diet's decision with regard to the Commercial Code. Considering the prominent part taken by Mr. Mitsukuri in preparing the Code, his resolve ought not, perhaps, to excite surprise, but his resignation would certainly be a heavy loss to the public service.

THE "SURUGA MARU."

JAPANESE papers publish a statement that the *Suruga Maru* is ashore in Owari Gulf, but on enquiry at the office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha we learn that there is no foundation for the report.

ADDITIONAL PORTS OF EXPORT.

THE EMPEROR has sanctioned the Bill passed by the Diet for the opening of additional harbours for export purposes, and has also announced that Kushiro will be among the number.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The ultimate decision of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives has formed the principal topic of journalistic discussion this week. Before proceeding to this question, however, let us touch briefly on the manner in which the Tokyo press bids farewell to the year just closed.

* * *

In reviewing the year 1890, the papers in most cases take a decidedly pessimistic view. The *Nippon* complains that 1890 was exceptionally disastrous from an economical point of view. The high price of rice, the unfavourable state of the market for Japanese silk, and the fall of shares of all kinds, combined to produce general depression of trade and wide-spread hardship among the lower classes of the community. On the other hand, did 1890 fulfill the high hopes with which it had been awaited by the people from a political point of view? Our contemporary is sorry that it cannot answer in the affirmative. What have the three hundred Representatives of the people done during the opening month of their parliamentary career? In the first place, they disgraced themselves by taking an unconstitutional step for the purpose of protecting a man charged with a dishonourable crime. In the second place, some of them are said to have received bribes in connection with the Budget. And lastly, they have been laughed at by the public for propounding very foolish questions to the Governments delegates. Upon the whole, the people's Representatives—concludes the *Nippon*—have done more to merit the contempt of the nation than to earn its respect.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* expresses a sincere regret that the members of the Lower House have not thus far conducted themselves in a manner consistent with the gravity of their responsibility, at the present crisis in Japan's history as a constitutional State. Our contemporary is extremely reluctant to say anything that may injure their reputation, for with their reputation is closely bound up the good name of the people who appointed them to the Diet. But the *Nichi Nichi* is constrained to avow that the Representatives are conducting themselves in a manner far from wise. They are stirring up needless friction, and are pursuing with regard to the Budget a course of policy that evidently encroaches upon the prerogatives of the Emperor. The *Nichi Nichi* then passes on to consider the state of things in the economic world, and sums up by saying that the old year closed upon the nation while it was still

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suffering from the effect of a general depression of trade.

* * *

The *Kokkai* is not at all satisfied with the way in which the Lower House has thus far behaved itself. But it would not be fair, says that paper, to pronounce an unfavourable opinion on the House as a whole; for at this early stage of parliamentary institutions there are many statesmen of prominence who have not yet taken any important part in the debates. The calendar year has already closed, the *Kokkai* goes on, but the political year is only about a month old, and will not close until the end of the present session of the Diet. It will be then and only then that anything like justice can be done to the people's Representatives. Meanwhile, our contemporary reminds the latter that their prime duty is to conduct their first year's business in a moderate and reasonable manner; that although it is important to reduce the expenses of administration it is equally important to move within the limits allowed by the Constitution; that while strictly guarding the powers of the Legislature, the House should take care not to encroach upon the functions of the Executive; and that, although the people do not wish the Representatives to act merely as tools of crafty statesmen, they are not desired to do anything rashly or to court a fatal collision between themselves and the Government.

* * *

The Committee on the Budget met on the 27th of last month and decided by a large majority that the estimates should be reduced by more than 9 million *yen*. As stated in our last weekly summary, the Committee had been unable at its meeting of the 20th ultimo to make a choice between the plans of reduction formulated by the so-called "extreme" and "moderate" sections of its members. It was believed, however, at the time that the "moderates" who protested against the proposed changes in the organization of the Departments of State, had suddenly obtained more followers *than the* "extremists." But this belief was not confirmed by subsequent events. The failure of the extremists to carry their point at once now seems to have been principally due to the confusion into which they were temporarily thrown by the superior tactics of the "moderates." Meanwhile, rumours were assiduously circulated, charging some of the "moderates" with having accepted bribes from the Government and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. There does not seem to be a grain of truth in these reports, but under the circumstances they must have more or less contributed to the signal success which the extreme section of the Committee at last obtained on the 27th December. At that meeting a considerable commotion was caused by the conduct of the Government's delegates, who, when the Committee was about to commence its business, suddenly withdrew, simply stating that in their opinion it would be impossible to carry on the administration with the appropriations proposed by the Committee. Mr. Uyeki, who is always prominent in parliamentary affrays, instantly moved to recall the delegates and require them to explain why they thought the sums proposed by the Committee insufficient to carry on the Government of the country. The motion was adopted, but only one of the delegates, Mr. Maeshima, Vice-Minister of Communications, could be found within the precincts of the House. He immediately came back to the Committee room; but as he only repeated the simple declaration above alluded to he was very unceremoniously dismissed by the Committee. The "moderates" who number fourteen in all, among the more prominent being Mr. Oye Taku, Mr. Takenouchi Tsuna, Mr. Seki Naohiko, and Mr. Furusho Kamon, are reported to be determined to oppose the Committee's proposal when it comes to be discussed by the House of Representatives.

* * *

There are many rumours about the probable attitude of the House of Representatives towards the Report, and about the course of action the Government may take in case the Committee's plan be adopted by the Lower House. As to the Representatives, it is thought by the *Hochi Shimbun* that the Committee's Report will be supported by the whole of the *Kaishin-to* members (about 40) by 90 out of 130 Constitutional Liberals, and by some members of the *Taisei-kai*, and that, consequently, no forecast can yet be made as to which side will be victorious. With regard to the Government, it is anticipated by some that the Cabinet may possibly reconstruct the Budget on the basis of reducing the present estimates by about three million *yen*, while others state that, should the Lower House vote the reduction of 9 million *yen*, the Ministry will disolve the Diet. Still another rumour is that the Government will in the event of the House's adopting the Report, simply reject the decision of the Diet and carry out the preceding year's estimates. On the whole, the general idea is that there will be a serious collision between the Executive and the Diet. It is, however, not a little reassuring to learn that the public at large does not wholly approve the conduct of the "extremists."

* * *

The *Kaishinto* organs strongly support the scheme of reduction proposed by the Committee on the Budget. The Constitutional Liberal organs have not declared themselves on this question; indeed they are in a peculiar position, for some of the most distinguished members of that party are understood to oppose the scheme of reduction. Independent papers like the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Nippon*, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Kokkai* do not hesitate to express disapproval of the conduct of the Committee. We will now reproduce what some of these papers, independent as well as representing parties, say on the question.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* is astonished to learn that the Committee on the Budget had decided to cut down the estimates by the extraordinary sum of nearly nine and a half million *yen*. In order to bring home to the members of the Committee the extravagance of this resolution, our contemporary does not consider it necessary to employ any learned argument. All that they need do is to reflect on their own private affairs, and remember how unwise it would be to suddenly reduce their expenditure by more than 10 per cent. The *Jiji* admits that it would be possible and desirable to carry on the administration for a much less sum of money than is at present required. But it declares that such a reform must be effected gradually and slowly; and that any attempt to attain the object at once by a radical method, would only end in strengthening the very abuses which it is desired to correct. Had the Government asked for more than is actually required, the Representatives would only do their duty in cutting down the estimates submitted to their consideration; but the present Budget is, in the opinion of the *Jiji*, reasonable and moderate under the circumstances. Should the report of the Committee be voted by the Diet, it would be tantamount to asking the Government to do what cannot possibly be done, and the result might probably be the dissolution of the Diet. In that case neither the Cabinet nor the people could be charged with bringing about a most undesirable incident of constitutional Government; the blame would rest entirely with the Representatives, who would not listen to the voice of reason and moderation.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which, though not an acknowledged organ of any party, is always favourably disposed to the *Kaishin-to*, considers that there is nothing extraordinary in proposing the reduction of the estimates by 10 million *yen*. If there were items capable of being dispensed with there would be no impropriety in voting for a reduction amounting to twice that sum of money. As to the objection that the Committee contemplate a course of action which seriously interferes with the prerogative of the Emperor, our contemporary answers that no such thing has ever been contemplated by the Committee. The proposed changes in the organization of the Departments of State are merely intended for reference, in order to show how a reduction of expenses could be effected without causing any disorder in any branch of the administration. As to the rumour that the Government may withdraw the present Budget and introduce another one reduced by about three million *yen*, the *Yomiuri* observes that such a step, if really contemplated by the Cabinet, would be equivalent to a confession that many superfluous items are contained in the Budget now in the hands of the members of the Lower House. If a reduction of 10 million *yen* be really incompatible with the successful conduct of public business, our contemporary invites the Ministry to explain the reasons why, and to manfully maintain their ground on the floor of the Diet.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun*, in a series of two articles, strongly protests against the imputation cast upon the members of the *Kaishin-to*, that they advocate an extreme course in respect of the reduction of public expense because they are desirous of having the Diet dissolved. This charge is brought against the *Kaishin-to*, thinks our contemporary, for the sole purpose of winning over members, who are afraid of dissolution. It is of course wrong to desire a dissolution, but, says the *Mainichi*, it is worse to be afraid of a dissolution. We (*Japan Mail*) are afraid that the effect of our contemporary's articles will be to leave a strong impression in the reader's mind that the *Kaishin-to* members of the Lower House are, if not desirous of, at least very well prepared for, dissolution at any moment.

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Since the passing of the Bill for the postponement of the operation of the Commercial Code, the political situation has somewhat changed. There seems to be little hope of Count Yamada resuming his Ministerial duties. Viscount Aoki, according to some gossips, is reported to be thinking of resignation, while others state that Count Matsukata may also leave the Government at any moment. According to yet another report, Counts Ito and Okuma are said to have become reconciled, and it is added that they are secretly fanning popular opposition to the present Cabinet. Mr. Mutsu, Count Goto, Viscount Aoki, and Mr. Yoshikawa are said to have formed an alliance. These and several other rumours of similar character are now circulated, but they are in most cases mere bubbles thrown up into the air by ambitious politicians, to find which way the wind is blowing.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* has published two articles on the question of the reduction of the land tax, from the pen of Mr. Sakatani Yoshizo of the Finance Department. Mr. Sakatani is of opinion that the land tax in Japan partakes of the nature of rent rather than of a tax. The present rate is quite high, but it is not at all unreasonably high if viewed in the light of rent paid for the use of land. The writer has many facts to support the position he takes with regard to the above mentioned historical character of the land tax. His views on this subject are recorded at great length in the last number of the proceedings of the Association for the study of State Science. We will refer to his essay at greater length in a separate note.

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The *Choya Shimbun* is still discussing the question of the augmentation of the Navy. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* has commenced to publish an interesting series of articles on the responsibility of Ministers of State, which promises to be very long. The writer is Mr. Takata Sanae, editor-in-chief of the paper. The *Jiyu Shimbun* has finished a long series of essays on the Government Bill for the examination of silkworms' eggs. The *Nippon* continues its interesting articles on the imaginary country of lunatics. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, the new organ of the Constitutional Liberals, publishes an essay on the Revision of the Treaties, by Mr. Hoshi Toru. The essay is not yet concluded.

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A SUGGESTION.

AMONG the meteoric members of the first House of Japanese Representatives, Mr. ARAI SHOGO'S track has hitherto been, perhaps, the most dazzling. Mr. ARAI is gifted with dramatic instincts. The piecein which he made his *début* was of aninternational character. It was a short and brilliant affair, which perhaps left little impression on the mind of the general public, but which served nevertheless to display pretty clearly the exceptional faculties possessed by Mr. ARAI. He and several other Japanese patriots planned a raid upon the Korean capital, a raid not incomparable in some respects to the celebrated expedition of the Three Musketeers, by which the person of the King-maker was carried to France in a deal box, and the restoration of the STUARTS was accomplished. It is not clearly on record how many and what manner of men were associated with Mr. ARAI in his great project. We have never heard the number placed above a score, and the resources of the party were about as colossal as their numerical strength. Their hearts were very big, and so was their aim. They intended to raise an insurrection in Korea, to overthrow the then administration, and to make the country the arena of a struggle between China and Japan. Unfortunately the drama never got beyond a full-dress rehearsal. The principal actors were seized just as the curtain was about to rise, and the rest of the play took place in the Criminal Court at Osaka. It was on that occasion that the foundations of Mr. ARAI'S fame were laid. The speech delivered by him in his defence occupied hours, and filled a bulky volume which may still be procured at sanguine booksellers. Mr. ARAI, from his place in the dock, did not condescend to address the Court; he addressed the whole of Japan. Neither did he condescend to defend himself; he attacked the whole world of officialdom. The Court, with that callous indifference to eloquence and volubility so often displayed by judicial tribunals, heard Mr. ARAI to the end, and then sentenced him to two years' imprisonment. Such a man was bound to become audible again, and Mr ARAI has been very audible in the Diet. Chosen to be the mouth-piece of the thirty-two members who interrogated the Government on various questions of State policy, he had the honour of occupying the tribune and the ear of the House time after time during an exciting and interesting period. He succeeded excellently. His personal appearance is not ill adapted for the rôle of the persistent puppet in the toy-box, and his command of language is really quite conspicuous. He has certainly made his mark in the House, and may perhaps be destined to occupy a permanently prominent place in Japanese Parlimentary history. Concerning this latter point, however, we entertain some doubts. The Japanese are a self-contained race. They do not love showers of words, and let a man be ever so eloquent, they are apt to despise him if he talks much. Mr. ARAI has undoubtedly been talking much. His most recent appearances in the tribune, instead of attracting pleased attention, have actually been greeted with cries of "At it again," and "How often are you coming on?" The exigencies of his part as mouth-piece of the thirty-two exposed him to this misfortune, but it would be a pity if his career should suffer in consequence, and for that reason we desire to offer a suggestion. It is that he should introduce a motion in the House; a motion which, judging by the present temper of the Diet, cannot fail to bring great popularity to its proposer. The motion would be couched in some such terms as the following:—"Whereas, Parliamentary institutions are in their origin, structure, and methods of procedure copied entirely from Western models, and whereas, this House is strongly opposed to any slavish imitation of foreign things, therefore it is hereby agreed that a humble representation be made to the Throne urging the immediate abolition of the Diet and of all the machinery connected with it." The House of Representatives could not fail to appreciate this suggestion, or to be sincerely grateful to the man who helped the members to reach so quickly the logical sequel of the course they are at present pursuing. Whenever any attempt is made to cite foreign precedents for the information of the House, or whenever any member ventures to refer to Western history or Western institutions, he is greeted with execrations. This is very high-spirited and encouraging. Japan for the Japanese is an excellent motto, and nowhere can it find better practical expression than in the proceedings of the House of Representatives. It does not much matter that Japan during the past twenty years, with the apparent consent of all her educated men, has been busily doing the very thing which the Diet now forbids any of its members to do. Such an objection is neither here not there. To be governed by any petty rules relating to sequence of conduct is in itself a Western idea, and as such deserves no consideration at Japanese hands to-day. Therefore we do not venture to cavil at the Diet's objection to be reminded that there is a world outside these four seas, and that to be admitted to equal fellowship with the leading nations of that world has been the chief aim of Japan throughout her whole career of modern progress. But it would be a pity if such an opportunity to make a fine record were suffered to pass unutilized, and Mr. ARAI SHOGO seems just the man to utilize it, whether on account of his dramatic endowments, or in consideration of the striking part he has already played in the House of Representatives, or because the fame that had come almost within his reach seems to be in danger of slipping away from him. Some courage would be needed to make the motion here suggested, but Mr. ARAI is quite equal to the effort. The other day when Viscount AOKI, speaking from the tribune of the Lower House, sought to quote from the speech of a British Prime Minister, and to suggest that in conducting negotiations with European States Japan ought to observe the rules of reticence by which they consider themselves bound, Mr. ARAI uttered an angry protest against any such quotations or suggestions being submitted to the House. He is evidently a leader of the wholesale opponents of borrowing from abroad, and since among all the efforts hitherto made by Japan in the way of frank borrowing, the first place belongs to representative institutions, it is plain that the abolition of the Diet, the tearing up of the Constitution, and a return to a pure monarchical polity would be the strongest effort at self-assertion that Japan could now make on the lines indicated by Mr. ARAI and his fellow-thinkers. Everything points to him as the man to utilize the occasion, to earn lasting fame, and to win the gratitude of his country by bringing its practice and its professions into some sort of consistency.

A SEQUEL OF THE EXHIBITION.

THE Industrial Exhibition of this year, while it certainly served to show that the Japanese are making great progress in artistic manufactures, served also to show either that they are still without any clear perception of the objects of an Exhibition, or that they are singularly lacking in business capacity. The place was a veritable Pool of Bethesda. The first comers alone were fortunate, and while patient orderly folks awaited their turn, the exhibits on which they had set their hearts were snapped up by less scrupulous purchasers. With this, however, no fault is to be found. Competition is never altruistic, and under such circumstances people must look out for themselves. But the point is that an exhibit once sold was placed hopelessly beyond the reach of everyone except its fortunate purchaser. In ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, the exhibitors declined to take orders for the duplication of any object. They appeared to think that the exhibition was a kind of parade ground, where they might show their expert paces, and not at all a place for securing custom. In the case of a beautiful and expensive article it could not of course have been expected that a duplicate would be forthcoming. Besides many works of art produced by common artisans in Japan are genuine labours of love. They are the outcome of long toil and thought, and the maker when he exhibits them does not put

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upon them prices at all proportionate to what they have really cost him. Such objects he will not reproduce, nor is he even willing to entertain any proposition for their reproduction. He does not want to confess that one feature of his exhibit is its curious cheapness, and that a very different price would have to be named if there were question simply of earning a livelihood. But this does not apply to a multitude of objects of every-day use, examples of which in novel and attractive forms made their appearance at the Exhibition. A Western manufacturer would have prepared beforehand a number of duplicates of such objects, or would at least have made full arrangements to execute orders for their duplication. Such was not the case at the Uyeno Exhibition. It was almost impossible to find anyone who would listen to an order, and still more difficult to find anyone who would entertain it. Utter absence of organization, utter lack of business providence and practicality were salient features of the whole affair. Even such a simple thing as a paper lantern or a set of tea cups could not be ordered except in very rare instances, and the impression left by the Exhibition on the minds of foreign visitors was that, instead of being a scheme for the promotion of industry and the making of money, it was a sort of manufacturers' picnic, to which everyone brought his best contribution without any ulterior purpose whatever. We felt sure that this mistake would be appreciated sooner or later, and it is pleasant to be able to record that our anticipation is partially justified. Within the past month there has been opened at Igura in Tokyo a shop that evidently owes its existence to the Exhibition. Visitors to the latter will doubtless remember that one of the most attractive stalls in the whole building was furnished with blue and white Hirado porcelain. The manufacture of this kind of ware has now been carried almost to the point of excellence reached at the end of the last century. The quality of the blue as a general rule still leaves a great deal to be desired, but in all other respects the ware is approximately the peer of its beautiful predecessor. Many delightful specimens were shown at the Exhibition in the form of cups, plates, tea pots, and other objects of daily use, but the small supply was soon exhausted by eager purchasers and no means existed of procuring duplicates. However, the principal exhibitor, Mr. HIGUCHI, has evidently now perceived that Tokyo needed some shop for the sale of these fine porcelains, and the result is the store at Igura. To visit the store is quite a treat. One learns there what a future awaits Japanese keramic manufactures. For certainly these blue and white porcelains of Hirado must command admiration in all parts of the world. But to connoisseurs the most interesting feature of HIGUCHI'S work is porcelain with pierced designs; the porcelain to which American collectors have given the name of "grains of rice pattern." This class of porcelain was among the most remarkable masterpieces of the old Chinese experts, and fine specimens have now become so scarce that they command enormous prices. The special point which distinguishes the ware is that the body of the piece is removed in certain parts of the design, and the space thus left is filled in with transparent glazing material. In the Chinese ware these perforated portions were generally arranged in geometrical or other formal patterns, and being more or less ovoidal, their resemblance to grains of rice inserted in the *pâte* suggested the name by which the ware is now generally known. The Chinese themselves, fond as they were of fanciful appellations, called this particular porcelain simply "ware with translucent decoration." It represents a keramic *tour de force*, and it seems to be virtually beyond the capacity of modern Chinese potters. They do indeed produce numerous specimens, but the inferiority of the new to the old is glaring. In the old ware fine paste, lustrous uniform glaze, and above all pure limpid transparency in the perforated portions constituted features everyone of which is conspicuously absent in the modern production. The Japanese potter of former times never attempted to manufacture this ware, and we do not know what inspired Mr. HIGUCHI of Hirado to set about the work. He devoted years to experiments of a costly and for a long time unsuccessful character, nor was it, we believe, until 1888 that he found himself in a position to apply for a patent. Now, however, he is able to produce ware which in point of technique equals the old Chinese, and in point of decoration far excels it. The Chinaman seems to have never conceived anything higher than an essentially geometrical design consisting of stars, or simple arabesques, but the modern Hirado experts apply the method to some of the beautiful designs which distinguish their decorative style. In a pair of vases recently manufactured by HIGUCHI for the Household Department, a delicate scroll pattern is surmounted by phœnixes with joined wings, forming circular medalions, the whole transparent. These vases are indeed masterpieces, but like all HIGUCHI'S ware of this nature their price is very high. They show, however, that the Japanese potter, emerging from the meretricious tendencies into which he was betrayed by his first contact with Western markets, is now fairly on his way to take the place that properly belongs to him as a master of technical skill and decorative genius.

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THE CIVIL WAR AMONGST THE ORIENTALISTS.

NEWSPAPERS coming from London during the past few months have contained from time to time paragraphs showing a serious division between members of the International Congress of Orientalists. They tell us of meetings of one Committee and an opposition Committee, of disputes, of a Congress to be held in 1891, and an opposition Congress in 1892, of rival presidents and so on. The Orientalists in Europe, especially in England, appear to be rent in twain. But the English papers do not tell us the origin and cause of these differences, and as many of our readers must be interested in the subject, we take this opportunity of explaining the matter from the beginning. The whole difficulty arose at the Congress held last year at Stockholm. The organising secretary on that occasion was Count LANDBERG, the Swedish Consul-General at Cairo, who is said to possess an extraordinary facility in the various dialects of Turkish and Arabic. He is a favourite of the King of SWEDEN, and upon him as legal organising secretary depended the whole success of the gathering, for the statutes of the Congress allot to him sundry duties of a formal though very important character. Among other things his business is to see that the provisions of the statutes with regard to a future Congress are carried out, and if he does not do this the statutes themselves provide no means for repairing the omission. From this circumstance the whole difficulty has arisen, although it has been aggravated by certain personal differences concerning which, since they do not really affect the question, we shall say as little as possible. Count LANDBERG appears to be one of those energetic, masterful men who very frequently excite opposition by reason of their positive qualities. Encouraged and supported no doubt by several members of the Congress of Stockholm, he formed a project for materially altering the constitution of the Congress. The statutes provide that a president and place of meeting for each Congress are to be fixed by the whole body of members at the previous meeting, and accordingly both of these important details should have been settled at a formal business meeting usually held on the last day of the session at Stockholm. But Count LANDBERG called no such meeting; he had a scheme by which these details were to be settled by a committee of five past presidents, which no doubt was very admirable in its way, but which suffered from the fatal defect of being utterly at variance with the statutes on which the Congress was established. He further had a scheme for the creation of a sort of Oriental academy composed of forty "immortals:" the first forty to be elected by the public vote of the Congress, and vacancies in the body to be

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filled up by the votes of the "immortals" themselves, in accordance with the well known rule of the French Academy. This latter scheme was quite repugnant to the feelings of a large number of the members, and especially to the British section; it was said that it would destroy the equality which prevailed in the republic of letters, and the hostility it excited extended to the nomination of future presidents of the Congress. In the end Count LANDBERG'S proposals and Count LANDBERG himself fell into great disfavour. But he had his opponents on the hip in this way, that it rested with him to call a formal meeting provided by the existing statutes for appointing the date, place and time of the next meeting. He did not call it, but nominated a committee of five ex-presidents to do the work.

In the fullness of time the scholars, dispersed in the four quarters of the globe, set about discussing the position of their body. Before long English scholars came to the conclusion that everything which had been done was utterly illegal, and that if the Congress was not to go to pieces they had better set about repairing the errors of Count LANDBERG. But the difficulty was how to set about this, for the statutes had never contemplated a position in which they would be wilfully broken by an official appointed under them. After a good deal of discussion it was decided that the proper course to take was to go back to the original founders of the Congress, viz., the French scholars, and obtain from them powers for dealing with the new position, since no provision was made for it in the statutes. The French Orientalists readily agreed, and as England was the country in which the next Congress would have been held, they gave the English scholars a free hand to deal with the matter, only appointing Dr. LEITNER to represent France on the English Committee. Dr. LEITNER, we believe, is a German by descent, but he is a naturalized Englishman. He was for many years head of the Punjaub University at Lahore, and is said to possess a wonderful facility for the acquisition of colloquial Asiatic languages. Indeed it is said that he speaks a good many more languages than the famous MEZZOFANTI. He is besides a man of boundless energy, and in many other respets resembles Count LANDBERG. He is at present the head of the Oriental Institute which has taken up its quarters in the old Dramatic College near Woking, and the object of which is to provide for natives of India in England accommodation suitable to their religion and caste rites. Dr. LEITNER led the rebellion against Count LANDBERG, who from the point at which we have now arrived, fell with his schemes into the limbo of chaos and darkest night, and a new dispute of an even hotter character arose in England itself. The scheme for arranging the next Congress was that a Committee composed of English scholars should make all the necessary arrangements, and Dr. LEITNER was one of its members. He sat on the Committee as an English Orientalist, as a leader of the revolt against Count LANDBERG, and also as a nominee of the French founders of the Congress. He was also a secretary to the Committee, the other secretaries being Professor DOUGLAS of the British Museum, and Mr. HEWITT, a retired member of the Bengal Civil Service. The chairman was Sir GEORGE BIRDWOOD, of the Indian Office. Sir HENRY RAWLINSON agreed to lend his great name as President of the forthcoming Congress, and Sir GRANT DUFF was willing to be Vice-President. Thus everything seemed set-fair, but the favourable prospect was soon overcast. Dr. LEITNER'S energy and desire to carry everything his own way was not relished by several of the members of the Committee. He claimed that, as representative of the French founders of the Congress, any meeting at which he was not present, or any resolution of which he did not approve, was illegal. Differences arose. He abstained from attending meetings of the Committee, letters to him remained unanswered, and by and by the remaining members of the Committee addressed a letter to Sir HENRY RAWLINSON to say that they could not get on with Dr. LEITNER. Recriminations followed. Sir HENRY RAWLINSON and Sir GRANT DUFF both resigned. The other Committee men called a meeting without inviting Dr. LEITNER; he appeared with a few of his friends; there was a noisy gathering at the British Museum which was hastily adjourned by the chairman to another place, where Dr. LEITNER and his friends were not admitted, and the split was complete. Both parties proceeded to make arrangements for a Congress of their own. Dr. LEITNER called a meeting at the German Athenæum at which Sir LEPEL GRIFFIN presided. The President, Secretaries, and sections of a Congress to be held in London in 1891 were all appointed. The other party did much the same, except that 1892 was the year fixed upon by them, and London and Oxford the places of meeting. Professor MAX MULLER agreed to be their president, and in him they have a tower of strength both in this country and on the Continent. This is the condition of affairs at the present moment. Let us take a glance at the respective parties, and see how they stand from the point of view of Oriental scholarship. If we are to judge by the list of supporters of Dr. LEITNER, he is unfortunate in not having been able to secure Oriental scholars of fame. His President is Sir PATRICK COLQUHOUN, who was for some years Chief Justice of the Ionian Islands, but whose name has never been associated with Oriental studies of any kind, and indeed the only Oriental scholar of eminence he has amongst his following is M. OPPERT of Paris. On the other side are all the Orientalists of the British Museum, who would form a respectable Congress in themselves, and all the Oxford and Cambridge scholars. The Dutch scholars, such as Professor DE GOEK of Leyden and others are with them. The French appear disposed to throw their weight into the same scale. What is certain at this moment is that the founders of the Congress have withdrawn their Commission from Dr. LEITNER, and although the German scholars are holding aloof as a rule, yet several of them have already sent in their adhesion to Professor MAX MULLER, and it is believed that all of them will follow suit. The India Office authorities also are unofficially supporting Professor MAX MULLER and SIR GEORGE BIRDWOOD, while Dr. LEITNER'S support from India comes chiefly from personal friends. Thus on the one side we have a large part of the Oriental scholarship of England which in all probability will attract the Oriental scholars of the continent likewise, while on the other we have Dr. LEITNER himself and his personal friends, together with wonderful energy and organising power. There have already been so many turns and revolutions in this dispute that it is very difficult to say where the palm of victory will ultimately lie, but in all probability the weight of scholarship will finally turn the scale. One thing is certain; the success of Dr. LEITNER'S movement in the present spirit of Orientalists would mean the extinction of the Congress. We do not say that this would be a very severe loss to Oriental scholarship; we only record the opinion that such would be the inevitable result.

THE DEAD YEAR.

IT would certainly be an injustice to 1890 to suffer it to drift out of sight without more than a passing acknowledgment of the remarkable series of events included in its record. It stands alone among the twenty-three years of the Meiji era. Previous years had occasionally been marked by one or more striking incidents, or even by crises of a temporarily alarming character, but 1890 is unique in this that a long list of extraordinary circumstances were crowded into its short span of months, and that the shadow of their consequences lies almost as darkly across the threshold of 1891 and stretches as far into the future as though the evils already experienced counted for nothing in the scales of fate. Before the first plum blossoms made their appearance there had commenced that extraordinary disturbance of the rice market which ultimately drove the staff of life in Japan to an unprecedented height. Still further accentuated by an extensive failure of the barley crop, upon which the poorer classes mainly depend when rice is dear, this calamity with all its collateral

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effects produced a state of keen suffering and almost paralysed domestic trade. Wild rumours began to circulate about the inhuman action of capitalists in cornering rice, and it became a colloquial formula for describing extreme villainy to say that a man was knave enough to levy toll on the lives of the starving poor. There is no reason to think that transactions of this nature were extensively carried on; still less that they exercised any sensible effect on the market. Speculators ready and willing to take advantage of such opportunities are doubtless as plentiful in Japan as anywhere else, but the fact that to this day they remain unidentified does not indicate that they existed in very large numbers or operated on a very wide scale. The great shortage of the preceding year's yield was undoubtedly responsible for the whole business, and the authorities finally resolved to supply the deficiency in some measure by becoming direct importers of foreign rice. It was a mistaken resolve, we think, inasmuch as its immediate effect was to deter private enterprise, which, if left unhampered, would assuredly have worked with equal thoroughness and greater discretion. The resolve once taken, however, could only be carried out in one manner, namely, by importing large quantities of rice and selling them by public tender to the highest bidder. This the authorities did, and for doing this they were pretty roundly abused by critics whose view of the situation was so superficial that they blamed the Government for not controlling the ultimate destination of the rice after bringing it to the country. They alleged in short, that measures should have been taken to place it in the hands of the poor, ignoring altogether the well known fact that unless the rice had been reduced to charity prices, the poor could not possibly have profited by its importation, and that, under any circumstances, what the poor wanted was not rice, but work. It is by its indirect effect upon the labour market that dear rice chiefly hurts the lower orders, and to offer them comparatively cheap rice when they could not earn money to buy even a barley diet, would have been pure mockery. Without dwelling on this phase of the business, however, we proceed at once to notice the net result, which, in round numbers may be called a difference of 18 million *yen* in the balance of the empire's foreign trade. For instead of exporting rice to the value of some 7 or 8 million *yen*, as would have been the case under ordinary circumstances, she was obliged to import 10 millions worth, thus on the one hand, experiencing a deficit to the former amount in her recipts and an increase to the latter extent in her expenditure. In the midst of these results, already amounting to something very like a catastrophe when compared with the dimensions of Japan's foreign commerce, came the reckless and empirical legislation of the United States, both financial and fiscal. Never in the history of human intelligence had anything been previously perpetrated that could stand on the same plane of irresponsible rashness. America did not move in the interests of the great problem that has been perplexing the World for years. She moved simply in the selfish interests of a clique of silver-miners. Thoughtless persons have quoted the consequences of her action as evidence that bimetallism would not work in practice. But the bimetallic theory has no relation to such action. With the burden of the nation's public debt growing yearly more intolerable owing to the persistent appreciation of the medium of payment; with the rewards of labour and enterprise steadily diminishing because of a general fall of prices owing, in considerable part, to the same reason; with international trade reduced to the level of mere gambling owing to the fact that one half of the world conducts its transactions in a medium which the other half capriciously declines to regard as anything better than a mere commodity—with all these huge and perpetually growing ills in flagrant view, bimetallists urge that silver should receive again the treatment it received successfully during so many centuries; that it should no longer be ostracised from the ranks of money; that stability should be imparted to its value by authorizing its free coinage; that, in short, the principles of free trade should be extended to the precious metals instead of the present system of unnatural and injurious protection. But no bimetallist has ever been wild enough to advocate an arbitrary attempt to force silver back to its gold price of twenty-five years ago. No bimetallist has ever suggested that such a Power as America should set itself to re-produce, within a very brief period and in an inverse ratio, all the troubles which have attended the depreciation of silver during the past qusrter of a century, and that, too, not with any fixed hope or restoring equilibrium eventually, but merely in order to find a temporary market for the produce of American silver mines. The United States stands towards the rest of the world in a position of material responsibility that ought to forbid such hazardous experiments. When America wounds herself, all other civilized nations are doomed to suffer more or less. We know it well here in Japan. Some theorists told us indeed, at the outset, that the crippling effect produced upon exports by the appreciation of silver would be compensated by the impetus given to imports. The theory is full of holes, needing all the ingenuity and generalizing liberality of book students to patch them. It will be long before export merchants in Japan can lay any such balsam to their souls, and in the meanwhile the country's chief staple of export, silk, has become a drug in the market. To crown all we had the panic produced in New York by that egregious bit of legislation, the McKinley Bill, followed, as might have been anticipated, by something very like a panic in London, and followed yet again by another panic in the American metropolis. If mischievous sprites had been entrusted with liberty to play football with the world's commerce, they could not have set about the performance with grimmer resolution than did the Republicans under President Harrison. Yet to America, if anywhere, the nations should be able to look confidently for sound and well considered action in financial and fiscal matters. What adds to the pain of the retrospect is—to use a Hybernicism—the gloominess of the prospect. We cannot speak of these things as past and gone. The evil legislation is still active, and its effects must continue to be severely felt by silver-using nations.

These events overshadow everything else in the history of Yokohama during 1890, but at no great distance in point of importance comes the Meeting of September 17th. We are still too close to that memorable incident to view it with absolute dispassion. Besides, enough was said about it at the time in a certain sense, and if some of its less admirable phases have been recently recalled by the blundering vehemence of critics at a distance, that is only an additional reason for thrusting it as far as possible out of sight at the beginning of a new year. Nevertheless, there is just one question that we would fain put to the British residents, and that is, whether they recognise how persistent are the efforts made by a certain section of this community to envelop the whole question of Treaty Revision in a covering of prejudice and racial intolerance. We suppose that there are few instances on record where men venturing to plead for a calm and quiet discussion of a vital problem were so bitterly abused, traduced, and held up to public execration as has been the case here with everyone daring to point out that Japan's claims cannot be left perpetually disregarded. We make no complaint on our own account. Such treatment does not hurt us. But the question is, may this mood towards the other side be taken as an index of the general nature of the agitators' disposition towards the problem itself? If in an argument one party persistently reverts to personalities and rancorous attacks, the public is seldom puzzled to discover on which side the right lies. And under any circumstances, what can possibly be gained by perverting a great problem into an incessant tirade of bickering and slander. In the main there is absolute unanimity among the foreign residents with regard to Treaty Revision. All are agreed, we equally with the rest, that the lives and properties of foreigners must not be handed over to Japanese Jurisdiction without conditions

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of some sort. The point of divergence is that while some of us—we among the rest—are perfectly willing to trust the elaboration of conditions, so far as British subjects are concerned, to the care of HER MAJESTY'S Government—care which has never yet failed of ample exercise—others are apparently persuaded that the Foreign Office in London requires to be kept up to its first duties by private citizens in Yokohama. There is no reason why either party to such a controversy should call the other names, or variegate its arguments with imprecations. The evil habit is due simply to the influence of men who batten upon the bad blood they create, and who can only attract attention by being turbulent and sharp-tongued. There is a fair prospect that the year upon which we are now entering will bring gradual respite from this local nuisance, and that we shall all awake one morning to discover that absolute unanimity of view is not essential to sound friendship.

CHINA'S EMBASSY TO KOREA.

(COMMUNICATED.)

"APROPOS" the recent visit of the Chinese Embassy of Condolence to Korea, the *Chinese Times* speaking as a representative of that element which looks upon the peninsular Kingdom as the vassal of China, makes the following affirmations:—"It cannot be denied that when it suits the convenience of the Chinese Government to *assert its supremacy,* in other words, when it is absolutely assured of submission on the part of the vassal, *it does the thing in a grand imperial style;* while in the opposite case of a doubtful or recalcitrant tributary the traditional wisdom of the Chinese rulers is conspicuously displayed in a policy of imperturbable reserve. * * * *Hence the ostentation of the mission just dispatched to Korea implies complete conviction of the subjection of the rulers of that country;* a conviction which no doubt rests on solid ground."[1] (Italics ours.) In these words three things are worthy of special notice and consideration; first:—the assumption that a Government recognised as an Independent Sovereignty by the great Powers of the world, is the vassal of China; second:—that the Embassy of Condolence recently dispatched by China, was, in truth an assertion "in a grand imperial style" of her supremacy; "an object lesson in reply to the insidious attacks upon her paramount power, which none can mistake;" and third "the conviction of the subjection of the rulers of that country." These three things are worthy of note because of the anomalous condition of affairs toward which they point.

The claim that Korea is a vassal State is not now advanced for the first time; it has been persistently urged of late years by China. Regardless of the fact that it stultifies her in the eyes of the civilized world, and convicts her of a false declaration to France, and of breaking faith with the United States and Japan, China advances the charge of vassalage simply as a cover to a desperate clutch at her small neighbour. The affirmation of suzerainty is not only without foundation in all law and history applicable to the subject (not even excepting the warped and distorted accounts of a ceremonial which is simply the outgrowth of tributary relations), but is also contrary to the acts and solemn declarations of China, and the assurances of good faith made by HIS MAJESTY of Korea to the treaty Powers.

The sovereignty of Korea is vested in uncontrolled exercise of the powers of the State; these powers are of a two-fold character; viz., the power of entering into relations with other nations, and the power of governing its own subjects. These powers the KING of Korea claims, and the history of the five hundred years during which his family have held the throne sustains him in such claim. Neither by treaty concession nor by conquest have these powers ever been surrendered. China has sometimes ignored them, and, emboldened by success, now flatly denies them, but every interference with them on her part has been looked upon by Korea as a violent outrage perpetrated upon a weak Power by a strong neighbour. And in this view the outside world will be led to coincide by the very force of the logic of facts.

In the maintenance of their authority, in the appointment of the officiary of the realm, in the imposition of taxes, the administration of law, and the conservation of the weal of their subjects, the Sovereigns of Korea have ever acted independently of China. And the historical interferences to which we have referred, have been so infrequent and of such a character as to witness against, instead of for, the charge of vassalage. Furthermore, if in the direction of internal affairs the evidence of the sovereignty of the Korean Kings is so plentiful, the treaties now existing sufficiently establish their independence in external relations.

But even ignoring law and evidence, can China answer the question "when and how her suzerainty was established?" Her simple flat affirmation of such a thing is the height of absurdity. The world has a right to demand historical attestation to the claim; and vagueness or equivocation in her reply is surely destructive of such claim. Let China answer frankly, or else forever abandon this absurd darling of her dotage.

Turning from the legal status of the matter, we find that the acts and solemn declarations of China are directly contrary to the charge of vassalage. Either Korea is a Sovereign Power, or else China has committed the unheard of act of a suzerain making a treaty of commerce and friendship with her vassal; an international paradox which not even the united wisdom of a GROTIUS, a VON PUFFENDORF, and a WHEATON can explain. To extricate herself from this blunder she calls this treaty "Rules for the regulations of trade." She might as well have called it "Hoyle on Chess," for all such a course can avail to rectify her "mistake." The eight articles of this Convention are not the fiats of a Sovereign to a vassel, but the interchange of privileges between two friendly nations, such as extraterritorial privileges, and the regulation of travel by passport. Again, if China is suzerain, why did she affirm Korea's independence to France (in 1866) to the United States (in 1872) and why did she give to MORI ARINORI a written disclaimer of all responsibility over the "outpost State" (in 1876)? Was it simply a stroke of policy to free herself from all possible claims of indemnity from France, the United States, and Japan?[2] Possibly the *Chinese Times* had this in mind, when it alluded to "the traditional wisdom of Chinese rulers conspicuously displayed in a policy of imperturbable reserve."

From the facts in the case we cannot but view the renewal of these claims of suzerainty as an evidence of bad faith in China both with Japan and the United States. Hon. O. N. DENNY, in his pamphlet, entitled "China and Korea," makes the following statements:—

"When the first of the Western treaties came to be negotiated, which was with America, the Viceroy, LI HUNG-CHANG, was invited as the friend of the KING having the broadest experience in such matters, to assist in the negotiations. Two drafts were submitted to that convention, one by the Viceroy and the other by the special envoy who conducted the negotiations for the United States. The very first clause of the Viceroy's draft was a demand for the recognition of vassal or dependent relations between China and Korea, which the agent of the U.S. Government declined to consider or discuss further than to say that, as his mission was to make a treaty of commerce and friendship with an independent State, such a treaty he would make or none at all. Notwithstanding this, the Viceroy urged the approval of this dependent clause to a point beyond which he could not go without breaking off negotiations, *when he yielded,* and the treaty was then concluded upon the same basis with those of other independent States and was signed at Chemulpo, May 22nd, 1882."[3] (Italics ours.) Surely to have granted the independence of Korea that a treaty might be concluded, and then to revise the denial of that independence, is a case of "bad faith."

"If the conclusion of the American and Japanese treaties upon the basis of Korean

[1] *Chinese Times.*—November 8th, 1890, Art. "Suzerainty."

[2] See Griffis. "The Hermit Nation," page 422.

[3] *China and Korea,* page 10.

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independence did not honourably settle it" (we still quote Judge DENNY) "the question ought finally to have disappeared when the LI-ITO Convention adjourned; by the terms of which China disposed of whatever right she had left—without the consent of Japan—to send troops to Korea, the only means as a last resort every independent nation possesses of enforcing its sovereign rights when they are assailed or called in question."

The revival of the claim of suzerainty is therefore a breaking of faith with Japan, for it is the reassumption of certain privileges surrendered in solemn agreement.

Thus has China placed herself on record, and it must be a galling thought to her as she faces this Korean question, that she cannot revise the past. Her claim of suzerainty is contrary to the assurances made by the KING of Korea, with the knowledge of China, to the Treaty Powers. Without quoting directly from the treaties, we call attention to an autograph letter addressed by the KING to the President of the United States. In this letter HIS MAJESTY says:—"Full sovereignty has been exercised by the Kings of Chosen in all matters of internal administration, and foreign relations." Did the KING of Korea advance a false claim? No; for whether he appeals to history or to the present, he finds his sovereignty established beyond cavil. Leaving the evidence of the past, let us look at this latest act in the farce of suzerainty, the dispatching of the recent Embassy to Korea. We are told that it was an "assertion, in a grand imperial style, of supremacy." We supposed it was commissioned to bear the sincere sympathy of one monarch to another in the bereavement he had suffered; but instead, it is now claimed that its main purpose was to humiliate that monarch in the eyes of his people and of the whole world. Or, in other words, it was "an object lesson in reply to the insidious attacks upon its paramount power, which no one can mistake."* Certainly this information is as generous as the occasion selected by China was proper. The ceremonies attending the reception of this Embassy at Sōul are said to have "a significance which they never possessed so long as there were no third parties to watch and criticize." And what is the nature of that significance, we would ask. Is it political? Then if the politeness of the KING of Korea makes him the vassal of China, how shall his departure, and China's also, from the wonted forms of that ceremonial be explained? Heretofore Korea has borne the expenses of these Embassies, and been under the necessity of making costly present to the Ambassadors. This time China has not only borne the expense of her Embassy, but declined the presents. The ancient ceremonial prescribes that the KING of Korea must meet the *Ambassadors* and *feast* them outside the capital's walls; he must make *obeisance three times* to the Imperial Message; he must visit the Embassy *daily*, and on the day of departure call for the Ambassadors and accompany them outside the City. Such was the ceremonial which had grown out of tributary relations. *But this time the King has omitted the most essential of these particulars.* He went outside the City on the day of arrival, but he neither met nor feasted the Ambassadors; he received the Imperial Message *standing;* he called on the Embassy but once, in return for their call at the Palace; and at the time of departure, the Ambassadors passed out of the Great South Gate unaccompanied. In other words, the "assertion of her supremacy in a grand imperial style" met with a chilling and unresponsive reception in Sōul. Yet the Ambassadors were received with every manifestation of that profuse hospitality which is a distinguishing feature of the Koreans; but never once did HIS MAJESTY lay aside his Royal dignity, and more than once did he assert it. The *Chinese Times* tells us that "official etiquette in China has degenerated in the hands of its Ministers into frivolous uses;" but it certainly can be put to no more frivolous use than to attempt to prove Korea's vassalage by it.

Finally, we are told that "the ostentation of the Embassy implies the complete conviction of the subjection of the rulers of that country." But is it a vassal subjection which the rulers of Korea make, or only a submission, willingly it may be, to the necessity which every sovereign Power is under, to politely receive the messages of sympathy sent by a neighbouring Power? And therefore it is either an empty vaunt of the power of China, or else an unkind slur on the sincerity of HIS MAJESTY of Korea, to say that "the KING only submits to the reception of the Chinese envoys because he cannot help it." But possibly this is only an expression of the view held in China; in which case it is of a piece with the whole ungenerous and despicable phase now attempted to be attached to this Embassy. If the *Chinese Times* has correctly stated the main object of the Embassy, then we are to believe that China, under the pretext of offering sympathy, has seized the opportunity of a nation's grief to humiliate that nation in the eyes of the world. And if this is China's method, then it were better to be China's dog, than her vassal. But Korea is not China's vassal. She is recognised as sovereign by the great treaty making Powers of the world; she asserts her sovereignty in unequivocal terms; and in the face of that sovereignty an Embassy commissioned as one of condolence to Korea is a heinous transgression of all laws of national intercourse, paralleled only by the conspiracies of China's representatives in Sōul, and the recent outrageous interferences of China with Korea's foreign relations.

GUY PALMERSTON.

* *Chinese Times.*—Art. "Suzerainty."—November 8th, 1890.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CORRECTION AND A STATEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Ordinarily the typographical errors of daily papers are not worth correction, but will you not allow me to say that in the remarks I made it the farewell dinner given to Mr. Knapp, a report of which appeared in the *Mail*, I did not speak of the "nominal Fatherhood of God," but of the "universal Fatherhood of God?" The error in the report is not evident, and I am unwilling to expose the work for which I have now become responsible, to groundless criticism.

In this connection I would like also to make a brief statement concerning Unitarianism, which may serve as a general answer to several communications which appeared not long ago in your columns, and which have as yet received no reply.

Your correspondents may not, with justice, call Unitarianism a "negative" doctrine. Every affirmation necessitates, implicitly or expressly, some denial. Unitarians often antagonize opinions they think to be untrue. But that, only, is a "negative" doctrine which contents itself with denials. Unitarian negations, however, are made in the interest of larger affirmations. No form of religious teaching is more positive than it is.

If I were asked to state in fewest words what Unitarianism distinctively is, I should say, it is a movement springing out of Christianity, which seeks to be the representative religious force of the present age. It does not claim to be the only religious movement which works by rational and scientific methods, or accepts for religious use the results of these methods. Roman Catholicism, Orthodox Protestanism, Liberal Christianity, Religious Rationalism in various forms, are all more or less under the influence of the "modern spirit." Unitarianism, however, has subjected itself without reserve to the direction of this "spirit." By a course of steady progress it has now reached a point where it is seeking to do for the religious part of man's nature exactly the same kind of work that philosophy is doing for man's search for ultimate principles, or that science is doing for his investigation of the phenomena of matter and mind. In other words, the characteristic object of Unitarianism is to promote the knowledge and the practice of pure religion, by the aid of the best philosophy and science.

And what do Unitarians mean by pure religion? Fundamental in the modern conception of religion there appear, the idea of an infinite and eternal Being, named God, the consciousness of Duty and a sense of spiritual individuality in man. By pure religion Unitarians mean, therefore, 1st, Worship of God, as infinite and eternal Source, Power, Life, Guide and Ruler of the universe; 2nd, Following the life exemplified by the world's great spiritual teachers, saints and benefactors, among whom we reverence Jesus Christ as Leader; 3rd, Obedience to moral law, however made known; 4th, Endeavour to realize a perfect Brotherhood of mankind; and 5th, Cherishing a hope of immortal life.

This conception of religion is not set forth here as an authorized denominational creed. I present it simply as my interpretation of the notions which are common among the Unitarians of to-day, as the leading subjects of their thought and work. It is by this statement, however, that Unitarianism may and should be approved or condemned. It is but right, therefore, for me to ask that by this the Unitarian work, now in progress in Japan, should be met and measured. Unitarianism has not been brought to Japan to oppose other forms of religion or other forms of Christianity on any but intellectual grounds. Even this opposition shows itself more by indirect than by direct negation. In common with all forms of Christianity, we put at the front the world uplifting, supreme faith of Jesus in the Fatherhood of God and the divine childship of man. We seek to advance this faith by accepting all available truths of philosophy and science that we may transmute them into life for man's whole nature. We hold it to be both our right and our duty to do this, and we are ready to offer to reasonable men ample justification for the position we have taken.

I hope that with this fact in view those who do not agree with Unitarianism may gauge their estimate of our work. We, with all Christians, have a common cause, in arousing and stimulating faith in God, a sense of personal spirituality in man, hatred of everything that degrades and debases the soul, love of everything that will promote peace and good will among men. This bond should never be forgotten or ignored by those who see

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Unitarians going their own way in search for such knowledge and for such supports of faith as will bear the tests of matured philosophy and science.

CLAY MacCAULEY,
Representative of the American Unitarian Association.

Tokyo, December 24th, 1890.

RURAL LIFE IN EAST ABERDEENSHIRE.—II. THE FARM.

Leaving the village, we find almost all the community engaged, one way or another, in the tilling of the ground and the raising of cattle.

There are three distinct grades in the farmer class. The first, and of them perhaps there are but two or three in the parish, is the gentleman farmer, who keeps a *grieve* or overseer to attend the markets, make the bargains, subject to the master's approval, engage and dismiss the servants, arrange the work for the day, and, in a word, manage the farm. Meanwhile the master drives a smart dog-cart, or rides a showy mare; keeps a dog or two, and shoots over his own farm, and, in fact, apes the country gentleman. His wife keeps a house-keeper, and has a soul above butter and cheese; she has a governess for the children, gets her bonnets from Aberdeen, if not from London, and, as somebody expressed it, wears her Sunday gown every day.

The gentleman farmer, however, often comes to grief, and is known to have become a servant where he once was master. A much more numerous and respected class are those who direct the work of the farm themselves, and who, at a busy time, do not disdain to lend a hand.

In Aberdeenshire one never speaks of a farm of so many acres, or of such a rental. Its size and importance are indicated by the number of horses it finds work for. Two *pair of horses* is a moderately sized farm, three pair a large one, and four pair extremely rare. Next come the crofters, who seldom keep more than one horse, and who manage their ploughing, and such work as renders a pair indispensable on the *neighbour* system. That is, you lend me your horse, and I'll lend your mine. This plan works very well, and crofters have been known to *neighbour* for years with the happiest results.

The crofter hire no servants. He and his boys do the entire work of the little farm; often indeed, requiring the assistance of wife and daughters in seed time and harvest, during the hoeing and hay seasons, and on thrashing days during the winter.

Wife, or wife and daughters do all the house work; cow-feeding and cow milking, rearing of calves, pigs and poultry, churning, baking, brewing, cheese making, cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing. What wonder that they have little time or inclination to sacrifice to the graces, that they live in the kitchen, and that the *best room* is a cold and dismal horror only opened on the occasion of a wedding, a christening or a funeral, for which latter indeed, it is eminently suited.

The younger sons and daughters of the crofter go into service on the larger farms; the eldest son however usually sticks by the *green* and the *house*, to which in process of time, he brings a wife, but often not before middle age, and when the old folks have been relegated to the fireside.

I remember meeting a young crofter one day, whom I knew to be only waiting for his grandmother's death in order to get married, the prospect of four generations in the one tiny cottage being too much of a good thing.

"Well Bobbie, how are you all at home?"

"Oh! we're a' fine."

"And how's your grandmother keeping?"

"Oh! she's aye steppin' about."

Then he looked up with a sheepish air, but with a twinkle in his eye, and added "I'm thinkin' Guid's forgotten grannie."

The routine of the farm differs from that of the croft in as much as the labour is performed by hired servants. First, second, and third horse man, cattle man, *orra* or odd man, a boy or two, besides extra hands in harvest. These would probably form the staff of a largish farm. All receive food and lodging on the premises, and if any happen to be married men, their families are either provided with cottages on the farm, or live in the village.

In the kitchen, a couple of stout girls are busy from early morning until after the evening milking. What with baking and brewing, churning and cheese-making, besides cooking for the family and the men, they have not an idle moment. In their winsy skirts and short print jackets, with bare arms and rosy cheeks, they are pictures of health, strength, and cleanliness.

The mistress herself undertakes the more delicate operations of butter washing, chicken rearing, &c., and is on her feet, busy as a bee, until twelve o'clock brings the dinner hour. The daughters of the family have meanwhile been employed in various ways about the house, for the duty of the servant lass is limited to the kitchen and the byre, and she is seldom seen beyond them. At noon the men troop into the kitchen to dinner. They have breakfasted at six o'clock on porridge and milk, and oatmeal will, in all probability, form the staple of their mid-day repast: oat meal, supplemented however, by potatoes, turnips, and various kinds of greens. Meat they never see, except perhaps in harvest time, when broth enriched with chopped up beef, mutton, or fowl is a frequent dish. Sunday's dinner invariably consists of barley broth.

This fare seems mean enough, but it must be remembered that the porridge is eaten with good creamy milk, that the potatoes are mashed and stirred with cream and butter until they form a delicious *purée*, and that even kale and turnip brose can be transformed by the same agency, into highly nourishing and palatable dishes.

Strict etiquette is preserved at meal times. The first horseman leads the way, and is followed by the others in order, the little herd laddie bringing up the rear, if indeed he has not been dispatched to the field or the hill side for the whole day, with a "piece" in his pocket. Gravely and solemnly they take their places at the bare but snowy table; not a word is spoken until they have taken off their bonnets, and grace has been said. The broth, or the brose, or the kale, or whatever the food may be, is placed in a huge wooden bowl or *caup* which stands in the centre of the table. Each one deliberately dips his horn spoon into the mess beginning with the first, even to the last. There is no indecent haste displayed, no greediness, no disorder. The whole operation is conducted with the most solemn and deliberate politeness. The *pièce de resistance* demolished, comes a second course, consisting of oat cakes and milk; or cakes and cheese and beer. In breaking off a piece of cake great care is observed: to take, or to break, the *crown of the quarter* as it is called, would be an unpardonable offence.

Dinner ended, pipes are lighted and the men march out again, to smoke and gossip for half an hour in the stable, or in a sheltered corner of the barn yard.

The women servants have had no seat at the table, but have eaten their dinner standing, their bones in their hands, in a shame faced kind of way, which they always assume in the presence of the men.

The "room" dinner has meanwhile been going on. When the family are alone it differs little from that served in the kitchen: homeliness and frugality are its striking characteristics. But with the advent of visitors all is changed, and unbounded hospitality is the order of the day.

In the afternoon labour slackens a little, except in harvest, and such like exceptionally busy times.

The master reads the *Aberdeen Journal*, and *Scotsman*, even perhaps the *Standard* or *Daily Telegraph*, according to his politics, as he smokes his pipe. The mistress takes a nap on the couch, the daughters dress for the afternoon. The kitchen lass dons her lilac print frock and little tartan shawl, and sets out, bare-headed, to the merchant' with perhaps forty or fifty pounds of butter in her basket. The butter and eggs are sold periodically, not at market, but to the village grocer, who in his turn, deals with the Aberdeen merchant.

She brings back all the gossip of the country side, together with a packet of pins, or a parcel of sweeties, the time honoured, but modest present of the shop-keeper. She is laden too, with tea and sugar, a loaf and fine bread, that is to say cakes and biscuits of various kinds, and whatever else is needed for the week's consumption. For the mistress is supposed to keep the house on the proceeds of her poultry yard and dairy, and it would be an unheard of thing if the guid man should have to open the purse strings for such a purpose.

The kitchen supper is a second edition of the dinner; after it the men sit round the huge peat fire, reading or playing draughts (the "dambrods" as they call it). Some musical genius practises the fiddle or the flute, and in a corner you may see one with a broken slate and stumpy pencil keeping his hand in at the "Rule of Three."

Between seven and eight the maids go out to their milking, and the men to "supper the beasts." At nine o'clock a chapter of the Bible is read, sometimes a psalm is sung, and then the men go off to bed, their quarters being probably a loft over the stable, or a detached building, known as the "chamers."

It but remains to *rest* the kitchen fire, and then poor tired Jessie and Jean can go to rest themselves. The glowing embers of the peat are carefully put on one side, while the soft white ashes are raked well forward on the hearth; the embers are then put back, neatly piled one on the other, a fresh peat or two added, and above all the ashes heaped and patted down so that no breath of air can enter. In the morning when the ashes are removed, the fire is found to be intact. This is called "resting the fire," and so effectual is the method that if only the Vestal Virgins had known and practised it, they need never have got into trouble.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JAPAN.

Before Judge NISHIOKA YUMEI, President of the First Criminal Bureau, and Judges S. MASATANI, S. YAMANE, T. KAWAGUCHI, and S. OKUYAMA.

FALSE REPRESENTATION OF NAME.

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR OF THE KUMAMOTO CORRECTIONAL COURT AGAINST SATO OTOZO.

Principles deduced from the following case by the editor of the *Saiban Suishi*:—The offence of falsely misrepresenting one's name is constructed immediately when the registered residence (*seki*) or name of a *kazoku*, *shizoku*, or *heimin* is falsely misrepresented orally or in writing; and repetitions of the act may not be treated as continuations of the same offence (*keizoku han*).

Reference—Art. 13 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:—"The period of prescription for the extinction of criminal and civil suits (*koso shiso*) shall be reckoned from the date of the commission of the offence. In the case of continuing offences (*keizoku hanzai*), however, the period shall be reckoned from the date on which the offence was last committed."

The accused in this case, Sato Otozo, was convicted in the Kumamoto Correctional Court of having used a false name, but was acquitted under Art. 358, Code of Criminal Procedure, on the ground that the suit had been extinguished by prescription.

The Public Procurator of the Court appealed to the Supreme Court. The appeal set forth that on the facts of the case, accused enlisted in the Osaka Garrison under the name of his younger brother Hiraki Shunteuzo, in May, 1882, was transferred three months latter to the Imperial Body Guards, promoted to non-commissioned officer of engineers after ten months' service in the Guards, and transferred to the Kumamoto Garrison, finally retiring from service in 1889 after having served the full term. These facts were clearly recognized by the Judge of the Lower Court. On each occasion of his transfer the accused must have used a false name either orally or in writing, so that though his acts from his enlistment or conscription in 1882 up till March, 1887, may have been extinguished by prescription those committed subsequent to the latter date were not so extinguished. In holding, therefore that the offence had been extinguished by prescription the judgment was a misapplication of law. Further the judgment in one part seemed to admit that the offence was continuous, and in another contradicted this assertion, so that it was not according to law.

The accused objected to the appeal as groundless.

The judges held that where the name or registered residence of a *kwazoku*, *shizoku*, or *heimin* was falsely used, the offence was constructed instantly on such use, and was not continuous. On the facts of the case it appeared that the accused was drawn in conscription in place of his younger brother, and duly enrolled in the Osaka Garrison. The offence of falsely using the name of another was then finished, and could not be affected by acts committed during accused's service with the colours, so that the accused could not be found guilty according to law. Therefore the judgment of the Lower Court, which took this view and discharged the prisoner under Art. 358 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, on the ground that the offence had been extinguished by prescription, was a proper and lawful one. As to the other point raised by the appeal, the Bench held that the judgment of the Lower Court was not contradictory. Under these circumstances, therefore, the appeal was rejected and the judgment of the Lower Court sustained.

THE PUBLIC PROCURATOR OF THE SENDAI CORRECTIONAL COURT AGAINST ITAKURA CHUJIRO AND TWO OTHERS.

Principles deduced by the *Saiban Suishi*:—The offence of falsely stating family and residence is

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constructed not only when an individual who has a registered residence falsely states the family and residence of another, but also when an individual having no registered residence falsely represents that he has. The offence of falsifying documents is not constructed when the person so falsifying a document signs his name to the same, even although the facts contained therein are false.

Reference—Art. 231, Penal Code:—"Persons who, either in writing or orally, falsely state their family (*zoku*), residence (*seki*), name, age, or occupation, to the authorities, shall be punished with a fine of not less than *yen* 2 and not more than *yen* 20."

The appeal of the accused as well as that of the Public Procurator against the judgment of the Lower Court came before the Miyagi Appeal Court, which upheld the decision of the Correctional Court, sentencing the accused Chujiro to a fine of *yen* 15 under Art. 231 of the Penal Code, the accused Zentayu to a fine of *yen* 15 under Arts. 105 and 231 of the Penal Code, and the accused Teisuke to a fine of *yen* 13 under Arts. 109 and 231 of the Penal Code. The judgment of the Lower Court was therefore affirmed under Arts. 344 and 368 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Against this finding of the Appeal Court the Public Procurator of the Lower Court appealed to the Supreme Court on the ground, 1st, that the Appeal Court had not considered the point that the judgment of the lower Court was a misapplication of law; and, 2ndly, that the accused had falsified documents by which grave public inconvenience would be created. The Public Procurator of the Supreme Court brought forward the additional contention that the acts of the accused did not constitute any offence because if a man had no registered residence he could not falsely represent that which he did not possess.

The judges of the Supreme Court held that the offence of fraudulent misrepresentation of family and residence was not limited to the false representation of another's family and registered residence by a person who himself possessed those qualifications; but was also constructed when a person who had no family or registered residence represented that he had. In this case the accused Chujiro falsely stated in writing to Matsudaira Masanao, Governor of Miyagi Prefecture, that he was Itakura Chujiro, eldest son of Chukichi, a *heimin*, of No. 3 Higashi-ura, Kawara-machi, Sendai. This act fully constituted the false representation by document of family and residence; but it did not constitute the offence of falsifying a document because though the facts contained in the document (a petition for the registration of the accused's own family and residence) were false, the accused signed his name and appended his seal thereto. All the appeals must therefore be rejected under Art. 427 of the Code Criminal Procedure.

Before Judge MAKUDO BUHEI, Acting Chief of the Second Criminal Bureau of the Supreme Court, and Judges KOMATSU HIROTAKA, TOMITSU HARUZO, MATSUMOTO MASATADA, and NAKA SADAKATSU.

QUESTION AS TO OWNERSHIP OF LAND.

Principles deduced by the *Saiban Suishi*—The *onus probandi* lies on him who questions a condition that actually exists. The general rule is that an actual holder is presumed to be the real owner.

Nakata Matahichi and nine others raised an action in the Okayama Court of First Instance against the defendant, asking that certain land registered in his name should be declared to be the joint property of all the parties. This claim was rejected by the court, on which the plaintiffs appealed to the Osaka Appeal Court. It was maintained on their behalf that the forest land, extending to 7 *tan* 9 *se* at Ushikubi, Kukitsuki-mura, Kaminichi gun, Province of Bizen, then the common property of the village, was exposed for sale by auction about twenty years ago and bought by the plaintiffs and the grandfather of the defendant, who, numbering eleven persons, each contributed an equal sum of money; that the land thus became their joint property; that for the sake of convenience it was decided that the land should be registered in the name of the defendants' grandfather, Chojiro, his name being successively replaced by those of his son and of the defendant, that these facts were clearly established by the evidence of documents Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the process which proved that timber from the forest was cut during several years by all the parties, and that white clay was dug from the land by all the eleven persons, who shared the profits accruing from the same; that document No. 4 of process showed that taxes and other expenses connected with the land were paid by the plaintiffs, while documents Nos. 5 and 6 showed that relatives of the defendant and other residents in the village believed the land to be joint property of the eleven persons; that the guardian of the defendant, who was a minor, attempted to prohibit the digging of white clay by the plaintiffs jointly, on which the latter applied to have the land registered in their joint names.

The defendant contended that the land was bought by his grandfather in the Bunkyu era, at which time he was headman of the village, of which the land was previously common property; that at first, the trees being small and of little value, defendant's grandfather did not take any steps to prevent the surreptitious taking away of wood by the plaintiffs, who had no other source from which to obtain fuel; that the title-deed in the name of Gentaro was obtained in the 16th year of Meiji as proved by document No. 1*b* of process; and afterwards on Gentaro's death transferred to the defendant; that the taxes were paid by the defendant, the document No. 4*a* having been procured by force by the plaintiffs, after Gentaro's death, from a woman; that the plaintiffs were hired by Gentaro to dig white clay but dismissed when he found that they had been privately making profits on their work, as shown by No. 2*b*; and that the certificates Nos. 5 and 6*a* were procured by the plaintiffs by force and were false, as shown by Nos. 3 and 4*b*.

In the Osaka Appeal Court the Judges held that neither side had proved, on the one hand, that the property was bought by the eleven parties jointly, or on the other by the defendant's grandfather individually; that while the plaintiffs had all along received more or less profit from the land by the cutting and using of wood, &c., the defendant had by his own admission received no profit during some ten years; that it was proved by Nos. 1, 2, and 3*a*, admitted by the defendant, that the parties had jointly engaged in digging white clay, since the 8th month of the 20th year of Meiji; that the defendant actually participated with the plaintiffs in profits; that the taxes were paid equally by all, but forwarded to the authorities by the defendant as registered owner; that when lands were owned jointly by several people it was not unusual for such land for convenience sake to be registered in the name of one; and that the evidence of relatives of the defendant, as well as other residents of the village, showed the land to be held in joint ownership. The Court therefore ordered that a new title-deed should be issued in the names of all the parties.

The defendant appealed to the Supreme Court, and pointed out that the onus of proof lay on the plaintiffs if they wished to change the ownership of the land; that while the general rule was to presume the registered owner to be real owner, the Appeal Court as a matter of fact held that neither party had proved the conditions of the purchase for their own case, a finding which was directly at variance with the law, as it did not include any ruling as to where the burden of proof lay. The judgment, it was added, was further defective in reason, as it did not state grounds for rejecting the evidence of document No. 1*b* relative to the title-deed.

The judges of the Supreme Court were of opinion, in respect of the Appeal Court's finding, that neither party had proved the conditions of the purchase of the land—that the judgment of the Appeal Court was opposed to law, as it did not state on whom the burden of proof lay. The *onus probandi* was distinctly on those who questioned the right of the registered owner, and not on the latter, whereas the Appeal Court placed both parties on the same footing and required the original defendant to prove that his grandfather had bought the land on his own account. The judgment of the lower Court must therefore be reversed, and the case transferred to the Hiroshima Court of Appeal for a proper judgment.—*Saiban Suishi.*

SUMMARY OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN FOR THE YEAR 1889.

Mr. HUGH FRASER, H.B.M. Representative and Consul-General, to the Marquis of SALISBURY.

Tokyo, August 15th, 1890.

MY LORD.—I have the honour to forward, herewith, to your Lordship the Annual Summary of the Foreign Trade of Japan for 1889, which has been compiled by Mr. E. A. Griffiths, Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul in Tokyo.

I have, &c.

(signed) HUGH FRASER.

SUMMARY OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN FOR THE YEAR 1889.

The total foreign trade of Japan for the year 1889 amounted in value to 20,888,116*l.*, comprising:—

Imports	£10,131,408
Exports	£10,756,708

The above figures compare with those of the trade of 1888 as follows:—

	1889.	1889.
Imports	£10,131,408	£11,195,358
Exports	£10,756,708	£10,067,206
Total	£20,888,116	£21,262,564

Showing a decrease of 1,063,950*l.* in imports, and an increase of 689,502*l.* in exports, or a net decrease in the foreign trade of Japan for the year under review of 374,448*l.*

The comparative table (Table I.) appended to this summary shows the distribution of trade at each of the open ports during the years 1889-88.

The Yokohama import trade is almost entirely responsible for the decrease observable in the foreign trade of Japan for 1889, as, with the exception of a slight decline in the imports of Kobe, there is a decided increase in each of the other ports both in imports and exports. The trade of Yokohama shows a net decrease of 840,281*l.*, being a decrease of 1,082,692*l.* in imports, and an increase of 242,411*l.* in exports. Kobe trade, on the other hand, shows an increase of 229,393*l.*, comprising a decrease of 78,798*l.* in imports, and an increase of 308,191*l.* in exports. Nagasaki returns again show a considerable increase both in imports and exports, the increase being in the case of the former 80,024*l.*, and in that of the latter 99,849*l.*, or a total increase of 179,873*l.* Hakodate trade has advanced by 56,567*l.*, being an increase of 17,516*l.* in imports, and of 39,051*l.* in exports.

It must be noted, however, that while, according to the consular returns given in sterling, there appears the large decrease of 840,281*l.*, or over 5,000,000 dol., in the trade of Yokohama, the customs return for the foreign trade of Yokohama, for 1889 shows a decrease of only 1,177,118 dol. This discrepancy is explained by Mr. Consul Enslie, as follows:—

"Commerce in Japan is conducted in the currency of the country, silver yen or Mexican dollars, and the customs statistics compiled in that denomination of coin, correctly represent the volume of trade.

"Since 1885 consular returns of trade have, in compliance with instructions, been compiled in pounds sterling, the yen or dollar being taken at an uniform average rate for the current year; the sterling values so obtained do not, therefore, correctly represent the valuations in silver currency handed in by merchants throughout the year to the customs.

"Moreover, owing to a considerable readjustment introduced towards the end of 1888 by the customs in the yen or dollar value of the pound sterling, 15 per cent. was added on to the customs returns of imports from gold-using countries for 1887, and 20 per cent. to those for 1888, as regards goods imported during the first nine months of each year.

"The result of these conversions for the past three years is that, in the sterling statistics, the increase in trade during 1888 over that of 1887 is far less, and the decrease in trade during the last year, as compared with that of 1888 is very much more than the correct returns compiled in silver by the customs authorities."

On this question, also, Mr. Longford, Her Majesty's Acting-Consul for Hyogo and Osaka, observes that—"Prior to October 1, 1888, the Japanese customs converted the original gold values into local currency at the fictitous rate of 4 dol. 88 c. to the pound sterling, and the abandonment of this practice in favour of a conversion at the average quarterly market rate of exchange during the whole of the past year has produced an apparent contradiction in the comparative values of the import trade in 1888* and 1889, as stated above, and as given in the customs returns.

"According to the figures above given, there was a falling off of 78,000*l.* in the value of the import trade of 1889 as compared with 1888. According to the customs returns, on the other hand, the value of the imports of Hyogo and Osaka in 1889 exceeded that of 1888 by considerably more than 1,500,000 dol. The explanation of this contradiction is that, for the first nine months of the year 1888, every pound sterling of the original cost of all European and American articles of import was entered in the customs returns as 4 dol. 88 c.; whereas, throughout the whole of the year 1889, each pound was entered at values varying each quarter, but the average of which for the whole year was 6 dol. 46 c."

The share which foreigners and Japanese respectively had in the total foreign trade of nearly 21,000,000*l.* sterling during the year 1889 was as follows:—

	Exports.	Imports.	Total.
Japanese merchants	£1,056,089	£1,492,072	£2,548,161
Foreign merchants	£9,599,385	£8,407,148	£18,006,533

* In the Consul's Report for Kobe for 1889.

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From which it will be seen that about 12 per cent. of Japan's foreign trade was in the hands of Japanese merchants, and nearly 88 per cent. in those of foreigners.

As in 1888 the principal customers of Japan were Great Britain, the United States of America, France, China, and Germany.

In the customs return for 1889 the trade with Hongkong, which has hitherto been given in conjunction with that of China, has been stated separately. The trade with British India has also been separated from that with Siam, so that a correct estimate of the total value of the commerce carried on between Great Britain and Japan can now be made.

The trade divided amongst the above mentioned countries was as follows:—

Great Britain	£5,225,985	
Hongkong	1,777,523	
British India	1,343,304	
Canada	133,417	
Australia	117,051	
Total British trade		£8,597,280
United States		4,887,545
France		2,736,247
China		2,270,629
Germany		1,011,230

Separating imports from exports we obtain the following distribution:—

IMPORTS.

Great Britain	£4,032,384	
Hongkong	634,789	
British India	1,134,449	
Canada	4,635	
Australia	41,313	
Total imports from Great Britain		£5,847,570
United States		950,267
France		515,751
China		1,423,072
Germany		756,087

EXPORTS.

Great Britain	£1,193,601	
Hongkong	1,142,734	
British India	208,855	
Canada	128,782	
Australia	75,738	
Total exports to Great Britain		£2,749,710
United States		3,937,278
France		2,220,496
China		847,557
Germany		255,143

Comparing these figures with the corresponding figures for 1888 we find that the increase or decrease in the trade of each of the above countries was as follows:—

GREAT BRITAIN, CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA.

Imports, decrease	£1,052,021	
Exports, decrease	175,259	
Total decrease	£1,227,280	

UNITED STATES.

Exports, increase	£ 450,260	
Imports, decrease	51,199	
Net increase	£ 399,061	

CHINA AND HONGKONG.†

Imports, increase	£ 460,675	
Exports, increase	228,675	
Total increase	£ 689,350	

FRANCE.

Imports, decrease	£ 215,615	
Exports, increase	118,235	
Net decrease	£ 97,380	

BRITISH INDIA.

Exports, increase	£ 138,401	
Imports, decrease	51,091	
Net increase	£ 87,310	

GERMANY.

Imports, decrease	£ 130,371	
Exports, increase	5,777	
Net decrease	£ 124,594	

The largest decrease is observable in the import trade with Great Britain, this decrease amounting to over 1,000,000*l.*, while, with the exception of the figures for China and Hongkong, which show an increase in imports of 460,000*l.*, a decrease is also to be noticed in the import return for each of the other countries. As regards exports, there has been an increase in the trade with the United States, China, and Hongkong, France, India, and Germany, while the only return which shows a decrease is that for Great Britain.

† In order to institute a comparison with the figures for 1888 the value of the trade of Hongkong has been added to that of China for the year under review.

With reference to this decline in British trade for the year 1889, as compared with that for 1888, it must be borne in mind, however, that the trade of the year 1888 was exceptionally large, an extraordinary increase of over 2,000,000*l.*, more than 25 per cent., taking place in the trade with Great Britain alone. Circumstances were not so advantageous during the past year, nevertheless it is satisfactory to consider that, omitting the statistics for the year 1888, British trade for 1889 shows an increase of more than 1,000,000*l.* over that for 1887.

The comparative table (Table II.) annexed to this summary shows a decrease in imports under each of the general headings, with the exception of those of kerosene oil and miscellaneous, the decrease being in:—

Cotton yarn	£344,065
Cotton piece-goods	176,527
Woollen and mixed cotton and woollen manufacturers	199,689
Metals	341,895
Sugar	98,904

While the increase in the value of kerosene oil imported is 75,808*l.*, and in that of miscellaneous 21,322*l.*

The import of cotton yarn declined, during the year 1889, to the extent of 344,065*l.* in value. This large decrease took place chiefly in the import of cotton yarn from Bombay. The comparative figures, showing the consumption of Bombay and English yarns during the years 1889 88, are as follows:—

Articles.	Quantity. 1889.	1888.
British yarns	26,504,800lbs.	26,564,000lbs.
Bombay yarns	25,489,200lbs.	31,888,000lbs.

An increase has taken place under the following heads:—

Turkey reds	£23,966
Velvet	17,171
T-cloths	7,229

While a decrease is observable in shirtings to the large amount of 117,510*l.*; in chintzes to the amount of 8,011*l.*; and in sundries to that of 99,372*l.*

The chief items under this general heading, (woollen and mixed cotton and woollen manufactur), with the exception of flannel and blankets, show a considerable falling off, the decrease being in the case of:—

Mousselaine de laine	£117,617
Italian cloth	49,475
Woollen cloth	72,659
Sundries	39,323

An increase has taken place in the import of flannel to the value of 61,930*l.*, and in that of blankets to the value of 17,455*l.*

The import trade in metals shows a considerable decrease, amounting to 341,895*l.*, the largest decline being noticeable under the heading of iron rails. The only item under the general heading, which shows an advance is that of plate and sheet iron, and this import has increased by the amount of 18,473*l.*

Iron bar and rod shows a decrease of	£ 3,287
Iron rails	157,179
Iron nails	34,101
Iron ware	90,054
Steel	10,430
Lead	21,700
Miscellaneous metals	41,617

The metal import trade of 1889, although indicating a considerable decrease when compared with that of 1888, is still in advance of that of any other previous year.

The value imported during the last four years is as follows:—

1886	£652,667	1888	1,295,015
1887	864,952	1889	953,120

The following comparative tables show the value of iron rails and iron nails imported from Great Britain, Germany, and Belgium respectively during the years 1887, 1888, 1889:—

RAILS.

Country.	1889.	1888.	1887.
Great British	£87,106	£223,231	£64,463
Germany	5,947	35,728	63,771
Belgium	13,129	—	—

NAILS.

Great Britain	£30,723	£60,738	£32,355
Germany	76,051	68,448	35,222
Belgium	23,296	24,634	12,333

The import of kerosene oil shows an increase of 75,808*l.* sterling in value, and of 8,491,576 gallons in quantity. Russian oil made a considerable advance, 4,526,845 gallons being imported, as against 1,613,840 gallons imported in 1888.

With reference to the remarks made in last year's summary of trade respecting the inferior packing of the oil imported from Russia,* it appears that a considerable improvement has now taken place, in fact "the Batoum† factories are now turning out tins and cans little, if at all, inferior to those sent from the United States."

In spite, however, of the marked increase in the import of Russian oil, American oil has not retrograded; an increase, on the contrary, of 4,106,858 gallons in quantity is noticeable.

The following comparative table gives the amount of American and Russian oil imported into Japan during the years 1889-88:—

	1889. Gallons.	1888. Gallons.
American oil	30,231,708	26,124,850
Russian oil	4,526,845	1,613,840

A further decline has taken place in the import of this staple, the decrease being 98,904*l.* sterling, comprising a decrease in the import of brown sugar to the amount of 52,949*l.*, and in that of white sugar to the amount of 43,746*l.*

There is an increase observable under this general heading in the items of hides, glass, and glassware, and raw cotton, to the amounts respectively of 9,917*l.*, 27,018*l.*, and 614,501*l.* Engines, steam boilers, &c., to the amount of 93,608*l.*, and locomotives and railway carriages to the amount of 112,717*l.*, appear in the import returns of this year's summary, both items having made a considerable advance.

The chief decrease has taken place in the items of:—

Books and stationary	£110,984
Drugs	37,880
Dyes and pains	46,178
Machinery	259,294
War material	97,619
Wines, beer, and spirits	66,792

The import of raw cotton shows a very considerable increase, the trade having advanced from 254,708*l.* in 1888 to 869,209*l.* in 1889, an increase of 614,501*l.*, or nearly 250 per cent.‡

This is due to the increase in the number of cotton spinning mills in Japan, to meet the demands of which the amount of cotton grown in Japan itself is quite insufficient. At the end of 1880 there were 27 cotton spinning mills at work in Japan, having a total number of 200,550 spindles. The gross amount of cotton manufactured during the year was 27,936,116 lbs.

The import of machinery during 1889 shows a decline of 259 294*l.*, but the figures exceed those of 1887 by 130,000*l.* The machinery chiefly imported was:—

Spinning machinery	£106,673
Weaving machinery	22,475
Paper-making machinery	27,409

The export trade of Japan for the year 1889 shows a still further advance, the increase over that of 1888 amounting to 689,502*l.*, and over that of 1887 to 2,576,386*l.*, while comparing the figures of 1889 with those of the year 1879, ten years previous, we find that the export trade has considerably more than doubled itself.

From the comparative table (Table III.) annexed hereto, it will be seen that the principal increase has taken place in the following items:—

Silk	£53,084
Coal	129,514
Dried fish, &c.	56,820
Camphor	59,297
Silk handkerchiefs	111,414
Other silk manufactures	145,562
Porcelain	25,588
Matches	59,757
Sulphur	34,267
Sundries	91,143

while the chief decrease is in—

Copper	£93,074
Mushrooms	6,403
Vegetable wax	4,280
Straw plaits	18,534
Fans	14,076
Paper	13,657

The export of silk in 1889 shows an increase of 53,084*l.* in value, and of 114,350 lbs. in quantity, over that in 1888. Silk handkerchiefs, which in the export return for 1888 showed an increase of 31,171*l.* in value over the amount exported in 1887, show a large increase for the year 1889 of 111,414*l.*, more than 50 per cent., over the figures for 1888. The export of other silk manufactures, too, shows a very considerable advance, the amount exported in 1889 being 193,572*l.*, as against 48,010*l.* exported in 1888, being an increase of 145,562*l.*, over 300 per cent.

The export of rice has slightly increased, the

* The remark in last year's summary to the effect that, owing to this inferior packing, the transport of the oil into the interior had been prohibited, referred to the sale of the oil having been precluded commercially, and not to any official prohibition.

† Report of H.B.M.'s Consul at Yokohama for 1889.

‡ *Vide* the Consular Reports for Yokohama Kobe for 1889.

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advance amounting to 17,596*l.* in value. As in the previous year, Kobe and Nagasaki are the principal ports of export. While, however, Kobe returns show a slight falling-off, those for Nagasaki indicate an increase of 22,580*l.*

The comparative figures are as follows:—

	1888.	1889.
Kobe	£921,698	£926,532
Nagasaki	217,830	195,250

The export of tea during 1889 amounted to 958,769*l.* in value, as against 944,225*l.* in 1888, showing an increase of 14,544*l.*

The export of coal has again considerably increased, the figures being 619,702*l.* in 1889 as against 490,188*l.* in 1888, showing an increase of 129,514*l.* The export of copper, on the other hand, indicates a large falling-off, the decrease amounting to 93,074*l.* in value.

Of the other articles of export, dried fish and shell fish, camphor, and matches indicate the largest increase, each showing an advance of over 50,000*l.* sterling in value.

Japan's largest customer in 1886 was the United States of America. Next to her came Great Britain, including Hongkong, British India, Canada, and Australia; then France, China, and Germany, in the order named.

The following table enumerates the chief articles of export to each of the above-mentioned countries, with the amounts exported during the year 1889:—

Country.	Silk.	Tea.	Rice.	Coal.
	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	—	—	559,718	—
Hongkong	—	—	48,588	192,057
British India	—	—	61,710	—
Canada	—	95,977	14,893	—
Australia	—	—	45,773	—
United States	2,431,721	848,745	65,500	—
France	1,931,047	—	44,192	—
China	—	—	—	198,925
Germany	—	—	105,680	—

Country.	Copper.	Dried Fish and Shell Fish.	Camphor.	Silk Handkerchiefs.
	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	214,249	—	51,825	80,984
Hongkong	67,648	472,165	48,057	—
British India	79,632	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—
Australia	—	—	—	—
United States	—	—	59,983	172,869
France	—	—	—	46,459
China	—	101,730	—	—
Germany	—	—	34,993	—

Table IV. appended hereto shows the number *of foreign* vessels entered at the open ports of Japan during the year 1889. From this it will be seen that 1,619 ships, with a tonnage of 2,334,997, were entered, as against 1,432 ships, with a tonnage of 2,070,402, entered in 1888, showing an increase of 187 ships and 264,595 tons.

British shipping again occupies the foremost position with 984 ships and 1,592,761 tons, as against 846 ships and 1,319,438 tons entered in 1888, showing an increase of 138 ships and 273,323 tons. Germany is again second with 349 ships and 297,489 tons. The United States and France come next with 91 ships and 159,696 tons, and 86 ships and 194,891 tons respectively. German shipping indicates a slight increase in the number of ships, but a falling-off in the amount of tonnage. French shipping shows a slight decrase in both number of ships and the amount of tonnage, while American shipping shows an increase in both ships and tonnage.

The number of ships entered at Kuchinotsu during the year 1889 was as follows:—

Ships.	Number.	Tons.
British	2	12,879
German	6	4,851
French	1	1,181
Japanese	53	46,834

The following table, showing the amount of merchandise exported from and imported into Japan during 1889 in foreign and Japanese vessels, may prove of interest:—

Ships.	Exports.	Imports.	Total.
	£	£	£
British	6,110,303	6,853,633	12,963,936
French	1,464,536	814,554	2,279,090
German	768,904	1,042,894	1,811,798
American	1,344,423	498,206	1,842,629
Japanese	828,820	795,939	1,624,759

from which it appears that considerably more than half the merchandise exported from and imported into Japan was carried in British ships.

The number of foreign residents at the open ports and at Tokyo, during the year 1889, was 3,324, including:—

British	1,359
American	718
German	459
French	392
Portuguese	113
Dutch	79
Russian	63
Danish	59
Australian	51
Swiss	50
Other Nationalities	89

There were 202 foreign firms established in Japan, of which number 94 were British, 37 German, 32 American, and 14 French.

The number of Chinese residents was 4,879, and the number of Chinese firms in Japan was 277.

NOTE.—In the above summary and annexed tables the value of imports has been converted into sterling at the rate of 3*s.* 1½*d.* to the dollar, while that of exports has been calculated at 3*s.* 1⅝*d.* to the dollar.

Table I.—COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING THE IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE OF JAPAN FOR THE YEARS 1889 88.

Port.	1889.	1888.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Kanagawa (Yokohama)—				
Imports	5,309,015	6,391,707	—	1,082,692
Export	6,519,154	6,276,743	242,411	—
Total	11,828,169	12,668,450	—	840,281
Hiogo and Osaka—				
Imports	4,354,646	4,433,444	—	78,798
Exports	3,171,995	2,863,804	308,191	—
Total	7,526,641	7,297,248	229,393	—
Nagasaki—				
Imports	440,540	369,516	80,024	—
Exports	943,865	844,016	99,849	—
Total	1,393,405	1,213,532	179,873	—
Hakodate—				
Imports	18,907	691	17,576	—
Exports	121,894	82,643	39,251	—
Total	139,901	83,334	56,567	—
Grand Total	20,888,116	21,262,564	—	374,448

Table II.—COMPARATIVE RETURN OF THE FOREIGN IMPORT TRADE OF JAPAN DURING THE YEARS 1889 88.

Articles.	1889. Quantity.	1889. Value.	1888. Quantity.	1888. Value.
		£		£
Cotton manufactures—				
Yarn	—	1,935,832	—	2,279,897
Shirtings ...Yards	42,813,502	385,430	47,790,829	503,340
Turkey reds..Yards	9,158,073	83,512	5,269,017	50,546
Velvets...Yards	2,331,326	55,914	1,373,956	38,743
T.-cloths ...Yards	5,592,968	51,018	4,306,429	43,789
Chintzes and prints ...Yards	5,769,180	61,474	5,828,541	69,365
Sundries	—	170,784	—	210,156
Woollen and mixed cotton and woollen manufactures—				
Monselaine de laine ...Yards	13,918,284	306,179	16,032,816	423,796
Italian cloth..Yards	5,943,055	213,233	6,778,214	262,708
Flannel ...Yards	3,434,115	156,596	2,702,988	96,666
Woollen and mixed cotton and woollen cloth ...Yards	971,537	123,466	1,251,741	196,125
Blankets ...Lbs.	1,414,589	112,113	1,181,848	94,068
Sundries	—	87,418	—	116,741
Metals—				
Iron bar and rod ...Tons	20,700	225,977	47,685	529,264
Iron rails...Tons	24,502	106,850	15,267	265,426
Iron plate and sheets ...Tons	6,509	51,961	7,798	53,488
Iron rails...Tons	11,347	120,635	11,662	154,736
Iron all other, & iron manufactures	—	63,594	—	101,743
Iron ware	—	149,122	—	239,176
Steel & steel ware	—	82,299	—	92,729
Lead, sheet, and tea lead	—	41,334	—	63,034
Miscellaneous	—	211,948	—	217,416
Kerosene oil ...Gallons	36,998,843	709,571	23,507,267	633,763
Sugar, brown ...Tons	35,701	321,461	43,532	374,410
Sugar, white ...Tons	35,137	631,406	42,975	681,152
Sugar, sundry..	—	13,500	—	15,709
Miscellaneous—				
Books & stationery	—	73,643	—	186,626
Clocks and watches	—	156,506	—	176,251
Clothing	—	70,742	—	82,346
Drugs	—	244,660	—	283,540
Dyes & paints	—	101,572	—	147,750
Engines, steam boilers, &c.,	—	93,628	—	—
Glass & glassware	—	66,882	—	56,965
Hides	—	61,253	—	54,815
Leather	—	113,603	—	133,455
Locomotives, railway carriages, &c....	—	113,717	—	—
Machinery	—	351,536	—	611,830
Provisions	—	56,186	—	62,687
Raw cotton	—	869,200	—	954,708
Satins & silk and cotton mixtures	—	70,860	—	91,806
Scientific instruments	—	48,568	—	70,045
Steamers	—	170,212	—	190,935
War materials	—	29,403	—	127,022
Wines, beer, and spirits	—	80,005	—	126,797
Wool	—	43,649	—	54,463
Sundries	—	993,798	—	1,077,384
Total	—	10,131,408	—	11,195,358

RECAPITULATION OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	Value Imported. 1889.	1888.
Cotton yarn	£1,935,832	£2,279,897
Cotton piece-goods	748,512	925,039
Woollen and mixed cotton & woollen manufactures	1,001,015	1,200,704
Metals	953,120	1,295,015
Kerosene oil	709,571	633,763
Sugar	973,367	1,072,271
Miscellaneous	3,809,991	3,788,669
Total	10,131,408	11,195,358

TABLE III.—COMPARATIVE RETURN OF THE FOREIGN EXPORT TRADE OF JAPAN DURING THE YEARS 1889 88.

Articles.	1889. Quantity.	1889. Value.	1888. Quantity.	1888. Value.
		£		£
Silk ...Lbs.	8,813,184	4,404,429	8,728,834	4,398,345
Cocoons ...Lbs.	551,344	39,603	436,940	37,482
Peas ...Lbs.	48,935,185	958,709	44,222,370	944,225
Rice ...Tons	194,606	1,157,834	194,382	1,140,218
Coal ...Tons	930,200	619,702	973,416	490,188
Copper ...Tons	8,085	445,590	9,553	538,664
Dried fish and shell fish...Tons	8,037	860,808	8,048	303,988
Camphor...Tons	2,953	216,123	2,549	156,826
Mushrooms ...Cwts.	18,597	33,131	22,036	79,534
Wheat ...Tons	8,671	34,648	5,775	23,089
Vegetable wax ...Tons	1,506	54,600	1,495	58,880
Timber... —	—	26,493	—	28,306
Seaweed ... —	—	80,827	—	70,490
Drugs & chemicals —	—	25,936	—	29,300
Cotton piece-goods —	—	32,728	—	32,389
Silk handkerchiefs —	—	321,027	—	209,613
Other silk manufactures —	—	393,572	—	48,010
Porcelain & earthenware —	—	224,512	—	108,924
Lacquer & other fancy ware —	—	97,053	—	89,431
Straw plaits ... —	—	22,868	—	41,492
Fans ... —	—	58,278	—	52,354
Matches ... —	—	271,623	—	121,806
Rugs ... —	—	56,881	—	45,685
Screens ... —	—	39,939	—	41,918
Paper & paper ware —	—	91,135	—	44,702
Sulphur ... —	—	34,267	—	—
Sundries ... —	—	941,488	—	850,369
Total ... —	—	10,756,708	—	10,067,206

TABLE IV.—RETURN OF ALL SHIPPING ENTERED AT THE OPEN PORTS OF JAPAN DURING THE YEARS 1889-88.

Nationality.	No. of Ships.	Tonnage.	No. of Ships.	Tonnage.
British	984	1,592,761	846	1,319,438
German	349	297,489	342	312,711
French	86	194,891	87	212,057
United States	91	159,696	79	140,362
All other countries	109	90,160	78	85,834
Total foreign shipping	1,619	2,334,997	1,432	2,070,402
Total Japanese shipping (of foreign build)	760	769,510	—	—

A STEAMER ATTACKED BY PIRATES.

Hongkong was startled yesterday morning (11th ult.) by the return of the Douglas steamer *Namoa*, which had left the previous day, with the story that she had been attacked by pirates, that her master, one of the best known and most respected captains in the East, a passenger, and one of her quartermasters had been shot in cold blood, several of her officers and crew wounded, and all money and valuables removed from the ship. An examination of the circumstances connected with this terrible occurrence shows it to be one of the most deliberately planned and effectively carried out acts of piracy that has been known for many years in the China Seas. The news of the tragedy has struck with the more force inasmuch as the attacks of pirates on European ships, and especially attacks of such a bloodthirsty character and attended with such dire results, have come to be looked upon as things of the past. That this was so was startlingly evidenced shortly before the affair took place. A passenger, seeing the stand of arms at the top of the companion, made some remark about it to the captain, who replied with a smile, "They are a relic of the past; years ago we used to want them, but we don't ever require them now." So he thought. Within an hour of speaking those words the unlooked for had happened, and he was lying murdered in his cabin. As was more than once remarked yesterday, the story of this terrible outrage seemed more like one of those we often hear, of the times when the colony was yet in its infancy, than in the present year of 1890. The moral to be learned from the facts so clearly and awfully thrust upon us are dealt with elsewhere, and we shall therefore, endeavour to put as clear a statement of the facts as it has been possible to gain.

The *Namoa* left Hongkong, bound for the coast ports, at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning with a general cargo, and having on board about 250 Chinese passengers and five European passengers. The names of the European passengers were Captain Saunders, Messrs. E. K. Chandler, Peterson, C. F. Mehta, and Rev. G. M. Wales. Among the Chinese passengers were a number of Chinamen returning from the Straits and California with the savings of many years. From what has been learned since, it appears that this fact must have become known to a band of desperadoes, who made their arrangements accordingly. This band, which it is estimated numbered between fifty and sixty, went on board with the other passengers without arousing the slightest suspicion. About one o'clock, that is, after steaming about five hours and when the ship would be about 40 to 50 miles from Hongkong, the passengers sat down to tiffin. They had been seated scarcely a quarter of an hour, when at a given signal

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the band of pirates rushed on deck, and dividing themselves into four parties, covered the officers' and engineers' quarters in the fore part of the ship, the engine room, the bridge and the saloon, respectively. The pirates were all armed with revolvers and cutlasses, and appeared to be acting under the orders of a leader who is described as being a tall man, above the average Chinaman, and better dressed than the remainder of the band. Although the attack on the four parts of the ship just named appears to have been carried out almost simultaneously, the attack on the officers' and engineers' quarters seems to have commenced a little in advance of the others. Here the second engineer and the second officer were at tiffin. Fire was immediately opened on them from the skylight, and stinkpots were thrown into the mess room. One of the shots struck the second engineer, Mr. Ramsay, in the arm, and rushing out of the mess-room he took refuge in the engine room. The second officer, who keeps the key of the treasure room, was then taken prisoner by the pirates, who seemed throughout to have had a most thorough acquaintance with the regulations and routine of the vessel. Having secured their man the pirates marched him under guard to the treasure room, which being opened they found, much to their chagrin, to be completely empty, a somewhat unusual occurrence, we understand, on these steamers, and one which doubtless the pirates were unprepared to find. While this search was being carried on the other attacks were progressing in the various parts of the ship. One of the passengers, Mr. Peterson, who was apparently somewhat unwell, had not gone down to tiffin in the saloon with the other passengers, but was taking his tiffin on deck. This trivial circumstance doubtless cost him his life. Fearing, probably, that he, seeing all that was going on, might raise an alarm and thus frustrate their diabolical intentions, the pirates as soon as they appeared on deck, without a word of parley, fired on the unfortunate man, who fell almost instantly dead with four bullets in his head. The pirates then fired shots into the saloon, carrying as can be easily imagined the greatest consternation among the assembled passengers by this unexpected attack. The leader, who spoke "pidgin" English, then called out to Captain Pocock, telling him that it was the intention of the band to rob all the passengers on board, and asking him to come on deck and make arrangements with them, promising that he should escape unhurt. Captain Pocock immediately went up the companion, but before he could reach the deck he was shot through the right breast. He managed to stagger into his cabin, where he died at 2.30 p.m. On seeing the captain shot the passengers rushed to their cabins and shut themselves in. The pirates endeavoured for some time to drive them out by firing into the saloon and throwing stinkpots down, and also, probably with a view to frighten them rather than with any idea of effecting an entrance that way, by cutting partially through the deck over several of the cabins. Finding their efforts to get the passengers out of their cabins futile, the pirates sent down the second officer, whom they still detained as a prisoner, to tell the passengers that if they came out and went into the captain's cabin and remained quietly there, they would be unmolested and the pirates would leave the ship at 8 p.m. On the strength of this promise the passengers left their cabins and proceeded under a guard to the captain's cabin, where they were placed under charge of a sentry. They were treated in every instance with but scant courtesy, being hustled into the cabin in the most summary way, while some of the less fortunate officers and engineers who were brought to the cabin later, after the pirates had routed them from their various places of refuge, were treated with every kind of contumely and abuse, their captors, not content with jeering at them and threatening them, striking them with the flat of their swords and spitting in their faces. These insults were naturally the more galling inasmuch as the victims were powerless to resent them. The pirates in their well-planned scheme had taken the precaution, in the first instant of the attack, to seize the arms belonging to the ship, which were placed at the head of the companion, and those on board were thus left without an arm of any kind with which to resist the desperate attack made on them. Before the passengers were allowed to enter the captain's cabin all the valuables on their persons, such as rings, watches, studs, &c., were taken from them. In the meantime the gangs in charge of the engine room and bridge were carrying out their orders to the letter. A quartermaster, a Malay, stationed on deck was promptly shot through the head and his body ruthlessly thrown overboard, it is said before life was extinct. Two other quartermasters, also Malays, were shot in their bunks, apparently out of mere wantonness, as were two of the ship's cooks, although neither of these four were killed. One of the quartermasters has, however, since died from the effects of his wound. The chief engineer, Mr. Mackintosh, was taking tiffin in his room. On hearing the shots fired he rushed out and made for the captain's cabin, several shots being fired at him *en route*, but after running some hairbreadth escapes he managed to reach the cabin unhurt, and was not further interfered with. The object of the pirates now appears to have been to get all the Europeans on board into the captain's cabin and secure them there, and they immediately therefore set about getting the remainder there. The third mate, Mr. Eddy, who was on the bridge when the attack commenced, was fired at, and jumping from the bridge escaped to the engine room, followed by a number of the pirates, who fired on him, a shot striking him in the arm just as he reached it. The three Europeans in the engine room—the third mate, second engineer, Mr. Ramsay, and the third engineer, Mr. Jones—hid themselves under the boilers. The pirates, therefore, sent the second mate to tell these officers that if they came up on deck no harm would be done to them. They then came up, and after being searched to see it they had any arms with them, were escorted to the captain's cabin, which, all the Europeans being now safely placed therein, was nailed up by means of spars, while a guard of four men was placed round it, who by the occasional clicking of their revolvers and rattling with their cutlasses on the venetians reminded their prisoners of what they had to expect if any noise were made or escape attempted. In this latest type of the "Black Hole" the Europeans remained prisoners for eight hours, and their sufferings at that time may be imagined, as described by one of the party, as nothing less than terrible. The cabin is only an ordinary sized one, and into this were huddled eleven persons, one the unfortunate captain, soon becoming a corpse. To the anxiety of mind caused by the uncertainty of their fate and the dying agonies of their illfated companion were added the physical sufferings consequent on the want of fresh air, the unfortunate prisoners not being allowed to open a window even to allow of ventilation. Having thus secured the Europeans, the pirates drove the Chinese passengers into the fore and after saloons and kept them there under a strong guard. The desperadoes now took charge of the ship. Some of their number took command of the bridge and wheels, while the firemen were made to perform their duties under threats of death for disobedience. The ship was kept going ahead till about 4.30 p.m., when she was turned right about face and brought back close to Pinghoi, as near as possible her position when the attack commenced at 1 p.m. The attack appears to have lasted for about an hour, by which time all the Europeans and the Chinese passengers had been secured. The pirates then began their work of plunder, for which purpose they utilised the labour of the crew. The pirates contented themselves with patrolling the deck, armed each with a couple of revolvers, while the crew were made to bring the baggage on deck, break it open and remove under direction of the pirates, all money and such other articles as were considered by them of value. Pinghoi was reached about 7.30 p.m. On approaching this part the pirates put out the lights, but blew two blasts on the whistle as a signal. This was answered by some junks, six in number, who were evidently awaiting their arrival, and who signalled back to those on the vessel by throwing blue lights on the water. On seeing that everything was in readiness, the anchor was let go, and the work of transferring the loot from the ship to the junks commenced. This labour was performed by the crew of the *Namoa* assisted by the crews of the junks, and occupied about an hour. It is a somewhat curious feature, seeing that they had the ship at their mercy for such a length of time, that no attempt was made to remove any of the cargo. In addition to the general cargo there were some eighty chests of opium on board, but none of this was touched, the hatches never being even lifted off the holds. It may be that the pirates thought it as well to run no further risks seeing that they had made such a good haul. The amount of plunder they cleared is variously estimated at from $20,000 to $40,000, but from a remark made by one of the pirates and overheard by one of the seamen, it appears that the former amount is nearer the mark. Having completed their transhipment the pirates seated themselves on the deck and regaled themselves with a hearty spread. They then damaged the windlass so that the anchor could not be lifted, knocked holes in the lifeboats, threw the sidelights overboard, and made the firemen draw the fires. Having thus made all risk of their being followed well-nigh impossible and rendered the escape of the ship extremely difficult, the band left, after having thrown a bag containing about $200 to the firemen. As soon as the pirates had left the ship, which was about 9 p.m., the imprisoned Europeans were notified of the fact by some of the firemen. They burst open the cabin immediately, the officers and engineers at once set to work to get the ship ready for sea, the anchor was slipped and in a quarter of an hour the ship was steaming towards Hongkong where she arrived about eight o'clock yesterday morning. The police went on board on her arrival, and the wounded men were removed to the Hospital, and shortly afterwards the bodies of Captain Pocock and Mr. Peterson were brought ashore and taken to the mortuary.

The tragic occurrence formed the chief topic of conversation throughout the colony yesterday, and the greatest sympathy is felt on all sides for Mrs. Pocock, who is so suddenly left a widow, with the care of four young children. Captain Pocock had been in the service of the Douglas Steamship Company for over fifteen years, and was universally admired and respected alike by employers, officers, and all who knew him. After the ship had arrived yesterday morning she was visited by a large number of persons, and expressions of regret at the untimely death of the captain were to be met with on all hands. During the afternoon, H.E. the Acting Governor visited the vessel and had a long conversation with the officers. The funeral was to have taken place yesterday afternoon, but owing to the *post mortem* examination not being completed, it was postponed until this morning. The body will leave Messrs. Douglas Lapraik's at nine o'clock.

H. M. S. *Linnet* is to leave this morning for the scene of the attack, but it is to be feared that there is small chance of bringing any of the miscreants to justice. Those who saw the junks are positive that they were Hongkong junks, and it is generally believed that the pirates were Hongkong men. In the case of two at least this appears to be a certainty, as one of the engineers, on being shown at the Police Station a book containing the photos of old gaol birds, recognised among them the portraits of two men who had taken part in the attack.—*Daily Press.*

BURNING OF A STEAMER ON THE YANGTSE RIVER.

APPALLING LOSS OF LIFE.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 27th ult. has the following:—We issued the following as an Extra yesterday morning:—"News was received last night by wire from Chinkiang that the China Navigation Co's steamer *Shanghai* has been totally destroyed by fire. She left this on Wednesday for Hankow."

Since then the *Taiwo* has arrived with the second officer, third engineer, and 30 Chinese passengers of the *Shanghai*, and we are able to give particulars of one of the most appalling shipping catastrophes that has ever happened in Chinese waters.

The *Shanghai* left Shanghai on Wednesday at 8 a.m. and reached Chinkiang either late the same night or early on Thursday morning, the 25th. She left Chinkiang at 4 a.m. with over 400 Chinese and one foreign passenger, Mr. Kniffler, on board. At about 7 a.m. when the steamer was six miles below Mud Fort, smoke was discovered coming out of the after hold, in which was stowed, among other cargo, a lot of cotton. The second mate, Mr. Nicholson, immediately got the fire pumps to work, and Captain Martin was informed of what had happened. Meanwhile, the hose was played on the main hold hatch, but all of a sudden the hatches gave way, being burnt through, probably, and an immense volume of dense, black smoke shot up out of the hatchway, which made it impossible for the second officer to remain there any longer. He then started to go forward, but found the Chinese a panic stricken seething mass of humanity struggling vainly to get to a place of safety. He could not get through them, so crawled along outside the ship and so got to his destination. As soon as Captain Martin saw there was no means of getting the fire under, a fact that became apparent very shortly after the alarm was given, he headed the steamer for the bank of the river and ran her so violently ashore, that her bow was right up the bank. Under ordinary circumstances, this would have given greater facilities for escape, but the ship was in flames from stem to stern in less than fifteen minutes from the time of the alarm being given, and the Chinese were in such a confused mass in the alley ways that they could not get

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forward to escape. Many jumped overboard and were drowned, while others were burnt to death. The foreigners were able to get ashore, Captain Martin and one of the pilots being the last to leave the vessel. Mr. Kniffler waded ashore and when he landed, he was attacked by the villagers who attempted to strip him of his clothing. The Chinese passengers who succeeded in reaching the shore were similarly attacked and were stripped of their clothing. A Chinese mandarin gunboat and a steam launch which were near at hand never made any attempt to save any one, but their crews contented themselves with picking up things that floated from the burning steamer.

The number of lives lost will never be accurately known, but of the number who were on board at Chinkiang only some sixty-five have been accounted for, but some of the passengers, when they got clear of the vessel, hurried away from the scene as quickly as possible apparently afraid of being robbed or ill-treated by the villagers. A foreigner, however, counted seventy-five dead bodies on the bank of the riveer, and he saw a drag boat recover sixteen more. Many, of course, were burnt, so that the number of deaths is probably between two and three hundred.

The *Taiwo* was the first steamer to reach the scene of the calamity. She left Wuhu in the morning and arrived off the *Shanghai* at 2 p.m. the same day, and anchored close to her a quarter of an hour later. By this time, the *Shanghai* was completely gutted. Before proceeding she took on board some of the passengers.

The *Newchwang*, bound up, arrived just before the *Taiwo* left the Shanghai, and she anchored by the wreck.

As a coincidence it may be mentioned that the steamer *Bombay* was burnt at Woosung on 25th December, 1880.

The *Shanghai* was an iron paddle steamer of 3,088 tons and 300 horse-power. She was built in 1873, and had an iron main deck, while all the upper works and houses were built of wood.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, December 26th.

Sir John Pope Hennessy has been returned to Parliament for the Northern Division of Kilkenny County, in place of Mr. Edwin P. M. Marum, the late member.

There is a complete deadlock in the United States Congress on the silver question.

London, December 29th.

A strike has taken place among the hands on the railways in Scotland, and an immense block of the passenger and goods traffic has resulted. Several cities are suffering from a scarcity of coals and food, and the work in many mines is being stopped through want of railway waggons. Several factories are also closing on account of the strike.

London, December 31st.

A United States Cavalry Regiment has captured the Indian Chief Bigfoot, and made prisoners of 150 other Indians in a fight which took place yesterday. There were heavy losses on both sides.

[FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS."]

London, December 7th.

A split in the Parnellite party has taken place. Fifty-four members elected Mr. Justin McCarthy as Chairman and thirty-one confirmed the election of Mr. Parnell as Chairman. A manifesto by the Bishops condemning Mr. Parnell has been read in the Irish churches, Mr. Gladstone declines to state his intentions in the matter of Home Rule until the question of the leadership of the Irish Party is settled.

London, December 12th.

The P. & O. Company's steamer *Nepaul* has stranded on Plymouth breakwater. The accident occurred during a dense fog; the cargo has been salved.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6.05* 6.40, 8, 8.35, 9.30,* 10.25, and 11.45 a.m., and 1.25, 2.30, 3.55, 4.45,† 5.50, 6.30, 8.30, 9.55, and 11.15† p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.20, 8.10, 9.15,† 10.22, and 11.30 a.m., and 12.45, 2, 3, 4.25†, 5.30, 6.35, 7.50, 9.10, 10.05, and 11.05† p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, Tsurumi, and Kanagawa Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, 10.20, 11.25 a.m., and 12.40, 3.25, 4.55, 5.35, and 7.45 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.35, 8.40, 9.40, and 11.07 a.m., and 1.17, 2.45, 4.58, 7.25, and 9.46 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

Down trains at 6.50 a.m. run no further than Kyoto arriving there at 11.20 p.m.; at 10.20 a.m. no further than Nagoya, arriving at 10.10 p.m.; at 12.40 p.m. no further than Shizuoka, arriving there at 6.50 p.m., at 3.25 p.m. no further than Shizuoka, arriving at 8.48 p.m.; and the train at 5.35 p.m. runs to Kobe, arriving at 12.45 p.m. next day.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri.*) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri.*)

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.30 a.m., and 12.50 2.13, 4.57, and 7.10 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.52 a.m., and 1.32, 3.35, 6.18, and 8.32 p.m.; NUMAZU at 5.20 and 10.40 a.m., and 2.30, 4.27, 7.09, and 9.24 p.m.; SHIZUOKA at 7.20 a.m., and 12.19, 4.12, 6.50, and 10.59 p.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6 and 10 a.m., and 2.40 and 6 45 p.m., and 1.16 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 7.10 and 11.10 a.m., and 3.39 and 7.45 p.m., and 2.14 a.m.; OFU at 8 59 a.m., and 1.06, 5.22, and 9.28 p.m., and 4.02 a.m.; NAGOYA at 9.45, and 11.50 a.m., and 2. and 6.08 p.m., and 5 a.m.; GIFU at 10.53 a.m., and 1, 3.06, and 7.09 p.m., and 6 a.m.; OGAKI at 11.24 a.m., and 1.28, 3.33, and 7.38 p.m., and 6.28 a.m.; MAIBARA at 9.45 a.m., and 1, 2.49, 5.07, and 8.55 p.m., and 7.45 a.m.; HIKONE at 10.05 a.m., and 1.18, 3.02, 5.25, and 9.06 p.m., and 7.58 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 12, 3.15, 4.40, 7.10, and 10.43 p.m., and 9 34 a.m.; KYOTO at 12.45, 4.05, 5.35, and 8 p.m., and 10.14 a.m.; and OSAKA at 2.25, 5.35, 7.20, and 9.50 p.m., and 11.42 a.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 5.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 1.55, 3 45, and 5.30 p.m.; OSAKA at 7.06 and 11.06 a.m., and 3.06, 5, and 6.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 5.35 and 8.40 a.m., and 12.40, 4.36, 6.40, and 8.05 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.18, and 9.31 a.m., and 1.30, 5.25, 7.31, and 8.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 7.56, and 11.05 a.m., and 3.03, 7.02, 9 08, and 10.25 p.m.; MAIBARA at 8.13, and 11.20 a.m., and 3.19, 7.20, and 10.42 p.m.; OGAKI at 9.30 a.m., and 12.36, 4.37, 8.46, and 11.54 p.m.; GIFU at 9.57 a.m., and 1.02, 5.04, and 9.15 p.m., and 12.17 a.m.; NAGOYA at 6, and 11 a.m., and 2.10 and 6.20 p.m. and 1.09 a.m.; OFU at 6.43 and 11.44 a.m. and 2.56 and 7.04 p.m., and 1.41 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 8.30 a.m., and 1.30, 4.42, and 8.52 p.m., and 3.17 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.30 and 9.45 a.m., and 2.45 and 6 p.m., and 4.25 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 9.07 a.m., and 12 45, 5 20, and 9.45 p.m., and 7.08 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.46 a.m., and 2.24 and 7.14 p.m., and 8.43 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 58 a.m., and 3.38 and 8.28 p.m., and 9.53 a.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.17, 4.58, and 9.46 p.m., and 11.07 a.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3 48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2 35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

The down train at 8.30 a.m. runs no further than Kyoto, arriving there at 11.20 p.m.; at 12.12 p.m. no further than Nagoya, arriving at 10.10 p.m.; at 5.05 p.m. no further than Shizuoka, arriving at 9 p.m.; and the train at 7.10 p.m. runs to Kobe, arriving at 12.50 p.m. next day. The up train at 5.55 a.m. runs no further than Shizuoka, arriving there at 8.40 p.m.; at 9.55 a.m. and 1.55 p.m. no further than Nagoya, arriving respectively at 6.07 and 10.15 p.m.; and the train at 5.30 p.m. runs to Shimbashi arriving at 1.40 p.m. next day.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 7.15 and 9.45 a.m., and 2.15 and 5.20 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 5, 8.11, and 11.40 a.m., and 4.10 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 6.12 and 10.35 a.m., and 1.55 and 6.35 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 5.10, 7.13, and 11.37 a.m., and 2 57 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *sen* 97, second-class *sen* 66, third-class *sen* 33; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.51, second-class *yen* 1.2, third-class *sen* 51.

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.30 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.05, 1.30, 4.03, 6.14, and 8.30 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7 41 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.16, 1.41, 4.14, 6.25, and 8.41 p.m.; and ZUSHIMURA (down) at 7.50 and 10 a.m., and 12.25, 1.50, 4.23, 6.34, and 8 50 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.45, 8 55, and 11 20 a.m., and 12.50, 3, 5.10, and 7.45 p.m.; ZUSHIMURA (up) at 7.01, 9.12, and 11.36 a.m., and 1.06, 3.16, 5.26, and 8.01 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 7.11, 9.22, and 11.46 a.m., and 1.15, 3.26, 5.36 and 8.10 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TOKYO-SHIOGAMA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UENO (down) at 6, 6.40, 8.50, and 11.40 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.40 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 10 a.m. and 3.03 and 5.59 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (down) at 8 a.m. and 12.36 and 5.41 p.m.; KORIYAMA (down) at 9 25 a.m. and 1.54 and 6.58 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (down) at 7.35 and 11.33 a.m. and 3.45 p.m.; SENDAI (down) at 6.15, 10.25, and 10.40 a.m. and 2.30, 6.35, and 6.50 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE ICHINOSEKI (up) at 6.40 a.m., and 2.50 p.m.; SHIOGAMA (up) at 7 and 11.05 a.m., and 3.10 and 7.15 p.m.; SENDAI (up) at 7.35 and 12.40 a.m., and 3.45 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (up) at 6.40 and 10.26 a.m. and 2.36 p.m.; KORIYAMA (up) at 8.29 a.m., and 12.22 and 4.28 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (up) at 6.35 and 9.47 a.m., and 1.40 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (up) at 6.20 and 9.05 a.m., and 12.18, 4.14, and 6.33 p.m.

FARES.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6.45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 5.25 and 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 and 4.55* p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Uyeno.

TAKETOYO-OFU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 5.40 and 10.40 a.m., and OFU (down) at 3 5.35 and 8.55 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.50 and 9.25 a.m., and 2.20 and 5.15 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.25 and 10.10 a.m., and 2.05 and 4 55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.26; second-class, *sen* 84; third-class, *sen* 42.

TAKASAKI-YOKOKAWA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKASAKI (down) at 6.30 and 9.25 a.m., and 12.20 and 3.15 p.m.; and YOKOKAWA (up) at 8 and 11 a.m., and 1.50 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 75; second-class, *sen* 45 third-class, sen 25.

NAGOYA-TAKETOYO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE NAGOYA at 9.05 a.m., and 5.05 p.m. and TAKETOYO at 7.50 a.m., and 3.50 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, *sen* 74; Third-class, *sen* 37

TOKYO-MAKBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.40, 8.50, and 11.40 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.40 p.m.; and MAKBASHI (up) at 6, 8.55. and 11.50 a.m., and 2.50 and 5.50 p.m.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.: and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—FARE, *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Jan. 9th.
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 6th.*
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 4th.†
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, Jan 9th.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 18th.‡

* *China* left San Francisco on December 18th. † *Peruna* was to leave Hyogo this morning at 8 a.m.. ‡ *Belgic* left San Francisco on December 30th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 6th.
For Europe, via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wed'day, Jan. 7th.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 10th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 11th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 20th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 20th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 26th December,—Nagasaki 24th December, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 27th December, General,—Handa 26th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 27th December,—Hakodate 24th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 27th December,—Hakodate 25th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sydney, French steamer, 3,450, Vaquier, 27th December,—Hongkong 18th, Shanghai 23rd, and Kobe 26th December, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, —, 27th December,—Hakodate 25th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 27th December,—Yokkaichi, 26th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alliance, United States cruiser, Commander Rich, 28th December,—Kobe 24th December.

Ghazer, British steamer, 1,764, A. Scotland, 29th December,—Kobe 27th December, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 29th December,—Kobe 27th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 1,976, McHugh, 29th December,—Kobe 27th December, General.—W. M. Stracham & Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Gosch, 29th December,—Hakodate 24th December, Sulphur.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

St. Julien, British steamer, 1,049, King, 29th December,—Hongkong 8th December, Oil.—Frazar, Farley & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 30th December,—Hakodate 27th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ajax, British steamer, 1,474, Rawlings, 30th December,—Hongkong 20th December, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 30th December,—Kobe 29th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abyssinia, British steamer, 2,300, J. C. Williamson, 31st December,—Hongkong 22nd, viâ Kobe 30th December, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 130, J. T. Harrison, 31st December,—Guam 1st December, Cobra.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 31st December,—Hakodate 29th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hesperia, German steamer, 1,050, Madsen, 1st January,—Hongkong 26th December, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Port Fairy, British steamer, 1,645, Clark, 2nd January,—Kobe 31st December, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 2nd January,—Shanghai and ports 26th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 3rd January,—Hongkong 28th December, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

DEPARTURES.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 26th December,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 26th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigalthal, 26th December,—Fushiki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 27th December,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 27th December,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oxford, British steamer, 1,891, Jones, 27th December,—Otaru, Ballast.—Samuel Samuels & Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,107, W. M. Smith, 27th December,—San Francisco viâ Honolulu, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 28th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 28th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 28th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 28th December,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Gosch, 29th December,—Fushiki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 29th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 30th December,—Yokkaichi 29th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, Kanshiro, 30th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 30th December,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 30th December,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 31st December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 31st December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abyssinia, British steamer, 2,300, J. C. Williamson, 1st January,—Vancouver, B.C., General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 2nd January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 2nd January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Hongkong, viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Lescasse and 2 infants, Messrs. E. Coutts, Dangerfield, Balet, J. Bertrand, Kikuwa, Rev. Le Gris, Messrs. Halm, Rouger, and Noirtin in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Mrs. Thomsen, Messrs. E. S. Apdehe, H. Yokoto, Jones, and James in cabin; 50 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Newell and child, and Mr Kawajima in cabin; Messrs. H. Ihara and S Yamane in second class, and 26 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Abyssinia*, from Hongkong viâ Kobe:—3 passengers in cabin; 99 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Donbizky, Tsuchiya, and Yoshioka in cabin; Messrs. Yamanaka, Nakajima, H. Goldstein, Fujimoto, and N. Baranoff in second class; 35 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, from Hongkong, viâ ports:—Mr. Wang and child, Dr. Magoso Iwaya, Dr. T. Sako, Mr. and Mrs. Kragh and family, Messrs. Paul Schramm, Georg. Boldmann, Duncan McNeill, and Rohei Tada in cabin; 14 Chinese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong:—Captain Bingham and Mrs. Jaffray in cabin.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco, viâ Honolulu:—Lieut.-Commander F. P. Gilmore, Miss Haven, Colonel Tanner, Messrs. Wm. Graham, F. D. Osborne, Chang Mow Kung, W. Darlington, L. E. Arnould, Geo. C. Lees, J. M. Saunders, A. C. Stern, O. H. P. Noyes, K. Takahashi, Geo. W. Thompson, and L. A. Lewis in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong, viâ Hyogo and Nagasaki:—Mrs. M. Anderson, Miss Florence White, Mr. and Mrs. Allan, Miss E. Allan, Miss J. Allan, Miss F. Thompson, Messrs. C. W. Anderson, Haddon, H. R. Beaumont, Griffin, Cloud, A. Allan, C. C. Williams, L. Barwell, L. Dampier, E. N. Brown, G. Thompson, H. Pettit, R. E. Pettit, F. Wilson, Henry Green, Walter Barnes, Chan Yue Ping, Hing Kee, Pang Ping, Wing Chong Wo and child in cabin; and 8 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Captain J. M. James, Mrs. W. Thompson and family, Miss E. Farrell, Miss E. Russell, Miss T. Gheer, Rev. G. W. Verity, Miss Russell, Miss R. Seeds, Miss G. Tucker, Rev. E. A. Thompson, Messrs. T. Shimazu, C. Bruess, T. Myazawa, J. Conder, G. Shimazu, E. Heleman, J. Stewart, and E. Stone in cabin; Mrs. Ching and 4 children, Master Ching, and Miss Ching in second-class; 41 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco, viâ Honolulu:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	780	12	649	1,441
Hyogo	—	754	—	754
Yokohama	152	—	7	159
Hongkong	—	4,802	247	5,049
Total	932	5,568	903	7,403

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	36	—	36
Hongkong	—	50	—	50
Yokohama	—	622	—	622
Total	—	708	—	708

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong, viâ Hyogo and Nagasaki:—Silk, 377 bales, for France.

Per British steamer *Abyssinia*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	TOTAL
Amoy	32	—	—	70	102
Foochow	648	—	652	191	1,491
Shanghai	199	—	187	—	386
Hyogo	662	—	—	15	677
Yokohama	1,455	—	—	739	2,194
Total	2,996	—	839	1,018	4,853

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	MONTREAL.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	113	—	113
Yokohama	241	—	241
Total	354	—	354

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 27th December at noon, with light wind and fine pleasant weather; the 28th at 4 p.m. wind S.W. and weather cloudy with passing rain squalls. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th December at 5.15 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 27th December at 2 p.m.; light westerly wind up to Siriya Saki; from there light to moderate southerly winds and high sea up to Kinkasan. Arrived at Ogino-hama the 28th at 3 p.m. and left the 29th at 6 a.m., light to moderate westerly winds and fine weather up to arrival. Arrived at Yokohama the 30th December at 8.15 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Wynn, reports:—Left Kobe the 29th December at noon; had light variable winds and fine weather; thence to port northerly winds with rainy and overcast weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 30th December at 5.15 p.m.

The British schooner *Esmeralda*, Captain J. T. Harrison, reports:—Left Yokohama November 3rd for Mariana Islands; called at all the islands of the group and arrived at Guam on the evening of the 15th. Passage from Yokohama 12 days and 4 hours. Left Guam viâ Islands December 1st, had light airs and calms up to 28° N., thence had strong northerly winds and high sea; evening of the 24th had a very heavy gale from the westward; split double reefed foresail and blew away jib; also had minor deck damage. Passed Kannonsaki December 30th at 3 p.m. Schooner *Norma*, Captain Johnson, arrived in Guam from Yokohama November 17th.

The German steamer *General Werder*, Captain M. Eichel, reports:—Left Hongkong December 28th at 9.50 a.m.; through the Formosa Straits had light variable winds and foggy weather, from there to the coast of Japan strong north and N.W. gales with high sea. Along the coast moderate winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama January 3rd at 7.10 a.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no change to report in the position of the Import market, which still remains stagnant. Importers seem to have a feeling of relief that the old year has come to a close, and are looking forward to the New Year with fresh hopes of better times. The past year may be placed on record as the worst ever experienced in the Import trade, and it is very regretful, after such a long spell of stagnation, that there is no appearance of a change for the better in the immediate future. Sales for the week amount to 3,500 pieces Shirtings and 25 bales English Yarns.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 30 inches	per piece. 0.07	to	0.14
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.00	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 45 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	4.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 5½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	29.00	to	30.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	32.00	to	33.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.50	to	39.50
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—	

METALS.

Market closed for the end of the year. Buyers and sellers are fraternising as usual at this season, and both sides hope for better trade in 1891.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.65	to	2.75
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.75	to	2.85
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.65	to	2.85
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.80	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.20	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.90
Tin Plates, per box	5.00	to	5.25
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.25	to	1.27½

KEROSENE.

No market. Business suspended for the New Year festivities. Quotations unchanged until the resumption of trade.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.70	to	1.72½
Comet	1.67½	to	1.70
Devoe	1.65	to	1.67½
Russian	1.60	to	1.65

SUGAR.

No demand to speak of, and prices unchanged.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$4.10	to	4.15
Brown Daitong	3.10	to	4.20
Brown Canton	4.80	to	5.90
Brown Java and Penang	5.00	to	5.60
White Refined	4.55	to	7.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 26th ult., since which date settlements in this Market amount to 700 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks*, 40; *Filatures*, 400; *Re reels*, 90; *Kakeda*, 170. In addition to these figures Japanese have shipped 100 bales, making the total business of the week 800 piculs.

Business has gradually tailed off as the year expired, but without any notable change in prices. Japanese, as usual, have been busy the last two or three days in making up their yearly accounts, and in paying their New Year calls.

The market may be noted as quiet, and it is probable that there will not be much business done for the next few days. Some fair orders appear to be coming in from Lyons and neighbourhood, and the majority of holders do not show very much weakness.

Arrivals from the interior are not very large at present, and the stock list shows a small reduction on the week. Most of the up-land Filature and Reeling establishments are now closed for the winter, and will not work again until the spring weather releases their water power.

There have been three shipping opportunities, American, English, and Canadian mails all taking silk. The first named, *Oceanic*, on the 27th inst., had 622 bales for the New York trade. The *Ancona*, same date, carried 378 bales for Europe, and the *Abyssinia*, which left port yesterday morning, took 241 bales for the United States. These departures bring the present export figures up to 12,933 piculs against 28,053 piculs last year and 28,910 piculs on the 2nd January, 1889.

Hanks.—Some business at about previous prices; one parcel of *Shimonita* registered at $490 and one at $500; some small parcels of *Hachoji* mentioned at $460. Stock in this department is small and in a few hands, and is fairly well held.

Filatures.—Considerable business was done before the departure of the *Oceanic*; since then some few parcels have been taken, including *Gakosha* at 587½; *Kaimeisha*, $582½; *Hiranosha*, $580. In fine sizes good *Mino* has brought $590; with extra at $600; *Shinshu* being held for the same prices. Some good No. 1 *Koshu* were booked at $577½. No. 2 Silks have been done at $560 to $570, according to mark; with something lower in quality at $545.

Re-reels.—Small business in these, holders as a rule being impracticable. Amongst the most recent sales are reported *Five Girl* chop at $555; *Deer Chop*, $535; other *Joshu* and *Bushu* re-reels at $532½. As a rule holders are not willing to make much reduction or to meet buyers to any great extent.

Kakeda.—This class has had a fair amount of attention; prices ranging from $550 down to $500. The following quotations have been made:—*Daruma*, $550; *Kinko*, $545; No. 1 *Bacupi*, $530; No. 2 *Bacupi*, $515; No. 3 *Bacupi*, $510; *Red Flag*, $530; *Silver Star*, $532½; *Red Star*, $510.

Nothing done in *Oshu* sorts or sundries.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—	
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	500	
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	490	to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	490	to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	485	to 490
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	480	to 485
Hanks—No. 3	470	to 475
Hanks—No. 3½	460	to 465
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	590	to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	580	to 590
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	570	to 580
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	560	to 565
Filatures—No. 2, 10/13 deniers	560	to 570
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	550	to 555
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	540	to 545
Re-reels—Extra	—	
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1	580	to 585
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	560	to 565
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	550	to 555
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	540	to 545
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	530	to 535
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	510	to 520
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1	550	to 560
Kakedas—No. 1½	540	to 545
Kakedas—No. 2	530	to 535
Kakedas—No. 2½	520	to 525
Kakedas—No. 3	510	to 515
Kakedas—No. 3½	500	to 505
Kakedas—No. 4	490	to 495
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	530	
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	500	to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		
Sodai—No. 2½	—	

Export Raw Silk Tables to 2nd Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	4,491	12,501	15,620
America	8,091	15,122	13,102
Total Bales	12,582	27,623	28,722
Total Piculs	12,933	28,053	28,910
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	13,400	30,100	30,250
Stock, 2nd January	15,700	5,700	8,750
Available supplies to date	29,100	35,800	39,000

WASTE SILK.

More doing in this branch, settlements reaching 1,400 picuts, divided thus:—*Cocoons*, 5; *Noshi*, 1,040; *Kibiso*, 348; *Neri*, 7.

As will be seen from the above figures, there has been considerable buying this week, holders pushing through a few sales before closing their books for the end of the year. Position of the Market is unchanged, good quality is getting scarce and holds its own price.

The English mail steamer *Ancona* had 72 bales various Waste for Europe, and another 14 bales *Mawata* have also been exported to New York. These shipments make the present export figures 16,470 picuts, against 15, 331 piculs last year and 19, 147 piculs at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Coccons.—Practically nothing doing; one small parcel being entered at $105.

Noshi.—The bulk of the trade has been in this department and stocks are much reduced. Large lines have been done in medium *Filatures* at $140; fair *Oshu*, $130; good *Shinshu*, $120; good *Bushu* $130; *Joshu* $85, $80, $75, according to assortment. The total stock in this department is now not more than 1,500 picuts.

Kibiso.—Fair amount of business has been done, including *Filatures* at $115, $110, and $100. Nothing done during the week in ordinary kinds. The stock in this department is large, especially of medium and common grades.

Mawata.—No fresh purchases, although some previous settments have been shipped to New York.

Sundries.—Nothing done beyond a small parcel of *Neri*, common quality, at $10 per picul.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	$120	to	$130
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	150	to	155
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	140	to	145
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	130	to	135
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	140	to	150
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—		
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	110	to	120
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	—		
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	90	to	92½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	82½	to	85
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	75	to	80
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	90	to	100
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	80	to	90
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	70	to	75
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	35	to	30
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	200

Export Table Waste Silk to 2nd Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	15,765	13,191	16,927
Pierced Cocoons	1,205	2,140	2,220
	16,470	15,331	19,147
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	20,500	18,600	23,850
Stock, 2nd January	8,000	10,900	5,450
Available supplies to date	28,500	29,500	29,300

Exchange has remained very steady all through the week, and rates are now moving up as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/6¾; Documents, 3/6⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 3/7; Documents, 3/7⅛; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $86; 4 m/s. U.S. $86½; Paris, 4m/s., fcs. 4 49; 6m/s. fcs. 4.51.

Estimated Silk Stock, 2nd January, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs
Hanks	380	Cocoons	300
Filatures	9,800	Noshi-ito	1,530
Re-reels	4,750	Kibiso	5,490
Kakeda	520	Mawata	180
Oshu	240	Sundries	500
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	15,700	Total piculs	8,000

TEA.

Nothing to report in Tea.

	per picul.		
Common	$11		
Good Common	12	to	13
Medium	14	to	15
Good Medium	16	to	17
Fine	18	to	19
Finest	20	to	22
Choice	23	to	25
Choicest	28	& up'ds	
Extra Choicest	—		

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has remained steady all the week.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/5⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/6⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/6⅜
Steeling—Private 6 months' sight	3/7
On Paris—Bank sight	4.38
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.51
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	84½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	86
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	84½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	86
Silver	48¾

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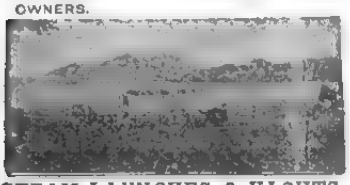

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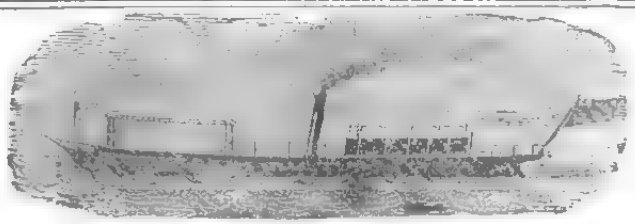

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 1891.

MARRIAGE.

At Trinity Church, Tokyo, Japan, Jan. 5th, 1891, by the Rev. J. Thompson Cole, Lieut.-Commander GEORGE A. NORRIS, U.S. Navy, and Mrs. MARIA R. BAILY.

DEATHS.

At No. 31, Bluff, on the 26th ultimo, of pneumonia, CHARLES EDGAR, youngest son of William S. Mitchell, of Bushey, Hertford, aged 24 years.

At 86, Bluff, Yokohama, on the 9th inst., after a short illness, B. J. S BRINKWORTH, aged 38.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS has been suffering from influenza.

HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER has been slightly indisposed for a few days.

THE receipts of the Tokyo Tramway Company during the month of December last were *yen* 11,286.72.

DURING three days from the 1st to the 3rd instant, 20,300 visitors passed the turnstiles at the Ryounkaku, Asakusa.

THE Prince Imperial entertained on the 6th instant, the officers of the Imperial Body Guards in the Akasaka Detached Palace.

THE first drill of the firemen of Yokohama for the year took place on the 4th instant in front of the Yokohama Police Station.

THE Prince Imperial left the capital on the 6th inst. for the Detached Palace at Hakone, and intends to stay there about three weeks.

THE Yokohama Bank, the charter for the establishment of which was granted at the end of the year, will be opened on the 13th instant, with a capital of *yen* 2,000,000.

THE residents of Fukui and Ishikawa Prefectures have decided to present a petition to the Imperial Diet asking that the Hokuriku Railway should be constructed by the Government.

ACCORDING to investigations made on the 30th of last month, the quantity of kerosene oil that remained in the godowns at Ishikawa, Yokohama, on that date was 621,180 cases.

THE number of persons attacked by influenza in Yokohama, from the commencement of the epidemic to the 3rd instant, was five thousand (including only those who have been under medical treatment).

THE members of the Cabinet held a private meeting on the 4th instant. The meeting is supposed to have been in connection with the Budget, which is now under discussion in the Imperial Diet.

AN outbreak of fire took place on the night of the 5th instant, in the house of Hasegawa Tomizo, Hongo, Shichome, Tokyo, with the result that 26 houses were destroyed before the flames could be subdued.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 6th instant, at which Counts Matsukata, Oyama, Oki, Goto, and Saigo, Viscount Aoki, and Mr. Yoshikawa were present, the proceedings lasting till 4 p.m.

THE offices of the Japan Agricultural Society, Japan Marine Products Society, and Japan Forestry Society will be removed about the 20th inst. to new buildings, now in course of construction at Akasaka, Tokyo.

ON the 4th instant all the firemen from the various stations in the capital marched to the Parade Ground at Kajibashi at 7 a.m. After the usual exercises a quantity of *sake* and dried cuttle fish was given to each fireman.

THE resumption of official business for the year took place on the 4th instant, in the Kanagawa Prefectural Government Office, the Yokohama Custom House, Yokohama Police Station, Yokohama Lighthouse Bureau, and Yokohama City Office.

IT was rumoured some time ago that Mr. Mitsukuri, Vice-Minister of the Judicial Department, had sent in his resignation to the Minister-President, but the rumour is now declared, on the authority of Mr. Mitsukuri, to have been entirely groundless.

THEIR Imperial Highnesses Princes and Princesses Arisugawa, Komatsu, Fushimi, and Kitashirakawa proceeded to the Aoyama Palace on the afternoon of the 1st inst. and offered their salutations to the Empress-Dowager on the advent of the New Year.

THE total number of steamers and sailing ships which arrived at Yokohama during last year was 421 foreign and 2,268 Japanese vessels. The number of men-of-war that entered the port during the period was 77 (including both foreign and Japanese war vessels).

SOME fifteen Korean fishermen were blown ashore on the 18th ult. on the coast near Tsugaimura, Otsugori, Yamaguchi Prefecture. The Prefectural Government forwarded them to the Nagasaki Prefectural Government Office on the 26th ult. by the *Yoshinogawa Maru*, whence they were sent back on the 30th ult. to Korea.

MESSRS. K. MASUDA, Y. Shibusawa, S. Narahara, T. Masuda, J. Yasuda, R. Masujima, M. Yokura, S. Kawata, R. Minomura, and other promoters of the Meiji Fire Insurance Company (capital *yen* 600,000) applied to the Government on the 6th instant asking for a charter to establish the Company.

TELEGRAPHIC information was received by the Department of the Imperial Household on the 6th instant to the effect that Prince Chun expired on the 1st instant at 4 a.m. The event was reported to the Emperor, on which His Majesty despatched at once a telegraphic message of condolence to the Emperor of China.

THE members of the Kwanno Kyokai (Agricultural Society) organized in Hokkaido, forwarded recently to the Japan Agricultural Society, Tokyo, many specimens of agricultural products, including apples and beans of such superior quality that they have been presented to the Emperor by H.I.H. Prince Kitashirakawa, President of the Society, through the Minister of State for the Imperial Household.

IN accordance with custom, the 4th instant being the day fixed for the resumption of official business in the various Government Departments, Viscount Hijikata, Minister of State for the Imperial Household, Mr. Ishida, Vice-Minister of the Agricultural and Commercial Department, Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister of the Department for Home Affairs, and Viscount Okabe, Vice-Minister of the Foreign Department, attended their respective offices and formally began business.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Tokyo Stock Exchange was held on the afternoon of the 6th instant in the office. The receipts during the latter half of last year were *yen* 53,721.179, of which *yen* 2,000 were set apart as a reserve, *yen* 7,700 as remuneration to officers, and *yen* 44,000 as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 44 per cent. per annum. Messrs. M. Tanimoto and B. Nakano were elected President and Vice-President respectively, Messrs. K. Ito, G. Sagara, Y. Nakajima, and M. Ota being elected managers.

ON the 4th instant, which was the day appointed for the resumption of official business for the year, His Majesty the Emperor held an audience in the Palace at 9 a.m. Count Yamagata, Minister President, and all the Ministers of State (except Count Saigo, and Viscount Kabayama), visited the Palace, and reported to his Majesty officially on the transaction of business in the various Departments of State. Count Oki, President of the Privy Council; Viscount Watanabe, President of the Bureau of Examination for Accounts; Tanaka, Superintendent-General of the Metropolitan Police; and Marquis Hachisuka, Governor of Tokyo, also visited the Palace the same day.

THE Import trade continues without material improvement, and very meagre dealings in Yarns and Shirtings are reported. There has been nothing done in Metals since the close of the holidays, and the Kerosene trade is at a standstill, the stock being further increased by a steamer from New York with 20,000 cases and another from Batoum with 73,000 cases. Sugar remains without demand worth noting. The Silk trade has been small, and is regulated mainly by exchange. Nothing doing in Tea. Exchange has fluctuated, but is fairly steady at the close.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

IMPERIAL DIET.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—JANUARY 8TH, 1891.

The House of Peers met yesterday, January 8th, at 10 a.m. The President announced certain changes in the personal of Committees, and then declared the debate open on the second reading of the Advocates' Bill. A Secretary read the amendments proposed by members. An amendment by Mr. Obata to erase from the 2nd article the words "Appeal Courts or Supreme Court," was put and lost. Another amendment by the same member, to eliminate the restrictions as to the time during which advocates must practice before being admitted to practice in the Upper Courts, was spoken to at some length by Mr. Obata and opposed by Mr. Yamaguchi in an able speech. Mr. Kato Hiroyuki supported the amendment. His argument was chiefly based on the principle that length of practice is no proper test of an expert's competence, and that examination, or the degree of public confidence obtained, is the only safe standard to apply. Mr. Murata Tamotsu spoke on the other side, and the House then rose for the mid-day recess.

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The House re-assembled at five minutes past one in the afternoon. The debate was resumed by Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro, who opposed Mr. Obata's amendment. Viscount Tani followed on the same side. The amendment was finally lost, and the report of the Special Committee was adopted as to this particular article. Professor Toyama then proposed an amendment of the 5th article, which we need not attempt to explain, as it would be unintelligible without detailed reference to the original Bill. The debate was continued by Mr. Shimauchi, Mr. Nakamura, Mr. Murata Tamotsu, Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro, Mr. Okauchi Shigetoshi, Mr. Obata, and Mr. Mitsukuri, and the amendment being put was lost. The House then adopted the Special Committee's amendment of the 5th article, as well as of the 6th and 7th articles. Coming to the 8th article Mr. Shimauchi proposed an amendment, but, not obtaining the necessary number of supporters, his proposal was not put. The House then adopted the Special Committee's amendment of the 8th article, and it being then 4.35 p.m., the President declared the session adjourned until the 9th instant.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 40 minutes past 1 in the afternoon. The President announced that the Report of the Budget Committee had been received, and that three of the members had applied for leave of absence on account of ill-health. Mr. Oye Taku, speaking on behalf of the Budget Committee, explained that as the Committee had not been able to complete its work by the prescribed date, namely, the 20th of December, another week had been granted by the House. This brought the time up to the 27th ultimo, and the House having already separated for the New Year's recess, it had not been possible to lay the Report before it during the course of last year. The members, however, had the Report now in their hands, and as reasons and figures were very fully set forth in it, he should not detain them by any lengthy explanation. In accordance with the Rules, he described the methods of origanization and examination pursued by the Committee, and alluded briefly to the great differences of opinion that had existed among the members, and to the almost insuperable difficulty of coming to any agreement. The Committee had sat from 4 o'clock in the afternoon till 1.30 a.m. on the 19th in the hope of being able to present their report on the 20th, but had been disappointed. On the 26th Mr. Watanabe, Vice-Minister of Finance, acting as the Government's Delegate, had informed the Committee that the Government would be unable to agree to the reductions advocated in the Report of which he had that day seen a copy. The President then announced that a motion, with the due number of supporters, had been made by Mr. Suyematsu Kencho to the following effect:—(1.) That without proceeding to a third reading of the Budget Bill, the House should at once consider it article by article. (2.) That the expenditure side should be first debated. (3.) That in the case of any amendments which, according to the 67th article of the Constitution, required Government sanction, a report should be made to the Government immediately on the House's decision being given. (4.) That on receipt of the Government's answer, the debate upon the article or articles in question should be re-opened. (5.) That the debate on the revenue should be opened after the 4th article had been decided. And (6), that when the debate on the revenue was concluded, the totals of revenue and expenditure should be determined. Mr. Suyematsu gave a brief explanation of the object of these proposals, and pointed out the obvious advantage of determining the exact order of procedure beforehand. Mr. Ishiwo Denzo opposed the motion as unnecessary. Mr. Hori Zencho supported it on the whole, but proposed certain amendments. It was then proposed that a decision should be taken without further discussion, as to the propriety of the House immediately going into Committee of the whole, and the proposal being approved, the House decided to go into Committee, and proceeded to consider Mr. Suyematsu's motion. A question arose as to the proposal for which the House had gone into Committee of the whole, several members contending that the step had been taken with the object of discussing the Budget Committee's Report, and several others claiming that the business before the House was Mr. Suyematsu's motion. It was then proposed that Mr. Shimada, Chairman of the Committee of the whole House, should vacate the chair in favour of the President, and that the question of going into committee of the whole should be reconsidered, but finally the House decided by a majority vote that the sitting of the Committee of the whole should be continued. The discussion of Mr. Suyematsu's motion was then resumed, and after a long debate the motion was lost. The House then returned to its ordinary session, and the President took the chair. The order of procedure for the 9th instant having been read, the House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

GILDED ARROWS.

More iconoclasm! After all these years during which we fondly imagined that the Irish exuberance of pugilistic energy was chiefly attributable to the influences of whiskey, it is painful indeed to discover that the evil is not clothed in the form of a respectable and established alcoholic liquor at all, but is due to a semi-chemical yclept "ether." The discovery of its hold, particularly in the north of Ireland, is of recent date; its origin is shrouded in mystery, but attributed to divers causes. Some lay the blame on Father Matthew's Teetotal Crusade; ether being introduced as a new drink, warranted not to break the pledge. Others accuse the doctors, who used it largely in medicines and thus gave the first impetus to a desire they have since been unable to stem. Probably a judicious combination of both causes produced the result, which presents many sad phases, brought to light by the careful investigations of Mr. Ernest Hart. A footing once gained, inebriety is, we know, an all-powerful foe, and stimulants, suddenly discontinued, leave in their wake a craving not to be satisfied without some substitute. What then more likely when the impulsive Irish character was being moved in the direction of total abstinence, than that a hearty welcome should be offered to anything labelled "harmless," yet possessing power to gratify the perennial need. Again, is not the medical profession unconsciously the means of implanting the first desire in the breast of a great majority of intemperate persons. Just that little snack of brandy, that "teaspoonful with your meals," or at "bed time," or "when you feel down;" how many of us have had medical prescriptions after this style, and how many have followed the advice not wisely, but too well. So has it doubtless been with Ireland. In the effort to put down, to destroy the ill effects of one evil, a worse has been introduced, which from its cheapness alone is not likely to be easily irradicated. Poor Paddy! his new drink has the melancholy disadvantage of quick operation, and its effects pass off as quickly as they pass on, enabling him, if so disposed to boil up and cool down again half a dozen times a day, and this must commend itself very particularly to our warm-headed brethren. At present ether has not seized the Irish lassie in its gruesome grasp to the same extent as it has attacked her parents and male relatives, and it is to be hoped that her bonnie eyes may long, and ever, escape being dimmed by the "cursed thing."

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We are told, with the calm assurance undoubtedly born of firm conviction, that we are cooling down! By "we" is meant that whereof we are supposed to be made, and to which we all return, the earth. At what precise rate the proceeding is going on, Mons. Jaques Leotard sayeth not; but that we are cooling down, and that some day our extreme descendants will reside within, in preference to upon, our terrestial globe, he has no hesitation in prophecying. He places the probable date at a remote period, however, so that preparations for a *sub-terrâ* residence need not be hurried. The process of interment, if it may be so called, is not graphically described; but, the moon, having become a dead star, will thereupon become disunited and scatter its broken fragments into space, while the surface of this insignificant conglomoration of sundries we proudly dub our world, will present a congenial temperature of a hundred centigrades below zero, leaving us no resource but to crawl inside in search of the air and warmth which, he assures us, will be provided gratis around the centre of gravity.

* * *

When woman usurps the reins of medicine, we may prepare ourselves for a novelty in prescriptions and theories. A certain Mrs. Doctor Anderson has been delivering herself of the opinion that "old fogies" ought to go in for calisthenics. She maintains that ladies from 30 to 50 years of age ought in justice to themselves and their families, to perpetuate the exercises of their youth. Doubtless her epithet of "old fogies" is intended to refer to the other sex, however, since she could not possibly be so frank as to use such a graceful sobriquet to her own sisterhood. What a departure from the beaten tracks of recognized propriety is here suggested. Can we not picture a regiment of bald and toothless grandpapas circling with broomsticks and dumb-bells to a lively air, while a brigade of "fat, fair, and forty" practise the tip-toe balance step in the foreground! Mrs. M. D. Anderson further suggests that ball, as a game, would be far more beneficial to those whose childhood's days are becoming obscured in the distance, than dancing, the so-called recreation indulged in by even the most pronouncedly mature. Possibly there is a large modicum of common sense in this lady's theory. It is very certain that youthful games cannot be indulged in without engendering an excessively bonyant appreciation of things in general, and happiness and contentment are true and tried tonics. This sort of thing may, for all we know, lie among the possibilities of the future. The children of our era always seem half grown old, so perhaps the old folks will some of these days turn the tables on them, and start being children at the other end of the journey.

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It is refreshing to find that amid all the deterioration incidental to nineteenth-century competition and selfish rivalry, the English character for veracity still holds its ground. Another testimonial to its worth comes from the venerable lips of Count Moltke, who says that one of the chief attractions in English education is that "lying is treated not only as an offence, but as a disgrace, and unworthy of a gentleman." This is the spirit that permeates the education of every English boy and girl whether at home or at school, and which, on a general average bears fruit in after life. Otherwise, the English-

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man's reputation for honour would not have attained such a world-wide circulation.

* * *

"Every dog has his day," we are told, and it is a general impression that the Jew is having his now, in England at least. But the channel of daily life is by no means flowing so smoothly in all lands, Russia for instance. Everyone knows that the Jew always has exhibited, and probably always will exhibit, a remarkable talent for turning things to account, and securing that odd half-penny of profit which just makes all the difference in the success of a financial transaction. This line of ingenuity has not called forth feelings of warm estimation on the part of Russia; on the contrary, one is almost led to suppose that she still abhors a Jew. This is unfortunate for the Jew. Russia, however, does not admit that any want of justice prompts her actions toward the Israelite; but argues that her sole desire is to woo him from his shocking incredulity, and embrace him in the arms of the Church. She accordingly encourages him to pay a little tax on flesh and fowl, on house-rent, and indeed on any and every item of his income, and this, merely to furnish a practical illustration of how undesirable it is to be a Jew, instead of a nice, comfortable, taxless, unburdened Christian. The consequence, not unnaturally, is that the Jew who values his interests at a higher rate than the religion of his forefathers, defrauds his brother to enrich himself, and then—becomes a Christian. He is then secure, for the Russian Courts will not receive Jewish testimony against him, seeing that it can only be prompted by malice. However, the Hebrew stranger in the Russian *midst*, is, on the whole, faithful; and Russia meanwhile profits by those little additional taxes on his daily bread. In England the descendants of Abraham appear flourishing like unto the proverbial bay tree, and it is pleasant to note that their relations with the Gentiles are creeping out of the confines of pecuniary transactions not calculated to encourage mutual respect and confidence. Just recently two very striking instances of the increasing sympathy between believers and the unconvinced, have come under public notice. One is a Jewish testimonial of respect and admiration for the work of the late Mrs. Booth; the other a deputation of many of the principal Jewish representatives, to the Archbishop's House, at Westminster, to present a congratulatory address to Cardinal Manning on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee. After heartily expressing their sympathy with and appreciation of the Cardinal's labours on behalf of religious education, they listened in turn to kindly sentiments from him, as he concluded with a reference to the three indestructable things in this life; the Jew and his Creed, the Church which had sprung from it, and the World which had persecuted both. Those who know the Cardinal can well imagine the gentleness of manner with which the words were spoken. GRENON.

THE BUDGET.

How the Budget business will end is the question now on everybody's lips. The Government says that a reduction of three million *yen* might be effected with considerable difficulty, but that beyond that amount no advance can possibly be made without dislocating the public service. The Committee of the Lower House has reported in favour of a reduction of nearly ten million *yen*, but, on the other hand, the moderate section of the Committee thinks that about one half of that amount will suffice. The great supporters of the radical measure are the *Kaishin-to* members, and since these are generally moderate and conciliatory it is naturally supposed that in holding out for a virtually impossible reduction, their main object is to cause the dissolution of Parliament, since fresh elections would give them an opportunity to recover the strength lost at the last elections owing to temporary disorganization. A very few days will now suffice to show what the ultimate attitude of the Diet must be, but we do not, for our own part, perceive that dissolution would be a necessary consequence of the Diet's refusal to pass the Budget in its present form, or after the insertion of whatever amendments the Government may see its way to make. The Constitution provides that in such a case the Budget for the preceding fiscal year may be carried out, and that alternative would probably be preferred to the dissolution of the first Diet.

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As is usual in respect of any question of great public interest, public men are beginning to be interviewed, and their opinions printed by the vernacular press. Count Itagaki is among the number, but he has not much to say on the subject, the gist of his remarks being simply that investigations conducted by himself and other members of his party at Kobe led them to conclude that from seven million to seven and a half million *yen* was the extent of the reductions that could be made in the public expenditure. Mr. Fukuzawa has also been interviewed, and his ideas are much more interesting. He said frankly that while approving the idea of reducing expenditure, he did not approve of attempting to carry out any such reform this session. The Diet had already procured the postponement of the Commercial Code, and driven one Minister of State from office. Let it be content with that. Next year, or even the year after next, would be time enough to attack the Budget question, and in the interval full investigations could be made. It would be better to proceed calmly and deliberately in a matter of such importance. He recommended the members not to allow themselves to be carried away by youthful zeal. The Diet is not an institution of one year only. Its work is all before it, and so is the future.

MEIKLEJOHN'S DIRECTORY.

MEIKLEJOHN'S well known Directory for Japan made its appearance punctually at the close of 1890. The compiler has adhered strictly to the familiar old lines; conservatism of which we entirely approve, since one half of the convenience of a directory is to be able to use it with the quickness born of familiarity. We observe a few omissions in the list of Tokyo residents, and it is still noteworthy that the names of the principal Japanese firms and leading men of business have not found their way into the alphabetical list. After all these years we cannot but find it strange that such a directory gives us no information whatever about the residences or places of business of men like Messrs. Shibusawa Yeiichi, Okura Kihachiro, and so forth. Probably the difficulty of collecting information of this character would be considerable, but the very existence of such a difficulty illustrates the gulf that still stands between the foreign and Japanese communities. The Directory has a new feature this year in the shape of lists of the members of the two Houses of Parliament. We observe that the compiler has made no attempt to distinguish the members according to their politics. He simply divides them into *shizoku* and *heimin*, which is perhaps as much ■ could have been expected.

A CURIOUS "COUP DE GRACE."

FATE is such a wayward jade that one cannot feel quite certain whether her latest freak in Irish affairs may not be seriously intended, or, at all events, may not result as though it were seriously intended. The idea of a wretched two-penny half-penny case of immoral conduct between an over-youthful man and an over complaisant wife settling a question which has effectually blocked the path of British legislation for years, has upset Cabinets, has perplexed the best English statesmen, and has furnished the world with a nine days' wonder—such an idea is almost incredible. Yet it looks as though things would fall out in that fashion. Mr. Labouchere, with his wonted hard cynicism, tries to recall the public to its senses by asking it what would have been said if the Government of the United Kingdom had deprived the Duke of Wellington of his command on the eve of Waterloo because of some scandal between him and one of the Brussels dames. But the public won't pause to reason out Mr. Labouchere's similies. Parnell has disgraced himself, that is the one and only point of moment, and though there may not be the most infinitesmal logical connection between the escapades that cover him with shame and the political work he directs, his capacity as captain of the Irish cause is fatally impaired. The loss of such a man, the greatest organiser, the greatest parliamentary tactician, and in many respects the greatest leader that Irish nationalism has ever produced would be a terrible blow. But it certainly would not be a fatal blow. The Irish cause throbbed with vitality before Charles Stuart Parnell ever saw the light of day, and his death would not paralyse it. But he will not die. There is the trouble. He insists on clinging to the helm with his dirty hands, and the ship won't steer with him at the wheel. Nothing seems more certain than this, that if Parnell stays Gladstone must go. The Grand Old Man cannot afford to climb his last political eminence on this side of the grave arm in arm with an adulterer who used fire-escapes and water-spouts to get at his mistress. The thing would not work; and Gladstone, eminently acute in his perception of public opinion, knows well that he and Parnell have come to a point where their paths part for ever. If Parnell and his friends could see equally clearly, the political situation need not be gravely effected. But they will not see, and it looks very much as though sweet Mrs. Captain O'Shea had given the quietus to Irish Nationalism for many a year to come. The gods work with strange weapons, but they get there all the same.

OFFICAL SALARIES AND THE DIET.

WE read in the vernacular press that the chief recommendations embodied in the report of the Budget Committee are these:—First, as to salaries, the Committee suggests that the emoluments of *Shinnin* be reduced to the following:—Minister President of State, to 6,000 *yen* annually; Ministers of State, to 5,000 *yen*; Chief Judge of the Supreme Court, to 4,000 *yen*; Chief of the Audit Committee, to 3,500 *yen*; Presidents of the Privy Council and of the Board of Decorations, 2,500 *yen*; Vice-President of the Privy Council, 2,000 *yen*; Privy Councillors, 1,500 *yen*. In the case of *Chokunin* officials, the following scale is proposed:—Vice-Ministers of State, the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, and the Governor of Tokyo, 3,500 *yen* each. The four Prefects of Kyoto, Osaka, Kanagawa, and Hyogo, 2,000 *yen* each; Chiefs of First-class Bureaux, Chiefs of Finance Sections, Prefects, First-class Experts, and the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, 2,500 *yen* each; Chief Secretaries of the two Houses of the Diet, 2,000 *yen* each. The *Sonin* officials undergo corresponding reductions of salary, the Chief of Metropolitan Police especially being cut down to 2,000 *yen*.

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Then follow numerous recommendations for abolishing or amalgamating Bureaux and offices. Thus, the office of councillor (*Sanji-kan*) is abolished, and all the Finance Sections are amalgamated with the Sections of General Affairs. In the Cabinet, the six Sections of Legislature, Rewards, Archives, Statistics, and Finance are abolished, and in the Department of Education the Sections of Finance and Engineering. In the Foreign Office the Sections of Finance and Translation are amalgamated with General Affairs. In the Home Department, the three Sections of Geodesy, Temples and Shrines, and Library are abolished, a part of their duties being transferred to the Building Section. In the Finance Department, the Customs Section is amalgamated with the Taxes Section, and that of Banks with that of National Debts. In the Department of Justice, the Civil and Criminal Sections are abolished, and in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the functions of the Patents Bureau are handed over to the Bureau of Trade and Industry.

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It would be presumptuous for mere outsiders to criticise these suggestions so far as they relate to the abolition or amalgamation of ad-

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ministrative sections, but every one is entitled to express an opinion about the proposed reduction of salaries, and our emphatic opinion is that the Committee of the House of Representatives has allowed itself to be carried to utterly extravagant lengths. Can anything be more absurd than to say that Japan's resources do not allow her to give her Privy Councillors as much as she gives for a very third-rate teacher of English, French, or German in one of her common schools? Eighteen hundred dollars a year, generally with house, or house allowance, is the least that an every-day teacher of English expects to receive, yet a Privy Councillor of *Shinnin* rank is to be content with *yen* 1,500. Consider, again, the case of the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court, one of the highest and most honoured officials in the Empire. He is to receive 4,000 *yen* annually, whereas a member of the House of Representatives is paid at the rate of 3,200 *yen* annually, and gets his expenses in addition. We do not observe that the members have thought of cutting down their own salaries. They evidently think themselves entitled to be as handsomely remunerated for their services as are Vice-Ministers of State, the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, and the Governor of Tokyo. We regard such suggestions as simply monstrous. The pay of Japanese officials is already miserable. The pay of the Judges and Magistrates is scandalously low. The very last retrenchment that a country should resort to is the cutting down of the pittance paid to its public servants for good and faithful work. The House of Representatives can save 240,000 *yen* annually at one coup by deciding that its members shall serve their country gratis, as do English members of Parliament. But it doesn't relish that.

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It is significant that the Committee reverses the order of things with regard to the Prefects of the districts in which the open ports lie. Hitherto their Prefectures have ranked first. The Committee thrusts them incontinently below all the rest.

THE DOSHISHA.

THE calendar of the Doshisha for 1890-91 gives some idea of the place which this remarkable college now occupies among the educational institutions of Japan. Situated in one of the quietest and least visited districts of Kyoto, the Doshisha has never attracted any large share of foreign public attention. Only by those who take special interest in such matters has it been known that educational work of the very highest character was being carried on there by the representatives of the American Board Mission and their Japanese associates, and that large sums of money were being expended on the erection of handsome and capacious brick and stone buildings. From the calendar, as now published, a general conception of the nature of these buildings may be gathered, for on the first leaf we find a cleverly executed sketch showing the three principal edifices, the Recitation Hall, the Chapel and the Science Hall, with the grounds surrounding them. The Library, a separate and very imposing pile of architecture, is shown independently in another plate, and so also is the Science Hall, which, as we explained in a former issue, was completed last year. This Science Hall—or "Harris School of Science," as it is also called—owes its existence chiefly to the generosity of Mr. J. N. Harris, of New London, who gave a hundred thousand dollars towards its construction. Its object is "to offer a post-graduate course to such students of the collegiate department as may desire to pursue advanced studies in science and its application to fine arts." Judging from the plans and elevations accompanying the calendar the architect of the Doshisha have been most happy. The noble pile of buildings erected under their superintendence constitutes quite a feature of that quarter of the ancient city, and offers a very striking contrast to the lowly, unpretentious wooden structures inhabited by the citizens of Kyoto. As for the working of the institution, perhaps the most succinct idea may be gathered from the summary at the end of the calendar, where we read that no less than 570 students are entered for the various courses in the current year. Sir Edwin Arnold, we may mention, during his stay in Kyoto, delivered a course of lectures at the college.

JAPANESE PAINTERS IN OILS.

ONE of the great difficulties with which Japanese painters in oils have to contend is the smallness of their houses. When an artist has painted a picture of some size and had it duly framed, it becomes a most obtrusive tenant of his little dwelling, not only causing much inconvenience to his family, but also effectually preventing any further efforts on the part of the artist until he can rid himself of his last production. The majority of the pictures shown at last year's industrial exhibition were not sold, and it is said that they now lie in their painters' dwellings, blocking the path, furnishing sad mementos of unrequited industry, and occupying the only space which the artist has available for such work. Could any evidence of the *res augusta domi* be more emphatic?

THE STATE OF THE CABINET.

AFTER declaring that the Cabinet must be very weak if the resolution of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives to reduce the estimates by some nine million *yen* endangers its existence, the *Nippon* proceeds to publish the gist of certain rumours now in free circulation. The first relates to an alliance between Counts Ito and Okuma. No one, says our contemporary, will be disposed to believe in a compact between these two statesmen, after their dissensions of last year, but the innermost thoughts of statesmen can hardly be fathomed by common thinkers. In spite of the leading members of the *Kaishinto* so much disliking Count Ito, Mr. Yano Fumio (a staunch follower of Count Okuma and one of the prominent men of the *Kaishin-to*) was, through the efforts of Count Ito, appointed to a lucrative official position in the Imperial Household Department. Whether this may be taken as an indication of the alleged alliance or not, it is certain that the two Counts' political tactics are profound, and they seem to have now adopted the course of utilizing the Diet for the purpose of crushing the Yamagata Cabinet by clever manipulation of the Budget question.

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The *Nippon* then discusses the views entertained by the Cabinet Ministers themselves. Every one is curious to know what course will be taken by the Cabinet if the Diet, accepting the Report of the Budget Committee, should attempt to reorganise the present system of administration, and insist upon making a reduction of nine million *yen*. Rumour says that Count Goto, Viscount Aoki, Mr. Yoshikawa, and Mr. Mutsu are determined to join forces and endeavour to force a resolution on the Cabinet, and that such resolution will be in the main in accord with the Diet's action. But as each of these statesmen has special views of his own, their consensus seems problematical. As for Count Yamagata, rumour says that he preserves an obstinate silence, and indeed it is natural for him to remain with folded arms at this critical moment, seeing that originally a purely military man, he finds himself at a loss how to deal with the complicated and difficult political problems surrounding him as Prime Minister. Count Saigo is said to have asked quietly at a Cabinet conference held some days ago "How will all this end? Shall we have to resign our posts before the end of the current year?" This Minister in ordinary times seems indifferent to what goes on around him, but being a man of quick decision at important crises he generally stands by his own views, however divided the opinions of the Cabinet. Count Matsukata has the reputation of being the cleverest man amongst the Ministers of Satsuma origin. He is said to have expressed no opinion so far, but he is known to be on good terms with Count Ito, whose views he shares. His being in a position directly affected by the Budget question, and yet remaining so quiet and undisturbed, excites some curiosity. Rumour already says that his views are probably the same as those of the other four Ministers mentioned above. At any rate, the tactics of the two statesmen, Counts Ito and Okuma, outside the Cabinet, may produce a decided change in the Cabinet itself. The Vice-Ministers are said to be much disturbed by the resolution of the Budget committee in respect of a reduction of nine millions, and to be taking active measures for promoting their own views on the matter.

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The *Toyo Shimpo*, writing on the same subject, states that in spite of various rumours of an alarming nature now afloat, the actual state of affairs is not critical. Counts Ito and Okuma, it declares, are strong rivals and cannot stand together in the same Cabinet. The rumour of their union must have originated in a recent meeting between the two Counts, held probably for the purpose of consulting about the advisability of summoning Count Inouye to act as a mediator between the Government and the Diet with regard to the Budget question. Our contemporary adds that the report concerning the decision of Count Yamagata in respect of the Budget is correct; that the idea of making Count Goto Premier is not new, but seems to have gained much force lately; and that the Ministers of Satsuma origin do not openly express their views, simply because their usual tactics are to maintain a reserved attitude to the last.

HOME OPINIONS.

THE *Daily Chronicle's* comment on the September Meeting is as follows:—

"It is not, perhaps, surprising that the discussion on treaty revision which has been raging for some time in Japan should have given rise to a good deal of heat; but we were scarcely prepared for the somewhat unreasonable attitude assumed in the matter by Englishmen resident in that country. From what we find in the papers to hand by the present mail our countrymen do not seem to have afforded such an example of political restraint as might have been expected from men educated in the freedom and independence of England. The Japanese are perhaps a little too proud of the rapid progress of their country in civilisation, and are demanding rather too much in asking the submission of foreigners to native tribunals without guarantees; but this scarcely justifies an attitude of determined hostility to all treaty revision whatsoever. It was especially unfortunate in one speaker at a Yokohama meeting to suggest that because torture was legal in Japan a quarter of a century ago therefore her judicial tribunals could not now be trusted by foreigners in any matter."

This criticism would have been considerably strengthened had the writer known that the Japanese were not asking for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction without guarantees, and that the information upon which the Yokohama meeting acted was in one respect conspicuously erroneous.

THE EMPEROR AND THE SITUATION.

"NOT now for the first time," says the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, "is His Majesty the Emperor showing his solicitude about affairs of State. Still it is worth noting that when Count Ito waited at the Palace to pay his respects at the New Year, the Emperor entered into a long conversation with him about parliamentary affairs in general, and particularly about the attitude of the Lower House towards the Budget. His Majesty expressed the opinion that a want of full mutual understanding was at the root of the trouble between the Administration and the Diet. He said that if the Government's Delegates took greater pains to convey to the Diet the true spirit of official intentions, and to ascertain the views of the members accurately, the breach between the two ought to be capable of adjustment. It goes without saying that the Sovereign's Chief Minister and all responsible officials should lend themselves to accomplish the Imperial wishes, setting aside individual opinions altogether, and working entirely for the public good."

* * *

It does not appear to outsiders that want of mutual understanding is the secret of the trouble. On the contrary, the recalcitrant members of the

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House of Representatives seem to understand perfectly well what they are about. Their evident object is to produce a crisis which shall lead either to the resignation of the Government or the dissolution of Parliament. This is nothing new. Political parties in opposition behave similarly everywhere. Appeals to their intelligence or magnanimity are mere waste of words. Nobody imagines that if the advocates of sweeping fiscal reform came into office themselves, they would be faithful to their own programme. But any stick will serve to beat a dog. The thing to be accomplished is the ousting of the Government. The nature of the pretext employed is a wholly secondary consideration.

CRITICS AND CRITICS.

In the second number of the new *Japan Gazette*, an article appears defending Mr. Masujima against criticisms which, though not distinctly referred to as ours, are plainly intended to be so understood. It does not seem to us, however, that we receive strict justice at the hands of our contemporary, and we shall show why very briefly. Let us premise at once that we fully admire and appreciate Mr. Masujima's courageous frankness, and applaud his reforming efforts. We do not indeed clearly understand why he should have chosen the lecture hall of a foreign learned society to deliver an address condemnatory of the legal institutions of his own country. But that is a matter of taste, and it is universally agreed that tastes must be allowed to differ. The Asiatic Society at all events will not quarrel with Mr. Masujima's choice of audience. Its members can desire nothing better than to have their inevitable ignorance of Japanese legal tribunals dispelled by the light of an expert admittedly competent to speak with authority, and qualified to approach his subject from a Western point of view. The *Japan Gazette* hints, indeed, that Mr. Masujima's utterances are "extremely distasteful to a few foreigners." "It is rather awkward," says our local contemporary, "to have an eminent barrister coming forward at this juncture and giving information, founded on personal observation and knowledge, calculated to show that it is somewhat premature to expect justice to be administered throughout Japan with the impartiality and thoroughness it is in most Western Courts." Are there in truth any such foreigners? Are we really to believe that the writer in the *Gazette* has discovered foreigners who object to the truth being spoken about Japan, and who would fain have everything Japanese represented in such rosy colours as to lull all uneasiness and disarm all precaution? We know of no such foreigners. They must be very *rari aves*, if indeed they exist at all. Neither have we ever come across foreigners who imagined that the administration of justice in Japan is marked by all the impartiality and thoroughness of Occidental tribunals. If either the former or the latter class of persons are to be found among the members of the Asiatic Society, then indeed Mr. Masujima exercised discriminating benevolence when he undertook to rebuke and correct such silly traits. For our own part, however, we should have been disposed to let these naïve optimists wrap themselves in the atmosphere of their own credulity, nor can we share the commiseration which the *Japan Gazette* apparently feels with their rude awakening. All persons of ordinary honesty want to know exactly how the law is administered in Japan, and all persons of ordinary common sense know perfectly well that the manner of its administration still leaves much to be desired.

* * *

But Mr. Masujima's nominal purpose was to demonstrate the unfitness of the new Civil Codes, and the fault we found with his lecture was that his demonstration was wholly incomplete. He proved nothing. Only one of two conclusions could be formed, either that he had no proofs to offer, or that he doubted the capacity of his audience to understand a detailed demonstration. We object to *ex cathedrâ* utterances on such a subject. We value the *ipse dixit* of Mr. Masujima no higher than we value the *ipse dixit* of the framers of the Codes, and we see no reason to discredit the latter for the sake of the former. If the *Japan Gazette* will furnish reasons, we shall be the first to admit them, but for the present our choice remains free.

* * *

It is denied, too, that the lecture possessed political elements, and it is declared to be utterly foreign to the truth that Mr. Masujima is opposed to the revolution of 1868 and to the men who were instrumental in effecting it. This is a question of Mr. Masujima's own words. Here are a few of them:—"When they had succeeded in destroying the Tokugawa Government they had to submit to the force of circumstances, and to uphold the restoration of the Imperial power, contrary as it was to the original intention of each clan. * * Either because they were not wise enough to see the necessary goal to which Japan must come, or that they consciously ignored it, they adopted the policy of repulsion in order to facilitate the carrying out of their own programme. * * They did not consider that they themselves would be usurpers if successful. * * They may not have been statesmen: I doubt whether they were. But the ease and grace with which they transformed themselves were truly wonderful. Many who had been semi-barbarians before visiting foreign countries became too civilized for life in Japan on their return home. * * They were then young and inexperienced, but so jealous and patriotic that they decided to bring up this Asiatic State to the same standard of civilization as that of Western nations, as if the influence of so-called men of genius, among whom these undoubtedly counted themselves, would prove magical in effect simply because they happened to be in office. They failed to see the undeniable truth that no nation can change in a day. The history of Japan for the last twenty years has consisted of first the destruction of the old, next the wholesale adoption of foreign institutions, and lastly reactionary attempts to undo the work done. The revolutionists imagined that they could buy and import foreign civilization and foreign institutions like any other commodity, and make use of them with the same ease and benefit as do the nations where they are indigenous. * * * Theorists by thousands, innumerable laws and excessive taxation were the fruits of the policy adopted at that time. * * * These believers in the magic power of great men in office destroyed the whole ancient organization of the Government along with other departments of social activity. They tried to replace this with what exists to-day in the West, forgetting that it is the outcome of the life and labours, the thoughts and feelings of many generations." There is more in the same strain but we have quoted enough. Can anyone for a moment pretend, in the face of what we have quoted, in the face of Mr. Masujima's own words, to deny that his lecture was partly of a political character, and that he is not amicably disposed towards the revolution of 1868 and towards the men who were instrumental in effecting it? If he is well disposed towards them and their work, he has the funniest manner conceivable of expressing his approbation. And when we remember who they were—these men of whom he speaks with such supreme contempt—Iwakura, Sanjo, Kido, Okubo, Saigo, Ito, Inouye, Okuma, Goto, Itagaki, and so forth—we are constrained to repeat our expressions of sincere regret that Mr. Masujima's essay ever found its way into the pages of the Asiatic Society's Transactions.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM IN ENGLAND.

The exhibition of chrysanthemums at the Westminster Aquarium, in connection with the Great Centenary Festival of the National Chrysanthemum Society, in honour of the introduction of the flower into England, was opened on November 11. The exhibition was one of the largest and finest ever seen. There were about 200 exhibitors and 750 entries, the latter numbering about double that of last year's exhibition. Such a display of trained varieties of chrysanthemums had never before been seen. The Japanese varieties are wonderfully fine, and the incurved varieties came next in number and quality. There was also a good display of the reflex varieties. The total amount offered in prizes was over 500*l*. The chief feature of the show was that which was called the centenary class—34 blooms of Japanese and 34 blooms of incurved chrysanthemums. In that class there were eighteen competitors, and the first prize, value 25*l*., was taken Messrs. W. and G. Drover, of Fareham; the second prize, 20*l*., by Mr. Parker, gardener at Impey, Droitwich; and the third, 15*l*., by Mr. Gibson, gardener at Morden Park, Surrey. The next class was the National Competition of the Chrysanthemum Society for a valuable challenge trophy, a class only open to societies affiliated with the National Society. The trophy, a silver shield, was won by the St. Neots Society, the Wimbledon Society, which won it last year, being second on this occasion. At the opening ceremony Mr. R. Dean, the hon. secretary of the society, read an address stating that there were now 3,000 varieties of the flower, and that over 200 novelties were put into commerce this season.

THE LOSS OF THE "SERPENT."

One of the three survivors of the wreck of H.M.S. *Serpent* has made the following statement, which was telegraphed to London from Corunna on the 17th November:—"The *Serpent*, on the evening of Monday, the day of the disaster, was proceeding on her course as usual. We had left Plymouth on Saturday afternoon, and were hoping shortly to round Cape Finisterre. The ship was going about half-speed. The sea was fearful, and the swell of the billows tended to carry the vessel towards the land. The place where the ship struck is a bay formed by Capes Trece and Villano. It was a very dirty night. It was raining hard, and a thick mist hid the shore from us. The *Serpent* passed very close to Cape Trece, but no one on board could see the light on Cape Villano, and the ship headed straight for the middle of the bay. A few minutes later she struck with a frightful shock. Owing to the bad weather the commander was on the bridge. I was on deck myself, as it was my watch. Thirty of the men were close to me. As soon as we felt the vessel strike Captain Ross ordered the boats to be got ready. He was perfectly calm, and at the same time full of energy. By his orders we got out the rocket apparatus and fired a rope off towards the shore, but it was of no use. The wind and waves were terrific, and the rope fell short. About three-quarters of an hour passed before the *Serpent* went down. Meanwhile all the crew were ordered to the bridge. Gould, Luxon, and I were told off to man one of the boats, Gould being in command. We went off to get the boat ready, but we had scarcely set about it when a huge sea swept away all the boats, crews and the boats as well. Captain Ross shouted out that everybody must do his best to save himself. Gould heard him say this. Before we set about getting the boats ready, I and several others had put on cork-jackets. The *Serpent* remained all this time as if balanced between the masses of rock. She was not floating. The waves swept over her with awful violence, and she was soon nothing better than a bare hulk. Boats, men, and even the top-sides, were carried away. Luxon and some of our shipmates who were swept away by the swell succeeded in gaining the rocks, but Luxon was the only man of them who was able to hold out against the force of the seas and to reach the shore—it is true in an almost lifeless condition. A wave carried me away and threw me ashore near to where Luxon was. We looked back and saw a horrible sight—a shapeless mass of men struggling for life and hurled one against the other by the great seas. Luxon and I, after resting for a bit, made a move, and with great difficulty reached at length the village of Javina. Gould was much longer in the sea than we were. He is a strong swimmer, and fought the waves to the end, being at last thrown up almost naked on the beach just

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by Cape Trece. We all met in the morning in the coastguard hut, where there were also some men who were looking after the cargo of the British steamer *Tunbridge*, which was wrecked near the same place some months ago. When day broke we saw that the *Serpent* had broken in two. The deck was swept absolutely clear, but the six guns remained in their places. The top-sides were totally destroyed a few minutes after the *Serpent* went down. On the following day the bodies of a number of sailors, with cork jackets on, were seen floating on the surface of the water. All were dreadfully disfigured, and some were headless trunks. Most likely they lost all consciousness by being thrown against the rocks. Forty-eight bodies have been buried, among them one believed to be that of Captain Ross, in a lonely spot, called Porto do Trigo, quite close to the scene of the wreck. The parish priest of Javina gave shelter and aid to Luxon, who had met with some grateful charity from some labourers whom he met near the beach, and who gave him a piece of bread. Out of the six boats with which the *Serpent* was fitted not one could be used for saving life. One has been cast up on the shore in a fairly sound condition, but all the rest were smashed. Most of the wreckage reaching the shore in small fragments, having been dashed to pieces among the rocks."

THE "RIKKEN JIYU SHIMBUN."

THE new Constitutional Liberal organ, the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, made its first appearance on New Year's day. In size and general appearance, it is similar to its sister paper, the *Jiyu Shimbun*. The new journal declares that it is organ of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, but at the same it proposes to maintaina certain degree of independence, and to oppose even the policy of its own party, whenever such policy is deemed incompatible with justice, or injurious to the interests of the country. The editorial staff seems to remain pretty much the same as at the time when the paper was known as the *Koko Shimbun*.

THE AMERICAN EXHIBITION OF 1893.

TELEGRAPHIC news was received in Tokyo on the 3rd instant, dated at Chicago, January 2nd, to the effect that an official invitation to Japan to take part in the great international exhibition of 1893 had been forwarded from the United States. There appears to have been considerable delay in carrying the arrangements for the Exhibition to such a point as should justify the issue of official invitations to the Governments of foreign countries. Doubtless Japan will now set about preparations with all possible expedition.

RETURN TO OLD TIMES.

IN the last issue of the *Tensoku*, a Tokyo magazine of very high standing, the following paragraph appeared among the miscellaneous items of news:—"The editor of the *Japan Mail* says that in the West it does not show a want of respect to look down from an elevated place on the Imperial cortége. The statement itself is a rudeness. The Occident is the Occident: Japan is Japan. Foreigners cannot be suffered to come to Japan and practise their own customs here in violation of Japanese etiquette. The conduct of the bettoes (*i.e.* at the Russian Legation), need not be specially blamed, seeing that such fellows are little better than animals, but the only plan to pursue with regard to the ugly barbarians is that the youth of Japan who possess muscle and manliness should unite their strength to eradicate such rudeness and to strike terror into their hearts."

* * *

With reference to this extraordinary paragraph, the following letter has been published by the *Jiji Shimpo*:—

TO THE EDITOR "JIJI SHIMPO."

SIR,—I enclose a paragraph which appeared in the *Tensoku* Magazine of the 17th instant. It seems to call for immediate correction, being eminently calculated to inflame Japanese against foreigners, and to provoke a breach of the peace. The writer of the paragraph charges the *Japan Mail* with having asserted, in effect, that the etiquette observed in foreign countries may with propriety be observed by foreigners in Japan in their intercourse with Japanese, whether such etiquette is opposed to or in conformity with Japanese customs. Nothing of the kind has ever been published in the *Japan Mail*. All foreigners agree that it is their duty to behave towards the Sovereign of Japan according to the methods prescribed by Japanese etiquette. The Japanese consider it impolite to look down from a high place on the Imperial cortege as it passes. Such an act would not be in the smallest degree impolite in Europe, but since it is considered impolite in Japan, every respectable foreigner deems himself bound to abstain from it. May I ask you to publish this correction in your widely circulating columns, so that the error may not remain uncorrected until the next issue of the *Tensoku*, a month hence. I may add, in conclusion, that I cannot believe that the paragraph in the *Tensoku* was inserted with the Editor's knowledge. The epithet applied there to foreigners, and the direct attempt to excite the youth of Japan to acts of violence against them, are too disgraceful to be wittingly admitted by any respectable journal or periodical.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDITOR "JAPAN MAIL."

Yokohama, December 22nd, 1890.

* * *

The *Tensoku* was formerly edited by Mr. Kato Hiroyuki, now President of the Imperial University, but Mr. Kato ceased a few months ago to perform editorial functions, and the magazine came under the direction of five or six literateurs and scholars of distinction. Mr. Kato did not, however, sever his connection with the *Tensoku*. He continues to write for it, and this fact, together with the general excellence of the periodical, secure it large circulation and influence among the student classes. In no publication should we have been less prepared to find a paragraph such as that translated above; a paragraph redolent of the worst anti-foreign spirit, and distinctly calculated to provoke breaches of the peace. The word applied to foreigners (*Shuriyo*=ugly barbarians) had passed, we hoped, almost completely out of the Japanese vocabulary: at all events, the columns of the *Tensoku* were the last place where we should have looked for its revival. There is one thing only to be urged in extenuation of such writing, and that is that the chief editors of a periodical like the *Tensoku* exercise no efficient supervision over the contents of the miscellaneous news column. A pleasant fiction prevails in Japanese journalistic circles that an editor is only responsible for what emanates from his own pen. The strong probability is that not one of the distinguished literateurs connected with the *Tensoku* magazine had any conception that such a paragraph had been inserted, or gave himself any thought about the matter which the newspaper hack charged with the function of padding might choose to insert. A peculiar fashion of conducting a periodical, it must be admitted, but since it is the fashion we mention it to obviate any suspicion that Mr. Kato Hiroyuki and his brother-editors sanctioned or inspired the disgraceful paragraph. We do them the justice of believing them quite incapable of anything of the kind.

A PROTEST.

WE cannot but enter a strong protest against the glaringly unfair and ungeneroous treatment which the new editor of the *Japan Gazette* is already receiving. Long before he assumed editorial charge, he became the object of snarling malicious attacks, and now when only two or three numbers of the paper he edits have appeared, every effort is being made to held him up to public obloquy and scorn. It is, of course, none of our business to defend a brother editor. We should be sorry to be guilty of such an impertinence. What we desire to speak of is the general aspect of this question. Is it, we would ask, is it absolutely necessary that this settlement should be kept in a perennial state of bickering and yapping merely because it happens to be cursed with the presence of a man who has ceased to be capable of exercising any faculties save those of slandering, backbiting, imprecating, and maligning? Are we never to have anything resembling peace and quiet, and is rational discussion to be perpetually impossible? It is a public nuisance of the most offensive and mischievous character that a newspaper should be published here having no other purpose than to stir up bad blood and to keep the air full of venom and animosity. The reception accorded to the new *Japan Gazette* illustrates the situation. From the very outset malicious anathemas and truculent abuse were hurled at the editor's head, and every possible effort was made to bait him into some display of anger and resentment. We do not believe that there can be many people in Yokohama sufficiently degraded to find amusement in such a miserable spectacle, or sufficiently fond of wanton quarrelling and mischief-making to sympathise with a man who lives solely on the ill-will he creates.

A NEW LIBRARY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

WHEN the "English Men of Letters" series began to came out a few years ago, it was generally felt that a boon had been conferred upon the reading public. The prominent firm of Messrs. Macmillan, who were the publishers, secured the assistance of the best literary talent available. Mr. John Morley acted as editor, and some of the volumes are masterpieces in their way. The editor's own *Burke*, Mark Pattison's *Milton*, Myer's *Wordsworth*, Symonds's *Shelley*, Cotter Morison's *Macaulay*, are brilliant and suggestive compendiums of all that is most valuable to know regarding these several writers. Some of the series, though the work of competent hands, it is true, are scarcely on the same high level. Goldwin Smith's *Cowper*, for instance, strikes us as slightly perfunctory and distinctly unsympathetic; Minto's *Defoe* is indigestible; Henry James's *Hawthorne* is somewhat crotchety. But these are unimportant blemishes—the series as a whole forms an invaluable shelf in a literary library. Encouraged by the success of these brochures, a less-known London publisher, originally hailing from the North of England, has commenced a series on much the same lines. With Mr. Eric Robertson as editor—a young Scotchman who is Professor of English Literature in one of the Indian universities—Mr. Walter Scott has already published over thirty lives of Great Writers, in this case embracing Hugo, Goethe, Schiller, and other of the continental masters, and more volumes are promised. It is difficult to speak too highly of these little volumes, which are offered to the public at a marvellously cheap price; not in paper covers, like the red shilling reprints of the "English Men of Letters" series, but handsomely bound in cloth. Two initial advantages have these books over the earlier series; they are indexed, no little aid to the student in after reference, and they have appended an invaluable bibliography of the author, by Mr. John Anderson of the British Museum. If we compare the new series with the old, we shall find the newer essays in several cases more able and sympathetic, and in all cases at least comparable. Specially good are Garnett's *Carlyle*, Blackie's *Burns*, and Marzials's *Dickens*. Accompanying this series, and from the same press, there appear in quick succession volumes of the "Canterbury Poets," little books for the pocket prettily bound in buff and gold, with red edges. The price again is one shilling, and each volume contains from 300 to 350 pages. The editor is Mr. William Sharp, a name well-known in London literary circles, who himself edits Shakspeare's *Sonnets, Poems and Songs, Sonnets of the Century*, and Scott's poems. A series of prose writings, called the "Camelot Series," published at the same price, but of a larger size and in less dainty binding, also receives monthly additions and now includes the Letters of Shelley and Byron, essays by Lowell and Leigh Hunt, de Quincey's *Confessions of an Opium Eater*, and various other interesting works. Truly, this an age of cheap and dainty literature.

THE ASIATIC QUARTERLY REVIEW

A FEW months ago we reported that the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* was about to cease publication, Sir Lepel Griffin, the proprietor, being

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tired of it, and having failed to secure a purchaser. It was generally understood that the April number would be the last, and so indeed it would have been were it not that at the last moment a purchaser did step in just in time to produce the July number. This was Dr. Leitner, the former head of the Punjaub University, at Lahore, and now the head of the Oriental Institute at Woking near London. The July and October numbers were brought out under Dr. Leitner's editorship, and they could scarcely be said to show any falling off from the magazine under Mr. Boulger's editorship. Mr. Boulger, by the way, apparently continues to aid the magazine as a contributor. But Dr. Leitner is nothing if not energetic, and as the magazine was not a great success while Sir Lepel Griffin was proprietor, he is about to enlarge its scope and make another bid for popularity. He has changed his publishers from Fisher and Unwin, to Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., and from the commencement of the New Year he proposes to extend the scope of the *Review* to Africa and the colonies generally, and to call it *The Asiatic Quarterly Review and Oriental and Colonial Record*. The October number, by the way, contains an article by General Tcheng-ki-tong, whom the editor describes as "His Excellency." The article is entitled "China: a sketch of its social organisation and state economy." It is in the General's usual style. "You in Europe think a good deal of yourselves; but we in China have got all that you are proudest of and had it when you were still in a state of barbarism, and we have very much more also." For instance what more delightful explanation of Chinese conservatism could there be than this:—"With us theories do not rank higher than experience; we do not confound mere change with improvement; we hesitate to adopt innovation and to subvert our institutions merely to see what will come of it; and we are averse to experimenting with the happiness and lives of our millions; this is our sin in the eyes of Europe." And so the article goes on, everything is delightful in China, and is based upon the domestic affections, upon the relationship of parents and children; the dead are never forgotten in China as in the West. "We carry them to the hills nearer to the skies, and they are in the midst of eternal nature; they sleep undisturbed their eternal sleep. Their memories are ever kept fresh, and their deeds are recorded as an example to future generations." The concluding paragraph from the General's article reads curiously in the light of our knowledge of recent Chinese famines, and of the methods by which relief has been afforded to starving populations spread over vast areas. "I should have liked to describe state administration more in detail than I have done; to speak of the granaries established in every province to counteract the danger of famines, and especially to have given a consecutive history of the present marvellous system of canalization and irrigation in our country; how our means of communication are of an unrivalled perfection and cheapness, through the medium of our rivers and canals, and how these same rivers are used for the fertilization of the whole country, and give rise to an extensive system of pisciculture throughout the Empire." The General it will be observed applies a pretty thick lacquer to the cracks and crevices of Chinese administration. He is like the horse dealer who with mercury and other deleterious compounds has made a broken down old screw to put on for an hour or two the appearance of a Derby favourite.

THE LATE MR. HARDING.

By the death of Mr. H. Harding, which took place on Sunday, Yokohama has lost one of her oldest residents. Mr. Harding came to Japan in the early years of foreign intercourse with this country, being a trooper in the escort of Her Majesty's Minister and was present at many of the events which marked the history of that exciting time. He rode in the escort of Sir Harry Parkes when the fanatical attack on that Minister's retinue was made during its progress to Kyoto; was an eye-witness of the daring bravery of the present Minister of State for Communications, which Queen Victoria recognised by the present to Count Goto of a handsome sword; and was if, we are not mistaken, himself severely cut by one of the assailants. Since the death of his wife about a year ago Mr. Harding has been gradually breaking up, and the end was not at all unexpected. A kindly, simple-hearted man, of sterling honesty, Mr. Harding had not an enemy in the place, and many a needy soul has had cause to be grateful for the well-timed bounty of the benevolent couple whose places are now vacant among us.

* * *

The interment of the remains of Mr. H. Harding took place on Monday in the General Cemetery. A short service was held in Christ Church, at 4 o'clock, Rev. C. G. Gardner, and Mr. W. T. Austen officiating. The coffin was then, Miss Leach playing the "Dead March in Saul," on the organ, carried to the hearse and conveyed to the cemetery, Dr. Wheeler, and Messrs. Jas Martin, junr., E. A. Bird, M. Russell, B. H. Pratt, J. L. O. Eyton, A. Patterson, and W. Mann being pall bearers. After the usual services at the cemetery the coffin was deposited alongside that of Mrs. Harding, who died on December 11th, 1889, and on whose tombstone space was left in which to record the death of her husband, who has now followed her at the end of a year. Despite the bitterly cold weather, a large number of mourners attended the services both in the Church and at the Cemetery, and many beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave.

A NEW GUN.

A PUBLIC company is being formed in London for the production of a new fire-arm, the invention of M. Paul Giffard. The title of the company is the International (Giffard) Gun and Ordinance Company, Limited, and the following is extracted from the prospectus:—

In 1853, in conjunction with his brother Henry, Monsieur Paul Giffard invented the well-known Giffard injector, which is now very largely used in works using steam power. From that period up to 1855, the energies of the two brothers were directed towards further scientific discoveries. Monsieur Paul Giffard is the original inventor of the cold air machine (or refrigerator) used for the preservation of fresh meat, &c., and in 1879 was the successful competitor with that invention at the Academy of Science and Medicine, the Society of Health, and at the Municipal Council of Paris, against thirty-two European and foreign competitors, consisting of the most noted engineers. He is also the inventor of the piston bearing his name, together with various apparatus for the production of vacuum, and for the liquefaction of gases.

Since the year 1874 the delivery of telegraphic letters in Paris has been effected with extraordinary rapidity by M. Paul Giffard's Pneumatic Tube System, which has now been applied throughout Paris. In 1871 he commenced his practical experiments at the works of the Paris Gas Company for the compression of steam and air, and the liquefaction of gases. The result has been the invention by M. Paul Giffard of his method for the production of liquefied gas, in a form which is under absolute control, as a substitute for gunpowder or other explosives.

The liquefied-gas gun appears to be destined to create a new era in the manufacture and use of all classes of sporting guns and rifles, also pistols and saloon arms. By it many of the difficulties which hinder the adoption of magazine rifles are obviated. Guns of 6, 8, and 12 millimetres are capable, according to their calibre, of firing from 50 to 300 consecutive shots without recharging.

The following are the claims by M. Paul Giffard in respect of his new liquefied gas gun:—

1. Absence of the usual report, fire, smoke, dirt, and smell.
2. Great precision, the force used being capable of the most accurate adjustment.
3. No recoil.
4. No heating of the gun, even when fired with the greatest rapidity.
5. The gun is small, light, and inexpensive, and can be handled with perfect safety.
6. The projective power does not deteriorate, but is as effective after a lapse of twelve months as when the reservoir or cartridge is first loaded, and is not affected by damp.
7. The reservoir containing the liquefied gas is small and light, and the cost is very small.
8. Spherical or elongated conical bullets and small shot can be used.

The guns can be seen and tried at the offices of the Company on application to the Secretary.

CALENDARS.

AMONG the calendars received this year from various firms and offices, two call for special notice. The first bears the name of Mr. Tamamura, the well known photographer of Bentendori. It is a beautiful object. Three-fourths of a portly sheet of cardboard are occupied by a finely executed chromolithograph of red chrysanthemums, the calendar itself being contained in a bundle of diminutive slips fastened to the card-board with green silk-braid, a loop of which material also serves to suspend the sheet. A pretty and at the same time costly gift, we trust that this calendar may be taken as an indication of Mr. Tamamura's prosperity. The second calendar comes from the great Tokyo firm of Messrs. Maruya and Company. It aims at being useful rather than artistic, but the lettering and the borders of red and gold are so skilfully designed and happily executed that the whole constitutes a decidedly attractive object. The calendar consists of two columns, the one showing the Occidental almanac, the other the Japanese. All sorts of useful information is given. We have a conspicuous list of the Japanese holidays and their meaning. We have a division of the months into long (*dai*) and short (*sho*); a concise and clear arrangement for connecting the lunar calendar with the old Japanese circular reckoning, and an easily understood list of the vital days of the year from a Japanese point of view. Messrs. Maruya and Company's calendar is certainly the most serviceable we have yet seen for the purposes of people living in Japan.

THE ADVOCATES' BILL.

THE business to be considered by the House of Lords to-day, on the re-assembly of the Diet after the New Year's recess, is the second reading of the Barristers' Bill—or the Advocates' Bill as it might perhaps be more appropriately called. We have already expressed our strong hopes that the House will pass the Bill, since we are fully persuaded that the measure would be of immense utility to the sound progress of the Japanese judiciary. The Bill itself is only a small part of the proposed legislation. If it passes the Diet, the next step would be the issue of regulations by the Minister of State for Justice, according to which the advocates of the Supreme Court, of the several Appeal Courts, and of the most important Courts of First Instance would have to organise themselves into chapters, constituting virtually self-governing bodies with library fund, charity fund and so forth. Every practising advocate would have to belong to a chapter, and upon chapters would devolve the function of examining into professional shortcomings and performing other duties similar to those of the Benchers in England. In a word, the measure aims at elevating the status of the Bar directly, and of the Bench vicariously, and we fail to see how there can be any second opinion about the benefits it would confer on the country.

THE "TENSOKU" AND THE "JAPAN MAIL."

A CORRESPONDENT points out that a passage in the letter addressed by the editor of this journal to the *Jiji Shimpo*, with refence to the extraordinary note which appeared in the last issue of the *Tensoku* magazine, may possibly give rise to misunderstanding. The passage is:—"The Japanese consider it impolite to look down from a high place on the Imperial cortége as it passes. Such an act would not be in the smallest degree impolite in Europe, but since it is considered impolite in Japan, every respectable foreigner deems himself bound to abstain from it." Our correspondent observes that this passage should be supplemented by the condition "provided that the foreigner has any knowledge of the Japanese rule." We did not think it necessary to add so obvious a proviso. The particular custom referred to by the *Tensoku* is one of which very few foreigners can have any knowledge. It is a custom rapidly becoming obsolete. In the House of Peers itself there is a gallery from which all the foreigners and Japanese invited to be present at the ceremony of opening the Diet looked down on the Throne and the Emperor, and we have ourselves seen Japanese soldiers looking out of the windows of their barracks as the Emperor passed. The *Tensoku* brought against us a

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general accusation of justifying the observance of foreign etiquette by foreigners in Japan, whether it be opposed to Japanese etiquette or no. We distinctly repudiate the charge, and say that every respectable foreigner is perfectly willing to observe Japanese etiquette in Japan, provided that he knows what Japanese etiquette is. But the most courteous and considerate foreigner may err through inadvertence, especially when, as in this case, there is question of an obscure and peculiar custom which is fast becoming obsolete, which is not universally observed by the Japanese themselves, and which is distinctly violated by the arrangements made for the reception of visitors within the precincts of the Diet itself. We may add, too, that while foreigners in general, and above all such foreigners as were assembled in the pavilion of the Russian Legation garden on the 29th of November, are willing and anxious to avoid every act calculated to offend Japanese susceptibilities, the line must be drawn somewhere. The Japanese themselves, when they go abroad, are not required to observe all the national customs of the countries they visit, and they cannot expect foreigners in Japan to be invariably posted in every little detail of Japanese etiquette. Previously to the incident of last November there were probably not a hundred foreigners in Japan who possessed any knowledge of the peculiar notion that the Sovereign must not be looked down on, and even among these exceptionally well-informed persons we venture to say that half would have honestly regarded the idea as one no longer observed in practice. We are entirely ready to respect Japanese etiquette, but we expect the Japanese, on their side, to behave like reasonable beings, and not to employ savage methods of resenting every unwitting breach of their special and elsewhere unrecognised rules.

THE ALLEGED BRIBERY OF MEMBERS.

It appears that some active politicians are determined not to lose such an opportunity as that afforded by the alleged bribery of certain members of the Budget Committee. Bribery on a most munificent scale it must have been, if rumour be credited, for certainly we are not asked to believe that the Committee-men who voted for wholesale reduction of the estimates had their pockets lined by a benevolent Government, and if we eliminate these, the large majority of the Committee, it results that a sum of one hundred and seventy thousand *yen* on the part of the Treasury and fifty thousand *yen* on the part of the Japan Mail Steamship Company were divided among about twenty members, so that each must have received about eleven thousand *yen*. Professing to credit this wonderful story, some busy Committee-men are, says the *Hochi Shimbun*, taking active steps to bring the matter before the constituencies of the unprincipled members, with the object of having them driven out of their seats and out of decent society. It is a curious phase of political agitation. We cannot believe a word of the story ourselves, but since it has found so many to circulate it, we trust that a thorough investigation will be made. Doubtless attention will be drawn to the rumour when the Diet re-assembles, for when journals of the *Hochi Shimbun's* standing lend their columns to ventilate it, the House of Representatives can scarcely afford to remain entirely silent.

THE RESIGNATION OF COUNT YAMADA.

Writing of the resignation of the Minister of State for Justice, the *Jiji Shimpo* says:—Count Yamada sent in his resignation on the plea of indisposition, but His Majesty the Emperor would not allow him to resign, and gave him instead leave of absence for the benefit of his health, appointing Count Oki, President of the Privy Council, to act as temporary Minister of State for Justice. Count Yamada was strongly in favour of the immediate enforcement of the new Code, and had resolved to resign office if his view was not adopted, but the conduct of the Cabinet in dealing with the matter of postponement served to quicken his resolution. The Cabinet Ministers, it seems, had signed their names for approval of the Bill of postponement before it was brought to Count Yamada to sign, or he would have at once sent in his resignation, and on finding it not accepted might have sacrificed his inclination for the sake of the general interest of the Government and continued to control Judicial affairs in accordance with public opinion. Having at length resolved to resign, he would not sign the document to be submitted to His Majesty recommending approval of postponement, on the ground that as he had presented to the Emperor his written views pointing out the necessity of enforcement of the Commercial Code, and had also personally answered His Majesty's gracious questions on the subject, he could not now sign a document asking for His Majesty's approval of postponement. This action of the Count's caused the delay in the issue of the Imperial approval of the Bill for postponement, and, finally, as he would not listen to the arguments of his colleagues, Count Oki was temporarily appointed to act for him, and signed the Bill as Minister of State for Justice. Under such circumstances, although his resignation has not been accepted, Count Yamada most probably will not consent to resume his post.

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The *Tokyo Shimpo* says:—The resignation of Count Yamada simply urges his inability to attend to his official duties through illness. He is said to be really ill, but at the same time there can be no doubt as to his resolution having been formed on account of the postponement of enforcement of the Commercial Code, The Government decided for postponement, showing the importance attached to the resolutions of the Diet. If there had been involved any question of altering the policy hitherto pursued by the Government, all the Cabinet Ministers, beginning with the Minister President, should have resigned, and in such an event the duty of the Government would first be to dissolve the Diet. But in the present case there could no objection whatsoever to acquiescing in the resolution of the Diet, and it is really out of the question that the Minister of State for Justice alone should resign. If he cannot attend to his official business during the busy period of the session of the Diet, any of the other Ministers of State may temporarily take his place until he regains health. Count Yamagata is said to have remarked that he himself would act in the Count's stead for any number of days during the illness of the latter, and that Count Yamada need not feel so much concerned on account of a resolution formed by the Diet. It is stated that His Majesty the Emperor will not accept the resignation under any circumstances.

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The *Yomiuri Shimbun* says:—The date of operation of the Commercial Code framed by Count Yamada, Minister of State for Justice, after many years of patient and laborious work, was, without much opposition, postponed at the very commencement of the first session of the Diet, and in consequence the Minister of State for Justice has decided to present his resignation. While we regret that the Minister has given to this unfortunate incident an important place in the first page of the annals of our national assembly, at the same time we must congratulate him on the respect in which he evidently holds the responsibility of a Minister of a Constitutional State and on the precedent which he has formed to guide the movements of Ministers in future. He has sent in his resignation twice, and his resolution seems unchangeable, so that it may be the Emperor will find it necessary in the end to grant his request. For ourselves, we are chiefly anxious that Count Yamada should comport himself as becomes a Minister of a Constitutional State, and we should not attempt to retain him at his post. We regret to say, however, that we think his resignation was premature. There is at present before the Diet a bill amending the Law for the organization of the Law Courts, which is not less important than the Commercial Code, and should this bill pass, the system of *Gōgi-saiban* (Collegiate Courts) on which the Minister is known to have set his heart, will share the same fate as the Commercial Code. In resigning before the fate of this bill is known, we think the Minister has acted rashly considering his grave responsibility in connection with it. We admire Count Yamada's integrity, but we cannot say that his courage has been conspicuous in his present conduct.

THE SITUATION IN JAPAN.

This is what the *American* has to say about affairs in Japan:—"The situation in Japan has not become more quiet since the elections to Parliament. The reconstruction of political parties has been going on with reference to the control of a majority. Many Liberal groups have at last agreed to form a Constitutional Liberal party, in opposition both to the radical advocates of change and the ossified Conservatives. A large number of members-elect have given their adherence to this programme; but it has also excited the bitterest opposition apparently among the Radicals, and two of its leaders have had a narrow escape from assassination. The Ministry has been reopening the negotiations for Treaty revision, with especial reference to the abolition of the extra-territorial jurisdiction exercised by foreign consuls over cases in which one or both parties is a foreign resident. The plan formerly suggested has not proved acceptable to the people, so another has been devised with a view to obviating popular objections. But this has in turn roused the opposition of the British residents at Yokohama and other ports, who especially object to their being subjected to the new Japanese Code, which is modeled after that of France, and contains no such provision as the writ of Habeas Corpus or trial by jury. They fear the English Government is inclined to assent to the new proposal, which is to subject all residents outside the limits specified by the old Treaties to Japanese jurisdiction at once, and all within the limits after five years, and this without the safeguard of placing foreign judges on the Japanese bench,—the provision which aroused so much wrath among the common people. They transmitted their objections to the British Foreign Office in a series of resolutions, which have called out a fire of sharp criticism from the Japanese press. Certainly, an Englishman who must have the benefits of the English methods of judicial procedure, and cannot put up in Japan with what he would have to accept in France or Germany, and much more than he could look for in Russia, should keep out of any country but his own and its dependencies. He has no business to demand that the autonomy of a friendly Power shall be sacrificed to his preference for the methods of Newgate and Westminster. But it is hardly to be expected that a Jingo government in London will see this."

SULPHUR MINING IN HOKKAIDO.

The port of Kushiro on the north-east coast of Hokkaido has, in virtue of a bill recently passed by the Houses of the Diet, been added to the list of special ports of exportation. The principal product to be exported from Kushiro is sulphur, though coal and probably some marine products may also find shipment thence. According to an article in a recent number of the *Koku-Hon*, the sulphur deposits in the island of Hokkaido are of two kinds, namely, those found on the surface of volcanic mountains, and those found in layers in beds of volcanic ashes. Only one deposit, that at Esan, not far from Hakodate, belongs to the latter class, the rest being all of the former description. The *Koku-Hon* mentions a dozen deposits, two in the Province of Kushiro, two in Toshima, one in Shiribeshi, one in Kitani, four in the islands of Chishima, one in Etorofu, and one in Ishikari. The best known of these deposits is that at Atosanobori in the province of Kushiro. The quantity of the mineral produced in 1884 was 2,096,945 *kwan* (1 *kwan* = 8¼ lbs. avord.), in 1885, 3,074,062 *kwan*; in 1886, 3,418,002 *kwan*; in 1887, 8,600,280 *kwan*; and in 1888, 13,306,559 *kwan*. The value of sulphur ex-

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ported to foreign countries during 1889 from the port of Hakodate, amounted to about 220,000 *yen*. There being a near prospect of seeing Sapporo and Nemuro (some 50 miles to the north of Kushiro) connected by a waggon road running through nearly the centre of the island, it may be expected that, with the further construction of some short roads and the improvement of a few river courses, several rich deposits hitherto unapproachable from the coast will be successfully opened up.

THE SOSHI.

A PARTY of *soshi* distinguished themselves on the 7th instant in a manner which will lead, we trust, to severe measures of repression. The members of the Yayoi Club, who belong almost entirely to the *Rikken Jiyu-to* party, assembled on that day at the Yayoisha in Shiba Park, and opened a meeting to discuss the report of the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives. Mr. Matsuda Masahisa was in the chair, and 74 members were present. Just as the debate opened at about-half past twelve in the afternoon, some twenty *soshi* entered the precincts of the club without notice of any kind. Twelve or thirteen of them immediately passed to the meeting room up-stairs, and breaking in, began to cry out that certain members of the *Jiyu-to* had received bribes from the *Kaishin-to*. This is a novel form of accusation. Hitherto it had been rumoured that the supposed bribes came from the Government and the Japan Mail Steamship Company, but the idea of the *soshi* was that the *Kaishin-to* folk had been tampering with the integrity of the Radicals, and acting upon this conviction, they burst like a thunder-chap into the Yayoi assembly. Seated on the right of the President was Mr. Uyeki Yemori, a gentleman who has already become conspicuous in the House of Representatives for the very un-Japanese warmth of his language and vigour of his gestures. Against Mr. Uyeki the invading *soshi* seem to have been particularly irate. They called to him to come over to them, but Mr. Uyeki not seeing the force of delivering himself over to a dozen hot-headed youths armed with bludgeons, shouted out that he should do nothing of the kind. Thereupon six or seven of the *soshi* sprang forward and began to rain blows upon him with their sticks. In a moment the whole room was in an uproar. The members, having no weapon but the chairs on which they sat, seized these and charged the *soshi*, who finding themselves so powerfully assailed, turned their attention to flight. Strange to say they succeeded in getting away, with two exceptions, Okada Chiusuke and Yamada Kaneo, who were seized by the *jinrikisha* coolies of the members and handed over to the police. It was found that Mr. Uyeki had lost much blood and received a nasty beating, and that another member, Mr. Yasuda Yuitsu, had also been roughly handled, but no serious injury was done to anyone. It is somewhat difficult to understand how any of the *soshi* were allowed to make their escape. The seventy members of the Yayoi Club should certainly have been able to arrest every one of the dozen youths who intruded into the upper storey of the building, whereas, had it not been for the *jinrikisha*-men below, no arrests would have been effected at all. The two men seized are said to be natives of Ishikawa Prefecture, and to be connected with the *Yeishinsha*, which, we believe, is a branch of the *Kokumin-Jiyu-to*. But the truth is that no one seems competent to identify any particular *soshi*, or to determine their political connections. Ever since the *Rikken-Jiyu-to* began to hold meetings at the Yayoi Club, the precincts of that place have been infested by youths generally supposed to be *soshi*, and supposed also to be in the pay of members of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. What is quite certain is that these *soshi* are maintained by politicians, who perhaps employed them originally without any definite purpose, and who now find themselves unable to shake them off. The law, of course, will not be able to inflict on Messrs. Okada and Yamada any punishment more severe than that attaching to a common assault, but possibly the members of the Diet who voted with such alacrity for the abolition of the Peace Preservation Regulations may be beginning to think by this time that special legislation is not such a bad thing under certain circumstances.

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After the *soshi* had taken their departure, the meeting at the Yayoisha resumed its deliberations, and finally decided that the Budget must be reduced to the extent of 8,600,000 *yen*. Of the seventy-four members present, 42 voted for this reduction and 32 against it. It may be assumed that the *Kaishin-to* members of the Diet will also vote solid for the reduction, but if out of 74 *Rikken Jiyu-to* representatives, a majority of only ten approved the measure, there is apparently a prospect of a pretty close division in the Lower House.

THE LATE MR. NEESHIMA.

AMONG the Japanese who had the courage to make their way abroad in search of knowledge in the days when to leave the country involved a penalty of death, one of the most earnest and enthusiastic was Mr. Nishima—or Neeshima as his name afterwards came to be spelled for phonetic purposes. A strange influence was at work among Japanese in those early days. We are accustomed to speak of the Restoration as the climax of a political movement inspired partly by the ambition of feudal clans hostile to the Tokugawa, and partly by a wide-spread conviction that unless the Government were centralized and the disintegrated forces of the country united, Japan could not maintain her independence. But it is certain that without considering the question at all from a political standpoint, many a Japanese felt himself impelled by an influence which he did not think of analysing, to study foreign sciences and even foreign creeds, and to labour for the introduction of foreign systems into Japan. The time had come in fact for national awakening. The impulse was in the air and men unconsciously obeyed it. Mr. Nishima, at sixteen years of age, came across an atlas of the United States, with some account of American institutions written in Chinese. This was the turning point of his career. He set himself at once to study a foreign language. English would have been his choice, but like many another of his contemporaries he was obliged to begin with Dutch, and his secret attempts to gain instruction in that language cost him all sorts of ill-usage and suffering. At 21 he managed to get to Hakodate, where he was taken up by Father Nicolai, in whose house he remained for some time. But nothing short of a trip to America or Europe would satisfy Nishima. The story of his departure from Japan is characteristic of the time. Smuggled on board a Shanghai schooner in the disguise of a woman, he lay hid there under a pile of clothes in the captain's cabin while Japanese officials searched the ship. His voyage to Shanghai and thence to America involved nothing worse than working in a menial position, but he seems to have felt this very keenly despite the kindness of the captain, who helped him to study English. From the day of his arrival in America, however, he met with nothing but the most generous treatment. The book from which we extract these details—"A sketch of the Life of the Rev. J. H. Neeshima, LL.D., by the Rev. J. D. Davis, D.D.—makes only the briefest possible allusion to the philanthropy experienced by the young Japanese exile in the United States, but the facts stand out none the less prominently. Mr. Alpheus Hardy, the owner of the ship that carried Nishima to America, no sooner heard the youth's story than he charged himself with the duty of maintaining and educating him, and thenceforth, during a period of more than twenty-five years, this noble benevolence continued to be exercised, the funds originally given for Nishima's support being subsequently devoted to the cause which he had at heart. Nishima was undoubtedly destined to be a Christian propagandist. It may be that a brighter light was shed on the Occidental faith by the noble generosity which he himself experienced at Christian hands. But even before he reached America his diaries show that the whole current of his being had set in one direction. Fortune favoured him. When the Iwakura mission passed through the United States in 1871-72, Nishima had already been seven years in the States, and the heads of the mission found him so useful that they gave him not only a written pardon for the capital crime of going abroad without permission, but also a document according to him the privilege of teaching Christianity when he should return to Japan. Not for three years longer, however, did he think his education sufficiently advanced to leave the States, and the last scene of his residence there was not the least remarkable incident in his career. He had determined that by some means or other a Christian college must be founded in Japan, and being invited to say some parting words before leaving the States at the annual meeting of the American Board, he took the opportunity of announcing his project and appealing for help. He seems to have spoken with extraordinary feeling, and at the end of his address Governor Page of Vermont stood up and said "Put me down for a thousand dollars." Several others followed with five hundred each, or smaller sums, and thus five thousand dollars were subscribed which formed the nucleus of the large sums subsequently expended to build and equip the Doshisha in Kyoto, one of the chief Christian educational establishments in Japan. Mr. Nishima was, in fact, the father of the Doshisha. The relations he had established with the members of the Iwakura Mission, afterwards the leading statesmen of Japan, proved of immense benefit in furthering the cause of religious liberty in Japan, and enabled him to accomplish more for the interests of Christian propagandism than has ever been achieved by any other Japanese. It is interesting to learn from these records that the Doshisha was not founded entirely by American money. In 1888 Mr. Nishima had the good fortune to enlist Count Inouye's sympathies. Invited to that statesman's house, he met a number of the leading officials and merchants of the capital, and the result was that a sum of 31,000 *yen* was at once subscribed, Counts Inouye and Okuma giving a thousand *yen* each, Viscount Aoki five hundred, and Messrs. R. Hara, K. Iwasaki, K. Okura, A. Tanaka, Y. Shibusawa, Y. Iwasaki, H. Hiranuma, and K. Masuda contributing the remaining 28,500 *yen*. This signal success must have greatly brightened the closing months of Mr. Nishima's life. Already incessant work and wearing anxiety had preyed upon a constitution not naturally strong, and as the Doshisha advanced with rapid strides to be a college of which any country might be proud, its indefatigable projector was sinking quietly into his grave. On January 23rd, 1890, he died at Koiso in his 47th year. The reverence and love felt for him by all those with whom he had been brought into contact were touchingly showed in the scenes that marked his interment at Kyoto; scenes set down with simplicity that adds to their force in Dr. Davis' narrative. It seems to us, reading the story of this remarkable man's life, that his memory is destined to occupy a permanently prominent place in the history of Japanese Christianity. He possessed in an eminent degree the qualities of a great reformer, unbounded hopefulness and the widest charity. Every moment of his life was devoted to the cause he had espoused, and the strong earnestness that carried him through many early difficulties was reflected in the work of the many brave helpers who shared his faith and aided his projects. We cannot discover from reading his life how far his influence is responsible for the wise spirit so conspicuous in the policy of the American Board Mission; the policy which indicates that foreign missionaries must more and more content themselves with the position of advisers in this country. It is easy to gather that such was Mr. Nishima's view, but we are disposed to think that the leading members of the American Board needed no suggestion from without on such a subject. Still the record of Mr. Nishima's life will undoubtedly help materially to confirm that view. For we rise from its perusal with the conviction that whatever funds, whatever trained knowledge foreign pro-

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pagandists may supply, the minute knowledge of Japanese social life and religious needs possessed by native Christians, and in many cases their large personal sacrifices, constitute a contribution on the whole as important as, often indeed far more important than, the contributions furnished from abroad. Japan will be converted by Japanese, and men like Mr. Nishima will be the chief factors in her religious regeneration.

LAW 84 AND THE CONSTITUTION.

THE nature of the discussion which the Diet will soon be required to engage in with reference to Law 84 is clearly set forth by the *Choya Shimbun*. Law 84 provides that breaches of Ordinances may be punished with a fine of not more than 200 *yen* or imprisonment for not more than one year. The party that seek to have this law repealed base their argument on Article 23 of the Constitution, where it is laid down that "no Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried or punished, unless according to law." They interpret this to mean that no punishment except it be in accord with the express provisions of the law, can be imposed upon a Japanese subject, and that, therefore, a punishment prescribed by an Ordinance is unconstitutional. The other side claim that Law 84 is a logical and necessary sequel of the 9th Article of the Constitution, which says:—"The Emperor issues or causes to be issued, the Ordinances necessary for the carrying out of the laws, or for the maintenance of the public peace and order, and for the promotion of the welfare of the subjects. But no Ordinance shall in any way alter any of the existing laws." It is absurd, say these folks, to contend that while the Emperor, by virtue of the Imperial prerogative, is competent to issue ordinances for maintaining public peace and good order, he is not competent to embody punitive provisions in such Ordinances. This branch of the administrative power would be reduced to a mere farce were it contended that the Ordinances referred to in the 9th Article of the Constitution cannot be enforced by any of the usual processes, but must be promulgated merely in the form of requests which people may respect or neglect according to their own convenience. So far as binding effect is concerned, they go on to say, there is not the slightest difference between a law and an Ordinance, except that whereas the former can make alterations in the latter, the converse is distinctly unconstitutional. Two classes of Ordinances, as fully explained in Count Ito's Commentary, are contemplated by the 9th Article of the Constitution, namely, administrative Ordinances issued for the purpose of carrying out laws, and emergency Ordinances issued to take the place of law in times of exigency. There cannot be the slightest doubt, they urge, that with the power to issue the latter Ordinances is associated the power to give them effect by inflicting penalties for their violation. Such are the two contentions. We confess that we agree with the latter.

THE BUDGET AND THE CABINET.

THE *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, in its New Year's number, advises the Cabinet to adopt the plan of reduction reported to have been decided upon by the Committee on the Budget. The Diet is, in the opinion of our contemporary, about to furnish the Ministry with a unique opportunity for accomplishing a task which has long been engaging the constant, though until now unsuccessful, efforts of the Government of the present era. Viewing the matter from this standpoint, the Diet is to be regarded only as an instrument to be used by the Cabinet. The Government has thus far been unable to attain its object of retrenching public expenses, not only because it has not had strength enough for the purpose, but also because the force of circumstances has opposed the carrying out of any decisive measure in the desired sense. By way of illustration, the Tokyo periodical reviews the history of the efforts thus far made by the Government to reduce the expenses of the State. In the years 1882, 1883, and 1884, the same estimates were carried out, but there was a great deficit in every one of these years. At the end of 1885, Count Ito introduced thorough reforms in all the branches of the administration, and laid special stress on the importance of curtailing superfluous expenses. But even he was unable to realize his wish, and the year 1886 witnessed a deficit of more than 8 million *yen*. When Count Okuma re-entered the Cabinet, he was appointed Chairman of a Committee to consider some method of economizing public expenditure. But, nothing ever came of the labours of this Committee, as its Chairman left the Ministry upon the failure of his programme of Treaty Revision. Thus the Government, though always trying to cut down expenses, was every time prevented from doing so by some untoward circumstances. But the Yamagata Cabinet has now obtained a lever in the form of the Diet to lift a stone that caused all preceding Cabinets to stumble. Count Yamagata, in the opinion of the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, is placed in a very fortunate position to accomplish what neither Count Ito nor Count Okuma was capable of accomplishing. At present all the Ministers vie with one another to obtain each for his own Department as large a share of the public allotments as possible; and when at the end of a fiscal year there remains a surplus in any item of expenditure, they always contrive to find some means of using up the surplus, for they fear—we are still quoting our contemporary—that, if they make any refund to the Treasury, they may be called upon to submit to a corresponding reduction in next year's estimates. Evils like this can only be corrected by adopting the plan of reduction which the Diet, or rather the Budget Committee, has determined upon in response to the universal demands of the people. In conclusion, Count Yamagata is recommended to be frank and straightforward with the people's Representatives, for the latter, if they are treated with confidence, will prove loyal and trusty friends to him.

THE BUDGET AND DISSOLUTION.

IT has been asserted, and the rumour obtains pretty general credence, that the real object of the *Kaishin-to* members of the Budget Committee in insisting upon drastic reductions in the estimates, is to bring about a dissolution of Parliament. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, however, which is one of the principal *Kaishin-to* organs, strongly repudiates this idea, and points out that the reform suggested has two precedents in the *Meiji* era. The first was in 1869, when the salaries of heads of Departments—then called *Taiyu*—were cut down from 600 *riyo* monthly to 300 *riyo*, and all inferior officials were subjected to a corresponding reduction of fifty per cent. The second occasion was in 1878, when the salaries of Ministers—then called *Sangi*—were reduced from 500 *yen* monthly to 400 *yen*, and the pay of all officials from *sonin* grade upwards being at the same time diminished by 20 per cent. the Government was able to reduce the land tax from 3 per cent. to 2½ per cent. of the value of the land. These sweeping reforms were made by the Government of its own accord, and to assert now that a similar reform aims at the dissolution of the Diet and is beyond all reason, simply betrays ignorance of modern history. Such is the *Mainichi Shimbun's* view. The degree of conviction carried by it will vary considerably, we imagine.

INFLUENZA.

INFLUENZA is making terrible ravages in Tokyo. Thousands of people are down, and once the disease finds its way into a house there seems to be absolutely no chance of escape for any of the inmates. As yet we have not heard of any fatal cases in the capital. It would appear, indeed, that only persons with weak lungs have anything serious to apprehend. The sickness makes itself felt at the outset in the form of severe headache and feverishness. The fever generally runs its course in about 48 hours, but it is apt to recur, and under any circumstances the weakness and prostration produced are quite out of proportion to the seeming violence of the attack. The total inadequacy of Tokyo's hospital accommodation and supply of nurses is brought into strong relief on an occasion of this kind. In some houses every member of the family and all the servants are struck down, yet it is impossible for love or money to procure a trained nurse. The deficiency excites much comment now that its practical inconvenience is so severely felt, but like the cholera and the water supply, the passing of the emergency will doubtless see people drift back into their usual mood of indolent apathy.

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The severity of the epidemic of influenza now prevailing in Japan may be gathered from statistics published in the vernacular press. We read that out of 130,000 inhabitants of Kobe, 25,000 have been attacked by the disease, and that Yokohama has suffered still more. In the latter place, the number of cases officially reported from the commencement of the epidemic to the 3rd instant was over fifty thousand, and it is supposed that the number of unreported cases throughout the Prefecture must be nearly twice as great. In Tokyo also the disease is raging with great virulence. The official classes are chiefly attacked, seven or eight having been struck down in the Sanitary Bureau alone, of all places. In fact the influenza behaves, in one respect, exactly unlike the cholera, for while the latter chooses its victims among poor people, the former principally invades the well-to-do classes.

NEWSPAPERS IN JAPAN.

IN the vernacular press we find a statement of the number of daily newspapers published in the various Cities and Prefectures of Japan at the beginning of this new year. The following is the list:—Tokyo, 25; Osaka, 5; Hyogo, 6; Niigata, 5; Chiba, 1; Gumma, 1; Nara, 1; Kyoto, 4; Kanagawa, 1; Nagasaki, 2; Saitama, 1; Ibaraki, 1; Tochigi, 1; Miye, 2; Aichi, 4; Shizuoka, 3; Yamanashi, 4; Shiga, 1; Gifu, 4; Nagano, 2; Miyagi, 2; Fukushima, 1; Iwate, 1; Awomori, 2; Yamagata, 2; Akita, 3; Fukui, 2; Ishikawa, 2; Toyama, 3; Tottori, 3; Shimane, 2; Okayama, 3; Hiroshima, 3; Yamaguchi, 1; Wakayama, 1; Tokushima, 3; Kagawa, 2; Yehime, 2; Kochi, 2; Fukuoka, 3; Oita, 3; Saga, 2; Kumamoto, 4; Miyazaki, 2; Kagoshima, 1; Okinawa, 1; Hokkaido, 5; total, 138.

DR. MARTIN IN AMERICA.

DR. W. A. P. MARTIN, president of the Imperial College, Peking, now in New York, spoke on December 9th, on the Mental Life of the Chinese, and refuted the idea that they were merely imitators. He considers that the nation has furnished the world with the most original thinkers, Confucius being only second to Christ as a moralist. Dr. Martin remarked that the Japanese were more quick to apprehend, but the Chinese were more capacious and retentive. He noted the advance in educational matters, in commercial and political thought, and gave a hopeful view of the coming century in that empire.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

THE following corrected issue of the Notice to Mariners, No. 241, in reference to the Anping Light, in the Takow District of the China Sea, has been issued from the Coast Inspector's Office of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs:—Notice is hereby given that the Fort Zelandia Light, No. 18 in the published List of Chinese Lighthouses for 1890, was discontinued on the 3rd November, 1890; and on the same date a new Sixth Order, Fixed, Dioptric, white Light, to be known as the Anping Light, was exhibited upon an iron lattice mast, painted white, which stands at a distance of about 340 yards to the N. 56° 15′ W. from the tree on top of the mound in Fort Zelandia. The Light illuminates the arc of the horizon from S. 38½° W. round by west and north to N. 51½° W. The bearings are magnetic and from seaward. The Light is elevated 32½ feet above the level of the sea, and in clear weather it should be visible at a distance of 10 nautical miles. Approximate position:—Latitude, 23° 0′ 40″ N.; Longitude, 120° 9′ 45″ E. Anchorage.—During the north-

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east monsoon vessels may anchor anywhere in from 5½ to 6 fathoms, with the Light bearing between N. 5° E. and N. 60 E. During the south-west monsoon the best anchorage will be found in from 6 to 7 fathoms, with the Light bearing about N.E. ½ N.

PARNELL.

THE telegrams by the last American mail indicate that Parnell has simply played havoc with the Irish Nationalists. Had he set himself to show that having made the party, he could also unmake it, his success could not have been more signal. Hitherto the great source of his power was a truly wonderful capacity for restraining both himself and his followers. The wild Irish, by whom the shaking of a fist or of a shillelah used always to be gladly greeted as a summons to battle, became under Parnell's leadership orderly, well organized, and patient folks, and the world naturally estimated the intensity of their purpose by the strength of this strange mood. Parnell himself was the very type of the man who waits, the *vir tenax propositi* whom not the thunders of Olympus nor the collapse of firmaments could disturb. Anything less Irish—according to the generally accepted estimate of Irish character—than his manners and methods could not well have been conceived. But now all is changed. The Celtic strain so long held in check has broken loose, and Parnell is careering through Ireland, bandying bravados with his opponents, shrieking maledictions against his quondam friends, and converting the Nationalist camp into a veritable Donnybrook Fair. People now begin to comprehend something about those springs of latent energy which impelled the cold, impassive parliamentary leader to descend fire-escapes and swarm down water-spouts for the sake of a pretty petticoat. Never was there such a kaleidoscopic metamorphosis. Davitt running amock through freize-coated crowds; Parnell vainly trying to clear the lime out of his eyes with a flask of castor-oil and a lead-pencil, or invading the office of the *United Ireland* with bludgeons and a band of roughs; O'Brien and Dillon hurling anathemas across the water, and the wily John Pope Hennesey riding into Parliament on the first wave of mad meeting—these are some of the episodes of the ruin and riot that have overtaken the cause of Nationalism. Gladstone in his eighty-first year experiences a feeling utterly novel to him, hopelessness. He hears the Liberal party asking him with one voice, "Is this the man that you gave us to rule over us," and he feels that the fates have indeed dealt hardly with him in his old age. Englishmen will not follow the banner of Mrs. O'Shea's petticoat, and it is very doubtful whether even Parnell's bands can long support such a standard. But in the meanwhile he has throughly succeeded in converting Irish Nationalism into a house divided against itself. Its strength consisted in unity and organization, and it has lost both of these qualities suddenly and signally. Some Englishmen are throwing their caps into the air over this issue, and hoping that the "unholy union" of Gladstonians and Parnellites may now be severed. But in our opinion the occasion is not by any means one for rejoicing. The Irish question must be settled. The sooner it is settled the better for British interests. Everything that tends to defer settlement is distinctly opposed to British interests. As for the union between Gladstone and Parnell, that, in our opinion, was the best thing that ever happened, for it immediately converted Parnellism from a revolutionary propaganda into a lawful problem of domestic politics. If Irish Nationalism is again to be thrust outside the pale of respectability and again to be consigned to the support of the Fenian and the Moonlighter, Mrs. O'Shea will deserve to be periodically burned in effigy.

COUNT OKUMA AND THE BUDGET.

THE *Mainichi Shimbun* may be trusted to know Count Okuma's opinions, and moreover, the views which it ascribes to him in connection with the Budget are just what we should expect to hear from a statesman of his astuteness and perspicacity. He is represented as having said that while he is entirely at one with the principle of reducing administrative expenditure, and while he recognises reduction to be one of the first duties of Government to-day, he cannot forget that the estimates have a wide and potent bearing upon many national affairs of vast importance. With care and deliberation economies to the extent of five or even six million *yen* may be effected, but unless the greatest judgment be exercised, the results of the attempt may be more harmful than beneficial. Turning to the Army and Navy, Count Okuma pointed out that to bring these services to their present condition has been the work of years, and that any sudden reduction of their resources might involve a national loss out of all proportion with the actual economy effected. So too of educational institutions, which require a long time to bear useful fruit. The slightest rashness in meddling with these might fatally hamper the progress of the country towards its educational goal. On the whole the impression left by the Count's remarks is that he favours economy in affairs connected with the civil service, but that, under any circumstances, he would proceed gradually and slowly.

AN OLD MAN.

KYOTO, says the *Kokumin Shimbun*, can boast a particularly hale old man in the person of Hayashi Mosuke of Takebayashi-machi in the Shimo-kyo district. Hayashi is 112 years old. Every day he drinks 3 pints (1 *sho*) of saké, eats six or seven bowls of rice, and with the aid of his grandson drags a cart containing from two to three hundred *kwan* (1,650lbs. to 2,475 lbs.) of earth.

A PERFORMANCE OF "NO."

WE are requested to state that a performance of *No Kyogen*, on an exceptionally elaborate scale, will be given in the Nogakudo, Shiba Park, on the 11th instant, commencing at 7 a.m. and lasting throughout the day.

THE *Official Gazette*, in an "extra" published on Wednesday evening, announces six days Court mourning, commencing from the 7th and ending on the 12th instant, inclusive, for the Chinese Prince, news of whose death was received in Tokyo on Monday night.

THE following has been fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury as the rate of exchange for the United States gold dollar for the current year: Gold *yen* .99; Silver *yen* .831; Mexican dollar .837.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The news columns of the native papers have been during the present week full of rumours and speculations as to probable changes in the Cabinet. We will allude to some of the principal of these reports. Some people seem to believe that Counts Ito and Okuma have become reconciled, and that the former will become Minister President and the latter Minister of Foreign Affairs. Another report is that Viscount Aoki, Mr. Mutsu, Mr. Yoshikawa, and others have formed an alliance with the purpose of making a Cabinet with Count Goto as Premier. Yet another rumour states that conservative statesmen like Count Soeshima, Count Terashima, Viscount Sano, Viscount Tani, and so forth will succeed the present Ministers. There are also people who mention that Count Kuroda will probably be Count Yamagata's successor. The latest rumour is that Count Inouye is now impatiently expected in the capital by Count Yamagata, who, according to gossip, is desirous of having the whilom Minister of Foreign Affairs mediate between his Cabinet and the Diet.

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Writing on the reported alliance between Count Ito and Count Okuma, the *Kokumin Shimbun* pronounces such an alliance a thing of impossibility. These two statesmen, observes our contemporary, have something in common between them; they are among other things equally distinguished from the rest of Japan's present statesmen by their capacity as constitutional and constructive statesmen. But they are to each other "what a cat is to a dog," and nothing can be more absurd than to imagine them capable of becoming friends. Who ousted Count Okuma in 1881, and who gave the decisive blow to his treaty programme in 1889? Count Ito, indeed, is frank and may be ready to become reconciled to his old foe, but it is not in the nature of Count Okuma to accept any approach on the part of the President of the Upper House. Moreover, Count Ito is now very influential in the Houses of Peers, and, as he has thus splendid hope in the near future, he will not be at all over solicitous to court the friendship of his rival. The *Kokumin Shimbun* thus thinks that nothing is more unlikely than a reconciliation between the two great statesmen.

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The *Hochi Shimbun* has published an extremely interesting series of jottings on the political situation, and describes in a lucid style the positions of the various political parties and of the members of the present Ministry. We will allude to this in a separate note.

* * *

The Budget and the various questions that are related thereto, are now monopolizing the leading columns of the vernacular press. The public is anxiously awaiting the decision of the Representatives. The *Taisei-kwai* members of the Lower House held a meeting on the 6th instant, and decided to support the "moderate" section of the Committee on the Budget, that is those who propose a reduction of about 5 million *yen*. The *Yayoi* Club—consisting of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* members of the Lower House—met on the 7th instant and decided by a majority of 42 against 32 to support the "extreme" section of the Committee, that is a reduction of about 9 million *yen*. It will thus be seen that the *Rikken Jiyu-to* members are not, like the *Kaishin-to* members, unanimous on this question, and it is expected that a section of that party will join the *Taisei-kwai* members to vote for a reduction of 5 million *yen*. Supposing that about 50 out of 130 *Riken Jiyu-to* members belong to this category, and that the whole of the *Kaishin-to* support the radical plan of reduction, the forces will be almost equally balanced; the radical plan receiving the support of 80 *Rikken Jiyu-to* members and 40 *Kaishin-to* members, and the moderate plan being voted for by 50 of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* members and about 70 *Taisei-kwai* members. As to those members who do not belong to any party, it is generally believed that the majority will support the moderate plan of reduction. Thus it is strongly hoped in the circle of intelligent outsiders that the so-called "extreme" section of the Committee on the Budget will fail to carry their proposal.

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Such being the case, the *Kaishin-to* organs, especially the *Mainichi Shimbun*, are very anxious to smooth the path for the success of the plan supported by its party. In a series of two articles, our contemporary tries hard to persuade the Ministers of State that it is their interest and to their credit to adopt the plan of reduction proposed by the *Kaishin-to* members and others; and that, should the Cabinet concur with the Diet on this question, the people's Representatives will heartily support the present Ministers against all the machinations of ambitious statesmen. Like the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, whose utterances on this subject were reproduced in a former issue, the *Mainichi* maintains that the decision of the Diet—should such decision be actually passed—will furnish the Government with a unique opportunity for the accomplishment of a work which has hitherto baffled the successive efforts of statesmen like Counts Ito and Okuma. The Cabinet and the people's Representatives being thus actuated by one and the same desire to lighten the burdens of the nation, there ought not, as some people imagine, says our contemporary, to be any fric-

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tion on this subject between the Executive and the Legislature.

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* concludes a long series of articles on the question in the following strain:—"The retrenchment of public expenses, the reduction of land tax, the abolition of special subsidies, and so forth are approved by the public opinion of the whole country. In order to effectively represent this public opinion and to carry out the wishes of the people, it will be the duty of the members of the Diet to brave a collision with the present Cabinet or even to risk the dissolution of the Diet. For the accomplishment of the object in view, no one should regret either to work to the utmost of his capacity or to spend all he possesses. The only thing he ought to care about is the ultimate good of the country and the Diet."

* * *

Another organ of the Constitutional Liberal party, the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, is apprehensive that some members of that party may, in spite of the recent resolution of the *Yayoi* club, vote in the House of Representatives for the moderate plan of reduction. When a party has decided on a definite course of action, its members are bound to adhere to the resolution on all public occasions, but in the face of the conduct of some Constitutional members at the time of the election of the President of the Lower House, our contemporary is not at all sure that there may not be some at the present juncture who will at the last moment discard the resolution of their party and join with the *Taisei-kwai* members and others for a reduction of only 5 million *yen*. Those who contemplate such an improper course of action are earnestly requested by our contemporary to manfully declare their intention, and sever their connection with the party, to which they have no right to belong.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* devotes three articles to the discussion of the same subject. Our contemporary strongly exhorts the members of the Lower House to abstain from encroaching on the prerogative of the Emperor by voting for the proposal of the "extremists" who contemplate drastic changes in the organization of the different branches of the administration. Should the "extremists'" proposal receive the approval of the Lower House, the Upper House, though no doubt desirous of concurring with the vote of the Representatives on financial questions, will most probably find it difficult to give its assent to a resolution which may possibly lead to the dissolution of the Diet. A conference—we are still quoting the *Nichi Nichi*—will then be held between the two Houses; but the difference of opinion being very large, there is little hope of the conference ending satisfactorily. Under such circumstances it will be impossible to bring the Budget into actual existence, and the estimates of the preceding year will have to be carried out by the Government. If the Upper House passed the Budget as amended on the basis of the "extremists'" proposal, that would be a most deplorable event, for then the Cabinet would be compelled either to dissolve the Diet or to resign in a body, neither of which contingencies would be at all beneficial to the country. Should, on the other hand, continues our contemporary, the "moderates" succeed in carrying their proposal through the House of Representatives, there are better grounds to hope for the concurrence of the Peers. But what will be the attitude of the Government? The Government may not be willing to accept the amendments proposed by the moderates, for even then the amount to be reduced is no less than 5 million *yen*. But the *Nichi Nichi* earnestly recommends the Cabinet Ministers to comply with the wish of the Representatives, should the latter vote for the reduction of the smaller amount. In conclusion, the *Nichi Nichi* asks the members of the Diet carefully to consider the probable consequences of the course they take at the present juncture.

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The *Tokyo Shimpo*, in a series of three articles, advises the members of the Diet not to vote for the reduction of expenses which arise out of the effect of laws or ordinances, for so long as such laws and ordinances continue in force, the Government will be obliged, despite the vote of the Diet, to defray the expenses incurred. If the Diet is desirous of decreasing the salaries of officials and of altering the organization of the different branches of the Administration, it ought to make a representation to the Government for the modification of the ordinances relating to organization and salaries, before proceeding to the discussion of the Budget. But if there be not time to do so, the Diet may, continues our contemporary, first pass the Budget with such amendments as lie within the scope of existing laws and ordinances, and then take steps for modification of the ordinances. If the Government agrees to make the proposed modifications the expenses which may become needless as the consequences of such modifications will form a surplus. By adopting either of the above methods, the Diet will be able to effect its purpose in a manner at once lawful and politic. Further, our contemporary is opposed to reduction of the land tax. Such reduction as is at present contemplated by the members of the Diet will not give any perceptible benefit to individual taxpayers. Rather than reduce the land tax, therefore, our contemporary would like to see any sums saved on other items of expense employed for the extension of iron roads and for the completion of the military equipment of the country.

* * *

The *Kokkai* is opposed to the radical plan of reduction, not because the amount to be reduced is large, but because the promoters of the plan are actuated by motives far from honourable—a desire to gain notoriety, to place the Government in an embarrassing situation, to please their electors, or to further the interests of their respective parties.

* * *

The *Nippon* recommends the Representatives to make up their minds on one thing before proceeding to discuss the Budget, that is, they should interrogate themselves whether they have confidence in the present Cabinet or not. If they do not believe in the Cabinet, they ought to vote for a heavy reduction; but if on the contrary, they have confidence in the Ministry, they ought to vote for the Budget without making any reduction.

* * *

It is refreshing to turn from the endless discussion on the Budget to the discussion of the Eastern Question. It is now a well-known fact that Count Ito intends to go to China upon the prorogation of the Diet. The *Kokumin Shimbun's* reporter saw him a few days ago at the Imperial Hotel, when the Count is said to have stated without hesitation that he will go to China as the Representative of Japan, if the Government should be pleased to give him that appointment. The *Nippon* of the 7th inst. observes that it is quite possible for Japan either to form an alliance with China by sending an Ambassador to Tientsin, or to gain Russia by taking advantage of the reported eastern tour of the Crown Prince of the Northern Power. Japan may also send a clever diplomatist to Sōul and control the fate of the peninsular Kingdom in concert with Russia and the United States. But where, asks our contemporary, is the man to carry out such a policy? Will Count Inouye, after the disastrous failure of his Eastern policy while he was at the head of the Foreign Office, have the courage to try his hand once more? Our contemporary is doubtful. Viscount Aoki is well informed, but he has not sufficient influence and power. Count Goto is adventurous, but his intellect backs versatility. Count Ito is experienced and has tact, but he lacks unswerving zeal. Count Okuma is only fit for considering about cents and dollars. Thus the *Nippon* sees no statesman capable of handling such a large problem for the present at least, and consequently warns the Japanese statesmen against burning their hands by rashly taking up the solution of the Eastern Question.

* * *

The *Kokkwai*, in its opening number for the present year, enumerates the questions that are attracting, or will sooner or later attract, the attention of Eastern statesmen. First the Riukiu problem will one day or other be raised by the Chinese Government, which has not yet freed itself from the delusion that that group of islands is a tributary of China. Secondly Russia's policy of aggrandizement in Korea is destined to engage the serious attention of the statesmen of England, China, and Japan. Thirdly, the Mongolian and the Slavonic races are about to come into collision on the borders of Manchuria. Fourthly, a similar collision will take place between the Teutonic and the Latin races in the south of the Asiatic continent. Fifthly, yet another collision between the Tentonic and the Slavonic races will come to pass in Western Asia.

* * *

As to the Riukiu question, our contemporary devotes a separate article to it. The *Kokkwai* seems to place some credit on the rumour that the coming of Lord Li as China's Representative to this country has some connection with the question under consideration. As to Japan's right of suzerainty over these islands, our contemporary states that it rests upon unquestionable grounds, geological, ethnological, linguistic, and historical. It is not necessary to reproduce what is said about Japan's claims of sovereignty over the group of islands, for this part of the subject has been dwelt upon by the Japanese papers over and over again. There are two things, says our contemporary, which Japanese statesmen will do well to remember in negotiating with Chinese diplomatists; namely, that the latter are exceptionally astute and sharp, and that, in consideration of the larger interests of Japan and the East in general, this country ought to do whatever it can do honourably to sooth any ill feeling that China may entertain about the Riukiu question.

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimpo* (*Oriental News*) is now engaged in a long series of articles on the situation in the East. Seven articles have already been published, but our contemporary has hardly finished the introductory part of the discussion, its efforts having thus far been confined to a description of the condition of the various countries of Asia.

* * *

Mr. Hoshi Toru has discussed at great length in the columns of the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* the question of Treaty Revision. We may refer to his essay in a future issue. Here it will suffice to quote his concluding words:—"It will thus be seen that extraterritoriality, the present tariff arrangement, and so forth, injure not only the sovereign rights but also the interests of the country. How, then can we remain silent? It is the duty of every Japanese subject to rouse the public opinion of the country, to expose the injustice and unreasonableness of the present treaties and their injurious consequences on the national rights and interests, and thus to induce foreign nations to accept our demands, to abolish the system of extraterritorial jurisdiction, and restore to Japan the right of regulating its own tariff."

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* and the *Choya Shimbun* are discussing the question of the defences of the country. The *Choya* is especially concerned with the development of the Navy. The *Jiyu* has not yet concluded its essay, but its purpose seems to be to advocate the parallel development of the Army and the Navy.

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The *Kokkwai* devotes several articles to the discussion of Law No. 84. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* writes copiously on the responsibility of Ministers of State. The *Jiyu Shimbun* has at last concluded its long essay on the Examination of Silk Worms Bill. The *Jiji Shimpo* discusses the responsibility of the Minister of Education in regard to moral education, and the relation between Codification and Treaty Revision. The *Hochi Shimbun* writes at great length on the 67th article of the Constitution.

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THE BARRISTERS' BILL.

THE Imperial Diet has finished its first month of legislative work. Looking back at what has been done, we do not hesitate to say that one of the most important measures submitted for the consideration of the House of Peers was the Barristers' Bill. Should this Bill become law it will stand at the head of the list of useful legislative efforts resulting from the earliest exercise of representative institutions in Japan. The intention of the Bill very clearly set forth in the explanatory document accompanying it, received still further elucidation from the speech of the Minister of Justice in the House. Its prime purpose is to raise the status and increase the privileges of barristers, in order to better qualify them for the discharge of their duties as members of the national judiciary. It is true that some of the provisions embodied in the Bill may seem severe to the Japanese Bar of today; the provisions, for example, that certain fees shall be paid by legal practitioners on enrolment, and that they shall also give monetary security of no small amount to the association with which they connect themselves for purposes of practice; the provision that a barrister must practise for an appointed number of years in the lower courts before becoming qualified to have his name entered in the list of practitioners in the upper courts; the provision for the apprenticeship of law students before they are permitted to practise, and the provision that they must pass certain examinations determined by the Minister of State for Justice. All this has not been found universally agreeable. We learn that many members of the profession both in the capital and in the provinces have been more or less active in endeavouring to obtain some mitigation of the proposed provisions, and that they have carried their opposition so far in some cases as to suggest little attention to the objects of the measure. Their attempt to reduce the enrolment fee from 100 *yen* to 5 *yen*, and to preserve the same scale for passing to the Appeal Courts and the Supreme Court, shows that they are willing to ruthlessly sacrifice the spirit of the Bill to their own temporary convenience. Thus far we have not been able to ascertain the opinions entertained by the leading members of the legal profession, though several of them, we believe, took part in the proceedings of a meeting held by the Tokyo Barristers in opposition to the Bill. Prominent members of the Bar like Messrs. MASUJIMA, OYAGI, TAKAHASHI, HATOYAMA and so forth have not yet spoken. It may be granted that the barristers are the wisest and safest guardians of their own interests, but we cannot go so far as to admit that they are the best judges of what is required for the public welfare. Their treatment of this Bill, or at least the treatment it has received at the hands of a section of them, has surprised us. That they should seek to modify its provisions in degree might have been natural, but that they should endeavour to change its character radically is startling. Having regard to the history and condition of the Bar in Occidental countries, and remembering how imperative is the duty devolving on Japan to develop her judicial system on sound and intelligent lines, we are convinced that the Government showed deep wisdom in framing and proposing the Bill. The temporary convenience of the present generation of legal practitioners is not to be weighed in the scale against the future of the Japanese Bar. We cannot regard it as a healthy state of affairs that a youth who has just graduated at a law school should be able to establish himself in practice at once, without any title whatever to public confidence or any guarantee of respectability. Some differentiating factors are needed, above all under such circumstances as those existing in Japan at present, where the qualifications attaching to education receive consideration quite out of due proportion with the capacities developed. There is no sufficient reason to think that the fees and guarantees prescribed by the Bill would prove really irksome. Their effect would be simply limited to weeding out of the ranks of aspiring practioners those whose presence there has the effect of lowering the general level. The House of Peers passed to the second reading of the Bill on Christmas Eve, and will continue its discussion after the New Year's recess, but judging by the opinions thus far expressed in the House, the majority seem disposed to reduce the Bill to such dimensions as would make it virtually identical with the existing Barristers' Regulations. There is, of course, room for some little reduction in the matter of enrolment fees, and for some little widening of the privileges enjoyed after admission to practice, but we sincerely hope that the House will not meddle with the somewhat strict qualifications for admittance, or with the conditions prescribed for training and apprenticeship. Just at present the current of public opinion seems to set against the Bill. Not barristers only, but the students of certain law schools, including the Law College of the Imperial University have been actively agitating for modifications in the provisions of the measure. Even men like Dr. KATO and Professor HOZUMI, of whom we should have expected different action, seem to have been carried away for the moment by the wishes of the students. But we are not without hope that, at a later stage of the discussion, they will recognise the relation of the Bill not to the present time and the present generation of law students, but to the future judicial progress of the nation. The students themselves ought to perceive that it is not for their own interest to have the doors of the profession thrown open too widely at this stage, since that simply means that youths admitted to practice will find their advancement more and more checked by over-stocking in the senior ranks. Japan has planted many foreign trees in her soil, and the time has now come for her to watch over their growth, and see that they do not become mere exotic weeds. The future of the Bar, one of the most important of all these trees, depends to a great extent on the fate of the Bill before the Upper House, and we sincerely hope that the Peers will exhibit statesmanship and judgment worthy of the occasion. Some very distinguished members have still to speak. The Chief Secretary, Mr. KANEKO, may lend his powerful voice in support of the Bill, and Professor TOYAMA, despite his proverbially low estimate of the reforming influence of legislation, may endorse the arguments advanced by the Vice-Minister of Justice. Certainly if the measure is passed without radical alteration, it will materially help to raise the status and dignity of the Japanese Judicial system.

JAPANESE POTTERY.

PROBABLY no one has done so much to familiarise the Western public with the art of Japan as Mr. JAMES L. BOWES of Liverpool. From the point of view of insight into that art, and scientific analysis of its characteristics, Dr. W. ANDERSON is far ahead of any other writer. His *magnum opus* on the Pictorial Art of Japan, and his smaller work on the Japanese and Chinese paintings in the British Museum, constitute in themselves a library of information. Nothing that Mr. BOWES has accomplished enters so high a category, but on the other hand, all the books of which he has been sole or joint author, are without exception highly attractive for the sake of the loving spirit of enthusiasm that pervades them, the exquisite illustrations that embellish them, and the splendid indifference to cost that has presided at every stage of their preparation. The last of these works which has just made its apparance—"Japanese Pottery, with Notes describing the thoughts and subjects employed in its decoration"—is to our mind incomparably the best of the number, being in the main happily free from the inaccuracies and misconceptions that disfigure its predecessors. It is a noble book, printed on the most luxuriantly thick paper, and resplendent with chromolithographs and engravings of the highest type. The text proper, which contains the history of Japanese Keramic art, and information about the various factories, is somewhat meagre. It occupies only 162 pages, as against 307 pages filled with a descriptive catalogue of specimens forming the collection of the author. Per-

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haps we ought not to quarrel with this distribution of space, since the genuinely enthusiastic collector will doubtless study all Mr. BOWES' descriptions with eager satisfaction, and since the text itself is certainly too curt to convey sufficient information without the aid of the catalogue. Mr. BOWES has never been in Japan, we believe. In reviewing one of his previous works, we alluded to this fact as a drawback to perfect knowledge, but we now find that our sympathy was misplaced, for Mr. BOWES asserts very emphatically that Europe is the proper place to study Japanese Keramic art. His theory about this is so curious that we venture to quote it in full:—

The circumstances under which many of the finest wares were made, and the manner in which they were dispersed, have given collectors in Western countries a wider and more correct experience on the subject than it was possible for visitors to Japan, or even residents in that country, to obtain.

It is well known that the finest examples of pottery, lacquer, and other wares were made either in the factories established by the various princes, or by the artists more immediately attached to their courts; these objects would either be presented by the princes to their friends or to the ruling Shogun, or preserved in their own collections, and there they might remain for generations little seen, for in Japan there have been no museums, and it was the custom to exhibit such objects with much reserve, a few only at a time, and this chiefly at the change of the seasons, when a simple vase, or perhaps a pair, a *kakemono*, or some other example of art, would be placed in the *tokonoma*, a recess in the room formed for the display of such objects; and when another season came round other works appropriate to it would be substituted, and all in their turn would be restored to the treasure house. "It would have been considered the height of vulgarity in my country," said a Japanese visitor to the author, "to display all these works at once, as you do in your museum."

It will be plain that such conditions as these would render it difficult, indeed impossible, for visitors to Japan, or even residents, to acquire a wide and comprehensive knowledge of its art-works; and even those residents who have had the opportunity of inspecting the collections of some of the *daimyo* have been surprised to find how small they were. And this was generally the case, but there was one notable exception: for the house of Tokugawa, during its lease of power, was always a liberal patron of the arts, and had accumulated in its treasure houses numerous works of the highest beauty, to which were added the gifts of the princes from amongst the rarest objects produced at the factories under their patronage, or by the artists attached to their courts. These treasures were little known except by reputation in Japan, and were perhaps never really seen until they were displayed at the Paris Exhibition in 1867, to which they were sent by the last of the Tokugawa Shogun, ostensibly to illustrate the arts of his country, but in reality for sale with the object of raising funds with which to carry on the civil war. It was these works which first gave European collectors the opportunity of studying the finest examples of Japanese art.

Four years later, when the feudal system in Japan was abolished, the *daimyo* broke up their establishments and sent their collections out of the country; comparatively few of the objects were offered in Japan, for the princes would naturally prefer to send their heirlooms away for disposal rather than have them exposed for sale in the curiosity shops of Tokyo or Yokohama. The position is well illustrated by the circumstances under which the most important examples of old *cloisonné* enamel, which were sent to Europe about the same time, left the country; they were evidently shipped secretly, for many of them were pasted over with paper to disguise their nature, and it is a most singular fact that these beautiful works are entirely unknown to the connoisseurs and dealers of Japan, who confess that they had never seen them in their own country, although they were well acquainted with the smaller efforts of the Hirata family in the ornamentation of sword furniture, and the modern imitations of both, but at the same time they admit that the character of the decoration, and the imperial emblems with which they are ornamented, undoubtedly indicate that they must have been made for imperial use. And it is a still more curious fact that, even now, after most of the examples of the art have been in England for about twenty years, the Japanese who have seen them are unable to dispute the theories as to their date and origin which were set forth in *Japanese Enamels*.*

We admire the boldness of this announcement, and its originality. But at the same time, we at this end of the water cannot consent to be thus quietly relegated to a back seat. It may be frankly admitted that a student of Japanese Keramic art in Europe possesses some advantages. He can study the collection made by the ELECTOR of Saxony between 1698 and 1724, that brought together in Madrid, and those assembled in more recent times for museum purposes. At Dresden he can be quite certain of seeing what kind of work Japanese potters were capable of doing at the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century, whereas in Japan there exists no collection of correspondingly authenticated date. But surely this is a very small stage on the route to complete knowledge. The collections in Dresden and Madrid are virtually confined to one class of ware. They tell us nothing whatever about the hundred varieties which complete the Japanese repertoire, and the information which they do convey is not only partial but misleading, since there are the strongest reasons for believing that these exported specimens of Hizen porcelain owed much of their decorative motive to foreign inspiration. Further, Mr. BOWES is mistaken in his ideas as to the routes by which Japanese Keramic specimens travelled westward. It is entirely erroneous to suppose that the Keramic exhibits sent by Japan to Paris in 1867 were taken from the TOKUGAWA collection. Of not a single specimen can this be stated. They were one and all procured in the open market, and similar pieces might have been obtained by anyone whose fancy lay in that direction. Truly we can scarcely suppress a smile when we read that the real purpose of these exhibits was to raise funds wherewith to carry on the war. Mr. BOWES has evidently very little conception of what the TOKUGAWA Regents were even in 1867. Equally glaring is his misconception about the manner in which the collections of the feudal barons were dispersed. There was no hesitation whatsoever about offering these collections in the Japanese market. In fact, no other way of getting rid of them existed. The invariable method was to call for tenders from Japanese tradespeople, and as the highest tender was unhesitatingly accepted without reference to the real value of the article, many extraordinary bargains were made. But foreigners had no share in this spoil. They were not even suffered to know that such sales took place. Not until after the specimens came into the hands of Japanese dealers were they offered to foreigners. It is a mere myth to imagine that they were privately sent out of the country, or that collectors abroad had better opportunities of procuring them than collectors in Japan. Mr. BOWES must abandon this silly theory, entirely inconsistent as it is with the sound judgment he displays in other directions. We wish, too, that he could be induced to recognise the truth about those curious enamels, upon which he now builds another wonderful argument. Early in the Meiji era an enterprising exporter conceived the idea of turing to account the enamel-making capacities of Japan. With this object he had a number of specimens manufactured. Being intended for the Western market, they differed from previous specimens of the same class, both as to size and decorative design. These enamels have perplexed Mr. BOWES ever since. He cannot reconcile himself to the fact that they were a new and special manufacture, and since he fails to find any Japanese connoisseur who can identify them as old work, he concludes that they are specimens which were secretly spirited out of Japan, having lain there for decades hidden from public gaze. Even the paper pasted over them at the time of shipment helps to confirm him in this view, though in point of fact the use of Japanese paper in this manner has been a common device of careful packers for the past twenty-five years, and is a common device to-day. However, if we dispute Mr. BOWES' thesis as to the superior opportunities enjoyed by connoisseurs in Europe, we do not at all dispute the fact that he has made excellent use of his opportunities, and given the public a book of most valuable and genuine character. He is unsparing in his exposure of some of the shameless frauds that have been practised on innocent collectors; as when, in 1879, a consignment of faience was offered for sale in London, accompanied by a circumstantial statement that above 50 of the pieces had been expressly "prepared for the Jesuit priests' expedition from Japan to Rome under the special auspices of the Prince of Bungo, in 1582," and that certain other specimens had been owned "by the Princes of Satsuma for many generations," and "carried by TAICO SAMA into Korea as historical evidence of his country's former triumph over the Koreans." These distinguished pieces were simply modern imitations of Satsuma faience, made at Ota or painted in the Shiba ateliers. The publication of a book like this by Mr. BOWES ought to close the way to such audacious chicanery. We note, however, with regret that Mr. BOWES himself clings to some fallacious ideas. He still thinks that large, boldly decorated specimens of Satsuma faience were manufactured in old times, and he still maintains that objects of art

* *Japanese Enamels*, by James Lord Bowes, printed for private circulation, 1884, and published by Bernard Quaritch, London, 1886.

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were often made in pairs in Japan. With regard to the former point, we can only say that we have never ourselves seen, nor have we ever met a Japanese who had seen, a large vase or censer of Old Satsuma decorated with peonies and phœnixes in the *nishiki* style. Perhaps such things existed, but it will certainly be safer for the foreign collector to assume that they did not. As for pairs of vases, censers, and so forth, they were never made in this country for Japanese service. There could have been no use for a pair of anything, whether on the shelves of an alcove or before a temple altar. The evidence adduced by Mr. BOWES, namely, that flower-vases are depicted in pairs in *makimono* of the 17th century, possesses no value, for the vases shown in such pictures are almost invariably Chinese, and every one knows that the Chinese potters constantly manufactured pairs. We do not say that a perfect pair may not be occasionally found in ancient Japanese ware. Five or ten identical specimens were not infrequently potted, and two or three of them sometimes survive intact. But that is quite other question. We would fain follow Mr. BOWES through his clear and masterly, though all too short, descriptions of the various porcelains and faiences of Japan, but the subject is of such limited interest to our readers that we must apologise for the length of even what we have said. It is evident that Mr. BOWES has brought together a really representative collection of Japanese wares, and that he has made every specimen it contains the object of careful research and intelligent scrutiny. We are not all gifted with leisure or means to indulge these expensive hobbies, but we can all enjoy the clear descriptions and exquisite plates contained in such a work as "Japanese Pottery."

CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.

THURSDAY and Friday in the second week of November, and Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the following week were appointed by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for the hearing of an important case arising out of the anti-Chinese agitation in Australia in 1888. The case which was to engage the attention of the Lords of the Council, and for which it is said a specially large and influential council had been summoned, arose in this way. On the 27th April, 1888, the British ship *Afghan* entered the port of Melbourne, having on board 268 Chinese labourers intended for various ports in the Australian colonies. The week previous great excitement had sprung up throughout Australia in consequence of the news of a treaty between China and the United States restricting Chinese immigration, and the Government of Victoria, fearing, as they said, disturbances of the public peace, ordered the Collector of Customs at Melbourne to permit no Chinese whatever to land. Now there were statutes prevailing in Victoria authorising vessels to bring one Chinese immigrant for every 100 tons burden, and under these statutes the *Afghan* was entitled to land 14 Chinese; there was also a statutory provision that native Chinese (naturalized Chinese of course could land freely on showing genuine naturalization papers) should pay each a poll tax of £10, while the Captain who brought more than the statutory number was to be fined £100 per head. But it was not under any of these statutes that the Victorian Government proceeded to prevent all landing; it was an act of sovereign power to be justified or not subsequently by the law as might be. Amongst the passengers who were prevented from landing was a Cantonese named AH TOY, who, aided by Chinese guilds in Melbourne, brought an action against the Collector of Customs claiming £1,000 damages on the ground that he was by law entitled to land on payment of the £10 poll tax, which sum he said he had offered to the Collector, and it was refused. His technical argument on the statute was that although the Captain of the *Afghan* would be fined £100 for each immigrant above 14 that he brought, yet that the immigrant, being once there, was entitled by law to land on payment of his £10. It was of course not the fault of the immigrant that the law was broken, for he could not tell what the law was, or even though he knew, was quite unable to prevent the captain taking as many as he liked. However, as it turned out, this point is of very, small importance indeed. The Collector of Customs took a lofty ground that rendered mere technical discussion unnecessary. He claimed to act by the authority of the Government of Victoria. That Government, he said, had for various reasons decided as an act of State or of sovereign power that Chinese should not be admitted for the time, and this being an act of State, was a matter to be settled between the Governments of the British and Chinese Empires, and no municipal court could take cognizance of it. He further said that Her Majesty the QUEEN has as one of the prerogatives of her Crown the right at any time to exclude alliens from her dominions, and that this prerogative, so far as the colony of Victoria was concerned, was exercisable by HER MAJESTY'S Ministers for Victoria. This position the Chinaman absolutely denied, and as there was no question about the facts, it was agreed that the whole six judges of the Supreme Bench of the Court of Victoria should sit to consider the questions of law raised in the case. The arguments on both sides lasted for 4 days in the month of July, 1888, and they occupy nearly 200 printed folio pages. The Government of Victoria was represented by Mr. WRIXON (the Attorney-General) and two other Counsel, but AH TOY did not lack able assistance. Indeed, the argument both in opening and replying of Dr. MADDEN, his leading counsel, is one of the ablest, most closely woven, and most convincing that we have ever read. As to the first question raised by the Victorian Government, viz., whether this was a high act of State of which no municipal Court could take cognizance, the judges were unanimous that it was essential in Victoria as it was in every other part of the British Empire that in order to constitute an act of State there must be either the direct command or the subsequent ratification of the Sovereign, and as neither of these existed on this occasion, they found that it was not an act of State. This decision will no doubt be a lesson in constitutional principles, for it shows that the Sovereign is a living, active, powerful entity in the Constitution. And it appears that the Colonial Government accept the position, because they have dropped this point altogether in the case which they have laid before the Privy Council. The next question was whether HER MAJESTY has the prerogative to exclude alien friends (*alien amis* as they are called in curious legal phraseology) from her dominions, and if she has, whether that prerogative has ever been transferred to HER MAJESTY'S Ministers in Victoria or any other self-governing colony. On this point there was a difference of opinion among the Melbourne Judges. Two of them answered both questions in the affirmative. The QUEEN, they said, had that prerogative, and although it was not given expressly to the Victorian Ministers, yet as Victoria was a responsible government, that gift was impliedly accompanied by the grant also of all prerogatives necessary to make it effectual, on the principle that a grant in law has always been supposed to carry with it everything to make it an effectual grant. Therefore the judgment of these two judges was against the Chinaman, inasmuch as they decided that the Victorian ministers had the prerogative to exclude aliens. The other four judges, however, while declining to decide whether the QUEEN had this prerogative or not, were clearly of opinion that if she had it was never delegated to the ministry of Victoria. These judges said the prerogative could never be touched except it is expressly mentioned in the statute. This prerogative is not expressly mentioned in any statute relating to New South Wales, while the two prerogatives, that of mercy and the dissolution of Parliament, which it was intended to give to the Government for the purposes of government in Victoria, are expressly given in so many words. The result of the judgment was of course in favour of AH TOY, and ultimately the Courts awarded him £150 damages. Leave to appeal

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to the Privy Council was refused by the Supreme Court in Victoria; AH TOY received the money and disappeared. But it was obvious that the Victorian Government could not be satisfied with a decision against them on points of great constitutional importance, unless it were that of the highest court in the Empire. Accordingly they applied to the Privy Council for special leave to appeal, on the ground of the important nature of the questions involved, and they got it. But as AH TOY had gone with his money and did not care a brass farthing what the Privy Council thought about the constitutional questions, there was no real respondent. It was thought by the advisers of the Government that a decision in a case where there was no argument on the other side would lose much of its weight, so it has been arranged that all the costs incidental to AH TOY'S case in the Privy Council shall be paid by the Victorian Government. The result of the case of course remains to be seen, but in spite of the high constitutional principles involved it is impossible not to be amused by the surrounding circumstances. The ragged Cantonese outcast arrives in the port of Melbourne, with all Australia, from Cabinet Ministers down to the larrikins at the street corners, aflame against his race. The air is full of banners and processions and speech-making against Chinese labourers; ministers claiming to exercise the powers of a great empire issue their ukase to prevent the ragged creature from landing. And how has it all ended so far? Why so far the conclusion has been that he has punished his enemies to the extent of what to him is a colossal fortune; he has called in question the prerogative (and Lord COKE has called the prerogative the jewel of the Crown) of a mightier monarch than his own. He has denied to British colonies with responsible governments powers without which they say responsible government is almost useless; he has disturbed set opinions of government and administration, and the relations between British colonies and the mother country; he has resolved a large portion of the constitution of Victoria into its original elements, and now it is for HER MAJESTY in Privy Council to put these together somehow. Having done all this, having produced confusion and chaos where it is vital that there should be order and law, he vanishes. He descended on Victoria like the evil sprite in Fairy Tales; he leaves behind him wreck and dismay and disappears as suddenly as he had appeared. Then to add to the absurdity of the situation his enemies besides paying him a large sum for damages, are compelled by his conduct to pay a very much larger sum to have his battle fought against them. Probably it would not be too much to say that many a colonial statesman groans in secret at ever having touched Chinese questions, or at least having touched them in this particular way.

THE SALVATION ARMY: ITS ORIGIN AND ORGANIZATION.

I.

A LEARNED Archbishop, in referring to the members of the Salvation Army, characterized them as "holy enthusiasts." The term, deliberately used as it was, carries with it a large significance. For it is undoubted that sincere piety or holiness has never yet, when united with combative zeal and energy, failed to work wonderful social revolutions. Whatever vagaries and eccentricities may in the first instance be associated with the enthusiasm and the energy, the real piety at the back of such movements tells in the end, and a sober and efficient organization is the final result. The Salvation Army does not stand to-day in the estimation of philanthropists where it stood half-a-dozen years ago; it has completely justified itself. There is no doubt that, year by year, this wonderful band of self-sacrificing workers is becoming better understood, and that, with the better understanding, goes a higher appreciation of their work and their character. They are good people, with attractive faces and honest ways. The Quakers in the seventeenth century were for long considered pests of society, and were subjected to all manner of insult and persecution; and Methodism fared only a little better in the eighteenth. Both have long ago won the world's respect. It seems as if history were repeating itself in the case of the Salvation Army.

The origin of the movement is not generally known. People, associating it with the name of BOOTH, suppose that it is the creation of its "General," and that it took its rise in the East end of London. The real fact is that it began in the country, down in Cornwall, and that for many years it was an ordinary mission in connection with the Methodist Church. The Rev. WILLIAM BOOTH, whose wonderful power of persuasion and of organization has converted this "Christian Mission" into the world-famous Salvation Army, was trained as a lad in the Church of England, but, being brought under Wesleyan influences, he joined the latter body and became one of its most active workers. Having attended services conducted by an American Evangelist, the Rev. JAMES CAUGHEY, he was struck by the latter's direct, conversational mode of preaching, and resolved to change somewhat the lines upon which he himself had hitherto been working. For many years as a Methodist minister he carried on a successful evangelizing work in Cornwall, assisted by his wife, whose death at the beginning of last October was regretted so widely. This sad event has furnished a graceful occasion to newspapers of all views and standings in London to testify their admiration of Mr. and Mrs. BOOTH'S devotion to the cause of humanity. The deceased lady was a woman of no ordinary gifts, and as a speaker could appeal to the cultivated and uncultivated alike. She proved a most energetic helpmeet to her husband, and on one occasion, during his illness, not only supplied his pulpit but attended to the other pastoral duties. Her death at the comparatively early age of sixty-one, in the midst of a career of singular usefulness, is an irreparable loss.

Shifting their operations, about twenty-five years ago, to the East end of London, the BOOTH'S began their life work at Mile End Waste; and as time went on the Mission added shelter to shelter, and hall to hall. At length they found themselves strong enough to venture on the lease of a notorious public-house, "The Eastern Star," which they converted into a work-centre, with book-store, class-rooms, and hall. All this time Mr. BOOTH was merely 'Superintendent,' and the embryo Army had no suspicion of its future development. From the very beginning, however, it had been given to "marching," and the accidental declaration, by BOOTH, at one of their conferences that this was a "War Congress," led to the enthusiastic adoption of the present system of nomenclature. Then followed the publication of the "War Cry," a paper without fiction or advertisements, which has now reached a weekly circulation of 300,000 copies. At the beginning of the year 1883, the Salvation Army, which ten years before had been a small mission conducted by twelve evangelists, was a mighty organization possessing no fewer than one thousand and sixty-seven officers in the various countries and colonies whither its work had spread. This year the number of officers has increased to nine thousand three hundred and forty-nine, who direct the work of two thousand eight hundred and seventy-four corps.

When the Army begins its work in a town or city, it divides the whole into wards, and places a sergeant in charge, who with his corporals, is responsible for the district. A corps being formed, and a drill-hall secured, special sergeants are told off to carry the colours, and a corps Treasurer and Secretary are appointed to keep the duplicate records and accounts. The Army flag is blue in colour, with a square red centre enclosing a gilt star. In addition to the local organization, there is a staff organization so complete, that in twelve hours a message from head-quarters can be delivered to every one of a million soldiers scattered over four continents. General BOOTH "wires to the Chief of Staff, the Chief to the various Commissioners, these to their Colonels or Brigadiers, they to their Majors, the Majors to Staff Captains and Adjutants, Adjutants to Captains and their Lieutenants and Cadets." The organization has been based on a close study of the rules and regulation of the British Army. The military idea and nomenclature are kept up throughout, each soldier being

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provided with a "Soldier's Manual," meant to serve as a guide for conduct. The "Articles of War" which take up one section of the manual, inculcate abstention from the use of low and profane language, from swearing, and from unclean conversation; the avoidance of falsehood, deceitfulness, misrepresentation, or dishonesty; the chivalrous treatment of women and children; the practice of godliness and of energetic soldiership. By godliness is to be understood "a straightforward conversion, a clean heart, the spirit of a soldier, a good life at home, a clear assurance of the favour of God, and a 'soul flooded with His love.'" For promotion from the ranks five essentials are demanded,—godliness, love for souls, energy of character, ability to talk, and loyalty to the Army. Field officers are also provided with a Manual which contains the most explicit directions as to the ordinary routine of duty, and behaviour in emergencies. It includes also chapters on ventilation, diet, and the department of hygiene, besides sections on finance, on building and on kindred practical subjects. Officers are allowed salaries which afford a bare livelihood and nothing more £156 a year being the maximum. They are not encouraged to receive personal gifts, except such as are of immediate use for the work; and the wearing of trinkets for personal adornment is discountenanced. One notable feature of the Army is the free use it makes of the services of women, who are promoted to rank on the staff on equal terms with the men, and receive the same military titles; an absolute equality having been proclaimed so far back as 1875. Both men and women wear a plain gray uniform faced with red. A candidate for a post on the staff enters one of the Training Homes as a Cadet, where he has to submit to a rigid discipline, and is instructed in the methods of spiritual campaigning. When he leaves the Home to become a Cadet-Lieutenant, his training is still continued under his Captain, one of whose chief cares is the superintendence of his Lieutenants. All their time is at the Captain's disposal, and the tie between subaltern and commander is of the closest.

Such is a short outline of the origin and organization of this wonderful society, which in the face of ridicule and persecution has been steadily making its way and doing a good work among the masses. In Europe it has established stations in Great Britain, France, Switzerland and Sweden; in North America the United States and Canada have been occupied; in Asia it has eight corps in India and Ceylon. Forty-five stations are planted throughout the Australian colonies, Tasmania, and New Zealand, while Africa is represented by three at the Cape of Good Hope. So fast is the work growing that it is probable these figures are already out of date. It is the general testimony that we have in the Salvation Army a body of men and women who are willing to do without comforts, to forego every luxury, and to devote all their efforts to the rescue of their fellow-creatures from a life of sin. The story of their philanthropic undertakings, now exciting no little interest in the great metropolis, will be treated of in a subsequent article.

II.

TWO of the greatest factors in the spread of the Salvation Army movement are characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon race. The first, to which we have already referred, is the equal position it accords to women. Since the foundation of the Society of Friends over two hundred years ago, no other organization has ever so trusted women; and in the case of neither of these organizations can the complaint be made that its women are unwomanly. When, fifteen years ago, the absolutely equal footing of the sexes in the affairs of the Army became an article of its constitution, an expansive power was set free which has caused the Salvation Army to advance by leaps and bounds. The other factor is the importance attached to the family. Marriage is encouraged, the advent of children is welcomed as a promise of future accessions to the ranks, the accession, too, of trained recruits likely to prove serviceable as staff and local officers. The BOOTH family itself is a striking example of a diversified unit, a force that is not growing weaker with the years, but is continually recruiting itself. Mrs. BOOTH, in addition to all her other heavy cares and responsibilities, brought up a family of eight children, who have been carefully trained to help their parents in the great work. The eldest, Mr. BRAMWELL BOOTH, now a man of thirty-four, is Chief of the Staff, a position in which he shows conspicuous talent. One of the daughters, Mrs. BOOTH-CLIBBORN, is Marshal of the French Salvation Army; and all the other six are prominent workers. The various additions made to the family by marriage have proved in each case a source of strength, every member in the connection being an ardent missionary. Let us leave aside to be discussed elsewhere the mystical or purely religious element in the movement. To some this will appear the important fact, which explains all the rest. To others, perhaps less consistently, it will appear nothing but "drivelling superstition" a phrase recently used to characterize it by a leading London thinker. Struck with the admirable results of the Army's work, he was speaking in its praise to a friend, who seemed surprised at his warmth of eulogy. "But," continued he, "don't suppose it is the religion; that is nothing but drivelling superstition." He owned, however, that General BOOTH had done more for the masses than all other living philanthropists together. It is this philanthropical work in the slums of London, Brooklyn, Paris, Bombay, and a crowd of other cities, that forms an intensely interesting study to the sociologist. These slums are a plague spot in our civilization, and the man who can bring to light an efficient remedy for the disease is a leader and a benefactor of the human race. The "Social" department, as it is called, of the Army's work is divided into four branches "Rescue," "Slums," "Shelters," "Labour." During the horrors of the "Jack-the-Ripper" time in Whitechapel, when people could scarcely talk of anything else than murder and butchery, the "Slum-sisters" came and went as before, acting as helps to broken-down women, nursing poor sick folk, caring for the dying, and relieving the hungry. Six young girls living in a single room in the Army Training Home began this work and now it has grown thirty-fold. They receive nothing for their labours except food and clothing, and money to pay their rent and to provide necessaries for the sick and the starving.

An interesting corps of the Army is the Prison Gate Brigade, whose work it is to establish itself in the neighbourhood of large prisons, and to become acquainted with discharged criminals. These unfortunates, the downward career once commenced, are apt to go from bad to worse, often not so much from inherent evil as from the force of circumstances. To obtain decently remunerative work and resume respectable life again, is a Herculean task; society in nine cases out of ten crushes them out remorselessly. General BOOTH has paid due attention to this very promising field of labour, and now, at the gates of our great prisons, may be found a Home, where discharged prisoners are welcomed and are given a helping hand. This Prison Gate work has, almost more than any other, recommended the Army to the friendly attention of thoughtful men. A Christianity that is attractive and not repulsive, that can preserve its purity and yet help the sinner, shows itself here under bright aspects. The recruits who are thus gained from among these criminal classes, knowing the habits of their fellows, become in their turn powerful and efficient missionaries. The great organization turns them into efficient officers, supplies them with food and necessaries, and with a solid basis for good work; they learn self-respect, are full of ardour in their new life's work, and from being possible pests to society become its saviours.

Other schemes that have been successfully started are the shelters in the great cities for the homeless and friendless; refuges for fallen women; reformatories for confirmed drunkards. So successful are these proving, that General BOOTH has now launched a grand undertaking which will grapple with the whole question of what to do with the Homeless and Unemployed, with what has been called the great "Army of Despair." His book

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on the subject appeared on the 10th of last October, and has attracted wide attention in London and elsewhere. Undoubtedly there exists a noble field for social experiments, so great is the waste in our present social organization from imperfection of methods. The principle of buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, which was supposed to form the basis and strength of political economy, is in its unmodified state a miserably thin and selfish dictum. We are now, on all sides, beginning to find out its shallowness and its weakness. Socialism screams out against it. But a socialism after Mr. BELLAMY'S heart seems to have a dry-rot at its core, inasmuch as the ideal aimed at is bodily and intellectual comfort. Now this ideal "comfort" is an elastic quantity according to the habits and notions of the individual; we are meanwhile provided with no safe bond to hold society together. The great, gloomy, outstanding fact of Sin is also ignored in the dainty pages of "Looking Backward." The Salvation Army, however, grasps the weapon by the handle, instead of poising it airily on the finger and playing with it. Looking upon this life as merely the portico to a higher, its members do not dream of a pleasant city life, with every imaginable comfort and luxury, as constituting the goal of earthly endeavour. A sufficiency to keep the body in good working order, and success in gaining recruits for the religious life—this to them makes life well worth living. Obedience to an authority which they trust in and respect, and perfect assurance of a home in the world to come, keep the Army soldiers cheerful and happy. With his enthusiastic force behind him General BOOTH proposes a stupendous scheme, commencing with the founding of a City Colony, that shall provide food and shelter for every man, and congenial work for all. In addition there is to be a Farm Colony, for out-of-door labourers. Then also a colonization scheme is to be set on foot, and emigrants are to be taken across the seas in Salvation ships. The other philanthropic work, which we have already touched upon, is to be prosecuted with increasing ardour. Improved lodging-houses, a poor man's bank, a poor man's lawyer, a matrimonial bureau; such are to be some of the new features of the Army's enterprise. In a forthcoming article we purpose giving a more extended explanation of the great undertaking; as yet merely an outline of it has come to hand. A more comprehensive scheme of philanthropy could scarcely be entertained; but the Army's organization seems strong enough to bear the strain.

FOR PROSTRATION AND DEBILITY USE HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

DR. W. E. FULFORD, M.R.C.P., and L.S.A., Wadebridge, says:—"It brought me from a state of utter prostration and debility, both of mind and body, to one of fair convalescence, and that within fourteen days.

THE "JAPAN GAZETTE" AND THE PROBLEM.

IN common doubtless with a considerable section of the public, we have been curious to read the first utterances of the new *Japan Gazette* on the subject of Treaty Revision. It was chiefly if not altogether on account of Treaty Revision that the *Gazette* underwent a radical change of organization and ownership, and the opinions it expresses on that important topic must now be regarded, we presume, as those of a thoughtful and representative section of the community. So regarding them, we are compelled to confess that our contemporary's earliest pronunciamiento causes us some disappointment. Stated briefly, the proposition advanced by the *Gazette* is that Great Britain must hesitate to place her subjects in Japan under Japanese jurisdiction, because, unless she is prepared to do as much by China, the latter Power may throw itself into Russia's arms and the result might be an invasion of India by Chinese troops under Russian officers. The *Gazette* puts forth this argument in a tentative, half-hearted fashion, but nevertheless bases pretty hard-and-fast conclusions on it, as for example:—"England's interests in China exceed to an enormous extent those in Japan. Would it be statesmanlike to ignore the great for the sake of the small, to gratify Japan at the risk of enraging China? * * It is not improbable that in the eyes of our home statesmen the Treaty Revision question, which to some local residents seems so simple, may involve issues of the gravest nature." Now it has often been suggested in the past that the recognition of Japan's industrial autonomy might place Western Powers in an awkward position towards China, but the suggestion has always been treated with the scant courtesy it deserves. To attach any importance to it we must assume, in the first place, that China is concerned about the recovery of her Judicial Autonomy, and we must concede in the second that the claims of Japan and China in respect of this matter are at least approximately equal. Such an assumption and such a concession would be extravagant. Nobody has ever paid any serious attention to them. A nation's ambition must be judged by its behaviour. China's intercourse with Western States covers a period many times as long as the intercourse of the latter with Japan, yet never throughout the whole time has the Chinese Government made any move towards the recovery of jurisdiction over foreigners within her borders. If she really desires anything of the kind, she has most studiously concealed her wishes through all these years. The *Japan Gazette*, indeed, represents her as having been considerably exercised last year "when the Revision of the Treaties was, as most of us thought, about to become a *fait accompli*," and avers that she even went so far as to solicit for herself, on certain conditions, the same privileges as those about to be granted to Japan. But this is too novel news to be quite credible. We must be permitted to doubt whether our local contemporary is well informed about this particular phase of China's ideas or doings. For in the first place, the Chinese Government certainly did not fall into the mistake of supposing—as Yokohama was persuaded to suppose—that Treaty Revision was on the verge of accomplishment last year, and in the second place, we know too much about the methods of the thing called "Government" in China to imagine that, after decades of listless inaction, it suddenly woke up last year and attempted to inaugurate a remarkably vigorous and bold foreign policy. There is another reason, too, which makes us doubt the exactness of the *Gazette's* estimate of China's mood. That reason is that our contemporary puts into the Celestial's mouth precisely the same argument as we have heard so often advanced by the anti-revisionists in Yokohama. The *Gazette* makes China say:—"The adoption of laws is no guarantee of an equitable administration of justice. The Japanese cannot transform themselves in a generation so as to think and act in matters of justice as you do." Elastic as we would fain render our imagination for the purpose of following the *Gazette's* very original chimera, we confess that this flight is beyond our range. China as the mouthpiece of the foreign doubters is for us an unattainable conception. Chinese statesmen do not admit, nor have we ever before heard it seriously advanced against the Japanese, that Oriental ideas of justice differ from Occidental. There have been perfectly just judges in China and Japan, just according to any standard of justice accepted anywhere. Neither Japanese nor Chinese lack the faculty of justice, or the capacity to administer it. But their laws are defective and their procedure faulty. In China the old rule still exists that confession by the accused is necessary to establish guilt, and torture is still employed to extort confession. There has been no change whatever in the provisions or processes of Chinese laws from time immemorial, and with such provisions and such processes no doubt exists that the ends of justice are often flagrantly defeated. But Chinese statesmen would be the last persons to admit, as the *Gazette* makes them admit by implication, that without some new form of training exercised through generations, their capacity to appreciate and administer justice must be regarded as defective. On the whole, therefore, we think that the *Gazette's* information as to China's attitude last year is not thoroughly trustworthy.

With regard to the general question, so often before propounded, that what foreign Powers do for Japan they must also do for

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China, we do not think that a more flagrantly unjust proposition was ever formulated. To talk in one breath of a lack of the faculty of justice among Chinese and Japanese, and in the next to assert that China, who has done nothing whatever to merit confidence, should be treated in the same way as Japan, who has done everything possible during the past twenty years to deserve trust, this does indeed seem like straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. The *Japan Gazette* fully recognises the immorality of such a contention, but thinks that as self-interest is the mainspring of international action, England will probably hesitate to concede to the Japanese anything which she feels constrained to withhold from China. England has never shown any such mood; and we are entirely confident that she is not about to show it now. She has indeed hesitated to admit Japan's qualifications, but never can it be believed for an instant that the British Government has been playing fast and loose with this Empire for ten years, and that while professing to be negotiating for a Revision of the Treaties, HER MAJESTY'S Ministers have all the while confessed to themselves that the danger of disturbing China's equanimity is a fatal obstacle to conceding Japan's claims. That at any rate is not England's way. She long ago made up her mind that the one and only Oriental State which has seriously and sincerely adopted Western civilization deserves to be treated differently from a State which for fifty years has preserved an attitude of supreme conservative contempt towards everything Occidental. If any theory could be advanced better calculated than another to dishearten the Japanese and to inspire them with anger against Western injustice, it is this theory that China's utterly baseless susceptibilities must be considered in preference to Japan's practical achievements. We do not pause to examine the phantom of Chinese soldiers invading India under Russian leadership, or to discuss that most improbable of all events, a Russo-Chinese alliance against Great Britain. Such contingencies have no practical interest for us. But nothing could be more regretable than that the idea should circulate among the Japanese that Great Britain, in her negotiations with this Empire, is not thinking of Japan's qualifications or of the weight of Japan's claims, but is only endeavouring to avoid the danger of wounding China's *amour propre*. That, we repeat, is not England's way.

About three hundred Japanese emigrants, who had been at work in the Hawaiian Islands for some time, returned to Japan on the 8th inst.

According to returns compiled by the Authorities, the quantity of salmon caught in the Ishikarigawa, Hokkaido, during three months, from September to November last, was 5,823 *koku* (one *koku*=2½ piculs), which shows a decrease of 3,034 *koku* as compared with the same period in the previous year.—*Jiji Shimpo.*

YOKOHAMA ENGINE AND IRON WORKS, LIMITED.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Yokohama Engine and Ironworks (Limited) was held on Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce Rooms. Among those present were Messrs. J. F. Lowder, J. Rickett, J. T. Boag, Jas. Walter, J. Curtis, J. A. Fraser, A. Center, D. Fraser, E. Blanc, S. D. Hepburn, W. R. Bennet, C. W. Arnould, F. Gillett, and G. Charlesworth, secretary.

The chair was taken by

Mr. A. CENTER, who, the minutes of the previous meeting having been put and confirmed, said—Gentlemen, this meeting is called in accordance with our Articles of association, which require that two meetings a year be held, but at the half-yearly general meeting no statement of accounts or report by the directors is to be submitted, that being done only once a year at the annual general meeting. This meeting is chiefly for the purpose of communicating to the shareholders the general prospects of the company and so forth, and on that I can say that we are in exactly as good a position now as we would be at the annual meeting, for we have our accounts duly audited up to the 30th of November, and we know the precise position of the company on that date. I would first refer to the Kobe branch. You will doubtless remember that a year ago matters were not looking as well at Kobe as we thought they ought to look, and it appeared to us that a change was necessary. Mr. Stewart was sent from here to take charge of that work; he has been there now nearly a year, and I can give you full assurance that the change has been a most beneficial one to the Company, and that the advantages arising from it have exceeded the expectations entertained by the directors at the time the change was made. Kobe has been doing splendedly of late, and I think you need give yourselves no more uneasiness on that point. Our business there is increasing month by month, and is going to prove a most valuable asset to us; in fact it is doing so now. Then as to Yokohama. In August last Mr. Kildoyle, who was our manager at Yokohama, desired to retire—not from any reasons connected with the Company, but of his own free will; his resignation was accepted, and in September Mr. Joseph Taylor was appointed manager in his place, a change which has proved to be to our entire satisfaction. The first half year of our business—that is from June 1st to Nov. 30th—is as a rule, and has been always, the duller half-year, so to say. That portion of this year, to which we now refer, was perhaps duller than it has been for several years, but, notwithstanding that, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that after making ample provision for depreciation of property and plant, and for the payment of auditors' and directors' fees for the six months, we have made a nett profit at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum. The second half of our financial year promises to be very much better. We have a lot of work on hand. We employ every man we can get hold of, and I think you will find that for the next six months the report cannot be other than a very favourable one to the company. Having, as I say, the audited accounts before us to the 30th of Nov. showing nett profits at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, the directors have decided to declare an interim dividend of 6 per cent., to be payable at once.—(Applause.) I do not know that I have anything further to say, but if any one has any questions to put I shall be very happy to answer them.

No questions being put, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned, and the proceedings terminated.

SUPPLYING COAL TO FOREIGN WAR VESSELS.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE No. 295.

We hereby give our sanction to the supplying of foreign men-of-war with coal stored for the use of ships of the Imperial Navy, and order the same to be promulgated.

[His Imperial Majesty's Sign-manual.]

[Great Seal.]

Dated December 27th, 1890.

Viscount KABAYAMA SUKENORI,
Minister of State for the Navy.

Coal stored by the Navy Department may be supplied at a reasonable price to foreign men-of-war which may apply for the same on account of difficulty in obtaining supplies by other methods.

EPISODES OF JAPANESE HISTORY.

A visit to Nikko, the most famous summer resort of Japan, was not only interesting but also instructive. As I walked about through the court-yards, and entered some of the temples and other buildings, and finally climbed to each tomb, hidden in the trees at the summit of a hill, my curiosity was aroused to learn something of these persons, Iyeyasu and Iyemitsu, whose mortal remains are supposed to have been deposited in those two tombs. I wondered what were their surroundings and their achievements in Japan, and what their relations were, if any, with the rest of the world. Therefore, with such material as I had at hand, I began a line of study, which grew in interest as I proceeded. It has shown to me that Japan, although it has been essentially a hermit nation, was not completely isolated from other nations.

It is, of course, well known that until 1868 there existed in Japan a peculiar form of Government. The nominal Emperor, variously styled *Dairi*, *Tenshi*, or *Mikado*, was in reality only the theocratic, or ecclesiastical, chief of the nation. He as "the spiritual head of the national church," was treated with great reverence, and, apotheosized at death, became one of the national deities.

But the real authority was in the hands of the *Kubo*, or *Taikun*, or *Shogun*, who was nominally only general of the army. But, as the Roman Imperator in time became Emperor; as Lord-General Cromwell was in reality King; and as the Mayor of the Palace easily became the French monarch; so the Shogun held the actual civil authority. He was scrupulous to treat the Mikado with formal respect, and also to keep a large garrison at Kyoto, the capital, to prevent any revolutionary attempt, such as would again unite the civil and the ecclesiastical authority in the person of the Mikado. Thus the latter was *roi faineant*, and the former was Charles Martel, or Pepin; except that while Pepin thought that he who had the authority ought to have the name of King, and therefore deposed the Carlovingian dummy, the Shoguns of Japan permitted the dual form of government to continue.

The close of the sixteenth century witnessed a change in the dynasty of the *de facto* rulers of Japan. From a few years before the time when the House of Valois, becoming extinct, was succeeded by the House of Bourbon in France, the position of Shogun, though not in name, yet in reality, had been held by Hideyoshi. He it was who signed the first order for the expulsion of the Catholics from Japan; and it was during his reign, in 1597, that the first Christian martyrs were crucified. But in the following year, that of the Edict of Nantes, when the Huguenots of France were granted toleration by Henry IV., the Christians of Japan were freed from prosecution by the death of Hideyoshi.

Inasmuch as the latter's heir, Hideyori, was an infant of only three or four years of age, a council of regency was established, with Iyeyasu at its head. But, as might naturally be expected, the child became as much of a figure-head as the Mikado: so that about the time the proud Elizabeth Tudor left the crown of England to James Stuart of Scotland, Iyeyasu had the power firmly in his own hands, and had founded the Tokugawa dynasty, who retained the authority of the Shogun till the Revolution of 1868.

But before the sixteenth century had passed away, an event occurred which was of great consequence to Japan. In 1599 a Dutch ship with an Englishman, William Adams, as pilot, after a stormy voyage in the Pacific Ocean, finally, in great distress, reached the eastern coast of Kyushu. Adams was after a few days carried to the presence of the "Emperor," by whom he was very closely catechized. At last, although the Portuguese, then in Japan, tried to procure his execution, the lives of himself and companions were spared. Gradually Adams, because of his knowledge of mathematics and ship-building, was received into great favour, and treated very kindly, by the "Emperor." In 1609, when Hudson was opening territory in America for the Dutch, the latter, taking advantage of the opening thus made for them in the Orient by an Englishman, sent out a vessel to establish, if possible, regular commercial intercourse with Japan. This vessel, in the next year, returned to Holland with the following letter from Iyeyasu[1]:—

"THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN TO THE KING OF HOLLAND.

"I, Emperor and King of Japan, wish to the King of Holland [Prince of Orange], who hath sent from so far countries to visit me, greeting.

"I rejoice greatly in your writing and sending unto me, and wish that our countries were

[1] Hildreth's "Japan As It Was and Is."

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nearer the one to the other, whereby we might continue and increase the friendship begun betwixt us, through your presence, whom I imagine in earnest to see; in respect I am unknown unto your Majesty, and that your love towards me is manifested through your liberality in honouring me with four presents, whereof, though I had no need, yet coming in your name, I received them in great worth, and hold them in good esteem.

"And further, whereas the Hollanders, your Majesty's subjects, desire to trade with their shipping in my country (which is of little value and small), and to traffic with my subjects, and desire to have their abiding near unto my court, whereby in person I might help and assist them, which cannot be as now, through the inconvenience of the country: yet, notwithstanding, I will not neglect, as already I have been, to be careful of them, and to give in charge to all my governors and subjects that, in what places and havens, in what ports soever they shall arrive, they shall show them all favour and friendship to their persons, ships, and merchandise; wherein your Majesty or your subjects need not to doubt or fear aught to the contrary. For they may come as freely as if they came into your Majesty's own havens and countries, and so may remain in my country to trade. And the friendship begun between me and my subjects with you shall never be impaired on my behalf, but augmented and increased.

"I am partly ashamed that your Majesty (whose name and renown through your valorous deeds is spread through the whole world) should cause your subjects to come from so far countries into a country so unfitting as this is, to visit me, and to offer unto me such friendships as I have no deserved. But, considering that your affection hath been the cause thereof, I could not but friendly entertain your subjects, and yield to their requests, whereof this shall serve for a testimony; that they in all places, countries, and islands, under mine obedience, may trade and traffic, and build houses serviceable and needful for their trade and merchandises, where they may trade without any hindrance at their pleasure, as well in time to come as for the present, so that no man shall do them any wrong. And I will maintain and defend them as mine own subjects.

"I promise, likewise, that the persons whom I understand shall be left here, shall now and at all times be held as recommended unto me, and in all things to favour them, whereby your Majesty shall find us as your friends and neighbours.

"For other matters passed between me and your Majesty's servants, which would be too long here to repeat, I refer myself unto them."

Although Hildreth cannot vouch for this letter, or for the correctness of the translation, it surely exhibits that strange mixture of humility and pride so evident even now in both the Japanese language and many of their customs.

In the meantime, the Spaniards also had attempted, but without much success, to obtain an entrance into Japan. Don Rodrigo de Vivero, the governor of Manila, was wrecked off the coast of Japan, and spent altogether about two years in the country. He visited the Mikado, and both the titular and the real Shogun; and, though he obtained royal protection for the Christian priests, and an acknowledgment of amity with Spain, he was unable to procure the exclusion of the Dutch.

In the year when King James's Version of the Holy Bible was given to the World, Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch ambassadors visited the court of Iyeyasu. The Dutch were most kindly received, and finally, by the aid of William Adams, obtained the following license, through which a large trade was opened:—"All Dutch ships that come into my empire of Japan, whatever place or port they put into, we do hereby expressly command all and every one of our subjects not to molest the same in any way, nor to be a hindrance to them; but on the contrary, to show them all manner of help, favour, and assistance. Every one shall beware to maintain the friendship in assurance of which we have been pleased to give our imperial word to these people; and every one shall take care that our commands and promises be inviolably kept.

"Dated (according to the Japanese calendar equivalent to) August 30, 1611."

Thus far William Adams had helped only his former employers, the Dutch; but he had not forgotten his native countrymen. A letter of his to some English merchants on the island of Java set forth the advantages of having a share in the trade with Japan, and finally reached the East India Company. But, even before that, the English, hearing that a countryman was in Japan, had conceived the same idea, and had sent out Captain John Saris with letters from the King of England (James I.) to the Emperor of Japan. He (Capt. Saris) in time met Adams, and was finally presented to the "Emperor." The result of this visit may be seen in the following document[1]:—

"1. Imprimis.—We give free license to the subjects of the King of Great Britain, namely, Sir Thomas Smith, governor, and the company of the East India merchants and adventurers, forever, safely to come into any of the ports of our empire of Japan, with their ships and merchandises, without any hindrance to them or their goods, and to abide, buy, sell and barter, according to their own manner, with all nations: to tarry here as long as they think good, and to depart at their pleasures.

"2. Item.—We grant unto them freedom of custom for all such merchandises as either now they have brought, or hereafter they shall bring into our kingdoms, or shall from hence transport to any foreign part; and do authorize those ships that hereafter shall arrive and come from England, to proceed to present sale of their commodities, without further coming or sending up to our court.

"3. Item.—If any of their ships shall happen to be in danger of shipwreck, we will our subjects not only to assist them, but that such part of ship and goods as shall be saved be returned to their captain, or cape merchant,[2] or their assigns: and that they shall or may build one house or more for themselves, in any part of our empire where they shall think fittest, and at their departure to make sale thereof at their pleasure.

"4. Item.—If any of the English, merchants, or others, shall depart this life within our dominions, the goods of the deceased shall remain at the dispose of the cape-merchant: and all offences committed by them shall be punished by the said cape-merchant, according to his discretion; our laws to take no hold of their persons or goods.

"5. Item.—We will that ye, our subjects, trading with them for any of their commodities, pay them for the same according to agreement, without delay, or return their wares unto them again.

"6. Item.—For such commodities as they have now brought, or shall hereafter bring, fitting for our service and proper use, we will that no arrest be made thereof, but that the price be made with the cape merchant, according as they may sell to others, and present payment upon the delivery of the goods.

"7. Item.—If, in discovery of other countries for trade, and return of their ships, they should need men or victuals, we will that ye our subjects furnish them for their money as their need shall require.

"8. Item.—And that, without further passport, they shall and may set out upon the discovery of [3]Yeadzo, or any other part in and about our empire."

Is the latter half of the fourth article the first instance of extraterritoriality?

Accompanying this was a letter to King James, as follows[4]:—

"Your Majesty's kind letter, sent me by your servant, Captain John Saris (who is the first that I have known to arrive in any part of my dominions), I heartily embrace, being not a little glad to understand of your great wisdom and power, as having three plentiful and mighty Kingdoms under your powerful command. I acknowledge your Majesty's great bounty in sending me so undeserved a present of many rare things, such as my land affordeth not, neither have ever before seen; which I receive not as from a stranger, but as from your Majesty, whom I esteem as myself. Desiring the continuance of friendship with your Highness, and that it may stand with your good liking to send your subjects to any part or port of my dominions, where they shall be most heartily welcome, applauding much their worthiness, in the admirable knowledge of navigation, having with much facility discovered a country so remote, being no whit amazed with the distance of so mighty a gulf, nor greatness of such infinite clouds and storms, from prosecuting honourable enterprises of discoveries and merchandising, wherein they shall find me to further them according to their desires. I return unto your Majesty a small token of my love (by your said subject), desiring you to accept thereof as from one that much rejoiceth in your friendship. And whereas your Majesty's subjects have desired certain privileges for trade and settling of a factory in my dominions, I have not only granted what they demanded, but have confirmed the same unto them under my broad seal, for better establishing thereof. From my castle in Suruga, this fourth day of the ninth month, in the eighteenth year of our Dairi, according to our computation. Resting your Majesty's friend, the highest commander in the kingdom of Japan.

"[Signed] MINAMOTO NO IYEYASU."

[1] From Hildreth's "Japan As It Was and Is."
[2] Probably, "head merchant."
[3] Yezo, or the Hokkaido.
[4] Hildreth's "Japan As It Was and Is."

The closing years of Iyeyasu's reign were marked by renewed persecution of the Christians, who had up to that time enjoyed comparative peace. It has been asserted, and also denied, that the jealousy of the Dutch Protestants may have helped to inspire this persecution of Spanish and Portuguese Catholics. In 1616, the very year when William Shakespeare left the stage of the world, Iyeyasu also passed away. He was deified, first under the title of Gongen Sama, and afterwards under that of Toshogu. In the following year the corpse was deposited with an imposing ceremony in the tomb at Nikko.

Iyeyasu was succeeded by his son, Hidetada, of whose reign we shall speak briefly, only for the purpose of connecting Iyeyasu with Iyemitsu. He it was who "began that system of foreign policy since pushed to such extremes"; and accordingly he restricted the English to the single port of Hirato. He also renewed with terrible vigour the persecution of the Catholics, who met torture and martyrdom with zealous courage. This persecution was raging the fiercest at just about the time when the Pilgrim Fathers, seeking a place of freedom to worship God according to the dictates of their consciences, landed on Plymouth Rock.

Another little circumstance in the same year connects the history of Japan with that of the United States. This was a voyage to Japan by Martin Pring, who is well known for his explorations on the coast of Maine. Sir Thomas Dale also, who had been governor of Virginia, was with Pring for a while, but died before the fleet reached Japan. When Pring returned to England, he carried with him the will of Adams, who, when he died, was lord of the village of Hemi.

In 1623, Iyemitsu, the grand-son of Iyeyasu, became Shogun. Soon finding that the Christians of Japan were not yet extirpated, he began the most terrible persecution, in which the "torment of the fosse" was employed in the following manner.[5] "A hole was dug in the ground, over which a gallows was erected. From this gallows the sufferer, swathed in bandages, was suspended by his feet, being lowered for half his length, head downward, into the hole, which was there closed by two boards which fitted together around the victim so as to exclude the light and air. One hand was bound behind the back, the other was left loose, with which to make the prescribed signal of recantation and renunciation of the foreign creed; in which case the sufferer was at once released. This was a most terrible trial indeed. The victim suffered under a continual sense of suffocation, the blood burst from the mouth, nose, and ears, with a twitching of the nerves and muscles, attended by the most intolerable pains."

Soon after, in order more effectually to prevent the introduction of Christian missionaries into the empire, the Portuguese sailors and merchants were confined to the little island of Deshima, in Nagasaki harbour. In the meantime the Dutch had continued their subservient and cringing policy, and made every effort to incite the Japanese against the Portuguese. Once, however, they were brought into trouble by the indiscretions of a certain Dutch governor of Formosa. This man, having been delivered up to the Japanese for punishment, was finally released by the Emperor of Japan, because the latter was so much pleased with a fine chandelier which was among the Company's annual presents. This chandelier was used as an ornament for the temple mausoleum of Iyeyasu at Nikko, and is still pointed out with pride by the guides.

But the machinations of the Dutch, and suspicion that the Portuguese were privy to a rebellion, finally led to the following edict, which was issued in 1638[6]:—

"No Japanese ship or boat whatever, nor any native of Japan, shall presume to go out of the country: whoso acts contrary to this shall die, and the ship with the crew and goods aboard shall be sequestrated till further order.

"All Japanese who return from abroad shall be put to death. Whoever discovers a priest shall have a reward of 400 to 500 *shurts* of silver [from $2,000 to $2,500], and for every Christian in proportion.

"All persons who propagate the doctrine of the Catholics, or bear this scandalous name, shall be imprisoned in the *Ombra*, or common jail of the town.

"The whole race of the Portuguese, with their mothers, nurses, and whatever belongs to them, shall be banished to Macao.

"Whoever presumes to bring a letter from abroad, or to return after he hath been banished, shall die with all his family; also whoever presumes to intercede for him shall be put to death.

[5] Heldreth's "Japan As it Was and Is."
[6] Hildreth's "Japan As It Was and Is."

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No nobleman nor any soldier shall be suffered to purchase anything of a foreigner."

At the same time "the Emperor" sent to all the governors of the maritime districts an ordinance, which, according to Hildreth, reads as follows:—

"The express and reiterated commandments against the promulgation of the religion and doctrines of the Christians have been duly published and everywhere proclaimed; but it being found that these edicts were not efficacious, they [the Christians] were forbidden to approach the coasts of Japan with their galliies and other sea-vessels; and some of them, in contempt of this prohibition, having come to Nagasaki, orders were given, in punishment of this offence, to put them to death. It was commanded last year, by a special edict, that in case any sea-vessel were seen on the coasts of Japan, or entered any port, it might be permitted to anchor, with a strong guard on board, till what they proposed was sent to the Emperor. This commandment is now revoked; and it is ordered instead that these vessels [Portuguese and Spanish], without hearing a word which those on board have to say, shall be destroyed and burnt, whatever pretence they may set up, and all their crews to the last man be put to death.

"It is also commanded to erect watch-towers on the mountains and all along the coast, and to keep constant watch to discover Portuguese vessels, so that news of their arrival may at once be spread everywhere; and, if such a vessel shall first be discovered from a more distant point, it shall be imputed as a crime to those in charge of the nearest watching places, and the governors thus guilty of negligence shall be deprived of their offices.." * * * * * *

The triumph of the Dutch was not, however, complete or long continued. They themselves soon become objects of suspicion to the Japanese; and three years later they were confined to that same island of Deshima. From this time until the visit of Commodore Perry, the Dutch, although their trade was from time to time restricted, nominally enjoyed, together with the Chinese, the monopoly of the commerce of Japan.

In 1651 Iyemitsu died, and was interred at Nikkō. Thus the first three Shoguns of the Tokugawa dynasty ruled during the first half of the seventeenth century. Of Iyeyasu the Japanese say that he restored peace to a country formerly troubled by civil commotions. Of Iyemitsu they say, that he consolidated the government founded by his grandfather. If a foreigner, in the light of the nineteenth century, expresses an opinion, he must say that Iyemitsu seems to have been narrow-minded, bigoted, and conservative; while Iyeyasu appears as broad minded, liberal, and progressive. Iyemitsu upheld that system of foreign policy which kept Japan at a standstill for two centuries: Iyegasu favoured that system which has done so much in the last 35 years for this nation. Iyeyasu was the forefather of "New Japan."

Mito, December 31st, 1890. CLEM.

YOKOHAMA SEAMEN'S MISSION.

The Rev. W. T. Austen, Seamen's Chaplain, in presenting the Ninth Annual Report and Financial Statement of the above, begs to return his hearty thanks to the subscribers and friends of the institution, for their liberal contributions and help, by which the work had been successfully carried on during another year. The year was commenced with a balance in hand of $66.31½, and closed with a balance carried forward of $89.50. During the past year a greater number of distressed seamen, in need of food and shelter, have been relieved than in former years, over 500 meals and beds having been given, thus lessening the annoyance at one time so often complained of by residents who were appealed to either at their dwellings or in the streets in such cases. The mission has an arrangement by which these men are provided with a meal for ten cents, and a night's lodging for a similar amount, so that any persons feeling disposed to afford assistance in any cases that may be brought to their notice, will find it much the best way to send them at once with a chit to the mission, stating the amount they are willing should be expended and for which they will be responsible. This will help to prevent the same men from receiving aid from different persons, which when given in small sums of money is usually spent for *sake* or whiskey. If the case is an unworthy one it is more likely to be found out at the mission than elsewhere.

It has been with much regret that owing to Mrs. Austen's long continued ill-health, and other unavoidable causes, the social entertainments that have proved such a popular feature of the work of the mission in former years, have had to be given up during the past twelve months. For the same reason the Annual Christmas Tree and Dinner had to be given up and abandoned. Though the kindness of several ladies, who undertook the personal superintendance of the matter, a good dinner was provided at the mission on the evening of Christmas Day, for between twenty and thirty needy persons.

The reading room, recreation room, and library have been open daily throughout the year for the free use of seamen of all nations, nearly 6,000 visits of these men being recorded during that period. The services held afloat and on shore by the Chaplain have been well attended, the aggregate attendance being 6,482, chiefly seamen. The need of a Mission Boat for daily visitation of the ships in port has been long felt, and an effort will be made early in 1891 to provide a suitable one for this purpose.

The thanks of the Mission are here tendered to the following friends who have kindly sent gifts of books and newspapers, &c., for the reading room, the sick in hospitals, and for sending away to sea, also for parcels of left off wearing apparel.

The Missions to Seamen (England), Miss Agnes E. Weston (Devonport), The Religious Tract Society (London), Mrs. Brider, The Old Gaol (Salisbury); the Proprietors of the *New York Weekly Witness, Toronto Faithful Witness, Japan Mail, Japan Gazette, Japan Herald*, and *Japan Daily Advertiser, China's Millions*, for copies of their papers regularly supplied gratis; Dr. and Mrs. Hepburn, Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler, Dr. and Mrs. Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ramsay Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Averill, jr., Mrs. J. C. Hartland, Prof. B. H. Chamberlain, J. Honigsberger, Esq., Rev. H. Loomis, and others.

The following statistics are added for the information of all who are interested in the work of the Mission:—

STATISTICS FOR 1890.

No. of visits to Merchant Ships, 221; No. of visits to Men-of-War, 85; No. of visits to Hospitals, 107; No. of visits to Prisons, 86; No. of visits to Saloons, 15; No. of Services held on shore, 203; No. of Services held afloat, 43; No. of Temperance pledges taken, 75; No. of Bags of Reading distributed, 288; No. of Bibles and Prayer Books sold and given, 47; No. of Articles of Clothing given to distressed Seamen, 55; No. of visits to Reading room, 5,827; No. of attendances at Services, 6,482.

SEAMEN'S MISSION.

82, Settlement, Dec. 31st, 1890.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SEAMEN'S MISSION FOR 1890.

Dr.

To Balance—1889		$ 66.31½
To Donation account—		
To Received from Ships' Officers	$ 80.50	
To Received from Friends (England) per Miss Weston	312.70	
To Received from "A Friend," (England)	31.27	
To Received from Wistar Morris, Esq. (America)	10.00	
To Received from Dr. Whitney Tokyo)	9.00	
To Received from Alex. Allan, Esq. (Scotland)	25.00	
To Received from Rev. G. M. Meacham (For relief of distressed Seamen)	5.00	
To Received from Rev. F. Staniland For relief of distressed Seamen)	5.00	
To Received from friends in small sums (For relief of distressed Seamen)	5.50	
To Received from Committee for Week of Prayer Meeting	4.00	
To Received from Offertory, St. Andrews' Church, Shiba, Tokyo	29.35	510.18
To Subscription account—		
To Received from residents, Tokyo	92.00	
To Received from residents, Yokohama	537.00	629.00
		$1,205.49½

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE SEAMEN'S MISSION FOR 1890.

Cr.

By Rent account—paid Jardine, Matheson & Co.		$ 600.00
By Fuel account—paid for Coal and Wood		37.65
By Light account—paid Yokohama Gas Works, etc.		89.20
By Magazine and Newspaper account—paid for		80.68½
By Sundry Expense account—paid for Sundries	$20.66	
By Sundry Expense paid Yokohama Water Works	18.00	
By Sundry Expense paid for Shrubs, etc.	7.10	
By Sundry Expense paid Scavenger	12.00	
By Sundry Expense paid for Watering Streets	5.00	
By Sundry Expense paid for relief to distressed Seamen	53.25	116.01
By Postage and Stationery account—paid for	17.04	
By Printing Circulars, Pamphlets, etc	19.05	36.09
By Furniture account—paid for Furniture	41.86	
By Repairing Furniture	10.50	52.36
By Wages account—paid Reading room Attendant		85.50
By Subscription account—paid for Collecting do.		5.00
By Insurance account—paid Sun Fire Office		9.50
By Balance forward to 1891		89.50
		$1,205.49½

I have examined the above account and compared it with the vouchers and find it to be correct.

E. & O.E. (Signed) A. O. GAY.

Yokohama, January 6th, 1891.

SUBSCRIBERS.

Adamson, Bell & Co., $12; Ahrens, H. & Co., $12; Anglin, J. R., $12; Bayne, W. G., $5; Bavier & Co., $12; Bickersteth, Rt. Rev. Bishop, $12; Bissett & Co., $12; Butterfield & Swire, $12; Carl Rohde & Co., $12; Carroll & Co., $12; Chamberlain, B. H., $5; Colomb, J. & Co., $12; Cornes & Co., $12; China & Japan Trading Co., $12; Dell'Oro & Co., $12; Enslie, J. J., $6; Fraser, H. His Excellency, $12; Fraser, Farley & Co., $12; Frazar & Co., $12; Fraser, D., $12; Flint Kilby & Co., $12; Findlay Richardson & Co., $12; Hannen, N. J., $12; Hunt & Co., $12; Heinemann, Paul & Co., $12; Irwin, R. W. His Excellency, $12; Illies & Co., $12; Irwine, Rev. E. C., $10; Ingles, Captain, R.N., $12; Jardine, Matheson & Co., $12; Kirkwood, M., $12; Knipping, E., $5; Knott, C. G., $12; Lane, Crawford & Co., $12; Litchfield, H. C., $10; Mitchell, W. F., $12; Morriss, E., $12; Morf, H. C. & Co., $12; Middleton & Co., $12; Napier, The Master of, $10; O. & O. S. S. Co., $12; Parsons, J. R., $12; P. M. S. S. Co., $12; Raspe & Co., $12; Rickett, J., $12; Strachan, W. H. & Co., $12; Schoene & Mottu, $6; Siber & Brenwald, $12; Simon, Evers & Co., $12; Schmidt-Leda, Dr., $12; Smith, Baker & Co., $12; Rosenthal, A. S. & Co., $12; Walsh, Hall & Co., $12; Watson, E. B., $5; Walford, A. B., $12; Wilkin & Robison, $12; Ziegler & Co., $12.

DONATIONS.—Allan Alex, $25; Burrowes, Lieut. R.N., $18.18/100. Committee for Week of Prayer Meetings, $4; Campbell, Captain, $5; Chambliss, W. H., $1; Daniels, Captain, $5; Friend $31.37/100; Gadd, Captain $5; Heathcote, Lieut. R.N., $3; Home, Mr., $6.10/100; Hilton, Captain, $5; Meacham, Rev. G. M., $5; Morriss, Wistar, $10; Offertory, St. Andrews Church, Tokio, $29.36/100; Robins, Captain, $10; Stover, Captain, $21.70/100; Staniland, Rev. F., $5; Weston, Miss, $312.70/100; Whitney, Dr. and Mrs. $2.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JAPAN.

Before Judge NAKAMURA GENKWA, Acting President of the First Civil Bureau; and Judges TAKAGI TSUTOMU, KATO SOICHI, YASUI SHUNZO, and KODAMA JUNICHIRO.

URUSHIYAMA KICHIYEMON AGAINST UDZUYE TAKICHI.

Principles deduced from the following case:—

—"The general rule is that loss in trade through partnership must be charged to each partner according to the amount of capital contributed."

"Judgment should not be given on any point outside the point at issue."

"A party must prove the allegation that in a decision judgment was not given on the point at issue."

The plaintiff obtained judgment against the defendant in the Gifu Court of First Instance. The defendant appealed to the Nagoya Court of Appeal contending that he had not traded on joint account with the plaintiff, but that he had lent the plaintiff *yen* 1,230 in several sums at the urgent request of the plaintiff since November, 1886, on condition that he should receive as interest on such loan 30 per cent. of the profit gained by the plaintiff in the silk trade. Even if it should be held that he had engaged with the plaintiff in trade on joint account, the defendant submitted that he should only be required to bear a part of the loss incurred on silk purchased from Uchiki Mohei. Further if it should be decided that he ought to participate in the loss, the defendant contended that his share must be decided according to the amount of capital contributed by him. The judgment of the Court of First Instance, inasmuch as it apportioned the loss equally to the parties, was opposed to law.

For the plaintiff (defendant in the appeal) it was held that the evidence produced in the case showed that the parties had traded on joint account; the silk in this case was bought on joint account, and the judgment of the Court of First Instance was therefore a proper one, as in trade on joint account loss as well as profit had to be equally divided. The judges in the Appeal Court took the view that the parties had traded on joint account, but, inasmuch as there was no special agreement decided that the loss must be born by each party according to the amount contributed by him. On the other points raised the Court held that no decision was necessary. The judgment of the Gifu Court of First Instance must therefore be reversed and the claim of the defendant in the appeal that the appellant should bear one half share of the loss must be disallowed.

Against this decision an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court. It was contended on behalf of

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the appellant (the original plaintiff) that by general rule and custom loss and profit must be borne equally by the partners in joint account trading, in the absence of any special agreement to the contrary. Even admitting that the Appeal Court was right in deciding that the loss should be proportionate to the amount of capital contributed, the judgment erred in law by failing to fix the amount of loss to be so borne by the parties respectively.

The Supreme Court held that by general rule, in the absence of any special contract, loss in trade on joint account must be borne in proportion to the amount of capital contributed. In this respect the judgment of the Appeal Court was quite in accordance with law. On the point taken as to the failure of the Appeal Court to fix the amount of loss to be borne by the parties respectively, the Supreme Court decided that no decision of the kind was called for, there having been no discussion on the subject. Even though there had been discussion on the point the burden of proving that fact was on the appellant, and he had failed to bring the necessary proof. The appeal, therefore, could not be sustained.—*Saiban Suishi*, November 29th, 1890.

KIMURA KATSUYA AGAINST MATSUMOTO HIKOYEMON.

Principles deduced from the following case:—No sale of any article which is deemed an immovable either in nature or use, can transfer complete ownership, unless the procedure necessary in the case of immovables is taken, or actual delivery of such article has occurred.

In this case judgment was given in favour of the plaintiff in the Hiromaye Peace Court. The defendant carried the case, however, to the Hiromaye Court of First Instance, contending that while certain articles purchased by the plaintiff from the common debtor, Kitagawa Tomijiro, such as mats, doors, *shoji*, &c., being moveables had to be delivered, other articles such as an alcove, a closet, an out-house, &c., must be registered in the Register Office, being immovables. The plaintiff could not exercise any right superior to the defendant in respect of the movables, for the latter had secured public registration, as shown by the warrant to seize the debtor's property, before the plaintiff had obtained registration or attempted to take possession of the property. *A fortiori* the plaintiff had no prior rights of ownership. The plaintiff on the other hand submitted that, having a claim of *yen* 700 against the common debtor, he had taken over parts of the buildings owned by Tomijiro to be applied in payment of interest. The transaction took place on March 10th, 1887, before public registration and seizure of the property by the defendant, which only occurred when the plaintiff attempted to take some of the property so transferred to him.

The Judge of the Court of First Instance held that though the property included articles which in nature and use were immovable, registration was not necessary, the purpose of the transaction being to make them movables. The judgment of the lower court was therefore reversed.

The plaintiff in the original suit now appealed to the Supreme Court contending that as no settled rule existed as to the sale of movables, such transactions must be governed by general principles of law. Transfer from seller to buyer must be taken to have occurred as soon as the views of the parties came into agreement, and the buyer's rights were not affected though the seller still continued to occupy and use the property sold. In the present case Kitagawa Tomijiro's position with regard to the property after its transference to the appellant was purely that of bailee.

The Supreme Court rejected the appeal, holding with the judgment appealed against, that in this case actual delivery must take place unless the usual procedure with regard to the sale and transfer of immovables were taken.

Before Judge NISHIOKA YUMEI, President of the First Criminal Bureau, and Judges H. YAMANE S. KAWAGUCHI, S. SHOYA, and S. OKUYAMA.

MAY A BURGLAR BE ASSAULTED?

THE PUBLIC PROCURATOR OF THE FUKUSHIMA CORRECTIONAL COURT AGAINST MITSUYAMA KISUKE.

Principles deduced from the following case:—"Assault and battery committed on a housebreaker with an instrument seized at the moment when, having been found trespassing by night in a house he fails to reply on being asked who he is, may be regarded as a justifiable act."

Reference:—"Any person who wounds or kills by a justifiable act in one of the following cases shall be adjudged not guilty:—

"Where the wounding or killing is done in defence against a person entering without any reason an occupied house by night, or climbing over or destroying gates, doors or fences." Par. 3, Art. 315, Penal Code.

The accused in this case was found guilty at a preliminary examination in the Fukushima Correctional Court, of battery and wounding. A motion for the recall of this finding was made in the Consultative Bureau (*Kwaigi Kyoku*) of the same Court, with the result that the first decision was ordered to be withdrawn, and it was adjudged that as the act of the accused could not justify a finding of guilty under Art. 315 of the Penal Code, he should be discharged under Art. 224 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Public Procurator of the lower court appealed to the Supreme Court against this decision, contending that in order to bring the case within the application of Art. 315 of the Penal Code there must be three essential conditions; (1) that the intruder entered by night, without cause, a house occupied by others; (2) that the occupant of the house found it necessary to defend himself; (3) that the wounding or killing was justifiable on the ground of self defence. In the present case the first and second conditions were existent, but the third was not; for the wounding or killing must under the article in question be unavoidable,—no other means of defence being at hand. In this case the wounding was not unavoidable, for on the facts it only appeared that the injured person was in the kitchen, and failed when called on, to say who he was. The finding of the Consultative Bureau was therefore unlawful. The accused simply contended that the appeal was groundless, and that the original finding should be sustained.

The Bench found that the appeal chiefly set forth that the original judgment—which held the injuries to have been inflicted in self defence, whereas as a matter of fact the assault was not unavoidable or justifiable—was unlawful. The original judgment, however, found that the accused had struck the intruder with an axe which he found lying near him, on no answer being given; that he did so thinking the person thus discovered in his house under cover of the darkness of night was a wrongdoer; that the assault was committed as a means of defending the house and its inmates, because the act of trespassing in the house by night was presumably with a view to the commission of some wrong, and the assault might be necessary as a means of protection. The original finding must therefore be sustained and the appeal rejected.—*Saiban Suishi*, Dec. 5th, 1890.

LARCENY.

THE PUBLIC PROCURATOR OF THE NIIGATA CORRECTIONAL COURT AGAINST USAMI RINKICHI.

Principle deduced from the following case:—"Theft by opening the door of a house with a key borrowed under false pretences must be punished under Art. 368 of the Penal Code, and cannot be dealt with as common larceny under Art. 366."

Reference—"Any person who steals the property of another shall be guilty of larceny, and be punished with major imprisonment for not less than two and not more than four months." Art. 366, Penal Code. "Any person who commits larceny by entering the house or godown of another, climbing over or breaking any door, gate, or fence, or opening any lock, shall be punished in manner similar to the foregoing article." Art. 368, Penal Code.

The accused was convicted of larceny and of removing goods in the Niigata Correctional Court and was sentenced to major imprisonment for a month and a half and to be subject to police surveillance for six months—the imprisonment for larceny under Arts. 366 and 376 of the Penal Code, and, he being under 20 and over 16 years of age, under Art. 81, the offence of removing goods not being taken as a simultaneous offence.

The Public Procurator of the Lower Court appealed to the Supreme Court, maintaining that on the face of the judgment it appeared that the accused borrowed a key from Kobayashi Ushitaro (the latter being then absent from his house) on the pretext that he meant to enter the house and make the woodwork of a plane (*kanna*); and that he entered the house by opening the door with the key so borrowed, the judge admitting that the accused had borrowed the key on a false pretext with the aim of making preparations to commit larceny. The offence must therefore be punished under Art. 368 of the Penal Code and the judgment was an unlawful one.

The accused opposed the appeal on the simple ground that it was improper.

The Supreme Court held that having opened one of the doors of the house with a key obtained from the occupant on false pretences, and with the object of committing larceny, the accused must be punished under Art. 368 of the Penal Code, and the judgment of the lower court, which decided that the offence should be dealt with under Art. 366, was a misapplication of law, and must be cancelled. Deciding the case anew in accordance with Art. 427 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Supreme Court held that the first act of the accused fell to be punished under Arts. 367, 368, and 376, and the second act under Arts. 390 and 394, and the last paragraph of Art. 395 of the Penal Code. As the accused, however, was under twenty and over sixteen years of age when he committed the offences, and as the offences were simultaneous, he must under Arts. 81 and 100 of the Penal Code be punished with major imprisonment for four months and a half and be subject to police surveillance for six months.—*Saiban Suishi*, Dec. 5th, 1890.

OBTAINING PROPERTY UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.

THE PUBLIC PROCURATOR OF THE FUKUOKA CORRECTIONAL COURT, AGAINST NUMIYAMA HANA.

Principles deduced from the following case:—The appropriation under false pretences of goods entrusted to one, with the object thereby of making wrongful gain, constitutes the offence of obtaining property under false pretences.

Larceny consists of the theft of property, in reference to which the offender has no responsibility of custody.

Reference:—Art. 390, Penal Code—"Obtaining property by cheating or the use of threats constitutes the offence of obtaining property under false pretences, and shall be punished with major imprisonment for not less than two months and not more than four years with a fine of not less than *yen* 4 and not more than *yen* 40."

Art. 395, Penal Code—"The act of cheating or embezzlement or other false pretence shall render the offence obtaining of property under false pretences."

The accused in this case was convicted in the Fukuoka Correctional Court of having appropriated under false pretences property entrusted to her keeping, and was sentenced to major imprisonment for two months with a fine of 4 *yen* and to be subject to police surveillance for six months, under Arts. 390, 394, and 395 of the Penal Code.

The Public Procurator of the lower court appealed against this judgment, contending that the offence should have been treated as larceny. To constitute the offence of obtaining property under false pretences the element of cheating or threatening should be present, and such cheating must be of a skilful nature, and not the unskilful and clumsy act attributed to the accused. True the offence might be regarded as the appropriation by the accused for her private purposes of goods entrusted to her; but as the judgment stood it was a misapplication of law.

The Supreme Court found that the accused had placed inside her *tansu* or bureau a box which had been left by Sakuragi Sakichi on a mat before her door, and had denied all knowledge of the box when the owner returned to ask for it. The Public Procurator had suggested that the offence was one of larceny, or the use for private purposes of goods entrusted to the custody of the accused. As the offence of larceny, however, consisted of stealing goods in reference to the custody of which the accused had no responsibility, the present offence could not be treated as one of larceny, the accused having no responsibility for the custody of the box, which was as a matter of fact left on the mat before her door by the owner. Nor was the offence the use for private purposes of goods entrusted to the care of the accused, because there was no evidence that the box had been so used. The accused in fact assumed custody of the box and appropriated it under false pretences. The original judgment was therefore a right and proper one, and the appeal must be rejected under Art. 427 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.—*Saiban Suishi*, December 6th, 1890.

THE "NAMOA" AFFAIR.

The enquiry into the circumstances of the recent piratical attack on the steamer *Namoa* was again resumed at the Magistracy, Hongkong, when the following additional evidence was taken:—

Dr. Marques said—On the afternoon of the 12th inst. I held a post-mortem examination on the bodies of Captain Pocock and Mr. Petersen. Captain Pocock had a bullet wound on his right side; below the right nipple. The bullet had entered there, travelled through the lungs and liver, eventually lodging in the spinal cord. The abdomen

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was full of blood. Death was the result of hemorrhage caused by the bullet wound. The bullet was from a bull-dog revolver. Mr. Petersen had three incised superficial wounds on the left side of the forehead, and an ordinary incised wound over the left eyebrow. On the right cheek was a wound which might have been caused by a knife or by the grazing of a bullet. On the upper portion of the left arm were five bullet wounds, one of the wounds being only superficial. Of the others, two bullets had passed through the arm, entered the chest, and passed out of the right side. The collar bone was fractured by a bullet. The right arm had also two superficial wounds, apparently caused by one bullet. Death resulted from hemorrhage caused by the bullet wounds.

Yung Ma Sing, trader, said—On the 10th inst. I was a passenger by the *Namoa*. I took my position on the 'tween deck, amidships, on the starboard side. I had a basket with me containing Tls. 600 in silver. About 1 p.m. I was sitting down when I heard some shots fired on the upper deck. I started to go to the upper deck to see what was the matter. I got as far as the companion leading to the upper deck, when a man standing at the top there called out, "Passengers don't come up." The man was one of the pirates. He called out in a loud, threatening manner. In one hand he held a revolver and in the other a sword. I went back to the place where I had been sitting. Nothing further happened till about 4 p.m., when six or seven of the pirates came down leaving two standing at the top of the companion They told the passengers to go up on deck, one by one. We all went up and were searched. They then drove us into the after saloon. There we remained until the pirates left the ship. There were about thirty or forty men in the after saloon. The remainder of the passengers were taken to different parts of the ship. None of the pirates were on the 'tween deck when the attack began. I saw about twenty of them altogether. They did not kill any of the Chinese passengers, nor did they fire at us. I have not heard of any of the Chinese passengers being killed. If any were killed it must have been after we were told to go on deck. There were two or three women on board. I saw them at the end of the voyage and they were all right. I could recognise one or two of the pirates again. I could recognise two who had European hats on. These were the two who searched me. The pirates were Hakka and Punti men. I have been shown a number of men in the gaol to-day, but I did not recognise any of the pirates amongst them.

The enquiry was further adjourned.

HOW HASSAN THE WATER-CARRIER BECAME MARRIED.

[AN EGYPTIAN TALE.]

When I was in Cairo I remained a long time perfectly ignorant of the names, qualities, and professions of my nearest neighbours—not for want of prying about and questioning. At first, a view from the lofty terrace promised to give me some information; but no! The urban architecture of the Arabs has been so influenced by their love of retirement, that in a City of Terraces nothing was to be seen. All the houses are of different heights, and, as it were by general consent, every builder has managed matters so that nothing scarcely but white walls or palings can be distinguished near at hand. At a little distance, it is true, I could look down upon several terraces, upon which a few bearded old fellows daily smoked their pipes or performed their prayers; and now and then, at evening time, I perceived some shadowy female forms, enveloped in sombre drapery, hovering upon them. A lofty kiosque, that towered on the roof of a large mansion not very far off, was the favourite resort of an Abyssinian slave, who would often look out unveiled, and even once or twice made telegraphic signs to me. Farther off was a low mosque, with a scolloped parapet to its terrace; but I rarely saw any one upon it except a boy, who came out of the minaret at stated intervals to declare the unity of God and call the faithful to prayers.

The lacunes left by the sense of sight were ill-supplied by that of hearing. I could sometimes catch fragments of conversations between the women in a neighbouring courtyard, but little that was definite or characteristic. As usual, one-third of the words employed were curses or terms of abuse—expressive of tenderness or anger according to the tone in which they were uttered. Opposite the window of my room, I must add, was the low-terraced roof of a mud house, upon which two or three large, dirty women occasionally sprawled; but I never could ascertain anything of them or their mode of life. They scowled abominably when they saw me; and the youngest generally raised a cry and ran away. I at first thought that they belonged to an especially bigoted family; but on making inquiries, ascertained the truth. It appears that, in the early time of my residence, during some excessively hot weather, I had taken two or three turns in a state of nature in my apartment; that I had been perceived, and had been, not very absurdly, set down as a madman.

Beyond this terrace was a lofty house, inhabited by a half Spanish, half Levantine family. Two pretty girls occasionally peeped through the palings of the terrace, attracted—I at first flattered myself—by my English aspect, but I was disappointed to find that my landlady's son, a Levantine, had been in the habit of making love to them by signs, and that it was in search of him their bright glances were sent.

I used to sit at my window for hours smoking and watching the people in the street. The inhabitants of the low mudhouse, were, it appears, very charitable. No dervish scarcely ever stopped at their door and sang his song without receiving a piece of bread; and an old blind beggar used to come at stated periods, feeling his way along the wall, and crying, "Geeân ya Rab!—I am hungry, O Lord;" in order to partake of their bounty. Charity is always found amongst the poor.

But this is a digression. I am going to tell the story of Hassan the Sakka (Water-carrier) and of Sitt Mishmish (Lady Apricot), the only two of my neighbours of whose saying and doings I could gather anything definite. The others seemed to be aware a "chiel" was among them "taking notes," and kept their adventures to themselves.

The water-carriers are a curious class of people, and famous for getting into all sorts of intrigues. They pursue their trade in various ways. Some have camels, which carry two enormous watersacks of ox-hide, one on each side; others have only donkeys which bear a sheepskin full; others carry a *kurbah* on their backs and distribute cool refreshing draughts to the passers-by. In Cairo they go about exclaiming, "Recompense me, O God!" but in Alexandria they have a peculiar cry of which I could never obtain any proper explanation, "sellâow, sellâow!" The Levantines maintained that this was a relic of the French occupation, being no other than a corruption of the expression *C'est de l'eau!* which the Sakkas were ordered to use for the information of the soldiers; but the Muslims said that the words were of Moggrebbyn—perhaps of Berber origin.

But to revert to Hassan and Lady Apricot. The former dwelt in a narrow street, down the whole length of which I could see from my window; the latter, in a large house, at the bottom of a blind alley close by. She was a woman of property, and, being a widow, lived by herself with her hand-maidens. Her short experience of matrimonial life had been unfortunate, and consequently she had resolved never to put herself again in the power of man. This determination of hers became well known in the neighbourhood, and during the early time of her widowhood formed the subject of spiteful remark. But she lived down scandal, and her doings at length passed perfectly unnoticed.

However, Hassan the Sakka, a handsome little man, with a glossy black beard and sparkling eyes, took it into his head that, humble as was his position, he might, by daring and preseverance, induce the rich widow to change her mind. Celibacy he considered an unnatural state—a single woman as a banquet without guests, a house without inhabitants, a ship without a crew, a camel without a hump, or an ass without a driver, or, to quote Mona Caird, a ramrod without a gun. He rightly enough argued that Lady Apricot, being a quaint woman, must be attacked in a quaint way, and, having formed his resolution, proceeded to devise means for carrying it out.

He was one of the few strangers admitted into the house. When he came with his string of camels, he drove them all into the great courtyard where was a large stone cistern, which he filled. Sometimes he was ordered to carry a plentiful supply of water into a little garden, where was a reservoir that furnished a *jet d'eau*, which he supposed was made to play on important occasions. The garden was quite a gem, with two tapering palms, and a number of orange, citron, fig, and pomegranate trees tastefully disposed in walks and arbours. A pretty kiosque, half hidden by vegetation, occupied nearly the whole of one end. In its centre was a tank and the *jet d'eau*.

"I judge," said he to himself, as he viewed this spot, "that Sitt Mishmish indulges here in *fantasias*; that she collects around her the means of delight—the singers and the dancers—and breathes the fragrance of the flowers, and listens to the music of the fountain, and enjoys her keyf. Happy the man who is admitted to share in the festivities."

Hassan was an inventive genius, and doubted not that, if it suited his purpose, he could obtain admission into the garden whilst the lady was indulging in her sports. So he artfully lured one of Sitt Mishmish's eunuchs to a coffee-house in the neighbourhood, made him merry with coffee and smoke, and got from him that his mistress was wont, on the night of every Thursday, to amuse herself in the kiosque of the garden; that her hand-maidens were all trained to singing and dancing, but that on great occasions some of the first public performers were hired.

"The Sitt is a fantastic woman," said the eunuch, "and Allah has blessed her with little sense; for every day in the week she lectures against marriage, and orders her favourite slave, Zareefeh—for slaves are still an institution in Egypt, doubt it who may—to tell tales of tyrannical husbands; but on the night of the fantasia she seems to droop with langnor, and she cries out sometimes in a faint voice, 'When will my beloved come?'"

Hassan could not contain his delight at these revelations; for thought he, "surely I must be this beloved one that is expected."

So Arab-like he began to cast about to devise means of obtaining admission into the garden; but found the task more difficult than he had imagined. Houses and lofty walls hemmed it in on every side; and he would not run the risk of betraying himself by endeavouring to corrupt any of the domestics.

"God is great," said he; "I must have patience. Fortune will at length cast that which I seek before me."

And he continued carrying water every day for household use, as well as for keeping up the freshness of the garden, and replenishing the fountain.

One evening he was sitting in a coffee-house, when a narrator began to tell the story of a man who had been carried by an eagle into a wonderful palace sewed up in a sheepskin. Hassan at once formed his plan, which was no other than this—to get into one of his ox hide sacks, armed with a knife, and cause himself to be left, as if accidently, by his assistants. What he was to do if success crowned his plan, destiny would determine.

The trick was easily played. Two cunning friends sewed him well into the sack—begging him to appear as much like water as possible—and when the backs of the slaves were turned, hoisted him off the camel and carried behind a pomegranate tree in the neighbourhood of the kiosque. No suspicion seemed to be raised. Two men had been seen to enter; two men issued forth. The doors were closed; and, as evening approached, preparations were made for the festivity.

About an hour after sunset, Hassan who began to feel very uncomfortable in his sack, heard a voice calling from a window somebody.

"O Zara!"

"Present, O Sitt!" was the reply.

"Go with Yacoub, and light the lamps and let loose the waters, and brush the floor and spread the carpets; for I am sad, and must be delighted with music and singing."

Presently the two slaves—the eunuch and the girl—came to the kiosque and obeyed the orders of their mistress. As they bustled about they saw the sack behind the tree, and Yacoub said:

"Those accursed Sakkas have left this great ugly bag behind. We must drag it out of the way."

On hearing this, Hassan endeavoured to look as liquid as possible; and for the first time felt fear.

"If they discover me now," thought he, "they will beat me, and turn me out before Sitt Mishmish comes; and I shall gain nothing but bruises by the adventure."

Yacoub and Zara gave two or three tugs at the bag, but finding it heavy, came to a stop.

"It will be better," said Zara, "to let the water run out. Untie the knot."

"No," replied Yacoub; "I will poke my sword through it it; and if the rascally Sakkas complain, I will pull their beards and be insolent."

"It is advisable not to cut the sack," quoth Zara, to the infinite relief of poor Hassan.

The slaves then again bustled about, and often walked over the sack without noticing that it held anything but water; and Hassan remained quiet, still striving to liquify himself.

When Sitt Mishmish came down to the kiosque she saw the water-sack, and said:

"What is the meaning of this?"

And they told her.

"Pigs that ye are!" exclaimed she, "that ye have not removed it." Hassan prepared his knife, and commending himself to the Prophet, awaited impatiently for the Sitt to call for her beloved one. But the dancing and music began and continued for an hour, and the lady remained silent and sad.

And Zareefeh said to her:

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"O Sitt! what can we do to amuse thee? Shall we tell stories? or shall we jump upon this water-sack? or shall we try our strength and roll it to the tank?"

"Roll it into the tank," was the reply.

Immediately five or six women, laughing and pushing one another, began to roll the sack rapidly along. Hassan was turned over in all directions, and found it almost impossible to use his knife. So he began to roar for mercy, fearing lest he should be drowned. But the slaves paid no attention, and had got him to the edge of the tank, when with a desperate effort, he slit open a hole large enough for him to pass his head. On seeing his shaven scalp, with a long top knot thrust forth, the girls gave a loud scream; but Zareefeh exclaimed:

"Have courage, O girls!" and—"paff, paff"—slapped the poor man's face with both hands.

In an instant they soused him in the tank with screams of laughter. He struggled and roared; but they had no mercy on him, and would probably have drowned him in their fun had not Lady Apricot called upon them with a loud voice to desist. By her orders they drew him forth, half dead and dripping like a rag; and brought him warm towels to dry himself, and threw silk robes over him, and presented him to their mistress; who looked upon him, and said:

"Is this my beloved?"

He replied:

"Yea; and I am happy to have suffered all this for thy sake."

And she said: "I knew of thy coming and was resolved to try thy patience. Thou art a wise person—not foolish and weak of heart. I had sworn never to take as a husband any one but the man who should make himself fire, or air, or water for my sake. Thou hast made thyself water and I am content. Sit by my side."

So Hassan became the husband of Lady Apricot, and lived happily in her society.

Such was the story related to us one evening by an old gentleman who came in to smoke his pipe with my landlady. She was vexed with him because he was long-winded and put off the supper for an hour. So she mildly told him that he was a "Kedab" (liar); but Om Barbarâ, who was nodding in a corner, woke up to declare that it was all perfectly true; that she knew a Muslim who used to visit Lady Apricot, and that such things constantly happened. I do not answer for the details, but it is certain that Hassan the Sakka became the husband of Sitt Mishmish. Such a circumstance has nothing surprising in Egypt, where no prejudice in favour of birth or breeding exists to impede the free play of caprice, or the development of romantic affection. And of this I shall give some examples in my next.—*Statesman.*

MADAME BLAVATSKY'S WORK IN THE WEST.

It is with some surprise that an F. T. S. arriving in India from England or America finds that the larger portion of the public outside the Society either believes Madame Blavatsky to be dead, or, at the very least, to have been crushed under the weight of falsehood hurled against her by enemies and calumniators. Even within the Society there are not a few who imagine she has lost her love for India, or that, owing to increasing years and constant ill-health, her energy has declined, and that she is no longer working for the noble cause to which her life is devoted with the same fire, the same enthusiasm, the same untiring devotion, as in the days when her presence gave new life and vigour to the decaying reverence of the Hindus for the priceless gems of truth contained in their ancient literature. Naturally the more earnest and active members of the Society know otherwise; but even they do not seem to appreciate the amount and value of the work she has accomplished during the last four years, nor do they grasp its significance for, and important bearing upon, India.

Thus, although readers of the *Theosophist* have always had the materials before them for realising these facts, yet it may not be ultimately useless if I attempt to sketch, however inadequately and briefly, the work which H. P. Blavatsky has accomplished in Europe and America since she was ordered away from Madras by Dr. Scharlieb.

To begin with Europe. In May, 1883, there existed one fairly active Branch of the Society in Paris, one in Greece, and a dead-alive one in Holland. In London, there was a Branch numerically strong, but which, however, was practically almost dormant. Besides these there were inanimate Branches in Cambridge and Edinburgh, and a somewhat less sleepy one in Dublin, Ireland. There was also a useful centre at Odessa. These represented Theosophy in Europe, and an impartial observer would have declared that the prevailing tendency of the movement there was towards gradual euthanasia and final decay. That this picture is not drawn in too gloomy colours will, I think, be borne out by the opinion of most persons acquainted with the Society in Europe at the time referred to. In May, 1887, Madame Blavatsky came to London from Ostend, and an immediate revival of activity became perceptible. The magazine, *Lucifer*, was started, the "Blavatsky Lodge" formed, and work went on apace. New enthusiasm was infused into the members by her presence, and the present state of the movement may now be described as follows:—

On the continent things are slightly improved, as witness the formation of centres of Theosophical activity in Spain, Vienna, and Italy. In Sweden a new and most energetic Branch, now numbering over 100 *active* working members, has sprung up, while the dormant Branch in Holland has begun to work in earnest. But it is in England, around her from whom this new life has really sprung, that its effects are most visible. Instead of 1 moderately active and 3 inanimate Branches in the United Kingdom, the Society now counts 13 active, working, energetic Branches, among which the "Blavatsky Lodge" numbers some 100 active members, and more than that number of associates. So large has become the attendance at its weekly meetings, that we have been driven to construct a hall for this purpose, capable of seating 300 persons, as well as for use as a general lecture hall on Theosophical subjects.

In 1887, the existing Theosophical literature was comparatively meagre. Now, besides the older books, we have the first two volumes of the "Secret Doctrine," the "Key to Theosophy" and "Voice of the Silence" from H. P. B.'s pen, besides a mass of pamphlets, leaflets and tracts. In addition, several sterling works on Theosophical topics by other able writers have appeared; and when one adds to this the existence and success of the magazine, *Lucifer*, and the establishment and maintenance of a regular publishing and printing office, conducted *solely* in the interests of the Theosophical movement, where all works, tracts, &c., on these subjects may be published at a minimum of expense and for the sole benefit of the T. S., one is able to form some measure of the growth in activity and strength of the movement since 1885. This, however, is not all; for besides the above, the Theosophists in Europe have erected a Head-Quarters for the Society in London at a cost of over £1,200. And most striking of all is the strength and loyalty of the *Esoteric Section*, now barely two years old, but already numbering many hundreds of members.

So much regarding Theosophy in Europe; let us turn now to America. When Mr. Judge went back to that country from India, at the end of 1884, he found the movement almost dying, and in spite of his earnest efforts and constant exertions, the revival of its life and activity was at first very slow. Throughout all these years, Mr. Judge has unswervingly followed H. P. B.'s advice and guidance; he has striven to inspire himself with the same spirit that fires her efforts, and to carry on the movement upon the lines she has marked out. The consequence of this policy has been the steady, and—during the last two years—the extraordinarily rapid growth and spread of the movement throughout the United States. The number of active, working Branches has doubled in each of the last two years, the Society having spread quite across the Union, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. Moreover, the increase in numbers of the Society has been even larger in proportion than its growth as measured by the number of new Branches formed; while the hold which Theosophical ideas are taking upon the public mind, as shown both in the Press and in general literature, cannot escape even the most superficial observer, and is more striking and of greater ultimate importance than the spread of the Society itself.

Almost as much, too, has been done in the production of Theosophical literature in America as in Europe, and the back numbers of the *Path*, Mr. Judge's edition of Patanjali's Yoga Philosophy, his Theosophical Glossary and Echoes from the Orient, Dr. Buck's Study of Man, Mrs. Ver Planck's new book, and the numerous leaflets, pamphlets and papers circulated to the American Branches, as well as the *Theosophical Forum* under Mr. Fullerton's editorship, form together a body of work done, done well and thoroughly, of which *any* Society might justly be proud.

And to what is this due? Like the workers in Europe, Mr. Judge and his devoted colleagues in America ascribe all to the example, the guidance, the help, the counsel, the inspiration of H. P. B.

Now it is not my intention to write a panegyric of that noble woman in a magazine she once edited. I make these statements simply because they are *facts*, and because, though familiar to every one of us in Europe and America, I have reason to think that the greatness of the work she has accomplished and is still performing, as also the extent to which Theosophy has spread and the Theosophical Society has grown and prospered in the West under her leadership, are neither realised nor appreciated—even by her devoted friends—in India, though the facts have been recorded in this magazine.

Again it seems to me that the Hindus, both within and without the Theosophical Society, have failed to perceive the enormous importance which the spread of Theosophy in the West and the growth of the Theosophical Society possess in regard to the spiritual reawakening and regeneration of India. Neither do they realise the direct bearing of this on the present, and its great possibilities for the future—regarding the question that is, whether the India of to-day shall awake from her slumber of centuries, and through the revival of spirituality in her peoples, through the Unity and Brotherhood which are the essence of true Theosophy, as they are likewise the direct and inevitable outcome of *true* spirituality—shall escape the deadly morass of materialism, its consequent degradation, disintegration, and decay, and so regain once more her lofty place in the van of Humanity; or whether, falling into the opposite extreme, she shall perish and disappear for ever as have the mighty nations of Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Greece, and Rome.

On this subject, then, a few words may be in place.

One of the most potent factors in the moulding of India's present and future is the influence of Western thought, education, and habits upon its more intelligent and better educated classes. Now the first effect of these forces has been to turn the minds of those who were subjected to them, away from their ancient spirituality and the time-honoured learning and modes of thought of their ancestors. Not altogether has this effect been evil. On the contrary, it was a necessary and unavoidable stage in the new birth of India; but its danger lay in the tendency thus created towards a selfish, sensual materialism and a mind prejudiced against, and so closed to, all stirrings of that latent spirituality, which alone can really regenerate India. This tendency grew unchecked, year by year taking deeper, firmer root in the mind of Indian youths, till the advent of the Theosophical Society. Then a reaction set in, and the ablest men in India are no longer ashamed to avow their great forefathers. One great force in bringing about this reaction was undoubtedly the fact that the Theosophical Society was created and led by two people from the West, and throughout the history of the Theosophical Society in India, it is the Western element in it which has played the most prominent part, and exercised most influence in reviving and stimulating interest in spiritual matters among the English educated Hindus. Thus, to speak generally, it is India which has supplied the material, while the West has contributed the energy and force required to make it available and bring the latent power of the spiritual thought and science of India's glorious past into active, living contact with men's minds to-day. It seems further, as if this process was destined also to characterise the future relations of West and East, especially in all that concerns the spiritual life and activity of the latter. If the spiritual life of India is to be revived, it must be through the quickening into growth and activity of the dormant, but still vital germs of spirituality in its peoples through the active energy of the West bringing to bear upon them the vivifying influence of the spiritual knowledge and wisdom which the West is now beginning to draw from the treasure house of Sanskrit and vernacular literature and tradition.

But the mere revival of reverence for, and belief in, the Shastras, will do but little for the future of India. To substitute merely a blind belief in certain sacred books for an equally blind belief in materialistic science is of little value. It is not sufficient for the Hindus to reverence and study their sacred literature; they must learn to *understand it*. This understanding, too, must be a vital re assimilation of the ancient thought; not a mere world knowledge, it must be a re reading of these old teachings, not in the light of empty verbal abstractions of the logic chopping of a period of decay—it must be a new, vivid apprehension of the old truths, with a fresh and ample context of concrete truth and fact; otherwise it can bring no worthy fruit to ripeness. Here again, too, the importance of Western Theosophical thought to India is apparent, for it is precisely Western students who, guided by H. P. B., are beginning to learn how to render living and full of meaning these old time-honoured but abstract forms. Nowhere in India, however, except in the

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Theosophical Society and allied organisations, can people be found capable of infusing this new spirit into its ancient religious thought. Hence those who hold that the Society has done its work, take, it seems to me, a very superficial view of India's needs, and of the forces which are needed to bring about that national re-birth to which all look forward.

But some, perhaps, may think that this revival of India's spiritual life is of but minimal importance to the future progress and development of their native land. They may think that it is rather through material progress, through political and social organisation and development, through eating meat and drinking spirits, through parliamentary institutions and local self-government, that their goal—the re-birth of India as a united and mighty nation—is to be achieved. Such ideas are woefully erroneous. Let them learn the lesson of history as exemplified in the decay of Aryavarta herself, not less than in the decline and fall of Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Persia, Greece and Rome. In each and every case, it was the growth of materialism with its inseparable attendant—selfishness—which led to the breaking up of these mighty empires, and the destruction of their civilisations. For is it not obvious that the inevitable outcome of the spread of materialistic thought, and the accompanying decline of spirituality, must be that all man's interest, thought, and aspiration become centred in physical life, in the enjoyments of the senses, in the gratification of the personal desires and passions, ambition, vanity, lust, love of power, and so forth? In other words, under the influence of such thought men begin to live more and more each for himself alone, without regard to their fellow citizens, and in proportion as this spirit gains sway in a community, so must the social organism break up and disintegrate through the ever-intensifying struggle between the individuals composing it.

If more evidence of this truth be needed, it can be found in abundance in the present struggle between Labour and Capital throughout the West, in the growth in number and acrimony of the strikes, in the ever-increasing misery, suffering, and degradation of large portions of the population. So bitter, indeed, has the struggle for existence become, that its very intensity is forcing home to men's hearts the deeper *spiritual* truth of human solidarity and unity, as opposed to the *prevailing* doctrine of the unchecked "struggle *for existence*" and its logical outcome—unrestrained selfishness. Thus the hard logic of bitter experience comes in to confirm the essential truths of all spirituality, viz.,—that the Law of Life is unity and solidarity, that the purport of human existence is the realisation of this oneness, and that the only road to true happiness lies in the steadily growing conscious realisation and practical carrying out of this law in our daily and hourly lives.

Every mighty nation of the past was built up because its individual citizens realised their own unity with the nation, forgetting themselves, their selfishness and personality, in the consciousness of this higher unity. And it is by this growth of self-sacrificing devotion that India must be re-born as a nation, if she is ever to live again as she has lived in the past. As it has been the strength of the innate spirituality in her people which has till now preserved even a semblance of existence amid the crash of falling empires and the inroads of foreign invaders; so it must be the revival, the reawakening of this inner spiritual life, the thought of the greatness of the past, and the lofty ideal of its spiritual teachings, which must nerve the efforts and fire the enthusiasm of her sons if Aryavarta is once more to be counted among the foremost of nations.

It is because the Theosophical movement is one of the strongest agencies working in this direction, and because the progress of the movement in the West must, as been shown, react with multiplied power upon India, that Madame Blavatsky's work in Europe and America is of such vital import to every Hindu. Therefore they should aid the Theosophical Society in its work, therefore they should seek in every way to strengthen its influence, therefore, finally, that they should not forget or cease to honour the one about whow I am now writing, to whom in the present they owe so much, and to whose labours they will be ever more and more indebted as the years of the future roll by and the influence of her life and work begins to be appreciated at its true value.—BERTRAM KEIGHTELY, F.T.S. in the *Theosophist*.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."

London, January 2nd.

A fight has taken place between the Indian tribes now on the war-path and the United States Cavalry under General Miles at Porcupine Creek, in which the Cavalry lost 75 killed and 110 wounded. The Indians had fired a mission building near Pine Ridge, in which a number of priests and sisters and hundreds of children were burnt alive.

London, January 3rd.

After the action at Porcupine Creek between the United States Cavalry and the Indians, the troops discovered that it was only an empty school, and not the mission at Pine Ridge, as previously reported, that was burned.

London, January 4th.

In consequence of the severe weather, which has thrown thousands of men out of employment, there is terrible distress in the East End of London, amounting almost to a famine.

London, January 6th.

It is stated that Sir Julian Pauncefote has notified Mr. Blaine that any seizure of a British sealing vessel outside the three-mile limit in the Behring Sea will be forcibly resisted.

London, January 7th.

It is reported that sixteen United States war-vessels have been ordered to rendezvous at San Francisco in February.

It has been denied by the Foreign Office that Sir Julian Pauncefote has informed Mr. Blaine that any seizure of British sealing vessels outside the three-mile limit in the Behring Sea would be resisted.

London, January 8th.

Several swift [British] cruisers have been ordered to be got ready for commission to reinforce the North Pacific Squadron before the sealing season commences.

Later.

The North American Indians are coming to terms, and five of the principal bands have already surrendered.

[FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS."]

London, December 16th.

Silver securities are advancing and rising in New York owing to the belief that prospects are favourable for legislation. Senator Sherman will introduce to the Senate on behalf of the Republican Caucus, after conference with the Hon. W. Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, a Bill providing for the purchase of the surplus silver bullion valued at twelve millions, and issue one hundred millions two per cent. bonds for the purchase of bullion when required, in order to make good the retirement of National Bank notes and the recoinage of trade dollars.

London, December 17th.

The Caucus having discussed Senator Sherman's bill regarding the purchase of the surplus silver, decided to eliminate the proposal to issue two per cent. bonds for the one hundred millions.

London, December 19th.

The Republican Bill has been finally drafted and will be presented to the Senate shortly. It provides for the purchase of the bullion surplus amounting to twelve million ounces within the year but not exceeding three millions monthly, this in addition to the present monthly purchase; the bill also provides for free coinage when silver is maintained at par for one year; it likewise comprises provisions for increasing the currency.

London, December 22nd.

The Egyptian Budget shows a surplus of half a million.

Major Wissmann has recalled Emin Pasha in consequence of his disobeying orders.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6.05* 6.40, 8, 8.35, 9.30,* 10.25, and 11.45 a.m., and 1.25, 2.30, 3.55, 4.45,† 5.50, 6.50, 8.30, 9.55, and 11.15† p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.20, 8.10, 9.15,† 10.22, and 11.30 a.m., and 12.45, 2, 3, 4.25†, 5.30, 6.35, 7.50, 9.10, 10.05, and 11.05† p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, Tsurumi, and Kanagawa Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, 10.20, 11.25 a.m., and 12.40, 3.25, 4.55, 5.35, and 7.45 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.35, 8.40, 9.40, and 11.07 a.m., and 1.17, 2.45, 4.58, 7.25, and 9.46 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

Down trains at 6.50 a.m. run no further than Kyoto arriving there at 11.20 p.m.; at 10.20 a.m. no further than Nagoya, arriving at 10.10 p.m.; at 12.40 p.m. no further than Shizuoka, arriving there at 6.50 p.m., at 3.25 p.m. no further than Shizuoka, arriving at 8.48 p.m.; and the train at 5.35 p.m. runs to Kobe, arriving at 12.45 p.m. next day.

A tramway runs between Kozu and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri.*) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri*)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.30 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.05, 1.30, 4.03, 6.14, and 8.30 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.41 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.16, 1.41, 4.14, 6.25, and 8.41 p.m.; and ZUSHIMURA (down) at 7.50 and 10 a.m., and 12.25, 1.50, 4.23, 6.34, and 8.50 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.45, 8.55, and 11.20 a.m., and 12.50, 3, 5.10, and 7.45 p.m.; ZUSHIMURA (up) at 7.01, 9.12, and 11.36 a.m., and 1.06, 3.16, 5.26, and 8.01 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 7.11, 9.22, and 11.46 a.m., and 1.15, 3.26, 5.36 and 8.10 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 7.15 and 9.45 a.m. and 2.15 and 5.20 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 5, 9.11, and 11.40 a.m., and 4.10 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 6.12 and 10.35 a.m., and 1.55 and 6.35 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 5.10, 7.13, and 11.37 a.m., and 2.57 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *sen* 97, second-class *sen* 66, third-class *sen* 33; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.51, second-class *yen* 1.2, third-class *sen* 51.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 5.25 and 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 and 4.55* p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Uyeno.

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE SHINJIKU, TOKYO, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m; and HACHIOJI (up) at 5.25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

FARES—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60. third-class *sen* 30.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—FARE, *sen* 10.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Jan. 16th.
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 10th.
From Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 11th.*
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 18th.†
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 18th.‡
From Hongkong.	per C. P. M. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 17th §

* *Saghalien* left Kobe on January 10th. † *Belgic* left San Francisco on December 30th. ‡ *Ancona* left Hongkong on January 9th. § *Parthia* (with English mail) left Hongkong on January 8th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 13th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 11th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 20th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 20th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 3rd January,—Hakodate 1st January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 3rd January,—Kobe 2nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 4th January,—Nagasaki 2nd January, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 4th January,—Kobe 3rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 4th January,—Yokkaichi 3rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 4th January,—Yokkaichi, 3rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 4th January,—Hongkong 27th, Nagasaki 31st December, and Kobe 3rd January, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 5th January,—Yokkaichi 4th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 6th January,—Hakodate 4th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 6th January,—Yokkaichi 5th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, Young, 6th January,—Kobe 5th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 7th January,—Handa 6th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lochiel, British steamer, 1,378, John Cairn, 7th January,—Batoum, — Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 7th January,—Hakodate 5th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuga, 7th January,—Yokkaichi 6th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 8th January,—San Francisco 18th December, viâ Honolulu 26th December, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 8th January,—Kobe 7th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 8th January,—Yokkaichi 7th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, ———, 8th January,—Yokosuka Dock 8th January.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kreimhild, German steamer, 1,394, F. Voss, 9th January,—Hongkong 3rd January, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 9th January,—Shanghai and ports 2nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 9th January,—Yokkaichi 8th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 10th January,—Hongkong 3rd January, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 1,976, McHugh, 3rd January,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 3rd January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 3rd January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wolf (4), German gunboat, Captain Credner, 3rd January,—Kobe.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 4th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Straits of Belle Isle, British steamer, 2,484, Griggs, 4th January,—Kobe, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Sydney, French steamer, 3,450, Vaquier, 4th January,—Kobe, Shanghai, and Hongkong, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 4th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 5th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 5th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ajax, British steamer, 1,474, Rawlings, 6th January,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hesperia, German steamer, 1,050, Madsen, 6th January,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 6th January,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 6th January,—Yokosuka.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 6th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 6th January,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 7th January,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 7th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 7th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 8th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pigmy (6), gunboat, Captain G. H. Hewett, 8th January,—Kobe.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sakai, 8th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 8th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wm. H. Conner, American ship, 1,496, Pendleton, 8th January,—Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 9th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 9th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 10th January,—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 10th January,—Hongkong, viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong, viâ ports:—Mrs. Utah, Mr. G. B. Roach, Mrs. Roach, and infant, Mrs. Patton, Miss Patton, and Mr. M. Brown in cabin; 1 passenger in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. G. Yamana and Hayakawa in second-class; 36 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Hakodate:—2 passengers in second-class; 40 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, from San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. T. Miyoshi, Mr. E. Kildoyle and family, Miss R. Clifton, Miss E. Madley, Lieutenant C. P. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bau, Colonel Hutchinson, Miss Morehead, Rev. C. P. Kupper, wife, and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Baird, Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Patton, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Belsham, Messrs. T. Wooyeno, A. Kaiser, B. T. Blakeney, and S. Garcia in cabin. For Hongkong: Miss B. Emmerson, Hon. T. Marsden, Messrs. L. Asen, Lee Shing Poo, and T. E. Brown in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Fraser, Mrs. Burgess Watson, 2 children, and maid, Mrs. Campbell, Messrs. A. M. Montell, W. Wiseman, W. H. Devine, Asada, Nakano, and A. Unger in cabin; 6 Japanese in second-class; 21 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Hake and servant, Mr. and Mrs. T. Komouro, Miss M. Marobais, Messrs. C. H. Fearon, Blum, Dubourg, J. Barth, J. Takaki, and C. Doubitzky in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. H. D. Leland in cabin; 30 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Keagh and family, Mr. E. Karcher and servant, Miss A. Siemers, Messrs. G. R. Mosle, T. Zadig, Raspopoff, P. Richter, Muthesius, Wang Chew, Ching Ting, Ah Ching, Wah Fan, Ah Sun, and Le La Sang in cabin; 3 Europeans and 28 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, for Kobe:—Messrs. MacCullum and J. Yamada in cabin; 4 passengers in second-class; 12 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, for Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Becker in cabin; 1 passenger in second-class; 35½ passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Sir Edwin Arnold, C.S.I., Miss Arnold, and servant, Mrs. C. H. Fearon, infant, and amah, Mrs. Goodrich, Mrs. Merriman, Mr. and Mrs. Wing Yee Woh, Messrs. L. Dougal, J. Ricketl, Douglas Dick, B. T. Blakeway, A. Langfeldt, Li Po Ching, and Master A. Nachtigall in cabin; 4 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 209 bales; Raw Silk for Italy, 20 bales; Waste Silk for France, 224 bales; Treasure for Shanghai, $15,500.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 339 bales for France.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe on January 3rd at noon; with gentle westerly wind and fine weather passed Ooshima at 9.30 p.m.; light to moderate N.N.E. winds and clear weather up to Rock Island; afterwards cloudy, dull weather with moderate variable northerly winds and rain up to arrival. Arrived at Yokohama on January 4th at 9 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstraud, reports:—Left Hakodate January 3rd at 2 p.m.; fresh westerly wind and clear weather. Arrived at Oginohama 4th at noon and left 5th at 5 a.m., with fresh breeze from west, wind during the day from N.W. fresh blowing till midnight, then moderating. Arrived at Yokohama January 6th at 6 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Kobe January 5th at noon; had light N.W. winds and fine to Ooshima which was passed at 8.45 p.m., weather continuing fine to Rock Island which was passed 6th at noon; light airs and calms from there to port. Arrived at Yokohama January 6th at 6.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain John Wynn, reports:—Left Hakodate January 5th at 2 p.m. and had light westerly winds and fine clear weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama on January 7th.

The British steamer *China*, Captain W. B. Seabury, reports:—Left San Francisco December 18th at 5.10 p.m. and Honolulu 26th at 3.25 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama on January 8th.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain Wm. Ward, reports:—Left Hongkong January 3rd at 1.54 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama January 10th at 1.57 a.m. To Chapel Island had light winds, thence to middle of the Eastern Sea had very strong N.E. gale with heavy head sea, thence to Ooshima light northerly winds, thence to port strong north-westerly winds. Passage 6 days 10 hours and 21 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai January 2nd at 2.40 p.m., having strong fresh northerly winds and rain with thick weather to the Gotos, thence strong N.W. winds and clear weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 4th at 6.15 p.m. and left 5th at 5 p.m.; light winds and fine. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 6th at 7.45 a.m. and left at 1.15 p.m.; moderate westerly breeze and clear weather. Arrived at Kobe the 7th at 10.25 a.m. and left the 8th at 12.20 p.m.; light N.W. to W. winds and clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama January 9th at 3.45 p.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no change to report in the position of the Import Market. A few complimentary sales were made at the beginning of the year at rates below what Importers are willing to accept. There is no demand, and prices all round are purely nominal. Sales for the week amount to 150 bales English Yarns and about 1,000 pieces Shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

		PER PIECE.	
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.54
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 34 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
		PER YARD.	
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.14
		PER PIECE.	
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼ lb, 24 yards, 36 inches	1.00	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1 70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4 50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32-3 inches	0 50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1 35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	4 50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

		PER PICUL.	
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.00	to	27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	28.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	32.00	to	33 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	39.00
		PER BALE.	
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

Prices weak and nominal. No fresh business since the holidays and buyers hang back. Quotations unchanged but concessions must be made to induce business.

		PER PICUL.	
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.65	to	2.75
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.75	to	2.85
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.65	to	2.85
Nailrod, assorted			Nom.
Nailrod, small size			Nom.
Iron Plates, assorted	2.80	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.20	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.90
Tin Plates, per box	5.00	to	5.25
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.25	to	1.27½

KEROSENE.

Business suspended still. The dealers appear reluctant to return from their holiday-making. During the week the steamer *Port Fairy* from New York brought 20,000 cases Comet oil, and the steamer *Lochiel* from Batoum has arrived with 73,000 cases Russian. Deliveries have been fair up to the end of the year and present stock is about 650,000 cases.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.70	to	1.72½
Comet	1.67½	to	1.70
Devoe	1 65	to	1.67½
Russian	1.60	to	1.65

SUGAR.

There is nothing yet, but some enquiries are said to have come from Tokyo.

		PER PICUL.	
Brown Takao	$4.10	to	4.15
Brown Daitong	3.10	to	4.20
Brown Canton	4.80	to	5.90
Brown Java and Penang	5.00	to	5.60
White Refined	4.55	to	7.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last was dated the 2nd instant, since when settlements in this Market amount to 572 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks*, 8; *Filatures*, 333; *Re-reels*, 92; *Kakedas*, 139. There have been no direct shipments this week, consequently the total business is comprised in the above mentioned 572 piculs.

This has been a broken week, trade being practically suspended for some days at the turn of the year; latterly, however, there has been more doing, business averaging 200 piculs per day.

Market is fairly active at about late rates. Buying goes on apparently both for Europe and America; prices are steady, some holders being even firm, and, now that exchange has once more taken an upward turn, purchasing is likely to be more difficult again.

The stock does not show much diminution on the week, but it is probable that from now on we shall see a marked falling off in supplies. The wealthy owners of silk seem still resolved to keep their goods off the Market, believing in a better future later on.

There has been only one shipping opportunity during the week, the French mail of the 4th inst. This vessel, the *Sydney*, carried 229 bales for the South of Europe, and her departure brings the present export figures up to 13,161 piculs, against 29,120 piculs last year, and 30,401 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—Very small business, consisting of one very small parcel of *Hachoji*, said to be of good quality, at $470. Holders are willing to sell at quotations, but buyers require some further concessions.

Filatures.—Fair amount of business has been done during the last two days, and among the purchases are *Saishinsha*, $580; *Higashi-Gakosha*, $570. Some good medium *Koshu* have also been done at $555. *Kaimeisha* is still held for $580; while *Tokosha* and *Shunmeisha* are still withdrawn from the market. In fine sizes a few bales *Shinshu* and *Oshu* have been done at $590, with *Koshu* at $575.

Re-reels.—Business has not been large in this class, although there is a little more doing at the close. The most notable sale is 50 boxes *Five Girl* Chop at $555. Few parcels of Medium and Common have also been done as low as $510.

Kakeda.—These have received a fair amount of attention during the last few days, and some considerable sales have been made. *Daruma*, $545; *Kinko*, same price; down to *Black Tiger* at $507½; with a small parcel of *Deer* Chop at $500.

Oshu sorts and sundries have given rise to no business this week.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	500
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	490 to 495
Hanks—No. 2¼ (Shinshu)	490 to 495
Hanks—No. 2¼ (Joshu)	485 to 490
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	480 to 485
Hanks—No. 3	470 to 475
Hanks—No. 3½	460 to 465
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	590 to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	580 to 590
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	570 to 580
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	560 to 565
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	560 to 570
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	550 to 555
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	540 to 545
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1	570 to 575
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	550 to 555
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	540 to 545
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	530 to 535
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	510 to 520
Kakedas—Extra	Nom —
Kakedas—No. 1	540 to 550
Kakedas—No. 1½	530 to 535
Kakedas—No. 2	520 to 525
Kakedas—No. 2½	510 to 515
Kakedas—No. 3	500 to 505
Kakedas—No. 3½	490 to 495
Kakedas—No. 4	480 to 485
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	500 to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 9th Jan., 1891:—

		Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		4,720	12,807	16,632
America		8,091	15,884	13,598
Total	Bales	12,811	28,691	30,230
	Piculs	13,161	29,120	30,401
		PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		14,000	32,000	31 200
Stock, 9th January		15,600	4,300	8,800
Available supplies to date		29,600	36,300	40,000

WASTE SILK.

Trade in this branch is 850 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 350; *Kibiso*, 490; *Sundries* 10. There is no talk of direct export this season.

The buying goes steadily on, and is apparently for continental Europe. As on the Raw side, the week has been broken by holidays; but during the last three days considerable settlements have been made.

As before noted, the chief trade has been in *Noshi*, although *Kibiso* of the better grades has been well patronized.

The French Mail Steamer, *Sydney*, on the 4th inst., took 199 bales Waste and 25 bales Pierced Cocoons. The *General Werder*, which left port on the morning of the 7th, had also 44 bales Waste Silk for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 17,329 piculs, against 16,207 piculs last year and 19,791 in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No business during the past week; holders require more for their stocks than buyers can pay.

Noshi.—The demand for good fibre continues, and stocks are getting very low; buyers are therefore turning their attention to the staple article of *Joshu*. Among the recent purchases are *Filatures* at $138; *Hachoji*, $128; *Oshu*, $130; *Shinshu*, $110; and *Joshu* from $75 to $85, according to assortment.

Kibiso.—Good demand for Filatures, prices ranging from $95 to $114, according to quality. *Mino*, *Yechigo*, and *Oshu* have also been done in considerable quantities at or about $50 per picul.

Mawata.—There have been no transactions on this market, but some portion of our stock has been shipped down south.

Sundries.—Only one small purchase of common *Neri* at $8; in this department also stock is decreased by some purchases for home consumption.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	$120	to	$130
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	150	to	155
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	140	to	145
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	130	to	135
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	140	to	150
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	110	to	120
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	90	to	92½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	82½	to	85
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	75	to	80
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	90	to	100
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	80	to	90
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	70	to	75
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	35	to	30
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	200

Export Table Waste Silk to 9th Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	16,042	14,067	17,570
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,140	2,221
	17,329	16,207	19,791
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	21,300	18,900	24,900
Stock, 9th January	7,200	11,500	5,400
Available supplies to date	28,500	30,400	30,300

Exchange has declined slowly through the week, but is now firmer at the following rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/6¾; Documents, 3/6¾; 6m/s. Credits, 3/6¾; Documents, 3/6¾; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $85; 4 m/s. U.S. $85¼; Paris, 4m/s., fcs. 4.43; 6m/s. fcs. 4.45.

Estimated Silk Stock, 9th January, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs
Hanks	360	Cocoons	300
Filatures	9,661	Noshi-ito	1,350
Re-reels	4,827	Kibiso	5,050
Kakeda	481	Mawata	70
Oshu	264	Sundries	430
Taysaam Kinds	7		
Total piculs	15,600	Total piculs	7,300

TEA.

Nothing to report—rates nominal.

		PER PICUL.	
Common	$11		
Good Common	12	to	13
Medium	14	to	15
Good Medium	16	to	17
Fine	18	to	19
Finest	20	to	22
Choice	23	to	25
Choicest	28	&	up'ds
Extra Choicest			—

EXCHANGE.

Exchange, though lower on the week, is firm at the close, with an upward tendency.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/5⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/6¼
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/6⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/6⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.36
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.46
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72⅜
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	84⅛
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	85⅛
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	84⅛
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	85⅛
Silver	48⅛

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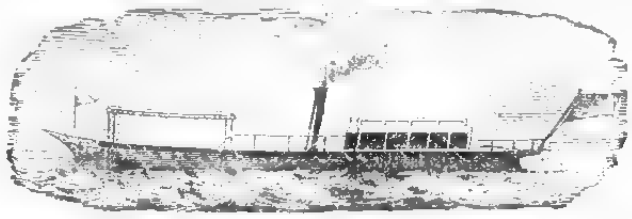

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 17, 1891.

MARRIAGE.

On Jan. 10th, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Yokohama, by special license, before James Troup, Esq., H.M.'s Consul, and afterwards at the Union Church, by Dr. Meacham, FRANCIS JOHN WILLIAMS, third son of the Rev. Jabez Palmer, The Elms, Clapton, London, and grandson of the late Sir James Williams, to LENA, only daughter of the late Capt. Jacob Ewalt, of Yokohama. No Cards.

DEATHS.

On the 14th instant, at 12 o'clock noon, at his residence, Negishi, CHRISTIAN WAGNER, born at Cassel, Germany.

On the 11th inst., at No. 90, Settlement, Yokohama, CHARLES HAENNI, of Thun, Switzerland, Vice-Consul for Switzerland, in his 49th year.

At his residence, 4, St. Stephen's Villas, Norwood, London, ALFRED MITCHELL, formerly of Yokohama, aged 50 years. (By telegram.)

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

VISCOUNT SAKURAI TOMOYOSHI expired on the 9th instant.

COUNT ITO is suffering from influenza and has gone to Odawara.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU left the capital on the 9th instant for Sano.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ARISUGAWA started from the Shimbashi Station on the 12th instant at 8 a.m. for Yokosuka.

COUNT YAMADA proceeded to the Palace on the 9th instant, and was granted an audience with His Majesty the Emperor.

ABOUT thirty-five Court Ladies in the Imperial Palace are suffering from influenza, and several are also ill at the Aoyama Palace.

MR. TAKEUCHI KO, one of the leading members of the *Rikken Jiyu* party, resigned on the 12th inst. his membership of the party.

MR. MUTSU, Minister of State for the Agricultural and Commercial Department, purchased recently several thousand *tsubo* (one *tsubo*=36 sq. feet) of land at Nishigahara, Oji, Tokyo, with the intention of erecting a country villa.

THE laying of the line of the Sanyo Railway, between Wake and Shiraishi, being completed, a trial run was made on the 10th instant.

COUNT TODA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, paid his respects to the Emperor on the 9th instant at the Palace.

MR. ASADA, Governor of Kanagawa, who had been suffering for some time from influenza, was able to attend business on the 10th instant.

THE Tokushima Prefectural Government has erected a meteorological observatory and applied to the Home Office for an engineer to take charge of is.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE KUNIHIKO arrived in the capital on the 8th instant from Atami, where His Highness had been staying for some time.

BARON TOKUGAWA YOSHIATSU and Mr. Yoshikawa, Vice-President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, have resigned membership of the Honjo District Assembly.

THE receipts of the Post and Telegraph Office, during December last, were *yen* 246,060, showing an increase of *yen* 171,558 as compared with the previous month.

IT is stated that the wreck of the *Kii Maru*, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, which went ashore at Omaezaki (Yenshu), will shortly be offered for sale by public auction.

DUING the month of December last, the visitors to the Tokyo Library numbered 3,289, showing an increase of 1,958 as compared with the same month the previous year.

MR. STONE, recently appointed agent of the American Trading Company, at Yokohama, was entertainment by a number of the leading traders of Yokohama on the 12th instant at Chitose-ro.

MR. K. KAWAKAMI, Chief of the Commercial Bureau in the Foreign Department, who returned from Korea on the 18th inst., will leave Japan shortly to inspect the Japanese Consulates in various parts of China.

DURING last month gold, silver, and nickel coins were struck in the Osaka Mint to the following amounts:—5 *yen* pieces *yen* 117,425. silver 1 *yen* pieces *yen* 156,210. and nickel 5 *sen* pieces *yen* 344,250.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 13th instant, at which Counts Yamagata, Saigo, Matsukata, Oyama and Goto, and Messrs. Yoshikawa and Mutsu were present, the proceedings lasting till late in the evening.

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR despatched Viscount Hojo, a Chamberlain, to the residence of the late Mr. H. Yamane, a Councillor of the Administrative Court, who expired on the 7th instant, with a message of condolence and a present to the family.

THE receipts of the Tokyo Rice Exchange during the latter half of last year, were *yen* 43,000, of which *yen* 14,400 were set apart as a special reserve, *yen* 4,300 as ordinary reserve, *yen* 4,300 as remuneration to officers, and *yen* 20,000 as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 40 per cent. per annum.

THE workmen of the Sapporo Hemp Manufacturing Company, who went out on strike with the intention of shortening their hours of labour, resumed work on the 9th instant, the conferences between them and the Company having proved successful.

MR. MIYOSHI, Chief Public Procurator, who had been abroad for some time on official business, arrived at the Shimbashi Station on the 9th instant at 3 p.m, where he was received by several officials of the Judicial Department, and a number of private friends.

THE half-yearly meeting of shareholders of the Dogashima Rice Exchange (Osaka) was held in the afternoon of the 9th instant. The receipts during the latter half of last year were *yen* 56,996.708, of which *yen* 13,500 was provided for a dividend at the rate of *yen* 18 per share.

ACCORDING to returns compiled by the Authorities, the population and the number of houses in Hakodate, at the end of last year, were 48,748 (of which 24,851 were males and 23,897 females) and 11,609 respectively, showing an increase of 1,845 and 697 as compared with the population and number of houses at the end of the first half of last year.

A FAREWELL entertainment was given on the 12th instant at the Kaiko-ro, Aioicho, Yokohama, by the inspectors of the Kanagawa Prefectural Police and the Yokohama Foreign Settlement Police, and by the judges and public procurators of the Yokohama District Court, to Mr. Noda Yasunori, formerly Inspector-in-Charge of the Yokohama Foreign Settlement Police Station, who has been appointed chief of one of the districts of Fukuoka Prefecture.

THE Peace Preservation Regulations were put into operation on the night of the 13th instant, against Nakasugi Yojuro, Ura Kisaku, Bokube Keitaro, Oka Tabichi, Aoki Masayasu, and Ryo, of Ishikawa Prefecture; Kwanno Michichika, Ujiye Naokuni, Shibatei Sanetada, Iida Shukai, Kawashima Reisunosuke, and Namba Noboru, and other *soshi*, numbering about sixty in all, who were ordered to retire from the capital within ten hours from 10 p.m. of the 13th instant, on suspicion of harbouring an intention to assault members of the Imperial Diet.

THERE is little change to note in the Import trade, but that little is on the right side, and of the few hundred bales of Yarn sold the greater part has been of English spinning. Shirtings have also been taken, but other Piece-goods and Woollens have been very much neglected. Nothing doing in Metals, offers being lower than ever; and though some enquiries have been made for Kerosene, no business has resulted. Sugar is scarcely sold in sufficient quantities to make a quotation. There is still a small trade in Silk and Waste, but an enormous stock remains, though arrivals have almost ceased. There is a scheme afloat among silk-men to obtain official aid in getting this silk on foreign markets, but it is hardly likely they will succeed. The Tea season is practically over, and the prospects of the new crop will be shortly discussed. Exchange has not fluctuated quite so much this week, but after moving up slightly during the past two days again declined to-day.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

COUNT GOTO AND MR. TANAKA SHOZO.

THE curious query put by Mr. Tanaka Shozo in the House of Representatives on Friday, was not altogether as unreasonable as it appeared to be. Mr. Tanaka, declaring that, according to rumour, the Minister of State for Communications harboured suspicious characters at his residence, called for an inquiry into the matter. Of course the President ruled that such a question could not possibly be raised in connection with a debate on the Budget, and the House at the same time showed by its demeanour that it did not mean to have its time wasted by any ridiculous charges. Thus Mr. Tanaka's inquisitiveness was nipped in the bud, and naturally Count Goto, who would fain have defended himself against a charge which, though technically suppressed, had nevertheless been publicly preferred, could not obtain permission to speak. The fact is that this event was one of the consequences of the riotous behaviour of the *soshi* who, on the preceding day, made a raid upon the Yayoi Club and cudgelled some of the members. It will be remembered that the *soshi* avowedly acted on the supposition that certain prominent members of the *Rikken-Jiyu-to* party had allowed themselves to be persuaded or bribed by the *Kaishin-to* into supporting the latter in their scheme of wholesale budget reform. Of course no one imagines that the *soshi* have any objection whatsoever to drastic reductions of the public expenditure, or to any other measure likely to embarrass the Government. What they do very strenuously object to, however, is the notion that their party should serve as the *Kaishin-to's* cat's-paw. Rightly or wrongly, an opinion prevails pretty generally that what the members of the *Kaishin-to* seek to compass is, not fiscal reform, but the dissolution of the Diet. Their object is supposed to be the bringing about of such a collision between the Diet and the Cabinet, in connection with the Budget, that the Emperor will be forced to dissolve the Diet, in which event the *Kaishin-to* expect to secure, at the next general election, three times as many seats as they now possess in Parliament. Whether this theory be true or false, it is beyond question that several members of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, who were not originally in favour of any extreme reductions in the Budget, have been won over to the *Kaishin-to's* way of thinking, and the *soshi*, in their self-imposed capacity as saviours of society, are irate at the notion that their party should be thus betrayed into assisting the designs of political foes. Now, among the *Rikken Jiyu-to* members of Committee who voted for the ten millions reduction—the "extremists" as they are called—two men had made themselves conspicuous, namely, Messrs. Ishida Kannosuke and Suzuki Shoji. These members did not attend the Yayoi-sha meeting on Thursday, and after the *soshi* had invaded the meeting and been driven out, they proceeded to the residences of Ishida and Suzuki in the Shirokane suburb of Tokyo. It happened, however, that Count Goto, anxious to meet Messrs. Ishida and Suzuki, and to converse with them on the subject of the Budget, had arranged through Mr. Inouye Kakugoro that they should visit his house at Shinagawa, and they had proceeded thither when the *soshi* arrived at their residences. The *soshi* declined at first to believe that the members were not at home, and showed a good deal of rude obstinacy before they could be persuaded that Ishida and Suzuki were at Goto's house. Finally, they took their departure, not, however, before a youth called Aoki, an inmate of Mr. Suzuki's dwelling, alarmed at the demeanour of the intruders, had hastened off to warn Mr. Suzuki that the *soshi* would probably follow him to Count Goto's. By and by this forecast was fulfilled. A considerable body of *soshi* arrived at Count Goto's, and asked to see Mr. Suzuki, who of course refused to gratify them. Soon more *soshi* appeared upon the scene, but presently a force of police came and told the intruders to clear out. The *soshi* pretended to obey, but instead of leaving the enclosure, attempted to hide themselves among the trees in the extensive grounds surrounding Count Goto's house. The police ultimately unearthed them and drove them away, but not, of course, without some noise and excitement, as it was now eight o'clock in the evening and quite dark. Subsequently, when quiet had been restored, and the coast pronounced clear, Messrs. Suzuki and Ishida, declining Count Goto's invitation to pass the night at his place, returned to their homes unmolested. All sorts of strange versions of this affair have been published, some of them evidently devised with the intention of showing that Count Goto was at least cognisant of the *soshi's* purpose, and that his guards as well as the police showed marked perfunctoriness. But the account we have given is declared, on the best authority, to be correct, and is, moreover, the only credible version.

* * *

Mr. Tanaka Shozo, who showed so much anxiety to bring a wild charge against Count Goto, is one of the members for Tochigi Prefecture. He appears to be well on in middle life and it is probable that he played a leading part in the Local Assembly of his prefecture, for his ways in the House suggest even more than the usually remarkable applomb displayed by the Japanese in public. He is one of the very few members that wear Japanese costume. At first sight a genial, pleasant-looking kind of person, who manipulates his spectacles with an air of benevolent meditation, and who possesses a considerable power of expressing himself with terseness and wit, he speedily won the ear of the House and for a moment a prospect of parliamentary fame unfolded itself to him. But he was unmasked within a fortnight. The members discovered that he never dealt in anything weightier than chaff and persiflage, and that while he scarcely ever rose to a ratiocinative level, he constantly descended to depths of great venom and bitterness. Then by degrees it began to get difficult for Mr. Tanaka to make his way to the rostrum. In order to do this two things are necessary, first, to catch the eye of the President, and, secondly, to have some measure of the House's good will. Mr. Tanaka discovered that at the moment of his rising in his place some evil fate always turned the President's optics to another quarter of the House, and half a dozen members invariably established claims to a prior hearing. These difficulties were intensified by his procedure in a debate of some importance. Having reached the rostrum and made his usually deliberate preparations to speak, he observed that the House had begun to attend to something else. Nettled, perhaps, by this unsympathetic mood, he talked more sarcastically and even less to the point than is his wont. Cries of *muyo* and other interruptions ensued. Then it was seen that the speaker evidently found himself confronted by no novel experience. Removing his spectacles and leaning leisurely against the President's desk, which stands behind the rostrum, he said:—"Go on, gentlemen. Make as much disturbance as you please. You seem to be in a hurry. Very well. The more you interrupt me, the longer you'll have to listen to me. I am in my right here. I occupy the rostrum in due order, and I mean to say everything I have to say if the task occupies me till to-morrow. You'd better listen to me quietly." The House laughed but listened. Thenceforth, however, the members became still more vigilant to keep him from the rostrum, and at the same time developed a tendency to put him on Committees where his sphere of boredom would be circumscribed. Now-a-days the journals begin to refer to him as "that Mr. Tanaka" (*rei no Tanaka-kun*) and his last escapede has set people thinking that after all, Count Goto's epithet, "mad talk," may be applied not inappropriately to his tirades. But who knows. Perhaps Mr. Tanaka is a budding Disraeli.

SUSPENSION OF THE "KOKUMIN SHIMBUN."

THE *Kokumin Shimbun* has been suspended for publishing an extraordinary article, the writer of which professes to believe that the *soshi* who entered the precincts of Count Goto's residence last Thursday, and sought an interview with Mr. Ishida, who was then on a visit to Count Goto, were in the employ and acting at the suggestion of that Minister. We have seldom seen so wild and intemperate an article in a Japanese journal. It commences with a series of lamentations to the effect that everything is in a terrible condition: the Constitution is declared to have no effect, the rights and liberties of the subject are pronounced non-existent, the law is accused of utter impotence, and the eyes and ears of the police are said to be as useless as their arms are ineffective. It is argued at some length that the *soshi* could not possibly have been anything else than Count Goto's employés, and the Minister of State for Communications is directly charged with inviting the people's representatives to his house at night, and plotting to have them waylaid and assaulted within the enclosure of his own dwelling. We cannot conceive what the *Kokumin Shimbun* means by inserting such demented folly in its columns. It is true that moderation has never distinguished this journal. Unlike the periodical bearing a similar name (the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*), it has frequently made itself notorious by wild declamation and inflammatory writing. Its singularly violent utterances against foreigners after the meeting of last September, are fresh in the memories of every one. But on this occasion it has plunged headlong off the rails, and little as we approve of the suppression of newspapers, we cannot pretend to feel a scintilla of sympathy with the *Kokumin Shimbun*. It is monstrous that newspapers should expect to enjoy the privileges appertaining to rational self-restraint, and a dignified sense of responsibility, when they prove themselves nothing better than disseminators of slander, and disturbers of the public peace. The *Kokumin Shimbun* has disgraced Japanese journalism, and done everything in its power to postpone the day when the country will be able to boast the possession of a free press.

AN IMPORTANT REPRESENTATION.

Two members of the House of Representatives, Messrs. Kanmuchi Tomotsune and Furusho Yoshikado, supported by thirty-seven of their fellow-members, have prepared a Representation which will be submitted to the House at the earliest opportunity, and will doubtless be sent up to the Government by an almost unanimous vote. The purpose of the Representation is to urge the speedy recovery of the country's Tariff and Judicial Autonomy. The Representation is given in the following terms by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*:—"The legislative power and administrative power connected with customs dues can only be exercised after the consent of foreign Governments has been obtained, according to the present Treaties. These Treaties interfere with the sovereign rights of the Empire, and inflict grave injuries on its economy and finances. Having regard to the state of the Empire's finances, and of its industries, it is essential that import duties should be increased. Further, the sovereign rights of the empire are most seriously impaired by the existing Treaties, which exempt foreigners living in these territories from territorial jurisdiction, and permit them to be judged by Consular Tribunals. Further, if foreigners be allowed to engage in the coasting trade, the development of the country's maritime enterprise will be gravely checked. Therefore, this House desires that, in the revised Treaties now under consideration with Foreign Powers, the Government will take steps for the immediate recovery of the Tariff Autonomy which belongs to the Empire's Sovereign prerogatives, and for such increase of import dues as may be dictated by the financial and industrial interests of the country. And this House also desires, with reference to the revision of the Treaties now under consideration, that although, as explained in the recent speech of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, it may be unavoidably necessary to wait a few years in order that the advantages attending the actual operation of the

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various laws may be offered as guarantees to foreign nations, the Government will take steps for subjecting foreigners residing in this empire to territorial laws and for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. Further, this House desires, with reference to the Treaties now under consideration, that all doubt may be removed as to exclusion of foreigners from any participation in the coasting trade. The above being of the utmost national importance, and being also the object of the people's most earnest hope for many years, we have confidence that it will meet with the Government's approval, and we therefore offer this Representation. Having learned from the speech delivered by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on the 17th of December, that the Government is now engaged in negotiating for Treaty Revision with Foreign Powers, this House deems it of the utmost importance to lose no time in bringing the nation's wishes to the notice of the Government. Persuaded that these points have the full endorsement of public opinion, this House refrains from entering into any detailed statement of reasons."

THE POPULATION OF TOKYO.

ACCORDING to the latest statistics, says the *Kokkai*, the population of Tokyo is rapidly increasing, and has already reached the total of one million four hundred thousand. The populations of the other cities and towns in the empire, on the other hand, are becoming gradually reduced, Kanazawa, for instance, which always had over one hundred thousand inhabitants since the feudal times, has now only ninety-nine thousand. The increase in the population of the capital is in direct proportion to the decrease in that of the other cities and towns. The material resources of the interior communities are on the decrease, and Tokyo alone increases in prosperity. Tokyo is the seat of the whole empire, and the provinces are left destitute. If some genius were to carry off the whole metropolis, the Japan left behind would be indeed a a lifeless body. Should we then regard the increase of Tokyo's population with satisfaction or the reverse? The history of Europe tells us that "in the latter days of Greece the population of the capital, Athens, very largely increased in contradistinction to that of the other cities and towns in the country districts, which daily and monthly became depopulated." It seems as if we must take the increase in population of the capital as an indication of a similar tendency in this country.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1890.

THE total figures of Japan's foreign trade during 1890 have been determined at the Customs Bureau of the Finance Department, and are given in the *Choya Shimbun*. The aggregate value of the trade was 138,321,246 *yen*, being an increase of 2,156,780 *yen* as compared with 1889. Of this total Exports figure for 56,593,513 *yen* and Imports for 81,727,733 *yen*. It thus appears that the excess of Imports over Exports was no less than 25,134,220 *yen*, and if we apply to this a correction of 18 per cent. for freight, insurance and other charges, the difference becomes 29½ million *yen* in round numbers. No such record had been shown previously. Of course the greater part of the excess of imports is to be referred to the failure of the rice crop in 1889. Under this one heading alone we have a loss of fully seven millions on the export side, and a gain of some ten millions on the import, so that seventeen millions of the difference are immediately accounted for, leaving only about eight millions to be attributed to the great disturbance of international exchange caused by the silver legislation of the United States.

COUNT MATSUKATA'S SPEECH.

THE full text of Count Matsukata's speech in the House of Representatives on the 9th instant is given in the *Official Gazette*. The importance of the speech as an indication of the policy which the Government intends to pursue with regard to the Budget, suggests the advisability of an exact translation:—"Gentlemen: Having received a copy of the Report of the Special Committee on the Budget, I wish to say a few words to you. Upon the Government and the Diet alike, as I am sure you will all agree, devolves the moral duty of working together on a basis of mutual concession, to the end that the operation of the Constitution may have fair and admirable results. That is the first object to be achieved by representative institutions. But after careful perusal of the Report submitted to you by the special Committee on the Budget for the 24th year of Meiji, and after examining the opinions therein expressed with reference to the revenue and expenditure of the State, I am confronted by the unfortunate necessity of telling you plainly that the Government cannot agree with the recommendations here set forth. This Report only represents the decision come to by the Budget Committee. It cannot yet be considered to embody the sentiments of the whole House. Neither has the time yet come when this House will be required to seek the consent of the Government. Nevertheless the Government takes the opportunity of publicly bringing its decision to the notice of the whole House, and above all of the Special Committee. The Government is fully persuaded that to avoid as far as possible the misfortune of a breach between the Executive and the Legislature is its bounden duty. If, after careful scrutiny of this Report prepared by the Special Committee, it appeared that administrative efficiency was not impaired by the reductions recommended, the Government would go to the utmost limits of concession in order to endorse the Report of your Committee. But the reductions embodied in the Report are distinctly prejudicial to administrative efficiency, and I have now to tell you plainly that, speaking generally, the Government cannot consent to them. I beg of you, gentlemen, most sincerely to give the matter your mature reflection once more."

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It will be perceived that the plain object of the Minister's speech was to warn the House of what is before it if it persists in adopting the Report of the Special Committee. His Excellency carefully refrained from going into details. Indeed, the time had not come when he could with propriety express the Government's views on this point or on that. But with the Report of the Committee in his hand, he wished to let the House know beforehand that if the general recommendations contained in the Report were adopted, the Legislature would find itself in direct conflict with the Executive. Such reductions, he explained, were inconsistent with administrative efficiency, and could not be endorsed by the Government. After this announcement, doubtless made with the consent of the whole Cabinet, the House knows exactly what it is about, and can be quite sure that should it persist in the radical course advocated by some of its members, the Government, however willing to meet it half-way, will be forced to fall back upon the alternative provided by the Constitution, and carry out the Budget of the last fiscal year.

MR. UYEKI YEMORI.

WE are glad to be able to state that Mr. Uyeki Yemori, the member of the Diet who received such a severe beating from *soshi* on the 7th inst. in the Yayoisha, is recovering rapidly and will soon be able to resume his parliamentary duties. On Saturday and Sunday it was persistently rumoured that Mr. Uyeki's injuries were of a fatal character, but happily this statement proved incorrect, and though for a time the wounded man's life seems to have been in some danger, all grounds for apprehension have now disappeared. Mr. Uyeki has been interviewed by the police, and, in reply to their questions, described the Yayoisha incident just as it was described in these columns at the time. He said that a number of *soshi*, forcing their way into the room where the meeting was in progress, assembled opposite the President's seat and summoned him, Uyeki, to come to them—a summons the probable purpose of which was to induce Mr. Uyeki to furnish them with some means of identifying him. If this was their object they succeeded, for Mr. Uyeki shouted in reply that he had no intention of going to them, whereupon they fell on him, and began to beat him with their sticks, two heavy blows descending on his head. Pulled down from behind, he managed to struggle up again and defend himself with a chair. Meanwhile, the whole room was in an uproar, and a general fight ensuing, the *soshi* were driven out. Asked whether he could not recognise some of his assailants, and whether he had any private reasons for hushing up the affair, Mr. Uyeki declared that he could not identify one of the men, and that he had no reason for desiring silence. He admitted that legal interference might be superfluous in cases where politicians, carried away by the heat of discussion, resorted to physical arguments, but no such forbearance need be shown in the case of men who deliberately invaded a meeting and set about inflicting severe bodily injury on persons with whom they had no declared political differences or any cause of violent quarrel.

* * *

Much has been said about police precautions in the vicinity of the Diet and the stoppage of traffic on the roads leading to the House of Representatives, but nothing of the kind was visible yesterday (Monday). Only the usual number of constables were stationed in the precincts of the Diet and no exceptional precautions of any kind were taken. The solitary indication of hypothetical disturbance was that in the *kuruma* of several of the members, or in the hands of their *jinrikisha* men, thick sticks, some evidently containing swords, were to be seen. This is a move in the right direction. If people who have anything to fear from *soshi* would only carry effective weapons of defence and use them with energy and promptness in the event of assault, the *soshi* would soon become chary of risking their lives and limbs.

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Considerable surprise was caused by the intelligence that the two men, Okano and Yamao, arrested by *jinrikisha* coolies at the Yayoisha on the 7th instant, and handed over to the police, had been released. Their respite was not long, however, for they were re-arrested the following day, and are now in custody. Three other men have been arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the Yayoisha disturbance. Two of them are *soshi* named Fujinata and Takata, and the third is a *jinrikisha* coolie who is also believed to have taken some part in the assault.

THE "SOSHI" AGAIN.

ANOTHER remarkable affair has taken place in Tokyo. It occurred on the night of Saturday the 10th instant, and the scene was the Imperial Hotel. Thither Messrs. Kobayashi Kusuo, Yamada Taizo, and Itakura Naka, with about ten other members of the House of Representatives, betook themselves in the evening, and, having engaged a room, proceeded with some investigations of a pressing character. At 9 o'clock eleven *soshi* came to the Hotel. They were armed with stout sticks, and they informed the servants that it was essential they should gain access to Messrs. Kobayashi and Itakura. The servants refused to admit them, and an altercation took place. After a time one of their number, Buto Kakunosuke, who was said to have business with Mr. Kobayashi in connection with some affair at Osaka, was allowed to enter, and asked his reasons for coming. Meanwhile the police at the nearest station became aware that something unusual was in progress, and information having been immediately conveyed to the Kojimachi station by telephone, a considerable force of constables and gendarmes quietly assembled at the Hotel. They took speedy steps to control the ten youths who were pressing for an interview, and at the same time two or three policemen proceeded to the room where the interview was in progress between Mr. Kobayashi and Buto. The latter, seeing the policemen, said that he had much to communicate to Mr. Kobayashi, but that, as he found it inconvenient to speak

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freely in the presence of officers of the law, he should merely explain that Mr. Kobayashi and his fellow-members, being affiliates of the *Riken-Jiyu* party, were bound to follow the policy of their party, and to reduce the Budget as far as possible; whereas it appeared that they had been guilty of taking an inexcusable line, and pronouncing the reductions recommended by the Committee extravagant. Mr. Kobayashi proceeded to argue the point, and, the interview growing somewhat lengthy, the ten *soshi* below-stairs began to grow impatient, and tried to push their way to the upper storey. The constables steadily restrained them, however, and it chanced that while doing so, a policeman, putting his hand on the breast of one of the *soshi*, felt something like a sword. Instantly an examination was made, and it turned out that every one of the ten *soshi* was armed with a formidable dirk about a foot long. Regularly caught in a trap, the youths were all arrested, and are now in durance vile. Their names are as follow:—Iizuka Kimpei, Naito Buhei, Buto Kakunosuke, Terajima Taikichi, Akiyama Matazaburo, and Ishii Ushinosuke, of Kanagawa Prefecture; Furuyama Matazaburo and Mayejima Yuji, of Niigata Prefecture; Yamada Keizo, of Tokyo; Abe Gorokuro, of Shizuoka Prefecture, and Taya Toyomatsu, of Ishikawa Prefecture.

A STRANGE STORY.

In the *Shogyo Shimpo* we find a tale which taxes our powers of credence. The particulars are these:—In the province of Iyo at Ichinokawa there is a mine the joint property of a member of owners. Recently the owners became divided into sections, and one party, the Tosa section, planned to get the mine entirely into their hands. Being without the necessary capital, however, they made up their mind to apply to foreigners, and with this object Mr. Hunter of Kobe was approached. Shares representing a face value of 210,000 *yen* were prepared, and it was agreed that these should be handed over to Mr. Hunter, who on his side made an advance of sixty thousand *yen* on this security, and concluded a draft agreement with the sellers. The agreement, however, was in truth a spurious document, the signatures it bore being those of persons having no right of ownership in the mine. Mr. Hunter, ignorant of this, accepted the contract as genuine, and holds it now by way of security for his advance. The *Shogyo Shimpo* does not vouch for the truth of the story, but says that it will be a very lamentable affair should it prove correct. We doubt it altogether, for a very simple reason, namely, that a mine in the province of Iyo would be absolutely worthless as security to a foreigner under existing circumstances. He could not lawfully hold such property or have any lien upon it, and if he advanced money on the strength of any agreement transferring shares in the mine to his possession, as the story alleges, he would be almost entirely at the mercy of the Japanese proprietors. It is most unlikely that Mr. Hunter or any other shrewd merchant would be betrayed into such a rash act.

THE ADVOCATES' BILL.

The Advocates' Bill, we most sincerely regret to record, has met with such treatment at the hands of the House of Peers, that it may be said to have been reduced to a mere skeleton, adding so little to the Regulations already in force as to lose all reason for promulgation. The Special Committee of the House set to work on the Bill with an apparent resolve to extract all its spirit and leave a mere inanimate carcase. They succeeded pretty effectually, and the House not only endorsed their recommendations, but proceeded to kill the Bill a little more thoroughly on its own account. At the second reading, it excised the 11th Article, which practically contained the pith of the Bill, and at the third reading, it extended the same fate to the provisions relating to security money and licence fees. Well may the *Mainichi Shimbun* say that the Bill became a mere boneless jelly-fish, or a puppet without breath. The Government had no recourse but to avail itself of the retreat provided by the Constitution, and withdraw the Bill. The House of Peers, in our humble opinion, has added a bad item to its record by this procedure. Judged by foreign lights the Advocates' Bill would have greatly contributed to the sound progress of the Bar and to the elevation of its status. But foreign lights are somewhat hid under a bushel at the present juncture in Japan, nor do we yet see any signs of the reaction that is to set them once more in their old place of public refulgence.

GERMAN SCIENTIFIC LECTURES.

We are requested to state that German General Scientific Lectures will be held as in former years, in the Lecture Hall of the Imperial University, Tokyo. The President of the Imperial University, Mr. H. Kato, has kindly consented to act as President. The programme of lectures is as follows:—

19th January, 1891—Professor Dr. Inouye, on Chinese Wisdom.
16th February—Professor Dr. Eggert, on the most important stages of development of social economy.
2nd March—Mr. Kessler, on Electricity for lighting and motive purposes (with experiments).
N. B—The place of holding this lecture will be notified hereafter.
23rd March—Professor Terada, on German Universities.
27th April—Dr. Grasmann, on forestry, its historical, scientific and economic aspects.
25th May—Professor Dr. Mori, Subject not yet fixed.

The Lectures will begin at 6 p.m. punctually, and will be delivered first in German and (after five minutes' interval) in Japanese. Entrance will be free: ladies are invited to attend. The names of the Committee are as follow:—Dr. Baelz, Dr. Busse, Professor Dr. Eggert, Dr. Grasmann, Prof. Dr. Inouye, Prof. Dr. Koganei, Prof. Dr. Mori, Dr. Nippold, Schulinspector Omura, Prof. Dr. Osawa, Dr. Riess, Pfr. Spinner, Prof. Dr. Takahashi, Prof. Dr. Tamba, Prof Terada, Prof. D. Wadagaki, Dr. Weipert.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

The *Japan Gazette* declares itself perplexed, we see, about apparent differences between telegrams published by the *Japan Mail* and the *Official Gazette*, though both journals are supplied by Reuter. The explanation is simple, we think. By the time that a message has been translated from English into Japanese and re-translated into English, it is apt to be a little mangled. Our local contemporary and the *Official Gazette* have between them made out that Her Majesty's Government "disavowed" Sir Julian Pauncefote's action. The word in the original message is "denies." Persons conversant with the Japanese language will at once see how this word might become "disavowed" in a re-translation, though no mistake could possibly be made between the two English terms "denies" and "disavows," when diplomatically used. Any one who has the pleasure of Sir Julian Pauncefote's acquaintance will be amused at the notion of his exposing himself to being "disavowed" in his management of a big international question.

THE CODES AND THE TREATIES.

The *Fiji Shimpo* writes as follows:—The compilation of the codes was one of the greatest undertakings of the Government and its completion after the consumption of much time and labour has brought about a crisis by which the movements of the Ministers of the present Cabinet will be determined. If we look for the reason which led to the codification of the laws being regarded as imperatively necessary, we shall find, no matter what grounds the authorities may set forth, that it was undertaken from the pressing needs of the Government in connection with the Treaty question. This hardly requires explanation as it is pretty generally understood by the public, but we take this opportunity of the postponement of the operation of the Commercial Code until 1893 to discuss the merits of the new Codes. In our opinion, the codification of the laws of a country is a most important affair, affecting the national interests for centuries to come, and it should not be considered too long to spend ten or twenty years over the work of preparation. We hold that not only is the postponement of the operation of the Commercial Code until 1893 not unreasonable, but both this and the Civil Code should be postponed to any length necessary for perfecting them. Besides we can not find any reason for haste in the causes assigned. The ostensible cause is that codification is absolutely necessary for the Revision of Treaties, but we would ask where the necessity exists. We are told that the negotiations for the Revision of Treaties are to great extent retarded because foreigners do not feel confidence in our laws, and by perfecting them we may inspire the foreigners with a feeling of safety so far as regards life and property; but we differ from this way of thinking. We think that the real objections raised as to Treaty negotiations have not been caused by disapproval of our laws, but rather because foreigners do not understand the true features of the country. We say so, because the codes are really nothing but so much priuted paper: the true safety of life and property depends entirely on the degree of civilization to which the nation has attained, and, consequently, however complete the laws may seem superficially if there is wanting confidence in the condition of the nation, no one can feel safe as to life and property under the protection of such laws. For instance, if in such countries as China or Korea, new codes, compiled on Western principles of jurisprudence, were promulgated and quite perfect as to substance, would Japanese feel safe under such laws and place their lives and property under such protection? We, for our own part, would not do so, for in spite of the perfect appearance of such codes, we could not place confidence in the national conditions of those countries. The security of life and property is therefore not dependent on the contents of written laws, and it would be a most roundabout course for us to take to invite the confidence of foreign nations by simply preparing codes of laws. As we said above, the true cause of the foreigners' want of confidence in this country consists in their not being able to understand our national conditions, and therefore, our first attempt should be to make those conditions intelligible to them. Some Japanese say that the laws of this country are imperfect and that we should be ashamed of them Such people are either very self deceptive or have some interests of their own to subserve, and even foreigners acquainted with the true features of Japan will find themselves unable to agree with such views. If we look back even to the times of the Tokugawa Government, when there was no such thing as codified law, we find that our lives and properties were safe; during two hundred and fifty years of the Tokugawa Shogunate we are unable to recall any instance of the ruling Government menacing life or property. This is in fact a marked trait of our national character which it is difficult for foreigners to realise. But the history of this country for those two hundred and fifty years will serve as a good evidence and in addition to this, our Government has since the Restoration been endeavouring to effect improvements in all directions especially paying attention to questions concerning personal rights. This being so, there is really no necessity for talking of the security of life and property as if it were a new idea, and no Japanese really feels any anxiety on that score. Foreigners, however, not having a true conception of our national condition, naturally feel uneasy, and the point before us is to make foreigners acquainted with the true phases of our national life.

A PETITION.

Among the petitions sent up to the House of Peers there is one, says the *Tokyo Shimpo*, of a peculiar character. It is a document advocating a large scheme of fiscal reform. The petitioners suggest that steps should be taken by the Government to buy up the whole of the arable land now in the hands of the people, the area of which is estimated at 13,805,100 *cho* (34,512,750 acres). To effect the purchase, public bonds bearing three per cent. interest should be issued. The interest annually pay-

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able on these is put at 41 million *yen* annually. The purchasers of the land would further have to be responsible for the land tax, which amounts to 40 million *yen* in round figures. The income from the land, however, is put at 150 million *yen*, and if from this total be subtracted the two former figures (of 41 and 40 millions), there remains sixty-nine million *yen* which, say the petitioners, would not only suffice to form a sinking fund, but would also materially help to clear off the present public debt.

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A more perplexing statement than the above we have seldom encountered. It is known beyond all doubt from the taxation returns that 40 million *yen*—the total annual land tax in round figures—represents 2½ per cent. of the value of all the taxable land in Japan; in other words, that the taxable land of the whole empire is supposed to be worth 1,600 million *yen*. If the Government purchased on that supposition, it would have to issue bonds to the extent of 800 million *yen*—the other 800 millions representing the capitalized value of the land-tax at 5 per cent. Whence, then, do the petitioners obtain 41 million *yen* as 3 per cent. of the value of the land? We cannot tell. Above all, what is meant by saying that lands which, according to the official records, are only supposed to be paying a total income of 80 million *yen* annually (*i.e.* 40 million land tax and an equal amount of revenue to their owners), do really pay nearly twice that amount (*i.e.* 150 million *yen*)? And what is meant by saying that the Government, by agreeing to pay out a sum of 41 million *yen* annually could acquire property giving an income of 150 millions? This calculation baffles us altogether.

THE "SHANGHAI."

THE accounts hitherto received of the burning of the steamer *Shanghai* and the consequent loss of something like 230 lives, were difficult to comprehend. Not more than fifteen minutes elapsed from the time the alarm of fire was given until the ship's head was firmly wedged into the land. The fire, originally so insignificant that it could have been extinguished with the greatest ease had the crew been free to work, had gained complete possession of the ship in the interval of about twenty minutes between to first outbreak and the beaching of the vessel. There were ample appliances for extinguishing it, but apparently not even an effort was made to do so. Further, when the ship was beached, there was no evident reason why everyone should not have been saved, yet out of 453 passengers, about 230 lost their lives by fire or water. Such was the original account, decidedly needing further explanations. Now, however, having before us the evidence given by the Captain at the Naval Court of Inquiry, the whole affair becomes quite clear. The 450 Chinese passengers were the sole cause of the disaster. From the moment that the alarm was given, these people fell into such a state of confusion and disorder that it became totally impossible for the crew to do anything. The hose could not be worked because the Chinese trampled it under foot, and passage from the fore part of the vessel to the after part where the fire was, could only be effected by climbing along the hull outside. In a word, the ship carried such a number of passengers that the crew were totally helpless. It was a mere question of chance. If the passengers retained their self-possession and were careful not to impede the handful of men working the ship, all might go well. If the passengers lost their head and fell into confusion, there ceased to be the smallest chance of managing the vessel. Further, the provision made against disaster was wholly inadequate. The ship had only four boats, which, supposing them to be all launched successfully, were capable of holding 210 persons out of 491. That is to say, more than one-half of the people on board must have remained without any means of escape had the ship foundered or met with any other misfortune. The Captain knew all this, and knowing it, would doubtless have hastened to beach the vessel even supposing that the wild disorder caused by the Chinese passengers had not compelled him to do so. Perhaps the saddest part of the whole affair occurred after the ship had been beached. Ropes had been put over the bows on both sides and a portion of the crew were standing in the water ready to receive and assist the passengers. By this means all the people forward and on the upper deck were saved. But the passengers in the after part, owing either to the confusion or to their desire to save their baggage, did not come forward and were ultimately obliged to throw themselves into the water. They were only some seven yards distant from the shore, and within easy reach were about fifty native craft which, had they made any exertion, could easily have saved everybody. But, incredible as it sounds, these inhuman Chinese left their fellow-creatures to drown and confined themselves to looting. Their brutality was emulated by the inhabitants of the locality, who stripped the dead and robbed the living as fast as they came ashore. Even the crew of an official boat lying near and in charge of officers, did nothing except pick up any articles that drifted their way, leaving the unfortunate people to drown within a few feet of the shore. Such barbarous cruelty is happily rare in the history of any nation. The whole affair is one of the most appalling incidents that has occurred for many decades. The ship putting to sea with a compliment of crew and passengers nearly three-fifths of whom must have perished in case of disaster, as no means existed of carrying them away from the steamer; the frantic panic and confusion that ensued so soon as the alarm of fire was given; the captain wisely heading the vessels shorewards and beaching her in ten minutes; then some 220 people perishing within a few feet of land and under the very eyes of fifty boats' crews of their own countrymen who would not stretch out a hand to save life; and finally the stripping of the corpses and the looting of the wretched survivors, all this makes up a picture such as could not be witnessed anywhere save in China. When every allowance is made for the well-known antipathy of the Chinese to give themselves any concern about dying folks—antipathy based upon the old rule that all persons assisting a fellow-creature *in extremis* become responsible for the disposal of the corpse—this closing scene of the *Shanghai's* wreck remains a frightful and almost incredible example of brutal inhumanity sufficient to permanently disgrace any nation. As for the absence of rules or control which enables vessels like the *Shanghai* to put to sea with twice as many passengers as there are means of taking off the ship in case of disaster, it is not in the smallest degree likely that the Chinese Authorities will give themselves any concern.

A PARABLE.

"OVERHEARD and communicated by our own cat," is the *St. James's Budget's* preface to the following "parable":—

"Well, old fellow," said the Waterspout to the Verandah, "and how do you feel, now it's all over?"

"Very poorly indeed, thanks," said the Verandah mournfully. "Just look at my nice paint! I'm scratched and kicked all over."

"Paint, indeed!" said the Waterspout, with scorn; "What does paint matter? Now look at me. I'm all twisted and bent like a bayonet. If it hadn't been for our old friend the Fire-escape there, who took some of the work, I should have been old iron long ago."

"Well, it's splendid exercise," put in the Fire-escape meditatively; "*I* don't mind, if he thinks it does him good. But, really, I didn't think he had it in him. He's a marvellous man!"

"Oh, *you* don't mind, of course!" remarked the Waterspout; "escaping is your business. But it's not mine, and I don't want to take it up. And now my old friend the sparrow, who's built in me these five years, has had to go. Says she didn't mind the racket so much; but there will be a young family to bring up next spring, and she must think of them."

"Quite right too," said the Verandah. "Good old sparrow! But between ourselves, now, it was very funny sometimes, wasn't it? First of all *He* would slip in, in a modest and unassuming manner, as if he had called to tune the piano; then he—I mean Shea—would come and kick at the door; then she would open it for Sh—I mean him; and *He* would come sliding down our friend here, like a lamplighter. Then *He* would pick himself up and ring the visitors' bell; and Shea would open the door for *He*—I mean him; and all would be surprise, delight, and harmony. And the next night he'd give the fire-escape a turn."

"He gave *me* a turn once or twice," said the Waterspout reflectively. "I've had a burglar down me, and a schoolboy or two, but never the idol of a nation's hopes and aspirations. The boat that carried Cæsar and his fortunes will have to take a back seat now."

"By the by, old chap," said the Verandah, "what will the other old Waterspout say? The Grand one, you know—the head of your family."

"Why," put in the Fire-escape, "he'll say that the subject is one of vast human interest, and he would like nothing better than to hear it fully and freely discussed. He fears, however, that at his time of life he must leave to younger and more vigorous"——The measured tread of the policeman approached down the quiet lane, and silence reigned once more in the peaceful little suburb.

THE INFLUENZA.

THE influenza has evidently made the Orient its head-quarters this year. Its ravages in Japan are before our eyes, and the latest news from China is that it has spread over the provinces of Shansi and Shantung, and made its way northward to Peking, prostrating whole households with the cruel impartiality that marks its procedure everywhere. There certainly has been nothing in the climate of Japan this winter to account for the virulence of the epidemic. Since winter fairly set in we have been comparatively free from both violent fluctuations of temperature and bitter winds. In fact the season has been exceptionally mild up to the present; so much so that a very unusual show of plum blossoms already graces sunny nooks. A green Christmas, however, has always been credited with the faculty of filling the churchyards. Perhaps a good fall of snow might have better served the health of the community.

ONCE MORE THE "SOSHI."

THE residence of the President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Nakajima Nobuyuki, in Nakanocho, Azabu, has been the latest rendezvous of the *soshi*. On the night of the 9th instant, quite a number of these gentry visited that place and peremptorily demanded audience of Mr. Nakajima. One of the inmates of the House, warned by the threatening demeanour of the men, ran out of the back gate and gave notice to the police, who speedily arrived in force and ordered the intruders to disperse. The following evening, six *soshi* again made their appearance at Mr. Nakajima's house, and asked for an interview, but on being informed that the President, after the rising of the House, had proceeded to a political meeting in the Sanyen-tei, Shiba, they quietly retired. A number of policemen have been stationed in the vicinity of Mr. Nakajima's residence in consequence of these events.

POLITICAL SECTIONS.

IF we adopt the views enunciated by the *Hochi Shimbun* as representing public opinion, it becomes necessary to conclude that very little cohesion exists among the sections of the chief political party in the empire, the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. The original organization of the party is declared to have been defective. It met the Diet fresh from failure to accomplish the absorption of the *Kaishin-to* and with its own political opinions on many questions in such an inchoate condition, that many of its members did not know their own minds, and in consequence something very like disruption is threatened in connection with the Budget problem. The party was formed originally by the amalgamation of five sections, the *Daido* section, the *Aikoku-to* section, the *Saiko-Jiyu-to* section, the *Tohoku Shimpo* section and the *Kiushiu Shimpo* section. Among these the *Daido-ha* is now known as the Goto section, and the *Aikoku-ha* as the Mutsu Section. Whether these two will ultimately fuse into one seems difficult to foretell, but it is certain that the representatives of both on the Budget Committee have united to oppose the radical scheme of ten millions retrenchment, and are in favour of a reduction amounting to only half of that sum. The Mutsu section is strongly in favour of re-adjusting the land-tax assessment, a subject concerning which the Goto section has not yet declared itself positive-

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ly, whereas the *Tohoku* section, whose constituents would suffer by re-assessment, is distinctly opposed to the measure. The Goto section has not yet forgotten the fight that took place over the election of the President of the Lower House, and many people think that it will ultimately throw in its lot with the recently organized *Kokumin-Jiyu-to* or even join forces with General Viscount Tani's followers. The *Saiko-Jiyu* section does not at present appear to be very active. The *Hochi* suggests that its chief business is lobbying, and that if the truth of the attempt to bribe certain members became an object of inquiry, information should be sought in the ranks of the *Saiko-Jiyu-ha*. The *Tohoku* section preserves an attitude of considerable independence. It originally busied itself to bring about a union between the various progressionist sections and the *Daido-ha*, but it does not appear to regard itself as a part of the union. The *Kiushu* section owes its origin to the scheme of effecting a fusion of the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to*, and it has never wavered from that purpose. In the Diet it plays the part of a mediator, always trying to keep the two parties from engaging in any important struggle. In this programme it has the support of many other provincial sections, as the *Kiyo-yu-Kai* of Kagoshima, the *Kokumin-to* of Kumamoto, and the political coteries in Nagasaki, Saga, Fukuoka, Oita, and so forth.

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The condition of the *Kaishin-to* at present is very different from that of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. The *Kaishin-to* has nominally some forty representatives in the Lower House, but of these not more than seventeen or eighteen are really active in the interests of the party. By these active members, however, various plans have been devised for extending their influence, and at this moment it looks as though they were strong enough to defy any of the great parties. Whether they will be able to hold their ground or enlarge it is a question concerning which two opinions prevail. The first is that while there is not much fear of their retrograding, there is equally little probability of their progressing, and that at the second elections for the Diet the party is not likely to make any great show. The second opinion takes a much more favourable view of their prospects. It says that, though finding themselves in the Diet with a following little more than one-third of that of the *Jiyu-to* and one half of the *Taisei-kai*, they have nevertheless succeeded in making their influence felt more than either of these parties. They even managed to have one of their representatives elected Chairman of the Committee of the whole House, and they are now evidently bent on cementing a union with the various progressionist sections in the provinces, so as to acquire solidarity both inside and outside the Diet. At the next elections, according to this view, they are pretty sure to double or even treble their present number of seats. The *Kaishin-to* has always been exceedingly unpopular with other parties, and when there was talk, some time ago, of its union with the *Jiyu-to*, the party seemed for a moment likely to break up into two sections, of which one would doubtless have united with the Mutsu Section of the *Jiyu-to*, and voted for reducing the Budget by not more than five million *yen*. The other and more numerous section would have remained independent. It appears, further, that the sweeping reduction of nine or ten millions is not really the work of the *Kaishin-to*—so at least says the *Hochi Shimbun*—but was brought about by the *Jiyu-to* members.

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The *Taisei-kai* can scarcely be called a political party. It is rather an association of members of Parliament professing independent principles. It came into existence after the elections, and it has no ramifications outside the Diet. The mere fact that it was supposed to stand aloof from all parties gave it a certain measure of popularity and attracted to its ranks men who had not yet determined what policy to adopt. Nevertheless, one incident of recent occurrence seems to indicate the tendency of the *Taisei-kai*. It is the fact that the majority of its members pronounced in favour of the five-million reduction of the Budget proposed by the Mutsu and Goto Sections. This incident also shows that the members who are in favour of the larger reduction, namely, the *Kaishin-to* and the three sections of the *Jiyu-to* known as the *Kiushiu-ha*, the *Tohoku-ha*, and the *Saiko-Jiyu-ha*, are likely to find themselves confronted by a powerful band of adversaries. Some people hold, however, that this Budget question will be the means of breaking up the *Taisei-kai*, since it has not only failed in its efforts to attract the *Kaishin-to* and other sections of the *Jiyu-to* to its side, but since also several of its members have thrown in their lot with the advocates of the ten-million reduction.

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The *Hochi* then passes on to consider the Conservatives (*Hoshu-to*). "There is not," it says, "at present in Japan a single party that can properly be called conservative. Viscount Torio's party goes by that name, indeed, but it is a name only. In the same category may be placed the *Kokumin-Jiyu-to*, the *Tani-ha*, the *Hoshu-chiusei-ha*, and the *Jichi-ha*. The *Kokumiu-Jiyu-to* made its appearance when the union between the Progressionists and the Radicals proved a failure. It consists of parts of the *Daido* section of the *Rikken-Jiyu-to*, and of the *Taisei-kai*; and few events in the political world have been more striking than the sudden springing up of this party on the very day before the Diet opened, with a following of no less than seventy members. It is supposed that the *Kokumin-Jiyu-to* has some connection with Count Goto, but Count Goto is already the leader of the old *Daido* section of the *Rikken-Jiyu-to*, and it would be only natural that if the new party also follows him, he should unite the two. Last year, indeed, there was much talk of an amalgamation of the *Kokumin-ha* with the followers of Count Goto, Viscount Tani, and Mr. Nakashima Nobuyuki, and on the face of things it seems reasonable that the *Mutsu* Section should also be included, but such a fusion has not been effected. On the contrary it is now rumoured that the *Kokumin* party includes a political and a nonpolitical section, and that a split is not unlikely to take place in its ranks."

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The *Jichi-to*, as every one knows—we still quote from the *Hochi*—is connected with Count Inouye and Mr. Mutsu. Last year, too, there was talk of relations being established between Counts Inouye and Goto. The *Jichi-to* sided with the Goto and Mutsu Sections on the Budget question, being in favour of a reduction not to exceed five million *yen*. The Tani party is chiefly in the Upper House, and may almost be called the Senators party. The Tani Representation for the recovery of Tariff autonomy found supporters chiefly among the ex-Senators, who followed up that victory by voting for the Commercial-Code-postponement measure. Without the support of the Tani section the Bill never would have passed, and in this fact we have some indication of the strength of the section. Of course the General has followers in the Lower House also. The Independent Conservatives (*Hoshu-chiusei-ha*) are the weakest of all the Conservative sections. Their leader, Viscount Torio, is very active with voice and pen, but he makes few converts, and has resigned his seat in disgust. He has not a single partisan in the House of Representatives.

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Such is the *Hochi Shimbun's* analysis of the present condition of political parties. The impression we gather from it all is that confusion and uncertainty are the most prominent elements of the situation. But what else could have been expected? We have always expressed the conviction that political parties could never have any rational existence in Japan until they found a stable basis in parliamentary discussion. The programmes put forth by the various parties during the past twelve months were, for the most part, vague and nebulous in the extreme; programmes such as could not possibly furnish a substantial creed to earnest men. The only two really practical questions embodied were financial retrenchment and Treaty Revision, and it is doubtless about these questions that the members of the two Houses will group themselves into genuine parties with intelligent issues at stake.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE question of the mutilation undergone by Reuter's telegrams in their passage through the various media by which they ultimately reach the columns of the *Japan Gazette*, has assumed quite an entertaining complexion. Our local contemporary, with assurance admirable in the abstract, entirely ignores the fact that it is only a picker up of crumbs falling from other people's tables, and assumes to itself the rôle of the giver of the feast. We really should have been disposed to think that the part better becoming the *Gazette* in this business was to preserve a discreet silence, so as to avoid directing public attention to the second-hand nature of its own telegraphic items and to the strong probability of their inaccuracy. The case stands thus:—Reuter's telegrams come direct to us, literally deciphered from the code in which they are transmitted. They receive at our hands a minimum of expansion before publication. The same telegrams are sent in English to the *Official Gazette*, and rendered into Japanese by the staff of that journal. On receipt of the *Official Gazette* in Yokohama, these Japanese telegrams are re-translated into English at the office of the *Japan Gazette* and published by the latter. Thus, after expansion by Japanese editors and after translation and re-translation, they appear in the columns of our contemporary. It is perfectly plain, on the face of it, that news which has been subjected to such manipulation cannot be relied on. The *Japan Gazette* ought to know this, and knowing it, should humbly take the back seat appropriate to a copyist. But a sense of the fitness of things is not universal. Finding that its own twice-laids occasionally differ in appearance from the original joints served up in our columns, the *Gazette* rashly draws attention to the fact, and when the various disfiguring processes undergone by its third-hand items are pointed out by us, it turns round, and with consistent incontinence accuses us of "evasion." One would imagine that the *Japan Mail*, which publishes the original telegrams, were on its defence, whereas the point is that the *Japan Gazette* has to show why it misleads its readers by laying before them re-translations of translated telegrams. The *Gazette* wants to know whether, in our opinion, any amount of translation could alter a plain statement of facts, such as, for instance, "John Smith fell into the river Sumida and was drowned." Irrelevant as the question is, we answer, first, that there was question not of a plain statement of facts but of the twisting of the word "deny" into "disavow"; secondly, that we should be doing an injustice to the *Gazette's* capacity for mutilation if we doubted the possibility of even John Smith and the Sumida becoming John Sumida and the Smith in its columns. And this we say because equally flagrant perversions have graced our contemporary's telegraphic corner during the last few days. Here are two examples:—

ORIGINAL TELEGRAMS PUBLISHED BY *Japan Mail*.	RE-TRANSLATION OF TRANSLATED TELEGRAMS PUBLISHED BY *Japan Gazette*.
Several swift British cruisers have been ordered to be got ready for commission to reinforce the North Pacific Squadron before the sealing season commences.—January 10th.	It is reported that prior to the commencement of the seal fishing season several fast sailing vessels will be added to the British North Pacific Fleet.—January 10th.
After the action at Porcupine Creek between the United States Cavalry and the Indians, the troops discovered that it was only an empty school, and not the mission at Pine Ridge, as previously reported, that was burned.—January 6th.	The buildings burned by the Indians in the neighbourhood of Pine Reach, after the battle, were discovered by the American troops to have been unoccupied.—January 7th.

Thus, in the process of re-cooking, "swift cruisers" become "fast sailing vessels," "Pine Ridge" is converted in "Pine Reach," and the whole portion of the second telegram relating to the action at Porcupine Creek is left out. Is it too much to say that even John Smith in the Sumida River could not count on an accurate obituary notice if the tale of his catas-

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trophe had to filter through so many devious channels as these converging in the telegraphic columns of the *Japan Gazette*? We quite appreciate the fact that it would never do for the *Japan Gazette* to copy directly from the *Japan Mail*. Its dependence on other journals for telegraphic information is a shade less palpable when it whips the devil round the post by borrowing from the *Official Gazette's* Japanese translations of the *Mail's* original English messages. But why call attention to the fact? Surely that is very indiscreet. And surely the farce is carried a little too far when the *Gazette* informs its readers that it is "taking steps to have this matter of Reuter's telegrams cleared up," and that "in a day or two it may be in a position to put its readers in possession of the real facts." If one of the gentlemen who go about picking up fragments of old clothes with a pair of bamboo tongs, were to inform the public that he was taking steps to ascertain why the contents of his basket of scraps frequently differed in appearance from the stuffs of which they originally formed part, we should treat him as a peripatetic jester whose idiosyncracies soared above his humble calling. With the utmost deference, we recommend the *Japan Gazette* to be content with its rags of telegraphic news, and refrain from calling public attention to their threadbare and dilapidated condition.

PRECAUTIONS AT THE DIET.

WE stated in our issue of on Tuesday that very little evidence of protective precautions was to be observed during the day in the vicinity of the House of Representatives. But it appears that when the House rises in the evening the police are very active. We read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that at the conclusion of the session on the 12th instant, which, as our readers will remember, was an exceptionally hot and excited affair, all the members supposed to be more or less marked men, found, on emerging from the Chamber, that a guard of five constables had been detailed to accompany each member to his house or hotel. Moreover, from four to five hundred policemen were stationed in the Hibiya district, from the Diet to the neighbourhood of the Tokyo Hotel. It is rather peculiar, as Mr. Minami remarked in the House on that very day, that the members should be compelled to look for protection to the very Bureau the abolition of which it recommended in the Report of the Budget Committee. And it is still more peculiar that the Government, in order to secure the proceedings of Parliament against violent interruption, and in order to guarantee representative institutions against the interference of physical force, has been compelled to have recourse once more to the Peace Preservation Regulations for the repeal of which the House of Representatives recently voted with so much unaminity and alacrity.

FEES FOR ENDORSING PASSPORTS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Nippon* writes from Shimonoseki as follows:—"I had always been told that the people of foreign countries were generally just and honest, but on leaving Tokyo on this occasion and coming for the first time to deal with foreigners, I have been surprised to experience quite incomprehensible treatment at their hands, beginning with Yokohama, which is so near to the capital. I now discover that a calculation is necessary for ascertaining the fees for endorsing passports. I had a notion that for such a definite thing as a passport, there should be a definite amount of fees previously settled, whether in Japan or in foreign countries. Thus I understood that the rate of payment to our Foreign Office for a passport for going abroad was 50 *sen* when paid in this country, and 2 *yen* when paid at a Japanese Consulate abroad, but such does not seem to be the practice in alien countries. On the 24th of last month, I, with a friend, intending to go over to Manila, requested the Spanish Consul in Yokohama to endorse our passports. The Consul at first said something to the effect that one *yen* fifty *sen* would be the fee for a passport, but after making certain calculations, he told us to pay two *yen* thirty *sen* for each passport. This was the first incident that puzzled us, but we met with a still more incomprehensible experience when we reached Kobe. Another friend of mine was to join us at Kobe in our trip to Manila, and at my suggestion he went to the Spanish Consulate to got the required endorsement on his passport. He was told that the fee was four *yen*, whereupon he informed the Consul what we had paid at Yokohama and contended that the same fee should suffice in Kobe. The Consul replied that the fees were different at different places. My friend left the passport with the Consul and came back to me, and I advised him that as the case was so extraordinary, he should get back the passport, saying he did not want the endorsement under the circumstances. The Consul seemed much perplexed by this request, and gave a new explanation. He said that, being a British subject and acting as Honorary Consul for the Spanish Government without receiving any return for his service, he could not proceed in the same way as the Spanish Consul in Yokohama, who is regularly appointed and salaried by the Spanish Government. He had in consequence to charge a larger fee. He would have given back the passport unendorsed but as it had been already endorsed he asked my friend to pay, and the latter, though thinking it a ridiculous affair, felt sorry for the Consul, paid the required sum, and brought back the passport. The position of an Honorary Consul is gratuitous, as is indicated by the term, and should be given to persons of position properly qualified for such a trust. If I am to take this as a basis of judgment, my belief in Western integrity will be naturally much shaken. We find in Japan persons who think that nothing is good unless it be imported from Europe, whether in the nature of laws, customs, manners, or what not. I wish to suggest to these persons the expediency of more careful reflection, and I write these lines to warn travellers to Manila and other places."

POLITICAL CONJECTURES.

THE little band of Choshiu statesmen whose names are so intimately associated with the events of the past fifteen or twenty years, begin once more to occupy a prominent place in public observation. It is easy to understand that this should be so when we string together the names of the chief of these statesmen—Counts Ito, Inouye, Yamagata, Yamada, and Viscount Aoki. Count Yamagata is now at the head of the Cabinet, and Viscount Aoki is a prominent member, but Count Yamada has retired, and where are Count Ito and Inouye? There is no doubt that Count Ito's influence in the State at present is enormous, and that it grows daily. He has always possessed the full confidence of his Sovereign, and if for a moment the confidence of the nation was partially alienated from him, he has recovered it now in ample measure. In every office assigned to him he furnishes fresh proofs of tact and ability. The House of Peers under his Presidency is a model assembly, and the people watch its proceedings with a renewed conviction that the man who directs its deliberations is a tower of force for the country to fall back on in times of emergency. As to the public sentiment towards Count Inouye, it is more difficult to speak confidently. Count Inouye has always been his own enemy in one important respect—over-earnestness. He has not a grain of sympathy with half measures, and is absolutely unsparing towards official deliquencies and shortcomings of every kind. While on the one hand he inspires strong admiration, wins staunch friends, and prompts devoted service, on the other he hurts many feelings and earns for himself a full measure of the enmity that fate metes out to all men of uncompromising greatness. Gifted with singular sweetness of manner, he wins hearts without an effort, and suggests no suspicion of the unyielding thoroughness that underlies all his policy. Counts Ito and Inouye, at the very zenith of their faculties and useful capabilities, standing aloof altogether from administrative affairs, is a spectacle that the nation cannot long contemplate without astonishment. Therefore men are beginning to marvel, and as the wonder grows, speculation grows also. It is even whispered that Counts Ito and Inouye are secretly encouraging the action of Parliament towards the Budget, and that the parties headed by Counts Kuroda and Okuma and Viscount Enomoto are working in the same direction. But whether the Kuroda faction comes into power or whether the *Kaishin* faction comes into power, its reign is not expected to be long. Six or seven months, or at most a year, would witness its downfall, and then the Choshiu party would come in with flying colours and a long lease of life, and on taking office would inaugurate its favourite policy of cementing friendly relations with China. Such is the rough forecast of some political prophets. They think that they detect the first-fruits of the fulfilment of their prediction in Count Yamada's resignation, and in Count Matsukata's uncompromising attitude, for Count Matsukata, though of Satsuma extraction, is expected to throw in his lot with the Choshiu side. Doubtless we shall hear many such prophecies in the course of the next few months. What they chiefly reflect is the fact that Japan is labouring in the throes of Government by party. To Government by party she must inevitably come, but the first really practical step in that direction must be the breaking up of the Sat-cho combination, and the distribution of its principal elements among the ranks of the two principal parties, whatever they may be. Nearly all the tried administrative ability of the empire stands outside party circles at present. Its absorption into them is an essential preliminary.

THE FINANCES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* has the following:—"The Budget Committee of the House of Representatives having finished its examination of the Budget Bill submitted by the Government at the end of last year, resolved on a reduction of some ten million *yen* on the total amount of eighty millions. We have already stated in these columns that the expenses of the present Government contain many superfluous items that might very well be eliminated, but that as the conditions created during over twenty years cannot be abruptly removed, such an excessive reduction as suggested by the Committee ought not to be at once put in force. We will now go into the matter more fully, and discuss it by reference to actual facts. The annual expenses of the Government for twenty-three years from the year of the Restoration have been as follows according to the *Tokei Nenkan* (Annual Statistics):—

	Yen.
1st period December, 1867—December, 1868	30,505,085
2nd period January, 1869—September, 1869	20,785,839
3rd period October, 1869—September, 1870	20,103,672
4th period October, 1870—September, 1871	19,335,158
5th period October, 1871—December, 1872	57,730,024
6th period January, 1873—December, 1873	62,087,000
7th period January, 1874—December, 1874	82,264,528
8th period January, 1875—June, 1875	66,134,772
8th fiscal year, 1875-1876	69,203,341
9th fiscal year, 1876-1877	50,308,056
10th fiscal year, 1877-1878	48,420,324
11th fiscal year, 1878-1879	60,941,335
12th fiscal year, 1879-1880	60,317,578
13th fiscal year, 1880-1881	63,140,846
14th fiscal year, 1881-1882	71,460,320
15th fiscal year, 1882-1883	73,480,867
16th fiscal year, 1883-1884	85,100,859
17th fiscal year, 1884-1885	70,663,108
18th fiscal year, 1885-1886	61,115,313
19th fiscal year, 1886-1887	82,617,588
20th fiscal year, 1887-1888	79,687,515
21st fiscal year, 1888-1889	81,389,013
22nd fiscal year, 1889-1890	76,590,329
23rd fiscal year, 1890-1891	84,579,443

From the above it will be seen that during the first few years the accounts were irregular owing to the unsettled state of the Government immediately after the Restoration, and therefore we will take no heed of them. Thence up to 1877, for a period of ten years, the annual expenses were an average of sixty millions or thereabouts (those for 1874 are unusually large on account of the Formosan affair), and from the 13th fiscal year, they were suddenly augmented to seventy millions in the 14th and to eighty millions in the 16th fiscal year. From that time the expenses were kept between seventy and eighty millions up to the 23rd fiscal year (those for the 18th fiscal year being smaller than usual, as, owing to the reform in the system

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of taking the annual accounts made at the time, the figures only represent the expenses from July, 1885 to March, 1886), in which they reached the large amount of eighty-four millions. The sudden increase of expenditure after the 14th fiscal year arose from the fact that in 1877, to make up for the deficit in the State finances produced by the Civil War, the Government issued large amounts of paper money in addition to the considerable quantity already in circulation since the 1st year of Meiji, and in consequence a difference of value between silver and paper money was produced, which, becoming greater every year, at last showed a maximum disparity in 1881. In this way the total of sixty million *yen* fixed as the expenditure for that year, actually represented a much reduced amount, and the increased amount in the annual expenditure from that year simply shows the difference between the values of silver and paper money then existing. This was an unavoidable circumstance of the time, and those who were then in power and who caused, by such a voluminous issue of paper money, serious financial suffering to the country, were of course bound to find some means of remedying the evil produced. But as the ailment was not of sudden occurrence, having been brought about by repeated imprudent acts on the part of the sufferer, a gradual and most cautious course of treatment should have been resorted to just in the same way that we would rub the body of a frozen person with ice before applying anything warm, or that we would administer to a person nearly starved to death such light food as soup before we ventured to give him more substantial nourishment. Our financiers did not take this wise course, and with the accession of Count Matsukata to the office of Minister of Finance, the Government became more pressing in carrying out the policy of diminishing the amount of paper money in circulation, in utter disregard of anything else. The Bank of Japan was established, and silver notes were issued, and as a result of all this zeal, silver and paper money in 1886 and 1887 were brought to par. This was satisfactory to the Government; but, such sudden and violent treatment of a weakened patient could not fail to produce an exceedingly bad effect on him; and both before and after the time when the so-called influential merchants of Tokyo entertained the Minister of Finance at the Rokumeikwan, presenting him with a memorial of praise and loudly applauding his beneficial efforts, the actual state of the financial community was very far from satisfactory: no debts were duly repaid, the prices of commodities were falling, and cases of insolvency abounded. This was undoubtedly the result of the unwise policy pursued by those in charge of the national finances, but it is now a thing of the past, and at this day censure is useless. However, having once accomplished its object of redeeming paper money, the Government was bound to gradually reduce the amount of its annual expenditures, which had been augmenting since 1881, and to lighten the burdens of the people by eventually bringing it back to the original figure. The Minister of Finance, however, who displayed so much courage in resolutely carrying out his policy of reducing the paper currency, seemed somehow not to be so clear-sighted in regard to the internal matters of the Government; and not only was little attention paid by him to the duty of gradually reducing the annual expenses, but they actually increased. We therefore consider the proposition as to reduction by the Diet quite reasonable, and so far we agree with it. But the relations of financial affairs are exceedingly delicate, and any sudden change in the financial world, whether for good or bad, cannot but produce temporary confusion. If, therefore, excessive reduction is suddenly made on the eighty million *yen* required by the present administration, apart from the shock to be given to the internal arrangements of the Government, the direct effects produced on the commerce and industry of the nation must be of a serious nature, and the result, we fear, may be a repetition of the scene of failure played by the State financiers years ago. We would therefore request those who are interested in the financial problem to give mature consideration to the subject; to avoid any sudden change; and, taking the present state of affairs as if it existed just after the plan of sudden restoration to par was put in force by the Government, to turn their eyes to financial interests generally and gradually, year by year, to carry out the scheme of reduction.

LONG LIVES.

STIMULATED probably by the example of the *Kokumin Shimbun* which long ago published a note regarding a hale and hearty old man in Kyoto who has attained the ripe age of 112 years, and who drinks 3 pints of *sake* daily, the *Jiji Shimpo* has unearthed a lady of 106 years, the grandmother of one of Mr. Fukuzawa's grooms. She is a native of the province of Shimotsuke; she has a son 64 and a daughter 75 years of age; has fifteen grand-children, twenty great-grand-children and two great-great-grand-children. Her daily food consists of equal parts of barley and rice boiled together with *sato-imo* and *tofu*, and during her long life she has been chiefly engaged in agricultural work, varied by spinning and weaving. At the age of fifty she could with ease handle a bag containing 5 *to* of rice (equal to about 167 lb). Her hearing and eyesight are defective, but she was able to carry on her ordinary pursuits up till three years ago. It is curious, says the *Jiji*, to note that this woman was five years old when the Bastile was taken and when Washington became first President of the United States; that she was thirty-nine years of age when the Great Napoleon was sent to St. Helena. She is twenty-five years older than Mr. Gladstone and thirty-one years the senior of Prince Bismarck.

FOREIGNERS AND KEROSENE.

THE *Shogyo Shimpo*, generally a sober and well informed paper, contains the following, which we translate without comment, having no information as to the circumstances related:—"On New Year's day the Prefect of Hiyogo issued a series of regulations for the control of warehouses containing inflammable substances, as Kerosene oil. It had long been recognised that the construction of these warehouses in Hiyogo and Kobe was bad, and that, in many cases, they were built in crowded localities where an outbreak of fire could not fail to have disastrous consequences. A rule had accordingly been promulgated that by the last day of 1890, the warehouses must be removed to a distance from the people's habitations, and the Japanese merchants, in compliance with the rule, gave all their Kerosene into the charge of the Kerosene Oil Storage Company, whose warehouses are at Wada Point. The foreign merchants, however, refused to take the prescribed steps, alleging that as Wada Point is in the vicinity of the Gunpowder Magazine, they could not obtain insurance upon goods stored there. Considering that the Kerosene owned by foreigners is stored in Japanese warehouses in the name of Japanese, their refusal to move it and their efforts to have the date of operation of the law postponed are peculiar. Through their Ministers and consuls they succeeded in getting the enforcement of the law postponed until the 1st of April. We should like to know what this means. What reason is there for delaying a measure that concerns the safety of the whole of Kobe? We presume that there must be some sufficient cause for this display of partiality to foreigners.

* * *

The version of this affair given by the *Hiyogo News* is as follsws:—

Many of our readers have doubtless been surprised at the news of the attempted removal of the kerosene oil godowns at Ono after their occupation for that special purpose during such a number of years with the congnizance and sanction of the authorities. As we stated a few days since the matter when brought under the notice of the Central Government was promptly and satisfactorily dealt with, and now that the immediate danger is removed, the foreign merchants more particularly interested have naturally enough, cast about to find a plausible reason for the attempt to inflict a grave injury upon an important branch of local commerce. It transpired that until about a fortnight since no objection was raised to the present godowns. The police then notified the Japanese owners of the property that unless the contents of the godowns were removed forthwith, fines would be imposed, and that continued disobedience would be followed by imprisonment. It is hardly worth while speculating at present upon the condition of affairs which permits such high-handed proceedings, and apparently allows valuable private interests to be at the mercy of irresponsible and subordinate officials. But the solution put forward to account for the change deserves particular notice. The police, as we have stated, gave the Japanese landlords notice that the oil (foreign-owned) must be removed, but no mention was made of an alternative place of storage. Now it seems that not long since a speculative company built some godowns at Wada Point which have never been occupied. The difficulties in the way of landing and shipping goods there would alone render the situation very undesirable for oil, the handling of which necessitates more delicate manipulation than perhaps any other class of heavy goods. But an even greater objection to Wada Point is the fact that the Government go-down for the storage of dynamite, gun-cotton, powder, and other dangerous explosives is situated in close proximity. The existence of the empty godowns explains the whole nature of the movement. It was an effort to compel the merchants to use these godowns through police interference. Reason was all in favour of the present godowns, since the risks are much less, and the insurance charges necessarily are lower. Indeed, with the oil at Wada Point, great difficulty would be experienced in arranging policies. It was a well-calculated plan. The suddenness of the announcement would leave the merchants Hobson's choice, while if the occupation of Wada Point should at any time lead to disastrous consequences the officials could screen themselves by saying: "We never instructed you to go there. All we did was to compel you to leave Ono and Hyogo." Thanks, however, to the intervention of the national representatives at Tokyo, the scheme has for the moment been defeated, and since its objects have been unmasked merchants will to a certain extent be prepared for future contingencies. The matter, however, should not be allowed to rest as a merely defeated scheme. It requires the strictest investigation at the hands of the Japanese Government. If the present godowns are condemned as unsafe after twenty years of occupation, and without a single prior complaint, then it is the duty of the officials to give due notice and to provide some safer locality, though that locality will not be found contiguous to a powder magazine. We do not for an instant believe that the Government would tolerate, much less authorize, such a proceeding at any time, least of all now at such a crucial period in the history of Japan. If the Government wished the godowns to be evacuated they would have entered into proper official negotiations, and these negotiation would have been conducted with all the courtesy, and with all the desire to promote and not to embarrass trade, which is characteristic of the Japanese Government. Japan is under-going an hitherto unprecedented ordeal, and we are sure that during it she will not leave the stain of so foul a blot on her relations with the commerical representatives of so many Western nationalities.

THE DISRUPTION OF THE "JIYU-TO."

WHAT is happening now in the House of Representatives is nothing more or less than the creation of political parties. The so-called parties that took their seats in the House when the Diet was opened, had no real bond of union and were destined to be disintegrated so soon as any crucial question came up for discussion. The Budget is such a question. We noticed, the other day, when writing of the discussion in the Yayoisha, that though the extreme reduction of the Budget was voted by a majority of those present, the minority was quite sufficiently large to give promise of a tough fight. Immediately after the meeting, the *Jiyu-to* journals began to exhibit their uneasiness on this point by exhorting the members of the party to remember that whatever might be their individual opinions, they were bound to support the majority. Such, however, has plainly not been the view taken by the members themselves. The divisions in the House on the motions of Mr. Nishi show that many of the *Jiyu-to* men must have voted against the majority of their party, and since then several members of prominence have resigned their association with the party. The first to adopt this course was Mr. Yakenouchi Ko. His example was followed almost immediately by Messrs. Oye Taku and Kobayashi Yuhichiro, and Messrs. Hasegawa Tai and Suyehiro have now taken the same course. All these were men of note in the party,

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and there is no doubt that they will draw away with them the whole section of the Moderates. Such a split will of course be fatal to the party's independent status, and must be followed by re-fusion of some kind. The present indications are that the extremists will be absorbed into the camp of the *Kaishin-to*, temporarily at all events. A strange fellowship truly. Can it be permanent? Can the essentially moderate and well-balanced *Kaishin-to* ally themselves definitely with the most radical of the Radicals, or will they sever the connection when they have accomplished the object for the sake of which this association is tolerated?

THE IMPERIAL MINT.

THE Report of the director of the Imperial Mint for the year ending March 31st 1890, shows that the total coinage of gold, silver, and nickel pieces during the year amounted to 11,159,905.55 *yen*, namely :—

pieces.	*yen*.
Gold 5 *yen*	1,764,210.
Silver 1 *yen*	7,294,735.
Nickel 5 *sen*	2,100,960.

These figures, compared with those of the preceding year, show an increase of 834,515 *yen* in gold, and a decrease of 3,152,807 *yen* in silver. The nickel coinage was an entirely new addition, but, on the other hand, the coinage of copper having been stopped altogether, this subsidiary branch shows a net decrease of 445,930 50 *yen*. The assays for the year indicate very satisfactory results, all the coins examined being found well within the prescribed limits of fineness. We do not know whether the Mint has abandoned its former practice of submitting its coins for assay by the experts of mints in foreign countries, but no report of any such proceeding appears in this volume. One of the operations which occupied the Mint's attention during the year was the cutting up and melting down of *Tempo-sen*, *Bunkiu-sen*, and *2-sen* pieces. The total weight of these coins thus treated was 9,164,766 lbs. An interesting note added to the Report refers to the plumbago crucibles used at the Mint. We read that crucibles manufactural by Messrs. Yamato and Co., of Osaka, "though they do not compare in quality with foreign crucibles," have been employed with the hope of stimulating national manufactures. The Mint carried this patriotic forbearance to the extent of using 541 of the Osaka crucibles out of a total of 1,565.

QUALIFYING FOR EXILE.

ANOTHER youth has been qualifying for exile. He is said to be about twenty-two years of age. In the afternoon of the 14th instant, while the House of Representatives was in session, he came to the entrance and asked to see Mr. Mayeda Kagaku, who was in the strangers' gallery. Something in the youth's appearance suggested suspicion to the vigilant porters, and instead of summoning Mr. Mayeda, they summoned a policeman. The latter saw enough to warrant a search, the result of which was that the young man was found to be in possession of a large iron ball and a nine-inch dirk, the dirk being sewed into his coat. Arrest followed immediately of course, and the prisoner was taken off to the Kojimachi station, where he gave his name as Imai Tsunejiro and said that he was a native of Kyoto. Young men who carry deadly weapons are apt to find their residence in Tokyo cut short now-a-days.

THE SOSHI EXPELLED FROM THE CAPITAL.

WE learn on fuller inquiry that the 56 *soshi* expelled from the capital during the night of the 13th, under the provisions of the Peace Preservation Regulations, were all proved to have either sent threatening letters to members of the House of Representatives, or to have taken part in assaulting them, or to have acted in a manner that plainly portended violence. In fact, the precautions taken by the Authorities are distinctly actuated by a desire to secure the Diet against molestation, and the House of Representatives evidently recognises the truth of the case, inasmuch as, when it was yesterday invited to pass a vote of censure on the Government for having given effect to a law which the Diet, only a few days previously, had passed a resolution to rescind, it endorsed the action of the Authorities by a majority of 25 in a House of 193. This is the first time the House of Representatives had signified its acquiescence in any measure taken by the Government, and under the circumstances the fact is sufficiently remarkable. It is not to be supposed, of course, that the number of *soshi* expelled from the capital will be limited to 56. Others will probably be sent to join the exiles during the next few days. But there is just a possibility that this timely step may strike terror into the hearts of these still remaining in Tokyo, and that the certainty of being immediately rusticated if they exhibit any truculence or turbulence, will deter them from further attempts of an aggressive character.

JAPANESE JOURNALS.

REMARKABLE have been the vicissitudes of newspapers within the past few months, says the *Choya Shimbun*. The opening of the Diet was the signal for an unprecedented display of journalistic enterprise, and the immense activity to which political parties were stirred by that event, also exercised no small effect on newspapers. New publications made their appearance and old ones retired from the scene in a manner that argued a state of great uncertainty. From the 1st of February last year the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the *Koko Shimbun*, and the *Boyeki Shimbun* began to be published; in October, Count Itagaki's *Jiyu Shimbun* was added to the list of journals. Shortly afterwards the *Kokō Shimbun* ceased to be published, but was by and by resuscitated as an organ of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. On the 12th of October the *Musashi-no Shimbun* made its *début*, and in November General Viscount Torio issued the *Chiusei Nippo* as the organ of the Independent Conservatives. In the same month another conservative organ, the *Kokka Shimbun*, made its appearance, but soon feel out of the ranks. Then followed the *Bakuretsu Shimbun* (the Bombshell), which, true to its title, blew itself up in a very brief space. For the rest, the *Toyo Shimpo* came into existence, whereas the *Daido Shimbun* and the *Tokyo Koron* expired. Since the Diet opened, too, several periodicals have been born and several have died, so that on the whole the past ten or eleven months have been an exceptionally troubled era for journalism.

NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A CORRESPONDING of *Nippon* gives the following list of New Year's gifts which he thinks should be presented to members of the lower House :—

300 packages of *moxa* for curing light headedness.
200 volumes of a book on polite etiquette.
200 bottles of chemicals for removing unpleasant odours.
300 volumes of a book of recipes for preventing the wearing away of gold plating.
300 letters to be carried on the backs of wire-pullers.
200 spectacles for curing shortsightedness.
300 streamers to be displayed in the breeze.
300 guns to be fired without aim being taken.
15 purses for receiving bribes.
56 volumes of geography of Hokkaido.
300 large mirrors so that members may be enabled to view themselves.

THE POSITION OF THE JAPANESE NATION.

THE *Nippon-jin* discusses, in its issue of the 6th instant, the future position of the Japanese *vis à-vis* European and American nations. Even among the Japanese least tainted with the denationalizing tendency, few, observes our contemporary, are perfectly assured that they are not naturally inferior to the Aryan race. Is it, however, true that the Japanese are inferior to Europeans and Americans? In point of physique, there is a decisive superiority—the *Nippon-jin* admits—on the side of the Occidentals. But our contemporary contends that superiority of physical development does not necessarily imply superior capacity for civilization and progress. On the contrary, fine muscles and large bones are found in people who being naturally slow to form themselves into a peaceful society, have long been in a state of primitive barbarity; while nations comparatively weak in body have been quick to settle down into a state of tranquility and progress. Thus the *Nippon-jin* thinks that whether a nation is well developed in physique or not depends upon the length of time during which it has remained in an uncivilized state, for under uncivilized conditions individual prowess forms the essential condition of successful existence. In a highly civilized age like the present, a nation inferior in physical development may successfully contend in war against a strong-bodied nation, because with the progress of civilization, intellect plays, directly and indirectly, a more and more prominent part in deciding the fate of a campaign. It is, then intellect that ought to determine the position of one nation in regard to another. And as to the measurement of intellectual power, our contemporary takes exception to the phrenological theory which lays stress on the size and the development of a particular part especially the forehead. The prominence of forehead is strikingly noticeable in the peoples of the Aryan race is ascribed by our contemporary to the circumstance that their nomadic forefathers had to walk in the sun so constantly that in the course of ages their forehead gradually projected forward so as to afford shelter to the eyes. If the size of the skull forms a sure measurement of intellectual power, elephants —says the Tokyo journal—ought to be wiser than man. There is, therefore, in the opinion of the *Nippon-jin*, no standard of measure to ascertain degrees of intellectual power. Nothing can be relied on except the approximations afforded by the quantity and character of the work accomplished. Having lived an isolated life for so many centuries, the Japanese nation has done little distinguished for magnitude and splendour. But if can safely be asserted, avers the *Nippon-jin*, that Japan has produced in every walk of life representative men comparable with those of any other country. Toyotomi Hideyoshi, for instance, displayed rare genius both in his manner of conquering his enemies and in the devices he employed to keep them in subsequent subjection. Tokugawa Iyeyasu planned and carried out a system of feudalism which, in point of completeness, has no parallel in the history of the world. In more recent times the late Saigo Takamori stands out pre-eminent in chivalry, truthfulness, and his capacity for forming gigantic schemes. Inō Tadamori has few equals in his wonderful geodetical achievements. He surveyed the whole coast line of Japan and produced an exceptionally accurate map all by his own efforts without any assistance whatsoever. In literature, Bakin's name stands on a level with the greatest authors in the West, while Murasaki-Shikibu, the graceful authoress of the *Genji Mono-gatari*, can be compared with any lady writer of Europe or America. It is not difficult, says the *Nippon-jin*, to mention other names, but these instances are sufficient to show that the Japanese nation is not inferior in intellectual capacity to any other people. The Japanese being among the best representatives of the Mongolian race, our contemporary claims that whatever has been achieved by another people of the same race may fairly be considered to be within the reach of this nation. We are then introduced to the history of China, in the pages which figure a number of men who can be compared to the greatest men in Europe. Chen is compared to Pericles; Kwan to Alexander the Great; Confucius to Socrates; Bo-kiu Ming to Zenophon; the founder of the Han dynasty to Napoleon the First, and so forth, the only difference is that European civilization is on a higher level than the Chinese. This circumstance is to be ascribed to the difference in their respective relations of the two peoples to the ancient civilizations of India, Arabia, Egypt, and so forth. Europe has been able by her fortunate position to collect and select from all these different forms of civilization, while China,

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for geographical reasons, has been unable to profit much by the importation of Asiatic and Egyptian civilizations. The Mongolian race has also produced a world-renowned conqueror, namely Gengis Kan, who subjugated the whole of Asia and carried terror far into the interior of Europe. Our contemporary further refers to the great Wall, and to the construction of immense canals, and to the splendour of civilization under certain dynasties. Lastly the Mongolian race now comprises a population of 600 millions, while the Aryans only number about 400 millions. The Mongolians have thus far maintained their ground in the struggle for existence. And our contemporary thinks that a time will come when the Mongolians, their vast potential energies being fully developed, may assert themselves in the world's affairs. Such a time is not far distant. The increased attention which European nations now pay to the East will ultimately rouse the Mongolian race from its present torpor and open up an entirely new chapter in its history. Thus the *Nippon-jin* is assured that a bright future awaits the Mongolian race in general, and the Japanese nation among the rest, and exhorts all the enterprising youths of the land to turn their attention from petty questions of domestic politics to the fulfilment of the splendid mission assigned by Nature to the Japanese nation.

THE NEW JAPANESE HYMNAL.

THERE has just been published by the American Board and United Presbyterian Missions in Japan, a most carefully prepared translation of Hymns and Songs of Praise in common use among Christians. The work of translation appears to have been going on since 1886, in the hands of a committee appointed by representative bodies of the United and Congregational Churches, the members of the Committee being the Revs. Matsuyama, Miyagawa, and G. Allchin and Mr. Tamura, for the Congregational Church; and the Revs. Okuno, Uyemura, Segawa, and Dr. G. F. Verbeck for the United Church. It does not seem, however, that the members of the Committee laboured equally on it, for we read in the preface that the hymnological part was prepared almost exclusively by Messrs. Matsuyama, Okuno, and Uyemura, and the musical by Mr. G. Allchin. There are 263 hymns in the collection, and so far as we are competent to judge, the renderings into Japanese retain most happily all the simple grace of the original. This, of course, is a point upon which we speak with hesitation. Japanese has perhaps not yet reached such a stage of development on modern lines as permits its employment for the purpose of translating literally all the special turns of thought and peculiar metaphors of an English hymn-book. But it is certain that many of these familiar hymns appeal to us with new beauty and directness in their Japanese dress, and that the translators have shown rare skill and fidelity. Take the well-known and beautiful hymn "Abide with me; fast falls the eventide," and it will be seen that the Japanese version compares not unfavourably with the original:—

1 Yûbe to narinu hi kurenu
Tomo ni yadorase tamae
Yorube naki mi no tayoru
Shu yo tomo ni yadoriteyo.

2 Inochi no yûbe wa chikashi
Kômei eigwa mo kie-yuku
Yo no kawari ikani zo ya
Shu yo tomo ni yadoriteyo.

3 Yuku michi wa ito kewashi
Semaru ata wo Shu narade
Tare ni yorite mamukaren
Shu yo tomo ni yadoriteyo.

4 Tozuru me ni mie-wataru
Jôjika no kagayaki ni zo
Ten no akebono wo nozomu
Shu yo tomo ni yadoriteyo.

Apart from the question of rendering, there are two points of special interest about the book. The first is the fact that it is the pioneer music-book printed in Japan with type made and set up in the country. It is true that not a few music readers have been published by promoters of Western music, for use in the public schools, but they are printed from blocks. We may say, therefore, that we have before us the first Japanese attempt at music-book printing, and truly the attempt is highly creditable. The Seishi Bunsha of Yokohama—a firm where no foreigner is, we think, employed—has done the work. A few specimens of type were, we believe, ordered in the first place from America, and from these models the whole fount was cast. A skilled music printer in the West might perhaps find some few points to criticise, but on the whole only the eye of a keen expert could detect that the book did not issue from first class Occidental hands. Of course a great deal of this happy result must be due to the Rev. Geo. Allchin, to whose sole share, as we have said, the musical part of the volume fell. The second point of interest is that the book will be immediately used by three-fourths of the total number of Protestant Christians in Japan; in other words, fully 25,000 Japanese will be almost immediately singing from this hymnal every Sunday. Strange it is to think that those revered and noble airs which form such a large feature of our household memories in bygone days, the *Magnificat*, the *Te Deum*, the *Nunc Dimittis*, and so forth should, now be sung every Sabbath to Japanese words under Japanese skies. The *Shinshi Sambika*, as the hymnal is called, appears in two forms, both plainly but prettily bound in soft leather with red edged leaves. The first contains the music and words in *shiragana;* the second, and smaller, contains the words only in Romanized letters.

FUNERAL OF MR. HAENNI.

THE remains of the late Mr. Haenni, Vice-Consul for Switzerland, were interred on Tuesday afternoon in the General Cemetery. The coffin was conveyed at 4 p.m. from the premises of Messrs. Sieber and Brenwald, of which firm deceased was a partner, and placed in a hearse which then proceeded to the Cemetery. Messrs. A. Dumelin and Jas. Walter were chief mourners, and a very large assemblage of the leading official and mercantile residents of the Settlement followed the coffin to the grave. Prominent among the former were members of the Consular corps, but many persons, official as well as civilian, were prevented by the prevailing epidemic of influenza from being present. The deep respect and esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held was powerfully evidenced by the large attendance of different nationalities, a considerable proportion of the mourners being Japanese, and in view of his official position the flags of the various Consulates were flown at half-mast.

IN A SUBURBAN GARDEN.

The Lily murmured to the Rose,
"Love, every night when clamours cease,
I strive my passion to declare—
If we could get a moment's peace!
But who's this kicking to get in?
And who's that trying to get out?
Is this an Uncrowned King I see
Come gliding down the waterspout?"
The Shamrock sighed unto the Rose,
"I fear we're in a tight position:
Dissent will hardly tolerate
So amorous a politician.
The man who rules our destinies,
Who's free a nation's ends to shape,
Should not be seen from lady's bower
Descending by a fire-escape!"

—*St. James's Budget.*

THE DESIGNER OF THE NICARAGUAN CANAL.

THE *Kokkai* notes the arrival in Japan of Capt. Taylor (of the U.S.S. *Alliance*) whom our contemporary hails as the designer of the Nicaraguan Canal. A representative of the *Kokkai* appears to have conversed with Captain Taylor who laid stress on the important bearing the completion of the work will have on the foreign commerce of Japan. In particular the Canal will materially shorten the distance to be covered by exhibits and sightseers going to the Chicago Exhibition, before the opening of which it is expected to be finished. Captain Taylor, according to the *Kokkai*, suffers at present from influenza, but on his recovery will deliver a lecture on the Canal before the Tokyo Geographical Society.

THE LATE MR. BRINKWORTH.

ON Saturday afternoon the remains of the late Mr. B. J. S. Brinkworth were interred in the General Cemetery. A short service was performed at the house by Rev. E. C. Irwine, M.A., after which the remains were conveyed to the Cemetery, Dr. Wheeler, and Messrs. J. Johnstone, Cameron, Charlesworth, J. Curtis, Bugbird, Hewett, and Kennaway, acting as pall bearers. After appropriate exercises, the coffin was lowered into the grave. Rev. Mr. Irwine, in the course of a few brief remarks, said those who could go back to their homes, upon whom grief and sorrow had not laid their heavy hand, as they had upon their poor young friend—for she was very young—ought again to bless God that they had not to experience such grief as hers. It was a grief no words of theirs could allay. They could do no more than express their sympathy. They hardly knew by what mysterious dispensation of Providence such a hardworking and industrious citizen, such a kind and cheerful friend, was struck down; they could not account for such things, and could only leave them to the Almighty Father, in whose hands they all were. Many beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave.

INFLUENZA.

THE present visitation of influenza is developing virulence and deadliness which were almost absent in the previous epidemic. As the list of deaths traceable to its effects increases, people begin to realise the serious nature of the ailment; above all the danger of too speedily going into the open air while suffering from influenza or recovering from its attacks is plainly established. The death of Mr. Brinkworth, whose funeral took place on Saturday was due in some sense to a lack of these precautions, which, indeed, unhappily cannot be enforced in all cases; and so also we believe was the demise of Mr. Haenni, the much respected Vice-Consul for Switzerland, which took place yesterday.

* * *

The death of Mr. Ch. Wagner, which occurred on Saturday at his house at Negishi, was no doubt due to causes other than influenza, but may still be attributed to the peculiar climatic influences by which we are at present surrounded.

MEDICAL MEN IN JAPAN.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* says that according to statistics compiled by the Home Department, the total number of medical practitioners in the empire on the 1st of January, 1891, was 40,215. These are divisible as follows:—

Medical men who have passed the prescribed examinations	5,595
Medical men who graduated at the Imperial University	1,340
Medical men who graduated at Upper Middle Schools	246
Medical men who graduated at local Medical Colleges	1,356
Medical men who from official positions have gone into general practice	1,536
Medical men who graduated abroad	19
Medical men who were in practice before the present system was inaugurated	30,003
Medical men whose practice is confined to special localities	120

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES YESTERDAY.

THE proceedings in the House of Representatives yesterday were very interesting. Great excitement prevailed. Before the House could resume its sitting in Committee, Mr. Nishi moved for permission to bring forward a motion, as a matter of urgency, for rejecting the Report of the Budget Committee. There were 224 members present, and 120 voted in favour of urgency and 140 against. This vote may probably be taken as an indication of the feeling of the House. Evidently there is going to be a tough fight over the Budget.

VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

WE hear a good account of a youth who up to June last had been a pupil at the Victoria Public School, Yokohama, and is now at the Newton High School, Masachusetts, U.S. The youth is Harry Loomis, a son of the Rev. H. Loomis, and at a recent examination he did great credit to his former teachers in general subjects, being also at the top of the tree in French with 99 points out of a possible 100. The new term at the Victoria Public School opened on Friday.

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THE PEACE PRESERVATION REGULATIONS AGAIN PUT INTO OPERATION.

ON Tuesday night the police received orders from the Government to put the Peace Preservation Regulations into operation against the *soshi* who have been making themselves conspicuous in assaulting or molesting members of the House of Representatives. It is scarcely necessary to remind our readers that the Peace Preservation Regulations are a special law originally promulgated on Christmas Day, 1887, and that they confer on the Authorities power to banish from the capital all persons whom the police have reasonable grounds to suspect of harbouring designs prejudicial to public peace and good order. At the time of the law's enactment and immediate enforcement, a number of youths had assembled in the capital from various localities, having pledged themselves to bring about a change of government by fair means or by foul. Arrived in Tokyo, they soon found how powerless they were either to influence public opinion or to move the Cabinet, and being in some cases reduced to extremities and in others unable to return to their provinces without accomplishing their pledge, there were grave reasons to apprehend that they might resort to acts of wholesale violence. The Peace Preservation Regulations were accordingly framed and put into force amid a chorus of disapproval from all persons outside the Government, the general idea being that the Authorities had resorted to this extreme measure chiefly for the purpose of securing their own despotic sway and in order to create an opportunity for banishing political enemies whose presence in the capital they found inconvenient. The step was completely successful so far as concerned anticipating and preventing rash acts on the part of the misguided youths, but, as might have been expected, many persons refused to believe that any real danger existed, and the administration, instead of getting the credit of having fore-fended a crisis of some magnitude, fell under the imputation of resorting to harsh and cruel measures. Thenceforth the Peace Preservation Regulations became a frequent object of journalistic and political attack. Their abolition formed a leading plank in the platform of every political party, and one of the first acts of the House of Representatives was to pass a Bill annulling them. This Bill had to receive the Government's assent before becoming law, and fortunately that assent had not been given when the present disturbed state of affairs began to make itself apparent. The behaviour of the *soshi* at the Yayoisha and their conduct at the Imperial Hotel, whither eleven of them went, armed with daggers, seem to have finally decided the Government to put the Regulations once more in force. At what hour orders were issued to the police we cannot tell, but at 10 o'clock on Tuesday evening fifty-six *soshi* received notice that by 8 o'clock the following morning they must have removed themselves from Tokyo, to remain absent during the period of the Diet's session, the alternative being arrest and imprisonment. The names of the persons banished are not yet published, and surprise will probably be felt that the number is so small. But the police doubtless know exactly what they are doing, and in a case of such emergency, are not likely to err on the side of undue clemency. Of course we cannot but regret that a crisis calling for this extreme course should have arisen; but, on the other hand, we are sincerely glad that the Government has at last made up its mind to deal with the *soshi* resolutely and radically. If Ministers themselves had been exposed to violence or molestation at the hands of these misguided youths, the case might not be so clear; but when it becomes necessary to attach a strong escort of constables to members of Parliament on their way from the Chamber to their homes, it is time to take a decisive step, nor will the nation be able to complain that the object of this exceptional legislation is to prolong the Government lease of power, since it is simply to guarantee the people's representatives against physical danger in the discharge of their parliamentary duties. It is a somewhat singular freak of fate that within a few days of the Lower House's almost unanimous vote for the rescinding of the Peace Preservation Regulations, their renewed operation should have become necessary to insure the security of the members themselves.

THE "JAPAN GAZETTE" AND TREATY REVISION.

IF we employed the epithet "disappointing" with reference to the first article published by the new *Japan Gazette* on the subject of Treaty Revision, with still greater force does the same adjective apply to our contemporary's second essay. The first was disappointing because it attached paramount importance to a phase of the question which, in our opinion, is far-fetched if not chimerical. The second is disappointing for another reason, namely, that it displays the old spirit of misrepresentation which has embittered every discussion of this important topic and contributed materially to prevent an amicable understanding. "Nothing," says the *Japan Gazette*, "nothing that does not advocate Treaty Revision, with or without conditions, as the Japanese may be pleased to decide, will ever appear other than disappointing to our morning contemporary." It would have been impossible to compress into the compass of a single paragraph falser or more unfounded accusations than are here preferred. Never once have we used language capable of being twisted to signify advocacy of Treaty Revision without conditions, whereas on repeated occasions we have declared, in the most emphatic and distinct terms, that the unconditional abolition of Consular Jurisdiction is a course of which we could not possibly approve. There are two lines between which a newspaper may choose on entering the arena of Treaty-Revision controversy. The first is the honest and conscientious line; the second, the prejudiced and commercial. A journal adopting the former, takes some pains to interpret its opponents correctly and to refrain from attributing to them arguments which they not only have never used but have even frequently condemned and repudiated. A journal choosing the second line sets out by a flaunting display of sparious patriotism; suggests and fosters the notion that Treaty Revision is in some way a test of the superiority of Occidental races to Oriental, and urges the public to conclude that everyone advocating Revision on liberal bases is a renegade, a truckler to Japanese sentiment, and a foe to his own countrymen. We call this second line "commercial" because its plain purpose is simply to make capital out of a discussion which, from its nature, ought to be raised far beyond the range of sensationalism and perversion. Our confident expectation was that the new *Japan Gazette* would have adopted the former line, and we are correspondingly disappointed to find that it appears to be drifting towards the latter. We say "appears," being loath to deduce so unwelcome a conclusion from permises admitting of any doubt. Nevertheless, it is beyond question that the *Japan Gazette* has now accused us directly of advocating Treaty Revision without conditions, which is flagrantly false; and indirectly of moulding our advocacy in strict subservience to Japanese fancy, which is a contemptible libel. If these are the weapons which the new *Japan Gazette* intends to employ, the public will be reluctantly obliged to conclude that even under its altered editorship the paper has no strength to raise itself from the mire of its old wallowing. Yet, despite the force of this testimony, we still hope that our contemporary will choose the better route. A cause is irrevocably damned in the opinion of all unprejudiced persons so soon as its advocates begin to impute motives to their adversaries and to misrepresent the arguments of the other side. This is a rudimentary canon of controversy. If its persistent neglect by the opponents of Treaty Revision in Yokohama has not utterly discredited them, the reason is to be sought in the prejudices which they have succeeded in exciting and to which they habitually appeal. No phase of the discussion seems to be secure against the intrusion of this

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evil element. The particular point of controversy in the present instance was whether England ought to withhold her recognition of Japan's claims through fear of ruffling Chinese sentiment. To that question and to that question alone we addressed ourselves in reply to the *Japan Gazette's* original article. Our contemporary's irrelevant and bitter answer is that the *Japan Mail* advocates Treaty Revision without conditions and that its opinions are moulded strictly in accordance with Japanese caprice. It is impossible, apparently, for our opponents to confine themselves to the point at issue. Some attempt to stir up prejudice, some bandying of false charges, some ascription of servile motives, seems to thrust itself imperatively into the forefront of their argument. The loss is their own. If such methods be inseparable from the cause they champion, so much to worse for the cause.

THE SILK MERCHANTS.

SINCE last autumn the silk-merchants of Japan have been growing more and more pursuaded that the Government ought to assist them to place their staple of trade in the American and European markets without the intervention of the foreign merchants at the Treaty Ports. At first the movement did not attract much notice, but it has now assumed considerable dimensions, and will undoubtedly force itself upon the attention of the Authorities as well as of the Diet. The principal promoters of the idea are Messrs. OZATO CHIUICHIRO, KAWASE HIDEHARU, KAZAMA KIMPACHI, and HOSHINO CHOTARO. On the 12th instant these merchants organised a meeting of men engaged in the silk trade at the Nagoya-ro, in Kanagawa-machi. Over sixty persons attended, representing no less than sixteen localities, in the following proportions, namely, Gumma Prefecture, 13 delegates; Nagano Prefecture, 12; Miyagi Prefecture, 6; Kyoto City, 6; Gifu Prefecture, 6; Oita and Tochigi Prefectures, 3 each; Yamagata, Yamanashi, and Kanagawa Prefectures, 2 each; and Shizuoka, Shiga, Okayama, Fukushima, and Aichi Prefectures, and Tokyo City, 1 each. The meeting was addressed by Mr. OZATO and others, the speakers setting forth the present depressed condition of the silk trade and maintaining that the only hope of improvement lay in inducing the Government to make such arrangements as would enable holders of silk to export their parcels directly to Europe and America, without recourse to foreign merchants in Japan. The promoters submitted to the meeting a written scheme which they proposed to embody in a memorial to the Authorities and to the Diet. The scheme provides that the Bank of Japan and the Specie Bank be officially authorised to purchase the bills of Japanese exporters of silk, the Treasury guaranteeing the banks to the extent of from one million to two and a half million *yen* against such purchases. It is not suggested that the Treasury should actually put up this guarantee fund, but only that it should pay interest on it at the maximum rate of ten per cent. Various details are added with respect to the date of maturity of bills, the rate of discount, the re-payments in New York and Lyons, Consular supervision, and so forth, but the broad outline of the plan is that the State should empower the two leading banks in the empire to make large advances for the purpose of facilitating the direct export of silk, and that from one million to two and a half million *yen* of the public funds should be employed to guarantee the banks against loss in respect of these transactions.

Now the first question that suggests itself in connection with this project is, why Japanese silk-men should be so anxious to eliminate the local foreign merchant from their dealings. The crisis that had led to this agitation is due primarily to the action of an entirely exceptional cause, namely, a sudden rise in the gold price of silver owing to the capricious legislation of the United States Government. Omitting minor incidents of demand and supply, or temporary disturbances of the market, the great and overshadowing factor is that the gold pieces obtainable for a bale of silk in New York or Lyons will not purchase as much silver as they formerly purchased, and that, consequently, the foreign merchant at this side can no longer afford to pay the old number of silver *yen* for the bale. How is this difficulty to be overcome by direct export; in other words, by export carried on without the intervention of the foreign merchants of Yokohama? Most assuredly silk sold by Japanese agencies in New York or Lyons will not fetch a higher gold price than silk sold there by foreign agencies. Neither can the gold proceeds of the sale be converted into silver at a better rate by the agents of the Bank of Japan and the Specie Bank than by the agents of a foreign Bank. How then, we again ask, can the situation be in any way bettered by entrusting all the steps of the transaction to Japanese hands? Are the Japanese more skilful men of business than foreigners? Do they understand the European and American markets more thoroughly? Have they more convenient access to shipping facilities, or do they command cheaper machinery for inspection, packing, placing, and delivering? There is, we are well aware, an element of sentiment in the matter. The Japanese wish to conduct their foreign trade generally without the aid of foreigners on this side of the water. They imagine that the necessity for such aid throws a certain slur upon their own business-capacity, and their impatience is accentuated in the case of silk by the peculiar conditions under which trade in that staple is carried on in Yokohama. Here, however, we do not discuss questions of sentiment. Though by no means disposed to underrate the force of such considerations, or to deny that the anxiety to be independent is natural and praiseworthy, we cannot forget that frequent attempts have been made by competent Japanese, commanding ample capital, to establish "direct export," and that in every instance the result has been disastrous failure. It may be assumed, therefore, that the projecters of the new scheme do not intend to appeal to the Government and the Diet on sentimental grounds, but that their petition will be founded on the great embarrassment now existing in the silk trade, and on the hypothesis that deadlocks like the present would not arise if the channels of export were in Japanese hands. Will Parliament or the Authorities endorse such a view? We cannot for a moment believe it. To every open-eyed person it must be perfectly plain that what the silk-men are asking the State to do is to step in and take the risk of moving westward a large quantity of silk which cannot be moved by foreign agency at ruling rates. There are living in Yokohama a number of foreign merchants who have made the export of silk their study and profession for many years. They have ample command of capital. They know how to take advantage of every favourable condition. Their business machinery is of the most efficient and economical character. They have every inducement to offer liberal terms, because unless transactions can be concluded their income is cut off. And finally, they are competing with each other so keenly that they work on an almost infinitesimal margin of profit, and will even take risks demanding no little courage and resolution. These men cannot discern any possible means of moving at Japanese rates without heavy loss the large quantities of silk now lying in Yokohama. Thereupon the Japanese silk-merchants petition the Treasury to stake a couple of million *yen* of the public money in the desparate game of sending the silk to Europe and America, and putting it on the markets of New York and Lyons at prices which there is now no reasonable prospect of realizing. That is the scheme in a nut-shell. Will it receive the approval of the Cabinet and the Diet? Surely not.

Mr. W. Renshaw, says a home paper received by the last mail, has been distinguishing himself in another field of amusement. His capabilities as a player of lawn tennis are well known. He has recently taken to golf, a game which is rapidly gaining in popularity in many parts of the country. A few days ago Mr. Renshaw brought off a magnificent drive. Playing off from the teeing ground, he holed the ball in one stroke—a feat which has seldom been achieved.

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—FRIDAY, JAN. 9TH.

The House met at 11.15 a.m. The President announced that a message had been received from the Government desiring the return of the Advocates Bill for amendment, and that, under these circumstances, the order of procedure must be changed. The next business to be taken by the House would be the Weights and Measures Bill, but as this was now in the hands of the Special Committee, the debate on it could not be immediately opened. Steps would, however, be taken to have the Committee's Report printed and distributed as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, the President explained that he wished to call the attention of the House to the question of electing an Acting President. The 14th Article of the Law of the Houses provides that in the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair must be taken by an Acting President. The necessity of applying this rule was not immediately pressing, but might at any moment become so, since Count Higashi-kuse, the Vice-President, had been for some time prevented from attending by sickness. With regard to the method of appointing an Acting President, the House might adopt the course of leaving the nomination to the President, but if it did not approve of that plan, the alternative course was to resolve the House into Committee of the whole and debate the matter. The President thought that the former plan would be the more convenient. Viscount Tani supported the President's suggestion. Mr. Hozumi, premising that no one was so competent to interpret the Rules as the President, asked whether it was within the competence of the House to alter the provisions of the 14th Article of the Law of the Houses. Questions of this nature had already been raised in the Lower House, and an authoritative decision was much to be desired. The President explained that the 14th Article possessed no practical value except in the event of the President and Vice-President being both unable to perform their functions. It prescribed no course to be pursued in electing an Acting President, and the opinion that he—the President—had expressed on the subject was based not on the provisions of the Law, but on his own idea of what seemed expedient. Mr. Shimauchi said that, according to his view, the House was not called upon to put the 14th article into practice until the emergency contemplated in the article arose. The Vice-President's illness was known to be mending, and consequently no reason was apparent for proceeding at this stage to the nomination of an acting President. Mr. T. Hosokawa supported the President's view. Mr. K. Murakami sought permission to put a question about the withdrawal of the Advocates' Bill, but the President pointed out that it would be useless to do so inasmuch as, in the absence of any Government Delegate, no satisfactory answer could be given. Mr. Yamaguchi and Mr. Miura having expressed the opinion that Article 14 could have no operative effect until the emergency contemplated in it actually arose, and that, therefore, to elect an acting President under its provisions beforehand would be *ultra vires*, the President asked the House to consider the matter a little more carefully. According to the arrangements now in force, the House could not even come into session until it received a signal from the President, in the form of ringing a bell or some kind of summons. Thus, should both the President and Vice-President be absent through illness, the 250 odd members might find themselves waiting aimlessly in the precincts of the Chamber and unable to proceed to business. No such difficulty could occur in the Lower House, since special provision to meet it had been made; but it might very well occur in the Upper House unless an Acting-President were appointed beforehand. Marquis Hachisuka supported the President's view, but Mr. T. Miura objected that to elect an Acting President under the 14th article before the conditions mentioned in that Article occurred, seemed a decided interference with the Law. He deemed the matter of sufficient importance to warrant the House's electing a committee for the purpose of considering it fully. Several members continued the debate. Mr. Miura explained that he did not oppose the President's view, but that, in his opinion, the Acting President referred to in Article 14 could only hold office during the continuance of the emergency which had caused his appointment, and that, consequently, to elect a permanent Acting President would be contrary to the spirit of the Law. It being now noon, the House adjourned.

* * *

The House re-assembled at 1.20 p.m. The President read out the names of certain members who had applied for leave, and also announced that he had received an intimation from the Government requesting that the debate on the Weights and Measures Bill should be postponed until the 12th. The House would therefore continue the debate of the forenoon. Mr. Miura proposed that as article 14 did not prescribe any method of electing an Acting President, the following rule should be adopted, namely, that if the President or Vice-President were present on the occasion, he should nominate an Acting President, and in the event of neither the President nor Vice-President being present, the House should resolve itself into Committee of the whole, and elect an Acting President by ballot. Mr. Murata pointed out that rules already existed with respect to the House resolving itself into Committee of the whole, and that it would certainly be improper to make a regulation such as that proposed by Mr. Murata authorizing the House to go into Committee of the whole without observing any of the forms prescribed as necessarily precedent to such a course. The debate was continued by several members. The President explained, in reply to one of the members, that the House was not following any Orders of the Day. The Orders had been disturbed by the withdrawal of one Bill and the postponement of another. The question before the House had been suggested by the President himself, who was suffering from symptoms of the prevalent epidemic, influenza, not yet sufficiently severe to incapacitate him for duty, but inasmuch as he might at any moment find himself unable to take his place, he had thought it advisable to suggest the expediency of providing for a probable contingency. He added that Mr. Miura's motion, having found the necessary number of supporters, was now a subject of debate. Mr. Kioka Kocho moved, as an amendment to Mr. Miura's motion, that the nomination of an Acting President be left to the President, and several members supported the amendment. After some further discussion, Mr. Kioka's amendment was put to the House and carried. The President announced that, in accordance with this decision, he should nominate an Acting President in the event of being unable to attend himself, and the House then adjourned at 5.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH.

The House met at 1.45 p.m. The President announced that General Katsura, Vice-Minister of War, and Captain Honjuku Takumei of the Naval Department, had been appointed Government Delegates; also that certain applications for leave of absence had been received. The applications having been granted, the President said that the House would proceed to the Order of the Day, namely, to consider the Report of the Budget Committee. The expenditure side, he took it for granted, should be first debated. Moreover, as the Budget differed from an ordinary draft of law, it seemed essential that it should be examined at three readings, and the House would therefore consider that the debate of to-day was the first reading. Further, an amendment proposed by Mr. Kan Riyoho having obtained the due number of supporters, was before the House. At this point Mr. Tanaka Shozo rose and said that he had a pressing question to put. It appeared that certain persons harbouring evil designs were supported in the house of the Minister of State for Communications, and the speaker desired to take advantage of the Minister's presence to enquire about this affair. Mr. Tanaka was greeted with cries of "muyo, muyo" (needless) from all parts of the House, and was ruled out of order by the President. Mr. Takahashi said that he, too, desired permission to bring a motion of pressing importance. It referred to the bribery reported to have taken place among members of the House. He wished to move that a special committee be appointed to examine into the matter. The President ruled Mr. Takahashi out of order. The President then announced that before the debate on the Budget opened, the Minister of State for Finance wished to address the House. Count Matsukata ascended the tribune and said that having read the report of the special committee on the Budget, he wished to say a few words to the House. The Cabinet and the House were equally agreed that to secure public tranquillity and good order it was essential that the relations between the Executive and the Legislature should be smooth and without friction. Examination of the Report prepared by the Committee on the Budget of the 24th year of Meiji, showed, however, that the Government had the misfortune to be confronted by a situation in which the Executive could not agree with the Legislature. It was true that, since the Report had not yet been adopted by the House, no occasion for seeking the consent of the Executive had actually arisen, but the speaker did not think that it would be either premature or useless to bring to the notice of the members beforehand a fact which might assist their decision. He need scarcely say that the Government was most anxious to avoid any collision with the Legislature. It was the desire of the Government to go to the utmost length in complying with the House's wishes, and to endorse as far as possible any decision the people's representatives might come to after careful examination of actual facts. But there were strong reasons which prevented the Government from agreeing with this Report of the Committee. The President then announced that a motion for going into Committee of the whole House had been made by Mr. Suzuki Shigetoshi, and endorsed by over thirty members. Mr. Kudo asked permission to address the House, but was ruled out of order. Mr. Ishida Kannosuke stated that before the House went into committee he desired to seek an explanation from the Minister of State for Finance. After some hesitation, the President gave permission, and Mr. Ishida ascended the rostrum. Thereupon Mr. Inouye Kakugoro vehemently protested against this proceeding as out of order. The President, however, told Mr. Ishida to proceed. Mr. Ishida stated that he had been quite unable to gather from the speech of the Minister of State for Finance what were the points to which the Government radically objected in the Report. The Committee had done everything in its power to investigate the facts fully, and he thought that if the Minister had nothing more explicit to tell them, he would have done better not to address the House at all. As to the necessity of preserving harmony between the Executive and the Legislature, it was recognised fully by the House, and nothing calculated to disturb that harmony would be lightly undertaken. He trusted, therefore, that the Minister would afford them some more detailed explanation. Mr. Hashimoto Kintaro argued that no necessity existed for asking the Minister of State for Finance to speak again. At this point the Minister of State for Communications came to the President's desk and began to converse in a low tone with the latter, whereupon Messrs. Yamada, Yamao, and others rose and called out that whispered conversations were not allowed in the House. Count Matsukata ascended the rostrum, and explained briefly that as the Bill had not yet passed the House, and consequently had not yet reached the stage when the Government's consent could be sought, he was unable to enter into any detailed explanations. Mr. Gamo said that he could not follow the reasoning of

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the Minister of Finance. The only points concerning which the Government's consent need be sought in respect of the Budget were those enumerated in the 67th Article of the Constitution, whereas the Minister had told them that the Government would be unable to give its consent generally; in other words, that it disagreed with the whole Report of the Committee. He desired to know by what rule such a statement was made. At this stage the Minister of State for Communications rose and asked permission to reply to the remark that had been made about him a short time previously. Cries of "unnecessary" were uttered in various parts of the House. The President said that he had ruled the member out of order who wished to speak about the Minister of State for Communications, and he was therefore unable to permit the latter to reply. The House was called upon to decide the question of going into Committee, and a majority voted for the proposal. Mr. Shimada, President of the Committee of the whole House, took the Chair. The first four articles of the Budget were then read and the debate was about to be opened upon them, when Mr. Misaki rose and objected to that mode of procedure. He proposed that each article should be read separately so that the members might obtain from the Committee any information they desired about it. Mr. Suyehiro declared that the chief importance attached to the Committee's Report, which was the result of exhaustive inquiry, and he therefore proposed as an amendment that the report be read and discussed article by article. Considerable discussion ensued, the House seeming to regard the question as turning upon the relative importance of the original Bill and the Committees' Report, and several members expressing the opinion that the real object of Mr. Misaki's motion was to set aside the Report altogether. Finally the closure was moved and voted, whereupon Mr. Suyehiro's amendment being put, was lost, and the majority voted for Mr. Misaki's motion. The discussion of the Budget item by item then commenced. Mr. S. Sasaki asked what was the total amount of the salaries of *Chokunin*, *Sonin*, and *Hannin* officials. Mr. Tanaka replied that according to the calculations of the Committee it was about 6½ million *yen*. Some discussion occurred about this point, and certain members, having pointed out that the statements of members of the Committee might be mistaken, asked that information be given by the Government's Delegates. The Vice-Minister of Finance replied that documents containing full particulars had been laid before the Committee, but that as he did not have those documents by him at the moment, he could not give exactly the figure sought for. Mr. Takagi asked for information as to the factors by which the pay of the officials of the various Departments were determined, as to the manner in which travelling expenses were assessed, and as to the reasons of the great differences observable between the appropriations for the various Departments. Mr. Watanabe, Vice-Minister of Finance, replied briefly that the first point depended on the numbers and offices of the officials, the second on the distances travelled, and the third on the actual needs of the Departments. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro asked for a detailed account of the various companies receiving Government subsidies, and for a statement of the obligations devolving upon these Companies. Mr. Suyehiro said that if this plan of putting questions now to the members of the Committee, now to the Government Delegates, were pursued, the debate would be confused and interminable. He moved that the Committee of the whole House should close its sitting. Mr. Tanaka said that doubtless the Committee had fully entered into this question of subsidies and would offer an explanation. He was going on to state that he had overheard the Minister of State for Communications make use of the expression "demented talk" or "mad remarks" in conversation with the President, and that he wished for an explanation, but the House silenced him by cries of "unnecessary." Mr. Shoma Shiku gave an explanation of the conditions under which a subsidy was granted to the Japan Mail Steamship Company. In the 18th year of Meiji the Government had pledged itself to make good any deficiency in the Company's receipts, so that it might clear a net interest of 8 per cent. on its capital, but in November of the 20th year this engagement had been altered, and the Government had pledged itself to give a regular yearly subsidy of 880,000 *yen*. There was no doubt that the Government could revise its promise to the Company, but whether revision must be limited to the one article of the subsidy, or whether it might extend to the whole charter, the Committee had not been able to decide and therefore no report had been made. The subsidy had been granted for a fixed term of five years from November, 1887. Mr. Shiota Okuzo, after pointing out that the right to deal with the Budget was one of the most valuable privileges enjoyed under the representative form of Government, for which they had so long struggled, and after emphasizing the consequent necessity of the utmost care and research, said that many items in the Budget were simply replicas of the items in the preceding year, and that he therefore found it needful to revert to the Budgets of ten years back and to ask for an explanation of them. Mr. Ishida Kannosuke raised a question as to the relation between the Budget and Laws and Ordinances. Mr. Suyehiro again remonstrated against the method of procedure. He said that no precedent existed anywhere for such disorderly questioning, and he begged the members to support him in bringing this Committee of the whole House to an end. The President ruled that Mr. Suyehiro's proposal was out of order, and could not be entertained. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho imagined that when the House went into Committee on the Budget it must have foreseen a long debate. He was surprised to find that ere little more than an hour was past, signs of impatience were being manifested. It was true that the proceedings were not well organised, but the remedy for that lay with the President, and with the members themselves. Several members expressed approval of Mr. Suyematsu's view, but Mr. Suyehiro objected to the ruling of the President, and desired that the House be asked to decide whether or no he was in order in moving the termination of the Committee's session. Mr. Takanashi said that Mr. Suyehiro had spoken several times, but the upshot of it all was to show that he had not studied the rules. If he had studied them he would understand that since a Committee of the whole House had not power to postpone its session, still less could it bring it to an end. He thought that if members would think less of displaying their learning and ability, and more of the business in hand, the House would make better progress. Mr. Ooka said that if Mr. Suyehiro was so solicitous about avoiding confusion and waste of time, he had better set the members a good example by refraining from making useless speeches. The President, on the motion of several members, announced that if no one expressed a contrary opinion, he should consider that all the needful questions had been put. The House rose at 5.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH.

The House did not meet, as owing to the postponement, by official desire, of the discussion on the Weights and Measures Bill until the 12th instant, there was no business to be transacted.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.30 p.m. The President announced the death of Mr. Hoki Hatsu, one of the members for Hyogo, and asked what steps the House proposed to take with reference to his funeral. He suggested that a message of condolence should be sent by the House. Mr. Shiota Okuzo argued that such a step would be unnecessary. The President put the question to the House, and it was decided by a unanimous vote that a message of condolence should be sent. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo suggested that the composition of the message should be left to the President, and the latter read out the following form:—"This House learns with sincere regret the decease of its member, Mr. Hoki Hatsu, and offers its condolence to his relations." The President said that the message should be telegraphed to Hyogo. The President then announced that Mr. Suyematsu Saburo was prepared to inform the House of the result of the investigations conducted by the Committee appointed in connection with the arrest of Mori Tokinosuke. Mr. Suyematsu explained that after full deliberation the Committee had decided to memorialize the Throne. There had been two proposals; the first, that the House should enact a law to secure the privileges of the members in the future; the second, that a petition be presented to the Emperor. The majority had decided in favour of the second course. Mr. Yamada Toji, by permission of the President, then read out certain petitions which had been received, namely:—A petition from the Buddhist Priests of Komiyoji, urging that since priests pay the same taxes as other folks, the Law of Election should be amended so as to confer the franchise on them. Secondly, a petition from Yamagata Prefecture praying that the office of *Guncho* should be made elective, and that other changes be effected in the system of local government. The President said that there being no further announcements to make the House might now go into Committee of the whole, and resume the debate on the Budget. Mr. Tanaka Shozo rose and said that he wished to make some remarks of a personal character. On the preceding day, when he had put a question to the Minister of State for Communications, various epithets had been applied to his proceeding, namely, that it was "demented," that he was "beside himself," that his question was "mere raving." So far as he individually was concerned, he could afford to pass these epithets by, but since they had been addressed to him as a member of the House in open session, he must call for an inquiry. The President signified that such an inquiry could not be allowed, but several members urged that as the matter had a direct bearing on the status of a member, permission should be given. Mr. Otsu said that when the Minister of State for Communications, in conversation with the President, had employed the epithets complained of, the President's reply had been too low for the House to hear. Rumour said, however, that the President had endorsed the Minister's remarks, and it therefore seemed advisable that the House should be informed what the President really said. The President replied that as both Mr. Tanaka's question of the preceding day, and the answer which the Minister of State had sought to make, had been ruled out of order and were therefore not before the House, he must decline to offer any explanation. The House would therefore proceed with the orders of the day. Mr. Shimada Saburo, President of the Committee of the whole House, then took the chair and the House went into Committee. The President announced that the order of procedure would be to discuss the expenditure side of the Budget presented by the Government, beginning with the portion relating to the Foreign Office; after which the House would consider the amendment proposed by Mr. Kan Ryoho. Mr. Yamaguchi asked to have a copy of the short-hand report of the Budget Committee's proceedings distributed among the members. Mr. Inugai said that he wished to put a question with reference to the Foreign Office appropriation. The question related to the current fiscal year, but had an important bearing on next year's Budget. In the income of the Foreign Office he found an item of 41,800 *yen* for the sale of certain lands at Tameike, Akasaka, and at Yenoki-machi, and in the expenditure he found an item of 80,000 *yen* for the purchase of Legation grounds at Tameike. He wished to know the reason of this great difference, considering that the market value of the land in both cases should have been the same. He also wished to know the area of the lands referred to, and whether any buildings had been

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attached. Mr. Yasuda Yuitsu wished to ask a question about the pay of *Chokunin* officials, but the President ruled that that part of the subject had been brought to an end the preceding day. Viscount Okabe, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, replying to Mr. Inugai's question, said that he had not the necessary documents at hand to give an answer, but would explain the item on a subsequent occasion. Mr. Nasugawa Koho complained that a Government Delegate had made a similar answer the preceding day, and he hoped that care would be taken to have the needful documents at hand in future. Mr. Yasuda Yuitsu said that the Government had made frequent changes in the organization of the Administration, but he observed that whereas, on these occasions, reductions of the salaries of *Chokunin* and *Sonin* officials were very seldom made, reductions in the case of *Hannin* officials were not infrequent. It seemed as though the weak were attacked, and the strong spared. Looking at the estimates for next year he found increases of 40,000 *yen* in the appropriation for the Foreign Office, of 3,535 *yen* for Foreign Legations, of 11,000 *yen* for the Home Department, but no increases in the cases of the chiefs of the Railway Bureau, of the Police or of the Hokkaido Administration. The only reduction was one of 2,000 *yen* in Prefectures and Cities. Again there were increases of 25,500 *yen* in the case of the Department of Finance, of 13,500 in that of the Cabinet, of 25,500 in that of the Privy Council, of 1,000 *yen* each in the cases of the House of Peers and House of Representatives, of 3,000 in the case of the Board of Audit, of 6,125 in that of Administrative Courts, of 5,000 in that of the Army Department, of 2,525 in that of the military outlay of the Naval Department, of 8,500 *yen* in the Department of Justice, of 10,750 in that of the Courts, of 7,500 in that of the Department of Education, and of 1,000 in that of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, but no increase or decrease in the Department of Communications. The total net increase was 134,462 *yen*. The greater part of this seemed to be due to augmentations of the salaries of *Chokunin* officials. Had these increases been made on the mistaken supposition that the Diet could not interfere in questions of administrative organization, or had there been good and sufficient reason for making them? Mr. Murota, Chief of the Finance Bureau in the Foreign Office, explained that the increase in the item of salaries was because the Heads of Bureaux had been raised to *Chokunin* rank, and the increase in the item of Foreign Legations was due to an increase in the staff of the Legations. Mr. Akagawa Reigan called attention to the question of the Secret Service Fund. The Budget included forty thousand *yen* under this heading in the Foreign Department, and two hundred and seventy or eighty thousand *yen* altogether in the various Departments. The Budget Committee had been told that detailed explanations of this item must not be sought, but as they were dealing with money earned by the sweat of the people's brows, they called for a full explanation. Mr. Murota, Head of the Finance Bureau in the Foreign Department, said that, so far as concerned that Department, the expenditure in question arose in connection with the country's foreign policy, and could not be publicly explained. It was chiefly incurred on account of agreements entered into. He pointed out, however, that whereas 45,335 *yen* had been required in the Department's last estimates, 40,000 *yen* would suffice for this year. Mr. Otsu Junichiro thought that the Government Delegates should explain why it had been deemed necessary to raise Heads of Bureaux to *Chokunin* rank. Viscount Okabe replied that this being a question connected entirely with administrative organization, no explanation was called for. Mr. Otsu protested against the theory that the House could not interfere in matters of administrative organization. If the Government Delegates refused to enter into the question, there was no resource except for the House to open a debate. Viscount Okabe still declined to give any explanation. Mr. Ishida Kannosuke said that according to the 64th Art. of the Constitution, the expenditure and revenue of the State require the consent of the Imperial Diet by means of an annual Budget, and according to the 2nd Article of the Law of Finance, all receipts from taxes and all other resources had to be treated as revenues, and all expenses as expenditures; and revenues and expenditures had to be embodied in the general Budget. It was evident from these two articles that expenditure of every nature, whether it concerned administrature organization or no, came within the purview of the Diet. The only exception was that provided in the 66th article of the Constution, where it was laid down that the expenditures of the Imperial House did not require the consent of the Diet unless an increase in their amount was contemplated. It was therefore not only the prerogative of the House but also its duty to examine every item of the Budget, and to fail in discharging that duty would be to violate the Constitution. Viscount Okabe's refusal to give the explanation sought showed a flagrant want of respect for the House, and must not be passed over. Mr. Fujita Magohei pointed out that the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs could not properly be called on to answer a question which applied to the policy of the Government in general. Mr. Taketomi urged that the point was one of little importance. The Government's reasons for raising Heads of Bureaux to *Chokunin* rank seemed simple enough and there was no occasion to waste time pressing questions on this subject. Mr. Murota, Head of the Finance Bureau in the Foreign Office, in reply to a question by one of the members, said that the number of *Chokunin* and *Sonin* officials in the Foreign Office was 50 in the last Budget against 37 in the next; the number of *Hannin* officials, 100 in the last Budget against 91 in the next, the number of *Chokunin* and *Sonin* officials abroad, 47 in the last Budget against 62 in the next; the number of *Hannin* officials abroad 72 in the last against 55 in the next; the numbers of students abroad were, 5 in Persia, 2 in Italy, 7 in China, 1 in Korea, and the yearly allowance to students in Europe was 1,200 *yen*, the allowance to students in China being 420 *yen*. He also gave an explanation of expenses connected with funerals and graves abroad. Mr. Otsu recast his previous question so as to be in order, and said that as there appeared to be a considerable increase in the item of salaries for *Chokunin* officials and a decrease in that of salaries for *Hannin* officials, he wished to know whether this was owing to a difference in the number of officials or to a difference in the amounts of their salaries. Mr. Suzuki Manjiro put another question about the grouping of the salaries of Ministers and Consuls under one heading, whereupon Mr. Murota protested against several questions being put before the first had been answered. Mr. Suzuki rose and began to remonstrate vehemently against this objection, when the President stopped him, and turning to the Government Delegates, explained that the course pursued was in accordance with what seemed most convenient, and that if any questions put by members could not be answered off-hand, they might be answered the next day. Various questions were then put and answered, when Mr. Orita Kenshi rose and said that if the members had read the short-hand report of the Budget Committee's proceedings, all these questions would not be put. He proposed that the House pass from the Foreign Office item to that of the Home Department. A member of further questions were then put and answered. Among them was one embodying a suggestion that the number of Japanese Representatives abroad might be diminished. Viscount Okabe warned the House that this being a matter of grave import to the foreign policy of the country, ought not to be lightly meddled with. The President announced that the questions on this particular section of the Budget being now ended, the House would proceed to debate Mr. Kan's amendment, but objections being raised to the intrusion of any outside matter into the Debate on the Budget, a vote was taken, and the majority decided against bringing on Mr. Kan's amendment. The House then proceeded to the Home Department item. Mr. Kudo Kokan asked what method the Government pursued in granting subsidies, first in Hokkaido, and secondly in Osaka and Tokyo; whether, in return for granting subsidies, official supervision was exercised, and with what objects the subsidies were granted. Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, answered that full supervision was exercised, and explained that the grant in Tokyo was for the sake of city improvement in the interests of public sanitation, and the grant in Osaka for the sake of waterworks in the same interest. A number of minor questions were then put, and the House rose at five minutes past six o'clock.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—MONDAY, JAN. 12TH.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. Marquis Hachisuka, President of the Committee for Memorials, announced that a memorial had been received from a number of Priests of Wakayama Prefecture, praying that the Law of Election might be amended so as to extend the franchise to Priests. The Memorials Committee had, however, decided that this matter should not be submitted for the House's decision, inasmuch as, in the first place, the extension of the franchise to Priests would lead to confusion between religious and administrative affairs, and in the second, it was not advisable to make any change in the Law of Election at this early date. A memorial had also been received from over a thousand confectioners of Osaka, praying that the tax on confectionary might be lightened or abolished, as being extremely injurious to the trade. This Memorial, the Committee had decided, should be submitted to the House. The President then announced the resumption of the debate on the Weights and Measures Bill. Viscount Yuri, a member of the Special Committee on the Bill, explained the necessity of a uniform system of Weights and Measures. The Government Delegates had informed the Committee that the system proposed by the Bill took the French metre as the unit of length, and that by doing so the closest possible approximation to uniformity as between Japan and Western countries would be obtained. With regard to the alterations suggested by the Committee, some of them were merely for the purpose of rendering the terms of the Bill plainer. They had retained the catty (*kin*) of 160 *me*, on account of its wide use. They had also struck out the kilolitre as unnecessary. They had further reduced the penalties attaching to the crime of tampering with weights or measures, because such penalties were not in accord with modern ideas of justice. Numerous questions were then put to the Committee and answered. At 12.30 the House adjourned for the mid-day recess, and on its re-assembling at 1.20, the President announced that as no more questions remained to be put, the House would proceed to debate the Bill. Mr. Murata Tamotsu spoke at some length in support of the Bill. No special inconvenience, he said, had resulted in practice during the many years of the old system's employment, but it was absolutely essential, for the sake of the operation of the new Civil Codes, that a strict and accurate system should be introduced, and for that reason he was entirely at one with the objects of the Bill. He also explained that the people must be able to place no less reliance on their weights and measures than on the coin of the realm, and that the penalties contemplated by the Bill for all tampering with weights and measures were in full accord with the spirit of modern civilization both in Japan and abroad. Mr. Obata supported the spirit of the Bill, but strongly urged the expediency of having all weights and measures constructed under official supervision. He submitted a motion, duly supported, that the Special Committee be asked to amend the Bill in that sense before the second reading. Mr. Shimauchi endorsed Mr. Obata's view, and in support of it pointed to the frequent tampering with weights and measures resorted to by dishonest merchants in Yokohama. The best way to restrain such people was to make them use weights and measures bearing official stamps. Viscount Tani opposed the Bill. He could not see the necessity of

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changing the system which had been so long in force and had worked well, neither could he appreciate the advantages of the new system. He reminded the House that there was still much uncertainty on this subject in foreign countries, and argued that to adopt foreign weights and measures under the circumstances would be unwise and premature. Mr. Watanabe Kiyoshi entirely disagreed with Viscount Tani. Everybody admitted the faultiness of the present system and desired its reform. The speaker was of opinion, however, that the manufacture of weights and measures ought not to be left to private enterprise, but should be subjected to official supervision. He therefore supported Mr. Obata's motion. Mr. Kikuchi Dairoku supported the Bill in an able speech. Several other members having spoken in favour of the Bill, Marquis Hachisuka moved the closure. Mr. Obata's motion was then put and lost, after which the House, by a large majority, voted the first reading of the Bill. The President said that an interval of two days should be left before proceeding to the second reading, unless the House wished to dispense with that delay, and commence the second reading the following day. Marquis Hachisuka requested the House to debate the Registration Bill on the afternoon of the following day, as the delay in passing that Bill caused much inconvenience. The President announced that the business for the following morning would be the second reading of the Weights and Measures Bill, and the House rose at 3.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.55 p.m. Mr. Suzuki Shoji said that before resuming the debate on the Budget, he wished to call attention to the importance of deciding that no members not duly qualified were present. He moved that the necessary steps be taken to change the orders of the day, so that the House might proceed at once to discuss this point. This motion, being duly supported, was put to the House and the President declared that a majority had supported it, but his decision being challenged, a vote by balls was taken, when 99 members cast for the motion and 124 against. Mr. Nishi Kiichi asked permission to address the House before it went into committee. In an eloquent speech he gave a brief retrospect of the stages through which Japan had passed to reach constitutional Government, and reminded the House that now, for the first time in the history of the world, was an Oriental country trying the experiment of representative institutions. It was commonly held in the Occident that such a form of Government was impossible in the East, and Japan had now to show whether that verdict was true or false. This being the first parliament ever assembled in the country, they could not possibly expect to escape errors or to attain anything like perfection. But they had to remember that the prime object of representative institutions was to secure harmony between rulers and ruled. If that could be accomplished, the national strength was enormously increased. It seemed to him that this Budget question was a test of the situation. The Budget was incomparably the most important measure the House had to discuss, and its effects upon the people's pockets and on the administrative efficiency of the State were very large. To deal lightly with such a measure would betray a marked want of the sense of parliamentary responsibility. The Committee recommended a sweeping reduction of ten million *yen*. Surely it would be wiser and better to extend such a reform over three or four years, thus attaining the end in view without sacrificing the still more vital object, harmony between the Legislature and the Executive. He moved that the Report of the Budget Committee be rejected. A lively debate ensued, some members contending that Mr. Nishi's motion could not be put or was not urgent, others taking the opposite side. The President finally announced that he should ask the House to decide the question of urgency. Cries of "vote by ballot" being raised by many members, a vote by ballot was taken, when it was found that 120 balls had been cast in favour of regarding Mr. Nishi's motion as urgent, and 104 against. The House then took a recess at 3.50 p.m., and reassembled at 4.40. The President announced that Mr. Nishi's motion was now before the House as one of urgency, and that the Government had agreed to the change of order. The debate would therefore be opened. The House showed much excitement, and many points were raised, some members asking permission to put questions, and others claiming to bring forward urgent motions. The President ruled that questions might be put, whereupon a number of queries were addressed, some to Government Delegates, some to Mr. Nishi. The House again fell into a state of confusion and excitement, and after much discussion of a hot character, Mr. Takanashi rose and said that he was strongly opposed to the Report of the Committee but also strongly opposed to Mr. Nishi's motion. He thought the House was not showing a due sense of its responsibility or of the gravity of the situation, and that the proper course was to go carefully through the Budget and the Report, and adopt what might be found good in the latter, rejecting what was bad. Mr. Minami Isoichiro said that the Special Committee has exceeded its functions and interfered with the administrative organization. It had recommended the abolition of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, but in these turbulent times when *soshi* abounded, the members found themselves seeking the protection of that very Bureau. To vote such changes might bring about a state of affairs similar to the French Revolution. At this point Mr. Inugai sprang to his feet and called out excitedly that Mr. Minami should be required to withdraw his statement. Several members supported the suggestion, and the President, calling for a vote, a majority rose in favour of the motion. Mr. Inugai then moved, further, that as Mr. Minami's words were disrespectful to the Throne, his case should be submitted to the Committee of Disciplinary Punishments. Mr. Minami attempted to explain, but his voice was drowned in cries of "divide, divide." Mr. Itakura Naka protested against taking additional steps in respect of a member concerning whom the House lead already given its decision. At this point the greatest confusion prevailed. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi said that only the paltriest reasons had been advanced for rejecting the Report. Members had talked of the abolition of the Metropolitan Police Bureau as if that proposal covered the whole ground. The broad fact was that the Committee, in preparing its Report, had been actuated by the desire of lessening the people's burdens, and that to effect this they recommended a reduction of the number and pay of officials and a lengthening of office hours so that a smaller number of officials might be able to perform a larger amount of work. He waited for any argument from the opposition bearing upon the real facts of the situation. Mr. Kudo Kokan, as a member of the Special Committee, said that the Committee had been charged with violating the laws and the Constitution. If the majority of the House decided that this was so, the Committee must accept the rebuke. But the point was one of the greatest importance, since it touched the dignity and reputation of the House. He therefore called upon Mr. Nishi to show how and in what respects the Report of the Committee was was at variance with the law and the Constitution. Mr. Nishi said he should ask Mr. Tanaka Gentaro to give the required explanation. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro said that no explanation was necessary. Mr. Kan Riyoho supported Mr. Nishi's motion. It had been stated that the country was in a state of poverty, and that measures to relieve the people were essential. Granted that they were—though upon that point he pronounced no opinion one way or the other—was that any reason why the Legislature should exceed its functions and interfere with the organization of the Executive? He argued this point at some length, demonstrating that the course recommended by the Committee was distinctly *ultra vires* of the House, and urging that a very evil precedent would be established if the first Parliament deliberately set at nought the limits assigned to its functions by the Constitution and the law. The President announced that a large number of members had declared their intention of speaking to the motion, and that a long session would be necessary to conclude the debate. He should therefore adjourn the House, as it was then 6 o'clock. Mr. Takanashi moved that the House continue in session two hours longer, so as to arrive at a decision that evening. The President said that two hours could not possibly suffice to finish the debate, and as it rested with him to fix the hour of adjournment, he declared the session at an end for that day.

HOUSE OF PEERS—JAN. 13TH.

THE House met at 10.40 a.m., and proceeded to the second reading of the Weights and Measures Bill. Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro opened the debate by a speech urging that no necessity existed for the adoption of a foreign system of weights and measures, and that public convenience would be better consulted by adhering to the Japanese system hitherto in force. He moved the excision of all the clauses of the Bill that provided for the replacing of Japanese weights and measures by the metrical system. Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, warned the House against falling into the mistake of supposing that the Bill aimed at the abolition of all the Japanese weights and measures hitherto in use. It had no such object, being drafted simply for the purpose of amending the Japanese system. The number of countries already using the metrical system was no less than 13, and he failed to see any reason why Japan should shrink from joining this comity. He could not tell what might be the practice with semi-barabarous peoples inhabiting the deserts of Arabia and similar places, but he could say with confidence that virtually all the civilized nations of the world employed the metric system. Mr. Miura Yasu said that the House having passed the first reading, was evidently disposed to favour the Bill, but for his part he should vote for the amendment of Mr. Hosokawa. The Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce had explained that the object of the Bill was not to change Japanese weights and measures but to improve the system. As he understood the case, however, the chief argument advanced was that owing to defects and diversities in the weights and measures now employed, much confusion resulted, and the main end to be achieved was the substitution of such accurate weights and measures that all uncertainty should be removed. Surely to achieve this it was not necessary to pass a law directly providing for the introduction of a foreign system. Such a law affected the dignity of the Empire. Mr. Hosokawa's idea was that a scientific system should be devised in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and the details of the system embodied in the law, a course to which the Minister of that Department took exception. He did not himself advocate anything so detailed. If it were deemed necessary, the bases and methods of the new system might be set forth in an explanatory appendix. But he thought that Japanese usages and customs should be taken as guides in this matter, and that every clause of the proposed law referring to foreign weights and measures should be expunged. It was all very well to make Japanese things the standard of comparison, but so soon as foreign things were made the standard they found themselves in the position of rejecting what was Japanese for the sake of adopting what was foreign. He had heard from scholars that there was no instance in the West of the customs or systems of an alien country being made the basis of legislation. In the French Chambers a member who spoke of the English mile, had been greeted with cries of "traitor." Everywhere it was the prime endeavour of each State to preserve its own nationality. He trusted that the House would take this view, and vote for the elimination of all the clauses of the Bill that affected the question of Japan's nationality. Mr. Hosokawa enquired whether his motion had received sufficient support to come before

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the House and was in order. The President repeated an explanation given by him on a previous occasion, namely, that a motion for the excision of clauses differed from an ordinary amendment. If an amendment as well as the original measure were rejected by the House, then and then only the measure became excised. This followed by Article 11 of the Rules of the House. Mr. Hosokawa then withdrew his motion. Mr. Hozumi Chincho said that by passing the first reading of a bill the House signified its agreement with the general object of the bill, and consequently sweeping alterations could scarcely be proposed with propriety at the second reading. Still, in this particular case, the House had voted the first reading owing to its conviction that some reform of the present system of weights and measures was necessary, reserving to itself the function of deliberating upon the exact nature of the reform at the second reading. It seemed to him that unless motions for the excision of clauses were permitted at the second reading, the aim of the House might be defeated. He did not question the ruling given by the chair, but he desired to ask the President's opinion on this point. Mr. Shigeno ridiculed the notion of saying that the adoption of foreign weights and measures affected the dignity of the nation. Weights and measures were classable with utensils. People employed whatever utensil was convenient, wherever and by whomsoever it was made. If this punctiliousness about the national dignity were to be humoured, they must proceed to abolish railways, telegraphs, and steamers, which were all imported from abroad. The President called the attention of the House to the fact that the first clause only of the Bill had been read at the commencement of the debate, and that, consequently, no other part of the Bill was now under consideration. Baron Senge wished to put a question to Messrs. Hosokawa and Miura. The point made by them was that if a foreign system were openly taken as a basis in the body of a law, the national dignity would suffer. Did they mean to imply that it would be right to throw dust in the eyes of the nation by adopting a foreign system, but concealing the fact by excluding it from the text of the law? Mr. Miura declared that he meant nothing more than to point out the inexpedency of inserting in the text of a law the various steps that had been taken in framing it. Neither was he opposed to the employment of foreign weights and measures in Japan. What he objected to was that foreign weights and measures should be made the basis of the Japanese system. He protested strongly against the imputation that he, or any member of the House, could advocate a course calculated to throw dust into the eyes of the people, and he begged Baron Senge to withdraw that remark. Mr. Kikuchi Dairoku said that, in the absence of any intelligible reasons for the proposed erasure of articles, it was impossible to reply intelligently. He then entered into an explanation of certain technical points which Mr. Hosokawa had evidently failed to grasp. Marquis Daigo argued against the propriety of expunging the first and second articles, as proposed, and declared that the national dignity was not at stake at all. The President announced that he should consider the debate on the first clause closed, and called upon the House to vote for that clause with the Special Committee's amendments. A majority voted for the clause. The House adjourned for the mid-day recess, the President having announced that Marquis Konoye would take the President's chair in the afternoon.

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The House re-assembled at 1.20 p.m. Marquis Konoye took the chair and declared the debate open. A Secretary read out the second clause of the Bill. Mr. Furuichi Kintake, in an able speech, combatted the notion of excising this second clause, as had been suggested, and denied that the national dignity could be impaired by substituting a scientific system of weights and measures for the admittedly imperfect or unscientific system now in use. He entered into a lengthy explanation of the scientific bases of the proposed changes, and said that science acknowledged no differences of race or nationality, but offered herself freely to all who had the sense and ability to receive her. Marquis Daigo suggested a verbal alteration for the sake of greater perspicacity. Mr. Hosokawa again spoke in favour of excising the second clause. Mr. Itakura Naka replied at same length, emphasizing the necessity of an accurate system of weights and measures, and ridiculing the idea that Japan should be deterred by so-called patriotic considerations from adopting whatever was intrinsically best and at the same time most convenient. All sensible nations supplemented their own deficiencies by borrowing from the fullness of their neighbours. Mr. Kikuchi Dairoku reminded Mr. Hosokawa that they were debating a question which concerned the accuracy of the commercial transactions of forty million people, and that Japan was one of the very few nations of the world still labouring under the reproach of not having a scientific system of weights and measures. It was rather late, too, to object to the use of foreign measures and weights, considering that all those used in the Imperial Mint at Osaka were English. Viscount Tani supported Mr. Hosokawa, his chief argument being that once the country began to change, no end could be foreseen. Possibly their foot of to-day might be fourteen inches hereafter. Marquis Hachisuka explained that he too would be in favour of using Japanese weights and measures and employing foreign for purposes of comparison only, if it were possible thereby to develop an accurate system. But it was not possible: the country had no choice. Baron Ozawa followed in the same sense. Mr. Miura repeated his protest against embodying foreign standards in Japanese laws. Mr. Okauchi protested against the extravagance of calling the metrical system a foreign system. To which of the seventeen countries using it did it belong, and to which of them would it belong any more than to Japan if she adopted it? He was surprised that Mr. Miura did not abandon his foreign costume and return to the genuine Yamato dress. Viscount Matsudaira moved the closure. The Acting President called upon the House to vote whether the 2nd clause with the Committee's amendment should be passed. A majority voted in favour of the clause. The House passed to the 3rd clause. Mr. Mutsu announced that the Government accepted the Committee's amendments to this clause. Mr. Shigeno argued against retaining the catty of 160 *me*, and urged the expediency of adopting the *kin* of 100 *me* as recommended in the Bill. The acting President announced that as a quorum of members was not present, the debate would stand adjourned until the 15th instant, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce being unable to attend on the 14th. The House rose at 3.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.50 p.m. The President announced that a Bill had been brought in by Mr. Soma Shiku for rescinding the charter of the Japan Mail Steam Ship Company; a Bill by Mr. Takatsu relating to the grant to the Japan Railway Company; a Bill by the same member for establishing a local assembly in Hokkaido; a Bill by Mr. Noguchi for altering the 15th and 16th articles of the Rules of the House; and that Mr. Miyazaki Yeiji would inform the House of the results of the investigations of the Committee on the Political Parties Bill. Mr. Miyazaki explained that the Bill had been placed in the hands of the Committee on the 23rd of December, and by the 25th the investigation had been concluded, only a few amendments being deemed necessary. These amendments were, first, that teachers in preparatory schools, who had not attained the age of 20, should not be allowed to join political parties: secondly, that when the Minister of State for Home Affairs ordered the dissolution of a party, he should accompany the order with a statement of his reasons, and in the event of those reasons being deemed unsatisfactory, the party should be given a week to appeal to the Administrative Court. There were other minor amendments but he need not go into them in detail. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo then gave a brief explanation of some points connected with the memorial to be addressed to the Throne in the case of Mori Tokimosuke. The House then resumed the discussion of Mr. Nishi's motion. Mr. Inugai opposed the motion. Two arguments had been advanced in its favour, as he understood: first that the Report of the Committee violated the Constitution; secondly, that the reduction recommended was excessive. The charge of violating the Constitution, or in other words, interfering with the Imperial Prerogatives, was expressed in the form that the House was advised by its Committee to change the administrative organization. He could not followed such reasoning. If they referred to the 14th Article of the Constitution, they would find it laid down that whereas the Emperor declares a state of siege, the conditions and effects of a state of siege are to be determined by law. Again, the 13th article provides that the Emperor declares war, makes peace, and concludes treaties. Here undoubtedly were Imperial Prerogatives of the most explicit nature. Yet how were they to be put into operation without the consent of the Diet? Money was needed to carry on war or enforce a state of siege, and if the House were asked to vote money for such purposes, could any one pretend that to withhold or reduce the supplies asked for was not within its competence? By analogy the House plainly had power to deal with the supplies necessary for giving effect to any other Imperial Prerogative, such as the organization of the Administration. No law was violated by a reduction of the items in the Budget referring to administrative organization. If again, the charge of illegality was founded on the 67th Article, which provided that already fixed expenditures based on the Constitutional prerogatives of the Sovereign, could not be touched by the House without the Government's consent, then there was simply a question of seeking that consent. The mere presentation of a Committee's recommendation could not possibly be regarded as a violation of this provision. The motion before the House involved a contraction of its own competence by the act of the Diet itself. The financial functions of the House were exercisable through all time. Were they to be lightly lessened by a vote of the kind proposed? Again, it was claimed that the Committee's Report recommended a course which would impair the efficiency of the Executive, owing to the sweeping reductions suggested. Such a question seemed scarcely worth arguing. The mover of the proposition had asserted that the contemplated reduction might be extended over a term of three years without inconvenience. That showed his ignorance of administrative affairs. Frequent changes were more than anything calculated to impair administrative efficiency. There need be no difficulty in accomplishing this reform all at once. How had it fared with the administration on the occasion of the sweeping changes in 1877 and 1880? Had its efficiency been impaired? The policy of the Government at the beginning of the Meiji era might be summed up in the one word "economy." Expenses had been reduced all round, and public works of every kind postponed. It was not so to-day. All round them, on carefully selected sites, rose handsome edifices, the dwellings of Government officials. How would administrative efficiency be impaired by stopping supplies for such extravagant purposes? It was said that in order to assert the national dignity, the House should be ready even to increase the Budget. He did not object to that, but he failed to see how the national dignity could be vindicated or the country's resources developed by ministering to official luxury. It was a gross mistake to suppose that the magnitude of the estimates furnished any test of administrative efficiency. Skilful administration could conduct the affairs of State efficiently with a small appropriation. The smaller the appropriation, the greater the skill.

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They wanted to reject this Report and have another compiled by another Committee. Probably that too would be rejected, and they should find themselves at the end of the session without having passed the Budget, in which case the Budget of the preceding year would go into operation. Did the House think that by such a course it would have discharged its duty, or did it imagine that future generations would hold it exempt if it deliberately passed a measure providing for the curtailment of its own competence? Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu said that he supported Mr. Nishi's motion. He did not purpose to dispute Mr. Inugai's arguments with some of which the House might agree, while others were distinctly beside the issue. Neither did he raise any objection as to the amount of reduction recommended by the Report. His point was that the methods of the Report were illegal. This House could not convert the Budget into a legislative machine. It possessed certain legislative powers, the proper method of exercising which was duly defined, but when it employed the Budget as a means of interfering with or altering the laws, it not only confounded its legislative and its financial functions, but also violated the Constitution. Passing to details, what had become of the six million *yen* appropriated in the Home Department for railway construction? It had disappeared in some unaccountable manner. As for the suggested reduction of salaries, that was obviously a matter with which the House could not deal in passing the Budget. If reduction seemed advisable, the plainly proper course was a Representation to the Government. He should therefore vote for the rejection of the Report as exceeding the powers vested in the House and encroaching upon the Imperial Prevogatives. He added that he was entirely opposed to the present Cabinet, but that he could not approve of the Committee's Report. Mr. Ishida Kannosuke opposed the motion. He thought that the question of exceeding or keeping within the competence of the House was purely one of opinion, and he condemned the idea of granting urgency to such a motion. Here he was interrupted by members who said that the point of urgency had already been decided, and by cries of "unnecessary." He went on to explain that if the House could not deal with the salaries of officials, there was very little in the Budget that it could deal with. Mr. Sakata Yoshikazu thought that the thanks of the House were due to the Committee for all the trouble it had taken, but at the same time condemned its Report entirely. The Committee, in recommending the reduction of salaries and other sweeping administrative changes, had added a note disavowing any idea of interfering with the Executive. No one was deceived by such a note. What could it be called but interfering with the Executive if the Metropolitan Police Bureau were to be abolished as a separate section and amalgamated with the Municipality, and if the Upper Middle Schools in the Educational Department were to be done away with? He considered the Report opposed to the law, injurious to the organization of State, and wanting in reflection and moderation. Mr. Kozato said that Mr. Suyehiro had criticised Mr. Inugai's remarks as beside the issue, but the criticism seemed to apply with more force to the critic himself. He then argued at some length in opposition to the motion, the gist of his remarks being that in order to abolish the system of *mombatsu seifu* (oligarchical government) and to replace it by constitutional government, the sweeping reduction proposed was an excellent lever. Mr. Koretsune Shinyu pointed out that to put the recommendations of the Committee into force, the organization of the Government must be altered and the laws changed. The House could not hope to see all that accomplished. There were means of reducing the Budget to the extent of some six million *yen* without touching the administrative organization or revising the laws. He thought it most imprudent that the House should deliberately pledge itself to a measure which it could not hope to see carried out. Mr. Abe Yojin, a member of the Committee, spoke at same length in opposition to the motion, his chief arguments being that greater reductions than that recommended by the Committee had been made in previous years by the Government without affecting the efficiency of the Administration, and that in suggesting reductions the Committee was only obeying the policy which the Emperor himself had recommended and by which the Cabinet had always declared itself actuated. Mr. Horiuchi moved the closure of the debate for the first time. Mr. Kan Riyoho said that allusion had been made to an Imperial Message, and that he thought the House should be very careful about introducing such a matter into its debates. Mr. Shimada Saburo denounced this notion, but was interrupted by loud cries of "needless, needless." Mr. Inouye Kakugoro opposed the Report. He said that happily there were many items of useless expenditure in the Budget which might be reduced without touching the administrative organization or exceeding the province of House. The great object to be achieved was the diminution of the land tax by one-half per cent., and fortunately some six million *yen* might be cut off the Budget in perfectly legitimate ways. Some members had asked what laws would be violated by adopting the Committee's Report. He should tell them. The Law of Finance would be violated; the Educational Regulations would be violated; the Law of the Houses would be violated; the Constitution would be violated; and the Pension Regulations would be violated. He could not support such a measure. The Committee had recommended a reduction of nine million *yen*, whereas six million was all that was possible. Mr. Shimada Saburo ascended the rostrum to speak in reply to Mr. Kan Riyoho, but was again interrupted. The President said that as Mr. Shimada's subject was not directly connected with the question under debate, he should ask the House to decide whether it would hear Mr. Shimada. A majority voted against hearing him. Mr. Shimada then proceeded to speak in opposition to the motion. He expressed astonishment that the House should think of rejecting a Report which it had not been discussed, and denounced such a course as opposed to all proper rules of procedure. At this point much interruption occurred. Mr. Shimada rebuked the members for not giving him a fair hearing. He argued that the Committee's Report was nothing more than a basis for the House's deliberations and that to reject it at this stage was a singular and most ill-judged step. How did the House intend to proceed if it voted to reject the Report? Would it appoint another Committee, or would it direct the same committee to prepare another Report? He saw no hope of arriving at a decision on the Budget if Mr. Nishi's proposal were approved. Mr. Hamano Noboru moved the closure of the debate for the second time. The President put the question to the House and said that a majority voted for the closure. This decision was challenged, and a vote by ballot was taken. The result was 163 for the closure and 92 against. It was then proposed that a vote on Mr. Nishi's motion be taken by blank ballots, but some members asked for ballots with names. The President said that the Rules did not provide for this point, and sought direction from the House. Several members advocated leaving the question to the President. The President said that, for the sake of securing a fair decision, he should take a vote by blank ballots. The result was that 266 ballots were cast by 264 members, but as 141 black balls and only 125 white were cast, the difference of two did not affect the result, and the motion was lost. The House rose at 6.40 p.m.

JAN. 14TH.

The House met at 1.50 p.m. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, Mr. Tsuda, who announced that Mr. Itakura Taneomi had moved for the appointment of a Special Committee to investigate the subject of forests and moors; also that Mr. Suzuki Shoji had presented a proposal to rescind the operation of the Peace Preservation Regulations, the latter motion being brought forward as one of urgency. Mr. Suzuki said that the enforcement of the Peace Preservation Regulations when a Bill for abolishing them had passed the Lower House and was now actually before the Upper, seemed a questionable proceeding. No reasons for such a step were apparent. If a disposition existed among certain folks to resort to acts of violence, the best way to restore order was to allow these people to come and listen to the debates in the Diet. The arbitrary expulsion of a number of men from the capital could not fail to offend public feeling, and was calculated to eventually accentuate disorder instead of quelling it. Further, the duration of the Diet's session had been fixed as the period of expulsion, and this circumstance made it all the more necessary for the Diet to take the matter up. He moved that permission should be sought to change the Orders of the Day, so as forthwith to debate the advisability of appointing a Special Committee to inquire into this question. A majority voted for the the proposal to change the Orders of the Day. The House took a recess in order that the consent of the Government to the change might be sought.

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The House re-assembled at 3 p.m. The Vice-President announced that the consent of the Government having been obtained, the proposal of Mr. Suzuki might now be debated. Mr. Kanno Riyo argued against the necessity of going into this question. There could be no doubt that an exceptional state of affairs existed, and resort to exceptional measures seemed perfectly proper. If it was within the prerogative of the Emperor to issue special ordinances for the preservation of the public peace, still more was it within His Majesty's prerogative to enforce a law already in existence. Mr. Inugai Ki supported the motion, but dissented from the views of its proposer. It was perfectly right and proper that the strong arm of the law should be employed to restrain persons who disturbed the public tranquillity. But he objected to the act of putting into operation a law which the Diet had just voted to repeal. At the same time, he trusted that the supporters of the motion now before the House, would be careful not to suggest the misapprehension that they approved of the *soshi* or regarded their conduct as capable of exculpation in any respect. Mr. Hashimoto Kiutaro failed to follow the reasoning adopted by the supporters of the proposal. It was true that the House had voted for the repeal of the Peace Preservation Regulations, but the Upper House had not yet passed the Bill, neither had it received Imperial sanction. The Regulations were just as much in force as they had been before the House debated them. They had to remember, too, that these Regulations had been put into operation, not simply to protect members of the House, but for the sake of general tranquillity and to ensure the Imperial Diet against all derogatory interruption. Many days had elapsed since the Budget was submitted to the House, yet no prospect could yet be seen of a decision being arrived at. He deprecated frivolous delays like that now contemplated. Mr. Shirai Zenyemon moved the closure, but was greeted with loud cries of "No, no." Mr. Shiota Okuzo thought that by giving effect to a law which the House had just voted to repeal, the Government showed want of consideration for the Diet's wishes. There were other ways of restraiming riotous persons. After all, this commotion was not prompted by any desire to disturb good order or rebel against the Government. It was due entirely to the strength of the sentiments prevailing against the Budget. Mr. Amano Jakuyen spoke strongly about the disturbances that had arisen within the past few days in the capital, and declared that however regrettable it might be, the enforcement of the Peace Preservation Regulations was a proper method of dealing with the situation. He emphasized the fact that the Emperor had power to resort to exceptional measures for preserving public peace under exceptional circumstances, and he told the House that it would be discharging its functions better if it attended to the all-important

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measure which had been in its hands for so long, the Budget, instead of forgetting its purely legislative capacity and interfering in executive affairs. Mr. Matsumoto Kanaye moved the closure, and a majority voted for his proposal. The motion was then put in the usual way, but there being some uncertainty as to the numbers voting, the Vice-President announced that an unsigned ballot would be taken. Some commotion occurred here, Mr. Suzuki insisting that the ballots should be signed and other members opposing him. The result of the ballot was 109 against the motion and 84 in favour of it. The House then went into Committee. Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, ascended the rostrum to answer a question previously put by Mr. Kajita, but the latter said that he had obtained information which made an answer unnecessary. The President ruled that as the question had been placed on the records, it could not be withdrawn without the House's permission. Mr. Aoki pointed out that though a question might be put by only one member, the answer was given to the whole House. He thought it desirable that the Government Delegate should proceed with his explanation. Mr. Shirane proceeded to say that Mr. Kajita had asked the reason for planting trees on the hills in Hokkaido. The reason was that the hills had been stripped bare by woodcutters, and that unless afforestation were undertaken, the climate would be affected, the water-supply impaired, and the anchorages rendered insecure. Mr. Kudo Kokan said that a sum of ten million *yen* was put down under the heading of the Tokyo Water works, six millions to be actually spent on them. He wished to know in what annual proportions the money was to be raised and what interest was to be paid on it. Mr. Shirane replied that the money was to be raised in five annual instalments, namely, 2 million *yen* the first year, 3 the second, 2 each the third and fourth, and 1 the fifth. As for the interest, the case being different from that of a private company no percentage was fixed. There was to be a regular appropriation of 150,000 *yen* yearly on this account. Mr. Tachiiri Kiichi enquired about the appropriation for the residences of local Governors and Prefects, and wished to know whether it referred to the 24th year of Meiji only. Mr. Shirane explained the reasons for building residences for these officials, and said that the necessity was not limited to the 24th year. In answer to other questions, he explained that the utmost economy and deliberation were observed in building these houses, and that no luxury of any kind was permitted. Mr. Shimada asked why the repairs of a number of rivers' banks were charged to the State instead of to the localities concerned, and was answered that the control of rivers was by no means as efficient now as in feudal days. Owing to the neglect of the provincials, great losses had been caused, and the authorities deemed it advisable, for the sake of protecting life and property, to undertake radical works of repair in connection with a number of important rivers. Accurate surveys had been made and careful distinctions established between rivers to be thus treated and rivers to be left to local control. The works were to be of a thorough character, and the assistance of foreign experts was to be employed in carrying them out. Mr. Asano Kimpei asked what limits were applied in making grants for road construction and repairs. Also, with regard to the Secret Service Fund of 180,000 *yen* which appeared in the Department's appropriations, doubtless a part of it would be employed in a case like that which had just occurred, namely, the expulsion of disorderly persons from the capital. But the *soshi* must have employers, and he had not heard that any employers had been expelled. Were these employers to be sought among the members of the House or among the Ministers of State? It might be necessary to increase the Secret Service Fund in connection with this affair, and therefore he thought it right to put questions. Mr. Shirane answered that the Department proposed to limit its Secret Service Fund to the amount shown. As to grants for roads, they were made in cases of special necessity, and after full investigations had been conducted. Mr. Higashio Heitaro asked why a subsidy was given to the Hokkaido Sugar Manufactory Company and what the present condition of the Company was; also whether the Coal-mine Railway, upon which very large sums had been spent, had been sold for 350,000 *yen*, payable in annual instalments. Mr. Shiota Mokuzo supplemented this question by asking whether it was true that the capital of the companies subsidized by the Government was payable in six years, and whether, further, it was true that most of the holders of the stock were either former officials or relatives of officials. The companies he alluded to were the Sugar Company and the Hemp Company. Mr. Shirane replied that he could not immediately give information as to the quantity of sugar refined or the profits made by the Sugar Company, but that there could be little doubt as to the expediency of such an undertaking in Hokkaido, the facilities there being good, and there being a large demand for sugar in Japan which had to be supplied from abroad until steps were taken to encourage the native manufacture. He could not immediately answer the question as to the Hokkaido Railway. In answer to further questions, he said that the Government had been glad to grant a sum of money to Osaka in order to encourage a praiseworthy sentiment which had developed itself there in favour of sanitary reform. If other cities and prefectures showed a similar disposition, the Government would be equally ready to help them, provided that Parliament approved of such a course. He promised to examine accurately into the figures relating to the cost of the Hokkaido Railway, the sum for which it had been sold, and the manner of payment, Mr. Inugai having pointed out that this matter had given rise to much doubt and discussion. He could not at the moment explain why supplementary estimates had been found necessary in certain cases, neither could he say under what circumstances the land on which the Imperial Hotel stood had been acquired. As to the 14 rivers requiring State aid for their repair and control, they did not represent the whole but only the most important: the others could not be undertaken for several years. With regard to the Secret Service Funds of the Cities and Prefectures, their expenditure varied. Ample means were taken, however, to supervise the expenditure. The President of Committee announced that the questions relating to the Home Department were now concluded. The Vice-President resumed the chair. Mr. Yasuda Yuitsu, as a point of urgency, drew attention to the fact that a police guard had been given to some of the members. This was doubtless a matter to be grateful for, but as it involved the State in additional expenditure, he thought the guards might be dispensed with, and moved that the sense of the House be taken on the subject. The Vice-President said that as this was a matter for individual members to decide, he should not put it to the House. He then read out the Orders of the Day and declared the session at an end. Mr. Yasuda pressed his motion, but the House dispersed without paying any attention to him at 6 p.m.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. The Acting President, Marquis Konoye, announced that Marquis Hachisuka having resigned his position on the Budget Committee, it would be necessary to elect a successor. The House then continued the debate on the second reading of the Weights and Measures Bill. Viscount Itakura opposed the Committee's recommendation to preserve the catty (*kin*) of 160 *me*. The only reason given for preserving it was that it had been so long in use, but that argument would apply with equal force to other weights and measures. He suggested that the clause bearing on this point be separately discussed. Baron Watanabe argued in the same sense. Marquis Daigo contended that as the *kin* was mentioned in the old Japanese code, the *Taiho-rei*, and as no valid objection existed to retaining it, the House should endorse the Committee's suggestion if only for the sake of conserving a weight sanctioned by long usage and honoured by mention in the country's most ancient laws. Mr. Hozumi took the same view. The catty was so widely used both in domestic and foreign trade that he altogether doubted the expediency of abolishing it. Viscount Naito pointed out that the Japanese *kin* could easily and conveniently be expressed in terms of foreign weights, since it amounted to four-thirds of an English pound, and about four-fifths of a French kilogram. He was decidedly in favour of retaining it. Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro argued strongly in favour of making the *kin* consist of 100 *me*, as provided in the original bill. He saw no advantage whatever in making it 160 *me*. The former division concurred with the decimal system, and the *kin* of 100 *me* could be expressed in terms of foreign weights even more easily than the *kin* of 160 *me*. Several other members spoke for or against the Committee's amendment, and the question being put to the House, a majority voted for the amendment, namely, the retention of the *kin* of 160 *me*. The House then took a recess at 12.10 p.m.

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The House re-assembled at 1.30 p.m., and proceeded to discuss the 4th clause of the Bill, which was passed unanimously, with the Committee's amendments. A Secretary read the 5th clause. Mr. Miura Yasu moved that the clause be omitted, as it distinctly provided for the adoption of a foreign system and was therefore hurtful to the empire's dignity. Moreover, its excision would not in any way affect the remainder of the Bill. Mr. Furuichi opposed the motion. The metre could no longer be called French. It was used in Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, and other countries, and partly in England and America. Mr. Furuichi's arguments were a repetition of the points advanced with respect to the same subject on the 13th instant. Mr. Choyo Junsai said that, so far from Japan's dignity being impaired by adopting the system of weights and measures employed in the leading Western countries, the act would redound greatly to her credit. Speaking as a physician, he dwelt upon the vital importance of a more accurate system than that now used in Japan. Mr. Okauchi Shigetoshi was not an admirer of foreign systems *en bloc*, but he reminded the members who objected to the metric system, that the clothes they wore, the chamber in which they were debating, and the medicines they used, were all measured according to that system. It was absurd to gird at a thing merely for being foreign when its adoption meant a national benefit. Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro did not object to the metric system, but he did strongly object to the fact of its foreign origin being put on record in the body of a Japanese law. Such a proceeding might be compared to the notorious policy of employing foreigners in the capacity of Japanese Judges, and organizing in this country a bench of mixed nationalities. Mr. Kikuchi Dairoku said that it seemed hopeless to bring about a clear perception of the truth of this matter. He again reminded the House that no less than thirty States had adopted the metric system, some *in toto*, some in part. England belonged to the latter category, and this Bill only proposed that Japan should do what England had done. It was a flagrant misapprehension to draw any comparison between such a proceeding and the establishment of mixed tribunals like those of Egypt. England used the metric system in conjunction with her own, because it suited her commercial convenience to do so. A country isolated from the rest of the world might stand aloof in this matter, but a country having relations with the West could not help itself. The mere item of posts showed the impossibility of adhering to a special system. The President stopped the discussion, saying that as Mr. Miura's motion had not found a sufficient number of supporters, it was not debatable. The House then voted the passage of the 5th clause with the Committee's amendments, a ballot being taken, and the "ayes" numbering 66, the "noes" 37. The House proceeded to the 6th

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clause, and passed it with the Committee's amendment. Similarly as to the 7th and 8th clauses. On coming to the 9th clause, the Committee's amendment was rejected and the first part of the clause passed in its original form. The House then proceeded to discuss the second part, but the discussion had not ended at 5.30 p.m. when the House rose.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House assembled at 1.20 p.m. The President announced that Mr. Kawashima Jun had presented a series of questions relating to the rescinding of Law 15 of the 23rd year of Meiji and the reform of Law 21; the settled accounts of revenue and expenditure from the 1st to the 23rd year of Meiji; the foreign debt; the resumption of specie payments; the national banks; the funds advanced to the Shizoku; the sale of public properties; the amount of the present public property; the subsidies to the Sanyo, Kiushiu, and Japan Railway Companies, and the Government's debt to the 15th National Bank. Also that Mr. Okada Riyoichiro had presented a Bill for reforming the system of registering lands and houses. The House then went into Committee on the Budget, and the President announced that the questions relating to the Home Department in the Budget itself having been concluded, the Report of the Committee on this portion would now be considered. Various questions were put by members and answered by the Committee with reference to the distribution of the funds employed for lock hospitals and *police de mœurs* purposes. The Committee explained that while reducing the salaries in the Home Department generally, they had been unable to make any reduction in respect of the Yokohama Harbour Works Office, several foreigners with salaries fixed by contract being employed there. Mr. Takata Sanai pointed out, that if the House continued its present method of procedure, it would have to give three days to every one of the Departments of State. He moved the closure of the debate on this section. Several members having supported Mr. Takata's motion, it was put to the vote and lost. Mr. Abe Oki, on behalf of the Committee, explained that they had struck out the item for the official dwellings of Governors, Prefects, and Chiefs of Police because they thought such dwellings unnecessary. After several minor questions had been put and answered, some delay occurred owing to a quorum not being present. The Secretaries having summoned the members from the waiting-rooms, the House passed to the Committee's Report on the Department of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Murota, Chief of the Finance Bureau in that Department, replying to questions put the preceding day, gave particulars of the land purchased at Yenokizaka, Akasaka, namely, that it contained over 3,000 *tsubo* of land, new buildings, partly in foreign style, covering 680 *tsubo* and worth 25,000 *yen*, and old buildings covering 459 *tsubo*. It had been bought for 80,000 *yen* and sold to the American Legation for a price which the Department considered proper. Mr. Inugai said that the lot in Aoicho had been sold by the Department of Agriculture and Commnittee six months previously for 10,000 *yen*, and the Yenokizaka lot for 30,000 *yen*. The prices paid by the Foreign Office in buying them back seemed very high. Mr. Murota answered that when the Government wished to get rid of things, it had to sell them cheap: when it wanted to buy them, it had to pay high. Every one knew that. He could only answer for the Foreign Office's purchases, knowing nothing about sales made six months previously by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Replying to further questions, he said that the Foreign Office was under a moral obligation to provide a site for the American Legation; that the obligation had existed for four or five years, and that the land had not been purchased directly from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce because, at the time of its sale by that Department, there was no idea that it would be selected as a suitable site. With regard to the nature of the obligation, he could say nothing, that being a point of foreign policy. The reason that the site had been selected was that the American Representative had had the buildings made to suit his convenience. The land had been bought from Mr. Okura Kihachiro. Mr. Miura said that the Foreign Office should have been able to find a site for the Legation without any transaction of such an uneconomical nature, but the President called him to order, pointing out that the business before the House was to ask questions not to debate. Mr. Inugai repeated his enquiries as to why the Department of Agriculture and Commerce had sold for 30,000 *yen* land which the Foreign Department bought six months afterwards for 80,000. Mr. Ashiwara, Delegate for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, explained that the Department had not wanted the land, and that it had been sold privately through the Tokyo Municipality. Asked why it had not been sold by public tender, and whether there was any special reason for private sale, he said he was not in the Department at the time, an answer which elicited severe comments from Mr. Inagai and other members. The Delegate explained that he had meant to say that he could not reply without making inquiries. Several members insisted on obtaining information as to why the method of private sale had been employed in respect of this land only, and desired to see the application made by Mr. Okura Kihachiro. The House then passed to consider the Committee's Report on the Department of Finance. Mr. Watanabe, Vice-Minister of Finance, replying to questions previously put, explained that special note-issuing power had been given to the 15th National Bank in return for the accommodation given by the Bank to the Government, in lending 15 million *yen* at the time of the Satsuma Rebellion, at a rate of interest much below the rate obtainable elsewhere. When the National Bank Regulations were amended it was not possible to continue this exceptional treatment of the 15th Bank. Accordingly, five millions had been returned to it, and the remaining ten had been put at an interest of 7½ per cent. This sum had not been redeemed with Consolidated Bonds, because the period of the Bank's agreement had still some years to run. Mr. Miyazaki Yeiji said that seven years ago the 7 per cent. Bonds were at 80, whereas now they were at 100. Under such circumstances the Bank should of itself offer to reduce the rate of interest, its capital having appreciated so largely owing to official operations of finance. If it made no such offer, the Government was entitled to suggest a reduction. Mr. Watanabe said that nothing of that kind could be done unless both parties to the agreement consented. Mr. Yebashi Ko said that the Government had not hesitated to apply to the building of the Tokaido Railway the fund raised for the Nakasendo Railway, and as it showed so little punctiliousness concerning moral obligations in that case, he failed to see why it could not deal a little boldly with the Bank's interest. The President called this member to order. Mr. Gamo Sen, on behalf of the Committee, admitted that in reducing the salaries of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Diet, they were going against the provisions of the Law of the Houses, but said that they proposed to amend the Law. The Secret Service Fund of the Cabinet had been abolished because the Committee saw no necessity for it. After some pressing from the members, it was admitted that the Committee's object in making the reductions had been to diminish the land-tax. Further, the changes they had made, did not, in their opinion, effect the efficiency of the Administration. Several members complained of the absence of the President of the Special Committee, inasmuch as no one else could give information as to the general ideas of the Committee. The House rose at 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 1891.

The House met at 11 a.m. The Acting President announced the death of one of the members, Admiral Yanagi Yuetsu, and the House agreed to send a message of condolence to his relatives. On the motion of Baron Honda, it was decided that the same course should be pursued with regard to Mr. Kokushi Junsei, of whose decease the House had taken no notice. The House then resumed the debate on the second reading of the Weights and Measures-Bill. Considerable discussion took place as to the expediency of limiting the number of persons authorized to make and sell weights and measures. The House ultimately voted in favour of the Committee's amendment, namely, that no limits should be imposed on the manufacture and sale. Marquis Hachisuka announced that the Committee on Memorials would hold a meeting in the afternoon and that the members of the Committee would consequently be absent from their places in the House. The House took a recess at 12.25 p.m.

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The House re-assembled at 1.30 p.m. Proceeding to the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th clauses of the Weights and Measures Bill, some verbal alterations, suggested by Mr. Murata and approved by the Committee, were voted, but the Committee's amendments to the 14th and 15th clauses were rejected. The 16th clause was unanimously voted, and the 17th clause, with amendments by Mr. Murata, was voted by a majority. The House then passed the 18th clause with the Committee's amendments, and, on reaching the 19th clause, rose at 4 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.40 p.m. The President announced that eleven members whose names were originally sent in as supporting Mr. Suyehiro's Bill for amending the Publication Regulations, had withdrawn their support from the Bill. The House then went into Committee on the Budget. The President said that the House would proceed to the Army Department section of the Budget, and further, that certain members had asked to have printed copies distributed of the questions put to and the answers given by the Government Delegates, but as it was not possible to comply with this request, copies would be placed in the Waiting Rooms only. Messrs. Inugai and Arai wished to put some questions about the Finance Department, but the President ruled them out of order. Mr. Kato Katsuya called attention to the fact that whereas the establishment of the standing army was increasing, it appeared that the Shimonoseki Forts would not be finished until the 36th year of *Meiji*, and the Kannon-zaki Forts until the 62nd year. He wished to know why this great difference was observable in respect of the progress of the interior and exterior defences. General Katsura, Vice-Minister of War, said that this was a question of money. The War Department deeply regretted the delay, but without funds nothing could be done. They had only been able to spend a million *yen* on fortifications since the 20th year of Meiji, an obviously insufficient amount. Mr. Sasaki Zenyemon expresssed surprise that Mr. Kato, a member of the Budget Committee, should put questions at this stage. He ought to have obtained all the information he desired while the Committee was in session. Mr. Aoki Tadasu said that it did not fall to the lot of every member of the Committee to inquire into the whole Budget. Each member had a particular portion assigned him, and there did not appear to be any reason why he should not afterwards put questions about the other portions. Mr. Sasaki asked what portion had been assigned to Mr. Kato's Section, and was answered, the Army and Navy portion. Mr. Kato, with some warmth, enquired by what rule he was precluded from asking questions. Mr. Suzuki replied:—"You have a technical right to ask questions, but no moral right." Some commotion arose here and the President refused to allow the discussion to proceed. Mr. Tachiiri asked why the military survey of the empire proceeded so slowly, and to what point it had been carried. Also, whether the work on fortifications now in actual progress was deemed sufficient. The Vice-Minister said that this, too, was a question of appropriations. The Department had two hundred thousand (twenty thousand?) *yen* yearly to carry on the survey of the empire, and could not hope to complete it with such an allowance until the 94th year of Meiji. As for fortifications, work

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was now going on in Tokyo Bay, in the sea adjacent to Kishiu and Awaji, and at Tsushima, but there were many other places that ought to be fortified. Mr. Suyehiro observed that the cost of clothing and provisions increased annually, and wished to know what was the increase in the establishment of the army and how the above cost was calculated. Also, the troops had formerly worn *kokura* of Japanese manufacture, whereas now they wore cloth made of wool imported from foreign countries. He understood that the former material was cheaper, and in time of war it might happen that owing to the interruption of trade, cloth would become unprocurable. He begged to receive some information on this point. Further, in the case of imported stuffs, the price would vary according to exchange, but he found no allowance for this in the estimates. General Noda, Government Delegate, replied that the cavalry of the four garrisons had been increased by 1,500 in the course of the past year. Rice was calculated at 6.53 *yen* per *koku* for next year, that being the average of several years back. As for clothing, every article of a soldier's kit being accurately known, there was no difficulty in determining the precise quantity needed for a given force. With regard to the question between *kokura* and cloth, experience had shown that though the first cost of the former was less, the latter was cheaper in the long run, besides being much better for sanitary reasons. The allowance for provisions, clothing, and all necessaries was as follows:—for troops of the Imperial Guard (infantry) 102.69 *yen* annually; for garrison troops, 99.38 *yen*; for first class cavalry, 115.26 *yen*, and for second-class troops 78 *yen*. He also explained the system pursued with regard to the allowance of provisions in the case of time-expired men. Mr. Otsu Junichiro asked whether the number of military manœuvres during the year was fixed beforehand, as it seemed that the expenses would otherwise vary considerably. He was answered that the number of manœuvres depended on the condition of the garrisons. After several minor questions had been put and answered, Mr. Arai asked whether it was true that there would be a difficulty in defending Tokyo Bay and whether its defence would be undertaken by the united services. Also, why the completion of the Tokyo Bay fortifications was to take place several years after that of the Kishiu and Awaji fortifications; and finally, whether forts upon the construction of which so many years were expended, might not be obsolete before they were finished. General Katsura replied that Tokyo Bay was perfectly defensible, but declined to say whether the defence would be undertaken by the two services. There were several reasons for the comparative lateness of the works in Tokyo Bay, but the principal reasons were the magnitude and difficulty of the works and the want of funds. In reply to another question, he said that the delay in arming the forts was due to the importance of the undertaking. The Minister of War, during his recent visit to Europe, had made careful investigations as to the best type of guns for the purpose, and these were now in process of manufacture in the Osaka Arsenal. It was hoped that the Shimonoseki, and part of the Tokyo Bay, armament would be ready this year. Questioned as to whether the changes of organization introduced from time to time would not interfere with the completion of the military system at the appointed dates, and as to the general sufficiency of the military equipment, he said that there were no changes of importance, and that, as Vice-Minister, he could not answer the latter question. He thought that the speech of the Minister furnished an answer. Reverting to Mr. Suyehiro's question about clothing materials, he explained that of the total of 102 *yen* per annum allowed for the maintenance of a soldier of the Guards, 31 *yen* was for clothing, and 34.40 *sen* for provisions, the rest being made up of minor items. Comparing *kokura* with cloth for clothing purposes, the dress suit of *kokura* costs 5.70 *yen* and lasts 7 years; the winter suit costs 4.20 *yen*, and 4 suits are worn out in 3 years. The suit of cloth costs 7.06 *yen* and 2 suits are worn in 3 years. Before the War Office took over the cloth factory, a yard of cloth used to cost 3.49 *yen*, but now it only costs 2.84 *yen*. It was true that the wool had to be imported, but that, though regrettable, was for the moment unavoidable. Several minor questions having been put, General Noda, in answer to Mr. Sato Shozo, said that, not being acquainted with Naval affairs, he was unable to say why the ratio of the cost of provisions to that of clothing was nearly three times as great in the Army as in the Navy. Further, it was quite untrue that horses were sold from the breeding stations to staff officers at less than cost price and bought back at cost price when they became unfit for officers' use. Horses were sold to officers of all grades and to civil officials, in the same way, namely, to the highest bidder, and when bought back, were taken at a price assessed by experts. Other questions of a trivial character having been answered, the House rose at 6.10 p.m., the Army Section of the Budget being still unfinished.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The principal topics of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the week have been the Minister of Finance's speech in the Lower House on the Budget, Mr. Nishi Kiichi's motion to reject the report of the Budget Committee, the alleged relation between the *soshi* and some members of the Cabinet, the carrying out of the Peace Preservation Regulations, and the various phases of the Eastern Question.

* * *

Count Matsugata's speech in the House of Representatives, declaring the attitude of the Cabinet about the report of the Budget Committee, has been anything but favourably received by the native press. The general opinion seems to be that the results of the speech will be far from beneficial to the Ministry. The *Nippon* is, so far as we know, almost the only paper that speaks at all favourably of the speech. Now that the report of the Budget Committee is disapproved not only by the Government but by a large section of the public, our contemporary thinks that the Cabinet has taken a very opportune and politic step to declare to the Representatives of the people its opposition to the fiscal reforms proposed by the said Committee. The *Nippon* is also of opinion that the course adopted by the Minister of Finance is worthy of being made a precedent for all future occasions of a similar nature. The *Nippon* goes on to observe that the Government would do well to declare its opinion even when any important motion is made in connection with the Budget, and urges the Ministry, whenever such steps are taken in future, to frankly state the reasons for the declaration made by it.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* remarks that Count Matsugata may have been prompted by kindly feelings towards the Diet in making his remarkable speech of the 9th instant, but that nevertheless such a speech is anything but proper and desirable. The Minister's declaration is scarcely incompatible with the independent character of the Legislature. In our contemporary's opinion, the effect of the speech has been, on the one hand, to make the "extremists" more radical than ever, and, on the other, to create fresh obstacles in the path of the "moderates." The *Nichi Nichi* concludes with these words:—"In the present session of the Diet, complications have several times resulted from some blundering statements made by Ministers of State or Government Delegates. It is consequently highly important for the Government to be cautious and deliberate in its announcements of whatever nature to the people's Representatives. Particularly when an announcement is likely to interfere with the decisions of the Diet, the Government ought to hesitate, for we can seldom approve such a step on the part of the authorities."

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The *Kokkai* is of a similar opinion and fears that, as the consequence of the speech, "the relations between the Cabinet and the Diet will become more strained than ever." Our contemporary fails to recognise the wisdom of the step taken by the Minister of Finance.

Party organs like the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, and so forth, all unite in denouncing the speech. The *Mainichi* describes it as "nonsense" (*guchi*), and strongly repudiates the charge usually brought against the report of the Budget Committee that the reduction therein contemplated is destructive in tendency. The *Jiyu Shimbun* is convinced that, "had the Minister of State been frank and sincere enough to show to the Representatives the reasons why the proposed reduction is unworthy of their approval, every member of the Diet who loves the country and the people would have been amenable to reason. "But," continues our contemporary, "the Minister of Finance, instead of taking such a course, tried to denounce the report by the one word *fudōi* (not consenting). Is that the language of a statesman who really loves morality and desires smooth and friendly relations between the Executive and the Legislature?" The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* is angry that the Cabinet assumed by the speech a dictatorial attitude towards the Diet, and advises the Ministers to resign bodily if they think themselves unable to carry on the affairs of the State with the sums that may be voted by the Diet. Mr. Nakaye Tokusuke, a distinguished member of the Constitutional Liberal party, writing in the same journal, observes that what the members of his party desire on the question of the Budget is the approval of the nation and not of the Cabinet.

* * *

At the meeting of the Lower House on the 12th instant, the supporters of the report of the Budget Committee were taken completely by surprise by a dexterous move on the part of the *Taisei-kai* members. It appears that the *Taisei kai* members had been waiting for a favourable opportunity to introduce a motion for the rejection of the Report, and they kept the secret wonderfully well, for none of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* members seem to have been aware of it until the motion was unexpectedly made on the 12th instant, by Mr. Nishi Kiichi, a *Taisei-kai* member from the Prefecture of Okayama. The supporters of the radical plan of reduction were simply thunderstruck. Before they were able to collect their senses, the motion was taken into consideration. The choice of Mr. Nishi as the introducer of the motion is considered to have been a stroke of deliberate policy on the part of the *Taisei-kai*; for he is an old scholar of unstained character and is respected by men of all parties. Meanwhile, the leading members of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* held a hasty consultation in the room of the Budget Committee as to the course of action they ought to take under the circumstances. As the result of this consultation, the supporters of the Budget Committee's report propounded endless questions to Mr. Nishi, and in this way tried to defer the final decision to the next day's deliberation. These tactics proved successful, and the House rose without coming to any decision on the matter. The extreme members on leaving the Diet held a conference and sent round special messengers to *Kaishin-to* and *Jiyu-to* members who had absented themselves from the debate of that day, requiring them to attend the next day's meeting. *Jiyu-to* members whose attitude on the Budget question was doubtful, were also requested to declare their determination, and they were, it is said, even threatened with expulsion from the party if they voted for Mr. Nishi's motion. The *Taisei-kai* members seem to have been confident of success. At all events they did not apparently take any step to secure any further converts to their views. On the 13th, after an animated debate, the motion was finally rejected by the 142 against 125. It was observed that several members who were suffering from influenza attended the meeting to cast their votes on one side or the other.

* * *

The failure of Mr. Nishi's motion is attributed to the inconsistant conduct of some of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* members who support the moderate scheme of reduction. Confronted by the alternative of either voting against the motion or leaving their party, they decided to take the former course. These members are believed by the *Nippon* to be still in hopes that some happy method may be found of voting against the report of the Budget Committee, without severing their connection with their party. Meanwhile, the *Taisei-kai* members of the Diet and other supporters of the moderate scheme of reduction, are understood to be actively engaged in divising a scheme that will obtain the support of all the moderates. We may, therefore, expect stormy debates before long.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing about the debate on Mr. Nishi's motion, observes that it is too early to take the failure of that motion as an evidence of the final triumph of the "extremists." Our contemporary is of the opinion that it is not necessary to reject the Budget Committee's report

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as a whole in order to carry out the object of the "moderate" members, for they can attain their purpose as well when the Budget is to be discussed item by item. The *Nichi Nichi* repeats the warning—already noticed in these columns—that should the "extremists" be able to carry the day, it would be impossible to obtain the concurrence of the Upper House, and cautions the Representatives not to commit themselves to a course of action that can only involve them in defeat.

* * *

The vernacular press is still devoting the greater portion of its attention of the estimates, but having already reproduced enough to show the points at issue, we refrain from alluding to the countless number of other articles on this subject. So far as the journalistic world is concerned, the forces are about equally balanced as to the Report of the Committee on the Budget. The papers in favour of the report are the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, and the *Mimpo* (People's News), a new paper started by the former writers on the staff of the old *Choya Shimbun*, Messrs. Imgai Ki, Ozaki Yukio, and others. On the other side are found the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Nippon*, the *Kokkai*, the *Tokyo Shimpo*, the *Toyo Shimpo*, the *Choya Shimbun*, and the *Chusei Nippo*. The *Hochi Shimbun* apparently maintains an independent position, but we may perhaps regard it as well disposed to the Report. Among the periodicals, the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* alone supports the radical plan of reduction. All the others, as the *Keizai Zasshi*, the *Nippon-jin* and the *Koku-Hon*, are more or less opposed to the Committee's Report. It is a significant fact that, as may be seen from this classification of papers and magazines, none of the independent journals are favourably inclined to the "extremists," those supporting them being only the organs of the *Kaishin to* and of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*.

* * *

The expulsion of 56 *soshi* from the Capital during the present session of the Diet, under Art. 4 of the Peace Preservation Regulations, has been either approved or acquiesced in by the majority of the metropolitan papers, the measure being condemned by only two journals, the *Nippon* and the *Choya Shimbun*. The *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* organs write in a very ambiguous and, in some cases even mysterious manner, but the general tenor of their utterances leaves a strong impression that their reluctance to make an open acknowledgment, they all recognize the necessity of enforcing the Peace Preservation Regulations. We proceed to give a few specimens of their writing on this subject.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* is apparently unwilling to recognize the propriety of the measure, but it incidentally approves it, as it remarks that when scarcely two months have passed since the Constitution was first carried into practice, the Authorities have been confronted by a state of affairs necessitating the re-enforcement of the severe Regulations of 1887. Our contemporary then goes on to congratulate the "extremists" on the circumstances that the *soshi*, who have been marched out of Tokyo, belong in the majority of cases to the parties opposed to them, namely to the moderates whom the Tokyo paper style the supporters of the Government. In conclusion the *Mainichi* cautions the extremists to take care not to imitate the conduct of their opponents but to keep in strict check all the young bloods under them.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* writes in a mysterious manner. It is careful not to commit itself to any expression implying direct approval of the Government's action, but it is equally careful not to say a word that can be construed as condemning the expulsion of the *soshi*. It denounces in strong terms the conduct of the young men, and concludes with these mysterious words:—These young men are indeed to be considered the cause that compelled the Metropolitan Police Inspector-General to carry out the Peace Preservation Regulations whose abolition had already been voted by the Diet. But they are simply the direct cause; we know that there is an indirect and primary cause." What our contemporary means we can only surmise; but it may be of some interest to allude in this context to another of its articles on the subject of the *soshi*, entitled "The Shinsen Gumi of the *Keio* Era." It is scarcely necessary to state that the *Shinsen Gumi* was the name of a band of soldiers—mostly composed of young adventurers of various classes which the Tokugawa Government maintained at Kyoto, shortly before the war of the Restoration, by way of defence against the rebellious adherents of the Imperial cause. Our contemporary compares to this body of troops the *soshi* who have of late been active in assaulting the supporters of the radical plan of reduction. The evident implication is that these *soshi* have been acting under the direction, mediate or immediate, of some statesmen in power. Thus the *Jiyu Shimbun* seems to be a believer in the rumour, the publication of which in an extremely offensive manner brought the ban of suspension upon the *Kokumin Shimbun*.

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It will be interesting to read, in conjunction with the above mentioned articles, the utterances of the *Choya Shimbun*. That journal is opposed to the enforcement of the Peace Preservation Regulations, on the ground that the expulsion of the *soshi* is a poor guarrantee for the safety of the members of the Diet, so long as the statesman—which it is difficult to tell from the Japanese text—who secretly directs these *soshi* are not at the same time expelled from the capital. Our contemporary seems to think that this statesman—for we are inclined to believe that the word is used in the singular—has caused all the disturbance for the purpose of creating a situation of affairs in which he may be able to place himself at the head of the Administration. "The *soshi* and the Government," we are told, have both been duped by this crafty statesman, who is now smiling at the success of his plan."

* * *

The *Nippon*, as already stated, is opposed to the measure. It holds that the Criminal Code and the Law of the Protection of Legislative Assemblies would have been amply sufficient to protect the threatened members of the Diet, without having recourse to the Peace Preservation Regulations. It also ridicules the inconsistency of some of its contemporaries which opposed these Regulations when they were employed to protect Ministers of State, but now approves them when they are used for the protection of the members of the Diet.

* * *

It had been our intention to reproduce here some of the interesting articles appearing in the Tokyo press with regard to the Eastern Question and other problems concerning the future of this country—But we defer the task, having no space here to do justice to the subject, and because a series of articles appearing in the *Jiyu Shimbun* is not yet concluded.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* devotes two articles to urging politicians of the present day to show more self-respect. Several essays have also appeared in the columns of the vernacular press from the pen of no less authorities than Professors Toyama and Yatabe and Mr. Nakamura Masanao, strongly urging the importance of maintaining the Higher Middle Schools, the School of Music, and the Higher Female School. The Budget Committee propose to abolish these educational institutions. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is engaged in reviewing the year 1890. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* has finished its long series of articles on the responsibility of Minister of State, and has commenced to discuss the question of the national defences. The *Hochi Shimbun* has examined at great length Article 67 of the Constitution.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 3.

In pursuance of Article XIV. of the Law of Civil Procedure, We hereby give Our sanction to the present Ordinance relating to the Regulations regarding the Representatives of the State, and order the same to be promulgated.

(His Imperial Majesty's Sign-Manual.)
(Privy Seal.)

Dated January 6th, 1891.

(Countersigned)

Count YAMAGATA ARITOMO,
Minister President of State.
Count OKI TAKATO,
Minister of State for Justice.
Count SAIGO TSUKUMICHI,
Minister of State for Home Affairs.
Count MATSUGATA MASAYOSHI,
Minister of State for Finance.
Count OYAMA IWAO,
Minister of State for War.
Count GOTO SHOJIRO,
Minister of State for Communications.
Viscount AOKI SHUZO,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.
Viscount KABAYAMA SUKENORI,
Minister of State for the Navy.
YOSHIKAWA AKIYOSHI,
Minister of State for Education.
MUTSU MUNEMITSU,
Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

Article 1.—The respective Ministers of State shall represent the State in civil cases as to matters under their respective superintendence.

Article 2.—The Chief of the Hokkaido Administration Board, and the Governors of *Fu* and *ken* shall represent the State in evidences as to matters within their competency or under their control.

Article 3.—Any Minister of State possessing a special local office or offices may, by a Departmental Ordinance, delegate to such office or offices the power of representing the State in civil cases.

Article 4.—The present Ordinance shall not apply to cases in which the representation of the State has been entrusted to a definite functionary by the Official Organization, or by special Imperial Ordinances.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CITY OF NAGOYA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In my last letter from this place concerning the garrison festivities, I did not enter into any details about the city; but, as I then remarked, it is so rapidly becoming an important commercial centre, that I think a full account of the town and its inhabitants may not be unacceptable to your readers. Nagoya numbers about 130,000 inhabitants, and in formation the City may be compared to a monster spider. The body of the town is, on a rough average, about 1½ miles square, and bounded on one side by the station, on another by the castle, on a third by the Kencho, and on the fourth by Atsuta on the Gulf of Owari, in which province it is situated. From this main body, four or five straight narrow streets stretch away into the rice land that completely surrounds the raised plateau on which the town is built. These streets give rise to the spidery appearance before alluded to. The town, being thus slightly raised above the level of the rice fields, enjoys a natural drainage, and is consequently unusually clean and healthy; indeed it is popularly considered the healthiest and cleanest city in the interior. The principal public buildings are the Post Office, a substantial brick building of two stories, ornamented by a large clock. Its cool stone interior makes postal transactions a delightful occupation in the dog days. After the Post Office comes the Kencho, situated at the end of the principal street, or "wide road" as it is named, and not far from the Post Office, which it by no means rivals in substantiality of appearance. This, like most of the other public buildings, is of white plaster, relieved by touches of brown wood work, and flanked on either side by smaller editions of itself, one of which is the House of the Local Assembly. The other Government buildings are the Gendarmerie; the two Court houses; the Hospital on the bank of the Canal, and the Medical school; the Normal and Middle schools, all of which are built on similar lines, and all white. The Commercial School, although one of the most satisfactory, I am told, after the Higher Commercial School in Tokyo, has, at present, a very inferior building, wholly unworthy of a commercial city of growing importance, as Nagoya undoubtedly now is. Last year, however, money was voted for the erection of a more suitable building to the amount of $20,000, and the first piles are now being driven for its commencement. Besides the Post Office there is one other brick building situated in a charming nest of beautiful pine trees near the castle walls. This is the Staff Office, where, amongst other business, all matters connected with the ancient and stately home of the Daimyo are attended to, including permission and cards to view, a privilege never denied to foreign visitors, when application is made at a reasonable hour. The Staff Office and the extensive Barracks of the Third Division of the Army which almost adjoin it, are lighted at the entrance gates by electricity, which modern innovation, with its usual disregard for sacred antiquity, has even invaded the castle itself. Needless to say, all the important shops and principal buildings are also lighted in the same way, but not with the same power, in many cases prosaic oil supplementing the illuminated pear drop of the electric star. Before dismissing the subject of buildings I must not forget to mention a most astonishing rush on three storied bazaars which has taken place during the last twelve months; each of them with the persistent determination of a rival endeavouring to outwit the other in height or architectural adornment. About midway down, the Broad Street—or Hirokoji—is intersected by one a little narrower, which is the chief business

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thoroughfare, and just at the juncture where these two roads meet, the bazaar competition has taken place. Almost within touch of each other stand seven of these ambitious erections, the largest presenting a perpetual warning to speculators in the form of an entire storey unoccupied, and a really artistic little turret ornamented by cranes energetically on the wing, which also remains unlet. With this exception, the bold and lofty enterprises appear to have been successful, and the different methods they have chosen to demonstrate worthiness of public patronage are very characteristic of Japanese ingenuity in business. One has instituted a clock tower which reflects convenience on the multitude as well as credit on itself; another has faced its front with an exceedingly clever imitation of red brick and invariably sports an abundance of little red lanterns; a third has bestowed upon itself the distinction of being the "Principal Nagoya Bazaar," and so on, while within these palaces of delights for juveniles both native and foreign, the commodities are so identically similar as to preclude bigoted preference, unless it may be on a slight variance of prices. A very noticeable change has been taking place in private dwellings as well as in the gay bazaar, an increasing appreciation of an "upstairs," if only one small room, being prominent, also an almost universal adoption of glass, from one little square pane to entire *shoji* and shop fronts. Even the tiny *Kashi* stalls proudly display their dainties behind this superior substitute for paper, and foreigners renting houses find little or no difficulty in having glass substituted for the melancholy and unsociable paper *shoji* of old Japan. All this window glass, as well as the lamps, shops for the sale of which abound, are made in small factories dotted here and there throughout the neighbourhood. So small are some of these that, to cite an instance, one in which excellent lamps, chimnies, bottles, etc., are made, consisted until recently of a wretched shed and a "job made" chimney, the working staff comprising three lamentably poor men and a boy. On one occasion a severe storm nearly wrecked the chimney and engaged two of the men all the afternoon trying to patch up with odd material the breaches caused by the unceremonious elements; but brighter days appear to have dawned for this particular factory at last, and a more substantial shelter has taken the place of the old shed. This is but one instance among many of the poor but self supporting little industries which are scattered throughout the interior, winning one's admiration for the plucky toilers, yet making one wish that their labours could be lightened and their profits increased by a little well invested capital and amalgamation. That time will greatly improve the condition of these scattered foundation stones of commerce is most probable, nay certain; numerous large and well organized manufacturing industries are rapidly springing up elsewhere; and Nagoya is by no means lacking in the more important elements of successful trade. There are no less than five or six large cotton mills, including dyeing and weaving branches, each employing on an average some 150 to 200 hands, if not more. But of course the great feature of Nagoya is its porcelain. All the way from Seto comes the peculiar white earth so deftly wrought into the delicate wares in which we delight so much, the means of transport being long hand barrows, entailing a very great expenditure of manual labour, which might have been greatly decreased had an application to form a tramway between Nagoya and Seto, made some year or two back, been granted. Seto is the home of the larger and cheaper classes of pottery, and but very little artistic ornamentation is done there. In Nagoya, however, a much finer class of porcelain is manufactured, and a high standard of decoration attained, yet falling far short of the Kyoto art. In one of the numerous porcelain factories the delicate frosted china known as Shippo Yaki is made. This place is the favourite resort of the foreign residents when desiring to send some dainty keepsake to friends at home. This year another of the factories largely patronized by foreigners, presented an elegant teapot to each lady of the small community, a pretty compliment which will no doubt reap a rich return during the year.

The embroidering of handkerchiefs is now another considerable item in Nagoya industries, the handkerchief silk being manufactured in Gifu and brought here for ornamentation prior to being despatched to the ports for exportation. In nearly all the minor streets large rooms may be seen full of quite small girls, and occasionally boys, plying with deft little fingers the silken thread over patterns whose fanciful lines are traced by an older hand with brush and paint. Even late at night these littles ones are still working, though it must be admitted that with true Japanese instinct, they often pause to rest and play during the day. So much for the major branches of trade, in which this very noticeable alteration has to be recorded. In the retail houses many changes have taken place in the last two years. New shops have opened in all directions, and old ones have so completely changed as to defy recognition. Walking down the chief business street before alluded to, named *Honmachi*, visitors must be greatly impressed by the immense number of clock shops, all the more remarkable to those who are aware how an exact estimation of the value of time is not a Japanese characteristic. These clock shops are all very modern, both as to the actual date of their establishment, and the lines of their formation. Most of them have counters and seats, and all uniformly display the same make of clock. The fashion most in favour appears to be the pronounced, round, gilt-rimmed, mahogany framed clock of the kitchen species; and rather neat, very moderate, little American carriage clocks; while almost the only other fancy variety is a small clock under which a tiny China figure unceasingly bobs up and down on a slender gilt swing, or a cheaper species whose only adornment is a grotesque representation of the human face that rolls its eyes, and is doubtless regarded as the height of mechanical genius by the country folk who are generally to be found in more or less numbers "having a look round." There has also been a large increase in the number of book-shops. At many of them stray copies of English works may be met with. The foreign library and chemist shop combined is a branch of Maruya & Co.'s business, and is generally in great request either for drugs or literature.

There are several large *saké* destilleries, which, since the Osaka innovation of distributing carts, and since a reduction was effected in the price of the liquor, have largely inceased their business. The town is perambulated by hundreds of little covered hand barrows ringing a species of muffin bell, which penetrate far into the country around and unfortunately convey the *saké*—not always of a good and wholesome quality—to those who would otherwise perhaps never taste it. Being so near the coast, Nagoya is well supplied with fish, brought up from Atsuta partly by the jinrikisha which come in every morning to occupy city stands, and partly by some very unconventional waggonettes which run between that port and the town, and convey passengers to the outskirts of Nagoya in various direction. Nagoya is by no means a show place for Temples, but there are at least two among its some hundred and fifty odd shrines which are worthy of mention. One is the Honganji at which His Imperial Majesty stayed during his visit last Spring. It is a fine specimen of wood carving, and is said to be about 80 years old. The other is smaller and less important, but by far the more pleasantly situated, and has moreover extensive grounds and avenues and tombs which lend at once a wierd and picturesque effect, especially by moonlight. It stands, too, on one of a range of low hills from which the Bay of Owari can be distinctly seen gleaming in the distance dotted by sails. It commands a complete view of the glorious panorama of mountains that encompass the city on every side, and finally a birds' eye view of the city itself. To return once more to the beautiful hills, I must not forget to mention that the most majestic and prominent feature in the range is O Hakisan, whose formation is remarkably similar to Fujisan. I am told that it ranks next to Fuji in altitude, but unlike Fuji it is only at this season covered with snow. On all sides white peaks can now be seen which a week or so since were scarcely noticeable, and bitter winds are sweeping over the plains, giving promise of sharp weather for the next three months. Yet Nagoya is a mild spot in winter and something a little more than hot in summer.

I think it is not generally known that Nagoya possesses a Museum, which, as a collection of all the various manufactures of Aichi Ken, is very interesting, but leaves room for regret in that it partakes so realistically of the having been-buried-and-dug-up again air generally considered essential in Museums, and also in that porcelain is not more worthily represented.

The foreign community here has been gradually and steadily increasing, till in all there are now 33, including children, and with their number has also increased the spread of the English language till in many stores, and two of the hotels, young men can give information and receive orders from foreign travellers in the latter's language. Six different denominations and missions are represented here, and the amount of education that each is providing in its individual school is of very considerable importance; moreover from its low charge, it reaches a class of girls and boys not in a position to pay the fees of the Government Schools, or too old and too well born to frequent the Common School. The Canadian Church and the Roman Catholic Mission are working almost side by side in one of the quietest parts of the town. The latter, having been in the field considerably longer than the former, has lately been enabled to build a substantial school-house, and a belfry with a brightly tinted cross surmounting it, whose clear deep toned bell clangs cheerfully at certain hours and brings a thrill of "home" in its familar sound. The Canadian Missionaries hope to have their unobtrusive but earnest labours rewarded by a church and school-house before long, but as is too often the case, funds are not at the moment forthcoming. However, without either of these aids the work is going on, and much is being acheived with but little show.

Another successful but churchless band of workers represent the Southern Presbyterian Mission of America, and they also look to being able to build in due time. For the present, however, they are carrying on a boy's and girl's school, the latter presided over by a lady formerly many years in China, and both including on their staff first class teachers from the Capital and Kyoto, besides foreign instructors, and comprising in their edutional programme all the studies considered desirable for a thorough practical education apart from the teaching of Christianity, which of course pervades the whole. The American Methodist Episcopal Church, an ably supported and apparently thriving Mission, has, happily, for its representatives in Nagoya a doctor, not of divinity but medicine, who but recently came to supply the place of the late Dr. Long, D.D. This Mission built a church some eighteen months ago, its spire being a landmark for miles round. It will not be the only landmark of the kind, however, for very long, for the Protestant Methodist Mission is just completing a very fine building as school-house and missionary dwelling, which when finished will be succeeded by a church. If this latter is on the same substantial lines as the school, it will prove a handsome addition to the town. Both these latter missions have growing schools, for girls and boys, from whom they glean much encouragement that their labour is not in vain. As it is with the Nagoya mission field, so it is doubtless with all the foreign communites throughout the country. The amount of English instruction scattered by their means alone must be far greater than is generally supposed.

Your obedient servant,

A. M. S.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCICO.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

San Francisco, December 18th.

Congress has been two weeks and a half in session, and present indications point to a fruitless session. The Republicans are driving the Force Bill through the Senate with whip and spur, but it is hardly thought it will command a majority in the House; the latter body wrestled for a while with an apportionment bill, and as there was a disposition among the majority to meet the views of the minority, it commanded a large vote. Unlike the President, many administrative leaders in Congress are disposed to admit that the recent elections meant something, and that politicians who expect to live cannot afford to disregard so emphatic an expression of the popular will. Mr. Harrison sits serenely aloft, unconscious of the ebb and flow of public opinion; his course is sped; but gentlemen who have a future are disposed to trim sail when the wind changes. It was perhaps a happy thing for his party that the President should have proved his indifference to passing events. He set his followers an example to avoid. A man of larger calibre might have suggested a plausible course, which led to danger. Mr. Harrison merely ignored the popular verdict, and went on with his quips and his conceits as if no rebuke had been administered. The result is that his own party realises how unfit he is to lead them, and they treat him with contempt.

There is a possibility that the steamship subsidy bill may be taken up, and passed in some shape or other. A committee of the House recommends a subsidy to be paid for each mile sailed by vessels which, in case of necessity, might be used as a supplement to the national navy, either as cruisers or transports. This is in imitation of the English plan, and in opposition to the plan of those who hold that any aid extended to steamships should take the form of pay for carrying the mails. It is not unlikely that such a measure might pass both Houses. If would naturally commend itself to the protectionists, and the example of Great Britain would reconcile a number of free traders to its support. The broad fact that Great Britain has got three-fourths of the foreign trade of the South

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American and Asiatic countries on the Pacific, while the United States, which have a seaport far nearer these countries, have less than one fourth, is worth, to most men, a bushel of theories. Meanwhile, pending our consideration of the subject, Chile has incorporated a company with a large capital which proposes to run steamers northward from Valparaiso, probably as far north as San Francisco; this will make five steamship lines between the capital of Chile and the isthmus of Panama, not one of which flies the American flag.

Since I wrote, we have had a war. It is not absolutely certain that it has ended, though it probably has. I alluded, in my letter of Nov. 29th, to the restlessness of the Indians in the country lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Missouri Valley. Some ten or fifteen days ago, the military authorities became satisfied that the dances and the inflammatory appeals of the medicine men would end in bloodshed, and the sooner a blow was struck the better. General Miles, who commands the Department, felt convinced that the head and front of the movement was Sitting Bull, the Sioux chief, who commanded the Indians at the Custer massacre. He made his capture his objective point. Sitting Bull was known to be encamped with a considerable force of bucks on the bank of the Grand River, a confluent of the Missouri, a few days march south of Bismarck, Dakota. Miles concentrated a force of mounted Indian scouts, cavalry, and infantry, and started them from Fort Yates. They marched at midnight; the night was dark and bitterly cold. It was all the men could do to keep their feet and hands from freezing. Shortly after dawn, the Indian scouts reached Sitting Bull's camp. They charged into it, made for the chief's teepee, tore him out of bed, and set him on a pony. The old chief roared to his young men to rescue him, and a shot laid low the scout who held his horse. Then the scouts opened, and a number of Indians, including Sitting Bull, fell at the first fire. As the smoke rose, the Sioux discovered that they out-numbered their assailants, and began to use their Winchesters with effect. But at that moment the cavalry, which had come up at the gallop at the sound of the firing, made their appearance on the scene, and they quickly routed the enemy. The Indians ran up Grand River in the direction of the Bad Lands—a lava desert spreading over part of Montana and Dakota—and there the inclement weather and the want of food will end their struggle.

The financial trouble at the East is not over, and every day brings a longer list of failures than is pleasant to contemplate. Among the chief sufferers are the woollen and steel manufacturers who reckoned to make fortunes out of the McKinley Tariff. Amnidown, the President of the Manufacturers Protective League, who begged Congress for a little more protection to enable American labour to hold its own against British pauper labour, and to off-set the baleful effects of British gold, has no longer any reason to use his name as an interrogatory. He is down, and no mistake. So is Delamater, who ran for Governor of Pennsylvania, and declared that he would stand or fall by the new tariff. He has fallen, and his bank is expected to pay twenty cents on the dollar. The East is full of manufacturing concerns which owe more money than they can pay, and which were bound to fail sooner or later. They put up the cash to elect Harrison, and pooled their issues with politicians to get a tariff which would legislate coin into their pockets; and now they are going where such schemers always go.

The transcontinental railroad companies have taken another step toward consolidation. They propose to place all the companies west of the Missouri under the control of an advisory board. The plan will probably fail, as all voluntary compacts between rival enterprises fail. Somebody will cheat, and the advisory board is clothed with no authority to call him to account. But the new arrangement is a step toward the consolidation which is inevitable. Sooner or later, all the main lines of railroad will pass into one ownership, and then there will be no more railroad wars, and no fluctuations in freights to upset the calculations of merchants. But that is a long way ahead. The first thing an American community wants is a railroad to supply it with transportation; when it has got it, the next thing it wants is to rob it. For many years the test of patriotism and public spirit in this, as in other States, was animosity to the transportation interest.

Mr. Harrison has at last plucked up courage enough to remove Mizner, the U.S. Minister to Central America, who authorized the capture of Barrundia under the American flag. Mizner has been recalled and his successor appointed. Commander Reiter of the Navy, who was in command of the *Thetis* and *Ranger* at San Jose when the outrage occurred, has been invited to return home and account for his conduct. He will probably be court-martialed. The American people have always been sensitive on the subject of outrages to the flag. When the President took no steps in the Barrundia affair, it began to be feared that the Republicans were as deficient in pluck as they are in honesty. We now note that this opinion did them injustice. Mr. Harrison has done at last what he ought to have done at first. True to his theatrical instincts, he kept his intention to remove Mizner a profound secret; the first the public heard of it was the announcement in the message that he had been removed. Thus little Benny got "a scoop" on the newspapers.

Another verdict in a seduction case shows that the market for feminine purity continues firm, if not buoyant. A servant girl in a Los Angeles hotel allowed herself to be led from the path of virtue by a wealthy cattle dealer. She brought suit, and although the defendant proved that he was as much sinned against as sinning, a jury gave the plaintiff $25,000 damages, with which she can make a fresh start in life under agreeable conditions. I am filled with admiration when I record these evidences of our high morality. Hardly a week passes that some vile seducer does not pay the penalty of his crime either in person or in purse. The other day two young people, a girl named Pankhurst and a Jew named Goldberg, who had been loving not wisely but too well, quarrelled, and the lady perforated the gentleman's stomach with a 32 calibre bullet, whereof he died incontinently. She was brought to trial, and though it was proved that she had been in the habit of absenting herself for a week at a time from the parental domicile to share her lover's room, she was triumphantly acquitted, and sent forth to ruin other men.

Impurity, or the semblance of it, even in art, makes one's blood boil. At Kansas City, last week, an indignant moralist destroyed a fine painting by Bouguereau, because the nymphs were inadequately supplied with petticoats. In New York, Anthony Comstock, who has charge of public decency, announces that he is going to undertake a crusade against improper books. He proposes to begin with some of the writers of erotic novels, who are chiefly women. Most of these persons have already undergone their punishment, in the neglect which is bestowed on their works. Such writers as Mrs. Atherton have learned that impropriety will not redeem dullness; they are not likely to sin any more, simply because they will find it difficult to obtain a publisher. Whether we are destined to follow the French in their extraordinary development of macaronic literature is an undetermined question; but the chances are against it. The question is going to be settled one way or the other. Within the past year, translations of "Madlle. de Maupin," "Madame de Bovary," and similar books, adhering closely to the original text, have been published in this country, and are for sale at the book-stories. "La Terre" was expurgated in the translation; but Boccaccio is for sale everywhere; every library contains the works of Defoe, and several spicy tales by Guy de Montpassant have appeared in English. If the crusaders against licentious books are in earnest, here is plenty of opportunity for their work. There is, moreover, every chance that a jury would deal severely with writers who transgress the limits of good taste. Whether the American people are moral or not, in their heart of hearts they certainly object to ostentatious immorality. There never has been an instance of a licentious newspaper succeeding in this country, though a number have been started. And it is safe to say that the last Christmas edition of *La vie Parisienne*, which had such an enormous sale in France, would have been seized by the police in this country before it had been on sale for an hour.

THE ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OF A FOREIGNER AT YOKOHAMA STATION.

Joseph Gama was accused on Monday before E. J. Pereira, Esq., Portuguese Vice Consul, at the instance of Shimidzu Oshu, station-master at Yokohama Station, with having unlawfully entered the ladies' waiting-room at the Yokohama Station on the 15th Nov. and indecently addressed a lady there waiting, requesting her to accompany him to Hodogaya in a first class railway compartment, and promising if she would accede to give her a certain sum of money and certain gold ornaments; with having, instead of leaving the room as requested, caught hold of one of the lady's hands and endeavoured to force upon her a certain number of bank bills, thereby infringing the railway regulations and insulting and indecently assaulting the lady aforesaid.

The accused pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Litchfield and Mr. Uchiyama were for the prosecution, and Mr. Lowder defended the accused.

Shimizu Oshu deponed that on the 15th of last month Mr. Yoshino called him and told him there was a foreign man in the ladies' waiting-room, who refused to leave. He asked witness to go with him to the waiting-room. Witness did so, and saw the accused standing outside the general waiting room. Witness asked him (Mr. Yoshino interpreting) why he did not leave the ladies' waiting-room when requested. The accused answered that he had business at the railway station and that he knew all about the regulations, but would do as he liked. Witness did not understand what he (the accused) said, as he spoke in English. He only understood what Mr. Yoshino interpreted. Witness, through Mr. Yoshino, asked the accused for his card, but he refused to give it to witness. Witness then went away, having other business to attend to, and could not say what the accused did after that. Witness did not see any indecent act on his part.

Cross-examined—The seventh article only provides that a person entering the ladies' waiting-room shall be expelled. In the case of foreigners we have the power to eject them, but the rule is not generally enforced. We usually ask for their card and address.

Yoshino Kinosuke deponed that shortly after noon on the 15th November he met in the station Shirokura-Cho, who was then coming back from the platform. He had known her for two or three years. She lived at Negishi. He asked her how she had not gone to Hiratsuka by the last train, and she said she had got into the Tokyo train by mistake, and asked what she should do. Witness said she had better wait in the waiting-room, and he would send a telegram to the gentleman who was waiting for her. He sent the telegram, and then caught the 12.45 train for Tokyo. As, however, he had seen the accused following the girl before he left, he thought the matter over, got out at Kanagawa, and returned to Yokohama. The girl seemed excited when he left. On returning he went upstairs to ask the servant what had transpired during his absence, and just then the girl sent for him. He went to the waiting-room, where he saw the accused sitting on the same bench with the girl, his left arm towards the girl's leg, and the girl looking down. He did not notice whether accused had anything in his hand or not. As soon as witness entered, the accused sat up properly, but did not leave his seat. The girl was not speaking to him. The girl at once rose and went with witness to the fire-place. She told witness she was in trouble, and had asked the servant to call him some time ago. The foreigner had bothered her by offering her money to go with him to Hiratsuka. Witness turned to the accused and told him to leave as this was the ladies' waiting room. The accused left the room. Witness went to report the matter to the station-master, but could not find him, and on returning to the waiting-room found the accused again there, but this time sitting apart from the girl. He again reminded accused that the room was only for ladies, but accused said he was waiting for ladies and would not go. On witness asking why he did not leave, accused said it was no business of witness, and he would do as he liked. Witness stated that he was a railway official, and required him to leave under the railway regulations, but he still refused. Witness then called the station-master, who went with him. They found the accused standing outside the general waiting-room. The station master, through witness, asked him why he went into the ladies' waiting-room: accused answered that he was waiting for ladies; that he knew all about the railway regulations, and that he should do as he pleased. He refused to give his card or name. Witness afterwards went with the lady to Hiratsuka to protect her.

Cross-examined—I know that the girl is the kept mistress of Mr. Aldrich. She has been so during the three years that I have known her. I am a railway official attached to Mr. Aldrich's office, but I am not employed in any way at his house. I did not at first know that the girl was employed by Mr. Aldrich. I know that she was going to Hiratsuka. Mr. Aldrich himself went by the train that she missed. I telegraphed, not to Mr. Aldrich, but to the Hiratsuka station master. Up to the time I got into the Tokyo train the girl had not made any complaint to me. When I entered the waiting-room the accused's elbow was on the girl's knee; she did not answer the accused when he spoke. I reported the matter to Mr. Aldrich, but did not at first tell him who the molested lady was; afterwards I did. He knew the lady was his own mistress. I took the girl to Hiratsuka out of private friendship, not in an

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official capacity. The regulation preventing men from entering the ladies' waiting room is the 7th. Men have entered the room with their wives or sisters, but on being asked have always left.

Here the following letter was read by Mr. Lowder:—

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS,
Secretary's Department,
No. 228. November 17th, 1890.
THE DIRECTORS, GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED,
Yokohama.

GENTLEMEN,—I regret extremely to have to prefer a serious complaint against a person in the employment of your Company, who is in the habit of coming to the Yokohama terminus to meet the up mail train from Kobe. It appears that being known as the representative of your establishment, he has been permitted to go upon the platform, without being provided with a ticket, and on Saturday the 15th instant, he attended and went upon the platform as usual. Just prior to the departure of the 12.45 p.m. up train for Tokyo, he took his seat in a second class carriage, and placed himself beside a Japanese lady who had apparently attracted his attention; and proceeded to annoy her with his undesired conversation, to which she paid no heed. Just as the train (12.40 p.m.) departed for the Tokaido line, an official asked your man for his ticket, upon which he said he was going to Shimbashi, and would pay upon arrival there, which was acquiesced in; but this attracted the notice of the lady, who then discovered she was in the wrong train, and at once alighted; after conferring with an official, she decided to wait and go by the next train to Hiratsuka, for which place she held a ticket, and proceeded to the ladies waiting room, whence she was followed by the man in question; who had also alighted, and abandoned his projected journey to Tokyo. The man also entered the Ladies' Waiting Room, and proceeded to inflict upon the lady the most offensive attentions and solicitations, offering her money, and asking permission to travel with her as far as Totsuka in a first class carriage, for which he desired to exchange her ticket. To what length he would have proceeded it is impossible to say, but fortunately a gentleman employed in my office happened to pass, and observed the man in the Ladies' Waiting Room. Suspecting something, and observing the obvious distress of the lady, he interposed and ordered the man out, which request the person slowly obeyed. Shortly afterwards passing again he observed the same man resuming his former importunities, and again requested him to leave, but he then declined to do so, and an appeal was made to the Station-Master, who came and found your porter just outside the room door. The Station-Master requested the man to leave, which, however, he refused to do, and my Japanese clerk had to remain for the lady's protection until the 3.25 p.m. train left for Hiratsuka.

Such scandalous and outrageous conduct as this cannot of course be tolerated, and I fear there is no alternative but to prosecute this man for his brutal misconduct, but I am unwilling to drag the name of your Hotel into a police court in connection with such disgraceful behaviour if it can be avoided, and I therefore offer you the alternative of summary dismissal with the understanding that he is not to be re-employed by you.

I will thank you for an early reply, and the full name and nationality of your man, if I am to prosecute him.

I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. S. ALDRICH, Secretary.

Ogura Michimasa, an office boy in Mr. Aldrich's office, deponed that he was working upstairs on the 15th November, when the porter told him that a lady wished to see him. Witness went downstairs and met the girl outside the waiting-room. She asked witness to call Mr. Yoshino. Upon asking for Mr. Yoshino at the station master's room he was told that he had gone to Tokyo. Witness told the lady where he had gone and went away. He was, however, again called by a porter and this time he met Mr. Yoshino at the top of the stairs, and told him about the lady. Mr. Yoshino went down to the waiting-room, and witness followed him to the door of the waiting-room. He did not hear what was passing between Mr. Yoshino and the lady, and left shortly after. He did not at a previous examination state that he had gone before Mr. Yoshino to the waiting-room. There were two sofas, continuous in one, in the waiting-room.

Shirokura Cho deponed that none of the previous witnesses were related to her. She was employed as a maid servant. On the 15th November she was going to Oyama by way of Hiratsuka, and left No. 70 to go to the station. She made a mistake as to the trains; this was the first time that she had gone to Hiratsuka, and she knew nothing of the Tokaido trains. At the station she saw the accused, who, while on the platform, asked her where she was going. She did not answer but entered the train. The accused followed her, looked in her face and smiled. She found she had mistaken the train and went out again, going to the station-master's office to send out a telegram. She had said nothing to accused, but sent for Mr. Yoshino. She had known Mr. Yoshino for three years; made his acquaintance at Negishi. She did not know him previous to entering her present employment. She first knew Yoshino four years after she entered her present employment. She was 20 years of age. She had been over seven years in her present employment. Two telegrams were sent; the first being to the effect that she had missed the train. She did not know whether accused followed her, but he left the train soon after she did. Yoshino told her to go to the ladies' waiting-room. When she went there the accused was in the general waiting-room, but he followed her into the other room. He asked her where she was going and she answered Hiratsuka, and said she had missed her train. He said he would go as far as Totsuka with her. She told him she had a second-class ticket, but he said he could get it changed for a first-class ticket. She then left to send off another message and accused followed her. She sent for Yoshino, but, learning that he had gone to Tokyo, went back to the waiting-room, the accused following her and asking her to go to Totsuka. She asked him who he was, and he said he belonged to the Grand Hotel. She then asked if he had not a mistress named O Waka San. He said no. She then said he belonged to No. 20, but he said he belonged to No. 5. As he would not go she told him her master was Mr. Aldrich, and he might not like to see him there, but accused said he did not known him and it did not matter. She told him she did not desire his company, on which he pulled out his pocket-book and took out four dollars, which he offered to her. She told him she was not a prostitute or a tea-house girl, and could not take his money. He said he understood that, but still pressed the money on her. He also offered her some rings which were on his watch chain, and while she was refusing these Yoshino came in. She informed Yoshino what had taken place, and accused in the meantime left the room. Yoshino left her for a few minutes, on which accused came up smilingly and asked her where she lived. She said Kiragata, near the butcher's. He asked her to write out her address, but she refused, alleging that she could not write. She asked him for his address, but he would not give it to her, and she snatched the Grand Hotel card from his hand, with the intention to give it to Mr. Aldrich. Yoshino came in while he had the pencil and paper in his hand and said something to him. In the waiting-room accused caught hold of her hand and stroked her face. Her reason for not making a complaint at once was because she wanted to do so to Yoshino.

Cross examined by Mr. Lowder—Yoshino does not dress in uniform. When he came into the room Yoshino did not say anything to him (accused) as he was speaking to me at the time. I am employed by Mr. Aldrich. By saying that I am employed as his servant, I do not mean that I am his mistress.

Mr. Lowder here asked a question as to whether witness was the mistress of Mr. Aldrich.

To this Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu objected.

Mr. Lowder contended that it was extremely relevant to the defence to show whether this was an honest virtuous girl in the position of a maid servant, or was a kept mistress. It made all the difference in the world as to the amount of credibility to be attached to her evidence and to the evidence of the accused.

Witness (to the Court)—I declared at a previous examination that I was the mistress of Mr. Aldrich. I now say that I am not.

Question by the Court repeated—I have told the truth now. I am not called Mr. Aldrich's mistress, but I sleep there.

To Mr. Lowder—I sleep with Mr. Aldrich.

Have you not been in the habit of sleeping with Mr. Aldrich since you were 13 years old?—I went there in December, when I was 14 years old.

If you were 14 years old in December, how can you be 20 next February?—I was born in the 3rd year of Meiji, in the month of February. I am therefore twenty years and a little over. I was twenty in February last year.

What age were you when you first went to live with Mr. Aldrich?—I went in December in my 14th year.

You have been living with him in adultery as his mistress all that time?—For one year, while Mr. Aldrich went home, I went to a school.

Had you ever seen the defendant before the 15th of November?—That was the first time I had met him. As soon as he told me he belonged to No. 20 I knew that he was the master of O Waka San. I knew from a servant who had gone from me to O Waka San that her master was a runner of the Grand Hotel and I guessed the accused to be her master. When I went into the train the accused came and sat close to me and smiled. I did not smile in return. He followed me and asked me what was the matter, on which I told him I wanted to send off a telegram. He did not offer to send it for me. I did not think it was very kind of him. I did not understand whether he meant it as a kindness or not. I did not think whether it was a kindness or not, but I thought it very queer that a person I had met for the first time should act so. I did not think him unkind, but thought him rather funny. I thought he was going to insult me. I believed he thought me a prostitute or a tea-house woman, and I was therefore excited.

Did you not say to the accused that your only objection to entertaining his proposal was that Waka might be jealous?—I told him that as he had a mistress called Waka and I had a master called Aldrich, it would not be right to go to Totsuka with him. Apart from Waka's jealousy, I would not go to Totsuka in a first class carriage with a stranger. I did not tell the prisoner where he could find me. When I am not at Mr. Aldrich's house I live at Negishi. The accused came to my mother's house at Negishi in my absence and asked for me. I only told the accused that I lived at Kiragata. I did not tell him my name. He found out from the *jinrikisha* men near No. 70 where I lived. I suppose the accused and I would be together in the waiting-room for about one hour.

Did you during that time cry out to attract the attention of people?—I pretended to cry, and said, "*iya, iya, desu,*" and hid my face in my sleeves, on which he begged my pardon. I did not call out. I was not quite one hour there. I told him all the time that he had better get out. I went out twice to call Yoshino and on each occasion I went back to the waiting-room. The accused went out after me on each occasion. I did not tell him I was going out to call Yoshino. I know that the prisoner is accused of having indecently assaulted me. I now say that I was put to shame.

Will you swear that you were indecently assaulted by the defendant?—He annoyed me. My feelings were wounded. I am not a prostitute or tea-house woman, and I was excited.

Mr. Uchiyama asked that the word *hadzukashi merareta* should be put down.

Mr. Lowder had no objection to that, but pointed to the difference between an indecent assault and the witness's feelings being simply wounded.

Cross-examined—I was not indecently assaulted (*gōkan ga nai keredomo*) but as he offered me 4 *yen* I was annoyed and wounded in my feelings.

To the Court the Interpreter stated that *hadzukashimerareru* meant indecent assault.

Mr. Lowder—Oh, no. It is to cause to be annoyed.

Mr. Uchiyama concurred in this, and pointed out that the witness did not know what was the Japanese equivalent for an indecent assault.

Considerable discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. Litchfield and Mr. Uchiyama both stated that they appeared for the Railway Department, the Court stating that the complaint by the Public Prosecutor was signed by him while the complaint of the station-master was simply a translation forwarded by the Public Prosecutor. The Court could not make two distinct cases of the charges. The accused was charged with infringing regulations No. 7 and No. 8.

The case was adjourned till on Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.

The hearing of the charge against Joseph Gama, before E. J. Pereira, Esq., Portuguese Vice-Consul, continued.

The cross-examination of Shirokura Cho was resumed. In answer to Mr. Lowder witness stated:—

I have a license to live with a foreigner. I do not know whether I had a license when I went to live with Mr. Aldrich. I was told by the registration authorities that I must have a license to live with a foreigner. I don't remember the date, but it was after I went to live at No. 70. My license to live with a foreigner was taken out when I went to live with Mr. Aldrich. I took out the license myself.

Re-examined—I was born in the 3rd year of Meiji, in the month of February. I was not acquainted with the accused's mistress.

Some discussion arose as to the question of whether the counsel for the prosecutor could examine the witness as to the *jinrikisha* man who was stated to have informed the accused as to her mother's residence.

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Re-examination continued — When accused spoke to me I thought him troublesome. I was not pleased by his conversation. This closed the case for the prosecution.

The defendant then stated—I saw the girl at the Railway Station on the 15th November. I did not speak to the girl at first. At length I said *Konnichi wa*, and she replied *Konnichi wa*. I asked where she was going and she said Shirokura or Hiratsuka, I dont know which. I asked if I should go with her, and she gave an evasive answer. The Kobe train came in and there being no passengers I prepared to return home, when, passing her carriage, she looked out and laughed. I went in and spoke to her about various things, about the Tokyo Races, when the Tokaido train went, and she then said that she was a *baka* for having allowed the train to go. We went together to the ladies' waiting room. I asked if I could go to Totsuka with her, and offered her money. She said she did not require money for sending a telegram. I offered to change her ticket, but she said she was afraid to go as I would not keep her. I said we would see about that afterwards. She said I could not keep her because I had a girl; and I said I had done. She spoke of O Wakasan, and I then lost all interest in her. Yoshino coming in and going out again I asked her what was the trouble. She said nothing. Yoshino came back and asked me what I wanted. I said nothing particular. He told me to get out, and I said I had done nothing wrong. He then threatened to call the police and went out. I went out after him. He brought the station master, who said he did not want to talk to me at all, but I followed him to his office and begged his pardon. I told him Yoshino seemed to be jealous. He laughed, and said "That's all right; don't fool with the girl and go home."

To the Court—I did not assault the girl at all. When I asked for her address she said if I wanted her I could go to her mother's house opposite the Rifle Range. Afterwards, having received instructions from the directors of the Grand Hotel, I went to her mother's house, and, describing her, asked where she was in order that I might apologise to her. A *jinrikisha*-man told me she was living at No. 70, with Mr. Aldrich, and that gentleman being pointed out to me one day, I went up to him to apologise to him, but he ordered me away.

Cross-examined—I was in conversation with the girl for about an hour. I had not met her before to my knowledge. She looked at me and laughed and I therefore spoke to her. I have been more than 16 years in Yokohama I have never been in this Court before. Aldrich's name was not mentioned at the Station. I had no idea when I spoke to her that she was Mr. Aldrich's mistress. She did not seem annoyed with me at all, but on the contrary left her bag with me. The door was open all the time, no one came in while we were there. She was quite pleased with the conversation, but said if any one saw us going out in the train I would have to keep her. She never spoke to me about Waka being jealous; but she spoke of Wakamatsu, my girl. She herself said I could not keep her. She proposed that I should keep her, but I said I should see about that by and bye. Yoshino was not in uniform when he came in. He gave one the impression of being a friend of the girl.

To the Court—The Station Master told me that the witness Yoshino was an interpreter. The witness Yoshino seemed to be a friend of the girl, and I asked the Station Master who he was. I do not know about the Railway Regulations. I have seen gentlemen often going into the Ladies' Waiting Room. I have never seen gentlemen prohibited from going in by railway officials.

To the Court—When Yoshino came the second time he did not tell me that he was a railway official. He told me to get out; and said if I would not go out he would call a policeman. I had never seem him before. I have been going to the railway station for six months more or less punctually.

To Mr. Lowder—I have never read the railway regulations at all. I don't know about Regulation No. 7 or No. 8. I have never seen them in Portuguese and my notice has never been called to them. I have always been allowed to go on the platform. I have even gone to Totsuka, paying at the other end. Up to this time I had never any trouble with the officials. I am allowed to go on the platform, because I am known as belonging to the Grand Hotel. I first saw this girl on the platform. I did not know her before. I can read a little English in print. I did not see any notice in the ladies' waiting-room "For Ladies only." I did not take much trouble to go to Totsuka with her. She told me I could not keep her, as I had a girl. She was not the seducing party. I made her offers. When I say that I had all my trouble for nothing, I mean that I found that she knew me. I had thought she did not know me.

Mr. Lowder then addressed the Court. Quoting Article 7 of the Regulations he said there were three offences specified there; being in a state of intoxication, committing a nuisance, or an act of indecency. Neither of those offences had been committed by the accused. The fact of the case so far as he could gather from the way in which the prosecution had been conducted was that the person whose mistress the witness Cho was, finding that the threatening letter he addressed to the Grand Hotel Directors was not acceded to, cast about to find if there was not something in the regulations on which he could hang this case. It was a forced construction of Art. 7 to try to bring any act that his client had committed under it. The witness Cho said that as for being indecently assaulted she was not indecently assaulted, but she was annoyed and made to feel ashamed. That could not by any construction whatever be brought within the purview of this regulation, and even if it could the testimony of Cho was not entitled to any credit in view of the defendant's evidence, which was not shaken in cross-examination. Her conduct reminded one of the famous riddle in Shakespeare. There were three daughters of a King, and they were neither wife, mistess, nor maid. What credence was to be put in a statement of that kind, whether it came from the daughter of a king or the daughter of a woman who, when her child was at the tender age of 13 or 14 years, sold her into prostitution? How could they credit the statement of a girl who had such an education, such a bringing up, and such a mother? Counsel did not blame her for any of the evidence that she had given, but he did blame that person who had instructed her to give the evidence that she had given. If she had been allowed to tell her own story he was certain it would have been found that the story of the defendant would have been found to be correct and she would have been found to be one of that class of women with whom people in Japan were familiar by reading about them, who were to be seen in the streets plying their trade and whom the prosecution had the impertinence to describe as a "lady." Since her fourteenth year she had not been a lady; her mother was not a lady, and yet the prosecution came forward and complained that a lady had been insulted. Let the Court just look to what this might lead in the present state of agitation in the minds of the Japanese against foreigners. Just consider the anti-foreign feeling existing throughout the country; was it not apt to be strengthened by these exaggerated charges. And all this was done by whom? By an employé of an employé of the railway station, Mr. Aldrich, one in Japanese service, in order to stir up bad blood and strife against foreigners. He called it nothing less than disgraceful that upon the evidence before the Court such a complaint as this should have been based. Counsel held that it had not been proved that Art. 7 of the Regulations was applicable to Portuguese subjects, or that it had been published at the Railway Station. He described Yoshino as the surreptitious lover of the witness Cho, and contended that if Cho had not happened to be the mistress of the foreign secretary of the Railways, it must be evident to every one now listening to him that the case would never have been dug out or attempted to be put in force. It seemed very hard indeed that this honest man, against whom nothing had ever been brought, should be made the victim of the spite and jealousy of this foreigner who chose at this late hour to try to enforce rules which for twenty-eight years had not been enforced to Counsel's knowledge. If the directors of the Grand Hotel had dismissed the accused everybody would have been satisfied, but as they would not do so Mr. Aldrich lost his temper and found himself in the position he now occupied. Having pointed out that under the 8th regulation the railway officials who permitted the offences therein described were really the blameworthy parties, Counsel went on to contend that Yoshino was not in uniform, and there was nothing to show that he was in any way connected with the railway, and in conclusion asked for the acquittal of the accused.

Mr. Litchfield said attempts had been made in an inflammatory harangue against the powers that be in Japan to bring them into ridicule in the same way that the other side had thrown broadcast during the case accusations of immorality against persons who really were not the complainants in this case and strictly speaking were not the prosecutors. If there was one admitted thing that redounded to Japans' credit it was that natives as well as foreigners could travel safely through its length and breadth without danger of insult or of improper importunity. His learned friend had tried to throw it in the teeth of the Railway Department that this regulation No. 7 had not been enforced. It had not been enforced, because no person had up to the present time attempted to use the waiting-rooms for improper purposes. Once let it be known that the Railway Department assented to the use of its rooms or its carriages as places of assignation, where women might ply their trade, and men meet or insult women with impunity, and there would be gone for ever all hope of ladies, or women, or young girls travelling free from insult or unseemly importunity. He submitted that every woman was entitled to protection from importunity unless she was actually plying her trade as a common woman. Much had been said as to the witness Cho's relations with Mr. Aldrich, but it had not been suggested that she was on the station premises for improper hire. As to the insinuation that if the witness Cho had been other than she was this would not have been brought, on that point he asserted positively that if any such complaint had been made, no matter by whom, the same course would have been taken by the Railway Department, and so far as he was concerned the same course would have been taken by him in bringing this complaint. Mr. Litchfield therefore asked for a conviction under Arts. 7 and 8 of the Railway Regulations.

Mr. Uchiyama Rosetsu was about to address the Court, but Lowder objected.

In the course of the discussion which followed, the Vice-Consul remarked that the man Yoshino was, in the petition sent to the Court, described as a railway employé.

Judgment was reserved.

THE BURNING OF THE STEAMER "SHANGHAI."

The news, says the *Celestial Empire*, of the total destruction by fire of the well known river steamer *Shanghai*, belonging to the China Navigation Co., has been confirmed and supplemented in an appalling manner by the steamers that have since arrived in port from the scene of the occurrence. The ill-fated vessel left Shanghai on the 24th inst. for Hankow and the River Ports, reached Chinkiang late on the same night, and proceeded again at 4 a.m. on Christmas morning. According to the account of Mr. Kniffler, who was the only European passenger on board, all went right till about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 25th. At that time Mr. Kniffler went out on deck, clad in a loose dressing gown, to call his boy, a Japanese, and look after a couple of sporting dogs he had on board with him. He had scarcely roused the boy, and liberated the dogs, when he saw a great crowd of Chinese passengers, of whom over 400 were on the vessel, and some sailors, rushing along the deck in an apparently frantic state. Two of the sailors jumped down one of the hatches, from which one of them immediately reappeared, dragging the fire-hose after him. Mr. Kniffler's first impression was that the Captain was exercising the men with the fire apparatus, and it did not strike him that anything was really wrong for some moments, until he saw the Captain rush out of the saloon in his pyjamas, and call something excitedly into the engine-room. The hose was by this time stretched along the deck, but there was no water in it. Turning quickly to speak to the Captain, Mr. Kniffler next saw dense smoke issuing from the after-hold, and then realised that the ship was on fire. He called out to the pilot, who was on the bridge, to beach the ship, but the pilot replied "It's all right, sir," and before Mr. Kniffler could say anything else, the Captain rushed up to him again, and shouted "Save your life! save your life!". Mr. Kniffler ran to rouse another Japanese attendant he had with him, and to secure some valuable papers relating to the estate of the bankrupt Krips, of which Mr. Kniffler is the liquidator, but he could not succeed in the latter, for although it was only a few minutes after he saw the first signs of alarm, the hatches had fallen in, giving air to the smouldering mass of cargo in the hold, and the ship was fairly ablaze. Mr. Kniffler says the two Japanese were panic stricken; he had to carry one of them out of his bunk in his arms, and drop down a line which was hanging overboard into the water, calling on the other Japanese to follow. By this time the vessel had been beached near a place called E Ching (not Ichang as was first stated here), about 30 miles above Chinkiang, and the water where Mr. Kniffler got into it was three or four feet feet deep. He half swam, half waded ashore, carrying the inanimate Japanese, and on landing was surrounded by a crowd of Chinese who were lining the beach, evidently intent on plunder. The steamer was now one mass of flames from stem to stern, and all who could manage to do so had quitted her; but the Chinese passengers appeared to be paralyzed by terror, and could not do the slightest thing to save them-

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selves. A great number of them had gathered on the paddle-box, where they could be seen from the shore, standing motionless, and dropping one by one into the seething flames. The conduct of the Chinese spectators was dreadful. While these on the river in boats, of which these were a great number, including a mandarin gunboat, a steam-launch, flying the Imperial Dragon flag, and a couple of dozen fishing boats passing the burning steamer, made not the slightest effort to help the poor wretches on board, or save those who had been happy enough to be able to choose death by drowning to death by the flames, and had gotten into the water, where they were helplessly drifting; the villains on shore, who appeared to be instigated in their behaviour by the district soldiery, plundered those who reached the land, stripping them of their very clothing, and in some instances, it is alleged throwing them back naked into the water while alive. Mr. Kniffler was surrounded by a swarm of those heartless villains, one of whom caught hold of his dressing-gown and endeavoured to tear it from him, while another tried to serve the Japanese in the same way; but Mr. Kniffler struck out right and left, and upset two of the ringleaders. The others then were closing in, and there would probably have been bloodshed, had not Mr. Kniffler and those with him been drawn away by some of the *Shanghai's* firemen, who had swam ashore. Some time after Mr. Kniffler and his two attendants, in company with the Second Officer and Third Engineer of the *Shanghai*, got a boat and set out for Chinkiang, but the boatmen put them ashore at a small village a couple of miles from where the *Shanghai* was beached, and left them. Here also there was some disposition to plunder shown on the part of the villagers, but the castaways got into a house, the door of which they secured, and after a little the inhabitants of the place quieted down, and even supplied their unexpected visitors with a little food, of which they were greatly in need, it being now well into the afternoon of Christmas Day, and they had having nothing to eat or drink since dinner the previous evening. In a couple of hours the *Taiwo* was seen passing up, and they got into a boat, followed her, and were taken on board, where they were treated with every possible kindness.

The *Taiwo* then steamed up to the *Shanghai* and dropped her anchor close to the burning steamer about 2.30 p.m. Captain Friend rendered all the assistance in his power, and got about 30 of the native passengers on board. When she left in about an hour the hapless ship was completely gutted, and burned down to the water's edge, presenting a far more terrible spectacle, it is said, than even did the *Paoching*, at the burning of which it will be remembered the *Taiwo* was also present, and rendered invaluable aid in the work of rescue.

The fire first appeared when the *Shanghai* was about six miles below Mud Fort, and is supposed to have originated among the cotton, which formed a considerable part of the cargo. It was by the directions of the second mate, Mr. Nicholson; that the hose was got out, and the fire pumps set working. Captain Martin appears to have done everything possible, when he was informed of what had happened. The water was kept playing on the hold, through the main hatch, until the hatches gave way, and the people were driven back by the dense smoke that issued from the hold. The Second Officer then attempted to go forward, but could not get through the dense mass of the panic-stricken Chinese. Captain Martin beached the ship as soon as he saw there was no chance of getting the fire under, and was the last European to leave the ship. The Chinese on board appeared to have first endeavoured to save some of their effects, and then, seeing how the flames had gained on the ship, behaved like panic stricken sheep, huddling together in the alley-ways, trampling each other under foot, and preventing all chance of escape for any of them. It is difficult to arrive at an estimate of the loss of life, but it is even greater than was at first supposed, for not more than seventy at the outside have been acounted for.

The *Taiwo* took off about 30, and the *Kiangyu*, which passed the *Shanghai* on the 26th ult., brought down about as many more, in addition to the compradore, who is suffering from a hurt to the ankle, and some of his staff. At that time the *Shanghai* was still smouldering.

During the next couple of days the Chinese Telegraph Office was besieged by anxious friends of the passengers in the unfortunate steamer, and the operatives have had a lively time transmitting messages.

The wreck was towed into port yesterday morning by the *Tungchow*, and is now lying alongside Boyd's New Dock.

COURT OF ENQUIRY.

On January 5th a Court of Enquiry, consisting of Lieutenant J. Stuart, H.M.S *Severn*, President; Captain P. Harris, of the *Pekin*; and Mr. G. M. H. Playfair, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul, was opened at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, to investigate the circumstances of the destruction of the *Shanghai* by fire on 25th Dec. last. Mr. Tsai, the Mixed Court Magistrate, occupied a seat in Court.

The first witness examined was David Martin, captain of the ill-fated steamer, who in reply to the President stated—I was captain of the *Shanghai* on Dec. 25th. We had one steam and two hand-pumps on board for extinguishing fire. The steam-pump was connected with the engine-room. One of the hand-pumps was on the forecastle and the other was aft. The connections of the steam-pump opened on the saloon and cargo decks. The crew were exercised at fire stations once a month. They were last exercised on Dec., 1890, while at Hankow. The pumps gave a good flow of water on that occasion. We had four boats. They were ordinary ship's life-boats and quarter-boats. The life-boats would hold 80 people each, and one of the others would hold 30 and other 26. They were all stowed in crutches, except the starboard quarter-boat which always swung out on davits. The tackles were always kept rove. It would, under favourable circumstances, take about five minutes to get them out. We were not in the habit of working our boats at regular intervals. They were last tried about a month before the fire. They were only lifted out of the chocks and put back. We have special regulations regarding inflammable cargo; we don't carry it at all. When the fire bell is rung the crew go to the boat stations; some of the officers and spare men are then stationed at the pumps. If the pump is a steam-pump, four men and an officer are stationed at it. One engineer and firemen are stationed at the starboard fire main. One or two sailors and the compradore's people are stationed to run the hose along. None of the Europeans are stationed at the hand pumps. With the exception of the men who are stationed at the pumps, all the remainder should go to the boats when the fire bell is rung. No European officer is responsible for stowage of cargo. The chief officer was present when the cargo was taken in. Coolies who are working cargo on board are not allowed to smoke. There were notices posted to this effect, both in Chinese and English. This order was enforced by the chief officer. The cargo was put on board by coolies and stevedores, who live on shore. At the time of the fire, cargo was in the lower hold and between decks (cargo room). The cargo consisted chiefly of cotton, piece-goods, sugar, oil, opium, etc.—ordinary river cargo. On the last occasion of stowing cargo before the fire, at Shanghai, the chief officer was present. At Chinkiang cargo was put out, but none was taken on board. The hatches were not secured. The cargo room had doors which were shut and locked. There was no cargo which was not locked up. The ship was drawing 10ft. forward and 11ft. aft when she left Chinkiang. The deck crew were two officers, fourteen sailors, a carpenter, and four quartermasters. There were three engineers, and fourteen engine-room hands. At the time of the fire there were on board 450 Chinese, one European, and two Japanese passengers. There is no restriction of the number to be carried. The Chinese passengers were in the Chinese saloon on the upper deck, from the after part of the engine-room bulk-head to the taffrail. There were some inside the cargo room, but none below hatches. It is usual to carry them in the cargo room when the Chinese saloon is full and when there is space in the cargo room. Manchester bale goods were in the cargo room. There was no cotton in the cargo room aft, in which the Chinese passengers were. No passengers were ever carried in the forward cargo room. The passengers in the cargo room were not allowed to smoke. Two of the compradore's staff were set to watch the passengers and prevent them from smoking. We left Chinkiang on Dec. 25th at 4.15 a.m. The alarm of fire was first given at 7 a.m., when we were 25 miles above Chinkiang. The second pilot and an apprentice pilot were then on watch on the bridge. The chief pilot was a Chinese, but the second was a European. I first became aware of the fact that there was a fire through one of the sailors coming forward to the hose. I told the pilot to signal to the engine-room to stand by. Then I went aft to the fire. The bell had previously been rung, and as I went aft the hose was being taken along. No water was procured through the fire-main, because the Chinese passengers was standing on the hose, and the water could not get through the hose without going through the Chinese saloon. There is one steam connection on the cargo-deck, one on the alley-way of the Chinese saloon, and one on the upper deck. The hoses were kept on reels close to the connections. The hoses were attached and led along the alley-ways every morning. They were of sufficient length to reach to the ends of the ship. We could not get at the connection in the cargo-room, on account of the fire. The Chinese passengers were not in this part of the cargo-room. There was no time to procure water from the upper deck connection. It takes two minutes to get water from that connection, if there was no obstruction. The hose from this connection could only come through the Chinese saloon. We did not use the hand-pumps, because as we could get no water through the steam fire hose, which was much more powerful, we could not hope to get any from the hand-pump. We could have unscrewed the hose of the upper deck connection, and screwed on another, but we should still have had to take it through the Chinese saloon, and we should not have been able to get water through it. There was not time to take it over all, or outside the ship. The hand-pumps were not manned. There were two dozen firebuckets. They were not used, because there was such a crowd of passengers that the buckets could not be got at. The stern of the ship was about 20 feet from dry land when beached. At the time of the fire the ship was heading W.-S.W. The wind was strong from E. People could wade ashore from the weather side of the ship when she was beached. The crew remained obedient to orders. When the ship was beached, the order was given to lower boats. The order was not carried out, because the two after-boats were in flames and the life-boats could not be approached owing to smoke. The passengers were very much excited after the alarm was given. The fire first broke out in the after cargo-room, where Chinese passengers were. When I first saw the fire, a single steam hose would have been sufficient to extinguish it. The officers had orders to visit the Chinese passengers every two hours during the night. The compradore did this at half-past five and the second officer at six. In about fifteen minutes from the time of the outbreak the ship was in flames fore and aft. Ropes were put over the bow, on both sides, and some of the crew were sent on shore to receive the passengers as they came down the ropes. All the people forward and on the upper deck got over the bow. The people aft could have come forward and been saved, if they had not stayed aft to save their luggage. Many of them threw themselves into the water aft, hoping to be saved by several junks which were coming up, but they were not saved and their luggage was looted. There were about twenty big salt-junks and about thirty smaller craft in sight. None of them rendered any assistance. Every one could have been saved if they had helped. The men in the small craft lowered their sails, looted the baggage, and left the people to drown. I got on shore about ten minutes after the ship had been beached. At that time I could see no one on board. About fifty people were drowned to my knowledge in trying to get ashore. There was about 15 feet of water under the wheels, and six fathoms under the stern. The dead bodies which came ashore were stripped and the living beaten, by the inhabitants. I think the fire was caused by passengers smoking. I do not think the ship could have been set on fire intentionally. The fire might have been burning for about five minutes before it was discovered. I should think about six lives were lost by fire, and about 220 by drowning. I can suggest no means by which such a great loss of life could have been prevented in the case of a similar accident occurring on board a similar ship under similar circumstances.

At the conclusion of the witness's evidence, the enquiry was adjourned till to-morrow at two o'clock.

The *Shen Pao* of Tuesday has a long leader commenting on Mr. Kniffler's narrative of the *Shanghai* disaster, published in these columns, in which our contemporary expresses the greatest horror at the barbarous conduct of the inhabitants of the villages in the vicinity of which the steamer was burned. It says:—It was bad enough for the ruffianly boatmen and dwellers on the river banks to strip and rob the poor people who escaped from the burning ship, and then cast them back, naked and helpless, into the water, but worse is still to be told of those inhuman wretches. We are advised that when the local benevolent societies recovered the bodies from the water, and laid them out in rows to await possible identification, a number of soldiers who were either on the active list, or but recently discharged from the army, came in the night and stripped the bodies of their clothing and valuables, an act in every way as bad as the rifling of graves by professional body-snatchers. It is impossible to exaggerate the atrocity and fiendishness of such conduct, and no punishment could be too severe for it. For

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the first offence, robbing the unfortunate passengers of the steamer, and then throwing them into the water, from which they had just emerged, the barbarians are undoubtedly murderers, and should be punished as such, by decapitation. As to the second offence, coming in the night and plundering the bodies recovered from the river, none but the basest scum of the earth could desecrate the sanctity of death in this manner, and no pen could adequately express our abhorrence of the monsters, especially when we remember that they were soldiers, supposed to be guardians of the law and upholders of the honour of the Empire. They are not men, they are inhuman ghouls, and no punishment could be devised too severe for them. If they are caught they can only be disposed of by summary decapitation, and we urge that no steps be overlooked that may lead to their apprehension and consignment to this fate. Of course, there are good people and bad people in every country as well as in China, and in contrast to the atrocities we have just referred to, we are glad to be able to point out the noble action of the various benevolent societies of the district, who are employing great numbers of people to drag the river, and have provided grave-clothes and some 60 coffins for the interment of those that may be recovered. We venture, however, to suggest that the societies, in addition to these commendable acts of charity, cause photographs of the deceased to be taken, and nailed to the coffins, as a means of identification. It would be, we think, a good plan, and would give the relatives of those who lost their lives in the calamity a chance to carry out the proper funeral rites at the graves of their ill-fated friends.

The Court of Inquiry into the burning of the *Shanghai*, says the *N. C. Daily News*, resumed its sitting yesterday (8th instant).

John Sharples deposed—It was chief engineer of the *Shanghai* on December 25th, 1890. For extinguishing fire by steam we had a donkey engine. It was used every day for washing the decks, etc. In case of fire the hoses were not worked by men of my department. In the event of fire the regulations of the engine-room were to get the donkey ready as soon a possible. This would not take more than two minutes. I was in bed at the time of the fire. The second engineer was on watch in the engine-room. I became aware of the fire by the ringing of the fire-bell, and the rushing of the passengers past my room. I got out of bed and ran to the engine-room to see if the donkey was working. On my way to the engine-room I saw signs of fire. I saws smoke in the alley-ways, the engine-room, and Chinese saloon. The donkey was at work on the fire main when I arrived in the engine-room. I cannot say how long it was possible to remain in the engine-room after the commencement of the fire. The donkey was left working on the fire main. I left the engine-room in two or three minutes because I could not stop, on account of the smoke. No water was procured through the fire main to my knowledge. After leaving the engine-room, I went to my own room to save my papers. I got on shore over the bows. I think the fire originated in the after part of the ship, but I cannot say whether it was in the cargo-room, saloon, or hold. I was in the engine-room when the ship took the ground, which occurred in about 7 or 8 minutes after the ringing of the fire bell. When I got on deck I could not see whether the boats were on fire or not, on account of the smoke. When I got on shore there were about 70 or 80 natives, not belonging to the ship, on the beach, and more kept arriving every moment. I think everything possible was done to save the passengers. I saw no passengers pushed back into the water by the natives. I saw some passengers looted. The crew attempted to save the passengers from drowning on coming ashore. It took about two minutes to get ashore from the fore part of the ship, by sliding down the ropes and wading on to the beach. The reason why so many were drowned was that no help was given by the native boats in picking the people out of the water. Smoke and fire prevented the passengers from getting forward. From the time I saw the fire, no boats could be lowered. I do not think it would have been possible to work the hand pumps after I saw the fire.

By Mr. Playfair—I cannot say how long the fire had been burning when I first was at my post, in a few seconds after I heard the bell rung. From what I saw of the fire after reaching the engine-room, I think it was already impossible to do anything to save the vessel. Between hearing the alarm and going on shore I saw the captain. He was coming back from where the fire was. There were people left on board when I left the steamer. The captain was one of them. The chief officer was also left on board. I saw them both leave the steamer. I could not say whether they were the last to leave the ship. Between the after cargo room and the hold below it there are hatches.

By Captain Harris—When the ship was beached the second engineer stopped the engines. The boilers were left as they were. There were no steam fire annihilators in the ship. My log was burnt.

By the President—The captain and officers were strictly sober at the time of the fire.

James Frank stated—I was second pilot of the *Shanghai* on December 25th last. When the fire broke out I was on the bridge and in charge of the ship. I became aware of the existence of fire by the ringing of the fire-bell. I cannot say how long after the fire broke out the bell was rung. I saw the captain about half a minute after the bell was rung. He ordered me to head the ship for the shore. She took the ground about five minutes after the bell was rung. She took it by the head. The bow was about forty feet from dry land when she grounded. Her head was north by the compass. The wind was strong from N.E. When she was on shore the wind was on the starboard bow. I cannot say how long it was after the bell was rung that the boats caught fire; I could not see the boats for smoke three minutes after the alarm. The smoke prevented me seeing them on the starboard or weather side. The wind could not get clear across the ship, but came back in a draught from under the upper deck, and consequently the ship was enveloped in smoke. I do not think it would have been possible to lower any of the boats; there was no time. I could not see the flames reach the starboard quarter-boat, on account of the dense black smoke. I saw the starboard quarter-boat on fire about four minutes after the bell was rung. After the ship had grounded I went overboard. There was deep water under the stern. At the time of the fire a number of native craft were in sight, but they rendered no assistance. I did not see them prevent any passengers from reaching the shore. I cannot say what was the cause of the fire. The captain and officers were strictly sober at the time of the fire.

George Austin deposed—I was chief mate of the *Shanghai* on 25th December. The crew were last exercised at fire stations in December at Hankow. All the officers were present on that occasion. We got water from each of the fire-mains, and from the hand-pumps. We last turned the boats out, ready for lowering, in the beginning of December at Hankow. The general regulations for the crew on the fire bell being rung were to muster at the boats. Some of the crew, compradore's staff, and cooks were then to be stationed at the hoses. When the fire-bell was rung it was my duty to go to the pumps and fire mains. I was present when cargo was received at Shanghai before leaving for Chinkiang. The cargo was put on board by the stevedores and coolies in charge of the compradore. I have had occasion to find fault with coolies for smoking in the cargo-rooms, but not frequently. I had not occasion to do so when the cargo was last put on board at Shanghai. The hatches where in tolerably good condition. There were no crevices of any appreciable size between the different sections of the hatches, but in one place there was a crevice sufficiently large to allow tobacco thrown from a Chinese pipe to get through. No cover was put over the hatch in Shanghai. The after cargo-room was lighted by globe lamps when the Chinese passengers were on board. The lamps burned tea oil, and were secured in their places to a beam. I was in my room at the first alarm of fire. I was informed by the carpenter of its existence. The fire-bell was rung about the same time. On the alarm of fire I took steps to get down the hose in the alley-way. We did not succeeded in getting water through this hose on the fire because the Chinese were standing on it. We then tried to get water on by buckets. We could not use the connection in the fore cargo room, on account of the cargo. The connection on the upper deck was not used because the middle one was the nearest to the fire. When we found we could not use the middle connection, we did not attempt to use the upper deck connection, because there was not time. The articles I first saw on fire were passengers' luggage and bale goods. The fire might have been burning for a quarter of an hour before it was reported. If the fire was only a small one when it was first seen, the Chinese passengers would not give the alarm. The suffocating nature of the smoke drove the crew away from the boats. The people on shore made no opposition to passengers landing. Men in boats dragged some of the passengers off the paddle-wheels (to which they had floated), took all they had and dropped them in the water. I think the fire was caused by passengers smoking.

By Capt. Harris—No attempt was made to flood the hold after the ship had been beached.

Howard James Nicholson deposed—I was second officer of the *Shanghai*. When the fire broke out I was in my bunk. I was called by the chief officer. I went to the after cargo-room, where I saw fire on the forward part of the hatch. Passengers' luggage and bales were burning. I did not notice whether the hatch was burning. At the time, I thought a few buckets of water would suffice to put the fire out, but afterwards I did not think so. I do not think we could have got water from the hand pumps in time to put the fire out. Under favourable circumstances it would take two or three minutes to get water from the upper deck connection over all.

The proceedings were then adjourned till next morning at 10.30.

On resuming next day,

At the opening of the Court, Mr. Kniffler, the only European passenger on board the *Shanghai* at the time of the fire, volunteered to give evidence. He deposed as follows:—When the fire-bell was rung I was in my cabin. I rushed aft to get my Japanese boy out. On my way aft I saw a dense volume of smoke. I brought the boy forward to the second pilot and called out to him to put the ship ashore. He replied, "All right, sir," and I was reassured partially by this statement. The ship was then heading towards Wuhu. I went back to my cabin to get on some clothes and save some valuable papers. As I was going aft the captain, whom I had previously seen coming out of his cabin in his pyjamas, shouting "Fire," came along and said "For God's sake, save your lives." I then dragged one of the Japanese passengers to the port side, and catching him in my arms let myself down a rope into the water and waded ashore, calling out to the other Japanese to save himself. I then went into the water again on the starboard side of the ship, and called out to the Captain, who was standing with the chief officer, to throw the box I wanted overboard; but they threw some other parcels instead. Then I heard a loud detonation and the Captain and chief officer lowered themselves into the water on the port side. The Chinese ashore were looting people right and left, and had it not been for the Captain and officers, and especially the sailors and firemen, I do not think we should have escaped with our lives. There was a Chinese steam launch, flying the Imperial flag, and a gunboat under sail, but neither of them assisted either us or the drowning people, or the people still on the burning ship. Then the Captain procured a small sailing craft, in which he ordered the second mate and third engineer to proceed to Chinkiang, and kindly offered a passage to me and my Japanese attendants. I think the dense black smoke I observed on leaving my cabin came from the fire in the after-hold or cargo-room. I do not know what material was burning at the time. I thought the detonation was caused by the bursting of the boiler, but it might be caused by the cotton exploding. After I left the ship it would have been possible to remain two or three minutes at most on the upper deck; it would have been possible to remain about the same time on the fore part of the ship. The rapid spreading of the flames was the principal cause of the great loss of life. When I left the ship there were a large number of passengers left in the after part. I do not think they could have been brought forward by a party from the bow, on account of the dense smoke and flames. The wind was blowing on the starboard side, and the forward part of this side was comparatively clear from fire and smoke. After the alarm of fire I do not think it would have been possible to lower a boat. The boat that Captain Martin procured was not used to assist passengers in reaching the shore. It was procured about an hour or an hour and a half after the alarm of fire. There were still passengers on the burning vessel about half an hour after I left the ship. I do not think it would have been possible to procure a boat before this time. I do not know to what cause to attribute the fire.

By Mr. Playfair—Between the time of leaving my cabin and getting on shore I did not see what the captain and officers were doing. It did not occur to me that anything else than what was apparently done could have been done in order to save the ship, and in my opinion the captain and officers did their duty.

P. Williams deposed—I was second engineer of the *Shanghai* on December 25th last. When the fire bell was rung I was on watch. I smelt something burning, which I thought was hot bearings in the engine room. I assured myself there was nothing wrong in the engine-room. As I was passing the shaft, volumes of smoke came up. I then rushed to the speaking tube and shouted out "Fire," and at the same time the bell rang. I then went and put the donkey on. About four minutes after, the chief engineer came on the top platform and asked me if the donkey was on. I replied, "Some time ago." The engines were stopped about twelve minutes after the first alarm

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of fire, and I left the engine-room about fourteen minutes after the bell was rung. I can form no idea from the nature of the smoke that I first saw in the engine-room, what material was burning. When I left the engine-room I left the donkey going on the fire-main. The engine-room communicates with the cargo-room by a grating-bulkhead. I saved my papers from the ship.

By Captain Harris—It would not have been possible to play on the fire through the grating.

Lee Koktsai deposed—I was the compradore of the *Shanghai* on 25th December last. I saw the cargo stowed at Shanghai. I had to warn one of the coolies, who was smoking while passing through the cargo-room. He was not a coolie belonging to or working on the ship. In the after-hold cotton and piece goods were stowed. The hatches were not taken off the after-hold at Chinkiang. Before they were put on at Shaeghai we examined the hold. At 7 o'clock on the morning of the 25th I heard the passengers making a noise. Two watchmen were stationed in the cargo-room to prevent passengers smoking, and notice in Chinese and English were posted up to prohibit passengers smoking. When I got to the cargo-room I saw smoke there. It was issuing from the passenger's baggage, between the hatches and the mast. No smoke was coming from under the hatches. The hatches were covered with canvas, and no cargo was on top of them. When I saw the fire I called out to the passengers to remove their baggage from the place, and I brought in a hose. Ten or twenty packages were on the fire when I first went in. It was all passengers' luggage. The fire had already caught the cotton yarn. About 200 packages of cotton yarn were stowed in the after cargo room. Water was procured from the engine-room pumps to put out the fire, but it was not very effectual, for the fire increased rapidly with the wind. I do not think the fire originated below hatches. I escaped by a rope over the fore part of the ship. There was no time for all the passengers to escape by the same means, the fire spreading very rapidly. I shouted till I was hoarse to passing boats to rescue the passengers from the after part of the ship. The passengers called loudly also. I do not know why the boatmen would not help. It is not the usual conduct of Chinamen. I saw some of the natives on shore take a packet of dollars from a body that drifted on to the beach, and I saw some luggage looted. I think the fire was due to a charcoal stove belonging to some of the passengers. Their cotton clothes were very inflammable. Their luggage is not examined when they come on board. I do not think the fire could have begun in Shanghai and smouldered until it broke out. The two cargo rooms are connected by grating bulk-heads. Cotton was stowed in the forward cargo-room on both sides, and piece-goods in the middle. The cotton was stowed close up to the grating bulk-heads.

Ah Fu deposed—I was on watch in the cargo-room of the *Shanghai* on 25th Dec. last. The first sign of fire I saw was a little smoke, proceeding from ten or twenty bundles of bedding. I don't know what set them on fire; they were burning from inside. The bundles were lying near the mast about two feet from the hatchway. I did not see any smoke coming from the hatchway. The bundles were stowed up against some yarn. I shouted out to give the alarm. I don't know how long the bundles had been burning when I noticed the fire. Having given the alarm I went on deck to get water and on returning saw fire there. If the bundles had been thrown overboard when I saw them first there would still have been a large fire in the cargo-room. Two of the cargo-room doors were wide open and one party open.

By Captain Harris—The passengers were not sleeping on the bedding when I noticed the smoke issuing from it. Some of the burning bedding was thrown overboard, by the passengers themselves and the second officer. There were a lot of people there, sailors and others, in the cargo room by this time. I cannot say how the fire originated, but I first saw the smoke coming from the luggage. Some of the passengers were sleeping on the baggage. I did not notice any smoke coming from the cargo at first, but when I came down the second time the cargo was on fire. I think it was set on fire by the burning baggage. I think the baggage was set on fire by the passengers smoking while they lay down as if they were asleep, so that I could not see them. The officers and sailors came down immediately after the alarm was given. I first saw the smoke about 7 o'clock.

Another Chinaman who was on watch in the cargo-room corroborated the last witness' evidence with the regard to smoke being first seen issuing from bundles of luggage, close to passengers' beds.

Philip Williams, recalled—I first saw smoke coming into the engine-room from the starboard side. I heard no explosion before leaving the ship. The boilers did not burst.

Captain Martin, recalled—The chief officer should have been on deck at the time of the fire. I heard no explosion.

The Chief Officer, recalled—There might have been cotton yarn in the after cargo-room without my knowledge. Cotton yarn was not specially classified, and came on board as piece-goods. The reason for my not being on deck was that I was preparing to collect the passengers' tickets, the ship being in the meanwhile in charge of the pilot.

At the conclusion of the evidence the members of the Court retired, and after two hours' consideration returned with the following finding:—

From the evidence the Court is of opinion that the cause of the fire is not clearly proved, but it is of opinion that it must have been burning or smouldering for a considerable time before it was discovered and that it then burst out suddenly into flames and in the space of about a quarter of an hour completely destroyed the upper part of the ship.

That the master adopted the proper course by promptly beaching his ship.

That partly from the steam fire connection being badly situated and partly from the fact that no hands attempted to make use of the upper deck fire connection on the fire-bell being rung, no water was procured. That every possible effort was made by the master, officers, and crew to save the passengers, having been prevented by the rapid extension of the fire from lowering the boats. That the crew had been recently exercised at fire and boat stations, but that chiefly depended for water on the connection by a steam fire main situated in the Chinese quarters, where confusion would be expected on the alarm of fire. The court desires to call the attention of the Board of Trade to the fact that ships carrying a large number of passengers should be provided with steam fire connections at both ends of the ship and in places easily accessible and that the lodging of Chinese passengers in compartments intended and used for the stowage of cargo which can be easily ignited, without the interposition of partitions, is extremely dangerous.

In the opinion of the Court the attention of the Chinese authorities should be called to the inhuman conduct of the natives in the neighbourhood whether on shore or in boats, on the occasion of the fire.

No blame being attributable to the master and officers, their certificates are handed back to them.

The expenses of the Court, fixed at £11 11s. od., are approved.

Dated at Shanghai, the 7th day of January 1891.

J. F. STUART,
Lieut. R.N., President of the Court;
G. M. H. PLAYFAIR,
British Vice-Consul at Shanghai;
P. HARRIS,
Master of the British steamer *Peking* of Greenock.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."

London, January 12th.

The New York Chamber of Commerce has passed a resolution against the proposed free coinage of silver.

London, January 9th.

The Sioux Indians have assumed the offensive and have attacked the United States troops. The Shoshones in Idaho territory have started burning towns, and the whites are fleeing for their lives.

London, January 13th.

The deliberations of the French Tariff Committee have resulted in a decision to renounce all Customs Treaties on the first day of February next.

Later.

A new French Loan of eight hundred and sixty million francs has been floated. It was covered sixteen times.

London, January 14th.

It is believed that under any circumstances President Harrison would veto a free coinage of silver bill if passed. The silver party is lobbying to obtain votes in the House in favour of the bill.

"SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."

Kobe, Monday Night.

H.M.S. *Pigmy*, from Yokohama bound to Shanghai, got ashore in the Inland Sea. The P. & O. steamer *Verona* left here to render assistance, but a telegram since received reports that the *Pigmy* floated off at noon.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40‖ a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8 58,† 10, and 11 05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.03, 4.42, and 6.09 p.m., and 12.08 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11 55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.05, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1.10, 4.35, 7.10, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.35, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11 55 a.m., and 2 44 6, and 9.20 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 10.26 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OFU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8 52 and 11 55 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, and 6 03 p.m., and 12.33 and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, and 7 p.m., and 1.25 and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, and 7.29 p.m., and 1.54 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.32 a.m., and 3 47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 3.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 8 43 a.m., and 3.59, 7.01, 8.57, and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.40, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.50 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.30, and 11.08 p.m., and 5.36 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 12.36, 8.18, and 11.12 p.m., and 7 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, and 9.30 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, and 10.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 4.34 p.m., and 12.15 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, and 5.19 p.m., and 1.10 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, and 6.59 p.m., and 2.41 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3.05 a.m.; OGAKI at 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OFU at 9.01 and 11.53 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 5.57, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4 45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3 40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 50 a.m., and 6.02 and 8 28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.08, 7.17, and 9 43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3 48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3 72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7 17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5 60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.00, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8 40 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6 25, 8 02, and 11 20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7 35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7 51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—FARE, *sen* 20.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. V. K.	Friday, Jan. 23rd.
From Hongkong	per C. P. M. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 17th.*
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 18th.†
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 18th.‡
From America	per P. M. Co.	Friday, Jan. 30th.§

* *Parthia* (with English mail) arrived at Kobe on January 15th. † *Belgic* left San Francisco on December 30th. ‡ *Ancona* left Nagasaki on January 14th. § *City of Peking* left San Francisco on January 10th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. V. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 20th.
For Europe, via Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 18th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 20th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 20th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Jan 24th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 31st.
For Europe, via Honghong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wedn'day, Feb. 4th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 10th January,—Handa 9th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigalthal, 10th January,—Fushiki 6th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kasuga, 10th January,—Yokkaichi 9th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 10th January,—Hakodate 8th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1219, Barstow, 11th January,—Fushiki 7th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 11th January,—Kobe 10th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Homery, 11th January,—Hongkong —, Shanghai 6th, and Kobe 10th January, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Vipere (4), French cruiser, 490, Captain E. M. V. Goudot, 11th January,—Kobe 9th January.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 13th January,—Nagasaki 11th January, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 13th January,—Yokkaichi 13th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 13th January,—Kobe 12th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 12th January,—Yokkaichi 11th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Musashi Kan (8), Japanese steel cruiser, 3,650, Captain H. Tsunoda, 12th January,—Yokosuka 11th January.

Ping Suey, British steamer, 1,981, J. C. Jacques, 14th January,—Kobe 12th January, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuga, 14th January,—Kobe 12th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 15th January,—Hakodate 12th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, G. W. Pearne, 15th January,—Hongkong 10th January, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sakai, 15th January,—Hakodate 12th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 15th January,—Yokkaichi 14th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Hussey, 16th January,—Kobe 14th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Batavia, British steamer, 1,661, J. C. Williamson, 16th January,—Vancouver, B.C., 24th December, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 16th January,—Handa 15th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hyacinth (8), screw cruiser, 1,420, Captain Robt. W. Cragie, 16th January,—Kobe 14th January.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 16th January,—Shanghai and ports 10th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 16th January,—Yokkaichi 15th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 10th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 430, Miyagi, 10th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 11th January,—San Francisco viâ Honolulu, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ghazee, British steamer, 1,764, A. Scotland, 11th January,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Port Fairy, British steamer, 1,645, Clark, 11th January,—Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigalthal, 11th January,—Fushiki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 11th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 11th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 12th January,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 12th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 12th January,—Yokosuka Dock.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 13th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,530, G. W. Conner, 13th January,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 12th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 14th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hyacinth (8), screw cruiser, 1,420, Captain Robt. W. Cragie, 14th January,—Kobe.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 15th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 15th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 15th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kreimhild, German steamer, 1,394, F. Voss, 16th January,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Musashi Kan (6), Japanese corvette, 1,476, Captain Y. Matsunaga, 16th January,—Yokosuka.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sakai, 16th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 16th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, from Hongkong, viâ Kobe:—Lieut. Freeland, Melle. Roig, Messrs. Valeridnovict, O. Viniols, D. M. Garrier, T. H. Cocksedge, and Perard in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Professor Burton, Captain McCullum, Messrs. Drummond and Friknay in cabin; 2 Europeans in second-class; 31 passengers in steerage.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe: Mr. H. M. Bevis and Mr. G. Ishikawa and family in cabin; 40 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Hakodate:—10 passengers in second class; 40 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong:—Captain Summer in cabin. For San Francisco. Rev. Geo. Ede in cabin.

Per British steamer *Batavia*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Messrs. O. Voigt, G. M. Hansen, and A. Adel in cabin; 7 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe: Mr. F. O. East in cabin. For Hongkong: Mr. H. Godsal and Mrs. Germain and 2 children in cabin; 254 Chinese steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. W. Thompsen and child, Miss Stewart, Master Nachtigal, Messrs. Tsuzuki, A. H. Groom, J. H. Goudrich, and A. Langfeldt in cabin; Messrs. Sekido and G. Sekido in second class; 31 passengers in steerage. For Hakodate: Mr. H. A. Collins in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, for Hakodate:—2 passengers in second-class; 8 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—Miss E. T. McAllister, Miss Mary E. Williams, Rev. E. B. Roach, Mrs. Roach, and infant, Messrs. J. C. Lyon, H. Siewers, and H. J. Brand in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss R. M. Sites, Miss Hu King Eng, Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Krupper and 3 children, Miss Morehead, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Baker, Mrs. Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. Tomioka, Messrs. Tenji, H. Littlejohn, J. K. Goodrich, A. Westauley, T. Feicki, and Fujimoto in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Samayoshi, Messrs. Gorohoff and Tajima in second-class; 41 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco, viâ Honolulu:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	100	499	90	689
Hyogo	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	1,338	80	195	1,633
Hongkong	373	—	—	373
Total	1,831	579	285	2,695

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	36	—	36
Hongkong	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	564	—	564
Total	—	600	—	600

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Hakodate January 8th at 6 a.m.; with moderate wind from the westward and fine weather passed Shiriyasaki at 9.45 a.m.; wind shifted to S.W. and continued so to arrival at Oginohama the 9th at 6 a.m.; left for Yokohama at 11.30 a.m.; had fresh N.W. wind and fine weather; passed Inuboye at 1 a.m., Noshima at 8.15 a.m. and arrived at Yokohama January 10th at 0.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe January 10th at noon; had light north-westerly winds and fine clear weather throughout; passed Ooshima at 8.15 p.m.; light north-westerly winds and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama January 11th at 5 p.m.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain John Wynn, reports:—Left Kobe January 12th at noon; had light westerly to north-westerly winds and fine clear weather throught the passage. Arrived at Yokohama January 13th at 4.50 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Walter, reports:—Left Hakodate January 12th at 6 a.m.; with a fresh westerly gale and heavy snow squalls to Oginohama arrived the 13th at 7 a.m. and left at 1 p.m.; westerly wind and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama on January 15th.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain G. W. Pearne, reports:—Left Hongkong January 10th at 2.27 p.m.; had northerly wind and fine weather throughout. Arrived at Yokohama January 15th at 3.33 p.m. Passage time 4 days 22 hours and 24 minutes.

The British steamer *Batavia*, Captain J. C. Williamson, reports:—Left Vancouver December 24th at 7 p.m.; experienced a series of westerly gales with heavy seas throughout the voyage. On 7th January, wind blew with hurricane force and went all round the compass. Had fine weather on the coast. Arrived at Yokohama January 16th at 9 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain E. W. Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai January 10th at 10.15 a.m.; had overcast cloudy with fresh S.E. wind and smooth sea. Arrived at Nagasaki the 12th at 1 a.m. and left at 5 p.m.; gentle N.E. wind and fine clear weather. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 13th at 5.30 a.m. and left at 10 a.m.; had moderate N.W. wind with passing clouds. Arrived at Kobe the 14th at 5.30 a.m. and left the 15th at noon; strong N.W. wind with passing snow squalls; passed Ooshima Light-house at 7.32 p.m., strong N.W. wind and clear weather throughout. Arrived at Yokohama January 16th at 3 p.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is little change to report on the position of the Import Market. A few small sales of Yarns have been reported at a trifle higher than the prices realized at the beginning of the month, but there is no demand in the market, for nearly all descriptions of goods are as flat as ever. Sales for the week amount to 275 bales English Yarns, 45 bales Bombays, and 4,500 pieces Shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.		
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 31 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
	PER YARD.		
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.14
	PER PIECE.		
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.00	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2½ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3½ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 5½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	28.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	32.00	to	33.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	39.00
	PER BALE.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

No change for the better in this market, and prices are tending downwards. Buyers are quite inanimate and the outlook is by no mean bright.

	PER PICUL.		
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$2.65	to	2.75
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.75	to	2.85
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.65	to	2.85
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted	2.80	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.20	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.90
Tin Plates, per box	5.00	to	5.25
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.25	to	1.27½

KEROSENE.

Position practically unchanged and the trade is slow. Some enquiries are made, but with without leading to any sales of importance. No fresh arrivals to note.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.70	to	1.72½
Comet	1.67½	to	1.70
Devoe	1.65	to	1.67½
Russian	1.60	to	1.65

SUGAR.

Sugar continues to be slow of sale, there being scarcely business enough to make quotations.

	PER PICUL.		
Brown Taiwan	$4.10	to	4.15
Brown Daitong	3.10	to	4.20
Brown Canton	4.80	to	5.90
Brown Java and Penang	5.00	to	5.60
White Refined	4.55	to	7.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 9th instant; since that date settlements in this Market amount to 503 piculs divided thus:—*Hanks*, 39; *Filatures*, 234; *Re-reels*, 169; *Kakeda*, 25; *Oshu*, 36. Direct shipments have been 47 bales, making a total export business of the week 550 piculs.

During the first few days a fair amount of trade was done which was then stopped by a rise in in Exchange. Now that Silver is lower again buying has recommenced.

Buyers both for Europe and America are in the field to some extent, and at closing dealers show some disposition to meet buyers, so that it is probable more business may be done in the near future. Holders, however, will not give way very much, being strongly of opinion that trade will yet improve in foreign countries during the next few weeks.

A large meeting of native Silk-men was held on the 11th instant, at which they decided to petition the Government for assistance either to carry their stocks or to send them forward to foreign Markets as direct export. Some of them pin their faith to such a course, while others of them think it will be better to sell their goods gradually on this Market, if they can do so without incurring too great a loss.

Arrivals from the interior are scanty just now, and the stock list shows a further reduction on the week. There is no doubt some quantity of Silk remaining in the interior belonging to wealthy merchants who do not need to send it forward at present; how much, or how little there is of this we cannot exactly tell; but it looks now as though the available supplies for the season will be considerably less than last year.

There have been two shipping opportunities this week, the English and American mails both taking silk. The former, *Verona*, which sailed on the 10th, had 339 bales for Europe, while the latter, *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 11th, took 564 bales for the New York trade. These departures bring the present export figures up to 14,071 piculs, against 29,340 piculs last year, and 31,712 piculs at the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Some little business has been done in *Shinshu* for Europe at $485. Enquiries are in the Market for *Hachoji*, but prices do not meet. *Chichibu* is reported at $460.

Filatures.—Some little business has been going on all the week in fine sizes: *Miharu*, $590; *Yenshu*, $585; *Bushu*, $580; with lower grades at $570, $560, and $552½. Trade in full sizes has been slack, although, during the last two days, one buyer has paid $570 for *Kaimeisha* and $560 for *Tokosha*.

Re reels.—Business in these has fallen off, the trade done being limited by the firmness of holders. Some of the well-known marks in *Joshu* kinds being held off the Market entirely. The purchases made would seem to be chiefly for Europe, and consist of the lower grades, costing from $520 to $500.

Kakeda.—A small business, and nothing done for the last 3 or 4 days: holders are firm and refuse the offers which shippers make.

Oshu.—Two or three parcels of *Hamatsuki* have been sold, buyers paying $527½ for best, and $510 for medium.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1			—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	$495		
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	480	to	485
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	480	to	485
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	475	to	480
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	470	to	475
Hanks—No. 3	460	to	465
Hanks—No. 3½	450	to	455
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.		—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	580	to	590
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	580	to	590
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	560	to	570
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	550	to	555
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	560	to	570
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	540	to	545
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	530	to	535
Re-reels—Extra			—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1	560	to	565
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	550	to	555
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	540	to	545
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	530	to	535
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	520	to	525
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	500	to	510
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.		—
Kakedas—No. 1	540	to	545
Kakedas—No. 1½	525	to	530
Kakedas—No. 2	515	to	520
Kakedas—No. 2½	505	to	510
Kakedas—No. 3	495	to	500
Kakedas—No. 3½	485	to	490
Kakedas—No. 4	475	to	480
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	520	to	525
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	520	to	525
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	500	to	510
Sudai—No. 2½			—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 16th Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	5,058	13,021	17,229
America	8,655	15,884	14,313
Total { Bales	13,713	28,905	31,542
Total { Piculs	14,071	29 340	31,712
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	14,550	32,350	32 350
Stock, 16th January	15,300	4,100	7,950
Available supplies to date	29,850	36,450	40,300

WASTE SILK.

Business in this branch has fallen off a little, total settlements being 520 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 126; *Kibiso*, 370; *Neri*, 24.

There does not seem quite so much life in this Market, and the stock list has increased a little during the week.

Purchases made appear to be for Europe, as before, and quotations are a little easier, although perhaps there is not much real difference when quality is taken into account.

The English Mail steamer *Verona* carried 370 bales, making the present export figures 18,457 piculs, against 17,019 piculs last year and 21,134 at same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No business at all and the Market remains in exactly the same position; prices nominal in the absence of any transactions.

Noshi.—Some business at a slight decline in quotations, but the quality is beginning to fall off and the cream of the crop has been apparently skimmed.

Kibiso.—Buyers are turning their attention now to medium and common sorts and several large parcels of *Joshu* have been done at prices ranging from $33 to $35. One lot of *Mino* also noted at $46 and there has been a little business in *Filatures* at about $110.

Sundries.—Two or three transactions in *Neri* at $9 and $10 for the rough stock.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	$120	to $130
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		145	to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		135	to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		125	to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130	to 145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100	to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best		130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85	to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½	to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70	to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110	to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100	to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		60	to 65
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50	to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35	to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good		45	to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½	to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15	to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180	to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 16th Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	17,170	14,853	18,742
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,167	2,392
	18,457	17,019	21,134
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	21,800	19,900	25,600
Stock, 16th January	7,500	11,000	5,350
Available supplies to date	29,300	30,900	30,950

Exchange has improved during the week, but is now quoted at the following:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 3/6⅞; Documents, 3/6⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 3/6½; Documents, 3/6½; NEW YORK, 30 d/s. U.S. $85¼; 4 m/s. U.S. $86; PARIS, 4m/s., fcs. 4.45; 6m/s. fcs. 4.47.

Estimated Silk Stock, 16th January, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs
Hanks	370	Cocoons	320
Filatures	9,500	Noshi-ito	1,600
Re-reels	4,700	Kibiso	5,040
Kakeda	500	Mawata	113
Oshu	220	Sundries	427
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	15,300	Total piculs	7,500

TEA.

There is nothing to note in Tea, and prices may be considered withdrawn.

	PER PICUL.		
Common	$11		
Good Common	12	to	13
Medium	14	to	15
Good Medium	16	to	17
Fine	18	to	19
Finest	20	to	22
Choice	23	to	25
Choicest	28	&	up'ds
Extra Choicest			—

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has not fluctuated much during the week, but has moved up the last two days, only to drop again to-day..

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/5⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/5⅞
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/6⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/6⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.34
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.45
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	83½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	84⅛
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	83½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	84⅛
Silver	48

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 1891.

BIRTH.

On the 17th instant, at No. 144, Bluff, the wife M ENGERT, of a Daughter.

DEATH.

At Toronto, Canada, on December 5th, 1890 CONSTANCE HARU, youngest child of the Rev. Arthur Lloyd, of Trinity College, Toronto, aged 10 months.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MR. MOTODA, a Privy Councillor, died of influenza on the 20th instant.

MR. TSUJI, Vice-Minister of the Educational Department, is suffering from influenza.

MR. OKAMURA TERUHIKO, President of the Yokohama Law Courts, resigned his post a few days ago.

COUNT SAIGO, Minister of State for Home Affairs, left the capital on the night of the 19th instant for Oiso by train.

COUNT GOTO, Minister of State for Communications, intends to enter an action for libel against the editors of the *Kokumin Shimbun*.

THE election to fill the vacancy in the House of Representatives for the third district of Hyogo Prefecture resulted in Mr. Ta Teikichi being returned.

THE two Houses of Parliament were destroyed by fire in the early morning of the 20th instant, the fire having its origin in the electric lighting apparatus.

ACCORDING to returns received by the Sanitary Bureau in the Home Department, the numbers of persons who suffered from dysentery in Fukuoka and Nagasaki Prefectures, from the commencement of the epidemic to the 31st of last month, were 25,340 and 3,969 respectively, and the deaths resulting were 4,685 and 949.

REAR-ADMIRAL YANAGI YUYETSU, a member of the House of Peers, who had been suffering from inflammation of the lungs, died on the 15th instant.

THE construction of the railway between Oji and Takada on the Osaka Railway is sufficiently advanced for a trial run before the end of the present month.

COUNT YAMAGATA proceeded to the Palace on the morning of the 24th instant, and reported to the Emperor as to the burning of the Houses of Parliament.

DURING last year, the quantity of herrings caught by the fishermen of Hokkaido (except Hidaka) was 937,574 *koku* (one *koku*=2½ piculs) valued at about *yen* 6,539,079.

THE First Higher Middle School was closed on the 19th instant for about a week in consequence of the prevalance of influenza among the teachers and students of the school.

MR. NISHIYAMA, a secretary of the Upper House, was despatched from the House on the 19th instant to attend at the funeral of the late Rear-Admiral Yanagi, a former member of the House.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU returned to the capital on the night of the 18th instant from Numazu. On the following day, H.I.H. Kitashirakawa started from the Shimbashi Station for Yokosuka.

DURING last year, 125,000 cases of matches were exported into China from Hyogo and Kobe, the value of which was *yen* 1,350,000, showing an increase of about *yen* 250,000 as compared with the previous year.

Two hundred and seventy three thousand one hundred pounds of melted copper (refined) of *bunkyu*, *tempo*, and two sen copper coins will be offered for sale by public tender on the 28th instant in the Osaka Mint.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Cabinet was held on the afternoon of the 19th instant, at which Counts Yamagata, Saigo, and Goto, Viscount Aoki, and Messrs. Yoshikawa and Mutsu were present, the proceedings lasting till 4.30 p.m.

INFORMATION was received by the Government on the 16th instant from the Russian Legation to the effect that the Prince of Greece will visit Japan with the Russian Prince who is expected to arrive here about the end of next month.

THE 19th instant being the day appointed for the funeral of the late Rear-Admiral Yanagi Yuyetsu, this Majesty the Emperor despatched Viscount Ayanokoji, Chamberlain, to the residence of the deceased officer with presents for the family.

COUNT ITAGAKI resigned on the 19th instant his membership of the *Rikken Jiyu* party. On the same day Mr. Kurihara Ryoichi, a leading member of the *Rikken Jiyu* party, sent in his resignation of membership. These resignations were subsequently withdrawn.

THE Minister of State for the Navy has notified the Governors and Prefects of the Empire to the effect that whenever any vessel (war-vessel or trading-vessel) of any nationality shall meet with an accident near the sea coast of Japan, the event must be at once reported to the Naval Department through its respective Admiralty Stations, or through District Offices or Police Stations, and also that application for aid may be directly made to any Japanese war-vessel that may be near to the scene of the disaster.

A LETTER received in the capital reports, that Mr. Hijikata Hisa-akira, a son of Viscount Hijikata, Minister of State for the Imperial Household, has been specially selected for a commission in the artillery (Guards) of the German Army, by the German Emperor.

A GENERAL meeting of shareholders of the Osaka Shipping Company was held on the 18th instant at the Sakau-ro. The receipts of the company during the whole of last year were *yen* 918,028.67, of which *yen* 27,000 were devoted to a dividend for the year.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received by the Goverment to the effect that Mr. Tateno Gozo, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington, who started from Japan on the 16th ultimo for his post, was received in audience on the 17th instant by the President of the United States of America.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 16th instant, at which there were present Counts Yamagata, Saigo, Goto, and Oyama, Viscount Aoki, and Mr. Yoshikawa, who had a conference in regard to the Budget, which was not concluded till late in the afternoon. Mr. Ito, Vice-Minister for the Navy, was also present.

A NUMBER of residents of Hokkaido propose to despatch a representative to the capital to inform the members of the Imperial Diet that the reduction of over *yen* 200,000 from the estimates for the Hokkaido Administrative Board for the 24th fiscal year is not a wise plan, inasmuch as the colonization of Hokkaido is one of the most important works in the Empire.

MESSRS. TANAKA YOHIO, Sekizawa Meisei, and several other members of the Japan Marine Products Society, propose to collect public subscriptions for a fund for establishing a school of marine products in recognition of the services of the late Rear-Admiral Yanagi, Manager of the Japan Marine Products Society. Several hundred *yen* have been collected already.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the afternoon of the 20th instant, at which there were present Counts Yamagata, Oyama, Matsukata, and Goto, Viscount Aoki, and Messrs. Yoshikawa and Mutsu. The proceedings lasted till a little past 4 p.m. Count Ito, President of the House of Peers, and Mr. Sone, Chief Secretary of the Lower House, were also present at the meeting.

THE position of the Import market is without notable alteration, and Yarns and Shirtings have only been taken in quantities to meet immediate requirements. Metals are without much demand, buyers making low offers for anything they want, and but few transactions have resulted. Quotations for Kerosene are quite nominal in the absence of enquiries. There has been a small business in Sugar—Browns at a reduction of 15 cents and Whites at a decline of 30 cents per picul. The Silk trade has received quite an impetus during the last few days of the week, and over 2,000 piculs have been sold. Waste Silk has also been active, and several large parcels have been taken. The Tea trade is now practically over, the remaining leaf in stock being of no consequence, and no more is expected to come in. Settlements to date have been 215,000 piculs, against 183,000 piculs at same date last year. Exchange has followed the downward course of silver, and closes fairly steady.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

COUNT INOUYE ON DIET VERSUS GOVERNMENT.

COMMENTING on the rumour that Count Yamagata had despatched Mr. Tsuzuki, his private secretary, to Yamaguchi, with an invitation to Count Inouye to come to the capital, the *Hochi Shimbun* remarks that when any person engaged in the settlement of an affair finds his progress stopped by some difficulty or other, he usually appeals to the bystanders for advice. This seems to indicate the circumstances, in the *Hochi's* opinion, under which Count Yamagata has despatched his emissary to Count Inouye. Our contemporary recalls that one day in the early part of 1889 Count Inouye, after his failure to carry out the negotiations as to Treaty Revision, invited to his house at Toriizaka four or five of his friends—men of great influence but not holding Government offices. To these he gave expression to his views as to the relations likely to exist between the Diet and the Cabinet. Having predicted that the opening of the Diet would be followed by friction between the Diet and the Ministry, the Count asked:—When, then, a majority of the Diet is found to be adverse to the Government, how will the latter act? If the Ministry stick to their policy with unflinching firmness and dissolve the Diet, the elections will certainly lead to the return of many of the old members; another conflict will follow and another dissolution, the only result of which will be to awaken against Ministers the opposition of the whole nation. If, on the other hand, the Cabinet decide to concur in the views of the Diet, whether these be in reference to the reduction of state expenditure, reforms in the system of administration, or any other subject, then the Ministry will find themselves in the position of having tacitly consented to the assumption by Parliament of the important rights and duties of administration. With the dangers of either of these courses apparent, then, the only means by which the safety of the nation may be assured will consist in the coming forward of men of property and experience to take the places of the members of the Cabinet." At the time Count Inouye was charged on one hand with having made those remarks to carry out designs of his own as to the Government, and derided on the other hand as having become weak-hearted and timid in consequence of his failure in diplomacy. Yet, the *Hochi* points out, what he then predicted has come to pass.

THE UNITED STATES LEGATION.

SOME of the members of the House of Representatives appear to have been studying the proceedings of the British House of Commons, and to have taken for models to be imitated Mr. Bradlaugh and other snappers up of unconsidered trifles. The importunate inquisitiveness shown by Mr. Inugai and his supporters in the House on Thursday, with reference to the story of the ground at Yenoki-zaka, now forming the compound of the American Legation, reminds us of the questions occasionally put in the House of Commons about the postage of members' letters or the rates allowed for cab hire in the schedule of official travelling expenses. Mr. Inugai became quite elated over the Yenoki-zaka land. When he discovered that it had been sold by the Government for forty thousand *yen* and bought back afterwards for eighty thousand, he metaphorically rubbed his hands and told the House that they were going to have a pleasant interlude cross-examining the Government Delegates on this point. Nor was he wrong, if the bandying of frivolous questions and incomplete answers tickles the House's fancy. But the impression left on the minds of people outside the Diet is that if Mr. Inugai took a little pains to study his subject before standing up to discuss it, and if the Government Delegates could persuade themselves to be a trifle franker and fuller in their explanations, much friction and trouble might be avoided. Nothing could be simpler or more intelligible than the story of the Yenoki-zaka land. It was sold by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce for forty thousand *yen* to Mr. Okura Kihachiro, who bought it, apparently, as a speculation without any immediate object in view. The price was low; but on the other hand, land was comparatively cheap at the time (1888); and no Government ever gets the full market value of anything it has dispose of, and, further, the sale of a large area of land in one lot is an operation of great difficulty in Tokyo. Buyers are few and far between. Fifty thousand *yen* would have been a handsome price for the land; a price which the Government could not reasonably have hoped to realise. After the lot came into Mr. Okura's possession, he entered into an agreement to put up buildings there for the United States Legation, the compound hitherto occupied by that Legation in Tsukiji having been sold on the expiration of the lease. The new buildings with their appurtenances and furniture were supposed to be worth some thirty thousand *yen*, and thus the lot, when the Foreign Office came to buy it could not possibly have been acquired for less than sixty-five or seventy thousand *yen*, even supposing that its owner had been content to dispose of it without any profit whatever, which would have been a very weak proceeding on his part, considering that land had appreciated considerably during the eighteen months of his tenure, and that he had not purchased the lot with the idea of making nothing by it. He probably realized a profit of from ten to fifteen thousand *yen*, which was by no means excessive. It strikes us as decidedly unfortunate that these vital points were not fully explained to the House by the Foreign Office Delegate. The whole question turned upon the fact that in the interval between the sale by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the purchase by the Foreign Department, buildings costing twenty-five or thirty thousand *yen* had been erected on the land. Had this been made clear, it is inconceivable that the House would have consented to have its time wasted by further inquiries. But it was not made clear, and strange to say, Mr. Inugai seemed to know nothing about it; a state of ignorance not at all consistent with the functions of inquisitor arrogated by him. Elsewhere members of Parliament who undertake to put questions to the Government are generally expected to post themselves in the details of their subject, but this theory does not seem to hold in Japan, and the consequence is that the House of Representatives occasionally finds itself betrayed into the unprofitable employment of scrutinizing mare's nests

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This case presents an interesting point, quite apart from the reasons that induced the Diet to consider it. The policy of the United States Government in the past has always been to refrain from owning land outside the limits of the Republic. In pursuance of this policy, legations have been rented at very high rates in all Oriental countries. Thus, for many years, a sum of some four thousand dollars (gold) has appeared in the yearly estimates on account of the Legation in Tokyo. Lately, however, there appears to have been a departure from this exceedingly uneconomical course, for in Sōul the United States Government has purchased a plot of land and in Siam has accepted a suitable site from the King. The strong probability is, therefore, that when the Authorities in Washington are invited to turn their attention to Japan, they will appreciate the advisability of purchasing the present Legation instead of paying a rent of about 4,700 *yen* yearly for it. Meanwhile, the Foreign Office in Tokyo has a very fair investment, since it is receiving nearly six per cent. on its money.

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Not the least amusing incident of the above affair is that a local English journal holds it up as a proof that the Japanese Government Departments are "an Augean stable requiring a modern Hercules to clean them out." One of the first things that Hercules would throw into the dirt tub would be the silly sheet indulging in such slanders.

MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

IN Yukawamura, Iwate Prefecture, says the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, there lives a certain Sasaki Gimpei, who recently had the misfortune to be drawn for a conscript. Sasaki did not object to don uniform and shoulder a rifle in his country's cause, but his domestic affairs weighed heavily upon his patriotic spirit. He possessed a young wife so beautiful in his eyes that everyone must inevitably lose his heart to her. Could he trust this lady in his absence of three years, and not trusting her, could he not devise some means of strengthening her fidelity? A bright thought struck him. He summoned all his relatives, and having regaled them sumptuously, asked them to be witnesses to a covenant which he was about to conclude with his wife; a covenant of four articles, for the better understanding of which it should be premised that Sasaki's occupation is that of bath-house keeper. Here is a translation of the document:—"Art. 1. Should I meet a handsome man during my husband's absence from home, I promise not to exchange a syllable with him. Art. 2. Whenever I am obliged to leave the house, I promise never to go alone but always in company with my mother-in-law. Art. 3. Should a good-looking young man happen to be among those taking the hot baths, I promise never to go outside the kitchen of our house during his stay in the place. Art. 4. Until my husband's return, I promise never to speak to a man who is not a member of our own household." Then follow the signatures of the wife, the father-in-law, the mother-in-law, and the husband. Poor Sasaki!

TELEGRAMS.

THE question still continues to perplex the *Japan Gazette* whether a telegram supplied directly by Reuter in English to an English newspaper and published by that newspaper with a minimum of expansion, is more or less trustworthy than a telegram expanded by a Japanese editor, translated by him into Japanese and then re-translated into English by an English editor who has never seen the English original. Without considering the obvious superfluity of such an inquiry, we should have thought that the blunders into which the *Gazette* itself has been betrayed by its third-hand process sufficed to settle the question. In the space of a very few days our contemporary has converted "Pine Ridge" into "Pine Reach"; has made swift cruisers" into "fast sailing vessels"; and has represented the British Foreign Office as "disavowing" Sir Julian Pauncefote; whereas the truth, as telegraphed, is that the Foreign Office "denied" the story of a bellicose message having been delivered to the U.S. Government by Sir Julian. We should have thought, we say, that to be convicted of these flagrant mistakes would have taught the *Japan Gazette* how little it can rely on its present roundabout way of borrowing telegraphic news. But no. The *Gazette* has discovered a little heap of sand to hide its discredited head. The *Japan Mail* published a telegram saying:—"In consequence of the severe weather which has thrown thousands of men out of employment, terrible distress prevails in the East end of London amounting almost to a famine." Where did the *Mail* obtain authority to connect the distress with severe weather, asks the *Gazette*. Simply, answers the *Mail*, by consulting telegrams which arrived simultaneously in Indian papers, explaining that, on account of the snow, frost, and dense fogs prevailing in London, work in the Docks had been seriously interrupted, thousands of people had been thrown out of employment, and much misery prevailed. What the *Mail* has done is to assist its readers to a sound and correct view: what the *Gazette* has done is to mislead its readers in three several cases. These are plain facts. Equally plain is the statement of the Editor of the *Official Gazette*, that with the one exception of the message about the weather and the distress, he has never discovered a Reuter's telegram in the *Mail* the meaning of which differed from the Reuter's telegrams received by him. Yet the *Japan Gazette* quotes his statement as a proof that the *Official Gazette's* telegrams "are certainly more precise" than those of the *Mail*. Excellent *Gazette!* Continue, as you say you will,

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"with a quiet mind to pursue the course of translating literally from the *Kwampo* telegrams," "trusting to the knowledge and memory of your readers to supply "the missing links." It is very convenient for a newspaper to trust to the knowledge and memory of its readers, but the plan is too unusual to be appreciated, and moreover no effort of knowledge or memory can enable a reader to discover that "fast sailing vessels" are identical with "swift cruisers," and that to deny the delivery of a message is to disavow the Plenipotentiary supposed to have delivered it.

THE RADICALS.

A MEETING of the Radical Party (*Rikken Jiyu-to*) was held at 10 o'clock Tuesday forenoon. Two hundred and thirty members were present. The chair was taken by Mr. Hoshi Toru. The meeting decided that no representations should be accepted unless presented by at least five members; that the decision of a majority of those present at a meeting should be final, one hundred members forming a quorum; and that a meeting should be held every day at 9 a.m. and closed at 1 p.m. Mr. Sakurai Heikichi moved as a point of urgency, that steps be taken for the withdrawal of the leading article published in the *Jiyu Shimbun* of the preceding day. The article complained of is a somewhat remarkable effusion. Its object is to urge the conquest of Korea by Japan. After referring to the spirit of enterprise and the love of brave adventure that existed in Japan three centuries ago, and showing how greatly the Tokugawa system of Government and the enforced seclusion of the country had the effect of blunting and deadening these fine qualities, the writer goes on to point out that the administrative tendency of the *Meiji* era is to develop men's love of liberty and their appreciation of personal rights. Something of the spirit which in ancient times made Japan the England of the Orient, has doubtless—says the *Jiyu Shimbun*—been revived in these modern days, but to restore it to its old proportions, no tonic could be so effective as that of a military expedition. On this ground, in great part, but also for the sake of establishing Japan's position in the Orient and raising her prestige in the eyes of the world, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, in language well calculated to awaken an echo in the hearts of the *Samurai*, advocates the military occupation of Korea. Evidently the Radical Party is unwilling that such an aggressive policy should be regarded as the Party's programme, a mistake into which the public is not unlikely to fall seeing that the newspaper suggesting the invasion of Korea is the recognised organ of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. The meeting decided that a Committee should be appointed to approach the *Jiyu Shimbun*. It is known that, immediately after the appearance of the article in question—which was published in two parts—steps were taken to induce the editors of the paper to modify their views, but they declined altogether to be dictated to, Count Itagaki himself answering for them.

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This affair of the *Jiyu Shimbun* subsequently led to a remarkable and momentous result, namely, the retirement of Count Itagaki from the *Rikken Jiyu* party. The Count appears to have taken his resolution on the evening of the 18th, after the first remonstrance had been made by members of the Party. The opening part only of the criticised article appeared on that day, and not till the following day, when the second part had been published, did an opportunity occur of taking the sense of the Party at a general meeting. Count Itagaki, however, did not wait for the decision of the meeting. While Mr. Sakurai and his friends were drafting the resolution to be submitted to the meeting for a Committee to approach the editors of the *Jiyu Shimbun*, the old universally respected leader of the Radicals was on his side drafting a document that should sever his connection with the association he had founded and fostered. It was a manly and plain-spoken document, the greater part devoted to the obnoxious article, but a brief paragraph at the end containing statements which showed that the relations between the Count and his followers have not been entirely amicable of late. The manifesto protested in the strongest terms against the attempt made on behalf of the Party to interfere with the freedom of speech of its members. The article in question had been written by one man, Mr. Kurihara. Though Count Itagaki did not profess to approve of its sentiments, he could not for a moment consent to take part in muzzling its author. For many years he had been engaged in promoting the principles of liberty and building up a party which should devote all its energies to securing for every unit of the nation the rights belonging to free men. Foremost among those rights was freedom of speech and pen. Count Itagaki could not continue his connection with a party which assailed that right. For some time back, too—and perhaps in this paragraph is to be sought the real text of the pronunciamiento—he had observed much that he disapproved of in the conduct of the Party, and though he had hitherto kept silence, the time had now come when he must remove his name from its roll.

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In such terms the Count turned his back on his Party. With him stepped out of the ranks Messrs. Kataoka, Kurihara, Yeguchi, and Uyeki, and it is expected that a very large number of seceders will pass from the *Rikken Jiyu-to* to join the banner of their old chief. By the light of this important event it will be re-called that Count Itagaki has taken little share of late in the deliberations and movements of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, and that such marked isolation could not but be deemed significant. It may be that his secession will be the signal for a general retirement on the part of all the moderates, who see quite plainly that the action taken by a section of the Party with respect to the Budget must ultimately lead to a severe collision between the Government and the Diet, and is already distinctly unconstitutional. Strange it is how persistently fate links Count Itagaki's political career with the history of Korea. Seventeen years ago his aggressive policy towards the little kingdom was generally supposed to have contributed materially to his retirement from the Cabinet, and now he turns his back on his Party for the sake of asserting the right of free speech in the case of a man who advocates the military occupation of the peninsula by Japan.

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No developments of a conclusive character have occurred in relation to the retirement of Count Itagaki from the ranks of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. The manifesto sent by him to the Committee of the Party, announcing his resolve to sever the connection, was returned by the Committee on the ground that a portion of its language did not convey a clear meaning, but in reality for the purpose of opening a path for mediation. Mr. Kono Hironaka, one of the most respected members of the *Jiyu-to*, undertook the office of mediator, but his efforts met with no success whatever, Count Itagaki explaining that though the incident of the newspaper article was the proximate cause of his retirement, there had been of late many reasons influencing him in the direction of separation, and his mind was now made up beyond the possibility of change. When the daily meeting of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* took place on Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock, one of the hundred and eighty members present asked the President, Mr. Hoshi Toru, whether the alleged receipt of Count Itagaki's resignation was true. The President replied in the affirmative, but added that the document had been returned, and beyond this meagre information the meeting did not seek to penetrate. Later in the day, Count Itagaki sent back the document of resignation with a very brief covering letter, in which he stated, with reference to the objection as to want of clearness, that what he had intended was to express his intention of leaving the *Rikken-Jiyu-to* and getting up a party of his own. It is probable, therefore, that we shall see the *Aikokuko-to* resuscitated, though only by way of preliminary to some more comprehensive association. The defection of Count Itagaki will be a severe, if not fatal, blow to the *Rikken-Jiyu-to*. That Party possesses no one upon whose shoulders the mantle of the veteran liberal can rest for an hour. Through many changes of fortune and despite of associates not always calculated to enhance his reputation except by contrast, Count Itagaki has never for a moment forfeited public respect and esteem, and we must frankly confess that we are sincerely glad to see him sever his connection with a party having for its apparent mainspring of action, unscrupulous opposition to the Government. In the face of such kaleidoscopic changes as mark the present development of political organizations in Japan, it is idle to speculate about the future, but assuredly Count Itagaki's new attitude is a hopeful element in the situation.

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The *Rikken Jiyu-to* appears to have been greatly disturbed by the receipt of Count Itagaki's letter of resignation. After the Committee's vain attempt to induce the Count to withdraw the letter, a consultation of the leading members was held, the decision arrived at being that the retirement of the founder of Liberalism in Japan could not fail to produce a most serious effect upon the prospects of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, and that every effort must be made to prevent such an unfortunate consummation. In pursuance of this resolve, a number of the most influential men of the Party, acting as delegates, waited on Count Itagaki and begged him to re-consider his decision, urging that a newspaper article should not be suffered to be the cause of a catastrophe so injurious to the prospects of Japanese Liberalism. After long consultation and a display of great reluctance, the Count consented to recall his resignation, but this happy ending of the present complication is not expected to be more than a temporary settlement. Count Itagaki is emphatically opposed to many fundamental features in the methods of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, and though he may be willing to stave off the disruption of the Party for as long a time as possible, there is a very slender chance of his becoming reconciled to permanent co-operation with it.

THE "KOKOMIN-NO TOMO" ON THE BUDGET.

THE *Kokumin-no-Tomo* writes very strongly in support of the report of the Budget Committee. Now that the report is before the House of Representatives, the Tokyo journal wishes to reminds the members of the fact that at the time of the election last July they pledged themselves, either directly or indirectly, to lessen the burdens of the people. Are they prepared to fulfill the solemn pledge to their constituents? Our contemporary thinks that it is idle to ask such a question, became they are morally bound to support the extreme plan of reduction. As to the contention put forth by some persons that the "extremists" vote for a reduction practically incapable of being carried out, the *Kokumin* is only astonished that the so-called "extremists" are satisfied with the reduction of no more than about nine and a half million *yen*. Moreover, about a million and a half of that sum is represented by interest on deposits, so that the real reduction is little over 8 million *yen*. It is absurd, continues our contemporary, to pretend that the loss of such a paltry amount could seriously interfere with the smooth conduct of the administration. The items of expenses in which reduction is intended to be made relate to the salaries and members of officials, to travelling expenses, and to expenses for the maintenance of the Higher Middle Schools, the Metropolitan Board of Police, and so forth. What the "extremists" desire is simply to bring the income of officials to the level of men engaged in other walks of life out of the Government, and to either abolish or lessen in magnitude those institutions, educational and otherwise, whose functions can better be discharged either by private enterprise or by institutions organized on a different plan. The Metropolitan Board of Police is

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described by our contemporary as an imitation of a similar institution existing in France, a reminiscence of the horrible days of the Revolution, and its absorption into the City Government of Tokyo need not be looked upon as a measure in any way injurious to the conduct of the administration. Neither is the existence of the Higher Middle Schools calculated to favour the development of private educational enterprise. With regard to the objection that the "extremists" contemplate an encroachment upon the prerogatives of the Emperor, the Tokyo journal retorts by saying that the "moderates" are equally open to the same charge, for they too propose to reduce the salaries of officials and office expenses, the only difference between the two sets of reformers being that the one set does not proceed in so thorough a manner as the other. In short the difference is one of degree not of kind. The "moderates" are accused by the *Kokumin* of being merely the mouthpiece of the Government. They propose a reduction of 5 million *yen*, because they are assured by the Cabinet or at least by some of the Ministers that the Government would be willing to accept such a reduction. In other words, they strive to carry out not the will of the Diet but the will of the Cabinet. "In order," the *Kokumin* continues, "to cut the enslaving ties of personal interest (*jōjitsu*) which have during the last twenty years entwined themselves round this question, the Diet must keep itself above the level of conventionalities and aim above everything at promoting the interest of the country and the well-being of the people. Should the Diet be, on the contrary, restrained by the very ties of personal interest to sever which is its bounden duty, and should it behave to the Government as a maid would behave to her mistress, by anticipating the wishes and consulting the convenience of the Executive, thus failing to accomplish its original object—should the Diet act in such a manner, it may be said to have died in spirit, to have become the slave of the executive." In conclusion, our contemporary exhorts the members of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* not to be betrayed into the fatal error of internecine division on this important question, for on their firm union depends the fate of the struggle in which the Opposition is engaged against the Government. But the exhortation has already proved abortive.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

RUMOUR have been busy lately with Viscount Aoki's affairs. It having been more than once stated that the Viscount contemplated the resignation of his portfolio, a friend of the *Jiyu Shimbun* has interviewed him and obtained a very distinct statement which appears in the columns of that journal. The Minister is represented as saying that he has not the least intention of resigning, nor could be see any reason for adopting such a course. Had he made a failure in foreign policy, or did he find himself in serious disagreement with his colleagues in the Cabinet, or were public opinion evidently opposed to him, he should not hesitate to resign. But none of these conjunctures had arisen. Nay more, the present time was one of great importance in respect of the empire's foreign affairs. The Minister was actually now engaged conferring with his colleagues on the subject of Treaty Revision, a problem which all his strength should be devoted to solve, and the Cabinet's deliberations as to the policy to be definitely pursued were at a vital stage. Should it unfortunately happen that the policy of the Cabinet encountered opposition, or that the Cabinet itself failed in unanimity, the contingency contemplated by rumour might occur, but for the rest the Minister had no idea of resigning.

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It is of course impossible to be quite sure how much of this really came from Viscount Aoki and how much from the imagination of his supposed interviewer. But on the face of it, there is nothing in the account that the Minister might not have said. Not a shadow of discernible reason exists for the suggested resignation. The rumour arose, so far as can be ascertained, in connection with the postponement of the Commercial Code by the Diet, and subsequently in connection with a baseless story that Viscount Aoki's attitude towards the Budget question was not in accord with the attitude of some of his colleagues. We believe that no foundation whatever for the story was furnished by either phase of politics, and that the report had its origin in idle gossip. Viscount Aoki is not likely to betray the Cabinet into the evil course of changing pilots when the boat of Treaty Revision is in mid-stream.

DEATH OF A PRIVY COUNCILLOR.

MR. MOTODA YEIFU, a Privy Councillor, expired on the 21st instant. He was attacked by influenza on the 13th instant, and two days later high fever supervened, the patient gradually sinking and finally succumbing. Mr. Motoda enjoyed a high reputation as a scholar. For several years he held the important post of First class Instructor to the Emperor, and when the serious character of his illness became known, His Majesty directed that Drs. Ikeda and Baelz should attend him. The day after his death he was Gazetted a Baron, and a sum of ten thousand *yen* was granted his family. The funeral will leave the deceased statesman's residence in Urasarugakucho, Kanda, on the 27th instant, and the interment will be in the Aoyama cemetery.

UNEASINESS IN TOKYO.

SOME uneasiness prevailed in the capital on the 18th instant. A rumour got abroad that the general meeting of the Radical Party, to be held the next day in the Koseikan, Kobikicho, would be taken advantage of by a body of *soshi* to make a demonstration of a very determined character. This idea may have been suggested by the fact that the *soshi* made the recent meeting of the Party in the Yayoisha the occasion of an attack which nearly cost Mr. Uyeki Yemori his life. At all events quite an excitement prevailed, and towards evening it began to be whispered that another forced exodus of *soshi* was likely to take place during the night under police auspices and by the authority of the Peace Preservation Regulations. For this latter report two incidents were probably responsible: first, that a meeting of twenty-three police inspectors had been held during the day, and secondly that Viscount Tanaka, Chief of the Metropolitan Police, instead of travelling about the various districts of the city and visiting the stations, as is his wont, had spent many hours at home writing. The public's expectations were disappointed, however. No one received marching orders during the night of the 18th, and the Radical meeting on the 19th passed off without disturbance of any kind. Moreover, it became known on the 19th that those in a position to speak had denied the existence of any intention or apparent necessity to take further steps under the Peace Preservation Regulations. The city therefore drew its breath quietly once more.

JAPANESE WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.

ACCORDING to an extract published in the *Joyaku Zasshi* (Woman's Magazine) from a recent work by Mr. Nitobe Inazo, who lately married a Philadelphian lady, it appears that there are many Japanese women receiving education in the United States of America. Miss Kato Kin is staying at Salem, Massachusetts, and Miss Kōda Nobu is studying music at Boston. They were sent by the Department of Education. Miss Hishikawa Yaye is studying medicine at Chicago, while Miss Hirata Tsune is at the West Maryland University, and Miss Miyakawa at Mount Holyoak. Mrs. Tamura is at New York, fitting herself for the duties of a pastor. Miss Sono is attending the law lectures at the Pacific University of California. She means to be called to the bar on her return. There are also several Japanese female students at Washington, Chambersburg, Overbrook, San Francisco, Aucland, and so forth. Miss Tsuda, one of the five Japanese girls who were sent twenty-one years ago to America by Count Kuroda, has again crossed the Pacific for the purpose of completing her education. As to those who have already returned to Japan, the extract enumerates Misses Yoshimatsu, Uyeda, Yamagawa, and Nagai, who together with Miss Tsuda were the first to go abroad for educational purposes, and Mrs. Okami Kei, who studied medicine and is now the Superintendent of the Female Department at the Tokyo Charity Hospital. Miss Yamagawa is now Countess Oyama, while Miss Nagai is the wife of Lieutenant Uryu, of the Navy.

THE "SOSHI."

THE head-quarters of the *soshi* in Tokyo have hitherto been in the Kyobashi district. It was in that quarter and in Shiba that the great majority of the youths recently banished under the provisions of the Peace Preservation Regulations resided. It would seem now, however, that the *soshi* left in the capital have settled in the Kanda and Shitaya districts, and that, so far from being intimidated by the fate of their fellows, they have developed new resolution and given themselves the title of "true *soshi*" (*shinsoshi*). They declare that they will take measures to punish or restrain all who promote improper political principles, or advocate the reduction of the Budget in such a manner as to violate the law, or secretly move the Authorities to put the Peace Preservation Regulations into force. It appears to have escaped the attention of these saviours of society that the Peace Preservation Regulations are already in force, and that anybody attempting to carry out a mission of reform by violence may find himself shot out of the capital at a few hours' notice. There is no need of secret memorials to the Government on the subject.

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In connection with this matter, it may be well to notice an error committed by a local English journal. Several of the *soshi* expelled from Tokyo having come to Kanagawa and settled there pro tem., their presence in the neighbourhood of the foreign Settlement had betrayed our local contemporaries into expressions of alarm which do not appear well considered, inasmuch as the *soshi* have not exhibited any disposition to molest foreigners, except in connection with the Anti-Revision, or Pro-Revision, Meeting of last September, now a thing of the past. Apart, however, from the general question, it has been asserted that while, on the occasion of the enforcement of the Peace Preservation Regulations in 1887, the *soshi* who took refuge in Kanagawa were compelled to proceed to the provinces, they have on this occasion been allowed to remain in Kanagawa. Reference to the Peace Preservation Regulations will show that they confer upon the police no such power as would have been necessary to pursue the former course. All that can be done under the Regulations is to banish men, for a period of not more than three years, to a distance of 3 *ri* from any and all of the Imperial Palaces in Tokyo. Once beyond that radius, there is complete security against the operation of this special clause of the Regulations. Even if a district outside the capital be proclaimed under the Regulations, no power to remove its inhabitants is vested in the police. It is therefore entirely a mistake to say that the *soshi* who came from Tokyo to Kanagawa in 1887, were obliged to "move on." On the contrary, they remained there unmolested, just as they are remaining now, and there is no more reason for foreign residents to apprehend annoyance at their hands on the present occasion than there was in 1887.

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Among the *soshi* staying in Yokohama are two, by name Namba Tohatsu and Shiga Sukegoro. They have taken up their abode at Tsukiya, in the 5th ward of Honcho, and there they are very closely guarded by the police. For it seems that they are men who hold physical violence and extreme measures in special esteem, and that for this reason they have incurred the enmity of the more moderate section of their fellows. The fear is that an encounter may take place between the two ex-

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tremists and the other side, and to prevent such a conjuncture the police are on the alert. Perhaps it might be well to put the whole party into a dark room and let them fight it out. However the issue went, the public could not lose much.

OFFICIAL ECONOMIES.

It is stated that the sweeping reductions recommended by the Committee on the Budget have already begun to produce a disquieting effect in official circles and among the companies which receive subsidies from the Government. By way of example the case of the Railway Bureau is quoted. In that Bureau it has hitherto been customary to pay a suitable travelling allowance to officials sent to distant places on business, but the theory has now been put into force that, as railway officials can seldom have business at places not accessible by means of their own lines, travelling allowances need not be granted. Farther, whereas extra pay has always been given in the past for over-time work, it is rumoured to have been decided that no extra pay shall be allowed in future, even though officials have to work the whole night. The latter of these statements seems to be decidedly incredible. Whatever may be the nature of the economies suggested by the Budget Committee, they certainly cannot be suffered to extend to withholding fair remuneration for work done.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, who returned about a month ago from a voyage to the South Sea Islands, has had several conferences with the delegates of the Tokyo *shizoku*—the former retainers of the Shogunate—as to the proprietorship of the *shisoku* industrial fund, with part of which he had formed the South Sea Trading Company. It is reported that Mr. Taguchi has consented to hand over to the *shizoku* the right of ownership of the fund; but as to the manner of using the money, it is probable that he be entrusted with it, and permitted to invest it in the development of trade with the Pacific Islands recently visited. Indeed, whatever some of the *shizoku* might have said of him in moments of excitement, the majority of them are no doubt glad that the fund fell into the hands of a man of such high integrity and honesty of purpose.

* * *

Mr. Hoshi Toru, who, having been abroad at the time of the election, has no seat in the Diet, is reported to have a near prospect of obtaining one, Mr. Mutsu, his intimate friend, being, according to rumour, desirous of resigning his seat and giving it to Mr. Hoshi. Another report regarding Mr. Hoshi is that he contemplates the formation of an emigration society for the purpose of enabling *soshi* to obtain some sober means of livelihood abroad. It would be a great thing for the country if his plan should succeed.

* * *

Mr. Hayashi Yuzo's Bill for the equalization of the assessed value of land throughout the country, has roused the members from the North-East Provinces to an extraordinary degree of activity and excitement. At present, the assessed value of land is abnormally low in the Prefecture of Yamaguchi, in the City of Kyoto, and in the Provinces of the North-East, and the object of the bill is to raise the value of land in those localities to a level with the rest of the country. The members from the North-East claim that the assessed value of land in their districts is not actually low, because land up there is very poor in its productive capacity, and because its value is further decreased by the absence of proper means of transportation. They are reported to have issued a circular among their constituents, exhorting the latter to stand up for the defence of their threatened interests.

* * *

Viscount Torio, who lately astonished the public by resigning his membership of the Upper House, has not by any means risen higher in popular estimation as a practical statesman. Men regard his extraordinary behaviour as another proof—if proof were needed—that his genius is too eccentric and ill-balanced for practical statesmanship. It is reported that his resignation will not be accepted by the Emperor, and assuredly he will be the last man to disobey the Sovereign's wishes.

* * *

The *Kokkwa Shimbun*, which, after appearing only a few weeks, lately stopped publication on the pretext of intended improvements, has at present little prospect of coming out again. The promoters made, as we then noted in these columns, a fatal error in the selection of their editors. A more suitable editor than Mr. Tatsumi it would have been easy enough to procure at a moment's notice. Further, it is rumoured that the promotors have been unable to obtain the support of the aristocratic society whose interests they professed to represent; though we are not in a position to declare precisely why they failed in this part of their programme. It may be that the aristocracy of Japan do not see the expediency of being dragged into active political warfare and having their interests taken charge of by an organ strongly suspected of maintaining close relations with a certain political faction.

* * *

Prison reform is making steady progress in Japan. The *Kangoku Hyoron* (*Prison Magazine*) tells us that the Prefectural Government of Shimane has taken the lead in putting female convicts under the charge of female jailers. Four women, all of them wives of prison wardens, have already been appointed to superintend prisoners of their own sex.

* * *

The movement for the abolition of licensed prostitution seems to be steadily gaining ground. The local assembly of Okayama voted on the 22nd ultimo for the abolition of public prostitution after five years from that date. Petitions on the same matter have been received by the Diet from Gumma, Okayama, Niigata, Yamanashi, Osaka, and Gifu, while several other localities are reported to be shortly about to follow in the same track. The bazaar lately held at the Ginza Kwaikan, Tokyo, by a number of ladies, for the purpose of adding to the fund for the abolition of licenced prostitution, is said to have been a great success.

HOIST BY HIS OWN PETARD.

On the 9th instant, when the House of Representatives met, and after the usual announcements had been made from the Chair, a member rose in his place, and pointing to his head, which though very artistically bandaged, nevertheless looked exceedingly unlike the head of a respectable member of a respected assembly, explained that he had already apologised to the President for presenting himself in such a plight, and that he now desired to apologise to the House. This courteous harangue was received in silence, and the House proceeded to the Orders of the Day. The member was Mr. Suzuki Shoji. Last year, when the organization of the *soshi* assumed a more vertebrate form than it could previously boast, Mr. Suzuki was generally regarded as a General, if not the Generalissimo, of the band of club cavaliers. Of his exploits in that capacity we know little or nothing, nor can we tell by what strange freak of wayward fortune he was transformed from the captain into the foe of the *soshi*. Yet it will be fresh in the minds of our readers that the vigilance of the police alone saved him from a rough if not fatal encounter in the vicinity of Count Goto's residence on the 7th instant, and when next the public heard of him, he was apologising to the House for coming before it with a broken head. Mr. Suzuki is to be congratulated on having cut the ties that bound him to his turbulent associates, but for the moment people talk of him as of one hoisted with his own petard. Nor has he altogether forgotten the old association. He it was that made the motion on the 14th instant, asking the House to condemn the action of the Government in putting the Peace Preservation Regulations into force. He thought that to expel a number of youths from the capital without any form of trial, would offend and excite public opinion much more than any act of which the youths might be guilty. But the House looked on the linen bandages that encircled Mr. Suzuki's cranium and voted against him.

THE PESSIMISTS.

Sensationalism is a mischievous rôle for newspapers to play, however trivial and insignificant their writings. It is an easy rôle, we grant, By an unfortunate dispensation of Providence, slander and exaggeration come readily to the least gifted of mortals, and since slander and exaggeration possess piquancy of their own, their journalistic expression is usually good for a certain number of dollars and cents. But how wearisome and contemptible they grow after a time! The interest they excite at first is soon succeeded by ridicule and ultimately by disgust. At this juncture, for example, when an editor, heading his article "Under the Shadow of the Assassin's Sword," devotes two columns of dreary blundering English to prove that we are living under a reign of terror in Japan, and that security of person and property does not exist, what can his readers do but pity him as the victim of wild hallucinations, or despise him as a poor scribbler careless how much he disturbs or deceives the public mind provided only that he creates a demand for his unsaleable sheet? Any one having command of newspaper columns, who deliberately sets himself the task of writing down Japan and the Japanese, of representing them in the worst possible light, of persuading the public that the country is in an uncivilized condition and that its institutions are quite untrustworthy, can achieve a measure of success by pertinacity and unscrupulousness. But in the eyes of all sensible people he cuts a ridiculous and contemptible figure. Children may grow pale at the buzzing of a blue-bottle fly, and school girls tell each other terrible stories about bold bad men hid in cupboards, ruffians concealed under beds, or mad dogs lurking at corners, but one's sense of congruity is a little shocked when grey-bearded editors begin to prattle nightmares and whisper sensationalism like small urchins or short-dressed misses. There is nothing to disturb the even tenor of our way or the quiet security of our life in Japan unless we are silly enough to be deceived by doting alarmists, or unless the unceasing stream of malicious abuse and slander that flows through the columns of the local Thersites does ultimately rouse the active resentment of some hot-hearted Japanese. The public is utterly weary of all these appalling phantoms and unending men in buckram. If we cannot have sense and sobriety, let us at least have silence.

THE CABINET AND THE BUDGET.

The *Tokyo Shimpo* says—with how much truth we cannot tell—that the Cabinet is divided into three parties with respect to the question of reducing the Budget. The first party is that of Count Yamagata. It holds that a reduction of one and a half or two millions is the utmost possible, and that nothing above that can be seriously thought of. The second party consists of Count Goto, Viscount Aoki, Mr. Mutsu, and Mr. Yoshikawa. These four statesmen are in favour of making the utmost reductions that can possibly be effected, but they maintain that so far as concerns any reduction which cannot be put into effect without injuring the public interest, the Government must put its foot down firmly even in the face of both Houses. The third party is called the Satsuma Section. It consists of Counts Matsukata, Saigo, and Oyama and Viscount Kabayama. It holds that although a small reduction may be made, the Cabinet must resolutely decline to follow the Diet into any measure of economy involving several million *yen*. We do not clearly perceive the difference between this third view and that attributed to Count Yamagata, but the *Tokyo Shimpo* evidently thinks that there is a material

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difference. Our contemporary adds that the policy advocated by the Second Section has most strength, but that the last Section urges its views with the greatest earnestness. Considering that each section contains the same number of Ministers, we fail to appreciate this distinction also.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE HIGHER FEMALE SCHOOL.

THE Budget Committee's proposal to abolish these two institutions has elicited much adverse comment from persons interested in education. The *Koku-Hon* is one of the many journals opposed to the proposal. Speaking first of the School of Music, our contemporary dwells on the importance of music from an educational point of view, and observes that, musical education in this country being still in its infancy, it is absolutely necessary that there should be an institution specially devoted to the training of musical teachers and to the reform of the national music. There might of course arise sooner or later a private school of music to take the place of the present Government establishment, if the latter were abolished; but since a musical school cannot at present be expected to be a paying undertaking, the Tokyo journal is sure that no private school will for some years undertake the important task of reforming the national music. Our contemporary therefore fails to see any reason for abolishing the School of Music in order to save the paltry sum of about twelve thousand *yen* a year. As to the Higher Female School, the *Koku-Hon* alludes to the fact that female teachers are now in great demand in Japan. Under existing circumstances, female schools do not pay, as may be seen from the accounts of the various private institutions of that kind in the capital. Perhaps it may not be necessary to maintain a female seminary on a large scale, but the support of an institution like the present Higher Female School is, in the opinion of the *Koku-hon*, highly important at present. Various stories lately circulated about alleged immorality on the part of the students of some female schools may, the Tokyo journal goes on, have contributed in no small degree to the regrettable decision of the Budget Committee. But even granting that these stories had some foundation to rest upon, our contemporary sees no reason why that should necessitate the abolition of the Higher Female School, for the alleged evil can be easily corrected by improving the mode of management.

THE RE-BUILDING OF THE DIET.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* recounts the loss inflicted on the country by the burning of the Diet. The buildings forming the two Houses covered 1,500 *tsubo* (1¼ acres), and their annexes covered 347 *tsubo* (more than one-fourth of an acre). They were commenced in June, 1888, and finished in November, 1890, the cost of the buildings without the furniture being 237,000 *yen* approximately, and the total outlay amounting to something like 300,000 *yen*. They were only temporary buildings, but their loss will doubtless postpone the commencement of the permanent edifice which the Government has in contemplation. The *Jiji* adds that the work of re-construction has been entrusted to the Temporary Building Bureau, the Chief of which, Viscount Yamao, has been requested to get the buildings ready for the second session of the Diet, in November of this year. If the buildings took nearly two years and five months to complete originally, we do not see how they are to be reconstructed in ten months.

THE "CHOYA SHIMBUN" AND THE "SOSHI."

HERE is a bit of writing that does the *Choya Shimbun* much credit. If all the leading vernacular journals were equally courageous and outspoken, those wretched youths who are doing their best to disgrace Japan would soon receive short shrift:—"The 23rd year of Meiji was an exceedingly troubled time. Shortly before or after the organization of the *Rikken-Jiyu* party, so-called *soshi* began to assemble from all quarters in Tokyo, and with bared muscles and sticks in hand, set themselves to perform acts of violence in the political arena. This is the age when men eschew club government and advocate government by reason. It is strange that club folks should have made their appearance among parties avowedly labouring to bring about the reign of reason. Let us give a few instances of the doings of the *soshi*. On the 21st of last August, four or five *soshi* went to the residence of Mr. Inouye Kakugoro and behaved with great violence. On the 25th of the same month, at night, as Mr. Sugeno Michichika, an aged resident of Osaka, was passing out of the house of a friend, Mr. Koike Heiichiro, a number of *soshi* fell upon him, and give him a terrible beating, striking him on the back, on the stomach, and on the face, wherever they could get at him. On the 10th of September, several *soshi* proceeded to the *Yayoi-kan* and enquired for Mr. Kawashima. No sooner did the latter present himself than they fell on him and began to beat him, and when his brother came to succour the assaulted man, he too suffered severe injuries at their hands. Some two hundred members of the *Jiyu* party were present at the time, and witnessed the fracas, but not one of them made any attempt to assist Mr. Kawashima and his brother. Feeble curs truly! On the 13th of September, Mr. Kokubo Kihichi, a member of the *Jiyu* party, was cut down and severely wounded in one of the Kanda streets, by daylight. On the same day some thirty-five *soshi*, pretexting business, persuaded Mr. Kameno Shuichiro to accompany them, and when they get him into a lonely place at night, struck him down. Turning to the provinces, we find numerous examples of similar violence. On the 3rd of February, in Kochi Prefecture, in consequence of a dispute between the *Jiyu-ha* and the *Kokumin-ha*, some of the latter party cut down Mr. Sugiuchi of the former party, as he was passing along the road. On the 1st of the some month, a disturbance arose in Kumamoto Prefecture between the *Kaishin-to* and the *Kokumin-to*, in connection with the election of members of the Local Assembly, and one member of the *Kokumin-to* was killed and several wounded. The *soshi* of former times were actuated by motives of justice; the *soshi* of to-day obey the dictates of interest. The *soshi* of former times sacrificed their own lives for the sake of other people; the *soshi* of to-day sacrifice the lives of other people for their own benefit. The *soshi* of former times did not seek to escape the consequences of their deeds; the *soshi* of to-day, if they fall into the hands of the police, resort to all sorts of devices and excuses to clear themselves. The *soshi* of former times did not shrink from facing danger singly; the *soshi* of to-day, relying on the strength of number, attack the weak. The *soshi* of former times deemed it a disgrace to strike a man when he was off his guard; the *soshi* of to-day make it a habit to assault people unwares."

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This is the sort of writing every respectable journal should address to the cowardly pests who are doing everything in their power to establish a reign of terror in Japan and to earn for their country the disgrace of barbarism. The *soshi* have been treated too gently. Transportation to Yezo or some other out-of-the-way region, amid the jeers of the whole nation, is the fate that ought to befall these demented youths.

EXCITEMENT IN THE PREFECTURE OF GUMMA.

THE Prefecture of Gumma is at present in a state of great excitement. On the 17th ultimo, the local Assembly, then in session, voted, with not one dissentient voice, a motion calling upon the Governor, Mr. Sato, to resign his position. It appears that there had been for some time much complaint among the local population about the conduct of the Governor in connection first, with a convict prison at Mayebashi; secondly, with the sale of a Government forest at Kakiage mura; and thirdly with the measures adopted by him in the case of a certain corporation. The papers do not inform us as to the details of the charges brought against the Governor and we are consequently unable to form any idea whether or no the Local Assembly is justified in taking the extraordinary step above alluded to. The unanimity of the vote certainly indicates widespread dissatisfaction throughout the locality. On the following day, the 10th, a committee, consisting of ten members of the *Ken-kwai*, waited upon the Governor at his private residence, where he seems to have been confined by sickness. The committee explained the object of their visit, and advised him, in the name of the whole Assembly, to resign his office in compliance with the wish of the population of the prefecture. The Governor thanked the committee for their advice, but declined to entertain it, saying that he held his office in trust from the Sovereign. The same night the Assembly received an order from the Governor suspending its session. The suspension was removed on the 24th, and things went on very quietly for the first few days, but on the 29th Mr. Hosono Jiro, who is reputed to be one of the most eloquent members, again brought in the question of resignation and proceeded to make a violent attack on the Governor. Thereupon a Secretary of the Prefecture ordered the suspension of the session according to Art. 33 of the Local Assemblies Regulations. The members dispersed and went home to their villages, promising to confer about further steps to be taken after finishing the New Year's festivities. But on New Year's day they received notice from the Governor that the Local Assembly had been dissolved by order of the Minister of Home Affairs. The issue of this notice at once threw the inhabitants into a state of violent excitement. They held meetings at several places, and decided amid loud acclamations to return the same members at the time of re-election. They appointed delegates to present a memorial to the Governor, recommending him to take the advice given him by the former members of the Assembly. Some of the members, Messrs. Hosono, Miyaguchi, and Nomura, repaired to the capital and waited upon the Ministers of State to explain the reasons why they thought it necessary that Mr. Sato should resign. The new Assembly is to be summoned within 60 days from the date of the dissolution of the former Assembly, so the re-election will take place some time within next month. Meanwhile the people of Gumma, it is reported, are determined not to yield a step.

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Writing on this subject, the *Keisai Zasshi* finds itself perplexed to reconcile the charges brought against Governor Sato with his known reputation for integrity and honesty. Mr. Sato was born of wealthy and highly esteemed parents in the former clan of Choshu, and he distinguished himself very much at the time of the Restoration in conjunction with his fellow clansmen, Counts Ito, Inouye, and Yamagata. He is, we quote from the Tokyo periodical, of a genial and quiet disposition, and having inherited a considerable fortune, is known to be free from any vices of a sordid nature. Such being the case, it is hard to believe that the present accusations against him are well founded, but at the same time our contemporary cannot but think that the local Assembly had some good reasons for its extraordinary conduct.

BALL AT THE FRENCH LEGATION.

HIS Excellency the French Minister and Madame Sienkiewicz gave a most enjoyable ball at the French Legation on Tuesday night. Among the numerous company which assembled in response to the invitation were Prince and Miss Sano, Marquis Nabeshima, Viscount and Viscountess Aoki, Viscount and Miss Kagawa and Miss Kitajima, T.E. the Russian Minister and Madame Schévitch Dr. von Holleben, Baron Biegeleben, and Mr. and Mrs. Swift, Mr. and Mrs. Sannomiya, Prince and Princess Labanow, Mr. van de Polder, Mr., Mrs., and Miss F. Hannen, Mr. von Waldthausen, Mr. Sichéglow, Mr. Clarke-Thornhill and Mr. Gubbins, Baron von Siebold, Mr. Dun, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, the officers of the *Vipère*, General and Miss Palmer, the Ven. Archdeacon and

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Mrs. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Piggott, Dr., Mrs. and the Misses Divers, Monsieur and Madame Revilliod, Lieut. James, R.N., and Mrs. James, Mrs. Pownall, Captain and Miss Münter, Mr. Nagasaki, etc. The feature of the entertainment was the cotillon which, under the leadership of Mr. Stchéglow, was kept up with great spirit until 3 o'clock in the morning. At one end of the ball-room was erected a daintily arranged stall, from which numerous and exceedingly pretty presents were distributed amongst those fortunate enough to be present at one of the most successful balls ever given in the capital.

THE BURNING OF THE DIET BUILDINGS.

Upon further inquiry it appears that the electricity for lighting the buildings of the Diet was not generated by a special dynamo within the enclosure of the Houses of Parliament, but was supplied by the Tokyo Electric Light Company. The original plan of the buildings had included a special dynamo, but at the last moment a change was made, and the Tokyo Company received orders to effect the lighting. Such being the case, the Company is of course greatly perturbed by the official decision that the conflagration on the 20th instant had its origin in the electric apparatus, and a remonstrance is said to have been addressed by the directors to Mr. Sone, Chief Secretary of the Lower House, whose evidence went far to confirm to belief in the electric origin of the fire. The protest, as re-produced by the *Jiyu Shimbun*, objects *in toto* to the official decision, and advances two reasons in support of the objection. The first is that branch wires to the Russian Legation and the residence of Mr. Kuki, connect with the principal wire conducting electricity to the Diet, and that as the connections are between the dynamo and the Diet, the latter could not have been set on fire until the effects of over-heating had been previously felt at the Legation and at Mr. Kuki's. The second reason is that devices had been provided for automatically cutting the wire in case of excessive heat. The directors therefore call for a fuller investigation and take strong exception to official decision as calculated to inflict grave injury on their business. The *Tokyo Shimpo* also contains an account of an interview with Mr. Fujioka, an electrical engineer, who refuses to believe that the fire had its origin in the electric apparatus, basing his scepticism on the fact that automatic guards were attached to the wires in several places. All this, however, leaves the question in about as great obscurity as ever. The argument about the wires leading to the Russian Legation and Mr. Kuki's house is difficult to comprehend, except in so far as it establishes that no excessive current of electricity was sent along the main wire from the dynamo. Nobody attributes the catastrophe to the latter cause, however. The idea is that some accident or accidents happened to the wires within the Diet. The danger in using electric lighting apparatus is that a small fracture of the wire, or some other cause, may set up resistance to the even flow of the current, and the electric fluid, accumulating rapidly at the point of resistance, develops immense heat. This peril ceases, of course, so soon as the fracture is made wide enough to interrupt the passage of the current altogether, and the latter principle is taken advantage of in the construction of automatic guards, which, by the melting of a leaden button, sever the wire effectually. It is claimed that an abundance of such guards had been provided in the Houses of Parliament, and that even though one of them had failed to perform its function, the others must have averted danger. But this theory is evidently based on the hypothesis that the fittings and fixing of the apparatus were good in themselves and also secure against accident from extraneous causes. The Parliament buildings were hastily constructed and of somewhat flimsy character. Rough carpentry at the time of construction or changes of level afterwards may have produced one or more weak spots in the wires. Entirely independent witnesses speak of abnormal appearances in the electric lights round the circuit of the Diet on nights preceding the catastrophe, and it is proved that within the Diet itself the light behaved very fitfully in the evening of the 19th instant. As to the safety guards being absolutely efficient guarantees, that they certainly are not. A case conclusive of their inefficiency occurred last summer in the billiard-room of the Rokumeikan. Flame suddenly made its appearance at a spot where repairs had been effected the preceding day, and but for the prompt action of one of the members, a conflagration would probably have ensued. The automatic guards might have been quoted in that event with equal confidence after the destruction of the building, but the fact remains that they did not avert the generation of heat which, without speedy interference, might have proved fatal.

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The answer of Mr. Sone, Chief Secretary, to the letter of the directors of the Electric Lighting Company, was sent in yesterday afternoon. Mr. Sone regrets that he cannot act upon the suggestion of the Company and move for a fresh investigation into the cause of the fire. He repeats the statements previously made by him, and says that there cannot be the slightest doubt about the conflagration having broken out under the ceiling of the corridor outside one of the Committee Rooms, at the place where the electric wire passed, or about a second flame having made its appearance quickly afterwards in the corner of the Government Delegates' Room just below the ceiling. He adds another point which we had not previously noticed. Being convinced, he says, of the electrical origin of the fire, he hastened off to the House of Peers and gave orders to have the electric light turned off, as it appeared to be burning in certain rooms there. The servants replied that the light was never turned on in the rooms referred to, and that the keys were not at hand. Mr. Sone directed a door to be broken in, when it was found that all the lights were burning brilliantly though the connection was not supposed to have been established. Thus everything goes to show that the apparatus was out of order on the night of the conflagration.

PROVINCIAL CHARACTER.

The *Nippon-jin* of the 13th instant contains an interesting article about the influence of the character of the founders of the various clans on the character of the present generation of their clansmen. Having remarked generally on the strong tendency manifested by a community of men closely united to assimilate themselves more and more to the personal character of the leading spirits among them, the writer proceeds to illustrate this point by referring to the case of about half a dozen of the more important of the former clans. The clan of Satsuma, or Sasshu, as it is more commonly called, receives his attention before all the others. The genealogy of the Sasshu House is traced to Yoritomo, and the well known pride, stubbornness, uncompromising straightforwardness, and unflinching loyalty which characterised all the members of the great ancient family of Minamoto, do to this day constitute special traits of the Sasshu men. Again, just as in olden times men like Hōjō Tokimasa and Wada Yoshimori caused a serious quarrel in the household of Yoritomo, so among the present generation of the Sasshu clan there are persons open to a similar charge. In a later age, when the short-lived but splendid House of Hideyoshi was tottering to its fall under the hand of Iyeyasu, the head of the great southern clan behaved in a manner well illustrating another remarkable trait of the Sasshu race. At the battle of Sekigahara, the clan fought valiantly on the side of Hideyoshi's son, Hideyori, but subsequently at the siege of Osaka, the leader of the same clan, thinking that what he owed to Hideyoshi had been fully repaid by the sacrifices already made in Hideyori's cause, and that he was now free to take whatever side he pleased, concluded to cast in his lot with the rising House of Tokugawa. The writer thinks that the Sasshu chief thus showed, in a crude and superficial manner, the same sense of obligation manifested by the present generation of his clansmen. Though Sasshu formally forsook the cause of Hideyori, it was magnanimous and human enough to give safe shelter to the refugees from the Osaka Castle. Next, as to Choshu, its founder was the immortal statesman, Oye Hiromoto, who, as adviser to Yoritomo, established a system of Government which essentially continued in force seven centuries, until the Restoration of 1867. Choshu men of the present day, like the great founder of their clan, are more noted for policy and cleverness than for straightforwardness. Count Yamagata resembles Mori Motonari in valour, while the political sagacity of Count Ito has some affinity with that of Oye Hiromoto. Tosa men are a curious compound of boldness and faint-heartedness. The former trait they inherit from the House of Chosokabe, and the latter from that of Yamanouchi, for the clan was successively ruled by these different families. The present Count Goto at first opposed the Imperialistic movement, but afterwards did not scruple to abandon the cause of Tokugawa and join his former antagonists, thus exciting the contempt of the late Saigo. Even Count Itagaki, with all his proverbial purity of motive, is, in the opinion of the *Nippon-jin*, not free from a certain kind of baseness. In short, Tosa men are apparently brave, but they lack backbone. The men of Hiogo inherit the simplicity and valour of Kato Kiyomasa, and also the unscrupulous inconstancy of Hosokawa Tadaoki. The men of Chikuzen, as exemplified by Mr. Kaneko Kentaro and Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, are prone to indulge in big talk, true to the example set by the founder of their clan, Kuroda Yukitaka, who once boasted that he could easily conquer the country if he liked, but that he did not like. The clan of Saga owes its origin to a band of Chinese pirates during the *Yuan* dynasty, and the valour and enterprise of these worthy ancestors are found in the present generation. But the Saga men are narrow-minded, time-serving, and incapable of elaborating any large scheme. Sendai can boast of no less an ancestor than Date Masamune who seriously contemplated a career of foreign conquest. Like him, Sendai men have always been schemers, and have never shown competence to carry out their schemes. The writer refers to other localities, but we have quoted enough to give our readers the gist of his essay.

THE STORAGE OF KEROSENE IN HYOGO.

We published in a recent issue a note from the *Shogyo Shimpo* with reference to the storage of kerosene oil in Hyogo, and placed side by side with it a version of the same affair given in the columns of the *Hyogo News*. Briefly summarized, the Japanese journal's story was that regulations issued by the Local Authorities to control the storage of Kerosene in the interests of public security, had been obeyed by the Japanese but demurred to by foreigners, the consequence being that the date of the regulations' operation was postponed, a result to which the *Shogyo Shimpo* took strong exception. The foreign journal's story was that the regulations had been issued in the interests of a godown company at Wadasaki, the intention being to compel holders of kerosene to place their oil in the company's keeping, despite the greater expense entailed and despite difficulties in respect of insurance. On inquiry we find the facts of the case to be these:—For several years the storage of kerosene oil in Hyogo was not controlled in any way. A year ago, however, regulations were issued by the Prefectural Office, directing that warehouses containing kerosene must be isolated from other buildings by an interval of forty yards on all sides, and surrounded by a fence and ditch of fixed dimensions. Immediately after the issue of these regulations a company was formed for the construction of warehouses complying with the conditions of the new law, and the result was that several suitable godowns were built at Wada-saki. Three foreign firms were then using godowns at Onohama for storing oil, having hired them on leases, two of which had still some years to run, while one was on

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the verge of expiration. The lessees in the two former cases seem to have given themselves no concern about the new regulations or to have remained in ignorance of them; the lessee in the latter case renewed his lease until the close of the year, when the regulations were to come into force, and then, in the autumn, forwarded a protest through diplomatic channels against the necessity of changing the method of storage hitherto pursued. The result of the protest and of the plea advanced by the other two foreign firms (that they had received no notice and were consequently quite unprepared to forfeit leases having still a long period to run) was a postponement of the date of operation of the regulations, so far as concerned the protesters, until the 1st of next April. Meanwhile steps were taken by the Central Government to investigate the matter, and these inquiries we believe, established the facts that the old system of storing oil decidedly imperils public security, and that measures must be adopted to substitute methods similar to those recognised as essential and observed elsewhere. The incredible accusation that the Local Authorities acted in the interests of a private company throughout, scarcely deserves consideration, but is at any rate disposed of by the fact that the use of the company's godowns is entirely optional: nobody need send his kerosene there unless he pleases. It is is also stated that no transport difficulties are involved, as has been asserted, in using warehouses that compiy with the regulations; that although the cost of storage will be increased from 2.5 to 3 *rin* per case, it will still remain less than one half of the cost in Yokohama; and that insurance can be effected at Wadasaki just as easily as at Onohama. It appears to us that this is a matter in which the foreign firms ought to be found co-operating with instead of opposing the Authorities, if indeed they have really adopted an attitude of opposition. The Government is bound to see that the new regulations are carried out with a minimum of inconvenience to trade, but public security takes precedence of every other consideration, and if the present method of storing kerosene oil is pronounced unsafe, there can be no question about the duty and expediency of reforming it.

DISTURBANCE AT A MISSIONARY MEETING.

THERE occurred a few days ago in Nagoya an affair indicating that the work of Christian propagandism in Japan is not without its perils. The Rev. G. L. Perin, being on a visit to that city, availed himself of the opportunity to organise a lecture meeting. The place chosen for the purpose was one of the theatres, and the arrangements were all made by a Japanese citizen of Nagoya, who subsequently delivered the opening address. The meeting commenced at about 6 p.m., and after the opening address, Mr. Yoshimura, a coadjutor of Mr. Perin's, was introduced, the audience, which numbered at first about 50, having meanwhile increased to about 500. Mr. Yoshimura's address occupied about 30 minutes. It was closely listened to but rather sullenly received. The Rev. Mr. Perin was then introduced, and had spoken for some two minutes in a general and conciliatory tone, when murmurs began to be audible, then talking which gradually increased, and then challenges to engage in discussion. The speaker paused for a time, and order having been apparently restored, resumed, only to be again interrupted by louder clamour and more peremptory demands that he should stop his address and answer questions. It was replied that anyone desiring to ask questions would be received at the lecturers' hotel the next morning, whereupon three or four youths rushed down the aisles, shouting loudly and gesticulating. With insulting language they demanded the privilege of asking questions, and finally, after an uproar of ten minutes, Mr. Perin agreed that if they would preserve quiet until he had finished, they might ask questions at the close of the meeting. To this they assented, and the lecture was resumed. But before three minutes had elapsed the ring leaders—who are strongly suspected to have been acting at the suggestion of Buddhist priests—came rushing towards the platform declaring that the speakers remarks were quite needless. Seeing that they had come predetermined to break up the meeting, and since they had instantly violated their recent promise to keep quiet, Mr. Perin took his hat and left the platform. Three or four policemen were present, evidently with kindly intentions to protect the lecturers, but making no effort whatever to prevent the mob from rushing upon the platform or even from following Messrs. Perin and Yoshimura into a small room in the rear of the stage, where for the next half hour they were pushed hither and thither, insulted, their lives threatened, and their egress prevented. After the mob had stormed for half an hour, preferring all sorts of unreasonable demands, but especially that the lecturers must resume the meeting, the latter course was agreed to, though it was pretty plain that the rioters only desired further opportunity to insult and humiliate the speakers. Before a word of the resumed address had been heard, loud hooting was again raised and some thirty of the youths, headed by about three leaders rushed upon the stage, surrounded the lecturers, forced them heavily against the raised platform, twice struck the interpreter and tore his clothes. Fortunately Mr. Perin seems to have kept perfectly cool, and was not actually assaulted. The policemen, including one or two inspectors who had by this time arrived, when the most furious rush occurred threw their arms about the lecturers to protect them. Though they mildly expostulated with the crowd at times, they did not once drive the rioters back, or attempt to eject or suppress the three leaders, whose prompt suppression would probably have prevented the riot in the beginning or restored order at any time. It was now half-past eight, and every avenue of escape was barred. The crowd still demanded that the lecture be continued, and threatened violence if their demand was not complied with. By and by, the stage having been partially cleared, the police formed a line, and advised the lecturers to retire. They accepted the hint, and under the guidance of the manager of the theatre, made their way to a little room behind the scenes. Here they remained perhaps an hour. The crowd finally dispersed from the theatre, but reassembled in front of the visitors' hotel. The police deemed that it would be dangerous for the party to go back to the same hotel. *Jinrikisha* were therefore secured, and under police escort the lecturers were taken to another inn at a distance, where they were received about 11 o'clock and remained for the night.

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Doubtless the true construction put upon this affair is that it was an anti-Christian demonstration, organized by Buddhist priests, who in Nagoya are represented by a man of exceptional determination and activity. The lecturers gave no provocation of any kind. Happily the results were not serious, nor have we any warrent for supposing that the purpose of the rioters went beyond intimidation. But it certainly does seem as though the police behaved with much weakness. Due notice had been given of the meeting, which was of course held in the name and under the auspices of Japanese promoters, and the police were there for the purpose of keeping order, which they signally failed to do. It is possible, indeed, that the action of the constables was, to some extent, paralysed by the consideration that foreigners are not entitled to deliver lectures outside Treaty limits, and that the provisions of the Japanese law for preventing disorder at public meetings and extending protection to lecturers as such, do not at present apply to foreigners. Any license now enjoyed by missionaries in respect of propagandism by public addresses or lectures in the interior is a matter of courtesy. But though this consideration might influence the police to prevent the delivery of lectures by a foreigner, it ought out to weigh with them after a lecture has been suffered to commence in their presence. The violent proceedings of the Nagoya rioters were distinctly illegal, and it is very probable that a slight display of vigour on the part of the police might have checked the disturbance. At all events, the occurrence indicates that the Buddhist opponents of Christainity are beginning to tremble in their stronghold, and losing faith in their ability to conquer by appeals to reason, are driven to resort to physical violence.

THE IMPERIAL PALACE AND THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

IT may well be supposed that people whose residences are supplied with electric lights have been made uneasy by the fate of the Houses of Parliament, and that the loss to the Electric Light Company is likely to be most serious. The question of the Imperial Palace was of course raised at once. The Emperor is understood to have been reluctant from the outset to sanction the employment of such a system of lighting, deeming it unsuited to a wooden building. The destruction of the Diet has naturally confirmed His Majesty's objections, and an additional cause of apprehension was furnished on the 21st instant, when a portion of the electric wire in the Palace of the Prince Imperial became incandescent, and for a moment threatened danger. It is stated in well informed circles that the Emperor has consequently decided not to suffer the electric lights to be used any longer in the Palace. The electroliers and fittings will probably be left undisturbed for a time, and as no adequate supply of gas is now procurable in the capital, the lighting will doubtless be effected by means of candles. Should this decision be carried out, the use of electricity for lighting purposes must receive a serious check in Japan, for the example set by the Palace will have a powerful influence upon all classes of the people.

THE "TOKYO MARU."

WE are happy to learn that hopes of floating the *Tokyo Maru* have not been abandoned, as was rumoured two days ago. The rumour had its origin in the fact that the men-of-war supposed to have left Yokosuka with the object of trying to tow the ship off, returned to port without making any attempt. The fact is, however, that though the Government had offered the services of men-of-war for this purpose, the Company has not yet availed itself of the offer, the present programme being to employ a powerful dredger to open a channel for floating the stranded ship. Vessels of war did proceed from Yokosuka to the vicinity of the place where the *Tokyo Maru* lies, and did return to port without essaying to move her, but they were there for naval purposes and not with the intention ascribed to them by rumour. The *Tokyo Maru* remains comparatively sound, and it is confidently hoped that should the weather continue favourable, with a prevalence of east winds, for a few days longer, the arrangements for floating her will be completed.

TELEGRAMS.

HERE is another text for the *Japan Gazette*:—

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS PUBLISHED IN *Japan Daily Mail*.—Jan. 15th. It is believed that under any circumstances President Harrison would veto a free coinage of silver bill if passed. The silver party is lobbying to obtain votes in the House in favour of the bill.

THE SAME TELEGRAM RE-TRANSLATED FROM THE *Official Gazette* AND PUBLISHED BY THE *Japan Gazette*.—Jan. 19th. It is reported that President Harrison under no circumstances will give his consent to the passing of a Bill for the free coinage of silver. The silver-bill party are doing their best to obtain a majority in the House.

We invite the *Japan Gazette* to explain by what provision of the American Constitution the President's consent to the *passing* of a Bill by Congress is required; and also whether the "Knowledge and memory" of its readers can fairly be expected to supply the statement about "lobbying."

MR. INOUYE KAKUGORO AND KOREA.

IT will be seen from the report of the proceedings in the House of Representatives on Saturday, that the Foreign Office has declined to answer the series of questions put by Mr. Inouye Kakugoro and other members about Japan's relations with Korea in the past. It has always been a matter of interesting speculation how far the Government would consent to allow the Diet to carry its investigations into past history. Already Ministers and Vice-Minister of State

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have without demur or hesitation answered queries relating to the Budget of last year, or of the year before, and there is now before the Lower House an inquiry which will furnish a conclusive test, since it asks the Finance Department to make a statement of the settled accounts from the 1st to the 23rd year of Meiji. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro wanted to hear about things that occurred six or seven years ago, and on that ground we were disposed to imagine that he might encounter a rebuff. Not so, however. The refusal to answer is based on the form of his question; and, indeed, on reading the original inquiry we are not surprised at the fate it has met. Mr. Inouye and his supporters thought it necessary to append to their list of questions a statement that according to the answers given by the Foreign Office, the nation would decide whether the Government deserved or did not deserve public confidence. Naturally the Government declines to be cited to the bar of inquiry with such a threat brandished over its head, or by answering questions couched in such language to admit tacitly that any section of the House of Representatives can arrogate to itself the right of applying a test of the Cabinet's claim to national confidence. Mr. Inouye's queries were sufficiently interesting to make us regret their abortive ending, but this is by no means the first occasion on which the ex-member of the *Jiyu-to* has spoiled a shrewd conception by lack of moderation.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

THE Government, after much deliberation and inquiry, has determined, it is said, to make use of a portion of the Imperial Hotel as a temporary meeting place for the House of Peers. The ball-room will serve for the assembly hall, and the rooms on either side, together with other chambers in convenient places, will be taken for the purposes of Committees, the President, Secretaries, and so forth. This decision was arrived at yesterday, and it is expected that the necessary changes and preparations will occupy about a week, so that the House will be able to resume its session about the 28th or 29th instant. Presumably the Examination Hall of the former Engineering College will be put in readiness for the House of Representatives, but there cannot fail to be much inconvenience from having the two Houses separated by a distance of nearly a mile.

DYSENTERY IN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE.

OFFICIAL returns have been received showing that the epidemic of dysentery which made its appearance in Fukuoka Prefecture last summer, assumed much larger dimensions than was generally supposed. The number of persons attacked by the disease from the commencement of the trouble until the 10th instant was 25,349, of whom 472 died. There were still 237 sufferers at the date (10th instant) of the compilation of the report. The death rate was consequently very low, but the number of sufferers very large.

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It appears that, despite the cold weather, cholera still lingers in Kumamoto. Between the 1st and the 10th instant 3 cases were reported from villages in that district.

THE ELECTIC LIGHT COMPANY.

IT is stated, with what truth we do not know, that when the Authorities decided to entrust the lighting of the Diet buildings to the Electric Light Company, the latter was required to undertake that it would be responsible for any loss caused by fire resulting from the use of the electric lights. The *Choya Shimbun*, which publishes this statement, says that it does not know exactly what office entered into the agreement with the company, but that the Government is now discussing whether legal proceedings shall be taken against the company in the event of its refusing to admit the fact that the electric lighting apparatus was the cause of the conflagration. The sum involved is a quarter of a million *yen*, so we may take it for granted that the Company will not be disposed to yield without evidence of a very conclusive character.

ANOTHER NEWSPAPER.

A NEW journal called the *Mimpo* (The People) has just made its appearance. Its editor is Mr. Inugai, a prominent member of the *Kaishin-to*, and formerly one of the editors of the *Choya Shimbun*. In introducing the newspaper to the public, he says:—"Many politicians and many journalists now share our party's purposes. Many others have different programmes. Politicians that take the Government's side are our public enemies. Under peaceful exteriors they conceal the conduct of evil persons, and are criminals against morality. There is reason to fear that society may be diverted from the true path by the organs of such persons. For these reasons this new journal is published. The public is well acquainted with our sentiments and policy. They were fully explained and exhibited in the columns of the former *Choya Shimbun*. We pray all public-spirited men who share our views to assist us in the patriotic work we have in hand." If this brief manifesto does not convey to our readers a clear idea of the *Mimpo's* creed, they have only to refer to Mr. Inugai's speeches in the House of Representatives, as epitomized in our reports of the Diet's debates. They will see the editor there in his true colours, a conscientious and straightforward man completely carried away by the strength of his dislike for an oligarchical Government, of whomsoever formed or whatsoever its administrative record. It was Mr. Inugai who told the House, in the debate on the Budget Committee's Report, that he had yet to discover how the curtailment of official luxury would impair administrative efficiency, and who, in melodramatic style, called the attention of the members to the splendid edifices gracing the choicest sites on the highlands of Tokyo, the residences of Ministers of State. We read everything written by Mr. Inugai with attentive respect, but we remember at the same time that the spectacles through which he views Governmental doings have a very high refractive index.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS AND THE IMPERIAL HOTEL.

GREAT activity is shown in preparing the Imperial Hotel for the temporary use of the House of Peers. At present the business of the House is conducted in the Rokumei-kan, where some rooms have been placed at the disposal of the officials of the House by the Nobles' Club. The Hotel and the Rokumei-kan being almost within a stone's throw of each other, this arrangement is very convenient. According to present expectations, the Hotel will be ready for the session of the Peers by the 26th or 27th instant. Count Ito, the President, who is now at his villa at Kamakura, is to return to the capital on the 25th. It is stated that the Government is to pay five thousand *yen* per month for the use of suite of rooms occupied by the Diet, and that the agreement will run until March 31st. The price seems reasonable, for it is plain that a large part of the Hotel will have to be given up for the purpose.

THE ARCHITECT OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

IT seems advisable to correct a misapprehension published in the columns of the *Japan Gazette*. Our contemporary says:—"The German Architect who superintended the erection of the Houses of Parliament, was so dissatisfied with the amount of liberty and money allowed him that, as is known to a few of his friends, he threw up his appointment and went home in disgust." This statement is incorrect. The German Architect who planned and superintended the construction of the Houses would doubtless have been better pleased had he been enabled to deal with buildings of more artistic and imposing character. But being required to plan a temporary structure, fulfilling certain conditions as to capacity and involving a minimum of outlay, he made no attempt to produce an externally attractive or handsome edifice, but wisely devoted every available *yen* to interior arrangements. He succeeded excellently. The buildings were exactly what the Government wanted. They cost a comparatively small sum, and they answered all the required purposes admirably. The return of their architect to Europe was not in any way due to discontent connected with the building operations. His part was performed to the end without any special hitch. He left Japan simply because the work offered to him after the completion of the Diet did not appear of a desirable character, and being unwilling to remain for the remaining period of his agreement without employment, he arranged to return home at once, to the great regret of a wide circle of friends who appreciated his ability and admired his manly character. It is true that the hypothesis circulated by the *Japan Gazette* was currently believed for a time in Tokyo, but subsequent inquiry showed the facts to be as we have stated them here.

THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS FRIENDS.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* devoted a leader the other day to the consideration of the question: who are the friends of the Government? Our contemporary finds that—owing chiefly to the haughty conduct of officials towards the people generally, and the existence of the feeling that those blessed with Government office are so much better than those who are not—the Administration can count very few friends. Politicians, who are in general a self-seeking, vain-glorious lot, are even eager to avail themselves of the opportunities which they find disclosed to them by the unpopularity of the Cabinet. Some say that this state of things has arisen in consequence of the Government's reticence on subjects regarding which it should enlighten the nation; but the *Jiji* does not believe that any good would be done in this direction even if the Government were more frank. Others hold that as the Diet has now been constituted, a Cabinet charged with the administration of public affairs in accordance with public opinion, and responsible for its actions, should have been appointed. But the *Jiji* thinks that though undoubtedly there will come a time when political parties shall have become so far developed that there may be Government by party, it is idle to expect that at present anything of the kind can take place. Speaking generally of the feelings of disdain and contempt with which the people are regarded by the official classes—which feelings are regarded as relics of the feudal time—our contemporaray says that until a different mood is introduced, any form of Constitutional Government must be impracticable. The Cabinet therefore is enjoined to strive for the cultivation among its adherents of an attitude towards the people generally of equality, without which there can be little sympathy between the rulers and the ruled.

DEATH OF THE KING OF HAWAII.

TELEGRAPHIC news was received yesterday in Tokyo of the death of King Kalakaua of Hawaii. The King had gone to San Francisco to recruit his health, and his decease took place there. He was in the 55th year of his age and the 17th of his reign. His successor on the Throne is his second sister, the Princess Liliokalani, who was acting as Regent during the King's absence. The new Queen is 53 years old and is married to Mr. J. O. Dominis, an American citizen. We shall not be at all surprised to learn that the result of this change of rulers is an appeal from Hawaii to be included in the territory of the United States.

SILK.

QUITE a boom occurred in the local silk market on the 21st and 22nd, owing to the sudden commencement of large purchases by one of the leading foreign firms. Two thousand Japanese bales are said to have been moved at once, and the ball being thus effectually set rolling, a busy time ensued. Prices appear to have gradually dropped in the presence of stagnation until a margin of profit offers to exporters, and

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not a moment has been lost in taking advantage of the improved situation. Of course if Japanese holders are foolish enough to be betrayed by this change into a return to their former totally impracticable attitude, the deadlock will soon be re-established, but we should hope that bitter experience guarantees them against anything so suicidal. The number of Japanese bales in stock in Yokohama on the 22nd instant, was said to be 24,964.

THE "NIPPON."

THE *Nippon* has gained its case against the Authorities. Last September it was punished for publishing an article said to be calculated to bring officials into ridicule. It availed itself of the right granted by the law and carried the case into the Tokyo Local Court, where it obtained a judgment reversing the sentence. Against this verdict the Public Procurator appealed, but the Appeal Court on Monday confirmed the decision of the lower court, so the *Nippon* has the pleasure of laughing in its sleeve at its official prosecutors.

THE DIET'S ARCHIVES.

IT is stated by the Tokyo press that all the archives of the House of Piers were saved, but that, in the case of the House of Representatives where the fire broke out, it was not possible to gain access to some of the rooms. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Sone, appears to have behaved with the greatest presence of mind and resolution. By his exertions chiefly the work of salvage was comparatively successful. Seventenths of the Lower House's archives are said to have been rescued, and as the portion lost was, without exception, lying in the Chambers of the Sections, it did not include any papers of importance.

FAREWELL DINNER TO MR. AND MRS. PIGGOTT.

ON Sunday evening the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Viscountess Aoki gave a farewell dinner to Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Piggott who are leaving Japan in a few days for England. Among the guests were Count Matsukata, Minister of State for Finance, Marquis Nabeshima, Lord High Chamberlain, and a number of other notables. The following evening a ball was given by the Tokyo Dancing Society at the Rokumeikan, also in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Piggott.

A VENDER OF JOURNALS.

"THE Imperial Diet burned to the ground by *soshi*. A full true and particular account, all for two *sen*." Such was the cry of a little troop of newspaper venders Tuesday morning. They were calmly confident of their facts, and they chose the vicinity of the smouldering remains of the Parliament Houses as the first scene of their peripatetic trade, tramping along the muddy streets, and vociferating their *soshi* story into the very ears of the numerous constables stationed to guard the ruins.

DR. MEACHAM will preach to-morrow morning in the Union Church on "Penticost."

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The burning down of the Parliament buildings, the threatened disruption of the Constitutional Liberal party, and the various outstanding questions bearing on the Budget, have been the principal topics of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the present week. As to the cause of the disastrous fire, various rumours are circulated, the latest being to the effect that it originated somewhere about the culinary department, but, in spite of the strong protest of the Electric Light Company, the general belief is that some imperfection in the electric light apparatus was the cause of the whole affair. The Peers have temporarily assembled at the *Rokumeikwan* and the Representatives at the Examination Hall of the former Engineering College. It has been arranged to fit up the former buildings of the said College for temporary occupation by the House of Representatives, and to use the Imperial Hotel for the Peers. All the preparations will be complete within a few days. Meanwhile, the Tokyo papers recommend a speedy resumption of the business of the House, and several of them make a further recommendation that steps be at once taken for the voting of the funds necessary for the erection of permanent buildings for the accomodation of the Diet. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Kokwai*, and the *Tokyo Shimpo* are the principal journals recommending the last mentioned course. The *Mainichi* complains that the Government, while spending millions of *yen* for the construction of the Departmental buildings and official residences, had not provided for the Diet a better kind of building than that just levelled to the ground. The temporary structures were, in the opinion of the Tokyo paper, inconvenient in several respects. The seats provided for the members were excessively small; there was not space enough in the Strangers' Gallery; corridors in certain parts of the buildings were inconveniently narrow, and there were rooms which were evidently not necessary. These and similar defects ought to be avoided in the permanent buildings, whose erection our contemporary urges on the Government and the Diet.

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The threatened disruption of the Constitutional Liberal party has been averted for the present at least by a reconciliation between Count Itagaki's section and the rest of the party. This question for a time absorbed the attention of the political world in the capital; for apart from the vital consequences which such disruption would entail on the future prospects of the great party, the event was fraught with serious bearings on the general political situation and especially on the present burning question about the Budget. The primary causes of the conflict between Count Itagaki's followers and the other members of the party we are not in a position to state with certainty, but the immediate cause of the explosion was a leading article in *Jiju Shimbun*, Count Itagaki's organ, of the 18th instant. We stated in a former issue that the article advocated a military occupation of Korea, but that information has proved to be incorrect, the really offending article being another one—two leaders appearing on that day—in which the writer recommended the Constitutional Liberals to devise such plans of reductian in the Budget as might bring into harmony the two sections of the party at present contending under different banners. The writer, Mr. Kurihara, observed that his party was in a grave crisis, and that, if its representatives in the Diet were to go on contending against each other, the party was plainly doomed to ignominous destruction. He, therefore, advised the members to reflect on the serious aspect of things at the present juncture and to reconsider their programme about the Budget, so that a middle plan might be devised which might reunite the "extremists" and the "moderates" of the party. He also hinted that the resolution which his party had taken to support the report of the Budget Committee, had been passed at a meeting attended by a comparatively small number of the members of the party. The whole tone of the article was a little in favour of the "moderates." Perhaps it was this circumstance that gave serious offence to the majority of the members of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. A number of the principal members at once held a meeting, at which a resolution was speedily passed repudiating the sentiments expressed by the article in the *Jiyu Shimbun* and also appointing a committee who were to go to that paper and demand the withdrawal of the obnoxious article. On hearing of this proceeding, Count Itagaki at once sent in a notice to the administrative officers of the party informing them of his intention to sever his connection with them. Mr. Kurihara, the writer of the article in question, Mr. Eguchi, Mr. Ueki and other followers of the Count, followed his example. This unexpected move on the part of the Count seems to have sobered many who had in a moment of excitement voted for a censure of the *Jiyu Shimbun*'s obnoxious article. The motion to revoke the resolution embodying that censure indeed failed to obtain a majority at the next day's (19th) meeting, but it was finally carried by the unanimous votes of the members attending the meeting of the 21st instant. It appears that a reconciliation had been effected on the preceding night, Count Itagaki being waited upon by Messrs. Kono Hironaka, Hoshi Toru, Suzuki Shoji, Utsunomiya Hei-ichi, and Arai Shogo. It is stated that Count Itagaki is not at all satisfied with the manner in which the members of the Constitutional Liberal party have behaved themselves of late, and that he intends to address a frank admonition to them at a meeting which he desired the above named gentlemen to arrange in the interest of the party.

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Though we cannot vouch for the truth of the report, it is stated that Count Itagaki's discontent with his party is connected with the manner in which the "extremists" of the party forced other members to sign a document binding them to support the report of the Budget Committee, a course of proceeding which the Count considers entirely at variance with the liberal principles of the party. At all events, the *Rikken Jiyu-to* has, like its progenitor the old *Jiyu-to*, has much of a militant air about its doings. The *Nippon* evidently has the Constitutional Liberal party in its mind when it enters strong protest against "the militant despotism of a party professing principles of liberty and freedom." Hitherto men have talked of "a despostic Government," but now "we are," says the Tokyo journal, "confronted with the strange sight of a despotic party"—a party which "endeavours to treat its members in the Diet like so many soldiers bound implicitly to obey every command from head-quarters, however contrary to the individual independence of such members." The present parties having been called into exisfence for the purpose of opposing a Government which is considered to be militant and despotic, these parties—continues the *Nippon*—may perhaps think it necessary to maintain an organization essentially militant in its spirit. "But that is to cope violence with violence." Our contemporary is sincerely sorry that such parties should exist at a time like the present, when nothing is more desirable for the progress and well-being of the country than that the nation should be united with the sentiments of mutual friendship and sympathy.

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The *Kokkwai* also strongly criticizes the policy of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* in restraining the independence of its members in the Diet. As members of that party, they are, our contemporary admits, bound to remain constant to the essential principles of the party; but as Representatives of the people, they ought to exercise a certain degree of independent judgment. The editor of the paper, Mr. Suehiro, was recently compelled to leave the Constitutional Liberal Party, on account of his advocating the moderate plan of reduction. Hence the protest against the alleged despotism of the party.

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Count Itagaki's action in sending in a notice of his intended separation from his party is characterized by the parties as unbecoming a statesman of his position and inflence. There is indeed, the journals remark, a section not at all well disposed towards him personally and towards all Tosa men in general. But still he is regarded as the virtual leader of the party, and as such he ought to have frankly spoken out his whole mind and warn the erring members of his party. Instead of doing so, he has abruptly and rashly declared his intention of leaving his party, as if he were nobody in it. Such in effect is the gist of the criticisms that have appeared in the vernacular press on the recent conduct of Count Itagaki. The *Mainichi Shimbun* even goes so far as to say

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some unpleasant things about his lack of magnanimity, of the breadth of view and so forth. But other papers, while criticizing his conduct, show due respect for the purity of the noble-hearted old statesman.

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The *Hochi Shimbun*, unlike other papers, approves the manner in which the *Rikken Jiyu-to* has recently expelled from its ranks some members who, in its opinion, had no right to belong to that party. The party is now holding a series of its general meetings to consider the general policy to be pursued with respect to the current political questions. Our contemporary thinks that the manner in which these meetings are conducted speaks for the increasing harmony and unity in the party.

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The financial, political, and legal questions bearing on the Budget still continue to occupy the prominent position among the subjects discussed by the vernacular press. The moderates and the extremists are very active in their attempt to make converts among members of the Lower House who have not yet declared themselves for either party. The number of such members is about forty or fifty, and their attitude will decide the question. According to a report evidently emanating from a tolerably trustworthy source, the moderates are said to be confident of ultimate triumph, as they have already received the promise of a majority of these members to vote on their side. It is, however, stated that an uncertain element exists among the *Rikken Jiyu-to* members of the Diet, some of them having lately shown themselves capable of apparently inconsistent courses of action.

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Meanwhile, the organs of the extremists and of the moderates are bandying charges of unconstitutionality, disloyalty, want of patriotism, and so forth. The extremists, especially those belonging to the *Kaishin-to*, are accused of sacrificing the interests of the country to those of their party; while the moderates are told that they are timid and spiritless flatterers of the men in power. There is, however, a tendency among the more sober of the journals on both sides to counsel moderation and suggest reconciliation between the contending parties. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, though a supporter of the extremists, cannot understand why a compromise should not be possible between the two plans of reduction, the points of difference being not in the object to be attained but in the means of attaining it. The article in the *Jiyu Shimbun* which caused such a flutter in the ranks of the Constitutional Liberal party may be classed in the same category with the one just quoted. It is perhaps a significant fact that the papers recommending reconciliation are generally found on the side of the extremists, a fact, however, which will be differently interpreted by men of different opinions. To us it appears from the whole tone of such papers that the extremists are beginning to feel less confident of ultimate success.

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The *Choya Shimbun*, writing on this subject, observes that the political discussions occasioned by the question of the estimates are producing one desirable fruit namely, the division of the politicians of the country into two large parties. Hitherto, political parties have been formed round some personal or local nucleus, but now the rise of practical questions is slowly but surely disintegrating the old sentimental ties and forming men into two opposing bodies each united by similarity of views on real and practical issues. Whichever side may be victorious in the present session, the other side is sure to renew the contest next session, and thus the gulf now separating the two camps will become a permanent boundary between the two great political parties, by whatever name they may hereafter come to be called.

* * *

The question of subsidies to private companies is receiving a considerable share of journalistic attention. There are nearly a dozen companies receiving subsidies from the Government, the most prominent among them being the Japan Mail Steamship Company, the Japan Railway Company, the Hokkaido Mining Railway Company, the Kyushu Railway Company, and the San-yo Railway Company. Public attention is specially directed to the first mentioned company, which is in recept of the largest subsidy. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, in a long series of articles on this question, recommends the reduction of this subsidy. Our contemporary is opposed to writers—they are few and far between—who clamour for the entire stoppage of the subsidy. Such a step would seriously damage the public credit of the Government and produce a grave financial disturbance. The *Kaishin-to* organ is, however, by no means satisfied with the way in which the Government has hitherto petted the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. Various questions are put to the Authorities. (1) Why is it necessary to bestow on the company a big sum of 880,000 *yen* annually? (2) Why did the Government of its own accord pledge itself, on December 30th, 1888, to pay an annual sum representing interest at the rate of 8 per cent. on the company's capital, irrespective of the income earned, whereas originally the Treasury's obligation had not extended beyond making good any deficiency between the net income and 8 per cent.? (3) Why did the Authorities, a few years ago, sell to the company at face value the shares held by the Crown, thus making the company a present of *yen* 200,000? (4) Why is not full control exercised over the construction of the vessels of the company? Finally (5). Why are not some limits put upon the salaries of the officers of the company? After dwelling at great length on these points, the *Mainichi* proceeds to consider the relation in which the Government ought hereafter to stand towards the company. Our contemporary's recommendations are as follow:—(1) That the Government should require that any newly ordered vessels of the company be constructed in such a manner as to be of use in time of war; (2) that the guarrantee of interest to the company should be re-placed on the old basis, namely, what it had been prior to December 30, 1888; and (3) that certain restrictions should be put on the amount of salaries and rewards given to the servants of the company.

* * *

The *Choya Shimbun* and the *Tokyo Shimpo* take a different line of argument. They fail to see the wisdom of either abolishing or decreasing the subsidy given to the Japan Mail Steamship Company. While the geographical position of the country makes the development of navigation one of the most vital national concerns, there are several strong foreign companies against which any Japanese corporation aspiring to extend its lines in the Asiatic seas must contend, and consequently our contemporaries strongly advise the newly assembled legislators not to commit the grave mistake of cutting down the subsidy given to the only company that can be expected to undertake the difficult task of competition with foreign maritime enterprise. These papers are, however, at one with the *Mainichi* in recommending the authorities to exercise an efficient control over the business of the company. The *Choya* also urges the Government to make an arrangement for putting Naval Officers on board the Company's vessels, so that there may not be lack of competent officers in time of war.

* * *

As to the Japan Railway Company, all the papers seem to agree that the guarrantee of interest at present given for each section of the lines separately, should be given for the whole lines together.

* * *

We will now briefly allude to numerous articles which, as stated in our last weekly summary, have lately been appearing in vernacular papers on various questions relating to the position of Japan in the East and the future prospects of the Japanese nation. As we have remarked more than once, the growth of a spirit of enterprise and adventure is one of the most prominent features of the contemporary history of Japan. The movement began several years ago, and the late disastrous mining enterprise in Peru was among its results. But the current is, we believe, already strong enough not to be in any way retarded by such failures. Mr. Taguchi's recent voyage to the South Sea Islands has been on the whole successful, and his example will soon be followed by others. Schemes of emigration and colonization, are also under discussion, but of these these schemes nothing definite is as yet known. We will here give only the general gist of the articles above alluded to.

* * *

The *Kokkai* is very glad that the Government and the people, notwithstanding their reciprocal coldness on other matters, are now agreed in paying attention to the Eastern Question. Our contemporary is, however, afraid that some people may suspect the Government of ulterior objects in bringing forward the question of Japan's position in the Orient. Whether statesmen in power have really such ulterior object or not, the *Kokkai* advises its countrymen to study with a keen eye the opportunities which the turn of events in the East is placing at Japan's disposal for the development of her commerce and navigation, and for the promotion of her national prestige.

* * *

The *Toyo Shimpo*, in a series of about ten articles, describes the condition of the countries of Asia one by one, and observes that the eastern shores of the continent, together with Japan and the seas surrounding her, are fast becoming the field of international struggle for political, commercial, and industrial supermacy. Our contemporary warns the Japanese nation to be on the alert and to manfully strive for the splendid prize.

* * *

The *Choya Shimbun* publishes an article on the same subject from the pen of Mr. Hadano Shozaburo. He dwells on the adventurous and daring spirit of the Japanese of three centuries ago. Japanese pirates were long the terror of the coast of China. Japanese adventurers in Siam raised themselves to powerful positions in that country. Japanese colonists occupied the island of Formosa, while Japanese merchants were found in every important market on the eastern and southern coasts of the neighbouring continent. The present Japanese are apparently less enterprising, but that is only the effect of the peaceful policy of the Tokugawa Government. The writer believes them fully competent to attain their national ambition—to become the England of the East.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun*, in a long series of articles believed to embody the views of Count Itagaki, writes on the importance of encouraging a spirit of enterprise. It recommends the emigration of labourers to foreign countries, where they will be welcomed by manufacturers and agriculturists. It also recommends young men of education to go abroad and employ themselves in money-earning pursuits. Lastly, it regrets that the Japanese Government did not carry out the invasion of Korea as proposed by some statesmen—Count Itagaki among the rest—several years ago. The writer is confident that such an expedition would have been very useful to stir up the enterprising spirit of the people, and that with the spirit of enterprise once awakened, it would have been possible to open a new chapter in Japan's progress as a militant, commercial, and industrial nation.

* * *

The *Nippon* writes on the Parnell Affair and regrets that the Irish leader does not quietly retire from public life. The *Hochi Shimbun* devotes a series of articles to a discussion of the silk-trade. The *Yomiuri* has just finished its long series of articles on the national military and naval defences, pronouncing them utterly insufficient for the security of the country in time of war. The *Jiji Shimpo* gives some advice to Japanese statesmen in power, bidding them be more far-sighted in their policy and conciliatory to those out of power.

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THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

THE Weights and Measures Bill now before Parliament is not likely, we hope, to be treated with the indifference feared by Professor KIKUCHI. When its details come to be understood by the public at large there will be, no doubt, more than enough said on the subject. We prefer to think that the silence hitherto maintained is due more to general incapacity to follow the complicated nature of the Bill than to any under-estimate of its importance. A recapitulation of its main features, translated from the *Mainichi Shimbun*, has already appeared in these columns. There can be no question, of course, as to the necessity for fixing the standards of the weights and measures of the country, the present law providing no such standard, but it would seem from some detailed criticism of the Bill which appeared in the Tokyo journals lately, at the competent hands of Professor SHIDA, that needlessly involved methods have been resorted to in order to attain that end. Professor SHIDA regards the subject from the purely scientific point of view, and it is somewhat surprising that his strictures have up to the presented met with no comment from any of those concerned with the fixing of the new standards. The Bill defines one *shaku* as ten thirty-thirds ($\frac{10}{33}$) of the distance between two marks made upon a rod of an alloy of platinum and iridium at a temperature of 0.15° C., and one *kwan* as fifteen-fourths ($\frac{15}{4}$) of the mass of a piece of metal of fixed nature and dimensions. In regard to this definition, Professor SHIDA asks why the temperature is fixed at 0.15° C. which is exceedingly difficult not only to produce but to maintain, while 0° C. has all the advantages of simplicity and easy maintenance. Besides the disadvantage of having the standard as a fraction of a distance is evident when it is borne in mind that each time a *shaku* has to be measured, a complicated calculation is necessary. The new *kwan* standard as a measurement of mass is also objected to on similar grounds, and the pertinent question is asked why a piece of metal whose weight is exactly one *kwan* has not been adopted instead of a piece weighing a fraction of one *kwan*. Professor SHIDA further maintains that with a standard of length, no need exists for a standard of volume at all. It cannot be said either that the two are alike, for it would be just as absurd to talk of the distance between Tokyo and Yokohama as so many *koku* or *sho*. The third point raised by Prof. SHIDA is that a distinction should be made between the unit and standard, the assumption of the framers of the Bill evidently being that the standards will serve equally well as units, while in reality they are entirely different things. The next point, being a matter of opinion, is not insisted on by the learned professor. He considers the *kwan* too large as a unit of mass, and suggests the adoption of the *kin* which has generally been accepted as the unit. All these are technical details into which we do not propose to go, but it seems to us that a simple definition of the standard is one of the most important points of this knotty question and is worthy of more consideration before the Bill is passed. Nothing appears easier than to fix the measurement of the *shaku* as a distance between two marks on a rod at a definite temperature. In framing the Bill, Professor KIKUCHI says that special care has been taken to guard against sudden changes in business methods. It is proposed that the new Bill shall come in force on 1st January, 1893, but that the official examination of the weights and measures will not take place until three years after that date. Liberal as the length of time may appear, this is considered by many a great hardship, as most of the weights and measures now in use are roughly made and will inevitably be thrown aside by the examiners. Could the old scales be adapted to coincide with the new standards, little objection would, doubtless, be made, but this saving clause is not provided for in the Bill. We have only to consider the effect of the introduction of the metric system into England in order to appreciate the trouble in store for those concerned with the operation of the new Bill. Indeed it is not too much to say that of all the measures hitherto submitted, or likely to be hereafter submitted, to the Diet, not one is of such importance or can have such wide-reaching effects as this Bill. The English nation, cursed by the possession of the worst system of weights and measures that exists, and fully cognisant of its misfortune, has for fifty years struggled to emerge from the slough of avoirdupois, troy, furlongs, roods, chains, and other arbitrary and utterly unscientific units. But so stupendous does the task seem of asking the people to change the system of measuring and weighing which for centuries they have employed, and in terms of which they are accustomed to express their products and manufactures and to conduct all the transactions of their every-day life, that no legislature has yet been found with sufficient strength or temerity to make the attempt. The leading scientific men of Great Britain have written volumes on the subject, and all educated persons are agreed as to the necessity of change, yet still Parliament hesitates. We cannot but admire the courage of Japan in placidly setting about a reform of such magnitude, but, on the other hand, we cannot but wonder that a Bill affecting the interests and convenience of every tradesman and manufacturer in the whole empire, from the pettiest *tofu-ya* or *karinto-ya* that perambulates the streets to the proprietor of a dozen warehouses and workshops, should have almost reached its third reading in the House of Peers without attracting any visible share of journalistic or general attention outside the Diet. In our opinion, the Diet will act rashly if it attempts to deal with this matter in one session. The prudent and proper course seems to be to appoint a special committee, comprising not only the best scientific experts procurable, but also leading men of business, and to ask the Committee to submit a full Report, if not at the next session of Parliament, then at the one following, or even at the one following that. The present method of procedure is altogether too light-hearted to be viewed by thoughtful foreigners without surprise and apprehension.

THE NEW "JAPAN GAZETTE" AND THE OLD STORY.

WE have to thank the *Japan Gazette* and also to apologise to it: to thank it for a temperate explanation of the charges of inconsistency and subserviency preferred by it against us; to apologise for having betrayed it into a confession of remarkable ignorance.

There have been three programmes of Treaty Revision under official consideration during the past five years. The first, based on proposals advanced by England and Germany in 1886, "proved impracticable," as the *Gazette* truly says. The second, based on proposals advanced by Count OKUMA in 1889, sank under the weight of adverse Japanese public opinion in the close of the same year. All the important features of this second scheme were known to the world. The *Gazette* itself published the text of one of the Treaties concluded in accordance with the scheme, and gave its support frankly and fully to Count OKUMA'S programme. Yet now, after an interval of little more than a year, the editor of the *Gazette* tells us that he "knows little or nothing of the conditions that underlay Count OKUMA'S plan;" that he has "never been able to ascertain the precise nature of the preliminary (*sic*) Treaty signed by the United States Representative," and that "the general opinion among foreigners at the time was that the appointment of foreign judges was not stipulated for." He tells us this, though the text of the Treaty with Germany appeared in the local English press; though the *Gazette* itself supported the scheme throughout; and though the whole agitation that wrecked the Treaty rested on a diplomatic note providing for the appointment of foreigners in the capacity of judges. As for the third scheme, the *Gazette* confesses itself equally in the dark. It admits that its knowledge of the scheme is derived solely from the vernacular press, in which fifty different versions have appeared. It must be well aware that the scheme has

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never been described or discussed in these columns. Yet it charges us with advocating all three schemes, and while confessing itself unacquainted with the features of two of them, does not hesitate to assert that each is at variance with the other, and that our advocacy of them all in the face of this variation convicts us of inconsistency.

There is no occasion to discuss such a strange display of ignorance and temerity. A critic who acknowledges himself an absolute stranger to the details of two out of three propositions which he undertakes to compare, and which he accuses a newspaper of advocating, can scarcely expect to be treated seriously.

So much for our contemporary's charge of inconsistency. One word as to its charge of subserviency. Its imputation is that we "advocate Treaty Revision with or without conditions, as the Japanese may be pleased to decide." There is no possibility of misunderstanding this. It means, and can only mean, that the *Japan Mail's* views about Treaty Revision are dictated by the Japanese and slavishly follow the changes of Japanese opinion. How does the *Gazette* support this accusation? It says that we are mistaken if we suppose that we "have always shown by our writings in the past eight years that we hold opinions entirely distinct and different from those advocated by the Japanese Government." So then, in order to avoid the imputation of writing to the dictation of the Japanese Government, we are bound to prove that we have consistently held opinions entirely distinct and different from those of that Government. Such is our contemporary's notion of fair and unbiassed judgment. In order not to be suspected of being the creature of a Government, one must openly disagree with it in everything. That is the creed of the Irish politician. His notion of independence is simply to be "agin the Guverment." It is also curiously like the creed obeyed in practice by our local contemporaries. Their idea of independence is to attack the Government at every point. We are not disciples of any such creed.

As to the general question, every clear-sighted observer admits, we presume, that Treaty Revision might long ago have been settled on lines fairly satisfactory to the foreign residents, and that the solution of the problem has now been greatly complicated by the introduction of a new and powerful factor, Japanese public opinion. Some critics profess to think that Japan alone is responsible for past failures. They blame her for allowing the bases of 1886 to be elaborated into an utterly impracticable labyrinth of complicated stipulations. But they do not blame the foreign negotiators who effected the elaboration. They blame her for withdrawing from her own programme in 1889. But they do not blame the Powers whose hesitation to accept her proposals placed a weapon in the hands of the equal-revision party. Such partiality can never promote an understanding. What is the use, what the sense, of complaining, as the *Japan Gazette* now complains, that "the present attitude of the country about Treaty Revision is eminently irrational," and that the Diet's ideas on the subject could not be entertained for a moment by a foreign Power? Does any reasonable person expect the Japanese nation to confess that its claims to exercise the sovereign rights of an independent State are incomplete, or the Japanese Diet to admit that this empire must concede the superiority of Western countries by furnishing guarantees of good behaviour if they consent to recognise its autonomy? When we find a people and a parliament ready to make such admissions, we may fairly extend to them the disdain they merit. There is nothing "imminently irrational" about the attitude of the Japanese nation. Any other attitude would be contemptible. Foreign writers will never inspire this country with a sense of humility by upraiding its self-respect. As practical men what we have to recognise is that this mood exists; that it is a perfectly natural mood; and that it has to be reckoned with in attempting to solve the problem of Revision. The time is long past when terms of settlement could be dictated by foreign Govenments. The temper of the nation, the very temper against which the *Japan Gazette* girds, proves this. To preserve a changeless attitude in the presence of radically changed conditions, may be called fine conservatism, but for all practical purposes is silly obstinacy. We do not aspire to such blind immutability. Every analysis that we have hitherto made of the growth of public opinion in Japan, and of the Government's increasing inability to ignore it, has been verified by events. The conservatives formerly claimed that the Japanese nation did not care two straws about Treaty Revision, and that the Government's demands might therefore be treated with scant courtesy. Confronted now by an inconveniently vehement and peremptory public opinion, the same conservatives call it irrational, and declare that it should not be listened to. If that be consistency, we have no ambition to be consistent. We take things as they are, instead of crying out because they are not what we should like them to be. The stream of Japanese national opinion, a comparatively feeble rill ten years ago, has now swollen into a strong river. We have noted and called attention to its flow, instead of standing vacantly on the bank and vainly trying to keep the old land-marks beyond the wash of the flood. To those who mistake inertia for consistency and scepticism for sagacity, we abandon the rustic's eternal task of waiting till the stream flows by.

THE CASE IN THE PORTUGUESE CONSULAR COURT.

THE judgment delivered in the Portuguese Consular Court in the case of the Imperial Railway Authorities against JOSEPH GAMA, is exactly what the public had expected. There was no evidence to support either of the charges brought against GAMA. It was certainly shown that he accosted a Japanese girl whom he found seated in a second-class carriage, that he followed her into the Ladies' Waiting Room, made immoral proposals to her, and treated her in a manner by which any modest woman would have been bitterly insulted. But, on the other hand, the prosecution failed to prove that GAMA'S conduct was from the first resented by the girl with sufficient earnestness to indicate that she seriously objected to such attentions, and further, the evidence did not establish that the Railway bye-law interdicting the use of the Ladies' Waiting Room by men had been habitually enforced. It has never been the custom, so far as we know, to put this rule into strict operation in Japanese railway stations. At all the principal stations, Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and so forth, gentlemen are suffered to enter the Ladies' Waiting Room freely, though of course they never make a habit of remaining there. The trouble in the particular case we are considering is that GAMA does not belong to the class of persons who would have access to Ladies' Waiting Rooms anywhere, and that, consequently, he was in no respect governed by the instinct which restrains men from entering such places whether the law permits or forbids them. A runner in the employment of the Grand Hotel, he had been allowed, by the civility of the railway officials at Yokohama, to enjoy exceptional privileges in respect of going on the platform without a ticket and generally doing what seemed desirable in the interests of the Hotel. Whether he was qualified for such a task, it is for the Hotel management to judge, but the evidence given at the trial in the Portuguese Court showed that he cannot read English without considerable difficulty, that he is consequently unable to make himself acquainted with the contents of the various notices posted in the station, and that he regards the Ladies' Waiting Room as a convenient, if not a proper, place for conduct particularly unbecoming in such precincts. All this, however, is beyond the purview of criminal law. GAMA cannot be said to have violated the law, and his acquittal followed as a matter of course.

It is plain to anyone reading the report of the trial that the conduct of the defence was more or less actuated by feelings quite apart from the merits of the case. On the other hand, the preliminary steps taken by the Railway Authorities are open to a similar charge. The Foreign Secre-

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tary of the Railway, in a written communication, called upon the Hotel management either to dismiss GAMA summarily, or to brave the exposure of a legal prosecution; a peremptory choice of alternatives to which the management could not possibly have been expected to submit tamely. In the two coincidences—first, that the counsel defending Gama happened to be also the President of the Hotel Directorate, and secondly, that the Railway official instigating the prosecution happened to stand in a peculiar relation to the Japanese girl upon whom GAMA'S attentions had been thrust—in these two coincidences may be found material to account for the ill-judged persistence and vehemence of the Railway Authorities and for the rancour that disfigured an otherwise able defence. We refer to this phase of the miserable affair chiefly because of a singular statement into which the counsel for the defence suffered himself to be betrayed. He argued, with apparent faith in the truth of his words, that the object of the Foreign Secretary of the Railway Department in bringing the charge against GAMA was to "stir up bad blood and strife against foreigners." This is in accord with the maudlin and silly creed maintained by certain persons in Yokohama, that every charge preferred by a foreigner against a foreigner in support of a Japanese, is anti-foreign and unpatriotic. Apparently the counsel for the defence would have the public believe that the licence taken by a man like GAMA in contravention, if not of the Railway Regulations, certainly of the rules of ordinary decency, must be condoned and hushed up lest any public attempt to punish it be mistaken for an evidence of anti-foreign feeling. Such a doctrine would bring within the sphere of racial prejudice every question of right or wrong between a foreigner and a Japanese. The counsel for the defence in GAMA'S case is much too shrewd a man to be misled by extravagance of this kind. There is, therefore, all the more reason to criticise him for advancing a proposition so unreasonable and so entirely beside the mark. The real creators of bad blood between foreigners and Japanese are the persons who, for interested purposes, invest every dispute with an international character, and try to persuade the public that because a Portuguese hotel-runner is prosecuted for making indecent proposals to a Japanese girl in the Ladies' Waiting Room of the Yokohama station, anti-foreign feeling in Japan is likely to be generated or intensified.

Although, as we have said, the verdict delivered by the Portuguese Consul was generally anticipated, his decision possesses interest in connection with the question whether Japanese Railway Regulations are binding upon foreigners in Japan without re-enactment by the Representative of the nationality concerned. This, of course, is only a branch of the broader contention as to Japanese law generally. We ourselves have always believed and maintained that though foreigners in Japan are exempted by Treaty from the processes of Japanese law, they are by no means exempted from the obligation of observing its provisions, and this view is understood to be taken by several of the Western Powers, notably the United States of America. Evidently the Portuguese Consul is of the same opinion, for he based his acquittal on the fact that GAMA had not intentionally infringed the Railway Regulations, instead of basing it on the plea that a Portuguese subject is free from any obligation to observe them. He went further, too, for he warned the defendant against any violation of the Railway Regulations in the future. The Railway Authorities thus derive some consolation from a case which otherwise reflects little credit on their tact and judgment.

MORBID JOURNALISM.

AMERICAN newspapers are developing a curious love of the horrible. A dreadful accident or a disgusting murder, anything that carries with it a fascinating "blugginess" such as the author of "Helen's Babies" made excellent use of, receives the place of honour on the first page; and the account is not only rendered more startling by sensational paragraph and non-paragraph headings, but is also embellished with frightful woodcuts. This devouring of the horrible is one of the luxuries which religious people allow themselves, and is indulged in by the fair sex, who love to be scared. After the first Blue Beard page has been fully enjoyed, the rest of the paper is skimmed over, the really solid matter receiving but little attention. In some of the lager cities of the Continent, there seems to be little or no literature read outside of the journals. The press provides an *olla podrida* of information, especially on the Sundays, which if swallowed fills up the reading capacity of ordinary people. In St. Louis, for instance, the sale of books is relegated to an insignificant stall in the dry-goods warehouses, and it is impossible to find a well furnished book-store. Church societies step in, and supply religious books to the public, besides driving a small general trade. Otherwise the newspapers have it all their own way. Newspapers must interest and rouse their readers or they won't sell. Where politics fail to have a hold on the general mind, newspapers must fall back on horrors or on personal gossip. We fear this has happened in America, both British and Republican. The rank and file of ordinary well-to-do people keep out of the political world, which is left to a "ring"; the discussion of political questions thus becomes, not the paramount and absorbing thing, occupying the leading place, but one subject among many of equal interest. The Canadian press differs little in its characteristics from the American, and cannot for a moment compare with the excellent press of Australia. With the retention of "pennies" and "shillings" the Australians have kept up the solid traditions of the British press. The morning paper in Montreal is a flimsy, smutty sheet, feeble and flabby in grasp, uncertain in information, and showing few excellencies as an advertising medium. The leading Melbourne papers, on the contrary, are printed in good style on thick paper, and impress one with a sense of power, as soon as the reader opens the bulky mass. Political questions are discussed with a thoroughness and a grasp which leave little to be desired, and horrors are relegated to a subordinate place. The outside information is also solid and correct. Of all reporters in the world, globe-trotters have most to fear, we think, from the Canadian variety. He *will* not wait to receive correct information, he is in a greater hurry even than his Yankee confrère, and runs off incontinently after jotting down a hurried farrago of nonsense which one appeals in vain to him to correct. Next day the poor victim is horrified to see statements in the *Empire* or the *Mail* which he is represented as having uttered, and which bear the same relation to truth as a pantomime does to actual life. The recent BIRCHALL trial in Canada affords a text for much moralizing. The poor wretch has now suffered for his crime, the last act of a downhill career. Brought up with all the advantages of an English public school and University training, he ended by decoying a youthful countryman into a swamp in the neighbourhood of Niagara Falls, where he shot him and left him for dead. The motive of the crime was money. BIRCHALL hoped to obtain five hundred pounds from his victim's father, and had entered into partnership with young BENWELL so that he might be able to sign for the so-called firm. The crime was traced to him with deadly certainty by link after link of circumstantial evidence. It is impossible to describe the intense interest with which the trial was followed by newspaper readers. Every detail was commented upon, maps of the swamp, cuts of the murderer and his victim, of the witnesses, and of the judge and counsel, appeared day after day. Nothing else indeed was talked of, and special editions of the Toronto papers dealing only with the murder, kept coming out in quick succession. When the accused was condemned, a Toronto paper bought his autobiography for fifteen hundred dollars, hoping of course to make a profit on it. So much for the taste of the public in this direction. Not that we think the press is an infallible guide to the instincts or aspirations of a people. Undoubtedly where ordinary

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folks are more interested in Church matters than in political and social questions, the press must appeal to them in the way of purveying to their naturally mobid craving after the horrible. In Australia political and social questions are paramount; in Canada and America, they are not. Hence the feebler grasp and less masculine nature of the daily press in the last named countries.

DESTRUCTION OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY FIRE.

BOTH of the Houses of Parliament were destroyed by fire on Monday at 12.40 a.m. The fire originated in the House of Representatives and completely destroyed the whole of the Parliamentary buildings, the residences of the two Chief Secretaries alone escaping. When it became known that the Diet was the scene of the conflagration, all sorts of disquieting rumours began to circulate. No one imagined that the catastrophe could be anything but an incendiarism, and before long persons were found who asserted that they had seen the first flames issue from a heap of chips and shavings piled in an angle of the House of Representatives. Naturally, public suspicion fixed itself upon the *soshi*. They were supposed either to have taken this decisive method of resenting the enforcement of the Peace Preservation Regulations, or to have planned the conflagration in order to interrupt proceedings which they held to be contrary to the Constitution. But when the evidence of the police, clerks, and servants on duty at the Diet had been collected yesterday, it was established beyond all doubt that the fire had its origin in the electric lighting apparatus. The whole of the buildings were lit by electricity, the dynamo being placed in the Western part of the enclosure. At about 7 o'clock every evening, after the House of Representatives had risen, the greater part of the lights were shut off, and the speed of the dynamo was reduced proportionately, electricity being thenceforth required only for lighting the precincts of the Diet and the Chief Secretaries houses. Presumably the usual automatic devices had been adopted for severing connections in the event of the wires becoming over-heated, but whether this was not the case, or whether some other defect must be held responsible, it is not yet possible to say. A constable on duty at the main entrance to the House of Peers during the night of the 17th inst., has now reported that after the current of electricity was supposed to be shut off from the lights in the neighbourhood of his post, he observed that the arcs continued to give out a dull red glow for some little time. Having no knowledge whatever of the processes of electric lighting, he did not think of mentioning this fact in his report, or possibly attention might have been attracted to the subject in time to avert the catastrophe of the 20th instant. The first person who detected symptoms of fire was a constable, IMAI TETSUZO. At 12.40 a.m. he observed a slender bluish flame creeping along the edge of the ceiling in the corridor immediately outside Committee Room No. 41, which formed a portion of the southerly section of the House of Representatives. His orders being to rouse the watchmen and night constables in case of emergency, he hastened to do so, and then, in company with three or four men, ran to the spot where the flame and smoke were visible. So far as they could ascertain, fire appeared to be smouldering beneath the plaster of the wall just under the ceiling. While they were engaged in attempts to extinguish the still feeble flames, light was observed in the Government Delegates' waiting room, and running thither, they discovered that flames similar to those previously observed, were bursting out in the westerly corner of the room at the junction of the wall with the ceiling. IMAI now opened one of the doors of the Chamber of Representatives itself, and saw that the gallery was on fire in several places and that volumes of smoke were beginning to roll about the roof. Meanwhile, TAGAMI, one of the constables engaged in attempting to grapple with the fire in the Delegates' room, received such a severe electric shock that he almost lost consciousness, and stumbling into the corridor, fell down stairs; while SEKOTA, another constable similarly engaged, became insensible and had to be carried out. Both of these men are still suffering from the effects of the shock. It had now become apparent that all attempts to deal with the fire at close quarters within the buildings were fruitless, for not only did each jet of flame spread with rapidity far greater than the ordinary rate of combustion under such circumstances, but fresh tongues of fire burst out one after another in unlooked for places. Attention was therefore directed entirely to getting out the archives, those in the large store-house on the ground floor being carried to one corner of the compound, and those in the President's room and other parts of the second storey, being thrown out of the windows. A large proportion of the latter could not ultimately be removed. A policeman called HARADA remained so long in the chamber that he was obliged to leap from one of the windows, receiving severe but not fatal injuries. By this time the steam fire-engine kept in the compound of the Diet was in full play, an ample supply of water being procured from the moat. Fire brigades from various districts had also begun to arrive, and set in motion their hand pumps. The perfect stillness of the night and the vicinity of water suggested some hope of coping with the conflagration, for very few persons had yet realized that the electric apparatus was acting like a hundred small but inextinguishable torches applied to as many different points of the buildings inside. Among those who had appreciated the cause of the trouble was Mr. SONE, Chief Secretary of the Lower House. His residence is at the edge of the compound, and as he happened not to have retired to rest when the first alarm was given, he reached the scene quickly, and soon detected, from the behaviour of the flames and their peculiar character, that the electric apparatus was the root of the mischief. He attempted to shut off the connection with the House of Representatives, but the apparatus, evidently out of gear, refused to work. In the case of the Upper House, however, he met with more success, and for a very brief period it seemed as though this part of the buildings might be saved. But after a few moments, tongues of flame, not communicated from the adjacent conflagration but evidently having an independent origin, began to burst out here also, and ere long the doom of the House of Peers was sealed. Mr. SONE then organised all the constables and officials he could find into a band for carrying out the archives, and it was doubtless owing to his fortunate presence on the scene that so many important books and documents were saved. Apparently the dynamo must have been running all this time, its speed probably augmented to a high pitch by the heat playing upon the boilers. Whether any attempt was made to reach the engine building at an early stage, we have not been able to discover. Probably not, inasmuch as even after the discovery of the flames—which must have been smouldering for a considerable interval before they developed sufficient force to attract attention—the origin of the fire was not recognised for some time, and when it was recognised, the engine building had become inaccessible. The constable IMAI behaved with great courage and presence of mind. He managed to sever with his sword two of the principal wires communicating with the dynamo, and though his achievement did not affect the result, it merits none the less applause. Of course within half an hour from the time when the column of smoke first began to ascend from the roof of the House of Representatives, the whole of the Shiba and Nagatacho districts were in an uproar, fire-bells clanging in every direction, and thousands of people thronging to the scene. The width of two streets and the moat alone separated the burning buildings from the densely populated district of the capital lying on the south, between Shimbashi and the Tora-no-mon, and it seemed at first inevitable that the conflagration should spread in that direction. But if the numerous engines of the brigades could not produce any perceptible effect upon the

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sea of flame raging within the compound of the Diet, they were at least useful for deluging its surroundings and opposing a wet surface to the passage of the fire southward. On the north there was nothing to apprehend, except that the conflagration might extend to the shells and scaffolding of several buildings in process of erection on the Hibiya Parade-ground, and this contingency was averted by the stillness of the beautiful moonlit night, the air not having motion enough to carry a single spark beyond the limits of the Diet's compound. Admirable order was preserved by the police. They managed to stop all traffic along the streets encircling the Diet, and though on the other side of the moat the people were packed so thickly that the whole district looked like an immense sea of upturned faces, no one crossed the bridges nor was any disturbance whatever perceptible. The conflagration raged fiercely for a little over three hours, and by that time nothing but two insignificant dwelling houses and a host of gaunt brick chimnies remained of buildings which had covered an area of half an acre. The two dwelling houses were those of Messrs. KANEKO and SONE, Chief Secretaries of the Upper and Lower Houses respectively. The three electric wires leading from the dynamo to each of these buildings were severed at an early stage, or there is very little doubt that they would have shared the fate of the big pile under whose shadow they stood. The loss of the country by this catastrophe is three hundred thousand *yen* in round numbers, to say nothing of the incalculable inconvenience caused by the interruption of the Diet's proceedings. Doubtless the Government will cause the buildings to be re-erected on their old foundations and in their previous temporary form. Nothing of a more solid character could be completed before the second session of the Diet next November. It is expected that arrangements can be made for the two Houses to resume their sittings, of course under circumstances of considerable inconvenience, in the course of a week, the Representatives meeting in the Examination Hall of the former Engineering College at the Tora-no-mon, and the Peers, probably, in the Kazoku Kaikan.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH.

THE House assembled at 10.50 a.m., and resumed the debate on the second reading of the Weights and Measures Bill. A proposal by Mr. Murata that each article of the Bill should be debated clause by clause was endorsed by a majority. Mr. Murata, speaking on behalf of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce who was unable to be present, opposed the Committee's amendment of the 19th Article. The original bill provided that the first official examination of new weights and measures must take place within three years of the date of operation of the Bill, namely January 1st, 1893. The Committee recommended that the term of three years should be extended to seven, which would mean that the official examination of new weights and measures must be completed by 1900, whereas that of old weight and measures need not be completed till 1902. This difference might cause much inconvenience. Mr. Hara Chiujun, as a member of Committee, explained that this point has received the earnest attention of the Committee. The value of the weights and measures manufactured between March, 1880, and March, 1890, was 4,531,789 *yen*. Few of these were in household use. The great majority were used in trade. According to the Bill now before the House, all these weights and measures must be submitted for official examination in the interval between 1893 and 1896, and as the whole, or virtually the whole, must be condemned, it followed that the loss to the people would be over 1½ million *yen* annually, whereas, were the Committee's suggestion adopted, the loss would be only a million. A new set of weights and measures cost 3 *yen*, and to the lower middle classes such an expenditure signified no small effort. The conditions of laws must be adapted to the circumstances of the nation. Viscount Tani approved the Committee's amendment, and in connection with it wished to address a few words to the House. He did not know whether his remarks might not earn him the title of a distraught or demented person, but that should not make him alter his views. It was the duty of the House to consider with the utmost sincerity and care every Bill submitted to it in the discharge of the functions which His Majesty the Emperor had commissioned it to undertake. Keeping this in view, he regarded it as most extravagant that such a Bill as they were now considering should have been laid before them by the Government. In foreign countries the number of persons using weights and measures was comparatively small, but in Japan almost every household possessed a set. As a proof of this admirable custom, he might mention that during last year no less than 37,548 sets of weights and measures had been manufactured. What reason existed for attempting to change all these by a stroke of the pen? The well known Kiri no Toshiaki, had told him, years ago, that the Government of the day had learned how to bribe the people by fair speech. Were there no such persons among the present Government? Professor Toyama agreed with Viscount Tani so far as concerned the lengthening of the period for examination, but reminded the Viscount that many amendments of the Government's original Bill had been proposed by members and adopted by the House. He fully agreed that three years was too short a period. Five years would perhaps be the most suitable time, but, as between three years and seven, he had no hesitation in choosing the latter. Marquis Nabeshima supported the Committee's amendment. Mr. Murata had spoken, as he said, at the request of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, but if the Minister had anything to tell the House, he ought to come and tell it in person, or at least entrust the message to a Government Delegate. Mr. Murata had probably made a mistake in asserting that he spoke for the Minister. As to the question of period, the Marquis reminded the House of the very straightened circumstances of the agricultural classes, and urged the expediency of the utmost deliberation in introducing any change that affected their pockets. A *yen* or even fifty *sen* of additional expenditure might make a vital difference in the condition of a poor farmer, and great care should be taken by legislators not to run any risk of augmenting the people's difficulties and adding to the already heavy burden of keeping body and soul together and supporting a family. Mr. Watanabe Kiyoshi spoke in the same strain, pointing out that the prime purpose of the measure was to amend the system of weights and measures, not to inconvenience the people. He strongly condemned the fact that Mr. Murata had been commissioned to speak in behalf of the Minister who had charge of the Bill. Mr. Ishida, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, said that the Minister had not commissioned Mr. Murata to speak for him in his absence, but had merely explained to Mr. Murata, in conversation, that there were reasons for approving the three-years period of the Bill rather than the seven-years period of the amendment. Mr. Kikuchi Dairoku explained that Mr. Murata having pointed out that some of the amendments affected the drafting of the Bill, the Committee had consulted with him (Mr. Murata) and Mr. Hozumi on the subject, and they had come to an agreement. After listening to the debate, he (Mr. Kikuchi) approved the proposal to extend the period of three years to seven, because it appeared to him that in seven years after the operation of the Bill the old weights and measures in use would have served their time, and might be replaced by new without inconvenience. Viscount Itakura, in strong terms, denounced such a proceeding as that the Minister in charge of the Bill should entrust the duty of supporting it to a member. Mr. Murata might try to explain away what he had said, but his words were on record. Who and what was the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce? (Here the acting President called the speaker to order, but Viscount Tani protested against any interference with a member's freedom of speech.) The Minister had full competence to explain the Bill himself, and it concerned the dignity of the House to know why he had entrusted his duty to a member. Mr. Murata explained that he had not said he was commissioned by the Minister, but only that he wished to comply with the Minister's desire. It was very unfortunate that his remarks should have caused so much commotion (cries of "unnecessary," "enough"). Mr. Hozumi said that Viscount Tani had expressed some indignation because Mr. Murata had spoken of himself as commissioned by the Minister. Doubtless the use of the word "commissioned" was open to criticism, but the fact was that he had had some consultation with the Committee about the effect of their amendments, and the Minister had enlisted the aid of Mr. Murata's well-known erudition and experience. Mr. Murata had accordingly assisted in respect of the amendments of the preceding day, and was generally giving what aid be could in the best interests of the measure. The House took a recess at 12.05 and re-assembled at 1.20 p.m. Mr. Murata expressed regret that, without due consideration, he had in the morning used language to which the House took exception, and begged to be allowed to withdraw his words. Several members said that they had purposed speaking with reference to Mr. Murata's previous statement, but since he had withdrawn it, there was no occasion to trouble the House with further remarks. Mr. Miura proposed that all portions of the debate relating to Mr. Murata's statement should be expunged from the records. After some discussion this proposal was voted by a majority of the House. The Committee's amendments to the first and second clauses of Article 19 and Article 20 were put and carried after some discussion. The 21st Article was eliminated by a majority vote, it having been pointed out that matters bearing on the country's foreign relations need not be considered in framing a law like the present. The 22nd Article with the Committee's amendment was unanimously voted. A proposal was made that the House should proceed to the third reading without the prescribed interval so as to enable the Bill to reach the Lower House quickly, but in view of the importance and intricacy of the measure this proposal was negatived. The Acting President announced that the third reading would be opened on the 20th instant. The House rose at 5.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.40 p.m. The President announced that Mr. Sone, of the Accountants Bureau of the Finance Department, had been appointed a Government Delegate, and that in reply to the series of questions addressed to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs by Mr. Inouye Kakugoro and a number of other members in respect of Korean matters, the Minister had stated that owing to the form

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in which the questions were framed, he was precluded from giving any answer; that Mr. Tachiiri had brought forward a Bill for reforming the Regulations of the House, and Mr. Matsuda a Bill for the amendment of the Budget. The House then went into Committee. General Noda in reply to questions put the preceding day, said that 56 guns had been manufactured at the Osaka Arsenal during the preceding year at an average cost of 1,120 *yen*; that the cost of one round of ammunition for each was 2 *yen*; that 3,800 *kwan* weight of gunpowder had been made, and that four guns had been ordered from France at a cost of 4,000 *yen*. He also gave statistics as to the health of the army, namely: in 1886 there had been 34,049 invalids and 303 deaths; in 1887, 33,339 invalids and 319 deaths; in 1888, 26,600 invalids and 340 deaths; in 1889, 22,981 invalids and 284 deaths. General Katsura, in answer to questions, said that naval ordinance could be made in Japan, but that as very few guns of 27 centimeters calibre and upwards were required, it was found cheaper to import them than to build and maintain a special factory for their construction in Japan. The cost of a 13-centimetre gun with a hundred rounds of ammunition was about fifty thousand *yen*; and that of a 24-centimetre gun, 52,000 *yen*. Mr. Yebashi Ko inquired why the emoluments of foreign employés were greater in the War Department than in other Departments, and whether the Military Colleges could not dispense with foreign teachers altogether. General Katsura replied that it was the aim of the Department to be independent of foreign aid, and that the object had been attained at the Military College and at the Toyama Officers' colleges, except in the staff section, where the instruction being of a very high character, one foreign teacher was found necessary, and his emoluments had to be high as exceptional capacities were required. In answer to questions by Mr. Kawashima Jun and others as to the total outlay of the War Department during the *Meiji* era, General Noda said that, anticipating such a query, the Department had compiled a book called *Rikugun Yenkaku Benran*, from which all the required information could be obtained. Also that the number of troops with the colours on the 11th of December, 1890, was 54,248 men; the number of the First Reserve, 80,235; and the number of the Second Reserve, 54,498; the total being 188,981 men. The arms and ammunition were in proportion to these numbers, but he could not at the moment give exact figures with respect to this part of the inquiry. Mr. Yebashi Ko asked why the lands belonging to the War Department at Maru-no-uchi and the parade-ground of Misaki-machi, had been privately sold to Mr. Iwasaki; who had bid for them, what price per *tsubo* had been obtained, and what buildings were attached. General Noda replied that the lands in question had been received by the Department after the fall of the feudal system, and that the maintenance of the buildings standing on them involved a heavy yearly outlay. Further, the programme of the City Improvements Committee interfered gravely with the usefulness of the lands for military purposes. The Department, therefore, not specially needing these lands and deeming it desirable to reduce the number of parade-grounds within the city, had resolved to sell the ground publicly, but had hesitated to do so on account of the difficulty of dealing with the various buildings on them. It had been deemed advisable to try and dispose of the land to the City Improvements Committee, but the price offered by the Committee had been far below the money which the Department desired to obtain, namely, two million *yen*. Then the lands had been placed in the hands of the Municipality for public sale, but the best tenders had not exceeded 5 or 6 *yen* per *tsubo*, whereas the Department thought 18 to 20 *yen* per *tsubo* ought to be realized. Nevertheless, one piece of ground had been sold to the highest bidder. Just then, the failure of Treaty Revision became certain, and the price of land fell seriously. The Department was in considerable perplexity, when fortunately an application was received from Mr. Iwasaki, offering to purchase the remaining land for 1,800,000 *yen*. This offer had been accepted, but after all the items had been deducted relating to City Improvements changes, wear and tear of buildings between the date of sale and the date of delivery, moving of barracks and various other matters, the sum that came into the exchequer of the Department was 1,280,000 *yen*. The sale had been at the rate of 12.26 *yen* per *tsubo*. Mr. Yebashi Ko asked whether any agreement had existed which made it impossible to arrange with Mr. Iwasaki so that the barracks might remain undisturbed until the transfer of the gendarmes to another place could be effected conveniently and cheaply. General Noda said that, as already explained, the transfer of the land had been deferred until April, 1891, to suit the convenience of the Department, and that for that reason an allowance had to be made on account of the depreciation of buildings. This applied to all the barracks, and he could not understand why the member's question had been framed with regard to the gendarmes' barracks only. Mr. Yebashi expressed himself satisfied. Mr. Nagata complained of the exceeding minuteness of the questions put by members, and said that the debate on the Budget would never be finished at this rate. The House then proceeded to discuss the Report of the Special Committee relating to the War Department. Mr. Kato Katsuya, on behalf of the Committee, explained that, military and naval officers being regarded differently from civil officials, a different reduction had been made in their pay, namely, ten per cent. for all officers of and above the rank of Major, whereas the reduction in the case of civil officials had been twenty per cent. After a few minor questions had been put, the House decided that no further enquiry was necessary with regard to this part of the Report, and passed to consider the Naval Department section of the Budget. The Government Delegates explained, in answer to questions, that the greater cost of provisions in the Navy as compared with the Army was because the men were fed with bread to prevent the spread of *kakke*; that ampler dock accommodation was not provided on account of want of funds; that no traces having been found of the *Unebi Kan*, she had been given up for lost, though search was still made, and that the insurance money (1,245,309 *yen*) had been received; that although naval stations were needed at Maizuru and Muroran, no funds were available to construct them; that at the Yokosuka dockyard ships of large size could be built as well as in foreign countries, but at the Onohama dock small vessels only could be turned out; that ironclads were not made in Japan, and had to be bought abroad, for although it was not impossible to construct them here, the cost would be immense. The House rose at 6.10 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 1891.

The House of Peers did not meet.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.40 p.m. The President announced that a Bill relating to Criminal Law had been received from the Government on the 17th instant. Mr. Tachiichi brought forward a motion of urgency for prolonging the debating hours of the House. He explained that more than half of the Constitutional period of session had already passed, and there seemed to be no hope of getting through the work already before the House unless the time of daily debate were extended. Mr. Kato Katsuya pointed out that according to the printed statement of Mr. Tachiichi's motion, the proposed change of hours was from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If the mid-day recess be subtracted from this time, he failed to see that anything would be gained. Mr. Tachiichi replied that a full hour's recess need not be taken; that, in the event of a long sitting being desired, the House could remain in session after 4 o'clock; that by meeting in the forenoon better work would be done; and finally that the cost of the electric lights, which he understood to be over 110 *yen* (per month?) would be saved. The motion being put to the House was voted by an apparent majority, but the result being challenged, a ballot was taken, when 86 "noes" and 78 "ayes" were found. The House then went into Committee. Mr. Sato Kinji asked why the cost of ink, stationery, pens, and such things was proportunately much greater in the Naval Department than in other Departments of State. Namely, for the office equipment of each *Hannin* official, 30 *yen* in the Naval Department; 13 *yen* in the War Department; 45 (?) in the Foreign Department; 9 *yen* in the Finance Department; and 9.90 *yen* in the Home Department. For stationery, ink, &c., 33 *yen* in the Naval Department; 16 *yen* in the War Office; 20 *yen* in the Foreign Department; 15 *yen* in the Home Department; 40 *yen* in the Finance Department; and 9 *ren* in the Prefectural and City offices. For wear and tear of office equipment, 80 *yen* in the Naval Department; 12 *yen* in the War Office; 12 *yen* in the Foreign Department; 19 *yen* in the Home Office; 12 *yen* in the Finance Department; and 4.90 in the Prefectural and City offices. For miscellaneous expenses, 103 *yen* in the Naval Department; 25 *yen* in the Home Office; 19 *yen* in the Foreign Office; 16 *yen* in the Finance Department; and 8 *yen* in the City and Prefectural offices. The Government Delegate replied that in compiling the Estimates a Department did not compare its outlay with that of other Departments, but simply put down its own expenses. He imagined, however, that there were two reasons for the discrepancy noted; first, that the number of *Hannin* officials was proportionately small in the Naval Department, and therefore a comparison taking the allotment on account of each of these officials was untrustworthy; secondly, that the Naval Department had an immense amount of work to do on paper, as drawing charts, maps, plans of ships, machinery, and so forth. Being pressed as to the item of wear and tear, he promised to reply after inquiries. Mr. Kawashima Jun asked some questions about the methods of dividing the various items of the accounts. The Government Delegate, in reply to further queries, explained that the number of invalids had decreased greatly since the adoption of a bread diet, and still more since the use of meat had been resorted to; meat and bread being found the best antidotes to *Kakke*. The average outlay per man on account of medical attendance and medicine was 6.3 *sen*. At sea in home waters the cost of maintenance was 16.5 *sen* per diem; in foreign-going ships the cost was 25.5 *sen*, and on the shore, 13.3 *sen*. With regard to the fact that the allowance for provisions in the Navy was 50 *yen* per head annually, against 34 *yen* in the Army, he explained that in modern sea-going ships of war the men had to be supplied with the very best provisions for sanitary reasons. As to the cost of medicines and medical expenses being 6.3 *sen* per head in the Navy against 5 *sen* in the Army, he was not in a position to speak at once. After some further questions of an unimportant nature, the House proceeded to consider the Report of the Budget Committee on the Naval Department. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro said that of the seventeen pages of the Committees' Report there was not a page without errors and corrections, and sometimes the corrections had been re-corrected. He wished to know whether he might consider the Report now in his hands as finally corrected, or as liable to further changes. It was explained that the copy of the Report in Mr. Inouye's hands contained three pages which ought not to have been put into circulation, whereupon Mr. Inouye said that his remark applied equally to the remaining fourteen pages, and that he wanted an explanation of all the corrections. A discussion on this point arose between Mr. Inouye and Mr. Imai, and ultimately the President called them to order. The President announced that since no further questions were put about the Committee's Report on the Naval Department, the House would proceed to the Department of Justice in the Budget. Mr. Tachiiri complained that the explanations appended to the items in this section were very brief. He asked for full information about the results of the Reorganization of the Law Courts. Mr. Mitsukuri, Vice-Minister of Justice, said that the re-organized system had only come into force in November last, and there were not yet sufficient *data*

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to form an idea of its results. Several questions were asked about the position and numbers of the courts and the method of keeping the Great Ledger. With regard to the Ledger, the Delegate said that certified extracts from it served the purpose of title-deeds, and that, in the event of land being pledged, it was the business of those concerned to see that the person advancing the money was present when the transaction was entered in the Ledger. Mr. Kato Rokuzo wished to know why subsidies were given to the three Schools of English, French, and German Law, whether the subsidies might not be dispensed with, and whether the schools were needed. Mr. Mitsukuri replied that formerly there had been Schools of Law attached to the Department of Justice, but since the abolition of these, the Bench and the Bar would have to depend on the Imperial University alone for a supply of legal experts were it not for the three schools in question, which supplied an undoubted public need. He further explained that allowances for entertainment were made to Judges of Courts at the Open Ports for the same reason that such allowances were made to Prefects and Governors. Replying to Mr. Tasuda Yuitsu, he said that an allowance of 1,000 *yen* per annum was made for the three students sent abroad by the Department, and that the greatest care was taken to provide for the proper expenditure of the money. In answer to another member, he said that though the study of law had made great strides in Japan, it was not yet by any means perfect, and a necessity existed for sending students abroad. Nevertheless, the number sent had been gradually reduced, and in time the practice might doubtless be discontinued. The allowances for entertaining were 300 *yen* annually to the Supreme Court; 250 *yen* to the Tokyo Court of Appeal; to the Osaka Court of Appeal, 600 *yen*; to the Nagasaki Appeal Court, 290; to the Nagoya Appeal Court, 250; to the Tokyo Local Courts, 250; to the Osaka Local Courts, 670; to the Yokohama Court, 800; to the Kobe Court, 800; to the Nagasaki Court, 550; and so forth, the Courts at the Open Ports receiving a proportionately large allowance to enable them to establish social intercourse with the foreign residents. A proposal to postpone the rising of the House until the conclusion of the questions about the Finance Department was negatived, and the session closed at 6.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—TUESDAY, JAN. 20TH.

The House assembled temporarily in the ball-room at the Rokumeikan at 1 p.m. The President, Count Ito, caused a clerk to read to the members an accurate description of the fire by which the two Houses of Parliament had been destroyed early in the morning of the same day. The account was prepared from the reports of the police and of officials on duty at the time of the conflagration. It showed clearly that the fire had been caused by some defects in electric lighting apparatus, and that as the flames broke out simultaneously from several places all of which were difficult if not impossible to reach, no hope of subduing the fire existed from the outset. The President said that it was greatly to be regretted that the first Houses of Parliament constructed in Japan should have met with such a fate so soon after the Diet had commenced its sittings. It would of course be necessary to re-erect the buildings with all celerity, but as that must be a matter of months, some place had to be found where the House might sit until the conclusion of the present session. The room placed at their disposal to-day was plainly too small for the purpose. Application had accordingly been made to the Government to provide and furnish a suitable chamber as soon as possible, and he thought he could promise that in about a week the necessary arrangements would be completed. He had taken steps to report the matter to the Emperor. No questions were asked, and the House rose at 1.40 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 2.08 p.m. in the Examination Hall of the former Imperial Engineering College at the Tora-no-mon. The President announced that the buildings of the Diet having been destroyed by fire early in the morning of that day, it would be necessary for the House to adjourn until proper arrangements could be made for its session. In answer to inquiries by members, he said that the session could probably be resumed in about a week. He suggested that strangers should be excluded, and the House agreed, but subsequently, on the motion of Mr. Kikuchi, newspaper reporters were admitted. One of the Secretaries then read a number of reports received from officers of the House and others as to the fire. These documents were virtually of the same import as those laid before the House of Peers, the contents of which had been epitomized in our account of that Houses' proceedings. Mr. Sano, Chief Secretary, then ascended the rostrum and said that, just as he was about to retire for the night, the alarm of fire was given. Running out, he found sparks playing under the roof of one of the buildings, and he soon observed that something was wrong with the electric lighting apparatus. Hastening to the various points of connection, he tried to shut off the current, but found it impossible to do so. He then proceeded to the House of Peers, and succeeded in shutting off the electric light there, but in a few minutes it burst out again, setting fire to several parts of the building. It was evidently hopeless to think any longer of coping with the flames, and he therefore directed his attention to saving the archives. On entering the room where these were stored, he found it in darkness, but the crackling of electricity was heard repeatedly. Coming out quickly he obtained all the aid procurable, and ultimately succeeded in getting out most of the books and documents stored on the ground floor. Those stored upstairs were thrown down into the court, but not more than one half of them could be picked up. A member said, with respect to the archives, that even assuming the destruction of the copies of books showing the sums lent or granted by the Government to promote industrial undertakings during the *Meiji* era, the original records doubtless existed, and he begged to be allowed to inspect them. The President replied that there had not yet been time to ascertain what books and documents were burned and what saved. As to the question of original records, he should make inquiries of the Government and give a reply subsequently. Mr. Tanigawa, on behalf of the Memorials Committee, asked to be informed as soon as possible about the archives. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho said that the fire of that morning had been a great catastrophe. He understood that officials connected with the Diet and members of the police force had shown remarkable resolution and courage in endeavouring to cope with the flames, and that one constable had risked his life by cutting two of the electric-light wires with his sword. He thought that the House ought to be informed of the names of the men who had thus distinguished themselves, in order that they might receive due recognition. Further, the fire had taken place in the near vicinity of the Imperial Palace, and doubtless as the Houses of Parliament were the scene of the conflagration, His Majesty the Emperor had been considerably disturbed. It seemed proper under the circumstances that the President should wait at the Palace to convey expressions of condolence in the name of the House. This proposal was generally approved. Mr. Yamada Yuizo said that Mr. Suyematsu had spoken only of thanking the officials and police, but it appeared right that they should be suitably rewarded. He suggested that the necessary representations be made with that view. The House decided in favour of Mr. Suyematsu's proposal. Mr. Ozaki Yukio said that although there appeared to be no doubt as to the cause of the fire, it must be remembered that much public excitement had existed of late, and that the proceedings of the Diet and the conflicts of parties within its precincts were watched with keen attention. He thought it scarcely necessary to point out the importance under these circumstances, of setting the mind of the nation entirely at rest as to the origin of the conflagration. Further, foreign countries also took no little interest in the result of the introduction of constitutional institutions in Japan, and such an incident as had just occurred might easily be misconstrued by persons at a distance. It was therefore desirable that telegraphic information should be sent abroad announcing the fact of the fire and explaining its cause. Doubtless the responsibility of the heavy loss would fall upon the Electric Light Company, but the injury done to the reputation of the system of electric lighting would not be confined to Japan: it would extend to all lands. No effort should be spared to prevent public prejudice from being excited against an invention which did such credit to the scientific ability of the century and conferred such a boon on mankind. He therefore proposed that a Special Committee of nine members be appointed to inquire minutely into the cause of the fire, and to report publicly to the House. Several members supported this proposal, but Mr. Hamano Noboru opposed it. He wanted to know how many members of the House were competent to conduct an expert inquiry into the subject of electric lighting, and he characterised the motion as absurd. Mr. Itakura also opposed the proposal. He said that such an inquiry fell within the province of the police, who were much more competent to conduct it than the House. Mr. Ozaki's motion was then put and lost. The House rose at 2.40 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—With reference to your note on the New Japanese hymnal, permit me to make only one remark. The book may have all the possible merits you claim for it, except that of being "the pioneer music book printed in Japan with type made and set up in the country." The very same Seishi Bunsha printed in 1889 a hymn-book since in use in the Catholic Church.

Yours, &c., CUIQUE SUUM.

January 21st, 1891.

[Was not the hymn-book of 1889 printed from wooden blocks? The question is one of musical type.—ED. *J.M.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Though I do not consider the question of the hymn-book as one of great importance, as you seem to call for an explanation, I beg only to state that the edition of which I sent you a copy was printed from *music type*, and not from *wooden blocks*. The correction had no other meaning.

Yours truly, CUIQUE SUUM.

January 22nd, 1891.

THE RECENT CASE IN THE PORTUGUESE CONSULAR COURT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL"

SIR,—In your comments upon the case of the Yokohama Station Master against Gama, I take objection to the following passage:—"In the two coincidences—first, that the counsel defending Gama happened to be also the President of the Hotel Directorate, and secondly, that the Railway official instigating the prosecution happened to stand in a peculiar relation to the Japanese girl upon whom Gama's attentions had been thrust—in these two coincidences may be found material to account for the ill judged persistence and vehemence of the Railway Authorities and for the rancour that disfigured an otherwise able defence. We refer to this phase of the miserable affair chiefly because of a singular statement into which the counsel for the defence suffered himself to be betrayed. He argued, with apparent faith in the truth of his words, that the object of the Foreign Secretary of the Railway Department in bringing the charge against Gama was to 'stir up bad blood and strife against foreigners.' This is in accord with the maudlin and silly creed maintained by certain persons in Yokohama, that every charge preferred by a foreigner against a foreigner in support of a Japanese, is anti-foreign and unpatriotic. Apparently the counsel for the defence would have the public believe that the licence taken by a man like Gama in contravention, if not of the Railway Regulations, certainly of the

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rules of ordinary decency, must be condoned and hushed up lest any public attempt to punish it be mistaken for an evidence of anti Japanese feeling. Such a doctrine would bring within the sphere of racial prejudice every question of right or wrong between a foreigner and a Japanese. The counsel for the defence in Gama's case is much too shrewd a man to be misled by extravagance of this kind. There is, therefore, all the more reason to criticise him for advancing a proposition so unreasonable and so entirely beside the mark. The real creators of bad blood between foreigners and Japanese are the persons who, for interested purposes, invest every dispute with an international character, and try to persuade the public that because a Portuguese hotel-runner is prosecuted for making indecent proposals to a Japanese girl in the Ladies' Waiting-Room of the Yokohama station, anti-foreign feeling in Japan is likely to be generated or intensified."

I did not argue that the object of the Foreign Secretary of the Railway Department in bringing the charge against Gama was to stir up bad blood and strife against foreigners, as you allege; on the contrary, my contention was that this particular charge had already been seized upon by a portion of the press to stir up strife, etc.; and I alluded to the paragraph in *The Japan Daily Mail* of the 22nd November last, headed "*Improper Treatment of Japanese Female Passengers in Railway Carriages by Foreigners.*" Read it, and then put to yourself this question:—Who are "the real creators of bad blood between foreigners and Japanese?" Who are "the persons who, for interested purposes, invest every dispute with an international character, and try to persuade the public that" and the rest of it?

Yours faithfully,

THE COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENCE.

Yokohama, January 22nd, 1891.

[The words used by the Counsel for the defence, according to the short-hand report, were:—"And all this was done by whom? By an employé of an employé of the railway station, Mr. Aldrich, one in Japanese service, in order to stir up bad blood and strife against foreigners." We fail to see how this can have been intended to refer to the *Japan Daily Mail* of November 22nd.—ED. *J.M.*]

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club was held on Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce buildings. Mr. W. W. Till (Captain) took the chair.

Among those present were Messrs. G. Scidmore, C. Gibbens, A. Owston, G. W. Barton, K. F. Crawford, W. H. Telford, S. W. Kennaway, J. B. Coulson, H. C. Litchfield, Clarence Martin, M. A. Howe, E. P. Nuttall, W. W. Till, W. W. Campbell, A. H. Stewart, J. G. Boag, F. H. Hooper, W. Sutter, R. Abenheim, H. V. Henson, C. Abenheim, A. S. Robinson, Playfair, J. Walter, J. Berrick, G. E. Rice, &c.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting was called in accordance with rule No. 13, and had been duly advertised.

Mr. ROBINSON proposed and Mr. BARTON seconded that the minutes of the last meeting be taken as read, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the passing of the accounts. It was hardly necessary for him to read the accounts as the members had printed copies placed on their chairs. They would observe that there was a credit on the working account of $420. It was the second time there had been a credit balance.—(Applause.) The only other year when there had been a credit balance was in 1888, when there was a balance of $320. This year there was $100 more. The new oars which had been received from England and cost $192.94 had not yet been touched. The suggestion put forward by the committee as to the debentures would reduce the debt to $500. The debenture notes were at eight per cent., and the question was whether it would be better for the money to go in the bank, or to pay off the debentures with it. He thought the members who orginally took the debentures did not take them as an investment, but simply to start the club. Touching the rowing, there were certainly no great results. The younger members, he thought, had not been encouraged by the older members, and he certainly had not done his duty as he really had not time to attend to it as he could have wished.—(Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. SCIDMORE said as there did not appear to be any disposition to critisize the report and accounts he would propose that the report be taken, and a vote of thanks to the officers and Committee for the able way in which they had carried out the work of the Club.—(Loud applause.)

Mr. BOAG seconded the proposition, which was unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN asked if the proposition meant that the debentures be taken as suggested.

Mr. SCIDMORE replied in the affirmative, and said he meant that the report be taken in total and a vote of thanks passed.

REPORT.

Your Committee's Annual Report, to which is subjoined the Treasurer's Statement of Account, is now placed before you.

The financial position of the Club is stronger than it has been for some years. The debt of $63 32 shown in the last report has been changed to a Credit balance of $1,010.87. Members' subscriptions during 1890 amounted to $2,735, as against $2 261 for the year 1889.

The recommendation of the last Committee in respect to the ordering of new oars has been carried out, a fresh supply having been obtained from England at a cost of $192.94, as shown in the Treasurer's Statement.

The Club property, with one or two exceptions, is in good order. The stairs leading to the Boat-house balcony and the balcony itself are now under repair. The Bathing barge having been damaged during the gale of last August, will require extensive repairs, at a probable cost of $300. The Committee, whilst leaving their successors to decide what form these repairs shall take, would suggest that the old style of roof be restored for the use of diving members. The boats are all in good condition.

A carpenter was engaged at the beginning of the season to attend to the boats and do whatever odd jobs might, from time to time, be required of him on the property of the Club. This has been found so satisfactory an arrangement that it is recommended the new Committee retain the man in the employ of the Club.

Touching rowing, which in 1889 was said to be claiming more attention, the Committee are unable to make any very satisfactory report. They cannot but regard with regret the very faint interest manifested by members in rowing this season. Notwithstanding the liberality of individual members, and the very handsome prizes offered by the Club, the entries to the Spring Regatta were disappointing; whilst as regards the Autumn event, so little support was accorded to the programme that the regatta had to be abandoned. Very little rowing has been done throughout the year, the tendency of members to regard the Club as a social, rather than an athletic institution, being seemingly on the increase, which is to be deprecated.

Swimming Races and Diving Competitions were held during the Summer and proved entirely successful.

The Committee seek the sanction of the members to the appropriation of $1,000 for the withdrawal of twenty debentures. This will reduce the debt of the Club to $500.

The Committee tender their resignations, with best wishes for the future prosperity of the Club.

The following do not offer themselves for re-election:—Messrs. W. W. Till, F. J. Hall, J. Walter, and H. J. Gorman.

H. V. HENSON, Honorary Secretary.

Yokohama, January 22nd, 1891.

THE YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER.

DECEMBER 31ST, 1890.—DR.

To Balance brought forward		$ 63.32
To Working Account.—Wages, gas, water, &c.		807.04
To House Account.—Insurance premium	$ 40.50	
Ground-rent	79.16	
Repairs and sundries	212.66	332 32
To Bathing Barge Account.—Repairs, caulking, coolie hire, &c.	$205.42	
Insurance premium	18.50	223.92
To Landing Stage Account.—Repairs, coolie hire, &c.		34.33
To Boat Account.—Insurance premium	$ 30.50	
New oars	192.94	
Repairs, &c.	267.35	490.79
To Regattas and Swimming Races.—Band, prizes, programmes, &c.		396.06
To Horizontal Bar.—Cost		65.79
To Debentures.—Cost of withdrawing 10 debentures		500.00
To Jersey Account.—Purchased		174.12
To Interest Account.—Interest on debentures.		120.00
To Balance		1,010.87
		$4,218.56

DECEMBER 31ST, 1890.—CR.

By Subscription.—Balance due for 1890	$ 15.00	
74 Honorary members one year	740.00	
8 Honorary members half year	30 00	
133 Active members 1st half year	798.00	
132 Active members and half year	792.00	
2 Tokyo members one year	20 00	
36 Entrance fees	360.00	2,755.00
By Sundries.—Bonus on Insurance premiums.	$ 13.20	
Bank interest	10.57	23.77
By Storage of private boats		70.00
By Boat Account.—Contribution to repairs		30.00
By Regattas and Swimming Races.—Entrance fees, &c.		131.00
By Horizontal Bar.—Subscribed towards cost.		59.00
By Jersey Account.—Sold		60.75
Bar Account.—Profits, 1889	$500.00	
Profits, 1890	$010.88	
Less uncollected	11.84 599 00	1,099.04
		$4,218.56

ASSETS.

New oars	$192.94
Stock Jerseys	275.18
One prize	12.00
E. & O. E.	$480.12

Yokohama, January 22nd, 1891.

CHANDLER GIBBENS,
For F. J. HALL, Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

(Signed): C. L. ANDERSON.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of officers.

Mr. TELFORD asked if Mr. Rickett would stand as captain if he was elected.

The CHAIRMAN said he believed Mr. Rickett had consented to serve.

Mr. NUTTALL asked if the last paragraph in the report relating to certain gentlemen not offering themselves for re-election was decisive.

The CHAIRMAN replied in the affirmative.

Mr. PLAYFAIR asked what lease the Club had the boat-house on.

The CHAIRMAN said they had no lease at present. They orginally took out a lease for seven years, but it expired in 1887. They might be turned out at any moment.

The ballot for officers was now announced and resulted in the following gentlemen being elected.

Mr. Rickett (Captain), Captain J. Martin (Honorary Secretary), Mr. Rothwell (Treasurer). The committee was announced as follows:—Messrs. Campbell, Gibbens, Boag, and Barton.

Mr. LITCHFIELD said he wished to call a vote of thanks to the retiring committee, especially to Mr. Till.—(Applause.) In the year 1881 he had joined the committee of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club. At that time it was burdened by debentures to a large amount, and it was mainly due to his energy and to the care which he took with the finances and to his sticking to one straightforward course that the debentures of the Club were reduced, and on his retiring he handed over only a paltry debt of $500. That was a very satisfactory result of Mr. Till's work, and he (Mr. Litchfield) asked the members to vote him a very cordial thanks.—(Applause.)

Mr. SCIDMORE said he desired to second that proposition. He also remembered Mr. Till joining the committee. He did not do so readily. He said he preferred not to serve, and said he was too young, but the members decided that he would outgrow that and he had certainly done so.—(Laughter and applause.)

The CHAIRMAN asked that the gentlemen who voted for that proposition would kindly hold up their hands.—(Renewed laughter and all hands shown.)

No one having any other propositions, the CHAIRMAN declared the meeting closed.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

We have been requested to publish the following annual report of the Ladies' Benevolent Association:—

Committee:—President—Mrs. Irwine, Vice-President—Mrs. Eldridge, Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. W. B. Walter, Hon. Secretary—Mrs. Brearley, Managers—Mrs. Brent, Mrs. Grösser, Mrs. Lindsley, Mrs. Mollison, Mrs E. Morriss, Mrs. Tripler.

Meetings of the Managing Committee are held on the first Monday in every month at the Parsonage, at 4.30 p.m. All members of the Association are entitled to attend these meetings and vote; also to introduce to the Committee any cases requiring assistance. Rules of the Association will be found in every collecting book, and can be obtained from the Secretary. The Committee wishes especially to call attention to Rule IV., viz., "The conditions of membership shall be a monthly subscription of *not less* than fifty cents."

As the Treasurer's Report hereto appended will show, the balance in hand is about the same as that of last year, thus proving that the objects and aims of the Association continue to meet with the approval and sympathy of the community. Cases are occasionally brought before the Society which cannot be strictly called deserving. Their misfortunes are often the direct result of their own misconduct, but as no one would wish to see their fellow creatures destitute and starving in the streets, the L. B. A., being the only charitable Socity here, is perforce obliged to take up these cases, de-erving or otherwise. Fortunately, however, the Association has frequently more satisfactory applicants for help; those who, with large families and small means, struggle hard to keep up and pay their way. Fatherless children, and widows unprovided for, and those who, losing employment, became needy. To such money is never lent, but relief given for the time-being, and every effort made to provide them with work whereby they can help themselves.

Frequent applications having being made to the Association for help by able-bodied discharged seamen, it was thought advisable to call a Special Committee Meeting to consider what should be done in such cases, when it was decided that unless these applicants brought a medical certificate, stating that they were ill and unable to work, no aid should be given them.

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Assistance has been given during the year in money and clothing to a Portuguese widow and family, and the Association is at present paying for the education of two of the children.

A sick nurse in Tokyo was helped with a small sum of money while ill and unable to work.

An English teacher out of and unable to obtain employment, was assisted for some months, and ultimately her third-class passage paid to England. A grateful letter of thanks has been received from her since her arrival there.

An American with five children, deserted by her husband, was allowed a sum of money for two or three months, and third-class passage of herself and family paid to San Francisco.

Steerage passage to Honolulu, where he had friends, was paid for a poor sick Englishman, and $5.00 given him for landing expenses.

A poor Indian was helped for a short time, but this proving a most unsatisfactory case, aid was discontinued.

Three destitute children are being maintained and educated by the Association, and the Committee has much pleasure in reporting that several boys formerly supported and educated by the L. B. A. are now in situations where they are giving satisfaction.

The special thanks of the Association are due to the Rev. E. C. Irwine for his kind and ready help in many cases which the Committee found difficulty in dealing with, to those members of the community who have sent donations of money and clothing, to the various Steamship Agencies for having kindly granted passages at reduced rates, and to Mrs Pass for her kindness and forbearance towards the children placed under her charge.

Gifts of left-off clothing will be thankfully received at the parsonage by the President.

C. A. BREARLEY, Hon. Secretary.

Yokohama, 17th January, 1891.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.—ACCOUNT FOR 1890.

DR.

Brought forward from 1889	$ 911.64
Donations paid in 1889 after account was published	50.86
Received in subscriptions 1890	765.50
Received in Donations 1890	20.00
Collected	70.00
Received as part return of passage paid to England, of a poor Scotchman	78.65
Interest on current account at Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	8.18
	$1,904.83
To Balance	$ 913.34
Subscriptions received late	6.00
	$ 919.34

CR.

Paid out—	
To Mr. Pass for board, schooling and clothing 3 children for one year	$ 214.50
To relief of a Portuguese widow and family of 6 children, for one year	140.00
Passage to Shanghai of a poor American woman	28.00
Assistance to same	8.10
To relief of a sick nurse in Tokyo	15.00
To convent for 4 children for one month	12.00
To assist a poor Englishman, and his passage to Honolulu	90.00
To assist a poor American woman	50.00
Passage of the same with 3 children to San Francisco	175.00
To assist poor English governess	30.00
3rd class passage to England of poor English governess	150.00
To Mr. Pass for maintenance of an orphan for several months	20.00
To assist a sick man	5.00
To assist an Australian widow	24.90
Passage of same to Hongkong	25.00
For Manager's account books, post cards and printing	3.99
	$ 991.49
To Balance	913.34
	$1,904.83

M. M. WALTER, Hon. Treasurer, L.B.A.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1890.

Mrs. Abegg ... for one year	$12	Mrs. Merriman for one year	$ 6
Mrs. Allen ... " ...	12	Mrs. C. D. Moss ... " ...	6
Mrs. Anglin ... " ...	12	Mrs. Martin ... " ...	12
Mrs. Averill ... " ...	12	Mrs. Muraoue (left) " ...	5
Madame Blanc ... " ...	12	Mrs. J. T. Morris " ...	5.50
Mrs. Brearley ... " ...	12	Mrs. Mendelson ... " ...	12
Mrs. Brooke ... " ...	12	Mrs. Mitchell ... " ...	6
Mrs. Brent ... " ...	12	Mrs. Manley for 3 months	1.50
Mrs. Bird ... " ...	6	Madame Neyt...for one year	12
Mrs. Berrick ... " ...	12	Mrs. Parsons ... " ...	12
Mrs. Brinkworth ... " ...	6	Mrs. Poole ... " ...	6
Mrs. Carst ... " ...	12	Mrs. Pownall ... " ...	6.50
Mrs. Center ... " ...	6	Mrs. Piggott ... " ...	6
Mrs. Cameron ... " ...	4	Mrs. Olmsted " ...	12
Mrs. Cox ... " ...	12	Mrs. Oestmann (left " ...	5
Mrs. Dare ... " ...	12	Mrs. Owston ... " ...	6
Mrs. Dinsdale ... " ...	12	Mrs. Pratt ... " ...	12
Mrs. Dross ... " ...	6	Mrs. Rickett ... " ...	12
Mrs. Eldridge ... " ...	12	Mrs. Reimers ... " ...	12
Mrs. Engert ... " ...	12	Mrs. Rohde ... " ...	12
Mrs. Eford ... " ...	6	Mrs. E. S. Smith ... " ...	12
Mrs. Hugh Fraser " ...	6	Mrs. Steele ... " ...	12
Mrs. J. A. Fraser " ...	12	Mrs. St. John ... " ...	12
Mrs. Gravatt ... " ...	9	Mrs. Scribe (left) ... " ...	5
Mrs. Grösser ... " ...	7	Mrs. S. Thompson " ...	6
Mrs. George (left " ...	3	Mrs. Stone ... " ...	3
Mrs. Gillett ... " ...	12	Mrs. Sirome ... " ...	12
Mrs. Goodrich ... " ...	12	Mrs. Tripler ... " ...	12
Mrs. Grunwald ... " ...	6	Mrs. Tresize ... " ...	2
Mrs. Hegt ... " ...	10	Mrs. Van Pretten " ...	9
Mrs. S. D. Hepburn " ...	6	Mrs. Vincent ... " ...	6
Mrs. Hoggan ... " ...	8	Mrs. Varnum ... " ...	6
Mrs. Hannen ... " ...	12	Mrs. E. B. Watson " ...	12
Mrs. Hutchison for 2 months	2	Mrs. Weinberger ... " ...	12
Mrs. Howard ... for one year	12	Mrs. Walter ... " ...	12
Mrs. Irwine ... " ...	6	Mrs. J. Walter ... " ...	6
Mrs. Johnstone ... " ...	12	Mrs. Wheeler ... " ...	12
Mrs. Jenson ... " ...	12	Mrs. Wex (left) ... " ...	9
Mrs. Klobukowski " ...	12	Mrs. Wilson ... " ...	6
Mrs. Kenderdine ... " ...	6	Mrs. A. T. Watson " ...	6
Miss Leach ... " ...	6	Mrs. Young ... " ...	5
Mesdames Leslie & Curtis "	12		
Mrs. Lindsley ... " ...	9	DONATORS.	
Mrs. Lowder ... for 3 months	3	Mrs. Brower	$10
Mrs. Morriss ... for one year	12	Omitted from 1889	50
Mrs. Mollison ... " ...	12	Anonymous	10

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held in the Society's Rooms, No. 17, Tsukiji, on Wednesday January 14th, 1891, at 4 p.m. Rev. Dr. Ameiman, Vice-President, in the chair.

The minutes of last meeting having been published in the *Japan Mail*, were taken as read.

The election was announced of the following gentlemen as resident members of the Society. Dr. J. Lönholm, L. Van de Polder, Esq., W. B. Mason, Esq, C. Meriwether, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. Piggott to read his paper on "The Music of the Japanese." The extracts read chiefly referred to the construction of the scale; and Mr. Yamase Shoin illustrated practically the various tunings of the Koto—the *hirajoshi*, the *kumoi*, and *iwato*. The following is a précis of the contents of the paper:—

The first part of the paper consists of descriptions of ancient and modern Chinese and Japanese musical instruments, which are divided into the following classes:—I. Kotos. II. Biwas and stringed instruments with frets. III. Samisens, Kokyus, and stringed instruments without frets. IV. Bamboo wind instruments. V. Drums. VI. Gongs.

The points of chief interest occurring in the descriptions are first, a short description of the growth of Japanese Koto music out of the Chinese music which had come over to Japan with the Bugaku dances, and also of the work of Yatsuhashi, the inventor of the Japanese form of Koto, and the composer of the great majority of the classical pieces still performed. Secondly, an analysis of Chinese time which proceeds on a principle the converse of the Western, working up to its accent, or climax.

In the second part of the paper the technical terms used in Koto music are explained, and an illustration of Koto notation is given together with an English rendering of it. The notation gives the numbers of the strings to be played in parallel columns, the marks for the bars being placed at the side.

The examination of the Japanese scale follows next in order. The conclusions arrived at are, first, that the octave is divided into semitones: secondly, that the differences in the notes which Dr. Veeder has shown to be slight scientifically, are in practice barely recognizable. Thirdly, that although in the normal tuning of the Koto only five different notes are used, and although the simple and popular melodies are built almost entirely on these five notes, yet the classical composition of Yatsuhashi and the masters who followed him distinctly recognize the existence of two other notes, which come in the gaps between those of the five notes which are more than a full tone apart: that the sequence of these seven notes with the octave, if we start from the second string, is the sequence of the descending minor scale of the West: that this second string has always been considered by the Japanese as the 'fundamental note;' and that therefore the conclusion is almost irresistible that the Japanese have a diatonic scale composed of the same intervals as the scale of the West: the major lying between the fourth and ninth strings, the descending minor between the second and seventh. The test of harmony supports this conclusion, satisfying even Japanese ears though they are unaccustomed to harmonies. The contention receives its greatest support in a somewhat unexpected manner from the other tunings of the Koto. There are two other important tunings, *kumoi* and *iwato*. They are not perfectly understood by Japanese musicians themselves, but a close study of them reveals that they are constructed on the same principle as the normal tuning, *hirajoshi*, the same notes of the diatonic scale being omitted in the notes of the strings, but supplied in the music by double pressure as before. The study of them reveals too the remarkable fact that the scale sequence of Japan, though for certain practical reasons it is limited to three, is precisely the same as the sequence of the West, that is to say, it proceeds by fifths. Transposition of Japanese music from one tuning to another is therefore possible, and the best musicians can always do it easily.

The question of pitch is of great importance. It is admitted that the ratios of the Japanese intervals differ slightly from those of both the Pythagorean and the scientific diatonic scale. But these scales are not in practical existence. The equal temperament tuning of the piano governs all music in the West. The comparison of Japanese and Western scales resolves itself therefore into the practical question of whether Japanese music can be transferred to the piano without altering its character preceptibly. Now as the ratios of the intervals in different keys on the piano vary among themselves it is obvious that the ratio differences between the Japanese scale and the equal temperament scale will be greater in some keys on the piano than in others. The key giving the smallest differences is therefore the one in which Japanese music should be played, and this could be ascertained scientifically. The ear, however, suggests the key of F sharp minor as the one which most satisfactorily renders the plaintive character of Japanese music. On this point Japanese musicians concur with the conclusions of the author. The paper concludes with an analysis of the form or principle of construction of Japanese classical music, the tune *Umegae* being subjected to dissection.

The author then concludes: I have gone at length into the analysis of this piece because one such careful study at least is necessary to understand the Japanese idea of composition. I do not imagine that every composition when subjected to the same rigorous analysis would reveal so intricate a construction. But when we find it in the least advanced example of the severer music, we are certainly entitled to assume that the principles of construction are not ignored in the more elaborate compositions; a complete mastery of the science of 'form' must be in the East, as it is in the West, the corner stone of all successful composition. It seems fully in accordance with the Western idea, too, that in the elementary composition of a rigid or classical nature, the elements of the science should be easily discoverable, their clothing of phrases being only the thinnest of coverings.

What then is this Japanese idea as we see it after our analysis? A composition built on a principal theme, constantly recurring but in varied forms to the principal theme, subordinate themes added from time to time, then again recurring in varied forms: a gradual working up to a climax which is full of pleasant reflexion of all that has gone before, being in fact the themes and pretty phrases of the composition woven together. Surely the Western idea does not altogether differ from this. In means for carrying it out, for inventing grander themes, for elaborating them, for beautifying them, for involving them one with the other, for mystifying the clear vision of the brain by surrounding everything with a delightful mist of sound, yes: the music of the East cannot compare with the music of the West; but again I say, we must remember the few pitiful strings, the imperfect knowledge of the scale, the deficient knowledge of the capacity of some of their instruments, and then I think what has been done is a thing to wonder at and not to scoff at: and again I say we have no notion how far the modern Japanese music has gone, because we don't listen to it, and we wont listen to it, and as yet there is no means whereby we may study it for ourselves when the sliding doors have been drawn to, and the tea house candles have been extinguished.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the author in the name of the Society for his valuable and instructive paper. In the early years of the Society, Dr. Syle and a little later Dr. Veeder, had taken up some points in connection with Japanese music; and still earlier Dr. Muller had written in the *Japan Mail* on the subject. Nothing, so far as he knew had been done lately; and Mr. Piggott's present paper, which seemed much more technical and complete than any of its predecessors, cannot fail to be an extremely valuable addition to the Society's Transactions. He would also convey the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Yamase for his kindness in illustrating the different tunings of the Koto.

Mr. MILNE said that the President, by his references to the work of Dr. Syle and Prof. Veeder, had given to the meeting the early history of what had been done by the Asiatic Society relating to the Music of Japan. However, one more reference might be made, and that was to the discussion which took place some 15 years ago or thereabouts, respecting some metallic objects which looked like coal scuttles. These, which had been dug up in some parts of the Empire, were too old to allow the supposition that they were really what they looked like. But what were they? Were they ornaments for temples? Were they helmets, or were they bells? The bell theory might be considered as having a distant relationship with the subject now under discussion. Bells were musical instruments, and they had been spoken of as such by the author of the valuable paper the meeting had just heard. Just as Japanese music was difficult to reproduce on European instruments, Mr. Piggott told as that the music of our own bells was difficult to reproduce. This Mr. Milne regarded as being possibly a fault in our bells arising from the difficulties in manufacture—it being an unusually difficult matter to cast a bell free from beats and with the desired note. Referring to the work of Dr. Syle and Prof. Veeder, Mr. Milne was of opinion that this had been too lightly touched upon. If he remembered rightly these gentlemen showed that the number of vibra-

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tions per second in any of the notes of the Japanese scale did not correspond with the number of vibrations per second in any of the notes in the European scale. What might this indicate? Possibly certain physiological differences between Eastern and Western organization. In the East and in the West the same emotions existed, but these were satisfied by different quantities. The Westerns for example satisfied this feelings of pleasure by combinations or the rythmical succession of one set of notes, whilst the easterns filled a similar gap with the combinations, &c., resulting from another set of notes. Another subject Mr. Milne said he would like to hear about, was the history of Japanese music. If you knew the history of a subject the better were you able to understand it—music had to do with muses, now who were the muses of Japan?—the Beethovens, Mozarts, and Handels for example? Has Japanese music been developed along the same lines as European music or along defferent lines? In all nations we first had the recitative, then let us say the *tom tom*, so that primitive music possibly began with one note. After that came instruments of a higher organization, with 2 or 3 notes, and now we had our pianos with 12 notes. Had Japanese music had an evolution along similar lines, and if it had, to what stage had it reached? Possibly it had been evolved in a manner totally different. Certainly as it stood, so far as Europeans were concerned, its functions were not the same. Europeans certainly derived pleasure from European music, but as the author of the learned paper had hinted it could not be said that when the lights were out and the *shōji* drawn Europeans derived pleasure from the twanging of the *samisen*. Japanese liked Japanese music, and Europeans liked European music, so whether the reason was a matter of education or physiological difference it was hard to say.

In reply to Mr. Milne, Mr. PIGGOTT mentioned, as among the great composers of Japan, Yatsuhachi and his pupils. After the first few generations, however, the names were lost. The music that is played at the present day is about 200 years old.

In reply to a question put by Dr. Du Bois, as to the character of the Gekkin scale, Mr. PIGGOTT said that the Gekkin was Chinese, and used fret notes depending on pressure, so that it was impossible to find any definite scale on it.

Captain BRINKLEY asked why, if Japanese and Western music could be represented on the same scale, it was so difficult for Europeans to remember Japanese tunes.

Mr. PIGGOTT said that was due to the prevalence of awkward intervals, to which the Western ear was not accustomed. Some of these intervals were indeed very extraordinary. Nevertheless, when one's attention was given specially to it, it was possible to remember Japanese tunes. He had himself been able to remember six times in one year. As Dr. Du Bois suggested, it was possible to play any Japanese tune on the piano.

Dr. DIVERS expressed his sense of the importance of the contribution which Mr. Piggott had made to the Society upon Japanese music. By its fullness of treatment from the artistic aspect of the subject it seemed to afford opportunity of studying the peculiarities and possibilities of Japanese music to an extent not hitherto within the reach of most persons. They were therefore greatly indebted to the author for his paper. He would have seen by the comments already made that he was not to expect general acquiescence in the soundness of all his views, but no doubt that would not disappoint so earnest a student of the subject provided that he saw his work become, as it probably would, the basis of further investigations by others along the same lines. Dr. Divers himself could not admit with the author that to the adoption of the system of equal temperament in instrumental music was due the recognition of the nature of the emotional effects of different music. The emotional effect was due to the nature of successive musical intervals in a piece, not upon the pitch of the notes. Equal temperament was an unnatural deviation from the natural scale, valuable only, though most highly so, because of the possibilities it gave to such a simple instrument as the piano of reproducing such elaborate harmonised effects. Now the author, adopting the equal temperament scale as the standard Western scale, and then submitting the Japanese scale to a similar smoothing down or equalising process, could hardly have failed in making the two scales fit in or overlap as it were. But this, it seemed to the speaker, was setting aside the peculiarities distinguishing the systems rather than accounting for them. There yet remained, however, much in this part of the treatment of his subject that made the author's investigations very interesting and important. There was one other part of the paper Dr. Divers would be glad to be allowed to notice, in the hope of having it made clearer, which was that upon the fall of the accent in the bar of Chinese drum music. Mr. Piggott had stated the last note of the bar was the accented note. How could this be? Was not music measured by the recurrence of the accented notes and these notes conventionally made the first of the bars? A reporter of any music whatever which was capable of being taken down would always make the accented notes begin the bars, and therefore would treat Chinese drum music in the same way. Would, therefore, the author kindly explain how he had formed the opinion that the accented notes were last in the bars?

In reply to Dr. Divers' questions, Mr. PIGGOTT said that he laid so much stress on the equal temperament scale simply because it was the scale on which modern music was based. Practically there was now no such thing as the diatonic or the Pythagorean scale. As to the accent in Chinese music falling on the last note of the bar, it was certainly so, the preceding notes leading up to the accented note which ended the bar.

The CHAIRMAN, before declaring the meeting adjourned, drew the attention of members to the fact that there were now in Japan complete sets of movable music type, with which it was possible to get very good printing done.

A TOSA MONOGATARI OF MODERN TIMES.

By A. M.

We were sitting on the pebbly beach of Chinsenji,—or rather Webster was sitting, and I was lying spread out on the flat of my back with my wide-awake down over my nose. I don't mind a day's work when there is work to be done, but we were out for a holiday. Now if there is one thing more than another that I loathe, abhor, and inwardly detest it is that beastly unseasonable energy that was such an abominable flaw in Webster's otherwise perfect character. Here we had come for a quiet spell, and the very first thing he had done to begin it was to drag me about, prospecting all the accursed waterfalls from Kirifuri even unto Kegon, winding up the performance by bursting and breaking me all up in clambering up the Jacob's ladder sort of ascent that leads to the sky-scraping summit of Nantai! That was on the very first day after our arrival at Nikkō, and I had come to the conclusion that it was just about enough for a start. So next morning when Webster proposed to rush me off to Yumoto and from thence into the Phallic haunted-wilderness beyond, I simply struck and refused to budge. It was fine to listen to the bullock-driving vocabulary in which he expostulated and tried to convey an adequate sense of his disappointment. In a sort of fashion it brought back old times,—it recalled with a mellow and subdued hallowedness the gum trees and the ranges, the wild race after breaking cattle, the crack of the stock-whip, the damper, the Chinikie washerman, Crimean shirts and moleskins and—Oh! heaps of other things all more or less equally poetic and romantic. But move I would not; not even when he began to chivvy me with Komeya's pillows and cushions. However, I had consented to be rowed over to tiffin on the other side of the lake, and here we were quiet and happy and contented, feeling that there was no joy like calm. At least I did,—Webster as usual was energetic. He was pelting stones at an empty beer-bottle bobbing and floating in the water (its contents had just served to moisten our clay),—and pelting at it too as it he had taken a competition contract to smash it.

Apart from the splash, splash, splash, of his ineffectual shots, the silence was unbroken and profound. The sun had got away behind us and the pine-clad heights in our rear were duplicated in the waters below; across the lake the woods on Nantaizan were flushed with a glory of afternoon sunshine. But in the midst of it all there was an eerie feeling of depression and sadness; you somehow felt that the day was dying and that it was pathetically conscious of its doom. This is a feeling that is often thrust wonderfully strongly upon you in the solitude of the bush and the ranges of Australia; a feeling that is indescribable in so many words, but whose most marked characteristics are a melancholy yet peaceful resignation to the inevitable, and a conviction that you've had your day and that now you can but drift quietly on to the falls where everyone has to take the final plunge. It was perhaps some association of that sort that set me humming a snatch of Lindsey Gordon's "Sick Stock Rider":—

I've had my share of pastime, and I've done my share of toil,
And life is short—the longest life a span;
I care not now to tarry for the corn or for the oil,
Or for wine that maketh glad the heart of man.
For good undone and gifts misspent and resolutions vain,
'Tis somewhat late to trouble. This I know—
I should live the same life over, if I had to live again;
And the chances are I go where most men go.

"Hullo!" said Webster stopping his pelting, "You know the *Stock Rider*?"

There was a touch of inquiring wonder in his tone that I didn't at all like.

"What are you a givin' us?" I asked sarcastically, for there is not a larrikin in Australia between the Leeuwin and Cape York and from there round to Perth that doesn't know his *Stock Rider* as well as his multiplication table and a good deal better than his Lord's Prayer. It is perhaps the most distinctively Australian thing that has ever been penned. It catches the atmosphere of the country in a way no other piece of verse has ever done or will ever likely do. It is quite *sui generis*. You can't recite it; no more can you sing it. It sounds ridiculous in either way. But you can chaunt it,—in a slow, mournful, melancholy, jogging measure, just like the pace of a dead-beat horse after a round dozen hours after cattle. I have often heard strong, bearded-men chaunting it with the tears running down their faces. Even in our Bohemian Clubs, the Yorick in Melbourne or the Johnsonian in Brisbane, I have seen the room reduced to a lachrymose state by performers who knew how to handle the thing.

So I was a bit nettled when Webster asked me if I knew it; for every one who has been in Australia is supposed to know it like his alphabet. Therefore I answered crisply and crabbedly.

"Don't get on your ear, old man," expostulated Webster, "I meant no offence. Only it reminded me of one of the strangest things I have run across since I came up here. Did I never tell you about it?"

"No, but never mind, it isn't too late to enlighten me, you know. Heave ahead; this is just the spot for improving conversation."

"It was on the borders of Tosa and Awa—ever been there?"

"No, I ain't like you, a bloomin' peripatetic with an unappeasable itch for thrusting his nose into quarters hitherto untrodden by the white man's shoe-leather. But as I remarked before, heave ahead."

"Well! If you haven't been there, go! It is one of loveliest spots in Japan."

"Humph! Is there anything else to recommend it?"

"Well, the female portion of the inhabitants is quite in keeping with the scenery. The women are undoubtedly the loveliest girls in the country to the south and west of Kyoto. And they are kind too; in fact they are occasionally embarrassing in their devoted attentions."

"Poor martyr! I'm sorry for you!"

"At present *they* are neither here nor there; although I do have a yarn to spin about one of them. I was talking about the country. It is ravishing. You come up from the Kochi side some 9 *ri* or so and reach the top of Sui-tattetoge. From the cabin beside the blasted pine tree at the summit of the pass you look down upon a sea of skeleton-like snags in the grey and leafless *buna* forest beyond.

"Ring barking?" I queried.

"Not a bit of it, he answered; "natural. They grew that way, as gaunt and scraggy as a bevy of unclad witches out for a spree. You plunge into the gloom of the wood and get the creeps and shivers instanter. By and by though this changes, and after ten minutes of plunging downwards three yards at a stride you strike what seems at first blush to be an extensive study in landscape gardening in fairy land. You come down upon the Yoshinogawa at Kuroishi, and meet with a streak of scenery that I would just like to see you trying to describe. You lay yourself out for impressionism, but that would take the starch out of you as sure as my name is what it is. The river runs in a regular gulch between walls of slatey-rock and over a bottom of the same material. From it the hills on both sides run up to 1,200 or 1,500 feet at an angle of something like 60°. To their summits, almost, they are terraced and tilled and planted in a fashion passing belief. White washed houses perched eagle-eyrie wise on their basements and retaining walls of slatey-gray, glint and gleam in the gorgeous Western sun-light that pours in a crimson-violet flood adown the glen. Anon they peep out from beneath clumps of shady *sugi* trees or feathery bamboos. The wealth of tints in the strips of maple wood is perfectly bewildering. Here and there waterfalls and cascades come dancing and tumbling down the mountain flanks. And below is the river, now quiet and still and deep and opalesque and anon roaring and foaming and tossing like a white maned war-steed as it sweeps in spray over a boulder-

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strewn bed whirling huge pine and *sugi* poles adown its flood onwards to the timber-yards of Tokushima."

"I say, old man, it would take a lot to beat that bit of bathos. Why Claude Melnotte and Como shrivel into dwarfish insignificance!"

He shied the empty luncheon-basket at me and hit me, and then went on.

"The way winds down the valley, but it is only a bridle path, and it runs on as if it were drunk. It scrambles up and down the face of the cliffs like a love-sick spider chasing his sweetheart. It is first up and then down and *vice versâ* till you begin to anathematise variety in elevation as heartily as Job ever cursed the day he was born. At one moment you are 1,000 feet up in the clouds and at another you are within a fifty feet jump of suicide in the Yoshinogawa. Its beastly trying after you have been pumped by 30 odd miles on shanks's mare, as we had been that day."

"But there's a lot in Mark Tapley's philosophy and we thought it just as well to be jolly. Sasaki struck up a choice piece of metrical if not musical Nihongo, and I caught the effluvia of infection."

"Now although I know well enough that my singing is several lengths to the rear of the cawing of a rasping octogenarian crow yet I *do* have a very strong liking for music."

"The samisen for example?" I put it.

"Yes,—even for the samisen. There are many worse things than the music at a geisha spree, let me tell you! But to get ahead? I never make an ass of myself by braying out loud when there is any one within earshot. But when I get away on lone hillsides, beside mountain-tarns, in the woods, in short into the wilderness, I let the harmonies coursing about among my brain-convolutions have a show of expressing themselves. So as I was tramping along a level stretch of that confoundedly up and down *yama-michi*, I got humming the second last verse of the *Stock Rider* somewhat audibly. It harmonised with the dying glory of the sunset and the oncoming of the gloaming just to a nicety. I like to take my music in homeopathic doses—"

"It wouldn't be a bad thing if you could say as much of your whiskey," I interjected.

"No more it would, perhaps. But never mind that now. I had just stopped to catch my breath for a dash at the uphill pinch at the end of the stretch of level when I heard the air echoing away up among the rocks overhead. Naturally I was a bit surprised and paused to listen. At first I thought it was about the funniest echo I had ever listened to. It was a long way more musical than the original it reproduced. Of course it at once flashed upon me that there was money in the thing if one could only lay hold upon it and bottle it up like Edison's phonograph. I had just turned round to communicate this idea to Sasaki when something happened to flabbergast and lay me out flat as a pancake. The tune was reproduced—only as I said musically, and in the most approved Australian manner, but the *words weren't*. I caught the vocables plainly enough, *and they were not the same as I had chanted. They were the words of the following and final stanza!!*

"Stuff and nonsense, man; you had drunk too much *sake* and put away too many chunks of high smelling *daikon* at the last tea-house, and altogether it was that infernal cucumber you ate and couldn't digest!" I remarked unsympathetically, for the basket had really hurt me.

"Now then, you are just all abroad and out of it entirely! It was nothing of the sort! I was a good deal more awake than you are now, you bloomin' lazy lump of do-nothingness. But I felt creepy, and Sasaki seemed a bit staggered too, although he of course didn't catch the difference in the words. It was about the biggest knock I had got since the niggers stuck us up on the Palmer. I felt my hair almost rising as it went on, clearly and distinctly and in mellow tones that would have brought the house down in a mining-camp:—

> The deep blue skies wax dusky and the tall green trees grow dim;
> The sward beneath me seems to heave and fall,
> And sickly, smoky shadows through the sleepy sun light swim,
> And on the very sun's face weave their pall.
> Let me slumber in the hollow where the wattle blossoms wave,
> With never stone or rail to fence my bed;
> Should the sturdy station children pull the bush flowers on my grave,
> I may chance to hear them romping overhead.

Right through it went, and *ping overhead* was repeated over again! Then there was unbroken silence."

"I stood for a minute and then I thought I'd give it another trial, and hummed over another stanza. But barring the repetition of the last two words of the ultimate line, there was no response. Then I tried another with the same result, and then a verse of 'Scot's wha hae' the only outcome of which was the repetition of 'victory' by the craggy walls of the gulch. It was uncommonly eerie and creepy. I hurried on as fast as I could in the gathering gloom and was precious glad to reach the poor *yadoya*, a few miles below Kuroishi."

"About half-an-hour after supper, the landlord came and asked me for my passport to show to the policeman. I went out and gave it him myself, as I always make a point of making friends with the guardians of the peace. They are a real good sort in the main, and you bet it pays. A pressman can get many a wrinkle out of them. They usually carry all the scandal of the country side in their note-books and they are as often as not confirmed gossips. Anyhow, I have often got them to expand, and Ito San was no exception to the rule. But unfortunately he could not stay; he had just been sent for in haste by the *bonzes* of Burakuji as the Guwaikokujin monk called Kichioji, had just died. 'The Guwaikokujin monk? Ah! true I was only a traveller, but he thought everybody had heard of the foreigner who had come to Burakuji and had shaved his head. It was a thing of when? Five years ago, or perhaps six. But really he must be taking his honourable leave. Perhaps I should like to go along.' All this as he was lighting his lantern. Tired although I was, of course there was but one answer to his proposal. Sasaki rubbed his thighs and his calves ruefully, but got up and tied on his *zori*, while I got my cudgel and an extra *chochin* and off we set. There was a pale wan-like moon coldly shimmering in her first quarter away over to the west, while a raw biting wind had sprung up and was sighing and moaning among the waving tree-tops. We threaded our way in single file upwards along the face of the cliffs on the north bank of the river, and after three quarters of an hours' laborious climbing we saw the lime-washed walls of a courtyard gleaming white and ghastly from a surrounding clump of *sugi*. We went up to it and shouted. The policeman was evidently expected; when he explained who I was, I was also admitted with many bows."

"I needn't say that I was a good deal excited, and considerably on the tenter-hooks of expectation. I began to sniff a possible explanation of that seemingly eccentric and miraculous echo. Yet after all it was passing strange that any one in the wilds of Tosa should ever have heard of the *Stock Rider*. But in this life, as well as in that which is to come, you must be prepared for anything."

"Well, we were conducted into the chamber of death. I can't tell you exactly how I felt, and I shan't try, but on the whole I seemed to myself to be in a cross between a bad nightmare and a hopeless chaos of moral and intellectual pulp. The body was lying on a quilt robed in white, and a sizeable man it must have been, six feet on his stocking holes every inch of it. Although tonsured and shaved in the orthodox fashion it was easy enough to see at a glance that nature had never meant that corpse for a Japanese *bonze*. His features weren't Japanese one tiny little bit. The cut of his eyes was Caucasian, his nose eloquently so, while the tint of his complexion was north European unmistakeably. I fancied I had seen a face like that somewhere before; possibly in some painting or photograph. Over the shaven eyebrow was the scar of a nasty contusion inflicted years before no doubt. It was a powerful face as it lay there in all the calmness of an eternal sleep. The forehead was broad and lofty, the jawbone heavy and massive. Only the lips perhaps struck one as somehow indicative of a weakness nowhere else detectable in the general physiognomy. Perhaps it was the lips that were answerable for the Reuben-unstable-as-water-thou-shalt-not-excel impression that somehow or other emerged from the midst of the otherwise strong and hard-set features."

"What an artistic liar you are Webster." I remarked "Why don't you set up as a three volume novelist? You'd sell, old man, and no mistake."

"Believe it or not, as you like, but it is naked facts I'm telling you. Truth is said to be stranger than fiction, and, by the great Jehosaphat! I'm inclined to think it is."

"Well, then, it's all right. Go on. What next?"

"I asked how he had come here, and was told that he had first come to stay at the monastery five years before. He was a *gakushi*, and could read the Holy Books in Pali and also in the old language of Shakya. He had brought some volumes with him, and he had offered to teach the *bonzes*. And soon he had become a Japanese and had taken the vows, and since that time he had lived here observing all the requirements of the Canon. He was very quiet and sad, and prayed earnestly for Nirvana. And a fortnight ago he had got sick and ever since then he had been sinking. And this evening just between the 7th and the 6th hour (between 4 and 6 p.m.) some strange music came floating up from below, and filled all the room, and then he had started up with his face glowing like the face of an angel and after listening with head bent forward till it had died away among the cliffs he had also broken forth into the same tune and lifted up his voice in song. Then he fell back, and as life left him the music once more came streaming up from the river. He had died the death of a holy man and a saint."

"Of course you might have knocked me down with a feather at this, but I was wise enough to keep my own counsel. I looked at that face again and scanned every line and lineament of it. The more I looked the more the idea grew upon me that it was not in a photograph that I had seen it, but in the living flesh. A conviction too which the story I had just listened to tended to substantiate more and more."

I asked them to show me the books he had brought with him, and inquired at the same time if he had any papers besides. They said that he had no papers so far as they knew, but that they would bring the books. The first thing they brought was not Buddhistic at all; it was a copy of Max Müller's edition of the *Rig-Veda*. It was in two volumes; from the title-page of the first the right-hand corner had been cut away. An 'o' or may-be the two hind-legs of an 'm' indicated that it was a wish to obliterate the owner's name that had been the cause of the excision. However, when I came to the second it was different, and I started in spite of myself."

"What mare's-nest did you find there, you mad sensation-monger?"

"No mare's nest, by the living gods, but the name of L. F. Morrison! Yes, I thought that would make you jump, you lazy heap of inertness!"

It did make me jump and no mistake about it! Even a lazier and less imaginative man than I would have been galvanized into life and a perpendicular attitude by that assertion if he had known as much of the story as I did.

"Of course," he went on, "you knew Morrison didn't you?"

"Should rather think I did? Who didn't? Why man, I used to write editorials about him every week, and besides I once saw Spofforth knock him head over heels with a shorter when he played against the Australian Eleven."

"Yes, he was a rattling good bat among other things, I recollect."

"Yes," I interrupted, "Gregory was standing at cover-point and he caught the ball off Morrison's head; it was a miracle that he wasn't killed on the spot."

"And a worse thing might have happened to him too! And by that same token that contusion I spoke off was as likely as not caused by that self-same delivery of Spoff's."

I didn't sneer at Webster any more. This was altogether too circumstantial to be mere invention.

"You know," he went on, "there were many theories broached to account for his disappearance. Things did look black against him, as black as a chimneysweep or a sackful of soot. The Unions curse him up hill and down dale to this very day and swear he sold them, and then went and did the Judas Iscariot act when he repented."

"And didn't things look uncommonly like it?"

"May be, but don't you believe it. Did you credit it when you heard it first?"

"I didn't, and yet ——"

"Allow me, please! He rose like a political sun and disappeared like a busted meteor. If any man could have run socialism in Australia, it was he. You know what he did for Federation? Why man he, was the Australian Lassalle! The parallel is complete at almost all points. Lassalle was not of the people, yet he led them; and so it was with Morrison. Lassalle was one of the acutest scholars and metaphysicians in Europe. You know his 'Heraclei-tus' of course. Well, Morrison had unquestionably the biggest and the widest culture of any man yet turned out at the antipodes. His weakness was Madame Blavatsky, Sanskrit, and Buddhism. I have heard him expounding the Nyâya and Sânkhya and Vedanta systems by the hour and making folks fancy they understood him too. He was about the only statesman in Australia that knew what he wanted. And yet there was a strand of weakness in his otherwise strong and determined fibre. And that strand was just the same as it was in Lassalle. Countess Hatzfeldt? Yes, and no! You knew that little brummagem piece of sentimentality and worldliness that was for ever fluttering and floating round at Government House as long as De Ponsonby represented Her Gracious in the colony? Well, she could just wind him round her little finger. And it was she and nothing else that sent him to hell. Don't look incredulous man; I'll tell you how I know. At the bottom of the box in which he kept his books I struck a pile of documents, letters, diaries, and memoranda and

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what not. I couldn't take them with me; they were relics, and as such were not to be parted with for either love or money. But I remained next day and the next and the next, and was allowed to copy them. And the result of it, my boy, is that I hold in my hands the key to a scandal of the very first magnitude. The little woman is now Countess So-and-so, with a subservient and toadying plutocray lick-spittling her even to the extent of nausea. And Morrison! Well, poor devil, he's dead and gone, vanished from the Antipodean firmament leaving not a trace behind! Would't folks be mazed to hear of him blossoming out as a Buddhist saint?"

"Will you make your 'find' public property?"

"Well, I don't know. I think I may, but why not invoke chance to decide. You see that bottle there; it is now a good forty yards away. If I hit that the yarn shall go no further, and the documents will never see the light!"

He picked up a beauty of a stone for chucking, and threw. By a miracle he hit the mark just on the spot where the label *used by the Emperor Court* goes round the shoulder, and it disappeared in the waters below, leaving only a train of bubbles on the surface to show that it had been.

RURAL LIFE IN EAST ABERDEENSHIRE.

III.

Twenty or thirty years ago the children of an Aberdeenshire farmer attended the parish school. There, for the most part, schooling began and ended. An exceptionally bright boy might be pushed on through the University Course, and some would study for a year or two at the Aberdeen Grammar School, or the Gymnasium, but these were the exceptions. The daughters were "finished" at Miss Williamsons' School at Banff, which enjoyed a great reputation in the educational line in my day. There they were taught to write an angular hand, make stiff pencil drawings from a copy, or pattern, as I have heard it called, play dance music, and sing Scotch songs. The eldest son generally succeeded his father in the farm, the second one, if the father was well to do, might perhaps be established in another farm, but younger sons, as a rule, emigrated. The coffee estates of Ceylon, and the tea gardens of Assam are full of them. Still further east their fortune sometimes leads them.

In five or six years the wanderer comes home on leave. The raw lad is transformed into a man of the world, his shyness all rubbed off, and with plenty to say for himself. If the old place seems strangely small, the old folks a trifle dull and narrow in their views, and the fare old fashioned and homely, the young man has the grace to keep such thoughts to himself; and well he may, for dinners, suppers, dances, picnics are got up in his honour, and while his visit lasts he is the hero of the district. Driving about from farm to farm and being made much of by the girls, his holiday generally ends up with a wedding, and he carries off, it may be one of his cousins, or old school companions, but in any case a rosy, good-tempered young lassie to be mistress of his bungalow in a distant land.

Not always is the ending so happy, and many a family has to mourn the loss of a favourite son or brother dead of fever in Ceylon or China.

A good many farmers' sons now study medicine at the University of Aberdeen, and enter the army as surgeons, or obtain appointments in India.

The life at an Aberdeenshire farm is a simple, healthy, honest one. There are few excitements, little change except an occasional visit to Peterhead or Aberdeen, and the periodical attendance at the markets of the district. A good deal of social intercourse goes on, more especially during the winter, and nothing is thought of a three miles walk, or even a ten miles ride or drive, if only there be moonlight, which is always taken into consideration when setting a night for a tea party or a dance.

Tea is a regular sit-up-to-the-table meal. With it are served hot scones, eaten with butter and honey, home made jams of various kinds, short bread and numerous other cakes for which the farms are famous. It is a curious fact, by the way, that although tea is liked very sweet, cream, though it can be had in plenty and perfection (and perhaps for that very reason), is usually dispensed with. After tea comes whist, or a round game at cards, and if there be a piano, music. Reels and polkas for the most part, though here and there you may find a girl with a taste for something better. At nine o'clock comes supper. If it be a grand occasion, the feast is elaborate, and nowhere can be tasted more delicious chicken or more plump or tender turkey. If the party is a small one and consists of but a few intimates, probably new laid eggs, or a yellow haddock, with bread and butter and beer will serve the turn. But now comes the solemn moment when the table is cleared, the cloth removed, and the whiskey bottle, green or blue, and stopped with a silver mounted cork, is placed upon the table.

Each man of the party has a tumbler, wine-glass, and toddy ladle placed before him on a little mat, each lady a wine glass only; now comes the opportunity for the young men to show their gallantry to "the ladies." It is a point of honour to surround your tumbler with the wine glasses of as many of the ladies as you can persuade to share your toddy with you. And here the bashful young man goes to the wall, and has to stand some good humoured chaff from his bolder or more popular companions. The punch is brewed then by each man for himself, and a glassful ladled out for each of the ladies by her favoured swain, and a song is demanded. At first considerable shyness is evinced, but, the ice once broken, song follows song; there is no accompanyment and everybody keeps his place at the table. I have heard most of the old Jabcobite songs sung, and very well sung too, in this simple mode, which I dare say is out of fashion now. There were special favourites which were always called for and never in vain. Thus, one dear old farmer had but two songs in his *repertoire*, "The Barrin o' the door" and "Rabbie Tamson's Smiddy," but out they came, without fail, at every merry making, in a sort of genial roar. One very genteel lady always gave "The Rose of Alandale," and continued to gave it for thirty years or so, and was listened to with much consideration and pleasure. Each song was received with a round of applause, and when this had subsided, each individual gravely raised his glass to his lips and solemnly uttered "Health and song."

But now the evening is wearing late; skirts are tucked up, warm shawls and hoods are donned, and the young ladies are seen home by the young men, no such word, and no such idea as *chaperone* having occurred to one of the party. Beyond a goodnight kiss on the doorstep no harm cames of it. *Honi soit qui mal y pense.*

A dance about Christmas time, a picnic to the Bullars o'Buchan or the Braes o'Gight in the summer: these are the distractions of the young people.

The Bullars o'Buchan! The very name brings back a vision of high cliffs, mighty chasms, mysterious caves; breezy heights, covered with olive green bents, relieved here and there by the delicate rose colour of sea pink, or the pure white of the Grass of Parnassus. "Hell's Lum:" was there ever such a weird, eerie name? If you lie on the grass, and put your ear to the ground on this spot you will hear such a roaring as may well have given rise to the idea that all the fiends in the lower regions are blowing up their fiery furnace.

From here one has a view of Old Slains, the fragment of a ruin dating from the sixth century, and of the more modern though still ancient Slains Castle, seat of the Earls of Erroll, which is thus described by the great Dr. Johnson:—"We came, in the afternoon, to Slains Castle, built upon the margin of the sea, so that the walls of one of the towers seem only a continuation of a perpendicular rock, the foot of which is beaten by the waves. To walk round the house seemed impracticable. From the windows, the eye wanders over the sea that separates Scotland from Norway, and when the winds beat with violence, must enjoy all the terrific grandeur of the tempestuous ocean."

The Braes o' Gight introduce us to very different scenery. I quote the following from a volume lately published by Mr. David Scott of Peterhead, and entitled "Grass of Parnassus from the Bents o'Buchan":—

The castle of Gight is in the parish of Fyvie, on the north bank of the Ythan, and consequently in Buchan. It is very picturesquely situated on a corner of the Green of Gight, on the verge of a precipice overlooking the Ythan. This cliff is richly festooned with creeping plants, and trees that have cast anchor in the rifted rock. From the top of the Castle, now a complete ruin, matted with ivy and overgrown with vegetation, there is a splendid view of both the Braes of Gight on the north side of the Ythan and the Braes of Haddo on the south side, and of the river winding along the wooded gorge. The Castle is a grim old ruin, with very thick walls, and the usual collection of dark cells and tunnel like dens. Those who lived in the olden time in these dismal apartments were a doughty race, ever ready to busk up their plaids and cock their bonnets when any fighting was on hand. For generations Gight belonged to the Maitlands, but about 1479 it passed to W. Gordon, third son of the Earl of Huntly, who was killed at Flodden. In 1644 the Castle was taken and despoiled by the Covenanters. The Gordons held the property till Miss Gordon, the heiress of Gight became in 1785 the second wife of the poet Byron's father. He was deeply in debt, and the estate was in 1787 sold to Lord Haddo, third Earl of Aberdeen, for £17,850, almost all of which went to pay the debt.

When the heron leaves the tree
The laird o' Gight shall landless be.

The doves had left the Castle, and the herons the Hagberry Pot, the laird was landless, and the Rhymer's prophecy was fulfilled. Peter Buchan gives a balad of the period—

O, where are ye gaen, bonny Miss Gordon?
O, where are ye gaen sae bonny and braw?
Ye've married, ye've married with Johnny Byron,
To squander the lands o' Gight awa.

After the death of the Earl's son, Lord Haddo, who was killed on the green by a fall from his horse, the Castle fell into decay, but it was again looked after by the Premier Earl, and is still carefully preserved by the present proprietor, John Campbell Gordon, seventh Earl of Aberdeen.

Two men set down on Ythan brae
The one did to the ither say
An' what sic men may the Gordon's o' Gight *hae been?*

Of all the places to spend a happy day Gight is surely the favourite. The scenery has just a touch of highland in its character. From its braes one can see the low mountains of Donside, with the graceful peak of Benahie, a veritable Fuji in miniature, in the distance. I cannot refrain from quoting here a pathetic little song, which I often used to hear sung in my childhood, but which, to the best of my knowledge, has never appeared in print:—

Oh! gin I were where Gaudie rins,
Mang fragrant heaths and yellow whins,
Or brawlin' down the bosky linns,
At the back o'Benahie.

Oh there, oh there on ilka nicht,
When baith our hearts were young and licht
We've wandered by the clear moon licht,
At the back o'Benahie.

Oh, Fortune's flowers wi'thorns are rife,
And wealth is won wi'toil and strife,
Ae day gi'e me o'youth and life,
At the back o'Benahie.

Ance mair, ance mair where Gaudie rins,
Where Gaudie rins, where Gaudie rins,
Let me dee where the Gaudie rins,
At the Back o'Benahie.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

New York, December 24th.

Christmas chimes fill the air and New Year greetings are about to be spoken. The old year is going, and it is a time of reminiscence. Journalists are making up their necrological lists, scientists recording the splendid leaps of thought and discovery, preachers repeating the sweet evangel of "Peace, good will to men," while the chorus of children is heard in happy acclaim in thousands of homes. The year 1890 has been *annus mirabilis* in not a few features. Civilization has made substantial advance. War is not as attractive as once. Aside from moral considerations, on purely pecuniary grounds arbitration is preferable. I read to-day in one of our city journals this paragragh which is significant of the trend of thought in these matters: "Which? It is said that the cost of firing one shot from a cannon of the largest size now made, is sufficient to maintain a missionary and his whole family in Japan for more than two years." Spike the cannon, then. Let the herald of peace be heard.

Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Parnell is the name most constantly put in the head lines of the papers. It is not so much his personal fortunes the world cares for, but the question of character in politics. The unanimity of the press here and abroad is significant. The *Freeman's Journal* says of Parnell:—

When hopes were brightest, the trusted chief saw fit to depart from the path of virtue and to listen to the promptings of evil. He fell. The old tradition that it is not that Erin's sons do not

Love women and golden store,
But they do love honour and virtue more.

It is a hopeful sign when our secular journals reinforce the teachings of our ethical teachers and insist that skill in business and talent in debate or sagacity in administration shall not compensate for immorality in private life. Europeans at home and abroad will do well to heed the lesson of the hour. Their *modus vivendi* cannot be concealed. The standard of purity is not a sliding scale. The lord and commoner, the resident of London and Hongkong come under the same rule of chastity and uprightness of life.

Father Ignatius, the Welsh monk, is just now making a sensation in some of our Eastern cities.

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He is an enigma. Not taking the name Protestant, he still acknowledges the authority of the Episcopal Bishops. Refused a license in Boston, he preached there in halls and church edifices other than Episcopal. Here Bishop Potter gives permission to him to preach, but the preachers of his denomination and their religious papers give him a cold shoulder. The ritualists do not relish his attacks on their worldliness and form, and the Low Church people dislike the popish flavour of his monkish life, his black robes bound by triple knotted rope, rosary blessed by the Pope, and his shaven pate. But if he be "a Jesuit in disguise," he is working hard to uproot the errors of Rome. It is another paradox of Satan casting out Satan. I heard him yesterday address six hundred men in the mart of trade, at the busiest hour of the day. It was a regular Methodist revival service. He led it alone. "Idle in the market place," was his text. He talked as he walked, he gesticulated freely and put his well trained voice to its best service, as well as his keen, expressive eyes. His style was as simple as that of Moody. He attempted no elaborate exposition or argument, made no division of his subject, but stood and talked to the people or started off and walked the platform when specially fervent. "Just as I am" was sung to close with. He knelt. He asked all to kneel as they sung it. The effect was deep and persuasive. There were some of the clergy and some well to-do merchants, but the bulk of the people were of the humbler labouring class. Methodist ejaculations punctuated the fervent eloquence of this Welsh orator and missionary.

The return of the "Grip" was promised. It has not returned. Wiggin's meteorological menaces are not the only things that come to naught by which the so-called scientists scare us. The early and austere advent of winter comes as a tonic and the fat graveyard after a green Christmas seem less likely this year. Last year the mild and unseasonable weather predisposed to disease.

Koch and his cure divide attention with Parnell. So far, much satisfaction is expressed. Deaths have occurred in cases when the injection was a *denier resort*, but these are to be expected. Meanwhile pathological study and general laboratory work receive a great impulse. The city of Brooklyn is to have a new Medical College and Hospital called the "Post Graduate." The men at the head are eminent surgeons and physicians, and their reputation is a guarantee of success. The *Brooklyn Medical Journal* recently published this item, from the doings of the County Medical Society:—

"Resolved that in welcoming home one associate, Dr. E. P. Thwing, from his long absence in the East, we take occasion to express our cordial commendation of his efforts in reference to the projected Asylum for the Insane at Canton, the first in the Chinese Empire, not only for its humane purposes, but as opening a new field in the psychological study of Eastern life and in the application of Western science to the care and cure of mental disease."

A Boston paper says:—"It needs no advocacy. The statement of its purpose is all that intelligent, generous givers ask. It deserves and will receive the moral and material support of the English speaking race." The first money came from Yokohama and the next gift, one hundred dollars, from an octogenarian in limited circumstances in San Francisco who saw a notice of the interprise and gave unsolicited. The movement for the indigent insane at Tokyo is slowly taking shape. The urgent need of accommodations for these unfortunate and friendless lunatics is itself a sufficient appeal and must not go unheeded. It is hoped that during the coming year at least an annex will be added to one of the Tokyo hospitals where such patients can receive treatment. If Japan has some large-hearted philanthropist—like our Fayerweather who has just left two millions to hospitals and colleges—here is an opportunity to immortalise himself and bless his country. Twenty thousand dollars are ample means to start such an institution, and when its humane and beneficient aim is understood it will not lack the farther support which its enlarging work will demand.

FOR BRAIN DISORDER USE HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

Dr. M. J. CALAHAN, L.R.C.S.I., 55, Castlestreet, Nenagh, says:—"I gave it in a case of softening of the brain. The patient had much mental labour, and the whole nervous system was shattered. The effect was marvellous."

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

San Francisco, December 30th.

Congress resolved, some days ago, not to adjourn over the holidays; but so far as the accomplishment of work is concerned, it might just as well have done so. At last dates, there were but seven Senators in Washington, prepared to take their seats. The body meets and adjourns merely in order to comply with the law which forbids an adjournment for more than three days.

It appears to be the purpose of the Administration party, when members return to work, to adopt an amendment of the rules similar to the previous question in the House of Representatives, and to the cloture in the French Chamber and the British Parliament, by which debate shall be brought to a close, and a vote taken on the main question. With the help of this check on filibustering, the Republican Senators expect to be able to put the Force Bill though the Senate. It is not quite certain that they will be able to rally their full party strength for the purpose. One or two Republican Senators from the West have announced their intention of voting against the bill when it comes up for final passage. It would seem that it would have been wiser not to have concentrated the remaining strength of the party on a measure which is odious in many parts of the country.

The President has issued his proclamation announcing authoritatively the opening of the World's Fair at Chicago. He says that proof having been furnished him that ten millions have been provided for the grounds and buildings:—

Now, therefore, I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by said Act, do hereby declare and proclaim that such international exhibition will be opened on the first day of May, in the year 1893, in the city of Chicago, in the State of Illinois, and will not be closed before the last Thursday in October of the same year, and in the name of the Government and of the people of the United States I do hereby invite all nations of the earth to take part in commemoration of an event that is prominent in human history, and of lasting interest to mankind, by appointing representatives thereto, and sending such exhibits to the World's Columbian Exposition as will most fitly and fully illustrate their resources, their industries, and their progress in civilization.

The issue of the proclamation would appear to most people be a very simple matter—a mere matter of routine. But General Harrison is nothing, if not theatrical. When the proclamation reached him, on a goodly sheet of parchment, he grouped himself with the Secretary of War, the Assistant Secretary of State, and his private secretary as a warm background. He waited till the clock struck 1.30 p.m.; then, seizing a pen, he affixed his signature. Handing the pen to his private secretary, he commanded him to send it to Mr. Peck, of Chicago, to the end that it be preserved as a memento of a historical event.

Senator Stanford has been delivered of an elaborate speech in defence of his scheme for the issue of 2% treasury notes on the security of land. Secretary Windom, who is not devoid of wit, suggests that three amendments are required to perfect the scheme. The first is that loans should be made on all kinds of property, and not on land exclusively. The second is that the government should lend to people who have brains, but no property. And the third is that it should lend to those who have neither brains nor property, but only deserve encouragement by virtue of their American citizenship. The prospect of financial legislation this session is growing very small.

The Government of Columbia has passed an Act extending the life of the Panama Canal Company two years. For this privilege it is to pay 10,000,000 francs in cash, and 5,000,000 in preferred stock; it is also to pay for certain lands which were donated to it by the original concession. Judging from the present status of the company it hardly seems likely that it will be able to comply with these conditions. A Panama Canal is reasonably certain at some period in the future; but it looks now as though capitalists would hang back until the Nicaragua Canal is completed, and people can reckon up the volume of business which the enterprise would be likely to create.

A curious story, which recals a chapter in ancient history, comes from New York. An Italian named Carminetti, who had landed from a steamer from Naples, confessed to the Commissioners of Immigration that he had served a term of imprisonment in his native land, for the crime of mayhem committed upon a girl. His story was that he had loved a girl named Nannette Franciola, and that his love was returned. Her parents insisted on her marrying a more wealthy suitor, and she told her lover that the only way to defeat their object was to disfigure her. Accordingly at her request and with her assistance he slashed her cheeks with a knife, entirely destroying her beauty. On this, the rich suitor withdrew and Nannette married Carminetti. The only parallel to this was the custom of the ancient Scythians, who used to mutilate their wives' faces when they went on a campaign in order to render them less attractive to the men from the north, who were sure to swoop down on Scythia when they heard that the "rude barbarians" were away. But in this case, the ladies were not accessory or consenting to the burtal practice.

Some of these exiles from Southern Europe outdo the performances of the most savage bowie-knife wielders of the South-Western States. A sergeant of police in charge of a station on Coney Island was startled a couple of days ago by the appearance of a Hungarian covered with blood, who laid a human finger and an ear on the police officer's desk. In reply to inquiries he explained that he had had "a difference" with a fellow countryman about a girl; that he had killed his rival, and then cut off his ears and some of his fingers, and operated on his stomach in the fashion of Jack the Ripper. A policeman was sent to the spot indicated by the murderer, and sure enough he found the corpse, disemboweled and mutilated. The assassin received his imprisonment and his committal for trial with perfect composure.

The Indian war has nearly come to a close by the voluntary surrender of most of the fugitive bands. But another war is impending which threatens to shake the spheres. The belligerents are, on one side, Great Britain and France, and on the other, the island of Newfoundland, which at latest dates, had a population of about 180,000 souls. But what they lack in numbers, they make up in spirit. The leading organ of the present ministry thus apostrophizes an ungrateful mother country:—

We are struggling now for emancipation from the slavery under which we have groaned for half a century, and nothing can be more exasperating than Great Britain's temporizing policy. Under no *modus vivendi* will France retreat from the new and obnoxious pretensions which have so passionately excited the people of Newfoundland. The mere name is hateful to us, associated as it is with the most flagrant attempt which Great Britain ever made on the liberties of the colony. Great Britain must be answerable for the consequences of prolonging the *modus vivendi*.

What can avert bloodshed next spring now that this new attempt is made to prolong the period of our slavery? Where shall we find a man who will preach peace and forbearance to his fellow countrymen?

It is terrible to contemplate the prospect of bloodshed, if, in effect, no one arises to preach peace and forbearance.

In the meantime, among the aftermath of our war must be mentioned a skirmish which took place at a place called Wounded Knee in the Bad Lands. The troops had collected the fighting Indians in a circle, and surrounded them, with a view to a march to the reservation; when, all at once, without a word of warning, each Indian threw off his blanket, pointed his rifle, and began firing at the soldiers who were barely twenty yards away. For some moments, the troops did not dare to return the fire for fear of hitting their comrades on the other side of the circle; and in that brief interval, some fifty men were killed or wounded, among the former being Captain Wallace of the Seventh Cavalry. An alignment was soon effected, and then the troopers got their innings. A correspondent significantly remarks that he does not think that any of Big Foot's young braves saw the sunset that day. Poor Captain Wallace was killed by a blow from a hatchet.

Movements are on foot in several parts of this country to provide homes for Russian Jews who are being expelled from their country by the recent edicts of the Emperor. Considerable sums have been collected in New York, and preparations are being made to locate the exiles in Dakota. Some money has been raised in this State, where the Jews are numerous and opulent, and the idea is to ship a couple of thousand Russian Jews to Mexico, where land is cheap, and can be bought in large blocks. The success of the experiment may perhaps be doubted. Whatever he may do elsewhere, the Jew in the United States never resorts to manual labour, and rarely becomes an agriculturist. He is a born trader, and inhabits cities. As a rule, he is a successful trader, being keen, energetic, and industrious: and when he has made money, he spends it liberally. He is prone to ostentation, and not as unobtrusive as good manners dictate. But he is a patron of art, music, theatres, and literature. He is a good father and a good husband. It is remarked of the California Jews that they have all large families, and that an example of a Jewess seeking a divorce is almost unknown.

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THE ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OF A FOREIGNER AT YOKOHAMA STATION.

The following is the translation of the judgment in the case of the Railway Authorities against J. Gama, which was delivered yesterday by E. J. PEREIRA, Esq., Vice-Consul, in the Portuguese Consular Court :—

JUDGMENT.

In the case brought by Shimidzu Oshu, Yokohama Station-master, v. José da Gama, Portuguese subject, employed in the Grand Hotel, for infringement of Railway Regulations, and for insult and indecent assault.

After having carefully gone through all the evidence adduced in this case, I find as follows :—That the prosecution has failed to prove in this Court the existence of the regulation which prohibits men from entering the Ladies' Waiting Room, or that this regulation is always well exhibited in the Railway Station, or that it has always been strictly enforced. That the Portuguese subject, Gama, did not, intentionally, infringe the regulations of Railway Company in the first place, bebecause he did not know them, nor had he ever seen them exposed to view; and in the second place, because, even if Gama had returned to the Ladies' Waiting Room after he had once left it, he could not be supposed to know that the witness Yoshino, who was dressed in plain clothes, and at first refused to divulge his identity when called upon to do so, could be an official or an employé of the railways, or had the right to expel the defendant from that room. Furthermore, Yoshino declared in the preliminary examination, that the reason why he had left the Ladies' Waiting Room for a moment was to go to the Station-master's office in order to ascertain the exact regulations relating to that room, which were unknown to Yoshino himself, although he is, as he says, an official of the railways. If Gama did for a moment hesitate in leaving the room at the time he was ordered to do so by Yoshino, and apparently in a rough manner, it is clear that according to the evidence of the witness Cho, in the preliminary examination, that the defendant and Yoshino left that room in company and were conversing outside of it. Nor is it proved that the defendant failed in respect to the Station-master, it being rather to be supposed that Yoshino was not absolutely faithful in his interpretation of the answers given by the defendant, but repeated what Gama had said to him (Yoshino) before they met with the Station-master. Considering that the conversation between Yoshino and Gama was in the English tongue, which both of them speak very indifferently, and which the Station-master knows nothing of, it is therefore most probable that there was some misunderstanding in the interpretation. Nor is it likely that the defendant, having been so courteously treated by the Station-master, as he (Gama) declared in the prelimary examination, and reiterated in this Court, should have shown disrespect when there was not the least cause for so doing. I, therefore, do not think it proved that defendant committed an infringement of any regulations when he entered that room, where he daily saw men enter, and knew the railway authorities had never expelled any one therefrom. The Station-master himself declares that during all the years he has been in charge he never had turned any man out of that room; a proof that, if a regulation prohibiting men from entering that room exists, it has never been enforced, nor does there exist any notice board of such, as are exhibited in the cars, which would make known to the public the existence of such a regulation and the corresponding penalty for infringement. I must, however, in view of what has occurred, warn the defendant Gama, that in future he will take every care not to trespass into any room or place within the railway station without being sure that the regulations permit of his doing so, and also that he must always treat with every respect, not only the railway authorities, but also all other Japanese authorities. With regard to the second charge of defendant having insulted and indecently assaulted the witness Cho, while they were in the Ladies' Waiting Room, it is proved not only by the evidence of the witnesses and defendant, but by the declaration of the woman, Shirokura Cho herself, that no such assault was committed. The woman made no complaint of having been insulted by anyone; and according to evidence and all circumstances connected with the case, there is not the least doubt that if Gama remained so long with the witness Cho in that room, it was because he received encouragement from her to stay there. Had she thought that defendant had been importuning her and had wished to get rid of him, there was nothing easier for her than to have immediately left the room, and requested any porter or railway employé to have had Gama removed from that room. Instead, however, of doing this, the witness Cho went out of the room on two occasions, each with the alleged purpose of despatching a telegram, leaving her hand bag and umbrella in charge of defendant; and when she met Ogura, the foreign secretary's office-"boy," and who is well known to her, she neither complained to this "boy" of having received any annoyance from defendant, nor that he (Gama) was still in the station. On the contrary, she returned to the waiting room, where Gama was, and carried on a long conversation with him. The door of the room was wide open, porters and policemen were walking about outside; therefore there was every protection within hail of needed without awaiting the return of Yoshino who had left for Tokyo half an hour before. So that it is not to be supposed that Shirokura Cho at the time felt that she was being annoyed by Gama. It is certain that the witness Yoshino declared having seen Gama sitting in an improper attitude beside the woman Cho, but the servant Ogura, who preceded Yoshino, or at least came to the room with him, saw nothing of this. Nor can the evidence of Yoshino be explained, to the effect that he had the time to talk with the woman Cho after she had left the Tokio train, to have been to the Station-master's office, from where he despatched a telegram to Hiratsuka, and then to have been able to catch the 12.45 train, which left for Tokyo immediately after the Tokaido train had departed. In view, therefore, of the statements of the witnesses and the defendant, and of the evidence adduced in this Court, I consider it not proved that Gama, intentionally and knowingly infringed the railway regulations relating to the Ladies' Waiting Room. From the fact that no notice is exhibited, and it is not publicly known, nor is it proved that Gama refused to leave that room, it is not proved that the witness Cho was insulted by Gama in the railway station, or that he intended to insult that female. It is clearly proved that there was no attempt whatever on the part of Gama to commit an indecent assault on the woman Cho. I therefore dismiss this case, without costs.

Given at the Vice Consulate of the Portuguese nation at Yokohama, in public court, the twentieth day of January of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

(Signed) EDUARDO PEREIRA, Vice-Consul.

SHANGHAI.

Referring to the visit of the Czarewitch to China, the *Mercury* of the 13th instant says :—"From a very good source we learn that in all probability the Czarewitch will not come to Shanghai after all, in consequence of certain difficulties which have arisen in connection with his projected visit to Hankow to see the Russian factories there. It will be remembered that a couple of weeks since the Russian man-of-war *Robre* went up to Hankow to prepare the way for the coming of the Czarewitch and arrange a day for the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung to receive him. But, to the astonishment of everybody, the Viceroy made various excuses, and finally point blank refused to see the illustrious visitor. In consequence of this, it is now believed that the Czarewitch will go direct from Hongkong to Japan." Three days later, however, the *N. C. Daily News*, writing on this subject, has the following :—"We learn that though acting Consul for Russia has not yet received any official or private information as to the expected visit of the Czarewitch to Shanghai, there is no doubt that he will call here on his way to Hankow. It is most probable that Mr. Olarofsky will not come here at all, but the new Russian Minister and some of his staff will meet the heir apparent, who is accompanied by his brother George, in Hongkong. It has been decided that the Czarevitch shall not visit Peking. The rule as to the admission of Russian ships of war into British colonial harbours has been relaxed for this occasion, and telegraphic orders have been sent by the British government, that the fleet escorting the imperial visitors is to be allowed to enter our Colonial ports."

The *Mercury* tells a capital story—a little adventure of Chief Inspector Cameron, of the Shanghai Police, in which a mob of Chinese got "hested" by the Inspector single-handed:—"Chief Inspector Cameron had a lively encounter with some pugnacious countrymen on Saturday afternoon, in which the aforesaid countrymen of course came off second-best, the canny Scot proving too much for the wily Chinese. The Inspector was taking a canter with the drag-hunt and had gone about 15 miles into the country beyond Hongkew, when riding past a large village, his nag stumbled, threw Mr. Cameron, and bolted. The Inspector and some villagers followed the animal into a kind of compound and captured it, not however, before it had overturned a table with some cotton on it, in front of a door of one of the houses, and also broken a water-kong. An old woman immediately rushed out and commenced to scream at a terrific rate, soon bringing about the Inspector's ears a couple of hundred Chinaman of all ages, who began without ceremony to belabour the Inspector, who was not in uniform. They tried their hardest to get him on the ground, and tie him up. Had they succeded it would very likely have gone badly with our popular Chief Inspector, but the big Gael shook himself free of the swarm, giving two or three of them a few hard knocks with the handle of his riding crop, and caught his pony, which he had just remounted, when one burly fellow caught hold of the pony's bit with one hand, and tried to drag Mr. Cameron out of the saddle with the other. Mr. Cameron, however, quietly dismounted without any aid from the Celestial, whom he promptly treated to a right-hander under the ribs, which prevented John taking much interest in the subsequent proceedings. Mr. Cameron then remounted, and after warning the crowd that he would kill the next man that molested him, offered to give the old woman any reasonable compensation for breaking her kong and soiling her cotton. He said, however, that he had no money with him, and that someone must accompany him back to Shanghai to get the money. The old woman said her son, a young boy, would go with the Inspector, but that some of the men must also go to see the money duly paid. Mr. Cameron said as many as liked could come, and offered to walk his horse back, but refused to walk himself, as the country people wanted him to do. Then a happy thought struck the wily Inspector, and pointing out a dozen or so of the men who had been most active in the assault upon him, he asked them to go with the boy and him back to Shanghai to get the money. Four of the fellows took the bait, and with the old woman's son trudged every foot of the 15 miles into Shanghai beside the Inspector's pony. Mr. Cameron duly guided the lot to the Central Police Station, where he gave the boy the money demanded in the village by the virago, and sent him back to his mother. The four men were turning to go back also, but "no" said the Inspector, and calling some constables, he had the four worthies charged with assault and lodged in the cells. They were brought before the Mixed Court next day, and sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment each, which will no doubt have a salutary effect in teaching them better manners when dealing with an unoffending and defenceless foreigner who visits their village on horseback and happens to come a cropper there.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, January 17th.

The Portuguese draft of the new African Convention will shortly be submitted to England.

London, January 18th.

Chilian insurgents are blockading the coast, and have landed at Coquimbo [La Serena]. Business at Valparaiso is paralysed in consequence.

London, January 20th.

Great pressure will be exercised to induce President Harrison to favour the free coinage of silver bill if that measure passes the House.

Later.

The Duke of Bedford has committed suicide.

[His Grace the Duke of Bedford, F. Charles Hastings Russell, K.G., who was 72 years of age, is succeeded by the Marquis of Tavistock, born in 1852.—ED. *J.M.*]

Major Wissmann has become deranged and has been recalled.

London, January 21st.

A portion of the Chilian army has joined in the rebellion, and is preparing to take prompt action. British, French, and American men-of-war are on the way to Chili.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Jan 30th.
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Wedn'day, Jan. 28th.*
From America	per P. M. Co.	Friday, Jan. 30th †
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, Feb. 9th.

* *China* left Hongkong on January 22nd. † *City of Peking* left San Francisco on January 10th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 27th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 31st.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D Lloyd.	Wedn'day, Feb. 4th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 12th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 17th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

North American, American ship, 1,514, Crulman, 18th January,—New York 26th July, Od.—Frazar, Farley & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 18th January,—Hakodate 16th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 18th January,—Kobe 17th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 19th January,—Hongkong 9th, Nagasaki 14th, and Kobe 18th January, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, 19th January,—Hongkong 8th, viâ Nagasaki 13th and Kobe 18th January, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Clan Buchanan, British ship, 2,072, Geo. Harris, 20th January,—Cardiff 1st September, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 20th January,—Hakodate 17th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Hussey, 20th January,—Kobe 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 21st January,—San Francisco 30th December, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 1,664, Gedye, 21st January,—Kobe 19th January, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 21st January,—Hakodate 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Gosch, 21st January,—Hakodate 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 22nd January,—Kobe 21st January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 23rd January,—Nagasaki 20th January, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Mascotte, British steamer, 2,213, Ross, 23rd January,—Shanghai 18th January, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 23rd January,—Handa 22nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 23rd January,—Yokkaichi 22nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 23rd January,—Shanghai and ports 16th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 24th January,—Hakodate 21st January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Batavia, British steamer, 1,661, J. C. Williamson, 17th January,—Hongkong viâ Kobe, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Ping Suey, British steamer, 1,981, J. C. Jacques, 17th January,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 17th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 18th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Homery, 18th January,—Shanghai and Hongkong, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, G. W. Pearne, 20th January,—San Francisco, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, 20th January,—Vancouver, B.C., General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 20th January,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 20th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 21st January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Hussey, 21st January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 22nd January,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Gosch, 22nd January,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 22nd January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 1,664, Gedye, 23rd January,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 23rd January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 23rd January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 24th January,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

St. Julien, British steamer, 1,049, King, 24th January,—Manila, Ballast.—Frazar, Farley & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamar *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Miss Blakeway, Mrs. B. Gassier, Miss Loubry, Mrs. Dannenberg and 3 children, Messrs. E. Kensaburo, G. Blakeway, E. Julien, J. W. Siper, B. Gassier, Mon Chon Man, Donnenberg, Prosper, Leffie, Mustafa, Le Dore, Baldeue, Le Thomas, H. Gaschütz, S. Fujita, O. Sitchigoro, O. Sashiro, O. Kanokitchi, S. Pories, E. Aibot, and Lemonier in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong, viâ Nagasaki and Kobe:—Messrs. Bayne and Pearce in cabin.

Per British steamer *Parthia*, from Hongkong, viâ Nagasaki and Kobe:—One Japanese woman in second-class; One Chinese in steerage. For Vancouver, B.C.: Captain Hyde Baker and Mr. W. A. Foster in cabin; Mr. John Simpson and One Chinese woman in second class; 84 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. K. Sugimoto, K. Shimaneki, and T. Fukuda in cabin; 18 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Mru*, from Kobe:—Mr. R. M. Thompson, Mr. Folck, and one Japanese lady in cabin; 11 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco:—Dr. O. Mercenton, Messrs. Christopher Heydebrand, Oscar Heydebrand, A. Barbey, A. J. Haw, Edward Runge, Horace Davis, J. Lawson, W. D. Lawson, and K. Hichitani in cabin. For Shanghai: Mr. Hilge Müller in cabin.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. K. Yoshida in cabin; Messrs. H. Hanai, K. Koizumi, Y. Yemura, W. Okada, S. Yoshida, S. M. Yoshida, O. Yoshida, Y. Yoshida, S. Uno, R. Hayakawa, and Y. Buto in second-class; 35 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Kobe:—32 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Geo. Brinkworth, T. E. Sansom, S. Sakamoto, and T. Mikami in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Ika, Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki and 3 children in second-class; 41 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Purrie and maid, Colonel Pemberton, Dr. G. H. Rutter, Rev. Geo. Ode, Messrs. P. H. Duryea, R. Silber, S. Kabayama, A. H. Dare, M. H. R. Harris, W. D. Sink, H. J. Snow, and J. Drummond Ross in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Hara, Mr. and Mrs. Noda, Miss Hellyer, Messrs. W. H. Devine, O. Voigt, M. Marians, and M. Matsuma in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Komida, Messrs. Fukami, Ogawa, and Nakuda in second-class; 52 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Parthia*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. W. A. Foster, Captain Hyde Baker, Miss Gregory, and Oscar Daum in cabin. For London: Mr. John Simpson in cabin. For Liverpool: Rev. H. W. Hawkes, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, and Mr. W. Wiseman in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for Hongkong:—Captain Davidson, Mrs. Burges Watson, 2 children, and European servant, Miss R. Clifton, Miss E. Manley, Mr. J. Hinricks, and Mr. J. Temple in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, for Kobe:—Messrs. D. Steward and R. M. Thompson in cabin; 3 Japanese in second-class; 16 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong, viâ Kobe and Nagasaki:—Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Piggott, child, and European servant, Mrs. Bass, Mrs. Suthon, Miss Graham, Messrs. Sidney Scott, H. J. Chope, and Chun Sing in cabin; 9 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	78	282	—	360
Nagasaki	—	—	232	232
Hyogo	—	52	86	138
Yokohama	627	6	616	1,249
Hongkong	77	1,022	—	1,099
Total	782	1,362	934	3,078

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	10	72	—	82
Hongkong	—	61	—	61
Yokohama	—	287	—	287
Total	10	420	—	430

Per British steamer *Parthia*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	TOTAL.
Amoy	—	—	3,632	—	3,632
Foochow	615	—	—	—	615
Shanghai	443	—	1,088	635	2,166
Hyogo	541	—	—	—	541
Yokohama	19	—	—	345	355
Total	1,609	—	4,720	980	7,309

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	50	—	50
Shanghai	162	—	162
Yokohama	102	93	195
Total	314	93	407

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong, viâ Kobe and Nagasaki:—Raw Silk for France, 510 bales; Raw Silk, for London, 28 bales; Raw Silk for Milan, 62 bales; total, 600 bales.

REPORTS.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 290 bales; Raw Silk for Italy, 107 bales; Waste Silk for France, 307 bales; Treasure for Kobe, $100,000; Treasure for Shanghai, $7,500.

The American ship *North American*, Captain Crulman, reports:—Left New York August 26th, 1890; 30 days to Equator in Atlantic; 100 days to Sandalwood Islands, thence 3 days to the Pelew Islands; passed South Point of Loo Choo on January 8th; N.E. wind to 28° W., since then westerly, and on this coast strong and dirty weather on December 15th. Saw British ship *Peterborough* for Kobe on December 19th; off Gillolo Islands saw British 4-masted ship from Cardiff for Yokohama. Passage 145 days from New York.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain W. H. Walker, reports:—Left San Francisco on December 30th; to January 6th, fair weather with light westerly winds, thence to port moderate westerly winds to westerly gales and strong head sea. Arrived at Yokohama January 21st at 2.08 p.m. Passage time 21 days 4 hours and 53 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai January 16th at 3 p.m.; had moderate north-easterly wind with fine weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 18th at 10 a.m. and left the 19th at 5 p.m. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 20th at 9 a.m. and left at 5.20 p.m.; experienced fine weather throughout. Arrived at Kobe the 21st at 2.30 p.m. and left the 22nd at noon; had strong N.W. winds and fine weather to Yokohama. Arrived at Yokohama January 23rd at 5.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. Wynn, reports:—Left Hakodate January 19th at 8 p.m.; moderate westerly winds and fine clear weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama January 21st at 00.15 p.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The position of the Import Market remains unchanged, there being no demand for any kind of goods. Sales reported during the week amount to 160 bales Yarn and 2,500 pieces Shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	per piece. $1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
Cotton—Italians and Sattoens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.14
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼ lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.00	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¾ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.13½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 4¼ lb, per lb	0.10	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	per picul. $26.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	28.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28 32, Ordinary	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28 32, Medium	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	32.00	to	33.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	39.00
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/12, Bombay			—

METALS.

Market very quiet, and buyers make low offers for anything they want. The usual January business does not seem to have set in with any force as yet. All quotations nominal in the absence of business.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.65	to	2.75
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.75	to	2.85
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.65	to	2.85
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted	2.80	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.20	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.90
Tin Plates, per box	5.00	to	5.25
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.25	to	1.27½

KEROSENE.

Market quiet, prices tending down, but in the absence of important business quotations are nominally as before. Exchange is going down and should help holders to obtain better figures later on.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.70	to	1.72½
Comet	1.67½	to	1.70
Devoe	1.65	to	1.67½
Russian	1.60	to	1.65

SUGAR.

Some little business done in Brown at a decline of 15 cents per picul, while sales of White refined have been made at a reduction of 30 cents on last quotations.

	per picul.		
Brown Taikan	$3.95	to	4.00
Brown Daitang	2.95	to	4.05
Brown Canton	4.65	to	5.75
Brown Java and Penang	4.85	to	5.45
White Refined	4.25	to	7.20

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 16th instant, since that date settlements in this Market amount to 2,016 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 44; *Filatures*, 1,373; *Re-reels*, 398; *Kakeda*, 175; *Oshu*, 26. In addition to these figures direct shipments have been 45 bales, making the export business for the week of 2,060 piculs.

Our Market continued without change, giving a fair daily business, until the afternoon of the 21st, when a large firm of exporters began to operate heavily, and the result was that during the last two days about 1,500 piculs of Silk have been settled, a portion of which has not yet been sent into godown. Prices, which had weakened slightly on last quotations, have strengthened again, and in some instances holders are very firm, even to the extent of withdrawing their silk from the Market. We believe, however, that for the moment prices are not unduly advanced, and that it will be possible to operate at about 2 per cent. from the lowest point.

There is a considerable under-current of business doing for Europe, and each weekly mail steamer takes a fair quantity.

Arrivals from the country are very small, and the stock list shows a reduction of 2,000 piculs on the week. Estimates of the total crop are still unreliable, but it is thought that the total yield will be at least 10 % less than last year's

There have been three shipping opportunities during the week, French, American, and Canadian Mails all taking cargo.

The *Saghalien*, on the 18th inst, took 397 bales for Europe; the *Gaelic*, 20th inst, 287 bales for the States; and the *Parthia*, same date, 195 bales for New York. These departures bring the export figures to 14, 973 piculs, against 30, 726 piculs last year and 32,298 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Some fine sized *Shimonita* were taken for Europe at $495; and some *Shinshu* Hanks of good quality are offering at the same price, but, so far, without attracting buyers. Stock in this department is small and well held.

Filatures.—The great bulk of recent settlements has been in this class. Good No. 1 *Shinshu* filatures, 13-15 deniers and 14 16 deniers, being taken at $560. This was the lowest point, and holders are now asking an advance of $10. Even at this figure only a small portion of the stock is available, some of the large holders keeping aloof. A fair quantity of fine sizes for Europe have been taken at about previous rates.

Re-reels.—Business in these has been comparatively small and it would be just possible to go on at last week's rates, although sellers ask a slight advance.

Kakeda.—A fair amount of trade in these the last two days at quotations. The stock is small, and holders do not see any reason for accepting less money.

Oshu.—Some few purchases made for Europe; ordinary *Sendai* bringing $490.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1			—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)			—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)			490 to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)			490 to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)			480 to 485
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3		Nom.	470 to 475
Hanks—No. 3		Nom.	460 to 465
Hanks—No. 3½		Nom.	450 to 455
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers			580 to 590
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers			580 to 590
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.			570 to 575
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.			560 to 565
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers			560 to 570
Filatures—No. 2, 14 18 deniers			540 to 545
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers			530 to 535
Re-reels—Extra			—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1			560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers			550 to 555
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers			540 to 545
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers			530 to 535
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers			520 to 525
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers			500 to 510
Kakedas—Extra		Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1			540 to 545
Kakedas—No. 1½			525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 2			515 to 520
Kakedas—No. 2½			505 to 510
Kakedas—No. 3			495 to 500
Kakedas—No. 3½			485 to 490
Kakedas—No. 4			475 to 480
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½			520 to 525
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2			520 to 525
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4			500 to 510
Sodai—No. 2½			—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 23rd Jan., 1891:—

		Season 1890 91.	1889 90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		5,453	13,159	17,498
America		9,137	17,158	14,640
Total	Bales	14,592	30,317	32,138
	Piculs	14,973	30.726	32,298
		piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		16,650	32,400	32 850
Stock, 23rd January		13,350	4,200	7,800
Available supplies to date		30,000	36,600	40.650

WASTE SILK.

Trade in this branch has recovered its activity and settlements for the week are 1,732 piculs, namely: *Noshi*, 369; *Kibiso*, 1,238; *Neri*, 125.

As will be seen from the above figures, buyers are in the Market operating freely and are now busy clearing off the stock of *Kibiso*.

Arrivals are small and the stock list shows a reduction of 1,250 piculs on the week, chiefly in *Kibiso*. The bulk of the trade is for Europe as in fact it has been all through the season.

The French Mail steamer *Saghalien* carried 307 bales of Waste for Europe; making the present export figures 19,448 piculs, against 18,307 last year and 22,452 on the 23rd January, 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—Business entirely suspended; all prices nominal.

Noshi—A fair amount of daily trade at previous quotations, buyers leisurely selecting what suits them from the stock.

Kibiso.—Large business chiefly in medium and low cuilies at from $30 to $40 per picul. Some few lots of *Oshu*, *Mino*, and *Shinshu*, have been done at prices ranging from $45 to $60 per picul. Some little business also in *Filature*, $118 being paid for best.

Sundries.—Several purchases of *Neri*, common at $10, with fair quality *Shinshu* at $13.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	$120	to $130
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		145	to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		135	to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		125	to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130	to 145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—	
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100	to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—	
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best		130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85	to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½	to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70	to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110	to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100	to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		60	to 65
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50	to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35	to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good		45	to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½	to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15	to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180	to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 23rd Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890 91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	18,161	16,117	20,060
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,392
	19,448	18,307	22,452
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	23,550	20,150	26,300
Stock, 23rd January	6250	11,200	5,300
Available supplies to date	29,800	31,350	31,600

Exchange has fallen in sympathy with silver at home and present quotations are as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/5⅞; Documents, 3/6; 6m/s. Credits, 3/6½; Documents, 3/6½; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $84½; 4 m/s. U.S. $85; Paris, 4m/s., ics. 4.40; 6m/s. ics. 4.42.

Estimated Silk Stock, 23rd January, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	320	Cocoons	320
Filatures	8,130	Noshi-ito	1,400
Re-reels	4,250	Kibiso	4,075
Kakeda	433	Mawata	125
Oshu	211	Sundries	330
Taysaam Kinds	[illegible]		
Total piculs	13,350	Total piculs	6,250

TEA.

Settlements have almost ceased, and the present season is practically over. The remaining stock is of little consequence, and no further supplies are expected.

Total settlements from 1st May to date are 215,000 piculs against 183,000 last year.

	per picul.		
Common	$11		
Good Common	12	to	13
Medium	14	to	15
Good Medium	16	to	17
Fine	18	to	19
Finest	20	to	22
Choice	23	to	25
Choicest	28	&	up'ds
Extra Choicest			—

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has followed silver downward, and present quotations are:—

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/4½-⅝
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/5½
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 5⅞-¾
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3 6
On Paris—Bank sight	4.31
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.41
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	82½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	84½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	82½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	84½
Silver	48⅜

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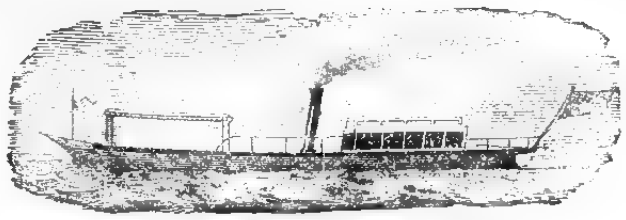

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 1891.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Diet resumed its sittings on the 28th instant, after an interval of a week.

HEAVY falls of snow and severe weather are reported from various parts of the country.

VISCOUNT KUKI TAKAYOSHI, a member of the House of Peers, died on the 24th instant.

THE Regulations as to Special Export ports will be put in force on and after the 1st of July next at Kushiro.

SOME 500 Japanese emigrants will start from Japan for the Hawaiian Islands about the middle of next month.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA TARUHITO and Prince Sanjo were received in audience by the Emperor in the forenoon of the 26th instant.

AN action has been instituted by the Tokyo Electric Light Company against Mr. Soné, Chief Secretary of the House of Representatives.

THE annual general meeting of supporters of the Victoria School has been held. The accounts showed a further diminution in the capital fund of the school.

THE 27th instant being the Birthday of the German Emperor, a telegraphic message of congratulation was despatched by the Emperor to the Kaiser.

A TELEGRAM from Kobe, under date the afternoon of the 25th instant, reports that a special general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Tea Export Company was held on the forenoon of the 25th instant, at which 65 persons were present.

MR. TSUJI, Vice-Minister of the Educational Department, who had been suffering for some time from influenza, was able to attend business on the 27th instant.

ON learning of the death of Prince Baudouin, H.I.M. the Emperor despatched on the 26th instant a telegraphic message of condolence to the King of the Belgians.

MARQUIS HACHISUKA, Governor of Tokyo, and Mr. Watanabe, Vice-Minister of the Financial Department, who had been suffering from influenza for some time, were able to attend their offices on the 26th inst.

MR. WATANABE ITARU, Vice-Superintendent of the Yokohama Custom House, who was ordered on the 26th instant to proceed to the Ogasawara Islands, will start from Yokohama on the 5th proximo by the *Suruga Maru*.

AN outbreak of fire took place in the night of the 21st instant in the house of Satto Sashiro, Mihama-mura, Kamo-gori, Izu, and destroyed 93 buildings, including several Buddhist temples, godowns, and sheds.

A SPECIAL general meeting of shareholders of the Shinagawa Electric Company was held on the 25th inst., at which the rules of the company were revised, and Messrs. S. Sugiura and K. Aikawa were appointed Inspectors.

AN outbreak of fire took place on the 25th instant at 7.20 a.m. in the house of Nomura Ume, No. 6, Kotemmacho, Nihonbashi, Tokyo, destroying 29 houses, 4 houses being partly damaged before the flames could be subdued.

ON the morning of the 26th instant about 5 a.m. fire broke out in the house of Tsukamoto Jennosuke, No. 7, Tsukiji Ichome, Kyobashi, Tokyo, and destroyed or partly damaged 22 houses before the flames could be got under control.

THE students of the Imperial University at present number 1,365, of whom 47 are in the Daigaku-in, 305 in the College of Law, 216 in the College of Medicine, 109 in the College of Engineering, 89 in the College of Literature, 109 in the College of Science, and 490 in the College of Agriculture.

THE receipts of the Osaka Cotton Spinning Company during the latter-half of last year were *yen* 61,994 294, of which *yen* 9,200 were set apart as a reserve, *yen* 3,150 as rewards to officers, and *yen* 48,000 as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, *yen* 1,694,294 being carried forward to the next account.

AN ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Tokyo Bay Steamship Company was held on the afternoon of the 25th inst. The receipts during the latter half of last year were *yen* 68,600.052, of which, after providing for miscellaneous expenses, addition to reserve, and remuneration to officers, *yen* 15,000 was appropriated as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

THE Japanese Consul at Francisco reports that the total value of the trade between Japan and San Francisco during the month of November last was $956,726, of which $98,666 represented exports from San Francisco to Japan and $868,060 imports. The value of articles forwarded to the Eastern States of America through San Francisco during the same period amounted to $256,322.

ACCORDING to returns compiled by the Financial Department, the amount of Government paper currency and bank notes in circulation on the 31st ultimo, was *yen* 59,083.435.100, of which *yen* 33,272.714.600 represented Government paper and *yen* 25,810,720.500 bank notes. As compared with the previous month the above shows a decrease of *yen* 999.763.300 in Government paper and *yen* 463.000 in bank notes.

A MEETING of shareholders of the Tokyo Gas Company was held on the 25th instant. The receipts during the latter half of last year were *yen* 46,983.907, to which *yen* 1,000 brought over from the last account were added, making a total of *yen* 47,983.907. Of this amount, after adding to the reserve, providing for rewards to officers, and miscellaneous expenses, *yen* 19,-204.708 were appropriated as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

THE ceremony of presenting certificates to graduates of the Tokyo Private Commercial School took place on the afternoon of the 25th instant at the Nakamura-ro, Ryogoku. The ceremony opened by the reading of the report of the school for the past two yars, 1889 and 1890. Mr. Oyagi, acting for Viscount Akimoto, President of the institution, presented certificates to the graduates, and delivered an address of congratulation, to which Mr. Yamauchi, on behalf of the graduates, replied. Over a hundred distinguished persons were present. Messrs. Ban Naonasuke, Nakamura Yeisuke, Sano Tsuneki, Naruse Ryuzo, and Tajiri Inanosuke delivered short addresses in the course of the proceedings.

IN an extra of the *Official Gazette* of the 24th instant a notification was issued over the signature of Viscount Hijikata, Minister of State for the Imperial Household, to the effect that in consequence of the death of the King of Hawaii mourning will be observed by the Court for a period of nineteen days beginning the 23rd instant. All higher officials, peers, persons of rank above sixth class, second grade, and persons in possession of decorations above sixth class, are ordered when visiting the Palace at wear mourning for the first ten days, and white or drab clothing for the succeeding nine days. Field officers, flag officers, and officials of equivalent rank are ordered to wear crape on their left arms during the above period.

THERE is very little to be said about the Import trade, there being no improvement in any direction. Yarns and Shirtings have seen only a few retail purchases, while Woollens are not looked at. Trifling sales of Metals have been effected, but at lower rates, and the only offers are at still further reductions. There have been no sales to test the value of Kerosene, and the stock remains at 600.000 cases. A little Sugar went off, but values are further reduced. The principal Export has again received considerable attention, and over 2,000 piculs of Silk have passed the scales. The market has been rather quieter during the past two days, but there is still a steady demand, and sellers who are current continue to get rid of sundry parcels. There has been less done in Waste Silk. A small business has transpired in Tea, the few piculs of leaf fired being common to medium. Exchange has not varied much during the week, and is fairly steady at the close.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR. MUTSU IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, sits in the House of Representatives as member for the first electoral division of Wakayama Prefecture. When the leading men of that district signified their desire to elect him, the question was raised whether he ought to resign his official position, but Mr. Mutsu decided, rightly we think, that, following a precedent common in Western States, there was nothing to prevent his retaining a portfolio in the Cabinet while sitting as the representative of Wakayama in the Lower House. The proceedings in the House, however, have been of such a character that few opportunities have presented themselves for Mr. Mutsu to speak, and moreover his duties both as Minister and as Government Delegate have probably left him little leisure to obey purely parliamentary calls. This, apparently, is not what his constituents expected. They probably thought that when they returned a man well-known to be one of the most brilliant politicians and speakers of his time, the first electoral district of Wakayama would be covered with glory in the House. Accordingly, some malcontents have addressed to Mr. Mutsu the following letter, which, not merely because it is the first of its kind in Japanese parliamentary history, but also for its own sake, possesses much interest:—"Excellency—Inspired with admiration of your general course of procedure, the electors of the first division of Wakayama Prefecture chose you to represent them in Parliament, believing that your voice would be raised in behalf of the vital interests of the State. But since the Diet met, you have only attended in your place five or six times, and we do not hear that you have done anything to satisfy the hopes of your constituents or to give effect to public opinion. Thus not only do you show yourself still inclined at heart to the present system of government, but you also lend no aid to the consummation of the people's hopes, and by remaining in an oligarchical Cabinet, assume an attitude of opposition to public opinion. In a letter addressed by you to your constituents, you promised that no effort should be wanting on your part to justify the confidence placed in you and requite the earnestness of your supporters, and you added that if you failed in this, your voice in the House would reach the ears of the people of Wakayama and be judged by them. The ink is scarcely dry on these words, yet you do not appear in the House of Representatives, nor is your voice heard even in respect of the vital question of the Budget. For your sake we regret that this should be so. You may possibly say that a member of Parliament is not the mouth-piece of his constituents, and has no duties to perform in respect of their wishes. Upon this point public opinion has pronounced its verdict and by that verdict we abide. The history of your political career for the past ten years shows clearly that versality is your forte. But we are not concerned with the traits that constitute you specialty. We have only to pray that if you cannot discharge the representative functions with which you solemnly charged yourself in the face of your constituents and before the whole nation, you will resign your seat and not bring discredit upon the honourable post you fill; or that, retiring from an oligarchical Government, you will fulfil the promises made by you in writing to your electors. Neither your own credit nor the interests of the country will be advanced by your setting personal above public considerations, disregarding the people's political rights, and adopting an equivocal course. We earnestly hope that you will follow our counsel and adopt one of the two alternatives we have suggested."

* * *

This document carries only two signatures, those of Messrs. Oku Kano and Nakadani Sadanosuke. Its language is remarkable, as indicating that ambiguity of speech is not a habit with Japanese politicians. They are still far removed from the perfect art of finesse which enables European statesmen to hide what they mean and seem to say what they don't mean. But the weak point of Messrs. Oku and Nakadani's remonstrance is that they are now bringing forward a consideration which has certainly no more weight to-day than it had when they elected Mr. Mutsu; namely, that his position in the Cabinet precludes him from attacking the Government to which he belongs. When they chose him to be their representative he held the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce, and it is absurd to contend now that he cannot continue to be their representative if he remains in office. What has happened, as it seems to us, is, not that Mr. Mutsu has disappointed the confidence reposed in him, but that his electors, or rather the two signatories of the remonstrance, have changed their minds.

THE DIET AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The Tokyo *Tsushinsha* or Press Agency has been interviewing Cabinet Ministers with regard to political affairs, but does not seem to have drawn much satisfaction from the spring of official knowledge. The Government, we learn, had some time ago decided on the policy which it intended to pursue relative to the Diet, and Ministers have already agreed as to the course to be adopted with regard to the Budget and to Decree No. 84. On those points their decision is firm and unalterable. But it is possible that if individual Ministers were interrogated answers might be received favouring the idea that the Cabinet had not yet selected the ground on which it will make its stand. Individual and unofficial opinions expressed by Ministers may, and no doubt do, differ very considerably from the real policy of the Cabinet. As to the future action of Count Yamada, and indeed of Ministers in general, the public will in time become acquainted. Meantime the stories circulated are, in most cases, set about by politicians wishful to further their own ends.

FIRE INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

The advantages of fire insurance were brought home to the people of Yokosuka with exceptional force on the 19th inst., when the Tokyo Insurance Company satisfied the claims made against it in connection with the big fire of November 29th. The conflagration was the most disastrous in the history of Yokosuka, involving the loss of eight lives as well as of a very large amount of property. Among the houses destroyed fifty-five were insured in the Tokyo Fire Insurance Company. The total sums insured amounted to 15,895 *yen*, and a good idea of the overwhelming rapidity of conflagrations in Japan may be gathered from the fact that the salvage from the 55 houses totalled only 326.50 *yen*. When the claims came to be examined, it was found that four were defective, either because the premia had been left unpaid or because some other conditions had not been complied with. These four houses were insured for 550 *yen*, so that the net loss to the company was 15,018.50 *yen*. This sum was paid over to the burned-out folks on the 19th instant, and their satisfaction is said to have been profound. Another provident householder—apparently the only one insured among the people rendered homeless by the December fire in Umamichi, Asakusa—received the amount of his policy 1,350 *yen*, on the 22nd instant, the company recovering 11 *yen* by the sale of the articles saved. It appears from this record that settlements are quickly effected in Japan.

ISOLATION FROM ONE'S FELLOWS.

With an apology to our readers, we desire to refer briefly to a matter of a personal character over and over again noticed by our local contemporaries, the latest instance of such notice being on the part of the *Japan Gazette* which charges the editor of the *Mail* with "isolating himself from the men for whose benefit he professes to publish his paper." It strikes us as rather quaint that the liberty enjoyed by every one, high and low alike, to choose his own place of residence, should be denied to the editor of the *Japan Mail*. Be that as it may, however, if it interests our contemporaries to make such inquisitions into our private affairs, and if they deem the matter to be of public importance, we are not concerned to gainsay their fancy or traverse their judgment. They will agree, we presume, that the editor of a paper published in Yokohama or anywhere else, has to consider before everything how he can best collect news and procure the latest information with respect to all affairs of importance. If he possessed a large staff of reporters, correspondents, and writers, he could afford to do as the editors of great journals in Europe and American do, namely, play the part of a supervisor only, and give himself no concern about obtaining material. But a Yokohama editor is not so happily circumstanced. He has to be at once the supplier of information and the discharger of all the other functions usually falling to an editor's lot. To accomplish this with any success, his only chance is to live within the easiest possible reach of sources of news. There can be no manner of question that Tokyo, the commercial as well as the political capital of the empire, is incomparably the best place of residence from this point of view. To live in Yokohama saves an editor considerable expense in the matter of messengers, enables him to exercise a much more efficient control of the matter published in his paper, and greatly lightens the purely business part of his task. But the disdvantages of absence from the centre of all important national movement far outweighs these considerations. From merely abstract considerations it is plain that such must be the case, and moreover, our conclusion is based on the teaching of actual experience. We tried the experiment of living in Yokohama and were reluctantly obliged either to abandon it or to resign ourselves to relying entirely on vernacular journals for our knowledge of Japanese affairs. And surely, for the rest, it is a trifle childish to describe residence in Tokyo as "isolation from the men for whose benefit we write." Tokyo has a foreign community not altogether undeserving of consideration at the hands of an editor.

* * *

There is something quite flattering in the interest provoked by the affairs of the *Japan Mail*; its dependence or independence; its relations with the Government; the place of residence of the editor, and such topics. Modesty forbids us to think that international issues depend upon the private concerns of this journal, or that grave public problems are likely to be elucidated by analysing the sources of its editor's proclivities. Still, if newspapers will devote their columns to such matters, we may not unreasonably claim a voice in the discussion, especially when our critics' want of acquaintance with simple facts supplies them with weapons for assailing us. The *Japan Gazette* opines that our "connection with the Japanese Government could be proved in a Court of Law;" asks us whether we "suppose that our own assertions to the contrary will ever convince men" that no such connection exists; and with some show of feeling exhorts us to "honestly acknowledge the connection." Having learned from our contemporary's own confession what its writings had already taught us, namely, that the most important page of the country's foreign relations, though only two years old, is a sealed book to it, we shrink from asking it to recall incomparably more trivial events of a decade back. Yet it is a fact that nearly ten years ago the circumstances of the *Japan Mail's* connection with the Government were fully explained in these columns. There is no occasion to appeal to a "Court of Law;" no occasion to charge us with denials which we have never made; no occasion to urge us to honest acknowledgment. Whatever there is to acknowledge was ackowledged long ago. The only thing we deny, have persisted in denying, and must continue to deny, is that the receipt of a liberal subscription from the Government or from anyone else involves subservient support. The *Japan Gazette* is apparently unable to conceive this. Oblivious to the significance of its assertion, it declares that our attitude in respect of the public meeting of last September

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proves our indifference to the foreign community. We condemned the meeting, its methods, and its resolutions; therefore, according to the *Japan Gazette's* view, we showed that we "can flip our fingers at the foreign community." In other words, had we valued the subscriptions of the foreign residents, we should not have opposed the views of the majority. If the *Gazette's* creed is summed up in that startling statement, we sincerely commiserate the future lying before it. If it seriously believes, and acts by the belief, that an editor must display his dependence on his readers by approving their notions and applauding their proceedings, it has a tough task cut out for it in this settlement. For our part, what we write is not influenced by any such considerations. The support of the foreign community is just as important to us as to the *Japan Gazette*, but if we can gain that support only by trimming our sails to suit the caprice of the hour, we prefer to give up journalism. We do not "flip our fingers at the foreign community" because we say precisely what we think, without reference to the endorsement of our readers, neither shall we seek to extend our subscription list by saying what we do not think for the sake of gaining that endorsement. As for the count that we have steadily given our support to the Government, we answer, yes, undoubtedly, and we shall continue to give it, for whatever it may be worth, because we hold that no Government could have done better for Japan? Our knowledge of the methods of the Japanese administration and of the problems it has to deal with is as intimate, we venture to think, as the knowledge of other foreigners, and we assert without the least fear of valid contradiction, that the interests of the country could not have been in better hands than those of the men who have directed State affairs for the past twenty years. What is the sense of an abstract charge that we have supported the Government? Would it have been more honourable or useful to support the opposition? Instead of preferring such ill-considered and meaningless accusations, why do not our accusers show how the empire's affairs could have been better administered, or what statesmen are more competent to administer them? We have supported the Government's measures, because, in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, we could discern no wiser measures, and because our unvarying experience is that amateur politicians, ever ready to condemn and abuse the Cabinet's procedure, are proved in the end to have been mere flippant cavillers. The limit of quaintness is certainly reached when the *Japan Gazette*, steeped to the lips in the theory that everything official must be bad and partial, announces that, persuaded of our connection with the Government, it will hereafter "decline the thankless task of replying" to our remarks on Treaty Revision. That is a deliciously naïve declaration. Whose views are better worth listening to on the subject of Treaty Revision than those of the Japanese Government? To be the supposed exponent of such views ought to secure attention and consideration at the hands of reasonable people. However, we shall waste no more time and space replying to charges of such a character. The *Gazette* professes to dislike personalities. Perhaps it will prove the truth of its profession by abstaining from comments on the relations of the editor of the *Mail* with this person or with that, on his place of residence, or on his manner of living.

THE CASE IN THE PORTUGUESE COURT.

An attempt is made, we perceive, to fasten upon us a charge of having publicly "doubted the veracity" of the barrister who conducted the defence in the recent case in the Portuguese Court. The facts are very simple. Only one stenographic report of the trial appeared in the press: it was published by this journal, and upon it we based certain comments as to a part of the line of defence adopted. The Counsel for the defence took exception to our comments, and said that in his speech in Court he had alluded, not to the Foreign Secretary of the Railway Department, but to the *Japan Mail*. We replied by quoting the short-hand report, not as asserting its accuracy in such a matter against the counsel for the defence, but merely as indicating the basis of our own comments. We cannot see that by so doing we threw any doubts on the veracity of the counsel. Certainly it was not our intention to do so. Our own criticism being traversed on the ground that we had misconceived the facts, we were strictly within our right in showing that the only stenographic report of the case justified our interpretation.

* * *

With reference to this case, we observe that a good deal of capital is made out of our original comments upon the conduct of the man who importuned a Japanese woman in the railway station at Yokohama on the 15th of November, and upon the conduct of other foreigners who, as reported by the Railway Authorities, had been guilty of insults to Japanese female passengers at the stations. So far as the man Gama is concerned, we freely admit that, by the light of the recent trial, our strictures upon his action were too strong, since it does not appear that his repeated overtures to the Japanese girl were resented by her with sufficient emphasis to convince him of her repugnance, and since there is a reasonable doubt whether he did not receive some encouragement from her at the outset. But the fact remains that, according to his own showing, Gama followed the girl about the station, and did not hesitate to press his immoral proposals in the Ladies' Waiting Room, a line of conduct certainly deserving censure, though not exposing him to the strong condemnation based by us on the original account of his doings. But what seems singular and unaccountable in this matter is that anyone should be found so blinded by romantic prejudice as to imagine that a foreign journal's public denunciation of rudeness by foreigners towards Japanese female travellers, is intended to stir up international bad blood and strife. How should such affairs be journalistically treated? Ought they to be hushed up, or ought they to be openly visited with the censure which every decent foreigner is ready to extend to them? To pass them over in silence or to minimise them would certainly tend to create the very false impression that the better class of foreigners are disposed to pardon them. We confess that we have never observed any disposition on the part of the local foreign press to make light of or hide acts of violence or impropriety committed by Japanese. Is it then to be credited that while a constantly displayed disposition on the part of local foreign journals to paint Japanese wrong-doing in the darkest colours has no effect in fomenting anti-foreign feeling, any censure by a foreign journal of foreign impropriety or rudeness towards Japanese, has that effect in a dangerous degree?

THE CZAREWITCH AND THE VICEROY OF HUKUANG.

A singular statement has been published by the Shanghai journals and strongly commented on. It is that the Viceroy of Hukuang has intimated his resolve not to receive the Russian Prince Imperial at Wuchang. The Viceroy Chang (Chi-tung), who, during his tenure of office in Canton, seems to have established a reputation for discourtesy to all foreigners except those in his own employ, has his *yamén* at Wuchang, which lies on the opposite side of the river from Hankow. The report circulated in Shanghai is that the Russian Admiral Nazimoff sent a man-of-war to advise the Viceroy of the Prince's contemplated visit and to make any necessary suggestions as to arrangements for His Imperial Highness' reception, but that the Viceroy not only treated the Admiral with discourtesy, but also declined explicitly to receive the Czarewitch should the latter come within the limits of his Viceroyalty. It is suggested that, in consequence of this treatment, the Prince Imperial will probably change his programme in China, and that he may even refrain from visiting Shanghai. Indeed, the *North China Daily News* goes so far as to say that the Russian Government has demanded an explanation of the Viceroy's attitude, and that the detention of the Russian squadron in Chinese waters instead of its despatch to meet the Prince at Singapore, as originally intended, is perhaps connected with the complication. We find it extremely difficult to credit this story. All arrangements as to the places to be visited by the Czarewitch on his arrival in China and the personages by whom he will be received, must have been made by the Russian Representative in Peking. It certainly could not have devolved on the Russian Admiral to send a ship to Hankow for the purpose of intimating to His Excellency Chang that the Prince Imperial intended to visit the Viceroyalty of Hukuang and expected to be received by the Viceroy. Had the visit and reception been contemplated, Chang would have received his instructions and the necessary intimation from Peking, whereas we are asked to believe that no communication whatever had been sent to him from the capital, and that he will probably make such and such excuses "if called to account from Peking for his gross and embarrassing discourtesy." Now it is very conceivable that if the first intimation of the Prince's projected visit were conveyed to Wuchang by a Russian man-of-war, the Viceroy might have pointed out that in a matter of such international importance, he could not act on his own responsibility, and must wait until instructions reached him from the Throne. But is it at all conceivable that the Russian Admiral would have made the mistake of taking upon himself the discharge of diplomatic functions, above all when the affairs of the Czarewitch were in question? Assuredly not. If the Prince contemplates a visit to Wuchang, it will be found, we are persuaded, that all the necessary orders were issued from Peking, in the sequel of due diplomatic action, and that the rumour as to the Viceroy's refusal is incorrect. It is not the habit of Russian officials to expose their country to rudenesses by confounding military and diplomatic functions.

ELECTRICITY AND THE DIET.

The Electric Light Companies, rightly determined not to let the case go against their business by default, are assisting each other loyally to prove that the fire at the Diet was not caused by the agency of the electric lighting apparatus. The Engineer in Chief of the Yokohama Company has addressed the following report to the President of the Company by whom it has been published in the advertising columns of the *Jiji Shimpo*:—"In consequence of the unsatisfactory nature of the decision announced by the *Official Gazette* and the other journals, I proceeded to the offices of the Tokyo Electric Light Company and made a careful examination of the manner in which the wires are laid and the nature of the work. The light being furnished from the Kojimachi dynamo, I examined the records kept at the station and ascertained that the actual state of affairs on the night of the conflagration was as follows:—(1) The main wire is laid from Kojimachi and branch wires lead from it to the Russian Legation and the residence of Mr. Kuki. (2) The calculations were all in accordance with rule, and were correctly carried out in practice, and there was no irregularity or want of care of any sort. (3) Proper safety fuses were undoubtedly attached at all the necessary points of the wires throughout the system. (4) The connections had been frequently subjected to examination. (5) Nothing unusual occurred that night either at the Russian Legation or at Mr. Kuki's residence. (6) Nothing unusual was observed at the Kojimachi station in respect of the main wire. From about 12.30 a.m. to 1 o'clock, however, the intensity of the lights gradually increased up to 100, and the indicator oscillated violently once or twice. Just then a *jinrikisha* man arrived, and said that a fire had been caused at the temporary Houses of Parliament by the electric lights, and that the Secretary desired to have the electricity shut off in order that it might be possible to cope with the conflagration: this was done at once. (7) According to the statement of the Secretary, the exact time when the fire broke out is not known. It was first detected by Mr.

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Hayashida, one of the Secretaries, who on going his rounds observed an appearance of fire in the ceiling of the Government Delegates' room in the House of Representatives and saw that the electric lighting apparatus was incandescent. He concluded that the fire had been caused by the electric lights, but thinking that the evidence of one person only would not suffice to establish the fact, he immediately sent a messenger to report the matter to the Chief Secretary. The latter received the report about half-past twelve. Proceeding to the House of Representatives, he saw a flame in one corner of the ceiling of the Government Delegates' room and observed that the electric wire was red hot. Going thence to a room opening off the corrider of the House of Peers, he found a similar state of affairs, and subsequently he saw that fire was breaking out at several others points in the same way. (8) An employé of the Tokyo Electric Light Company, who went to the scene of the fire at about 4 o'clock a.m., was told that the conflagration had been caused by the electric lights, and that whatever quantities of water were poured on the wires their glow could not be extinguished. It appears from the above that the Chief Secretary received the report at about 12.30 a.m.; that the flames had then spread to the whole Diet, and that according to the watchmen, the electric wires were red hot. The covering of the wires must therefore have disappeared. Even if the covering remained, however, and water were thrown on the wires, the current of electricity would have been so much intensified that the safety fuses must have come into play and the change would have been observed at the dynamo station, whereas the lights there gradually burned brighter without other alteration. Again, the electric wires in the Diet were all laid between the ceilings and the floors, and therefore there was no possibility of seeing the wires glowing. If, however, the fire had been due to some independent cause and water had been thrown on the wires, the water reaching the covering of the wires and ultimately wetting them, the lights at the dynamo station would have gradually become brighter, and ultimately, when the damp penetrated completely, the fuses would have melted, and the connection being broken, the indicator at the stations would have been disturbed. In a word, the appearances observed at the dynamo station are exactly those that would have presented themselves in case of a fire arising from independent causes and water being employed to extinguish it. Electricity is not like gas, which can be confined in a pipe and lit at any moment by the application of fire. The bursting out of the conflagration at several places proves that its origin was not electrical, but something quite independent." To this is appended the signature of Mr. Iwata Takeo, Chief Engineer of the Yokohama Electric Light Company.

* * *

This report unfortunately appears to be inaccurate as to one statement of fact, namely, that Mr. Hayashida was the first to observe the fire. Mr. Hayashida has since denied that such was the case. The general argument, however, especially its scientific aspect, is not affected by this misstatement. Every one recognises the immense importance of reaching a clear decision in the matter, seeing that if the blame of the catastrophe be finally laid on the shoulders of the electric light, the Japanese public will be seriously prejudiced against one of the most useful and convenient of modern inventions. The magnitude of the loss attending the destruction of the Diet and the conspicuous nature of the catastrophe have invested the whole affair with a degree of importance which does not properly attach to it merely from the point of view of the origin of the fire. Big as was the pile of buildings destroyed, there was but one fire after all, and to discredit the system of election lighting merely because it set a solitary edifice on fire, even supposing the fact to be proved, would be a very narrow and prejudiced proceeding. The *Hochi Shimbun* advances this aspect of the case in a very convincing manner. It points out that fires caused by electric lighting are exceedingly rare, incomparably more so than fires caused by kerosene lamps. The Japanese people know roughly how many houses have been destroyed and how much destruction of property has been caused by the agency of kerosene lamps, yet they never think of abandoning the lamp and returning to the old fashioned *andon*. It would be most inconsistent and unreasonable, therefore, to discredit and abolish the electric light, which is far safer and more convenient than kerosene, merely because an accident has resulted from its use. If such a theory were adopted, railways, steam machinery, and such things would have to be given up also.

* * *

The same journal publishes some comments made by Professor Kikuchi with regard to the affair. The Professor appears to think that the discussion as to the origin of the conflagration can lead to nothing. He notes that instances are on record of fires having been caused either by the faultiness of safety fuses or by excessive charges of electricity, and says that the mere fact of every wire having a safety fuse attached can no more be accepted as an effective protection than can the cognate fact that steam boilers have safety valves. Boilers burst despite their valves, and electric wires may become red hot despite the safety fuses attached. Scientific researches show also that if electricity intended to be conducted elsewhere is sent along a wire not designed to carry it, the current may accumulate and the wire become incandescent. Just as a water-pipe of fixed capacity must inevitably burst if a stream of double the corresponding volume be sent along it, so if a current of electricity greater than the fixed quantity be sent along a wire, there is no reason for astonishment because the wire became red hot. The Professor concluded by saying that no scientific difficulties stand in the way of the supposition that fires may be produced by electric lighting apparatus.

* * *

We may remark, in connection with this subject, that Japan now possesses electrical engineers whose thorough competence is attested not only by the work they have done, but also by the evidence of foreign men of science. Further, Western electricians of established skill were employed until quite recently by the Japanese Electric Light Companies and are still employed, though in reduced numbers. Such being the case, some amusement has been caused by the publication of an insurance company's rules in the columns of a local foreign journal, with a context of well meant but rather naïve advice to Japanese Electric Light Companies in general and to the Japanese Authorities in particular, the latter being urged to have the rules translated into Japanese and to insist on their observance by all companies. Excellent as is the motive of such writing, it can only provoke a smile. Japanese experts and the foreigners in Japanese employ are not as so ill-informed as to need a text-book in the shape of an insurance company's regulations.

A CENSOR OF YOKOHAMA JOURNALISTS.

It is always interesting to be told something about the aspect one presents to impartial observers. We have therefore read with attention an article in the *Hyogo News* discussing the methods of Yokohama journalism. The case presented by our southern contemporary loses somewhat by over-statement, but it is impossible to deny the truth of the main accusation that the amount of space devoted by Yokohama editors to discussions frequently disfigured by bitterness and sometimes by personalities, is far from creditable to the local press. Something, of course, may be urged in consideration of the fact that whereas newspapers addressing themselves to a large circle of readers can afford to take no notice of the erroneous statements of a contemporary, knowing that ample machinery exists for eliciting the truth sooner or later newspapers in Yokohama speak to a very small audience and are in no danger of contradiction, however misleading their statements, except at one another's hands. It is this condition of the problem that has often perplexed us—whether erroneous statements should be left to work unimpeded mischief, or whether the other evil, journalistic controversy, should be accepted. Of course in the abstract, there is nothing to be condemned in discussion. By the interchange of ideas and the contact of intelligences many a great truth has been evolved and established. But almost everything depends on the method of discussion, and unfortunately in this Settlement it has become the habit, at a very early stage of every journalistic controversy, to advance charges of interested bias, want of patriotism, disloyalty to the cause of foreigners, and so forth, with the result that the real points at issue are soon obscured in a cloud of bickering and recrimination. No doubt such a state of affairs must seem strange and unsightly to anyone whose sympathies have not yet been enlisted on either side, and no doubt, also, it has had the effect of greatly discrediting Yokohama journalism.

MR. TAGUCHI ON THE LAND TAX.

We alluded in a recent weekly summary of the vernacular press to Mr. Sakatomi's essay on the land tax in the columns of the *Hochi Shimbun*, and stated that in his opinion, the land tax in Japan partakes more of the nature of rent than of tax. This opinion, which was long ago expressed by us, is shared by Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*. Under the feudal *régime*, land was in the possession of local chiefs, and whatever the farmers paid to their lords was considered as rent for the use of the land. When in 1871 the feudal chiefs voluntarily surrendered their domains to the central Government, they surrendered at the same time the right of receiving rent from the farmers. The central Government, on the other hand, indemnified the feudal chiefs with the grant of Public Pension Bonds. In other words, the right to receive rent was bought by the Government for the above mentioned Bonds, amounting altogether to more than 170 million *yen*. Thus the land tax in Japan is, in the opinion of Mr. Taguchi, of the same nature as that imposed by the British Government on the peasantry in India. Such being the character of the impost, he thinks it absurd to cry out for its reduction. Considered in the light of a tax, the present rate (2½ per cent. of the value of the land) is high, but as rent it is decidedly low. Under the Tokugawa Government, taxation was in most cases regulated by the well known standard of *shi-kō roku-min* (four to the Government, six to the people); that is to say, 40 per cent of the harvest was paid to the feudal chiefs as rent and 60 per cent. retained by the farmers as the fruit of their labour. After the Restoration, the ratio was first lowered to 3 to 7, and subsequently it was reduced to 2½ per cent. of the assessed value of the land. Supposing the land tax to be still further reduced, who, asks the editor of the *Keizai Zashi*, will be benefited by such reduction? Politicians loud in their clamour to have the land tax reduced, believe, or pretend to believe, that they act for the sake of the peasant class. But Mr. Taguchi contends that these politicians stand in a false position. For the reduction of the land tax will not, as they argue, benefit the poorer cultivators of the land, the tenants, but will only go to lessen the burdens of the proprietors who are already quite well off. The tenants being but working men, their wages are determined by the general state of the labour market, and not in the slightest degree by the amount of tax paid by the proprietors of land. The latter class of people—we are still quoting Mr. Taguchi—are indeed at present a great power in the politics of the country. They it is that elect the members of the Local Assemblies and of the Diet; and it is from among them that such members are now-a-days chosen. To their preponderating influence in the politics of the country, coupled with misjudged compassion for the distress of the tenants, is to be ascribed, in Mr. Taguchi's opinion, the importance which the question of the land-tax has obtained in Japan at the present moment. However, as the increasing amount of local tax and communal rates weighs

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especially heavily upon the members of the above mentioned class, Mr. Taguchi would approve of some small reduction of the land tax. But he entirely fails to perceive either the wisdom or the necessity of reducing it by several millions of *yen* as at present proposed by some of the members of the Diet.

THE SHINAGAWA ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.

THE Shinagawa Electric Light Company held its semi-annual meeting on the 25th inst. The accounts for the half-year were read and passed. A dividend at the rate of 4.5 per cent. for six months had been proposed by the directors, but it was announced that as the employés of the Company had declined to receive the pecuniary reward set aside for them, and had desired that the money should be placed to the general account, the dividend would be 4.8 per cent. The shareholders present at the meeting were subsequently entertained and instructed by a useful object-lesson, demonstrating the absolute safety of the electric lighting system when proper fittings are employed, supplemented by a sufficiency of safety fuses. The action of the fuses was shown by actual experiment, and the minds of the shareholders, somewhat perturbed doubtless by recent events, are said to have recovered their equanimity. It would indeed be lamentable if the cause of electric lighting were seriously damaged by the fate of the Diet. Besides, it remains to be proved that the fire at the Diet had its origin in the electric wires. The Tokyo Electric Light Company is determined to fight that question to the bitter end. It has employed Messrs. Takanashi and Urada, two barristers of high repute, to bring an appeal before the Law Courts against the official report read by the Presidents to the two Houses of Parliament. Apart from all purely scientific or technical considerations, there are understood to be two points upon which the Company relies. The first is that the wires were all "concealed," being placed between the ceiling of one room and the floor of the room above. In this position they could not possibly have been seen until either the floor or the ceiling had been burned away; a rather late period to fix their responsibility for the fire. The second point is that the flames are said to have burst out in the westerly corner of the ceiling of a certain room, whereas the plans preserved in the Company's office and the testimony of the workmen who put up the buildings prove that no electric wire existed at that place. These are troublesome points. If they can be established, the public will have to conclude that it jumped to a somewhat hasty conclusion. Meanwhile, attention being keenly directed to the whole subject of electric lights, there appear from time to time in the vernacular press items not calculated to re-assure the public. One such is a statement that the Minister President of State had the fittings in his official residence carefully examined, with the result that three dangerous spots were discovered. Such rumours will of course be circulated freely for some time to come.

JAPAN AND THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

MR. TAGUCHI UKICHI has of late written much in the columns of his journal, the *Keisai Zasshi*, on his experiences among the South Sea islands. In one article he describes the position of the German traders in these islands, and recommends his countrymen to compete with the merchants from Europe. The trade in that part of the world is, according to Mr. Taguchi, practically in the hands of Germans. They have their head-quarters in the Marshall Islands, with many stations in the Caroline Islands and other groups. At these stations imported goods are exchanged for palm-oil, which is at regular intervals shipped to the head-quarters in the Marshal Islands by a sailing vessel that makes a round of voyages among the islands. As to the character of the German traders, Mr. Taguchi's opinion is decidedly unfavourable. They are as a rule men of loose morals, addicted to drinking and debauchery, and the company which employs them is frequently subjected to losses by their reckless dissipation. Mr. Taguchi, therefore, found it very easy to successfully compete with them at Ponape, where he staid about fifty days. He very soon obtained the confidence of the natives; and while his party remained there, the German traders had scarcely any business with the natives. As the result of his experiences, Mr. Taguchi thinks that, if Japanese would open commercial communication with these islands, they would without much difficulty be able to wrest the principal share of the trade from the hands of the Germans. He further observes that there are two reasons why the South Sea trade should be more profitably conducted by Japanese than by German traders. In the first place, most of the goods needed in these islands can better be shipped from Japan, because of the latter's propinquity, and also because many of the required articles are very cheaply produced in this country. The principal articles exported to the islands are, according to the writer, kerosene, rice, umbrellas, gin, *awamori*, mosquito-nets, cotton goods, etc. It is a vital question for Japan, says Mr. Taguchi, to inquire where it is most profitable to purchase these articles, in Tokyo, in Hongkong, or in Germany? As to rice, umbrellas, and *awamori*, there is no question that Tokyo is the best place. As to kerosene and cotton goods, Mr. Taguchi thinks it will be more profitable to purchase in Tokyo than in either Hongkong or Germany, for Tokyo, being principally a retail market, cheap articles may be conveniently collected there. However, Mr. Taguchi fears that, as protectionists are now increasing in influence in Japan, the basis of these calculations may one day be disturbed. The second reason why Japanese stand in an advantageous position is that this country is better adapted for the disposal of the products obtained in exchange. There are four staple articles of export from the South Sea islands, namely, palm oil, béche de mer, tortoise shell, and wood. When Mr. Taguchi first left Japan, there was little demand in this country for the first mentioned article; when he returned home a friend of his had already invented a method of refining palm oil, and there is at present a great demand for the article. As the manufacture of soap is fast developing here, there is practically an unlimited demand for the oil. With regard to béche de mer, Mr. Taguchi admits that Japan cannot compete with Hongkong. But tortoise-shell is particularly well adapted for importation into this country, since it enters into the manufacture of various articles used by women. Thus the writer thinks that there is no reason why Japan should not become the centre of trade with the South Sea Islands, and he recommends the Authorities to give all possible facilities to persons engaged in the enterprise.

THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE.

SOMEBODY with more imagination than caution supplied to the *Jiyu Shimbun* of the 27th inst. a detailed item, setting forth various changes which were about to be made in the Metropolitan Police Bureau, the general effect of the changes being to materially increase the sphere of the Bureau's authority. The news attracted some attention, inasmuch as the abolition of the Bureau as a separate executive section is among the measures recommended by the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, and any extensive alterations of its organization at the present juncture would evidently signify that the Government has no intention of taking the Committee's counsels into serious consideration. But on inquiry it turns out that the *Jiyu Shimbun's* information is without foundation. No changes of any kind are in progress, or immediately contemplated, in the Police Bureau.

THE SUIT INSTITUTED BY THE TOKYO ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.

IT has been a matter of much interest and curiosity to ascertain in what form the Tokyo Electric Light Company would present the suit, which it announced its intention of bringing against the Government. An action for libel seemed the only resource. The report presented to the Houses of Parliament was undoubtedly calculated to inflict most serious injury on the business of the Company, and from that point of view a libel suit might have been preferred. The defendants would then have been compelled to establish the truth of their published assertions, a task which they would probably have found very difficult. The Company has chosen, however, to pursue a different course. It brings its action against Mr. Soné Arasuke, Chief Secretary of the House of Representatives, the complainant being Mr. Yajima Sakuro, President of the Company. The petition simply takes the form of a prayer that the defendant be ordered to correct his Report (*Hokaku teisei no uttaye*). The document sets out by alleging that from both a scientific and a practical point of view, the heating of electric lighting conductors so as cause a conflagration is in the highest degree improbable. The defendant, nevertheless, asserted in his Report to the House that the fire by which the Imperial Diet was consumed on the 19th instant had been caused by the electric lighting apparatus. This Report had been published in the *Official Gazette* and copied into several newspapers, so as to become matter of public knowledge. Further, the defendant made the same statement in a verbal account given by him to the House of Representatives. Thus the responsibility for a fire, concerning the origin of which conjectures or suppositions alone exist, has been laid on the shoulders of the company represented by the complainant, with results disastrous to its business. The Court is therefore prayed to order that the Report be amended. No damages are claimed, though the costs of action are asked for, and the petition is a model of brevity and conciseness. We are not aware that such a method of bringing an action is common in Western countries. The complainant is, however, advised by two of the best known barristers of the day, Messrs. Murata and Takanashi. We must assume, therefore, that he has adopted the course most likely to secure relief. Presumably the onus of proving that his Report was justified will rest on Mr. Soné, and it will be exceedingly interesting to see how his legal advisers acquit themselves of their responsibility.

OFFICIALS AND THE PEOPLE.

THE *Jiji Shimpo*, returning to the subject of the wide gulf that exists between officials and ordinary people, says it is a curious fact that no sooner is an individual appointed to a Government post than he assumes a haughty and superior air, and thenceforward regards himself as immeasurably the superior of less favoured mortals. The evil, our contemporary repeats, is a relic of feudal times. When the reformed Government was inaugurated it was supposed that relations between the rulers and the ruled would undergo considerable change, but when the new officials were settled in their places the idea of reform disappeared. Up to the present the country has been passing through a transition period, and perhaps it was not to be expected that sudden changes should take place. But the era of Constitutional Government has come and it behoves the members of the official class to modify their demeanour towards the people at large.

MR. MORI TOKINOSUKE.

MR. MORI TOKINOSUKE is an unfortunate man. Notoriety is costing him very dear. Tried in a Court of First Instance on a charge of embezzlement, he was found guilty and sentenced to a year's imprisonment, and in a civil action he was condemned to refund the sum of which he had defrauded the complainants. Against the criminal sentence he appealed. Whether he thought himself really aggrieved, or whether the interest taken in his fate by the Diet laid him under some kind of imaginary obligation to fight the legal battle to the bitter end, it is not given to us to determine. At any rate he appealed, and the hearing of his appeal came to an end, in the Tokyo *Koso-in*, on the 23rd instant. Judgment was not pronounced, however, until the 27th; a judgment for which Mr. Mori could have happily waited a little longer. The Court decided that the lower tribunal had erred in respect of a point of law.

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The original sentence was, therefore, revoked, and in lieu of it the appellant was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for a year and three months, together with a fine of thirty *yen*, and police supervision for half a year. Thus what Mori's appeal has brought him is an additional term of three months' imprisonment, a fine of thirty *yen*, and six months' police surveillance. Not deterred, however, he has again appealed to the Supreme Court, where better fortune, it is to be hoped, awaits him.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

THE recent epidemic of railway accidents in England—and it is marvellous how these things run through the land like an epidemic—lends special interest to the Board of Trade Report on railway accidents for 1889 which was issued towards the close of the year. The curious point about these statistics is their irregularity, the absence of an average amongst them, which shows that in railway accidents at least there is no law. Buckle, in his history of civilization sought to reduce things usually regarded as purely fortuitous, to order, and to show they were governed by law. At present railway accidents seem amenable to no such arrangement. The average, or what seems to be one, is liable to be upset and frequently is. If the number of killed and injured in any one year is considered in relation to all the disasters in connection with the working of the railway system, it looks very large, but if we take only the proportion of passengers who suffer in life and limb it is very small. That is to say, as a rule. A great disaster in any one year makes all the difference. In 1879, when the number of passengers killed by accident reached the high figure of 75, 73 of these were killed in the Tay Bridge disaster. In 1888 again, of the 88 passengers killed, 80 lost their lives in the collision near Armagh. A still more remarkable illustration of the manner in which the doctrine of averages is upset occurred in 1887. But for the collision at Hexthorpe in that year, by which 25 lives were sacrificed, not a single fatal casuality would have happened to passengers over all the railways in the United Kingdom from causes beyond their own control. The Hexthorpe disaster not only soiled an otherwise stainless record during that particular twelve months, but it affected and altered the decreasing proportion of the railway death-roll. In 1886 only one passenger was killed for every 90,698,049 carried, but during 1887 one was killed for every 27,346,800 carried. In the same way, while only one passenger was killed during 1888 for every 67,530,000 carried, the result of the Armagh collision is that in 1889 one was killed for every 8,808,875 carried. In 1889, taking the journeys of season-ticket holders into account, only one passenger was killed in every ten millions, and one injured in every 900,000, from causes for which they were in no way responsible. The total number of persons returned to the Board of Trade as having been killed in the working of railways during 1889 was 1,076, and the number injured 4,836. But out of this total only 183 of the killed and 1,829 of the injured were passengers; while only 88 were killed and 1,016 injured in consequence of accidents to or collisions between trains, the deaths of and injuries to the remainder being due to a variety of other causes and especially to want of caution on the part of the individuals themselves. The proportions of passengers killed and injured during the year from all causes were one in 4,236,000 killed, and one in 423,280 injured. This is higher than in 1888, when the proportions were one in 6,942,336 killed and one in 527,577 injured. The figures for the last sixteen years show the curious fluctuations in averages to which we have referred. The following refer to passengers killed by causes beyond their own control. In 1874 the number was 1 in 5¾ millions; in 1875 1 in 29½ millions; in 1876 1 in 14; in 1877 1 in 50; in 1879 1 in 7½; in 1880 1 in 20¾; in 1881 1 in 27; in 1883 1 in 62; in 1885 1 in 116; in 1887 1 in 29 millions. Fluctuation could scarcely go further. The causes of the accidents to trains from which these casualties arose are of the most varied descriptions. One was due to the train passing round a curve at too a high speed; another to the permanent way requiring relaying; and a third to the line not being properly repaired after derangement by previous accident. Several arose from the breaking of the axles of engines, and one of these, at Penistone, was of such a serious nature that the Board of Trade brought under the notice of the Railway Companies' Association the recommendation of the inspecting officer relative to the inspection of such axles. The result was the passing of an important resolution by the locomotive engineers of the principal railways in the United Kingdom. This declares that the companies are quite alive to the necessity for frequent and careful examination of engine axles, and points out that every axle passes under a test each time the engine is in the shop for repairs. With the view, however, of meeting the recommendation of the Board of Trade officers, the engineers have agreed that when an axle has run about 250,000 miles, it should be submitted to a special examination, and at each 100,000 miles run thereafter. Another matter referred to in the report has reference to accidents in which the servants of railway companies are the sufferers. The figures for 1889, as for previous years, are high, representing a total of 435 killed and 2,769 injured. There is an increase on the statistics for the previous three or four years, but on the other hand these show a considerable decrease when compared with the years 1874 to 1889. In 1874 the number killed was 1 in 320, in 1877 1 in 414, in 1880 1 in 534, in 1883 1 in 596, in 1886 1 in 845, and in 1889 1 in 796. With regard to the progress of the "absolute block" and "interlocking" systems, it is evident that an Act passed in 1889 began before the end of the year to have considerable influence on the action of railway companies. The proportion in which the signal and point levers are now interlocked amounts to 94 per cent. in England, 83 per cent. in Scotland and 60 per cent. in Ireland. Very much in the same way the block system is largely extending, being now applied to more than fifteen thousand out of the nineteen thousand miles open for traffic. Respecting continuous brakes, it appears that the number of vehicles fitted with apparatus, complying with some or all of the conditions laid down by the Board of Trade, amounts to eighty per cent.

COUNT ITAGAKI AND THE LIBERALS.

EIGHTY-SEVEN members of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* met at the *Sanyen-tei* in Shiba Park on the 24th instant. Count Itagaki was present. Indeed the purpose of the meeting was to cement the reconciliation to which the Count had been induced to agree. The *réunion* appears to have been of a semi-private character, but it is understood that Count Itagaki was earnestly requested to abandon the attitude of reserve recently maintained by him, and to resume the functions properly devolving on him as leader of the Party. He is said to have consented, at the unanimous solicitation of the members present, to attend the Committee Meetings as well as the offices of the Party, and not only to assist actively in affairs of organization but also to indicate from time to time any mistakes of method or spirit observed by him in the proceedings of the association. The conference on this subject lasted some three hours, after which the whole party sat down to dinner. Towards the close of the repast the Count rose and made a short but emphatic speech, signifying his intention of sparing no efforts thenceforth to promote the cause of the Party. He concluded by a cheer for the Liberals (*Jiyu-to banzai*). Mr. Yamada replied on behalf of the members, and the meeting broke up at 8 p.m. It appears, therefore, that a complete reconciliation has been effected, though whether it will prove to be permanent is considered very problematical.

THE FEELINGS OF FOREIGNERS.

FEARS having, it is stated, been expressed chiefly by members of the *Kaishin-to*, that the speeches of Count Yamagata and Viscount Aoki may have hurt the feelings of foreigners because of the emphasis with which those Ministers spoke of the development of the national rights and of the recovery of judicial and tariff autonomy, the *Nippon* takes off its coat and sets itself to read those timid people a jeering lesson. The development of the national rights and the recovery of judicial and tariff autonomy are phrases which, says our contemporary, "cannot sound pleasantly in foreign ears. But are we to hold our tongues because what we say doesn't please foreigners? Surely not. If our people really wish to please foreigners, we can tell them how to do so: allow them the right of owning land, of free residence in the interior, maintain the system of extra-territoriality, carry out the new codes, and reduce the customs tariff. If, however, the people of Japan wish to enjoy their national rights, then they must not be diverted from their policy by any consideration for the feelings of foreigners. We cannot get our own without displeasing foreigners; so we had better make up our minds to what is plainly before us."

THE REV. G. L. PERIN'S EXPERIENCE.

THE *Hyogo News*, which under the direction of its able new editor, promises to stir us all up from time to time, has the following note about the Nagoya incident:—

> The Rev. G. L. Perin has only his own temerity to blame for an adventure which might have ended in the most serious results. He ventured into Nagoya and obtained permission to use a theatre in order to deliver an address on Christianity. Mr. Perin knew that he was entering a town which is the stronghold of the Buddhists. He must have known, too, that he had no right to lecture, nor had the police any power to permit him. The result was that the platform was stormed, the speakers hustled, and they could only reach an hotel with the assistance of police protection. It would have been more creditable to the Japanese to have tried persuasion rather than force, but religious enthusiasts are usually hot-headed. It was only some five months ago that in Sherborne, Dorset, a party of missionaries from Utah were severely beaten by the Christians of the various denominations in the neighbourhood, and if England has not yet learnt religious tolerance, Japan can hardly be expected to show her an example. The Rev. G. L. Perin doubtless imperilled his life in what he regarded as a holy cause, but he was really breaking the law of the land, and must, therefore, put up with the consequence.

It is only fair to say that Mr. Perin has preferred no official complaint, though neither he nor the editor of the *Hyogo News* will be disposed to admit that any preacher of a religious creed may be reasonably expected to anticipate dangerous violence in Japan. Parallels for such incidents are plentiful enough elsewhere, but Japan is expected to live up to an exceptionally high standard. What chiefly seemed deserving of blame in Mr. Perin's case was the forbearance of the police. It is conceivable that the guardians of the law were restrained by a conviction that any attempt to arrest the ring-leaders of the disorderly section of the audience might have brought about a serious disturbance. We scarcely think so, however. Mr. Perin's account is that the great body of the audience were perfectly quiet and well behaved, and that only some fifteen youths took any part in the commotion, while among these fifteen, three were specially conspicuous. The arrest of the three, or of any one of them, would probably have restored order at once. It is hard to reconcile oneself to the notion that if a constable sees a man aiming a shotgun at another, the proper course is to shield the "shootee" instead of restraining the shooter.

"ANXIOUS ENQUIRER."

THERE are two or three points in connection with Reuter's service of telegrams, upon which the editor of the *Japan Gazette* is anxious to be enlightened. As a sample of his curiosity we quote one of his queries:—"We should like to know how it is that a telegram can be sent to the editor of the *Mail* in Tokyo for enlargement, be sent back to Yokohama the next morning, and still appear a day earlier than a translation of the same telegram in the *Kwampō*." Cannot some one step forward and satisfy the soul of this anxious enquirer? We presume that the usual letter has been despatched to the *Kwampō* office, soliciting information on this subject, and that the editor of the *Kwampo* was unable to comply with the request. But

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the editor of the *Kwampo* found himself in a position to say, in answer to another question, that there is no delay in translating and publishing telegrams when they reach the *Kwampo* office. This information, setting forth as it does a custom most widely different from that prevailing among newspapers in Europe and America, must have stunned the curious enquirer. Gracious Powers! Just think of it. Think of the editor of the *Japan Gazette* asking the editor of the *Kwampô* whether the latter, on receiving a telegram, puts it on one side to ripen, and if so, for how long, as a usual thing; and think of the Tokyo gentleman replying that he does not put the telegram aside at all! Why the incident is historical! Undoubtedly, but for the editor of the *Gazette* we might never have known that the *Kwampô* telegrams are translated and published without delay—actually published without delay!

THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE DIET.

THE *Jiji Shimpo*, writing on the obligations devolving on the members of the Diet, points out that among the limited monarchies of Europe when the policy of a Government is found to be in opposition to the wish of the people, the Ministers resign, and that party which has most largely received public confidence takes their place. If such is the kind of Cabinet that Japanese politicians wish to see introduced into this country, our contemporary is with them in their desire. But the *Jiji* warns them that under such a system it is not only the Government for the time being that is responsible for its actions. When a Cabinet is compelled by force of public opinion to resign, those that come after are in turn responsible for their actions. Our contemporary is compelled to admit that to Japanese politicians, who have made their début in very great numbers recently, this proposition will not make itself easily understood. Under present conditions the members of the Diet should be very circumspect in the expression of their opinions: in their language as well as in their actions; but as a matter of fact they conduct themselves for the most part on widely different lines. Taking the Budget, our contemporary finds that one section of the Committee wish to reduce the total by ten million, another by seven million, and a third by five million *yen*. All three of course regard the Government estimates of expenditure as too high. "The estimates are certainly not moderate, but if they are closely examined it will be seen that the Administration is in a position similar to a man suffering from alcoholic intemperance. By all means cure the disease; but do not adopt drastic measures suddenly, or you will kill the patient. The present method of treatment is certainly not calculated to cure the ailment: indeed if it is persistently adhered to, the appearance of another ailment is to be apprehended. Let the members remember that they have serious obligations resting on them; and that it is not only the Government that has responsibilities."

MR. KAWASHIMA'S QUESTIONS.

ON the 14th instant, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Kawashima Jun, supported by 33 members, presented a series of questions relating to the rescinding of Law 15 of the 23rd year of Meiji and the reform of Law 21; the settled accounts of revenue and expenditure from the 1st to the 23rd year of Meiji; the foreign debt; the resumption of specie payments; the national banks; the funds advanced to the *Shizoku*; the sale of public properties; the amount of the present public property; the subsidies to the Sanyo, Kiushiu, and Japan Railway Companies, and the Government's debt to the 15th National Bank. Yesterday the Government replied to this request by calling attention to the 74th Article of the Law of the Houses, which says:—"When either House, for purposes of examination, asks the Government for necessary reports or documents, the Government shall comply, provided that such reports or documents do not relate to any secret matter." Mr. Kawashima's so-called questions are, in fact, applications for documents, and such application must come from the House, not from a section of the members. It is possible that Mr. Kawashima may be able to get the House to take up his idea, but we doubt whether he will find time to do so during the present session.

COUNT ITAGAKI.

IF anyone supposed that Count Itagaki's influence with the Liberals had decayed because his active share in the Party's proceedings seemed of late quite insignificant, the misconception has been effectually dispelled by the events of the past few days. The Count's threatened retirement threw the whole party into a ferment. Something very like a rapid climb-down was performed by a general meeting, and all the chief men of the association were found soliciting, with bowed heads and humble mien, the forgiveness of their veteran chief. Count Itagaki did not display more than a dignified hesitation. He consented to take his place once more at the head of the Liberal phalanx, and he showed by his demeanour at the Sanyentei on the 24th instant, that his heart is where it has always been, though his head may suggest a new attachment. The Count, however, though frankly consenting to bury the newspaper incident, stands pledged to a course which may yet severely test the cohesion of his party. He has declared his resolve to purge Liberalism of an evil feature called *jôhei*, and the declaration has been so blazoned abroad by the sensational events surrounding it—the resignation, the act of contrition and the reconciliation—that action must follow sooner or later. The Count has always showed himself a man of his word, and under any circumstances we should have no warrant for suspecting him of a covert design to let the dead past bury its dead, and forget the conditions under which he consented to resume the leadership of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. But under the peculiar circumstances of the case, he cannot forget and may not forget. The *jôhei* therefore must prepare to be dealt with vigorously. *Jôhei*, a term well illustrating the pithy terseness of expression possible to a language which can always build up new words by agglomerating monosyllabic roots, means in our less compressible English, the habit of being governed by passion or sentiment. We cannot pretend to know precisely what the Count intimates when he thus sums up the present proclivity of his party, but we presume that he alludes, in part at any rate, to the want of calm judgment and practical reflection that have led to the expulsion or retirement of many respected members, and threatened to produce general disintegration. Figuratively speaking, he would probably have his disciples remember the fine old Buddhistic precept:—"Learn to translate your thoughts and motives from the troubled sphere of interest and affection to the calm and peaceful realm of mind and spirit." At one epoch in his remarkable career, he broke up his party and retired into rustic seclusion because the cause of Japanese Liberalism threatened to suffer lasting disgrace at the hands of a disreputable following, youths dealing with no higher weapons than bluster and physical force. Can it be that the generally reported and not generally discredited rumour as to the relations between the *Noshi* and certain members of the *Jiyu-to*, has recalled to Count Itagaki the events of that disastrous epoch, and opened his eyes to the full danger of suffering Liberalism and ruffianism to camp under the same flag? Perhaps so. At any late there is to be another meeting of the Party ere long, and the Count has pledged himself to set forth, on that occasion, the full import of the charges embodied in the term *jôhei*. Every one must wish him success. It is most essential to the cause of good government in Japan that there should be a strong Liberal Party, professing and actively obeying sound progressive principles. We do not believe that the *Rikken Jiyu-to* satisfies such a definition, and when the news of Count Itagaki's retirement was announced, we welcomed the event, hoping that he would draw after him all the best elements of the Party and leave the dregs to learn the bitter lesson of their deserved insignificance. The next best thing is that he should resume the functions of actual leader, pledged to make his followers worthy of their cause. The sooner a party springs up strong enough and able enough to take the reins of administration into its hands at any moment, the better for Japan. Parliamentary government will then for the first time become a sober and trustworthy reality.

HOKUSAI IN LONDON.

THE art critic of the *World*, writing on Dec. 3rd, thus refers to the exhibition of Hokusai's works at the gallery of the Fine Art Society:—In these days of fog, frost, and darkness every lover of art should feel grateful to the Fine Art Society for having brought together a collection of works by one of the greatest artists the world has ever possessed, and one whose very name has probably been unknown to the majority of the London haunters of picture-galleries until Mr. Huish sent out his invitations to the elect to come and worship at the shrine of Hokusai. That this collection of drawings, sketches, and woodcuts has come as a surprise to most people is not to be doubted, the popular notion as regards Japanese art being that it is very quaint, but that the Japanese artist is incapable of draughtsmanship. To those possessed of such ideas a visit to 148, New Bond Street, must have been a staggering revelation, for one would need to go back to Mantegna to find anything finer than the draperies and the dignity of the figures in Nos. 41 and 86, or greater directness and sureness of hand than those to be felt in No. 59—a recumbent figure of a young lady. In his sketches of animals one can feel the earnest study which this extraordinarily conscientious artist (who, though he began to draw at the age of six, declared that it was only at seventy-three that he "had nearly mastered the real nature and form of birds, fish, plants, &c."!) brought to bear upon everything he set eyes on. The suggestion of fluffy softness in the feathers of the "Cock and Hen" (No. 13); the "Wrestling Rats" (No. 37), which recall so much of the observation and humour of poor Randolph Caldecott, qualities which are also to be found in the innocent "Puppy" (No. 127); and the extraordinary feeling of movement in the gradual approach of the "Serpent watching a small bird" (No. 141), all bear testimony that to Hokusai, as to all true artists, nothing, in the words of Revelation, was "common or unclean." And when to these beauties of drawing one adds those of colour and composition such as are exemplified in "The Return from the Fête" (No. 63), with its exquisite minuteness of detail, and in the "Illustrations to a Poem on Autumn Sadness" (No. 103), or the charmingly suggestive and poetic "Flight of Birds before the New Moon" (No. 72), one is tempted to hope that this exhibition may serve to take down somewhat of Western conceit in art-matters, and to give a salutary lesson in something more than mere "quaintness" to the average English draughtsman and colourist.

HAWAII.

IT has been asserted, we perceive, that "the integrity of Hawaii was guaranteed some half century ago by the United States, France, and England." The statement is erroneous. No such guarantee was ever made, so far as we know. Great Britain and France entered into a mutual agreement to respect the integrity of the little kingdom, but the United States was not a party to the arrangement. It is possible, but scarcely probable, that England might raise some objection to the annexation of the islands by America, but if the Hawaiian legislature submitted a request to Washington on the subject, it is difficulty to see how any European Power could reasonably attempt to impose a veto.

MR. MUTSU MUNEMITSU.

IT turns out that the prettily worded and outspoken appeal generally reported to have been addressed by two leading electors of Wakayama Prefecture to Mr. Mutsu Munemitsu, Minister

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of State for Agriculture and Commerce, urging him to resign either his portfolio or his seat in the House, did not come from Mr. Mutsu's constituents. The Wakayama electors repudiate the document altogether, and the political sections opposed to Mr. Mutsu's Party in the House, while admitting that they commented among themselves on his repeated absence from his seat, deny that they reduced, or thought of reducing, their opinion to writing. The two frank critics are members of the *Rikken-Jiyu-to* who have come to Tokyo on business connected with petitions, and are not unwilling to extend their knowledge of such documents by addressing one of a peremptory character to Mr. Mutsu.

GILDED ARROWS.

EDUCATE the Masses! appears to be still the battle cry of that section of society who labour under a worthy but erroneous impression that in process of time education will purge the lower stratum of the atmosphere of evil considered so objectionable in that particular stratum, but smiled at as "unfortunate," peculiar," "a little wild" and "eccentric" in the upper crust. Personally no one can wish to keep a fellow creature in ignorance of that which can bring him happiness, or make him a more useful member of society; but, unfortunately the education lavished on the lower orders of our fellow men, does not tend in the most elementary degree towards that end. To suddenly plunge a man possessing no hereditary mental preparation, into a whirlpool of information which his walk in life can never give him an opportunity to utilize; not to endow him with a fund of recreation and pleasure resulting from the possession of that knowledge, but to destroy what for generations he has held to be a correct and wise organization; to break down with one great stroke and destroy for ever the bliss which has been his portion by means of ignorance, and to leave as the grand consequential accompaniment of education the curse of discontent, this wholesale, indiscriminate education of the masses is the foundation on which has arisen socialistic democracy. They who have lifted the working man out of the sphere where God placed him, must be thanked for the strikes and revolutionary troubles which the last two years have witnessed. Education for the masses is needed, but not an education that shall only dazzle the working man's eyes by visions never to be realizable, and hopes of becoming what he can never become. The education needed is to teach each class how best to fill its station; to teach Hodge that there must be Hodges in the world, and to teach him, if he is born a Hodge, how best to remain one. Of what use to talk to him of universal equality, and the working man's rights, and to lead him finally to the imagination that it is not by a wise divine dispensation that he is a Hodge and not marquis, but a divine mistake, which a discriminating mortal in the guise of an M.P. is called upon to correct. It is a pretty theory, and sounds a nice Christian act to elevate the lowly brother's mind; but looked at form a common-sense point of view the theory makes very poor practice. Were any one to come and teach us that by process of educating ourselves and our children to a certain pitch we should become wealthy and titled without any further trouble, we cannot conceive that our path would thereby be strewn with roses. Having attained the pitch of education, but not the wealth and title, the chances are greatly in favour of a supposition growing up that something is wrong, and that all is not "quite fair" in the distribution of worldly goods. This is what these well meaning but shortsighted educationalists have been doing, and doubtless will continue to do, till they find out what a terrific blunder has been in hand, and then, as usual, it will be too late. Some years ago, Mr. Richmond, R.A. conceived a very pretty scheme for educating the masses by means of hoardings and bill posters. The idea was unique, but lacked balance of development. Let us make, said he, our ugly cities beautiful by copies of the great masters, as illustrations of advertisements. While we place before the public the fact that "Beecham's Pills," or "Holloways Ointment" are things to be desired, attract the eye of the mobocracy above such prosaic matter, and teach them to admire and worship at the shrine of art, as well as of medicine. Thus far Mr. Richmond's thoughts doubtless travelled, but he appears to have forgotten that a board can generally be painted black as well as white; and that once pictures are introduced into the advertising field, the chances are as much in favour of bad prints as of good ones. Something in this way is just what has happened, and now poor Professor Richmond is figuratively in sackcloth and ashes over the bad pictures disfiguring the vacant places of our city buildings which he had foodly hoped to turn into elysium's of poetry and art. Mr. Richmond's sanguineness must have been of a high order for him to conceive the possibility of coalheavers and waggoners being able to understand much less appreciate the delicate tintings of pictures of great price. To folk to whom blue is blue, green green, indescribable variations and nameless shades of the primary hues would have conveyed no more intelligence than does a millinery discourse on "elephant's breath" and "smashed gooseberry" to the uninitiated. Mr. Richmond has not much to grieve for. A mind already lowly has little to fear from lowly scenes, and vulgar pictures are not likely to influence the workman in the same degree as they do the artist. Dispite Mr. Richmond's good intention, the result of lining the streets with Turners, Raphaels, Millais, and Leightons would not have been observable in any remarkable elevation of the mass's tastes and acuteness of intellect.

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Some little time back, an intimate friend of ours was bewailing the fact that the present age is destitute of literary ability compared with preceding centuries. We answered, you may think what you like with regard to our appreciative powers, but we are of the opinion that the esteem for and fuss made over Shakespeare largely consists of humbug. If you persistently keep your gaze fixed on one particular star, the chances are you will not discover beauty in any other; and if generation after generation persists in training the young idea to admire nothing that does not bear the stamp of the immortal William, it is quite evident that the most brilliant authorship will be passed by unheeded. To maintain that another Shakespeare does not, and cannot ever again exist is surely bordering upon obstinate and dogmatical prejudice. In Shakespeare's day it must be remembered that he stood alone, and his utterances therefore received a homage first originating in surprise. He rose a 19th century dramatist and author prematurely born, and the world, struck dumb by his eloquence, knelt and worshipped what they only partly understood. In the present day intellectual ability has reached so high a pitch that it requires, not a Shakespeare, but a man with ten-fold Shakespeare's power to occupy the head-and-shoulders-above position that Shakespeare held among his compatriots. Now, every man is a Shakespeare more or less; what wonder then if literary talent and happy phraseology have grown so common that they cease to attract attention. One is apt when one discovers a treasure to fancy it the only "pearl of great price," and it is as well before yielding too easily to the craze about certain geniuses and prominent characters in past history to compare first of all the "then and now," and see whether we have not reached an intellectual platform on which even Shakespeare, could he rise again, would not occupy such a monopoly of applause as he does in history. Our taste runs too much in hereditary grooves to be a trustworthy criterion of merit. We admire now what our great grandfathers admired, and admire it because as children we were taught to admire it. Were Shakespeare never drummed into every schoolboys' ears as the correct standard of taste, it is a great question how many, on arriving at manhood, would single him out as the Adonis of literature and the perfection of authorship.

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Marriages are decreasing, we are told, in some places for one reason in some for others; but the reason for which certain young men and maidens have been living on hopeless sighs for about four years is surely an original and unique one. In Gwalior, India, matrimonial transactions have been standing still for want of a god! Four years ago, the Jaini Sect of Gwalior made an image; but, with a degree of discrimination by no means characteristic of most religious communities, that image was not considered a god—until it had had a walk. To bring about the divinity of this image, a state procession, and a bevy of other images to accompany it, were required. This procession through the streets could not be undertaken without the concurrence of the Gwalior durbar, and as a means to an end, these godless people applied to the Viceroy to use his influence on their behalf. This is doubtless the first occasion on record of a Christian and a Viceroy being applied to for assistance in creating a god, and our information does not state how the Queen's Representative dealt with the delicate matter, but considering that these people had suffered from the enmity of Brahmins, and had their temple destroyed and with it their god, not to mention all the well disposed young men and women who preferred to wait rather than enjoy a godless union, it is probable that the Viceroy did try to aid his petitioners. That four years should have elapsed without these simple-minded folk having a divinity when the process of creating one was so simple, not to say prosaic, is only another instance of how small are the hinges on which felicity swings and how easily they can be broken.

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Not only in Gwalior has Hymen's altar been deserted, but in Bengal it would also appear that marriages have been scarce. In this case it is not the want of a god, but of suitable partners which has been the cause of the connubial stagnation. For two Rajahs to be unable to find in their circle of acquaintances two ladies suitable to become their respective Rajah-esses, is a circumstance peculiarly humiliating to the ladies, or indicative of exceptional fastidiousness on the part of the gentlemen. Failing to find this satisfaction from intercourse with their gentle countrywomen, they craved for European wives, and accordingly sought the only available means of gratifying their requirements namely—a newspaper. It is always an indication of straightened resources and dire need when the matrimonially inclined are driven to advertising for that happiness which is generally supposed to come in a mysteriously romantic moment at nobody's bidding. The young Rajahs were not in need of fortunes, each being possessed of a good show of temporal blessings, or something like an annual income of 99,000 Rs., so mercenary motives could not have driven them to cull from foreign fields flowers to adorn their domestic hearths, neither were beauty and accomplishments their demand, nothing in fact but European respectability. This ought to cause a flutter in the maiden dovecotes at home. Chances of 99,000 Rs. a year and a real live Rajah do not often come in the way of advanced virginity, and no stipulation is made as to the age of applicants. GRENON.

HEAVY SNOW IN ISHIKAWA.

FROM a private letter dated at Kanazawa on the 23rd inst. we learn that serious damage to property and loss of life has occurred in Ishikawa Prefecture. In the town of Kanazawa the complete destruction of the First Church has been followed by the partial demolition of two public school buildings and the collapse of many small houses. The letter further says that a report has just come in from the vicinity of the copper mines near Komatsu, of the killing of 13 persons from the same cause, and much suffering is felt from the cold.

THE TELEPHONE.

WE have been requested to call attention to the fact that the telephone between Yokohama and Tokyo is working very unsatisfactorily. So far as the instrument itself is concerned, no faults are noticed, conversation being easily and clearly carried on. But it seems that only a very limited

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number of wires have been laid between the two places, and cases have occurred of the whole system being "bunched up" by no agency more formidable than the string of an errant kite, the result being a couple of hours' delay for persons waiting at either end. Occasional accidents are, of course, inevitable, but the general opinion seems to be that sufficient provision has not yet been made to secure uninterrupted communication. Great care is taken to keep the telephones in good order, and we venture to hope that an additional effort will be made in the case of the Yokohama-Tokyo line, so as to prevent this most useful innovation from falling into discredit at an early stage of its history in Japan.

STYLE.

THE *Japan Gazette* assures us that our style of writing is offensive, and complains that it "has not received the most ordinary journalistic courtesy at our hands." With regard to the former point we cannot speak of course. But with regard to the latter it is only fair to remind our contemporary of two things; first, that the controversy which has evoked its comments commenced by an accusation—irrelevant and uncalled for we think—that this journal is pledged to servileiy support the Japanese Government; secondly, that our emphatic denials of any such pledge have been treated with absolute indifference by the *Japan Gazette*, the same offensive charge being now repeated over and over again in its columns. It seems a little unfair that, an attack of such a character having been made upon us merely because we could not agree that China's claims would stand seriously in the way of Japanese Treaty Revision, we should now be charged by our assailant with want of courtesy. Be that as it may, however, we most emphatically deny that we claim, or have ever thought of claiming, any superiority to other writers in respect to knowledge of Japanese affairs, or that we pretend to the smallest degree of infallibility in any subject. The *Gazette* blames us for "assuming the papal style of an unerring pontiff," and is evidently much hurt because we have ventured to treat it with some sarcasm. Well, we can only say that our motives have been kindlier than our methods. We have to take a good many hard knocks ourselves in the day's work, without crying out, and if we occasionally pay them back, let it be remembered that patience is not absolutely elastic.

THE PALACE AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

THURSDAY week was a busy day at the Palace. All the minor officials of the Household were engaged marshalling old-fashioned *andon*, candlesticks, and other discarded devices for obtaining light, it having been definitely decided that the use of the discredited electric apparatus must be abandoned for the present at all events. The Cabinet and Privy Council are said to have discussed the question very earnestly, and to have come to the conclusion that the best plan will be to have a special dynamo for the Palace. They hold that the burning of the Diet may prove to have been anything but a calamity, if it becomes the means of directing attention to the necessity of greater caution in fitting electric lighting apparatus, and thus becomes the means of averting other and very much greater catastrophes.

ATTITUDE!

WE shall leave our worthy contemporary the *Japan Gazette* to drape itself in our "confessions" and attitudinize to its heart's content. "Confirmed in the conviction that the attitude it has taken is no less wise than natural," it does not hesitate now to go to the very naughty length of saying the thing that isn't. "The editor of the *Japan Mail* has consented to plead the Japanese side of Treaty Revision," and "has undertaken to say the best that can be said for the successive Treaty Revision schemes of the Government." The good *Gazette* "could never consent to occupy" such a position on the other side. Of course not. Perfect impartiality and perfect ingenuousness being the *Gazette's* monopoly, its attitude is quite "natural" when it pleasantly represents the *Mail* as "confessing" precisely what the *Mail* has emphatically denied. For such courtesy and such fairness, we are thankful. *Ingratum si dixeris omnia dicis.*

THE UNION RACE CLUB.

AN action for thirty-five thousand *yen* has been taken by Mr. Kikuchi Ichirokuro and eight others against Marquis Hachisuka, Marquis Nabeshima, and six others, the complainants representing the contractors who laid out the race course at Uyeno and built the grand stand, and the defendants representing the *Kyodo Keiba Kaisha* (Union Race Club). The well-known barristers, Messrs. Oyagi Biichiro and Ooka Ikuzo, act respectively for the former and the latter. Failing payment of the sum claimed, the complainants pray that the defendants may be ordered to rent to them either the unoccupied land in the possession of the Club or the Shinobazu Lake, on certain terms.

NEW STEAM WHALER.

THE Yokohama Engine and Iron Works Company, Limited, has entered into a contract with the Eastern Whaling Company, Limited, to build a new steam whaling vessel, which is to be ready for her owners in 120 days from the signing of the contract. This vessel will be of larger dimensions than any of the schooners now sailing out of the port, and will be built and fitted to class A 1—9 years at Lloyds'. Considering the facilities at the command of the local ironworks and the first-class work turned out, the Whaling Company has done well to order their vessel on the spot.

THE PREFECT OF AKITA.

A *soshi*—every youth attempting violence against politicians or officials is now designated a *soshi*—made an abortive attack upon Mr. Suzuki Dairyo, Prefect of Akita, on the 26th instant. The Prefect was driving to his office in a *jinrikisha* when a youth stepped forward and struck at him with a stick. Fortunately the blow missed its mark, and does not appear to have been repeated. The Prefect seems to have gone on his way without further molestation, and the truculent youth proceeded to the police station, where he gave himself up. The incident is reported by telegram, and the details obviously need filling in.

ORANGES.

MR. KURIHARA, of Wakayama Prefecture, has just returned from the United States with a rosy account of the trade in Japanese oranges. He says that the fruit constantly finds increasing favour in America, and that a growing export may be anticipated. He gives the value of a catty (*kin*) of Japanese oranges, laid down in San Francisco, as 12.2 *sen*. Whether this figure offers a remunerative margin, exporters must decide for themselves.

DEATH OF A JAPANESE PRINCESS.

HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS SOJUN—or Princess Yoshiko as she was popularly called—died on the 24th inst., at her residence in Kyoto. The deceased lady was in her 75th year, and formerly held the office of Lady Abbess of Reikan Temple. She was a member of the Fushimi Family, being aunt of H.I.H. Prince Fushimi. The Court goes into full mourning for 20 days, and into half mourning for 90 days.

THE "SOSHI" IN YOKOHAMA.

MR. HIRANUMA SENZO, a well known resident of Yokohama, has been annoyed by frequent visits from the *soshi* expelled from Tokyo and now residing in this Prefecture. Failing to obtain an interview, it is said that these truculent youths have addressed threatening letters to him, and that Mr. Hiranuma has thought it advisable to obtain the protection of a guard of police.

DEATH OF PRINCE BAUDOUIN.

WE are informed by the Belgian Minister that a telegraphic message has reached him bringing the sad intelligence of the death of H.R.H. the Prince Baudouin, nephew of H.M. the King of the Belgians. The deceased Prince was only 21 years of age.

H.M.S. "PIGMY."

THE *Pigmy*, after her recent accident in the Inland Sea, where she was a short time ashore, made her way safely to Nagasaki to go into dock. The dock was occupied at the time by the *Zambesi*, but it has been ascertained that the damage to the *Pigmy* is not of a serious nature, and she will not probably be detained at the southern port more than a fortnight.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The week we are about to review has been rather dull from a journalistic point of view. The political world, especially that part of it usually veiled from the view of the outside public, has indeed been a scene of constant activity and keen competition between rival parties to secure a majority on the question of the Budget. There having been during the greater part of the week no sitting of the Houses of the Diet, the members seem to have employed their time in intriguing. Various reports are circulated about the doings of this or that Representative or Peer. But the discussions in the columns of the vernacular papers for the week have been on the whole rather dull and uninteresting. The principal topics dealt with have been the all absorbing question, the Budget, the desirability of prolonging the present session of the Diet, the alleged causes of the burning down of the Parliament buildings, and a few other matters of minor importance.

* * *

The question of the Budget has become hopelessly complicated. Hitherto the Representatives have been divided into two camps, the extremists and the moderates. But both parties have of late been torn by factious dissensions, and great anxiety is entertained by the public as to the smooth passage through the Diet of any of the numerous plans of reduction now before the House of Representatives. Among the so-called moderates there are three sections advocating respectively a reduction of 7, 6, and 5 million *yen* in round numbers. These sections agree in their opposition to the Budget Committee's report on the ground that it involves an encroachment on the prerogative of the Emperor. But recent events have shown that they are not at all firmly united. On the other hand, the extremists are hardly more agreed. The *Kaishin-to* members have hitherto been universally regarded as the most radical and more uncompromisingly committed to the Budget Committee's proposal. But a strange story is now circulated by men who ought to know well, to the effect that the *Kaishin-to* members have under contemplation the introduction of a fresh plan of reduction, the amount to be cut down being about 6 million *yen*. Thus, according to the rumours noticed by the vernacular press as well as those received from private sources, neither moderates nor extremists seem to be able to count on ultimate success.

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Such being the state of affairs, there is now a growing tendency on the part of the Metropolitan papers, independent and otherwise, to exhort the rival parties to lay aside their mutual animosity and arrive at a reasonable compromise, so that the first session of the Diet may come to a happy close. The *Hochi Shimbun* is especially earnest in seeking to bring about a compromise. After alluding to the rumour that a small, but powerful, coterie of the independent members, who have not yet declared themselves for either side, are contemplating a daring move, namely, to take the House by surprise by a motion to vote the reduction of a certain amount, leaving to the Government all the work of distributing the reduction among the various items in the Budget—after alluding to this rumour, our contemporary proceeds to remark that it is not now the time to introduce a fresh motion on this question, but that members who have any spark of patriotism should begin to think earnestly of the method of restoring harmony and agreement between the contending parties. It would be desirable to reduce a large amount of public expenses if such reduction were not injurious to the smooth conduct of administration, but if there is no

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hope of effecting the reduction of any big sum of money, our contemporary advises the members of the Diet to be satisfied with a few million *yen*. What is required of them is not that they should cut down the estimates by so many millions, but that they should take a sensible and reasonable line of action, so that they may be able, while maintaining friendly relations with the Government, to accomplish their cherished object of giving relief to the people.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* compares the members of the Diet to a company of irregular troops in the old feudal times, when each soldier sought to distinguish himself by stealing upon his comrades. The Representatives have in this respect showed unmistakable signs of lingering attachment to the ideas of feudal times. Our contemporary, as the organ of the *Kaishin-to*, is bound to support the extremists, and calls upon the moderates to bring forward some plan of reduction which does not encroach upon the functions of the Executive, as all their schemes hitherto put forth are, notwithstanding their avowed opposition to such encroachment, open to the same charge.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, like the *Hochi*, is anxious to see the Representatives united by some happy compromise. Two courses are open to them, either to come to an agreement as to the general features of reduction, and cause the Budget Committee to remodel its report accordingly, or to decide on the amount of reduction to be effected and require the Government to remodel the Budget accordingly. The amount of reduction should be, in the opinion of the *Nichi Nichi*, fixed on the basis of lightening the land-tax by ½ per cent. Should the members of the Lower House, instead of adopting either of these plans of compromise, go on as heretofore, our contemporary fears that none of the schemes at present before the House will secure a majority, and that the Diet may be closed without voting a Budget.

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The *Jiji Shimpo* is opposed to any radical plan of fiscal reform, but now turns to the Government, and reproves them on their inability to act upon the advice it gave them some time ago. Its advice was that the Authorities should anticipate the Diet by effecting every possible reduction of expenditures. But they choose not to heed its timely advice, and now they have to face the violent opposition of the Representatives. Altogether the tone of our contemporary is like that of a parent scolding an erring son.

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As there is little hope of the debate on the Budget being brought to a speedy conclusion in the Diet, while its session is fast drawing towards the close, the Metropolitan papers are beginning to urge the necessity of prolonging the duration of the present session. The Representatives are at present engaged in putting questions to the Government Delegates and the members of the Budget Committee. According to the *Yomiuri Shimbun's* calculation, the questions relating to each Department of State occupy generally two days, and there being at the time of our contemporary's writing (the 24th instant, *i.e.* while the Diet was in adjournment) four Departments of State about which questions had still to be put, the Tokyo journal thought that at least a week more would be required by the House to finish its questions. Then another week would be spent debating in Committee. Thus two weeks must elapse before the House would be in a position to commence its formal debates on the Budget. But by this time the session would have nearly come to its end, and there would not be time to conclude even the Budget. The *Yomiuri*, therefore, considers it absolutely necessary to prolong the duration of the session, in pursuance of the provision of Article 43 of the Constitution. It is opposed to any increase of the number of hours of each day's meeting, because, in the first place, the effect of such increase would be to encourage superfluous talk, and in the second place, a long sitting wearies the members and is not conducive to the despatch of business.

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The *Hochi Shimbun* is also of the same opinion. Under ordinary circumstances it would be entirely opposed to any prolongation of the session, but the present case is altogether exceptional, as delay in the transaction of business has been brought about by unavoidable causes of two kinds, the disastrous fire of the 20th instant and the inexperience of the newly constituted legislators, who were obliged to allow a week's extra time to the Budget Committee for the elaboration of its report. The *Hochi* deems it of great importance to have the session prolonged, though for how many days it does not state. It also suggests that the prolongation be announced as soon as possible, for, if the Diet were led to understand that no prolongation would be granted, it might be betrayed into precipitate and ill-considered decisions in order to finish its business within the prescribed period of the session. All of which advice is very commonplace.

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The *Choya* thinks differently. It does not, indeed, deny that there is any necessity for prolonging the session, but it contends that the present is not the proper time to decide whether an extension should be granted or not. The duty of the Diet is to economize its time to the utmost, and to endeavour to complete its labours within the regular limits of the session. Only when there is obviously no possibility of finishing the business before the prescribed close of the session, should the question of prolongation be considered.

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Some years ago, as our readers may remember, there was in fashion among the *soshi* a practice of waiting upon unpopular members of the Local Assemblies, and "recommending" them to resign their seats. Such "recommendations" were invariably backed by an implied threat of violence, should their recipients fail to comply with the demand. This pernicious practice is again coming into vogue, some members of the Diet having already been required by self-constituted delegates of their constituencies to resign their seats, while some others are said to be daily apprehending the arrival in the capital of "resignation recommendation delegates" (*jishokū kankoku i-in*). The vernacular strongly denounces this nuisance. The *Jiyu Shimbun* remarks that it is an unpardonable impertinence, not to say disgrace, on the part of electors to try to restrain the independence of their Representatives by demanding their resignation unless they agree to follow a certain course of action with regard to national questions. The members of the Diet represent, not their particular constituencies, but the whole nation. The electors have, therefore, no right to expect their Representatives to identify themselves with any local views or interests. Electors may indeed declare want of confidence in their Representatives, when the latter have committed blameworthy acts. But under no circumstances—observes the *Jiyu*—ought they to subject their Representatives to intimidation, or to present demands implying intimidation.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* condemns the practice in equally strong terms. It admits that some members of the Diet are unscrupulous enough to disregard the pledges given to their constituencies at the time of election. But that is no reason why the electors should require their Representatives to resign. The only proper course for the electors to take under such circumstance would be to wait until the next election, and then cast their votes for other politicians more likely to consult their wishes.

* * *

The arrival of the new Chinese Minister, Lord Li, has been awaited with more than usual interest by the Japanese nation. Great significance is attached here to his appointment because, in the first place, he stands in a peculiar relationship with Earl Li, and in the second, he is known to be an able and accomplished diplomatist. In the minds of some people his coming here is connected with claims on the part of China about Riukiu or Korea. But the general idea in intelligent circles is, that the presence at this Court of a Chinese Minister understood to sympathize more or less with modern civilization, will be highly beneficial to the promotion of good feeling between the two principal nations of the Mongolian race.

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The *Hochi Shimbun* represents the views of people of this class when it welcomes the arrival of Lord Li. It sincerely regrets that the Japanese and the Chinese have long regarded each other with mutual dislike and contempt. Now that the Oriental peoples are one after another trodden under foot by Occidental races, the *Hochi* declares it to be the mutual interest of the two nations to forget the past, and firmly unite against the encroachment of the strong Powers of the West. China and Japan are natural allies; the decline of either could not fail to produce serious effects on the destiny of the other. Our contemporary concludes as follows:—"We are told that His Excelleney Lord Li spent several years abroad and is well informed as to the general situation in the West, and that he is exceptionally closely acquainted with the condition of things in Japan, as he lived in the interior for a period of three years. We think that his learning is wide enough to stand him in good stead in this progressive era of the 19th century, while his observation is keen enough to detect the evil elements in the present Oriental situation, and to impart a new motive force to the international relations between the nations of the East. As to the art of diplomacy, he has a good model in his worthy father. Altogether there are grounds to hope that our expectations may be fulfilled by his skilful management of affairs. We impatiently wait to see the day when by masterly handling of the Eastern Question, he may succeed in rescuing it from the intrusive meddling of Westerns."

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The *Jiji Shimpo* devotes several articles to the discussion of the Budget, and endeavours to pursuade both the Government and the Diet of the importance of moderation in the present conjuncture. In another article, it condemns the distinction at present made in the treatment of titled or official members and the non-titled or unofficial members of the Diet. The *Hochi Shimbun* publishes a series of articles on the International Exhibition at Chicago, from the pen of Mr. Kato Masaunosuke, now staying in New York. In another article the same paper encourages emigration to Hokkaido. The *Jiyu Shimbun* has just concluded its long series of articles on the military equipment of the country. The writer is Mr. Karihara, Count Itagaki's confidential lieutenant. He attaches the chief importance to the navy and advocates its augmentation on a large scale. The *Nippon* is publishing a long series of articles on the tariff question. It has also discussed the improvements of river courses and the reduction of public expenses. The *Kokkai* considers the question as to the process of obtaining the Government's concurrence to the Diet's decisions on "the already fixed expenditures." The *Choya Shimbun* asks what has the Department of Agriculture and Commerce been doing in the past ten years. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes about subsidies to promote companies, and about the proposed abolition of the Upper Middle Schools and the Higher Normal School. It is of course opposed to the abolition of these schools, and as to subsidies, it recommends the companies concerned to employ facts and reason rather than sentiment in defence of the advantages they are enjoying. The *Mainichi Shimbun* writes on the management of Government property, and exhorts the authorities to be more provident and careful in the preservation of such property. The *Tokyo Shimpo* discusses the Registration Bill, and also the question of conscription, advocating two years' active service instead of three.

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THE COMMERCIAL CODE AND ITS CRITICS.

MR. MURATA TAMOTSU, formerly a Senator, enjoys among his own countrymen a considerable reputation for legal attainments. At the close of 1887 he was appointed one of the members of Committee to revise the draft of the new Commercial and other Codes. In due time the Committee finished its labours. The members sent forward the draft of the Commercial Code with their nominal approval; the Code was enacted, and an Imperial Ordinance fixed January 1st, 1891, as the date of its operation. Meanwhile, in view of the summoning of the Diet, the Senate was abolished, and Mr. MURATA obtained a seat in the House of Peers as an Imperial nominee. Very soon the Peers had to deal with a Bill for the postponement of the operation of the Commercial Code; that is to say, the Code revised and approved by Mr. MURATA in his capacity of member of Committee. The reasons assigned by the supporters of the Bill were that the Code conflicted with the customs of the country, presented various defects of drafting, and could not conveniently be enforced before the Civil Codes. An animated debate ensued, and Mr. MURATA, instead of voting for a body of laws previously revised and endorsed by himself, threw the whole weight of his voice and influence into the opposite scale. This apparently contradictory attitude perplexed the public. His friends asked him to explain himself, and he replied by avowing that he had disapproved of the Code from the outset. Of course such an apology could not suffice. People easily perceived that whatever may have been Mr. MURATA'S private views, his public action connected him inseparably with the Code. In fact he stood in the position of confessing that, had not the Diet interfered, a Code openly endorsed though secretly condemned by him would have gone into force. He therefore extended his defence by publishing portions of instructions given to the Revision Committee by the Minister of State for Justice. Mr. MURATA's object in publishing these instructions was to show that the work of revising the Code had been urged forward in the interests of Treaty Revision, and not in those of sound legislation, alone. He succeeded in his demonstration, but at the cost of violating official confidence.

The nation's disposition at present is in one sense strongly conservative. Nothing elicits readier or more universal disapproval than the notion of sacrificing domestic customs or domestic traditions on the altar of foreign requirements or foreign principles. Mr. MURATA could confidently foretell the reception his revelations would meet. He could be quite sure that discredit must immediately attach in the eyes of his own nationals to any legislative measure supposed to have been precipitated in the interests of foreign relations. But neither he nor any one else could have imagined that similar prejudice would betray foreigners into publicly accusing the Minister of State for Justice of a "wild and unscrupulous scheme," a "plan calculated not only to undermine the authority of law, but to prove subversive of all morality." Seldom have such sweeping charges been preferred against any responsible statesman: never, we imagine, on such slender grounds. What is Count YAMADA'S crime? He simply sought to expedite the work of preparing the Code in order that Japan might be furnished with laws conducing to the recovery of her Judicial Autonomy. He knew perfectly well that only an insignificant fraction of the Commercial Code needed to be considered by the light of Japanese commercial customs, and he knew that the whole Code was consistent with the most advanced principles of Occidental jurisprudence. By applying every possible spur to hasten the promulgation of such a body of laws he acted in the best interests of intelligent progress. Arguments connected with a country's foreign policy may be employed with perfect propriety to facilitate legislation. This has been acknowledged over and over again by foreign critics of Japan's modern history. Over and over again has the weary postponement of Treaty Revision been extenuated by pleading that many of Japan's best reforms owe either their origin or their consummation to her international ambition, and that so long as the recovery of Judicial Autonomy is held up as the prize of renewed effort, her continued progress is assured. Yet no sooner is it discovered that this very motive influenced the Minister of State for Justice, than an English local journal gravely accuses him of advancing a wild and unscrupulous scheme, of undermining the authority of law, and of subverting all morality.

Thus Mr. MURATA appealed to the passing prejudice of his own nationals, and at the same time succeeded in eliciting startling endorsement from a foreign journalistic critic. It did not suffice, however, merely to show that the work of equipping Japan with much needed commercial laws had been expedited in the cause of Treaty Revision. That plea might have weight with hotly prejudiced conservatives, but could scarcely command the approval of men who judge a measure by its merits, not by the means adopted to promote it. Mr. MURATA, therefore, set himself to formulate inherent reasons for the postponement of the new Code. These reasons were published without contradiction by the vernacular press, and translated by a Yokohama English journal, which devoted three leading articles to their statement and discussion, described them as "valuable testimony," and in terms of eulogy thanked Mr. MURATA for his "important revelations." It is worth while, therefore, to examine Mr. MURATA'S reasons briefly.

He sets out by asserting that in putting the Commercial and Civil Codes into operation independently, the Government acted on the advice of Japanese barristers of German proclivities, who urged "that there is no such thing as a Civil Code in Germany;" that "the Commercial Code there answers every purpose," and that "consequently there is no reason why in Japan the Commercial Code should not go into operation before the Civil." These statements Mr. MURATA puts into the mouth of Japanese-German barristers. His own reply to them is that "the cases of Japan and Germany are by no means parallel, since the German Commercial Code is so drawn up as to make a Civil Code superfluous." Does Mr. MURATA not know that since 1875 a Commission has been working at a German Civil Code? He ought to know it, for a printed copy of the German Draft of 1888 was in the hands of the Committee on which he served. If the German Commercial Code is so drawn up as to render a Civil Code superfluous, that toil of fifteen years is a little inexplicable. Again, does not Mr. MURATA know that Civil Codes have been working in States of the German Empire side by side with the General Commercial Code; the "Landrecht" in Prussia, for example; a Civil Code in Saxony; the "Code Napoleon"—with certain modifications—in the Rhine Provinces, and so forth? If he does know all this, why differentiate Japan's case from Germany's by saying that Germany has no Civil Codes, her Commercial Code rendering such things superfluous? If he does not know it, why undertake to discuss the matter at all?

After this remarkable preface, he proceeds to explain in detail "numerous parts of the proposed Commercial Code which are damaging to Japanese Commerce." This is very interesting; for although the Code's critics have often declared that it conflicts injuriously with Japanese commercial customs, they have never taken the trouble to set forth the counts of their accusation. Mr. MURATA is the first to attempt the task. Let us see how he succeeds. The Commercial Code, he begins by saying, forbids "commercial firms or individuals to possess a number of houses situated in different places and using the same signs." He quotes the articles on which this assertion is founded; he complains that such a restriction would greatly hamper Japanese commerce, and he affirms that, according to German showing, the existence of a similar law is one of the causes of the comparative slowness of tradal development in Germany. It will scarcely be credited that the provision complained of does not exist in the Japanese Code. What the Code says is that the same firm

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must not have branch houses trading in different places under the same name with independent capitals. This is something very different from Mr. MURATA'S rendering.

The second point of criticism is Article 277, which provides that in all contracts involving a sum of over fifty *yen*, a written agreement is necessary. This Mr. MURATA calls "a serious outrage on Japanese Commercial Customs." He avers that in Japan it has long been the custom to make verbal agreements for large sums, and that the necessity of employing documents would "greatly retard the progress of trade." We fail to appreciate the hardship of the provision. Certainly it is not counted a hardship in European countries. In Spain, for example, all contracts must be in writing unless the subject matter is under 1,000 *reis*. In France there is a practically like rule, the limit being 150 *francs*. In England the same idea underlies the well known Statute of Frauds, which fixes the limit at £10. Exceptions and modifications there are, of course, but the principle in these cases is identical with the principle of the Japanese law. In the Japanese Code also there are exceptions which Mr. MURATA omits to mention. One is where performance of the agreement is to take place at once, and the second is contained in the 2nd paragraph of the very article criticised. It is a curious point, and worthy of notice, that Mr. MURATA prefaces these detailed criticisms by saying that "laws which have been made for Germany do not, as a rule, suit Japan." Now the German Commercial Code lays down the opposite rule to that contained in the Japanese Code in this particular instance. To find counterparts to the Japanese law, we must go to England, France, Spain, and so forth. Does Mr. MURATA mean to tell us seriously that in Japan the system of credit has been developed to such an extent that restrictions prescribed by English and French laws become in Japan "a serious outrage on Commercial Customs." We admire his estimate of his country's condition, but we certainly were not prepared to find such an estimate quoted with approval in the columns of a local English journal.

The third point of attack is Article 525, which, we are told, "forbids the selling of any property that is not owned by the seller, and the disposal of which is not exclusively in his power." This is declared by Mr. MURATA to proscribe a very large number of common Japanese transactions. The truth, is that not the Code, but Mr. MURATA'S rendering of it, is at fault. The Code does not lay down that "ownership" is a necessary condition. The difference is vital. And will it be credited that Mr. MURATA instances as a class of transactions proscribed by the article, the very contracts dealt with in the next section of the same Code (Articles 552-558)!

Criticism the third is based on "the extreme length of the Japanese Code." This is not the least misleading statement among the whole series of blunders committed by Mr. MURATA, and complacently endorsed by his exponent in the foreign local press. It is all the more insidious, too, being incapable of refutation by mere reference to the law itself. Mr. MURATA unfavourably compares the length of the Japanese Code, no less than 1,060 Articles —1,064 is the true number—with the length of the German Code, 911 Articles. Now the Japanese Code provides for Bankruptcy and Bills of Exchange: the German Code does not, additional laws having been enacted treating of these subjects. Germany, in fact, has a Bankruptcy law of 214 Articles and a Bill of Exchange Act of 100. In other words, the Japanese Code, in 1,064 Articles, deals with matter occupying 1,225 Articles of German law. It is true that the German Bankruptcy law is longer than that contained in the Japanese Code for reasons which do not apply to the latter; but against the reduction thus obtained in the German total we have the fact that special rules relating to Companies, which in Germany form the subject of supplementary laws, are treated of in the body of the Japanese Code. Is all this unknown to Mr. MURATA? And does he not know that the Spanish Commercial Code has some 150 Articles more than the Japanese?

The last point of criticism is the terminology of the Code. The new words employed are said to be numerous and difficult of comprehension. With this objection, which has no bearing on the character of the laws, we need not concern ourselves.

So then, every one of the criticisms advanced by Mr. MURATA, except that relating to terminology, is the outcome of either false conception or want of knowledge. There can be no hesitation whatsoever in pronouncing his whole case, as stated by himself, baseless and imaginary. Yet a local English journal devotes three leading articles to presenting his misconceptions to the Community; calls them "valuable testimony;" declares that "the unsuitability of the Codes to the nation's present condition has now been demonstrated beyond a doubt;" says that Mr. MURATA'S reasons "suffice to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that last year in high quarters a serious attempt was made to create a good impression among foreigners by representing the country's laws to be more perfect than they were known to be;" accuses Count YAMADA of a "wild and unscrupulous scheme, calculated not only to undermine the authority of law, but to prove subversive of all morality;" reads a homily to "foreign writers who make it their daily business to present to the public nothing but the comely aspects of Japanese events," and with exquisite naïveté announces its "desire to be furnished with data that shall enable it to value things at their true price—in a word, its wish to know the whole of subjects and not merely the half which the cooking party among Japanese and foreign writers habitually give." We do not remember that a more striking display of error and artlessness was ever made in Yokohama. It has seemed worth while to expose the whole quaint business, even at wearisome length, not only because the subject is in itself so vital, and because Mr. MURATA is the first Japanese expert who has undertaken to furnish a detail of the charges preferred against the Commercial Code, but also because such prominence and endorsement have been given to the ex-Senator's demonstration by a local foreign contemporary. We do not pretend to think that the Code is perfect. Neither do we doubt the prudence of postponing its operation as a whole, however, desirable may be the speedy enforcement of certain portions of it. But we still wait for some proof that its provisions conflict injuriously with established Japanese customs, and we cannot but denounce in the strongest terms statements so misleading as those of Mr. MURATA and charges so ill considered as those based on his analysis by a local English contemporary.

A NEW SECT OF HERO WORSHIPPERS.

YEAR after year, when nearly all the waking civilized world is holding its Christmas, there meets in Tokyo a small but ardent body of hero worshippers, the founders one might say of a new Cult. We shall not enter into the esoteric mysteries of their faith—that would involve the writing of an encyclopædia of scientific literature. We believe, however, that the society, as such, works wholly by tradition; and, neglecting the insignificant two and a third centuries that elapsed after the birth of their hero before things took shape, we can trace this tradition in unbroken sequence, nearly. For its founders yet live, and its beginnings fall within the Meiji Era. Further, the object of their adoration is an Englishman, whose life history is known much more fully than SHAKESPEARE'S, but not quite so fully as DARWIN'S. He was afflicted, or blessed, with absence of mind, like many another mathematician from ARCHIMEDES down through the ages. One of the High Priests of this coterie of hero worshippers, indeed, emphasised this fact the other night to the extent of remarking that whoso would be great in the Mathematics must first attain unto the Absence of Mind. For the great desire of these devotees is to be great in mathematics and the sister sciences; and what better can they do when a fitting time comes than worship at the Shrine of ISAAC NEWTON? Instead of Christmas, these natural religionists hold what might be called a Newtonmas. They style themselves the *Newton-kai*, and form a society unique alike in name and character. In the assembling of them-

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selves together, they are governed by as rhythmic a law as that which governs the return of any anniversary. The professors, graduates, and students of the mathematical, astronomical, and physical classes of the University are *ex officio* members; once a member always a member; and there are no others. Such is the Constitution, a model of simplicity.

The Society was, we believe, launched as an undergraduate one by Messrs. FUJISAWA, TANAKA, and TANAKADATE, the first brilliant triumvirate of mathematical graduates which the Tokyo University gave to the world. In its early days, it met in the Students' Dormitory; but as the undergraduates oldened into graduates and assistants, the Professors themselves were drawn into the fold, and a more suitable assembly hall was found in the University Observatory in Kaga Yashiki. Now, however, that building is devoted to Seismological pursuits; and one trial at the Observatory in its new location at Shiba sufficed to show that even NEWTON failed to attract properly at a distance of five miles. The other night for the first time the *Newton-kai* came together in the Physical Laboratory of the Imperial University; and here we hope it will find a permanent abode. Thus met, on Christmas, 1890, on Newtonmas, 248, the members of the *Newton-kai*, to hear each other talk, to view a magic lantern exhibition, to distribute appropiate gifts, and to lengthen out the small hours with laughter and good cheer.

The Society has no President—a portrait of the august Sir ISAAC presides over the scene. It keeps no written records, no minutes; but its traditions are simple and easily handed down from year to year. What entertainment there is is run by the second year students, assisted by the first year. Each professor is expected to make a little speech, which is some times historical, some times whimsical, as the individual spirit may prompt; but it must not be suggestive of the background of a black board. The meeting in fact is essentially social; and in the preparation of the magic lantern slides, the Committee of Management lay themselves out for frolic and jest. The picture may represent a comical incident familiar to most of the members; or it may be "shimboriku," or possibly a pictorial conundrum to guess. It was a fine humour for instance which gave a caricature of one student notorious for his indefatigable asking of questions. This youth was shown labouring under a shoulder beam from which hung two buckets filled to overflowing with points of interrogation; while in the dexter background was seated one of the professors, perfectly aghast as this mathematical labourer approached with his load.

After the magic lantern exhibition comes the lottery for presents. This is a great feature, productive of much merriment. Each person draws a paper, which may be blank, but usually has a name on it. This name may be one of the illustrious living, or the still more illustrious dead. Corresponding to each name is an article, which with all solemnity is presented to the holder of the paper. The connection between the article and the name is more or less symbolic, or it may rest on a far-fetched pun, to which the Japanese language so readily lends itself. Usually the jokes are very technical; but occasionally they appeal to a circle more wide than mathematical. Thus, to take examples from various years, the drawer of "NEWTON" got an apple, and the drawer of "FRANKLIN" a kite. "HERSCHELL" (Sir JOHN) was represented by a sprig of *Nanten* (southern heavens, which he surveyed); "ARCHIMEDES" by a naked doll supposed to be returning from the bath; while the holder of "KANT-LAPLACE" got a puff of tobacco smoke blown in his face, symbolic of the Nebular Hypothesis.

Some years ago it was pointed out by a European member of the *Kai* that in holding the "Newtonmas" on Christmas Day the members were guilty of a chronological crime hardly to be excused in men trained in the accurate school of NEWTON. For although he was registered as being born on Christmas Day, 1642, it was Christmas Day, Old Style. In all strictness he was born on January 5th, 1643. When it suits their convenience, however, scientific minds are not above compromise. The great convenience of having the fête at the beginning rather than towards the end of the winter vacation, and the avoidance of any clashing with Japanese New Year festivities, were sufficient to outweigh all other considerations whatsoever. Besides, did not NEWTON himself hold his birthday on Christmas Day? Why then should his admirers hold it on any other?

After all the peculiar interest of the "Newtonmas" lies in its existence. Only to the hero-worshipping Japanese has it occurred thus to pay honour to the memory of the greatest mathematical sage of all time. We fancy very few English speaking naturalists—to use the word in its widest and legitimate sense—are even aware that Christmas Day in 1642 beheld the birth of NEWTON. It is possible that nearly fifty years ago, a bi-centenary fête was held in Cambridge; and it is very probable that fifty odd years hence NEWTON'S ter-centenary will be celebrated in England, perhaps over all the civilised world. But an annual celebration by a NEWTON Club outside Japan is a thing not to be dreamed of, unless Japan influences the hero worshipping instinct of the Westerns as profoundly as she has influenced their æsthetic taste. To all of us who inherit directly the glories of the Newtonian age there must be a certain gratification in noting that it is an Englishman whom these scientific Japanese have found worthy of a place in their Calendar.

A JAPANESE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

THE Sixth Synod of the Itchi Kyokai which met in the Sukiya-bashi Church, Tokyo, in the early part of last month, was rendered signally memorable by the debate upon the creed of the Church. Deep interest attached to the Synod owing to the fact that upon it devolved the delicate and difficult task of receiving or rejecting the report of the joint Committee appointed some time ago to agree upon a new Confession. This Committee consisted of three foreign Missionaries and four prominent Japanese of the Presbysterian Church, and it was hoped that the result of their patient and prolonged investigation would receive the approval of the Synod. The expectation, however, proved ill-founded. Not only was the Confession recommended by the Special Committee stoutly rejected, but an alternative proposition, to the effect that the Church should accept the Apostles' Creed alone as its Confession of Faith, met with a similar fate. The whole weight and tendency of the meeting seemed to be decidedly averse if not actually hostile to any draft savouring in any degree of foreign inspiration. Such at least was the impression gathered by more than one present on the occasion. It has long been recognised by the older missionaries that the spirit which in the political world has effected such a marked reaction in favour of purely Japanese customs and ways, now permeates in a considerable measure the general body of Christian believers. Though unspoken and unacknowledged for the most part, the cherished cry is for independence, the intensely national spirit having unmistakably swept over the Churches of the country as well as over the ultra-conservative parties and factions. The continued need of foreign aid and foreign cousel is undoubtedly admitted, but equally certain, we take it, is the fact that there exists in the Churches to-day a feeling which distinctly aims at exercising control over all matters relating to internal organization and discipline. Aware of this, conscious too of the alleged tendency of some members to assume towards the Scriptures an attitude tantamount to implied denial of their inspiration, little wonder that grave anxiety was awakened by the evident lack of unanimity. So pronounced were some of the speakers upon certain points that, for a time, according to Japanese published accounts, actual danger existed of separation resulting. Professor ISHIMOTO, a graduate of the Meiji Gaku-in, appears to have been one of those who most keenly realized the dangerous pass affairs had reached, for he with one or two associates, upon leaving the Church after a fresh failure to arrive at a mutually-acceptable basis, retired to his quarters and re-

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verently set himself to the task of drawing up a creed. It proved an all-night work. When the Synod re-assembled the draft was submitted, only to be almost immediately challenged on the ground of its evident foreign authorship. Mr. ISHIMOTO assured his numerous questioners that not until half an hour before the meeting, when he had shown it to Dr. IMBRIE, had any foreigner suspected its existence. Opposition to it vanished, and within a very short time the Confession of Faith drawn up by the Professor and his co-workers was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted. The Creed, a translation of which we reproduce at length, is essentially evangelical, and though it consists in the main of the well-known Apostles' Creed, the Confession as a whole must be pronounced to be one of the most important, and from a Christian standpoint, one of the most gratifying of this or any other time. Specially reassuring must it be to those who have laboured for the firm lodgement of orthodox Christianity in Japan. It certainly sets at rest the question of the form of Christianity which one of the strongest of the Japanese Churches will ultimately adopt, and we shall be surprised if the clearness and scope of this, the first Creed formulated by Japanese Christians, does not ere long receive endorsement from believers of other denominations.

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

The Lord Jesus Christ, whom we worship as God, the only begotten son of God, for us men and for our salvation was made man and suffered. He offered up a perfect sacrifice for sin, and all who are one with Him by faith are pardoned and accounted righteous; and faith in Him working by love purifies the heart. The Holy Spirit, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, reveals Jesus Christ to the soul, and without His grace man being dead in sins, cannot enter the Kingdom of God. By Him the prophets and apostles and holy men of old were inspired, and He, speaking in the scriptures of the old and new testaments, is the supreme and infallible judge in all things pertaining to faith and living. From these Holy Scriptures the ancient Church of Christ drew its Confession; and we, holding the faith once delivered to the saints, join in that Confession with praise and thanksgiving:—

I believe in god the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hades; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

One important fact remains to be noted in connection with this interesting statement, and that is the resolution passed by the Synod making it the one Confession of Faith for ministers and laymen alike, a resolution which signally bears out the view, more than once expressed in these columns, that the Japanese Church would not burden itself with the mass of confessions, cannons, and dogmas inherited and held by the parent churches of the West.

THE NEW BRITISH CONSULAR MARRIAGE ACT.

IT may seem a somewhat Hibernian method of describing the statute to whichthe above title refers, to say that it is not, strictly speaking, a Consular Marriage Act at all. It is an Act to amend the Law relating to the Marriage of British Subjects in Foreign Countries, but as the previous statutes on to this subject are usually called the Consular Marriage Acts we retain the title as the most accurate description of its purport that can be given in a title. The new Act is 53 and 54 Victoria, chapter 47, and its short title is "The Marriage Act, 1890." It starts out by repealing an Act passed in 1823, by which it was provided that marriages solemnized by a minister of the Church of England in the house of any British Ambassador, or in the Chapel of any British factory, or in the house of any British subject residing in the factory, or within British military lines by a chaplin or officer acting under the orders of the Commander of a British army serving abroad, should be valid. But after repealing this Act, the new statute immediately proceeds to reënact it in regard to marriages at a British Embassy, but makes no provision as to marriage within British military lines. How British subjects under these circumstances are to get married within the lines of a British army occupying a foreign country is a problem which lawyers must be left to determine when the case arises. But there is one important distinction between the new Act and the old one which, to use a favourite expression of Mr. CARLYLE, is "significant of much." The earlier Act provided that the marriage was to be solemnized by a minister of the Church of England; the new Act is wholly silent on that subject, and therefore the marriage at an Embassy becomes now, like marriages before a Consul, a civil contract, and not as hitherto a religious ceremony. Another important distinction is that under the new state of things one at least of the parties must be a British subject; formerly there was no provision of this kind, so that for purposes of English law a marriage between two natives of the country might have been solemnized at the embassy. Indeed, there is a case recorded as late as 1874 in which a British subject in Teheran, who was a Protestant, married an Armenian who was absolutely incapable of marrying him under the law of Persia, and yet the marriage was held valid by an English Court. But if the new Act makes no provision for the marriage of British subjects during the hostile occupation of a foreign country, it does what is much more valuable from a practical point of view: it enables parties to be married before any governor, high commissioner, consular or other officer authorized by the Secretary of State to solemnize marriages; and the special provision is not confined to places outside the QUEEN'S dominions, but extends the Consular Marriage Act to marriages on board HER MAJESTY'S ships on foreign stations, "Commanding officer" standing for "consul." The Act further amends the Consular Marriage Acts by extending the hours from 8 o'clock to 3 in accordance with a recent statute which does the same for Great Britain. The statute also details the procedure which is to be followed where the marriage takes place before an ambassador, or governor, or on board one of HER MAJESTY'S ships. By the first sub-section of section 9, the QUEEN gets the power by Order in Council to exclude all officials from exercising their powers under the Act in cases where it would be inconsistent with international law or the comity of nations, or in places where sufficient facilities already exist for the solemnization of marriages. This curious provision is said to owe its existence to objections which have been raised by more than one foreign Power to these marriages by British officers, especially where one of the parties to the marriage is a subject of the country in which the marriage was performed. The Act also gives power to the QUEEN to declare at what places within an embassy or consulate the ceremony may be performed, and to make arrangement of other details of a similar character. An invaluable provision of the new Act, is section 6, which authorizes a consul to register a marriage where one of the parties is a British subject, although the marriage may never have been performed before him, if he is satisfied that it has been performed in accordance with the local law. For purposes of subsequent proof in English Courts this section is invaluable to British subjects getting married abroad; for registration by the Consul is equivalent to registration before a registrar at home; the record is preserved in Somerset House in exactly the same way, and is equally accessible for ever after. It therefore enormously enlarges the safeguards of marriage abroad for a British subject who, for reasons of his own, does not desire to be married before a Consul, or is perhaps, married at a place where no Consul resides, in which case he has nothing to do but to satisfy the nearest British Consul that he has been married in accordance with the local law, and the marriage is registered, and incontrovertible proof of it is accessible to all his descendants. If the statute contained nothing but this one section it would be a great boon to British subjects abroad. The section is so important that we give it here in full:—"Where a Consul is satisfied, in accordance with regulations made under this Act, that a marriage between parties, of whom one at least is a British subject, has been duly solemnized there in accordance with the local law of the country, he may register the marriage, and thereupon, sub-

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ject to the said regulations, the Consular Marriage Acts shall apply as if the marriage had been solemnized in pursuance of those Acts." Another invaluable advantage of this section is that it removes at once any conflict between local law and British law on the subject. Before the Act, people frequently availed themselves of the Consular Marriage Act with the result that while their marriage was good enough in England it was doubtful in the foreign country in which it took place, where, of course, an English Act of Parliament had no authority. And this was especially the case where one of the parties was a native of the country. Prudent persons in future, therefore, will be married by local law, especially if one of the parties is of local birth, and will then have the marriage registered by the British Consul. In this way it will be binding in English, equally with local, law, and subsequently whatever religious ceremony the parties may desire, can take place as is now frequently the case in connection with Consular marriages. No time has been lost in issuing the first Order in Council under the new Act. Formerly questions frequently arose as to the precise place at which a marriage might be solemnized. The Order, published in the *London Gazette* of November 25th, removes all these doubts by giving the largest possible construction to the words "Embassy or Consulate." It includes "every office, room, or place," within the precincts or curtilage of the "Embassy, Legation, or Consulate;" and it includes the dwelling or residence or usual place of abode of the Consul, as well as his office.

Thus the general effect of the new Act is to remove the grievance sometimes felt by Nonconformists that they could only be married at the Embassy by a Minister of the Church of England; they now may have their own rite, or if they like, a marriage under section 9 of the Consular Marriage Act of 1849. It enables a number of important officials to legalize a marriage by their presence, or even to solemnize it themselves, who had not that power; it gives greater latitude in the hours within which a marriage may be solemnized, and, above all things, it enables British subjects to remove for ever any possible doubt as to the legality of their marriage in local or English law, and it removes any conflict between the two by the simple expedient of satisfying the nearest British Consul that they have been married by local law, and on its registration the marriage is equally valid under English law. It is this important provision of the statute which, we think, should be in the minds of all our readers whether they contemplate matrimony or not.

"*LUX MUNDI.*"

A SCHOOL of Oxford apologetics has recently given to the world a volume of essays that has created no little stir. This volume, bearing the title *Lux Mundi*, and now in its tenth edition, represents the opinions of the younger men of the High Church party in the English Church. Its editor, whose name is appended to one of the most violently attacked of the essays, is the Rev. CHARLES GORE, Principal of Pusey House, and several others of the writers are connected with Keble College, Oxford. The present generation has seen the founding at Oxford of colleges under the auspices of certain schools of thought. Dr. FAIRBAIRN, a tower of strength among the Congregationalists, is principal of Mansfield theological college in the old University city. The name of Keble College sufficiently indicates the school of thought with which its staff are in sympathy. That such colleges an founded and are able to flourish, betokens a liveliness in religious discussion as far removed as can be imagined from the dull and dreary formalism of religious life at the Universities in the olden days. This deadness was almost characteristic of Oxford until the great preacher, who has just passed away at a ripe age, awoke a religious enthusiasm which is still pulsating over the length and breadth of England. Cambridge, which SIMEON and his school gained over for the cause of Evangelicalism a century ago, is less in the stream to-day.

The natural result of the founding of "schools,"—we use the word in the academic sense—is the prevalance of discussion and a resulting activity of the press. The cream of what is discussed in lecture-hall and debating-room demands, by its inherent vitality, a wider field of interest and discussion. The denizens of other abodes of learning and the public at large are to be instructed and interested. Thus has it happened at Oxford. The enthusiasm which twenty years ago, founded Keble College is now perpetuating itself in publications like *Lux Mundi*, the product, as the preface states, of "writers who found themselves at Oxford together" between the years 1875-1885, engaged in the common work of University education. These essays are an attempt to place theology on a more modern pedestal, by showing that the Church is able in this age as in other ages to assimilate all new material and remain as stable as ever. The rude blows which criticism has dealt at the inspiration of the Scriptures cannot but have been keenly felt at a great University centre like Oxford. Apologists for the Christian faith there are obliged to make concessions, while the swaddled pettiness of theological seminaries in isolated places is bolstering up untenable positions and teaching its crippled nurslings a dialectic for the perpetuation of error. As might have been expected, the concessions made by the authors of *Lux Mundi* have fluttered the theological dovecotes here, there, and everywhere. The Oxford apologists have reached a stage where the others may find themselves a decade or two later.

To put it roughly, the theology of *Lux Mundi* abandons the old Protestant position that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament constitute an inspired literature separate and apart from other literature, and to be approached by a different kind of criticism. Subject to all the conditions of history and the laws of evidence, these records are to be examined as other records are examined, a process which entails complications, but which must be faced. The definition of faith given by the first of the Essayists is so Protean as to make a dogmatist of the old school gasp. Canon H. S. HOLLAND demands for faith a free field which is hard to define, upon which reason on this side is apt to enroach and emotion on the other; while the scientific frontiers are ever fixing, shifting, changing, and vanishing. Placing faith at the back of the other powers and deeper than them all, he would call upon believers to view with eqanimity the advances of scientific and historical criticism which are removing the old landmarks, but cannot touch the department which belongs by right to faith, "the most primal and elemental act of our personality." He puts faith outside the region of knowledge, and claims that it may use as its instrument every stage of science. So much does the essayist surrender in his fear lest some untenable position may be retained, dislodgement from which in the future will cause increased panic, that he makes concessions which are hard to reconcile with after claims made by other contributors. For instance, if with the resurrection of our LORD, as ST. PAUL himself assures us, the Christian's faith stands or falls, then the evidence for Christianity is brought strictly within the range of historical criticism; a position insisted upon by the writer of the sixth Essay.

It is not the intention of this article to enter upon a general discussion of the book, nor to review the controversy in which it plays so conspicuous a part. Perhaps the most striking passage in the work is to be found at the close of the fifth essay, of which the author is the Rev. J. ILLINGWORTH. Here the essayist, speaking in the language of evolution, claims for Christianity that it introduced, with its founder, a new species upon the earth, a higher development of the genus man. A divine vital energy was then communicated to humanity, which has perpetuated itself in subsequent generations of men. Scattered throughout Christendom are found men of every age, temperament, character, and antecedents, by whom the problem of moral evil has

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been successfully grappled with; who have a personal conviction that their past sins are pardoned and that the whole grasp of evil upon them is loosened; and who in consequence rise to heights of character and conduct which they know that they could never otherwise have attained. These men have a spiritual lineage which can be traced back for the past eighteen hundred years, pre-Christian antiquity containing nothing analogous to it. "It has all the appearance of being, what it historically has claimed to be, the entrance of an essentially new life into the world quickening its palsied energies, as with an electric touch. And the more we realize in the bitterness of our own experience, or that of others, the essential malignity of moral evil, the more strictly supernatural does this energy appear." Such is Mr. ILLINGWORTH'S answer to negative critics, and, in face of the work of the Salvation Army and other Christian Missions, it comes with no little force. "Christianity distinctly declines to be proved first and practised afterwards. Its practice and its proof go hand-in-hand. And its real evidence is its power."

The language is no doubt, in part, the language of mysticism; but then a religion is not a religion without a considerable element of mysticism. A religion that can be proved as a mathematical science, submitting itself on all sides to experimental investigation, is an impossibility. The writers of *Lux Mundi* have wisely abandoned out-works that are becoming not worth the defending and a mere source of panic. Their frank acceptance of novel methods of scientific and historical investigation is a wholesome and lucid intellectual act. Society in England and America is suffering from the general mental obliquity and muddle-headedness which results from an absurdly disingenuous treatment of vital questions of belief.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—JANUARY 28TH.

The House of Peers re-assembled on the 28th instant at 1.20 p.m. in the Imperial Hotel, after an interval of a week. The President announced a change in the Committee on Finance, and also informed the House of the death of one of its members, Viscount Kuki. The House then proceeded to the third reading of the Weights and Measures Bill. Viscount Tani said that he was opposed to the Bill in its entirety, but as the House had passed the first and second readings, the question of rejection could not easily be raised now. He approved the idea of reforming the Japanese system of weights and measures and fixing the standards, but he did not at all approve of a temporary reform. Frequent changes in such matters were to be deprecated before everything. Japan was a sort of hotel for weights and measures. She used those of various foreign countries as well as her own, and very considerable confusion resulted. Therefore he fully appreciated the expediency of fixing a system, but he thought that the utmost care and deliberation should be observed. Scientific men asserted that the French métre was destined to become the standard of length for the whole world, and he himself admitted the excellence of that measure. But from a Japanese point of view the métre was inconvenient. There had been much discussion as to whether the French métre or the English yard should be used in the War Department. The English yard was equal to about three feet Japanese, whereas the métre was 3 feet 3 inches—a considerable difference. In introducing a foreign measure, the closer its agreement with the measures of the country the better. In the army the ranges of small arms were, for the most part, calculated in métres, and it thus became necessary to teach soldiers both the French and the English systems of linear measurement. It was most desirable that such needless confusion should be avoided. The Navy, on the other hand used the English system chiefly, and incalculable inconvenience might result from this difference when the two services operated together. Foreigners observing such a state of affairs, would conclude that Japan had no measures of her own. Doubtless some excuse was to be found in the fact that, after the Restoration, cast-off arms of various patterns had been procured from Western countries, but the times were changed now, and the State had an arm of its own. Everything pointed to the desirability of a fixed system of weights and measures. English or French, no matter which, the nation must make up its mind once and for all. The number of countries boasting a population of over forty millions might be counted on one's fingers. Such a country, independent and civilized, was disgraced by not having a fixed and scientific system of weights and measures. But the framing of such a system was a task of immense difficulty and importance, and should be entrusted to a committee of theoretical and practical experts. He admitted the scientific excellence of the métre as a standard, but he thought that the English yard was more widely used and known in Japan, and that its adoption would prove more convenient. He did not believe that the French métre would ever become the universal standard, and he moved that the Bill before the House be rejected, and a Committee be appointed to examine into the whole question. Mr. Shigeno supported the Bill. He said that Viscount Tani fully admitted the vital necessity of substituting some fixed system for the confusion now existing. The Bill gave them such a system. Viscount Tani had formerly expressed keen regret that Japan should have recourse to foreign systems of weights and measures. But now he admitted the expediency of her doing so. Could she devise some more accurate standard than the métre, the case would be different. But failing to do so, she must take the best she could find. Mr. Shimauchi Takeshige entirely disagreed with Viscount Tani's proposal for delay. There could not be the smallest doubt as to the faultiness of Japan's present system of weights and measures. Its speedy reform was a matter of pressing urgency. On the other hand, the scientific accuracy of the French métre was absolutely established, and the provisions of the Bill had been amply considered. He was one of those that had voted for postponing the operation of the Bill for 7 years, but from the point of view of the mere advantages of the proposed system, he should like to see it put in force at once. Mr. Miura Yasu approved of the reform of the Japanese system, and was quite willing that foreign standards should be used if convenient. He had therefore voted for the first reading of the Bill. But since the amendments proposed by him at the second reading had been rejected, he should vote against the third reading. He could not agree with the idea of referring to foreign weights and measures, as such, in the body of a Japanese law. Have recourse to foreign weights and measures, if you please, in elaborating your system, but do not mention the fact in the text of your laws. To do so was to offend the national dignity. He objected, in the second place, to the articles providing that regulations relating to weights and measures should be embodied in Imperial Ordinances. He also objected to the manner in which the catty (*kin*) had been treated. Finally, he could not possibly endorse the project of entrusting the manufacture of weights and measures to purely private enterprise. Rules might be perfect, but if they were not properly observed, their value became nothing. For all these reasons he should vote for the rejection of the Bill, and the appointment of a Committee of investigation. Mr. Kikuchi Dairoku said that he had no desire to oppose the members who had spoken; he merely wished to correct their misapprehensions. There was no question of adopting either a French system or an English system. There was question simply of choosing a scientific and accurate basis for their own system. In their mints they were already obliged to use foreign weights owing to the inaccuracy of their own, and the same was true of the measures employed by the Army and Navy. Surely that was highly inconvenient and discreditable. A great deal had been said about the mention of the French métre in the second article, but the designation "French" was merely employed for descriptive purposes. They had to choose some standard. How could they indicate their choice definitely without using the precise name of the thing chosen? The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce had already explained in the most explicit manner that all the Japanese names of weights and measures were to be preserved, and that the only object contemplated by the Bill was the referring of these weights and measures to accurate standards. How could such a course be possibly regarded as contrary to the national dignity? He reminded the House that there was no idea of interfering with the weights and measures used for purely domestic proposes. The object contemplated was only to correct those employed in trade or in public calculations. Viscount Tani had argued that many of the faults of the present system were due to the perfunctoriness of the official inspection of weights and measures, but however carefully inspection might be carried out, if the standards of comparison were inaccurate, as was the case in Japan at present, satisfactory results could not possibly be attained. The President said that before the House voted on the Bill, he desired to call attention to the question of drafting. Uniformity of language having been secured in drafting the Constitution and other laws, it seemed very desirable that the proposed measure should be revised in order to perfect its phraseology. He suggested that the House go into Committee to revise the drafting. A majority voted in favour of this suggestion. Mr. Kaneko pointed out the great inconvenience and delay that must result if the House itself had to deal with every alteration in the drafting of a Bill. In adopting such a method the rules of procedure must be followed, and it would be necessary for a member to obtain 20 supporters in order to propose the change of a single word. He suggested that all such business be entrusted to the Bureau of General Business (*Jimu-Kyoku*). A majority voted for this course. The House then went out of Committee. Mr. Okauchi having spoken in support of the Bill, the President announced that the final vote would now be taken. A majority voted for the passing of the Bill. The House rose at 5.30 p.m.

JANUARY 29TH.

The House met at 11.10 a.m. In the absence of Count Ito the duties of President were discharged by Marquis Konoye. Marquis Hachisuka, as President of the Committee on the Bill for the amendment of the Registration Law, explained the alterations which the Committee recommended to be made in the law. Mr. Shirane, Government Delegate, in answer to a question, said that the enforcement of the provision for a duplicate register would not entail an expense of more than ten *sen* per office, and that no other additional outlay would be involved by the new law. Mr. Miura Yasu, as a member of Committee, explained that a clause had been inserted securing the Registration Law's independence of the Civil Code, inasmuch as the latter might be expected to undergo considerable revision before 1893, when the former comes into force. Mr. Murata Tamotsu said that, while approving of the measure before the House, he could not approve of its enactment in the form of a law, but thought that it should

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be promulgated as an Imperial Ordinance. Mr. Hozumi opposed this idea, and urged that the House should proceed at once to the second reading of the Bill. A long discussion followed as to whether the Registration Bill should constitute an independent law, or be included in the Civil Code, or be an Imperial Ordinance. The House rose at 4.05 p.m. without having come to a decision.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.25 p.m. The President explained that though every effort had been made to prepare a temporary Chamber for the use of the House, the arrangements were necessarily very incomplete. Further, a great part of the archives had been burnt, and in order to avoid inconvenience as much as possible, the more important documents had been printed first. Members were requested to intimate any losses which seemed to call for immediate repair. Certain changes in the Government Delegates were then announced. The President further called attention to the fact that nearly two-thirds of the fixed term of session had already passed, yet not even the debate on the Budget had been concluded. Many motions by members had still to be considered, and twenty-four Government Bills awaited discussion. Add to all this the delay inevitably occasioned by the state of the temporary Chamber, and it became evident that some measure must be adopted to extend the hours of sitting. After sunset the building then occupied offered many obstacles to the discharge of business. He therefore suggested that, without altering the Rules, the House should agree to sit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. Mr. Horiuchi suggested that the hours should be lengthened to 5 p.m. Mr. Makino said that, judging from the present habit of the House, if 10 o'clock were fixed for the time of meeting, business would not really begin until 11. He therefore suggested 9 a.m. as the hour of assembly. After some remarks from other members, the President begged the House not to waste time over this discussion. The proposal, as stated by the President, was then put and carried. The House went into Committee on the Budget. The President announced that the section of the Department of Justice would be proceeded with, and that the Government Delegates for the Army and Navy would reply to questions still left unanswered. Mr. Mitsukuri, Delegate for the Department of Justice, answered a number of queries as to minor points, explaining, among other things, that the total sum allowed to judges for purposes of entertainment was 15,000 *yen*. The House then proceeded to examine the Budget Committee's Report on this section. Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi, on behalf of the Committee, pointed out that, as compared with other Departments, the reduction (1,320,000 *yen* in a total of 4,660,000 *yen*) recommended in the case of the Department of Justice might seem excessive, but the difference was due to the principle adopted by the Committee, namely, to cut down administrative expenses as much as possible, and not interfere with expenses required for actual works of public utility. They had not touched the expenses of distributing judges, public procurators, and so forth, but had only cut down their salaries. They had eliminated the appropriation on account of expenses of law students abroad—except in the case of students already receiving allowances—also the appropriation for loans to students, for as there were already some 700 graduates in law either of the University or of the Law Schools, the Government need not assist this class any more. Similarly they had cut out the item of subsidies to law colleges altogether. These subsidies, originally granted as a temporary measure, had already been going on for four years. Being asked whether the reduction made in the appropriation for the Department's foreign employés would not disturb the agreements with the employés, he replied that the only item touched had been a sum of 1,500 *yen* paid every year for the residence of Mr. Paternostro, which they had cut down to 480 *yen*. On examining the agreements, they had found that the allowance for a house was 40 *yen* monthly, a clause being added to the effect that the Minister might provide a house instead of paying an allowance. They understood this to mean that the Minister had power to provide a cheaper house, if he could find one suitable, not that he might go beyond the fixed sum. It appeared that the house occupied by Mr. Paternostro belonged to Count Yamada, and therefore no special explanation of the item seemed necessary. They had simply reduced it to the amount fixed by the agreement, thus saving the country 1,020 *yen* annually. He acknowledged that the Committee had not considered whether the Law Colleges could support themselves if the subsidies were withdrawn. Mr. Mitsukuri, the Government Delegate, in answer to a question, said that the Government did not interpret its agreements with foreigners in the same way as the Committee did. Mr. Paternostro had occupied a very high position in his own country, and when signing his agreement there, he had had no knowledge whatever of the nature of the residences procurable in Tokyo or their cost. When he came here, the Japanese Representative in Rome wrote to explain that he was a jurist of eminence in Italy, and urged that every consideration should be shown to him in respect of a residence. It was quite impossible that with his large family Mr. Paternostro could find any suitable house for a rent of 40 *yen* monthly. Count Yamada's house was large and the grounds extensive. He had been very reluctant to let it—(laughter)—but had been strongly pressed to do so. The House then passed to the section of the Department of Education. In answer to questions, Mr. Tsuji, Government Delegate, explained that the *Yobimon* (preparatory school) served chiefly for students who purposed entering the University, whereas the Upper Middle Schools were for students seeking a technical education or desiring to complete a course of intruction in higher subjects. The two were different, and had different objects. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi asked about the Government Nursery (*ikushi-ba*) at Mita. He understood that it had originally been transferred by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to the Department of Education, and that, in October, 1886, it had been sold to Mr. Kimura Shohei for the small price of 2 *yen* to 2.50 *yen* per *tsubo*. Little more than a month afterwards, Kimura had sold the land to the Naval Department for 4 *yen* per *tsubo*, clearing 10,000 *yen*, and keeping 1,000 *tsubo*. He wished to know whether this was so, and he explained that his reason for asking was that, although sales of Government property were supposed to be by public tender, there appeared to be cases in which the sales were made directly to some favoured individual at low rates. Mr. Tsuji replied that as the matter referred to was not included in the Budget then under consideration, he could not answer without making inquiries. Mr. Aoki Tadasu said that the Girls' Upper Normal School (*Koto Joshi Shihan Gakko*) had originally been independent; then it had been included in the section of the Boys' Upper Normal School, and now it was again independent. He wished to know whether any special reason existed for this last separation. Also, how many girls had graduated at this school since its establishment, and what had become of the graduates. Mr. Tsuji replied that experience had shown the inadvisability of bringing the female and male schools under the same system. The methods of education could not be sufficiently assimilated to allow of any economy, and the general results had proved unsatisfactory. The number of graduates had been 52, of whom 49 were employed as teachers, and were doing very well. After some minor questions, Mr. Kozaka Zennosuke asked whether it was necessary that the University should be in Tokyo. Also, why the Engineering College, having such a handsome and well equipped establishment at the Torano-mon, had been moved to Hongo. Finally, what changes had taken place in the Middle Schools in the provinces. Mr. Tsuji replied by giving a brief retrospect of the history of the University. There had been talk at one time of locating it at Konodai, in Shimosa, but the balance of opinion had been in favour of Tokyo. As to the moving of the Engineering College, that step had been taken for the sake of using the same teachers at the University and the College; also for reasons connected with apparatus, and finally on account of the control of the students. A large economy had been effected by the change. With regard to the provincial Middle Schools, no special changes were to be noted during the past two or three years. Answering other questions, he explained that there were rules relating to students sent abroad by the Government, and that the Department had to employ them on their return. A number of minor queries having been put and answered, the President announced that unless objection was raised, he should consider that the questions relating to the Educational Department section of the Budget were concluded, and the House, at its next sitting, would proceed to examine the Committe's Report. The House rose at 5 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

KEROSENE OIL STORAGE IN KOBE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Referring to the paragraph in your issue of 22nd inst. about the new oil godowns at Hyogo, I must take exception to that part commencing, "The incredible accusation that the local authorities," &c. As a matter of fact the godowns were started by private enterprise, some of the Bantos employed by foreigners at Kobe being shareholders. Some time since one of those gentlemen, in the course of conversation with regard to a godown at Ohno, for which I was in treaty, informed me I had better not take it for a long period, as the Wada Point Godowns, when completed, would offer better accommodation. On my suggesting that no one would take the trouble to store oil at Wada, he laughed and said, "You must, the Authorities will make you!" This certainly induces me to believe that the local authorities have in the present case, acted in the interests of a private Company.

One point which appears to have been overlooked in the discussion so far, is that whereas the Ohno godowns are declared to be an element of danger to the neighbouring property, which consists for the most part of wretched shanties, nothing whatever has been said about the town of Hyogo where oil is constantly stored in large quantities. There thousands of dollars worth of valuable goods and buildings are constantly in greater peril, inasmuch as the danger from without—looking at the narrow streets, &c.—(which is not the case at Ohno)—is fully as great, if not greater than the risk from within.

Yours faithfully,
OBSERVER.

January 24th, 1891.

[Our correspondent's evidence—that of one of the Bantos by whom the godowns had been built—is not convincing. It is also a mistake to suppose that nothing has been said about Hyogo. The new regulations apply to Hyogo also, and will be enforced there from the date of their going into operation.—ED. *J.M.*]

THE RECENT CASE IN THE PORTUGUESE CONSULAR COURT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I suppose I ought not to quarrel with a newspaper editor for giving greater credit to his own reporter's account of my argument in the Gama case than to my statement of what I said; but I may be allowed to observe that the report in the *Mail* was greatly condensed, and that you select a single sentence from it and then add, by way of reply to my letter, that you fail to see how the passage so selected can have been intended to refer to the paragraph in the *Japan Daily Mail* of the 22nd November. Had you looked at the passages immediately preceding and following the one selected you would have seen that the force of your editional comment is distinctly weakened; and had you taken the trouble to refer to the report in the *Japan Herald*, which appeared on the day on which I addressed the Court for the defence, you would have found that my statement to you was there corroborated. Your reporter has not, so far as I know, asserted that I did not use the argument I allege, in my letter to you of yesterday, that I did make use of; and I should have supposed that my statement of a matter of fact within my own knowledge and recollection, even

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if not supported, though it happens to be so, by the *Herald's* reporter, and uncontradicted by your own, might have been entitled to greater weight than you seem disposed to attach to it.

Yours faithfully,

THE COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENCE.

Yokohama, January 23rd, 1891.

[Certainly we accept our correspondent's statement. We quoted from the short-hand report to indicate the basis on which our own comments were founded. But the fact that the strictures in question had reference to the article in the *Japan Mail* of Nov. 22nd, does not weaken our argument. Certainly nothing could have been farther from the intention of that article than to stir up bad blood between foreigners and Japanese, nor do we see how any such result can be apprehended because a foreign journal makes it clear that the foreign residents have no manner of sympathy with persons guilty of rudeness to Japanese women in railway carriages or elsewhere.—ED. *J.M.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have been prevented by sickness from taking earlier steps to deal with the comments made on my report of the Gama case.

In his first letter to you Mr. Lowder stated:—"I did not argue that the object of the Foreign Secretary of the Railway Department in bringing the charge against Gama was to stir up bad blood and strife against foreigners;" "on the contrary, my contention was that this particular charge had already been seized upon by a portion of the press to stir up strife, etc., and I alluded to the paragraph in the *Japan Daily Mail* of the 22nd November last, headed 'Improper Treatment of Japanese Female Passengers in Railway Carriages by Foreigners.'

In his next letter Mr. Lowder, in corroboration of the above statements, referred to the report of the *Japan Herald*, the relative portion of which I quote alongside the corresponding part of the *Mail* report:—

The "JAPAN MAIL."	The "JAPAN HERALD."
"Let the Court just look to what this might lead in the present state of agitation in the minds of the Japanese against foreigners. Just consider the anti-foreign feeling existing throughout the country; was it not apt to be strengthened by this exaggerated charge? And all this was done by whom? By an employé of an employé of the Railway station, Mr. Aldrich, one in Japanese service, in order to stir up bad blood and strife against foreigners. He called it nothing less than disgraceful that upon the evidence before the Court such a complaint as this should have been based."	"Counsel drew attention to the present anti-foreign agitation in Japan, and asked how this would be looked at in view of the inflammatory article calling attention to the insult of Japanese ladies by foreigners. The whole thing was done by Aldrich in order to stir up bad blood and strife, and it was nothing short of disgraceful for such a charge to have been brought."

Now, Sir, the quotation from the *Mail* report contains, in third person, every word that Mr. Lowder uttered on the subject of anti foreign agitation in this country, or on the subject of stirring up bad blood and strife among foreigners. You will see that the first sentence of the *Herald* extract is divided by a comma into two parts of unequal length. The latter part is absolute invention. Mr. Lowder did not refer to any "article"; he did not call any article "inflammatory."

Yours, &c., YOUR REPORTER.

January 26th, 1891.

[Except as bearing upon the characteristic charge that our report was purposely garbled—a charge scarcely worth noticing—the question of absolute accuracy is not vital. In the two reports alike—ours, which the counsel for the defence queries, and our contemporary's which he apparently endorses—the accusation of stirring up strife and bad blood is preferred against the Foreign Secretary of the Railway Department alone. However, the counsel says that he intended to refer to the *Japan Mail*, and his statement must, of course, be accepted as final.—ED. *J.M.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Mr. Lowder's contention, in the two letters he wrote to you, was that in his speech on the Gama Case he argued, *not* that the object of the Foreign Secretary of the Railway Department was to stir up strife, but that "this particular charge had already been seized upon by a portion of the press to stir up," &c.; and that he alluded to the paragraph in the *Mail* of 22nd November. He referred for corroboration to the *Herald* report. I took the liberty of characterising that portion of the *Herald* report which makes Mr. Lowder refer to the article in the *Mail*, as an absolute invention. I said Counsel did not refer to any "article," nor did he call any article "inflammatory."

Let us see what Mr. Lowder, according to the latest information, did say?

Two gentlemen assure the editor of the *Japan Herald* that they heard Mr. Lowder "refer to the 'inflammatory article' which had appeared in the *Japan Mail*." Mr. Litchfield authorises the editor to state that the remark (what remark?) was made; the reporter of the *Herald* "distinctly heard Mr. Lowder refer to the article in the *Mail*" and is corroborated by some auditors who were in the room (the "gentlemen" of the editor and the "auditors" of the reporter seem to pretty well comprise everybody present).

Mr. Lowder, then, "referred" to the article in the *Mail*.

How does the reporter whose record of Mr. Lowder's sayings is upheld by that gentleman describe the incident?

He reports—*not* that Mr. Lowder drew attention to the article—but that Mr. Lowder drew attention to the "anti-foreign agitation in Japan," and asked how this would be looked at in view of the "inflammatory article calling attention to the insult of Japanese ladies by foreigners." And then, according to this recorder, Mr. Lowder dropped the "inflammatory article" as briskly as if it were really very much on fire, and went on to say that "the whole thing was done by Aldrich to stir up bad blood and strife," &c.

Between the "gentlemen" and the "auditors" arrayed against me I at first felt somewhat stranded, but Counsel for the prosecution seemed to have miraculously escaped inclusion in either class—to have been mentioned as an after-thought, so to speak. This awakened my suspicions, and I called on him.

Mr. Litchfield's impression is *not* that Mr. Lowder argued that "a particular charge had been seized upon," &c., and that Mr. Lowder alluded to the paragraph in the *Mail*; but that Mr. Lowder condemned Mr. Aldrich for having in the then state of anti foreign agitation given an opportunity to persons of writing or speaking about insults to Japanese ladies by foreigners.

Mr. Litchfield mentioned incidentally something about the accuracy of the *Herald* extract included in my last letter. He said it wasn't at all correct.

Under these circumstances, I must repeat that the portion which I previously indicated of the *Herald* report is an "absolute invention."

Yours, &c., YOUR REPORTER.

Yokohama, January 29th, 1891.

BANK HOLIDAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The Banks in Yokohama surely should be considerate, and open their doors at least for a part of the business day instead of shutting out their supporters on the birthday of nearly every potentate of Europe, Asia, and America. This holiday mania is not in vogue in the treaty ports of China, or elsewhere. There are many residents who would like to bank their cash, obtain cash for cheques, and would like a quotation on the many holidays observed by the Banks which by British law should be open for business. Besides the inconvenience of banking, the Banks have set a bad example to the local press (yourself excepted) as the *Gazette* and *Herald* coolly announce there will be no issue of their (dull) sheets on these holidays and birthdays. This is really too bad, and no credit to this community: closed banks and not even a blank sheet to subscribers to newspapers. No wonder business is dull in Japan.

Yours truly, VISITOR.

Yokohama, January 27th, 1891.

[We must confess that our own failure to observe the holiday was due to accidental omission of the usual notice that there should be no issue of the *Mail*. We grieved at the mishap, but are glad to find that it brings us credit.—ED. *J.M.*]

THE JAPANESE HYMNAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL"

SIR,—This morning my attention was called to the letter of "Cuique Suum" in which he takes exception to the statement of the *Japan Mail* that the new Japanese Hymnal (*Shinsen Sumbika*) is "the pioneer music-book printed in Japan with type made and set up in this country."

Allow me to give some facts which will not only show that the correction of "Cuique Suum" is quite natural, but which will confirm the truth of the statement of the *Japan Mail*.

At the request of the Seishi-Bunsha, I ordered in 1888 a few specimens of music type from Boston; and from these models the type was cast and the fount gradually made up.

The work of setting up and of correcting the first pages was laboriously slow, and at times completely suspended on account of the lack of sufficient type of a certain kind. It will be observed that the new hymnal contains nearly 300 pages of four-part music.

While the work was proceeding in this slow manner, an order was received by the same company to print a Romanized edition of the *Nippon Sei-ei*, the hymnal referred to as used by the Catholic Church. During the periods of waiting for extra type, the printers were enabled with the type in hand to complete seventy or eighty pages of the Catholic Hymnal in the soprano part only. This was published in the latter part of 1889.

From these facts it is clear then that not only in the first part of the *Shinsen Sumbika* do we see actually the first attempt at music printing; but as a completed work it is "the pioneer music-book printed in Japan with type made and set up in the country."

Thinking that not only "Cuique Suum" would be pleased to have this explanation, but that some others of your readers would like to know the facts, I send you this letter.

Yours truly, GEO. ALLCHIN.

Osaka, January 27th, 1891.

UNION CHURCH.

The annual meeting of the Union Church was held on Monday at Van Schaick Hall. Between twenty and thirty members of the Church and Congregation were present. The Rev. E. S. Booth presided. Prayer having been offered, the minutes of the last annual meeting, &c., and the Treasurer's report, having been published in the papers, was taken as read. Gratification was expressed that the bi-monthly collection had resulted favourably, and that the collection taken up at the Hall for the evening services had more than sufficed to defray the expenses of lighting and heating the room. Attention was drawn to the fact that by a slight typographical error the rent of the parsonage was made to appear to be $390 instead of $300. Mr. Sale spoke of the need of assistance on the part of the laymen of the Church to make good the loss sustained through the departure of several pew-holders from the port; and, in reply to an enquiry from Mr. Wilkin, explained that the difference between the donations of 1890 and those of the preceding year was due to the special appeal made last year in connection with the organ fund. Mr. Wilkin alluded to the satisfactory increase in the pew-rents. The Chairman then called upon the Pastor for his report. No questions being asked, the Chairman said he was sure he did but speak the mind of the Church when he said that all feel and know the difficulties under which their Pastor had laboured. Yokohama was a difficult place for pastoral work, and not the least because the Community was constantly changing—some coming, others going. It was a field in which a gain of one even in membership was encouraging. His own observation went to show that attendance at Church services had increased during the year. The Pastor's work bore evidence of zeal and earnestness, and it was not necessary to go back many years to bring to mind the former condition of the Union Church. There is life and unity among the people now compared with what formerly prevailed. Late meetings had attested the fact. The absence of several on the present occasion was due to a misapprehension of the character of the meeting. Mr. Booth looked to a day when the Church would possess a thorough equipment of officers from the laity bound to make righteousness and truth thrive in the community, and then the Union Church would be stronger than it is at present, and in its strength would be well able to take all its officers from its own roll of membership and not in some measure from among the missionaries. The election of officers was then proceeded with, the result of the ballot being the re-election of Dr. Hepburn, Rev. E. S. Booth, and Rev. G. F. Draper as Elders; the election of Messrs. W. D. S. Edwards and A. J. Wilkin as Deacons; of Messrs. T. Rose, W. Cameron, and Geo. Sale as Trustees, the latter gentleman being also appointed to the Treasurership. Mr. W. D. S. Edwards was re-elected Superintendent of the Sunday School. This concluding the purely business portion of the meeting, the Pastor rose and called upon Mr. C. V. Sale to submit a proposition with reference to the hymn books now in use by the congregation. It is proposed to replace the present books by the volume known as "Church Praise," the work with which the name of E. J. Hopkins, Mus. Doc., is principally identified. This hymnal combines the best features of most works of sacred song, and is that which was compiled by a Committee of the Presbyterian Church of England. It has been some years before the public and has steadily gained in favour. For its compilation the proprietors of Hymns Ancient and Modern most generously permitted the use of their copyrights, and the result is a modern hymnal which at once preserves old associations and secures respect to the diversities of musical taste. After considerable discussion, it was finally decided to adopt the proposed new hymnal. It was made clear that the substitution

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of the new and improved work for the old, which has been in use several years, would involve a very small outlay. The meeting dispersed at 10 o'clock.

UNION CHURCH, YOKOHAMA.—STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 23RD JANUARY, 1891.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year	$ 20.65
Pew Rents	1,197.50
Donations	42.08½
Collections	442.46½
Withdrawn from Pastoral Fund	750.00
	$2,383.60

EXPENDITURE.

Pastor's salary	$1,500.00
Rent of parsonage	390.00
Alterations of parsonage	20.00
Rent of Union Church	300.00
Rent of Van Schaick Hall	60.00
Advertisements and printing	15.50
Sunday School periodicals	15.19
Christmas Decorations	17.16
Collector's Commission	23.70
Organ Blower for December	6.00
Electric light fittings	44.74
Electric light in November	1.38
Doors and screens for organ	4.44
Balance	75.49
	$2,383.60

E. & O. E. GEORGE SALE, Treasurer, Pro tem.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

(Signed) L. POLLARD, E. B. S. EDWARDS } Auditors.

Pastorship Fund on deposit with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank due 25/9/91 plus 5 % interest $1,003.10
Less withdrawn 25/9/90 $750 and interest to 31/12/90 ... 761.96
$ 241.14

THE GRAND HOTEL (LIMITED).

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Grand Hotel (Ltd.) was held on Monday afternoon. Mr. J. F. Lowder occupied the chair, and among those present were Paymaster MacDonald, U.S.N., Messrs. W. B. Walter, E. Blanc, Jas. Walter, W. Aitchison, W. Mann, H. Arthur, Howie, C. W. Ure, B. C. Howard, Dr. Gravatt, J. Rickett, C. Arthur (Secretary).

Mr. LOWDER on taking the chair, said, fortunately, according to their rules, for the purpose of declaring a dividend a quorum of three was sufficient, showing the wisdom of the original promoters, who knew that in Yokohama generally when there was a satisfactory report it was rather difficult to get a meeting. The report the directors had to submit to the shareholders had been in the hands of the latter for a week past, but as it was very short he would as a matter of form read it:—

The Directors have the pleasure to submit the General Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Account, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the half year ended the 31st December, 1890, duly audited.

The net profit, including the balance brought forward from the 30th June, and after providing for the general expense of the half year, Directors' and Auditor's fees, interest, &c., and depreciation of Buildings and Furniture, amounts to $18,002.82

which it is proposed to apply as follows:—

In payment of a Dividend of 7 per cent. for the half-year	$17,500.00
Balance to be carried to new Account	$ 522.82
	$18,002.82

The last half of the year is usually less profitable than the first; but the Directors are gratified to be able to place before the Shareholders accounts which show substantial progress.

The change which has been made in the management of the hotel has proved entirely satisfactory.

The installation of the Electric Light has been delayed, through no fault of the contractors on this side, but is now proceeding with as much expedition as is compatible with sound workmanship. The whole of the new portion of the building has been lighted for some weeks past, and the remainder of the work will soon be completed. The light itself, the workmanship, and the working of the dynamos, have so far quite fulfilled the expectations of the Directors. It is anticipated that a large monetary saving will be effected by the substitution of the electric light for gas: and the comfort of the guests of the hotel will be materially increased. It has been decided that the payment of the expense of installation shall be spread over a period of ten years.

The cost of the new Building amounted to $7,228; an expenditure which will be repaid by the rent of the larger room which has been leased for a term of three years at a monthly rental of $500.

The Buildings and Furniture of the hotel are amply covered by insurance; as also are the profits for a period of eight months: but the danger of fire is materially decreased by the introduction of the electric light. There is also a private hydrant in the grounds.

The position of the Company is satisfactory and its prospects are hopeful; whilst many letters received from guests, who have been entertained at the hotel, highly laudatory of its comfort, of the excellence of its management and cuisine, and the moderate tariff of charges, afford gratifying proof that the resources of the establishment are appreciated by the public.

It is proposed that the Dividend shall be made payable to Shareholders and holders of Share Warrants on 28th of January.

J. F. LOWDER, E. BLANC. } Directors.

Yokohama, 17th January, 1891.

THE GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET—DECEMBER 31ST, 1890.—DR.

To Stock, 2,500 Shares, at $100	$250,000.00
To Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	10,915.64
To Bills payable	7,536.77
To Profit and loss account	18,002.82
	$286,455.23

CR.

By Cash account	$ 706.16
By Insurance account	1,611.50
By Wine account	8,406.19
By Provisions account	1,374.56
By Ground account	60,000.00
By Buildings account	147,500.00
By Furniture account	50,500.00
By Steam launch account	2,500.00
By Electric light plant	477.54
	$286,455.23

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—DECEMBER 31ST, 1890.—DR.

To General expenses		$ 18,560.04
To Fire insurance		1,784.08
To Interest		440.46
To Directors' and auditor's fees		775.00
To Balance profit	$22,836.98	
Less written off for		
Depreciation of buildings $2,772.64		
Depreciation of furniture 2,061.52		
	$4,834.16	
Balance available for division:		
Dividend 7 per cent. on $250,000 ..... $17,500.00		
Carried forward to new account 502.82	$18,002.82	22,836.98
		$ 44,397.46

CR.

By Balance brought forward from June 30th, 1890	$ 36.34
By Working account	42,831.74
By Rent account	1,315.00
By Share transfer fees	78.00
By Sales of old material	238.38
	$44,397.46

January 1st, 1891.

By Balance	$ 502.82

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON DECEMBER 31ST, 1890.

ASSETS.

Cash in hand	$ 706.16
Fire Insurance policies	1,611.50
Wines	8,406.19
Provisions	1,374.56
Bills receivable	9,679.28
Ground	60,000.00
Buildings	147,500.00
Furniture	50,000.00
Steam launch	2,500.00
Electric light plant	477.54
	$286,455.28

LIABILITIES.

Stock 2,500 Shares at $100	$250,00000.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	10,915.64
Bills payable	7,536.77
Total Liabilities	$267,452.41
Balance, net profits	18,002.82
	$286,455.23

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, December 31st, 1891.

J. F. LOWDER, E. BLANC } Directors.

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the books and vouchers of the Company, and certify them to be correct.

O. KEIL, Auditor.

Yokohama, January 13th, 1891.

The accounts he would not read to them, as he was sure they had been very carefully perused by them all. In the last paragraph of the report he saw it stated that the danger to fire had been materially decreased by the introduction of the electric light, and as he read those words it occurred to him that in view of the recent destruction of the Houses of the Diet in Tokyo, which was generally attributed to some defect in the electric light installation—a point he believed, however, which had not yet been decided—nevertheless, as the mere fact of such an accident having occurred would possibly give rise to some anxiety in the minds of some of their shareholders with regard to the installation of the electric light in this establishment, he might mention that the persons with whom they had contracted, Messrs. Bagnall and Hilles, had from the very commencement guided themselves strictly by the rules of the Phœnix Fire Insurance Co., and he thought he was also right in saying that before they commenced the installation, or at the time they were commencing it, the Agent of that Company in Yokohama, in which the hotel was insured, was invited to go round and inspect the installation, and expressed himself as entirely satisfied with what he had seen. That statement would, he thought, remove all anxiety that might have existed in the minds of the shareholders as to the electric light in the hotel. With regard to the accounts, it was generally considered necessary on an occasion of this kind that the Chairman should add something by way of explanation or elaboration of the report and accounts as submitted. Well, they spoke very clearly, he thought, for themselves, and therefore it would not be necessary for him to trespass on the patience of those present for any great length of time by giving any further explanations. But a question had been put to one of the Board of Directors—not to the speaker personally—how, with regard to the fact that they had only apparently $706.16 cash in hand, was it possible for the Directors to declare an earning of net profit of $18,002.82, and to propose a divident of 7 per cent.? Now of course a question of that kind put to a business man who was acquainted with accounts would simply cause a smile. To answer it would be like explaining the A.B.C. of accounts. Still, as the question had not been put for the first time to-day, but also arose in connection with the last dividend, it might be as well that he should point out that an analysis of these accounts shows that, notwithstanding that the sum of $22,166.60 had been written off for depreciation since the company commenced business less than two years ago, and $21,685.81 had been spent on buildings and furniture during the some period, they had on the 31st December, exclusive of their original capital investment of $250,000, additional assets and stock in hand to the value of $28,918.46. Against this they had borrowed of their bankers $10,915.64, leaving a balance of $18,002.82, which, though invested in stock and other paying property, was actually nett profit earned during the past half-year. The loan from the bank would not have been necessary but for the erection of the new wing at a cost of over $7,000 and the payment on account of the electric light of nearly $5,000, and it would be manifestly unfair that these permanent additions should be paid out of the current profits of the last half-year. The cost of the new building would be reimbursed by the rent; the transaction would ultimately show a handsome profit, to say nothing of the commodious cellar and morning room, both of which were necessary adjuncts to the hotel. The payment of the cost of the electric light would be spread over a period of ten years. While on the accounts, he would make another statement which he felt convinced would be of interest to the shareholders, and that was with reference to their method of audit. They all knew that they had an auditor; but the work of that auditor was not confined to auditing the accounts at the end of every half-year. They might perhaps more accurately describe their auditor as an inspector. He inspected most thoroughly; inspected their books at the end of every month. He himself saw that stock was taken at the end of every month. He checked all the vouchers and all the accounts, and furnished the directors with a trial balance at the end of every month. He thought therefore they might agree with him that the directors were in as good as, if not in a better, position than most companies in this respect, because they were able at the end of every month to ascertain what was the position of the company and the accounts. Knowing as those present did, that the auditor was Mr. Keil, they might be perfectly satisfied that it was a most conscientious, most thorough, and most rigorous inspection to which their accounts were submitted. In fact he might say that there were some among them who might be inclined to look upon Mr. Keil as a hard task-master rather than as a friendly inspector of accounts. These were all the remarks he wished to make, but if there were any questions arising from the report and accounts, and within his power to answer, he would be glad to do so.

On the motion of Mr. URE, seconded by Paymaster MACDONALD, the report and accounts, with the declaration as to a dividend, were agreed to unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. HOWARD seconded by Paymaster MACDONALD, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Directors.

A similar compliment to the Chairman was passed on the motion of Mr. AITCHISON, seconded by Mr. Ure.

The CHAIRMAN in his own name and the names of his co-directors thanked the meeting very much for the kind thought of proposing a vote of thanks to them. It would perhaps be false modesty, speaking as he did for himself as well as others, to say that they were not entitled to some little appreciation of their labours, which were always of an arduous nature. Still, so long as they felt that they were giving satisfaction on the one hand to the members of the company, and on the other hand to the public, upon whom the directors depended in order to give the shareholders a fair interest for their money, that he was sure would always be sufficient gratification to the board of directors of this company.—(Applause.)

This terminated the proceedings.

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VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Meeting of Subscribers.

The annual general meeting of subscribers to and supporters of the Victoria Public School was held on Wednesday afternoon in one of the large rooms of the Masonic Temple, Keil's Buildings. Among those present were Bishop Bickersteth, Chairman of the Committee; Messrs. W. B. Walter, Vice-Chairman; and P. E. F. Stone, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. W. T. Austen; Mr. Jas. Troup, H. B. M. Consul; Mr. M. Russell, Mr. A. J. Wilkin.

Bishop Bickersteth took the chair, and after intimating that the minutes of the last meeting, having been published in the local papers, would be taken as read, called on the Secretary to read the report and accounts.

Mr. Stone read the report and accounts as follow:—

Victoria Public School Report for 1890.

The Committee now beg to present for the information of subscribers the Accounts and Annual Report for 1890.

The Accounts show a balance in hand of $1,283.47, or $517.40 less than in January, 1890 The receipts from School fees during the year were $3,990 ($70 still to collect) plus $79, part of the amount outstanding from 1889, and $54 account, 1891, paid in advance. Only one subscription of $25 was received for the Sustentation Fund, and the profit realised on the second Japanese Class for Adults was only $6.45. The ordinary Expenses for the year, for salaries, rent, &c., amounted to $4,847.66.

Taking into account $72.26 earned on Interest account ($100 less $27.74), the loss on working account for the year amounts to $715.40, which is mainly caused by the diminution in the number of scholars in attendance during the last Term of the year. The number of boys during the three Terms of 1890 were:—1st Term, 49; 2nd Term, 48, and 3rd Term, 40 respectively; but the Secretary has so far been unable to collect the fees of one boy for both the 2nd and 3rd terms. The same remark also applies to an item of $10 outstanding from 1889. Comparing the account for 1890 with that for 1889 it will be observed that the Committee have been able to effect a reduction of $180 on salary account, and of $50 on medical attendance account. On the other hand, there is an increase on rent account of $40. The lease of 179, Bluff, expired on the 31st August last, and the Committee have renewed same for a further period of 2 years at a rental of $70 or an increase of $10 per month. The item for school prizes is perhaps a little high; but it includes $10 refunded to the Head Master properly belonging to 1889, and $11.80 expended in a special prize for F. Clarke, on his leaving the school, in recognition of work done in assisting with the teaching of some of the younger boys.

The prize distributions were held in the school room on 7th July and 22nd December, and were then fully reported in the local papers. On the former occasion Mr. Enslie, H.B.M.'s Consul, kindly presided.

The Head Master reports that during the past year the language difficulty has been greatly overcome, the boys being now able to understand English easily, and he is consequently able to devote much more time to writing instead of having so much *viva voce* work. The school has lost many of the elder boys,—some of whom have been in attendance from the beginning.

Several of these have obtained good and promising positions in business houses in Yokohama or Kobe, and it is hoped that the credit they do the school will tend to bring in more pupils as time goes on. It is satisfactory to note that the boys who have gone to complete their education in America, have taken high places in the schools, and have done very well in their classes.

During the past year the Boy's Committee managed the sports of the school very well, and the Head Master thinks that there is much enthusiasm for manly exercises. The boys, unless they have some work after school hours, prefer to play the games of foot ball or cricket to lounging about. It is rather difficult to get other schools to meet them, and the competition, which is so necessary a stimulus to athletics—has to be provided by challenging the crews of the men-of-war which are stationed here.

The Committee after much deliberation over the finances of the school, unanimously agreed that, as with the present number of scholars the loss on working account during the next twelve months would be about $1,200 or $1,300, thus using up the funds at their disposal, a considerable reduction in the expenses would be absolutely necessary, and that the only way to economise to this extent would be to do without an Assistant Master. The Committee were therefore reluctantly compelled to notify Mr. H. L. Fardel that his services would not be required after the 31st March next. They now desire to place on record their high appreciation of the value of the work done by him during the 3½ years he has taught in the school. The work of the school will now be entirely managed by Mr. and Mrs. Hinton, with the help of the Japanese Master; should the number of boys materially increase during the year, it will be for the incoming Committee to decide what fresh arrangements may be necessary.

The Head Master's agreement expired in August last, and has been extended indefinitely, subject to 6 months' notice on either side. Mr. M. Kirkwood does not offer himself for re-election to the Committee, and Mr. P. E. F. Stone resigns his position as Hon. Sec and Treasurer.

In conclusion, the Committee have to thank Mr. B. Gillett and Mr. F. W. Hill for again kindly auditing the accounts, and the Yokohama press for their courtesy in reporting all matters of interest in connection with the school.

E. Bickersteth, Bishop, Chairman.
W. B. Walter, Vice-Chairman.
W. Barrie.
M. Kirkwood.
P. E. Fred. Stone, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The Victoria Public School.

In Account with the Honorary Treasurer.

	Dr.	Cr.
By Balance brought forward 1st January, 1890.		$1,800.87
By Subscription to sustentation fund		25.00
By Interest on $2,000, on fixed deposit 1 year 5 per cent.		100.00
By Fees for Japanese class (adults) No. 2		170.00
By School fees collected—		
Outstanding from 1889 ($10) not paid	$ 79.00	
1st Term, 49 scholars	1,401.75	
*2nd Term, 48 scholars	1,401.25	
*3rd Term, 40 scholars	1,187.00	
* $70 still outstanding.		
1st Term, 1891, 2 scholars paid in advance	54.00	4,123.00
To Salary (12 months) C. H. Hinton	$1,800.00	
To Salary (12 months) Mrs. Hinton	400.00	
To Salary (12 months) H. L. Fardel	1,200.00	
To Salary 10 months, allowed for Japanese teacher	50.00	$3,450.00
To Wages of School coolie (12 months)		120.00
To Fuel and light 6 months $20		120.00
To Rent No. 179, Bluff 12 months)		760.00
To Fire insurance $3,000 to 20/3/91..	$ 30.00	
Less Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's bonus, 1888	4.50	25.50
To Medical attendance (12 months)		100.00
To Mr. Woodruff, collecting accounts		30.00
To School prizes		54.10
To Advertising and printing		72.81
To Sundry expenses, repairs, &c.		61.75
To School furniture (benches, &c.)		53.50
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, interest on overdrafts		27.74
To Japanese class (No. 2) balance for Tuition, &c.		60.00
To Balance carried forward to 31st December, 1890		1,383.47
	$6,218.87	$6,218.87
1st January, 1891.		
By Cash on fixed deposit with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank		$1,000.00
To Overdraft in current account*		716.53 $1,383.47
*Actual overdraft on 31st December, as per bankpass book	639.53	
Add, Sundries included in above account but paid in January, 1891	192.00	
	831.53	
Less, Sundries included in above account but only received in January, 1891	115.00	
As per account	$ 716.53	

E. & O. E.
Yokohama, 22nd January, 1891.
P. E. Fred. Stone, Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.
B. Gillett } Auditors.
F. W. Hill }

Balance Sheet—31st December, 1890.

	Dr.	Cr.
To Queen's Jubilee permanent fund	$6,936.20	
To Sustentation fund	560.00	
To Interest account	250.49	
To Japanese class, adults (profit)	377.05	
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, current account (overdraft)	639.53	
By School buildings		$1,801.33
By School furniture		559.37
By House furniture		500.00
By Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, deposit account		2,000.00
By Working account (loss)	$5,233.64	
By Passage money account	658.83	4,892.47
	$8,753.17	$8,753.17

Working Account (1887, 1890).	Dr.	Cr.
By School fees		$12,592.83
By Balance carried down		3,233.64
To Rent	$ 2,370.00	
To Fire insurance	92.80	
To Salaries	11,510.00	
To Wages	400.00	
To Fuel and light	453.90	
To School prizes	232.10	
To Advertising and printing	667.67	
To Sundry expenses		
	$15,826.47	$15,826.47
To Balance at debit, on 31st December, 1890. (Add, $77—for sundries adjusted in January, 1891.)	$5,233.64	

E. & O. E.
Yokohama, 22nd January, 1891.
P. E. Fred. Stone,
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chairman invited remarks on the report and accounts. None being forthcoming, he said he very much regretted that the hope which he expressed a year ago with reference to the financial condition of the Victoria Public School had not been fulfilled. When he had the pleasure of meeting last June, at the prize-giving, those now present, he was able to say that for the two terms which had then elapsed his hope had been quite fulfilled, and that the school was paying its own way for the first time since it was established. Unfortunately the last term had changed that very bright prospect. The number of boys, for some reason which it was not very easy to discover, had suddenly diminished from about 50 to about 40, and the result of that diminution in the number of pupils had been to give them an adverse balance-sheet. He supposed that in a community of the size of Yokohama they would always be subject to fluctuations of this kind, and it was in order to safeguard the school against such fluctuations that it was started with a considerable sum in hand as they would remember four years ago. Nevertheless when the Committee considered a month ago the financial condition of the school, they could not but feel, and they were unanimous in their opinion, that it was impossible—conditional on the safe conduct of the school for the future—to reduce the money which they had in hand below the sum at which it at present stands. Therefore, as the number of boys was less and the requirements of teaching were proportionately less, they reluctantly came to the conclusion that in future they should have only one English master, with the assistance of Mrs. Hinton or some other lady, and a Japanese master. They very reluctantly came to that conclusion, because Mr. Fardel had given them most excellent service during the past three and a half years, and they earnestly hoped he might be able to obtain such work in Japan as would open before him a useful and honourable career. They should have been very glad if it could have been possible to retain his services in connection with their own school, but they felt that could not be. They had therefore proposed to the subscribers what they thought the next best arrangement: that the head-master, with Mrs. Hinton or some other lady—there was no immediate hurry in settling the matter till the end of March—and the Japanese teacher should carry on the education of the boys. Three teachers were sufficient for forty boys. If for the moment they compared their school here with the schools of, say England, they felt that they had to fight against great disadvantages which in England did not present themselves. If he might take the school, for instance, at which he was brought up, it stood on land given 300 years ago by a Knight of the Court of Queen Elizabeth, and when he went to College he profited by endowments given by another celebrated man of that same Court. Here they had no such assistance. Nevertheless—they of course knew far better about this than he did—he supposed they were all practically agreed that there would always be settlements of foreigners in these eastern lands; that trade had so developed, and the connection between east and west was so assured, that there would be practically always—so far as human prognostication might go—settlements of foreigners in countries like China and Japan. It would therefore always be necessary to provide education for the sons of such foreigners, and that being so, had not the occasion arisen which arose 300 years ago in England, to provide permanently for the education of youths? We of this generation profited, he dared to say, by what our fathers did. Was it unreasonable to think that it might be possible that perhaps even in our generation and now, in an important mercantile settlement like Yokohama, some one might give them a site on which the school might stand free of rent, and possibly also some such endowments as those he had referred to as attaching to his own school and others in England. And so as we have profited by the generosity of our forefathers, our posterity might profit by the generosity of our own day. But be all this so or not, he did not think there was any reason for immediate discouragement in reference to the condition of the Victoria Public School. They had an excellent head-master, with large learning and more experience than perhaps they could have expected to find in this distant corner of the East. They had an able assistant in Mrs. Hinton; and the Japanese master was, he believed, an effective educationalist in his own line. The boys who had gone from the school had done singularly well: he read a letter showing the high place taken in the United States by J. H. Loomis in Greek and French, and also in Latin and Geometry, his marks in French being 99. That was a remarkably good report of a boy who had had all his teaching for the last three years he believed in the Victoria Public School. It was evident to him therefore that they were doing good work, and that they had the power to do so. Above all things, however, it was necessary that they should have

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some union in Yokohama in reference to the education of boys. If the boys were scattered in little centres, however excellent, then such a school as they enterprised and took in hand four years ago, at the time of the Queen's jubilee, could not be supported. If the boys were gathered together in one centre, then with 50 or 55 boys they could have an excellent school giving the highest education, and that knowledge which was so necessary for a boy's future career. He earnestly hoped it might be possible to bring together the boys of Yokohama to receive the education offered to them in the Victoria Public School. Those present would have been sorry to notice that Mr. Stone was about to retire from the position he had so kindly and laboriously filled during the last two years. Those of them who were acquainted with accounts would see what work Mr. Stone had had in hand. They all owed him their very best thanks, and that not only for his services in connection with the accounts but also in conjunction with Mr. Walter, for the interest both gentlemen had taken in the school week by week and month by month as the small difficulties which always entered into any school had cropped up, and many arrangements which school life demanded had had to be met.—(Applause.)

In regard to the Committee, the CHAIRMAN remarked that Mr. Wilkin was willing to accept the place of Mr. Kirkwood on the Committee—(applause)—and though he had not the pleasure of Mr. Wilkin's acquaintance, from all he heard there could be no doubt they would have in him a worthy successor to a worthy member.

Mr. TROUP, in rising to move the adoption of the report, said one might have wished it were more favourable. It showed a decline in the number of boys with the result that the financial position of the school was in some degree unsatisfactory. The Right Rev. Chairman had, however, entered so fully into the question of keeping up an establishment such as this in Yokohama, that it was quite unnecessary for the speaker to go into details on the subject. But he might say that looking at the conditions of their residence in this place if seemed to him there was a field, and must always be a field, for an institution of this sort. He believed he had already privately exchanged views with the Right Rev. Chairman, and they had agreed that there was much to be hoped for, and he reminded the Chairman that in another place (Kobe) where he had the pleasure of seeing him, a proposition was started by the Bishop for the organization of a school there. But the community wanted to have their show, and their blow-outs, and their illuminations, and so on, and if he mistook not, the proposition on being put to the house, was only supported by one vote. Subsequently the subject of asking support for this school from the sister ports came up, but he for one, he confessed, never believed in support being available from the other ports. The fact was that local institutions demanded support from the residents of those places, and the facilities were now so great for sending their children elsewhere that they could hardly look for many scholars from the sister ports. They must therefore depend upon their own efforts, and for the sake of the children in this place he thought no effort should be spared to be keep up the Victoria Public School. Although things were looking rather black at present, still fluctuations might take place; they might hope that the next fluctuation might be in the other direction, and that the committee who were to occupy office for the next year would have something better to report than the retiring committee had.—(Applause.)

Mr. AUSTEN seconded, and the report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Mr. STONE remarked, as to scholars coming from the sister ports, that there were now five boarders from Kobe.

Mr. WALTER fancied, from experience they had had so far, that they could look forward always to considerable fluctuations in the number of boys. There were so many residents going home every few years and taking their children with them, that many pupils must be withdrawn from school who in a town at home would remain. They must make up their minds to that. Mr. Walter explained that though Mr. Stone had been obliged to resign his post as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer he had not declined to assist them on the committee.

The ballot for a Committee resulted in the election of Bishop Bickersteth, and Messrs. W. B. Walter, W. Barrie, P. E. F. Stone, and A. J. Wilkin.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that that was all the business before the meeting.

Before those present left the room,

Mr. STONE said the Committee would always be glad to receive suggestions, &c., from parents or others interested in the school.

Mr. RUSSELL drew attention to the system of "keeping in" pupils, which he said told very injuriously against the school. He ventured to assert that if any parent who did not send his child to the school were asked the reason, it would be found that the "keeping in" was the cause.

Mr. WALTER said the matter had already been before the Committee, but pointed out that the Committee had repeatedly asked that parents should bring before them just such matters as this.

Eventually Mr. STONE said he would lay the subject before the Committee.

THE INTER-OCEANIC CANAL OF NICARAGUA AND ITS PROBABLE INFLUENCE UPON JAPAN.

A lecture was delivered before the Tokyo Geographical Society at their Hall, Nishi Konyamachi, Kyobashi, Tokyo, on the evening of the 27th inst., on the above subject, by Captain Taylor, Commander of the U.S.S. *Alliance*. The meeting was presided over by the Vice-President of the Society, Viscount Enomoto, and a large gathering of foreigners and Japanese was present.

The CHAIRMAN, in a few words, introduced Captain Taylor to the meeting.

Captain TAYLOR, before delivering his lecture, drew attention to the various charts and maps which lined the walls of the room. Two large rough charts illustrated the chief routes to and from the canal to various parts of the globe, and also the course of the canal through the Isthmus and Lake of Nicaragua from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, together with smaller charts, giving in detail the countries adjoining the Isthmus and a table of distances by the canal.

Mr. S. SHIGA acted as interpreter.

The LECTURER said:—The intervening continent which blocked the path to the Indies for Columbus and his successors, was to them a serious disappointment,—to them it was an obstacle. Centuries passed before the sailors and the merchants of the world became contented with the new geography,—not, indeed, until the interrupting lands, peopled with an active race, gave signs of becoming, themselves, a goal to be reached, of an importance equal to that of the Indies and far Cathay.

But again the old discontent grew, for the Pacific coasts of the ancient obstacle rose before the commercial eye, and their busy people throve and multiplied, and became buyers and sellers, shippers and receivers, and though the way had been long around Good Hope to the Indies, it was still longer around Cape Horn, to these Western shores of America.

Thus to-day, this discontent of commerce and shipping has so increased that we may truthfully say that, through the old obstacle, there must be cut a communicating way between the Oceans, and that this must be done now.

It is proper to mention some facts upon which is based so positive a statement,—some details of the various plans for joining the waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific through the American Isthmus, after which we may glance, briefly, at some of the possible results to flow from the successful joining of the Oceans, and reflect upon its probable influence upon the trade of the Pacific, and, more especially, upon the trade now dawning upon Japan, for it may be supposed that it was, primarily, an interest in that development which has caused your distinguished Society to honour me with your attention to-night.

* * * * * *

Let us, then, consider briefly, the question of communication between the Oceans, across the American Isthmus.

Hardly had Nunez de Balboa's first glance from the hills of the Isthmus, rested upon the broad expanse of the Pacific, when the whole world immediately concluded that, as so narrow a neck of land separated the great Oceans, throughout a length of nearly a thousand miles, nature must have provided somewhere in that extent, a communicating waterway. For two centuries this problem was regarded as still unsolved. "The Secret of the Strait" occupied Christendom then as does the discovery of the North Pole now. Spaniards, Portuguese, French, Dutch, and English sought diligently, from the Rio de la Plata, in South America, to the St. Lawrence River, in North America for this much desired channel. The search, as we know, was in vain, but before entire conviction came there were already projects being discussed for supplementing nature's defect by the work of man.

From the days of Columbus to the present time, almost all men of distinction, whose attention has been drawn to the American Isthmus, have urged, at one point or another, an inter-Ocean canal. Cortez, Saavedra, De Soto, among the earlier; Guizot, President Adams, and Louis Napoleon, among the later, are the more prominent names which occur to me now.

We pass by with brief notice earlier dreams and aspirations, and note the fact that the Prince Louis Napoleon, while yet a prisoner in the Fortress of Ham, had given his approval to an enterprise which was to have been established under his name, and to be known as the Canal Napoleon de Nicaragua. Time will not permit my reciting to you his eloquent words, published in one of the reviews of that day, as to the great commercial and political importance of the strip of land which separates Lake Nicaragua from the Pacific Ocean.

It was shortly after the abandonment of the project by Napoleon, dazzled by the glitter of a possible crown, that the first organized attempt was made. In 1849 some American gentlemen formed a Company known as the Atlantic and Pacific Ship Canal Co., and under concessions from Nicaragua, began actual work on a canal.

The financial world was not ready for it,—the enterprise was transformed into a transit company, which, after some years of carrying passengers and freight, from one ocean to the other, by way of Lake Nicaragua and the river San Juan, presently faded away.

The interest in this line for a canal still continued, however, and was about to show some result when two other routes were proposed,—that of a ship canal through the Isthmus of Panama, backed by the energy and former success of De Lesseps,—and a ship railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in Mexico, backed by an American engineer, Captain Eades. So strong was the personality of these two men that the Nicaragua route was compelled to remain quiescent, until time and experience should balance these gentlemen's popularity and persuasive eloquence.

The death of Captain Eades, a few years ago, removed the Tehuantepec Ship Railway project as a competitor, nor has it since reappeared with any semblance of success. As to a Panama Canal, time and experience have fully shown to the world the unfortunate mistake of M. de Lesseps, in attempting a ship canal at the level of the sea, at Panama. Work has been for some time suspended upon the Panama Canal,—the enterprise owes $420,000,000, and its assests will not, it is believed, amount to $20,000,000.

The results are known to you,—the newspapers of the day, everywhere except in France, having kept careful record of the various steps in this unfortunate enterprise.

Until 1887, De Lesseps clung to the idea of a sea level canal. This was, indeed, almost a necessity, for he had often given public utterance to his opinion that Nicaragua was by far the best point for a canal with locks, but that *he* proposed to build a sea level canal. In that year, however, after enormous expenditure of men and money, he was compelled to change his plans to a lock canal at Panama. Though the situation was very unfavourable for a lock canal there, it was not absolutely impracticable, as was a sea level canal, and might have been constructed had he changed earlier, before so much money had been spent.

It was, however, too late, and after raising, at ruinous discount, some further sums, he was obliged to discontinue the work for lack of funds. There seems to be no hope of a revival of this project, in the minds of those best informed in the commercial world. In the last few days news has been received that the Concession has been renewed and more time given to the Canal Co. to complete the work, but Colombia has not granted this without exacting heavy compensation, and the Company has besides the task before it of raising money upon an enterprise practically dead. We need not dwell upon the sad picture of this heroic old gentleman sinking under the burden of so terrible a reverse. De Lesseps has done great service to France and the world, and has made only one mistake,—but this a gigantic one.

Let me ask your attention, now, to what seems to promise happier results, the Nicaragua Canal.

A great failure deserves notice next only to a great success, and the magnitude of this unparalleled financial disaster at Panama calls for some explanation and description.

In 1879, a small group of French gentlemen, who had obtained a concession from the Colombian Government to build a canal anywhere through its territories, but whose brief superficial examination of the Isthmus of Panama had given them practically no data on which to determine the best engineering route for a canal, persuaded M. de Lesseps, by means, of which we will always be

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ignorant, to place himself at the head of their enterprise, to form a Company,—to purchase their concession from them,—and to undertake the construction of a Panama Canal (at the level of the sea). M. de Lesseps thereupon caused to be called together in Paris, representatives of the maritime countries of the World, to attend an International Canal Congress to decide upon the routes.

By means, the nature of which also we shall probably never know, this Congress after some deliberation, decided by a large majority upon the Panama route as proposed by De Lesseps. The Congress was warned, on the part of England, by the eminent engineer Sir John Hawkshawe, and on the part of the United States, by Admiral Ammen, that such a canal was impracticable,—that it could not be constructed, and if constructed, could not be conserved for the use of shipping. The hilly country, the raging course of the Charges River, the torrential rains, and the pestilential climate forbade the hope of success. To these remonstrances De Lesseps, flushed with the success of Suez, and impatient of contradiction, would give no heed, and the French people, loyal to him and proud of his well-deserved reputation, swarmed about his offices and liberally subscribed to this new project of the great promoter.

In Nicaragua, the mountain chain which stretches from the Arctic regions of North America, to Cape Horn, sinks to its lowest point, producing a comparative depression, unique in character. This depression or basin is occupied by the waters of Lake Nicaragua, a fresh water inland sea, 90 miles in length by 45 in breadth, and with general depths varying from 50 to 100 feet. The western shore of this Lake is only 13 miles from the surf of the Pacific Ocean, and the intervening neck of land, on the route selected for the Canal, has a maximum elevation of only 40 feet above the Lake. The elevation of the Lake is 110 feet above the ocean, and the dividing ridge 150 feet above the ocean.

Although this great sheet of water is so close to the Pacific side, its waters drain to the eastward, by way of the River San Juan, into the Caribbean Sea, a distance of about 120 miles. This river is navigable, to some extent,—a steamer drawing 6 feet of water has ascended from the ocean to the lake, in the last few years, although being delayed, somewhat, in getting up the rapids.

These facts will indicate to you how much nature has already done toward a canal, by this route, and a closer investigation develops many other features most favourable, in an engineering point of view. This lake, being a great reservoir, is but little influenced by the rainfall, and the same is, of course, true of the river which is its outlet.

The main features of the canal now being constructed, are the following:—The lake and upper river will be the summit level of the canal; there will be a cut through the neck of land between the lake and the Pacific, the greatest depth of this excavation being 40 feet, and the canal quickly emerging upon the western slope of this neck of land, will reach the Pacific through the valley of a small stream which flows into that ocean, descending to the sea level by means of three locks.

Going eastward from the lake toward the Caribbean Sea, the San Juan River will be followed for a distance of 64 miles from the lake, at which point the river will be dammed to such a height as will back its waters to the lake, raising the level of the lake to a uniform height of 110 feet above the level of the sea, and thus deepening the water in the upper river to such a degree that but little dredging will be needed throughout the 64 miles.

The upper river, being of the same general character as the lake, is not subject to violent freshets. The lower portion, receiving some large tributaries from the neighbouring mountains, possesses a different and more unstable character. For this reason the line of the canal leaves the river at this dam, 94 miles from the lake, and pursues a straight course across country to the Caribbean Sea at Greytown, making use of some convenient interior valleys by means of dams at their outlets, and thus continuing the summit level until it emerges from a confining range of hills, and looks down upon the 18 miles of flat and marshy land, between the hills and the coast. Here, upon the eastern slope of these hills, the canal descends by three locks, to the level of the sea, and continues its course by dredging to the harbour of Greytown. The total distance from ocean to ocean, by this route, is 169 miles, of which 27 miles will be excavated canal, and 42 miles free navigation in Lake Nicaragua, the River San Juan and basins in the valley of the smaller streams.

To describe it more in detail, beginning at the Atlantic or Caribbean side, the canal starts from Greytown Harbour by dredging, 9 miles to Lock No. 1, in the valley of a small stream, the Deseado. Lock No. 1 has a lift of 30 feet. The dimensions of all the locks are uniform, namely, 650 feet long by 70 feet wide, by 30 feet deep.

From Lock No. 1 to Lock No. 2, 1½ miles, the canal occupies this valley, which is flooded by the construction of embankments, and thus reduces the amount of dredging to be done. Lock No. 2 has a lift of 31 feet. Lock No. 2 to Lock No. 3, 2 miles, continues in the valley of the Deseado, which is flooded by dams and embankments, and but slight excavation being necessary. Lock No. 3 has a lift of 45 feet. This brings us to the summit level of the canal. For 2½ miles beyond this Lock, the same system of embankments avoids the necessity of any excavation, the flooding of the valley producing depths of from 30 to 70 feet. The canal then enters a rock cutting in the eastern divide, 3 miles long, and of an average depth throughout these 3 miles of 110 feet. This cutting contains 21 per cent. of the total excavation needed for the whole canal. Emerging from this cut the canal line enters the basin of the Canon (valley) San Francisco. Dams and embankments are used to impound the water of this stream, and to form a long and narrow lake, whose length is in the direction of the canal line.

Passing thus through the San Francisco and adjacent valleys, the canal enters the River San Juan just above the dam in that river, at a distance of 12½ miles from the eastern divide cut. The canal line then proceeds from the dam in the River San Juan, up to the lake a distance of 64½ miles, thence across the Lake Nicaragua, a distance of 56½ miles. From the lake to the Pacific, the distance by the canal line is 17 miles, of which 11½ miles is in excavation, and 5½ through a basin in the valley of the small streams Rio Grande and Rio Tola.

Of the two terminal harbours, Greytown on the Atlantic side has been, in its time, an excellent harbour, but its mouth has been closed by a sand bar, caused by the sand in the vicinity drifting across the entrance. A pier or jetty has been built lately, into the sea, at right angles to the shore on the windward side of the old entrance to prevent this drifting of the sand, and has already caused the harbour to open, permitting the Campany's dredges to pass in and out; and the entrance thus sheltered in becoming deeper every day. Dredging is being carried on to assist the forces of nature. Brito, the point on the Pacific Coast where the entrance to the canal is to be, has no harbour, and the deep water on that coast prevents long breakwaters. But Brito is situated at the mouth of a broad, alluvial valley which can be dredged from the beach inland to any distance required for the needs of a terminal harbour. These needs, as will be observed at Port Said, in the Suez Canal, are not extensive as far as area goes.

The dimensions of the canal being constructed are such as to permit a net tonnage of 20,000,000 tons a year.

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The calculations which have been made as to the traffic using this canal, when constructed, have not been permitteed to include any of the large prospective increase, which may be counted upon with reasonable certainty, as a result of the existence of this waterway. It has been thought better to estimate only for that traffic which will be already existing and ready to use such a canal, as soon as it shall be open. Leaving out, then, the extraordinary estimates made by M. de Lesseps for the Panama Canal traffic, and considering, only, the actual statistics, we find the vessels ready to use the Canal now amounting to about 6,000,000 of tons, and at the present rate of increase there would be in 1896 about 8,000,000 of tons annually.

Putting the tolls at two dollars per ton, we have receipts of sixteen million dollars or, allowing liberally for operating expenses, a net revenue of fifteen million, or 5 per cent. upon three hundred million dollars.

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The cost of the construction of this great work, under liberal estimates, is seventy-five million dollars, and it is quite safe to say that one hundred millions will cover all contingencies.

Having stated these facts I should add, that these figures are not based upon cursory or superficial examination, nor do they rest upon the unsupported opinion of those interested in the enterprise. Many years had been spent in elaborate detailed surveys, which have mapped the contours of the land to a degree of accuracy and closenesss of detail equal to that of the suburbs of our great cities. Depths of the lakes, velocities of the river waters, records of the rainfall, have all been absolutely determined. Numerous borings have shown the amount and quality of rock to be encountered in our excavations. In fact, every point of detail has been thoroughly worked out. A board of eminent engineers, possessing no interest whatever in the Canal, has been assembled, and after months of careful consideration of the finished plans and surveys, have submitted their estimate of cost, allowing in their calculations liberal increases in the prices of labour, tools, and material of all kinds.

It is, therefore, safe to say that the cost of this work is practically established. Large percentages of increase have been made, to allow for all possible contingencies of accident, while no reduction in cost has been allowed for the improvement and added economy of the new machinery constantly being perfected, for excavating, dredging and the building of breakwaters, jetties, and bridges. There is no reasonable probability that the cost of the completed work will exceed the estimate, and it is quite likely that it will fall much below it.

The financial question may, therefore, be thus stated:—The canal can be built, ready for use, with every convenience, and of dimensions suitable for the commerce of the whole world, for one hundred million dollars, while the canal when completed represents a property instantly worth three hundred millions, and paying 5 per cent. interest on that amount from the day of its completion.

It has been my endeavour to avoid possible exaggeration, and for this reason nothing has been said as to the increase in the tonnage, which will be a direct result of the existence of the canal. Not alone will the vessels already plying, use it, but the canal will build up a traffic in commodities which, up to the present, have had no market, owing to their distance from those fields which require them.

It will be when the canal is open, that we shall first learn how great is the demand for the timber of Alaska, for the guanos and nitrates of Peru and Chili, and for many of the products of Japan and Northern China, which now are prevented from reaching a market by the long and costly freight transportation which they must undergo before reaching their destinations. This fact was noticeable when the Suez Canal was opened, and a glance at the map of the world shows that the Suez Canal, though of vast importance, opened communication only between sections of the world, while a canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans may be said to establish communication between separate and distinct commercial worlds. We may, therefore, expect, with reason, that this annual revenue of $15,000,000 net, will rapidly increase, even with diminished tolls, to $30,000,000 net, after which, questions of increasing the capacity of the canal or building another one in another portion of the Isthmus, may be considered.

Let us consider now the effect of a finished Nicaragua Canal upon the commerce of the Pacific and the World.

And first let us repeat that this canal will join two worlds of commerce; the one being composed of those countries and peoples which front upon the Atlantic, and upon its tributary seas, gulfs and rivers; the other, those nations whose coasts form the shores of the Pacific.

Of Suez it may be said that its office, its principal office, is to connect two sections of a trade world, not two distinct, ever sundered, commercial world spaces. Those sections were not strangers in trade to each other before Suez was opened; since the dawn of history slow lengths of innumerable caravans toiling through sandy deserts have incessantly deployed upon the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean, bringing the rare and costly products of Persia and India to the ships of Phœnicia, of Greece, of Rome and later to those of Venice, Genoa, Spain, and England. The Suez Canal did not create a new trade—it improved and increased a trade already existing between sections and only between sections. I will not be suspected in saying this of trying to belittle that great and noble work, whose usefulness to mankind cannot be over estimated. It has doubtless been of greater service for that very reason that it has not created new trade, but has vastly helped that which was already existing.

The Nicaragua Canal, on the contrary, will connect two areas of commerce hitherto without connection, independent of each other—nay, almost ignorant of each other, each with its own trade channels and currents circling and eddying in response to the various and changing demands of merchandise and the needs of its transportation. It is true that the Atlantic system reaches out in some degree to Australia, China and Japan, and that Alaskan fish and lumber, Chilean guano and nitrates pass in limited quantities around Cape Horn to New York and Europe, but the intervening distances are too great to produce anything like a union or joining of the trade systems of the Atlantic and Pacific.

They are distinct and separate, and will so remain, unless joined by a waterway through the

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American Isthmus. This done, we should with reason expect a gradual mingling of the elements and factors of transportation and, as the new necessities were felt and the new conveniences realized, there would gradually be effected changes of great importance to the commerce of the world —far more so than the changes which Suez effected as between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. More remarkable still, however, in my belief, will be the great increase of trade; the creation of new productiveness in many fields hitherto unworked, resulting from the completion of the canal and the consequent opening of convenient markets and active demands for the various commodities produced.

Let us go a little more into detail and, with our eyes upon the map, once more discuss the effects of the Canal's completion. I shall be glad at any time to be interrupted in this description with suggestions, for there are many doubtless among you who have studied the trade routes of the Pacific and to whose knowledge as to details I will readily defer in this division of my subject.

The most marked of the immediate effects will be observed between New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico, and Guayaquil and the other ports on the West Coast of South-America and Mexico. The distance by water now from New Orleans to Guayaquil is 11,683 miles; by the Canal it will be be 2,340 miles, a saving of 9,343 miles.

New Orleans is the natural port of the populous and productive states of the Mississipi Valley, while the Peruvian Coast has for exchange its guanoes and nitrates.

Next in order of benefit is the communication between New York and San Francisco—between Philadelphia and Puget Sound—as well as the Alaskan Coast. Also the trade of England and Germany with the West Coasts of North and Central and South America. By the Nicaragua Canal the saving in distance between New York and San Francisco is 10,080 miles, between Liverpool and San Francisco 7,182.

The bulk of the traffic passing through the canal will at first consist principally of shipping plying between these last mentioned localities. Upon these lines will, I believe, be seen the development of new trade increasing with great rapidity. The difficulties and expense of the voyage around Cape Horn have restricted the transportation, and hence the production, of many commodities to the point almost of prohibition. When the products of Peru and Chili, the coffee and cocoa of Mexico and Central America, the grain of California, the lumber of Vancouver and Alaska can be placed in the markets of the United States and Europe at prices largely reduced by the cheaper transportation afforded by the Canal, then we shall see a greater demand for these products, and hence larger areas of those almost virgin coasts will be utilised, and the present traffic now ready to use the Canal will be dwarfed by the volume of new trade, whose existence will depend upon such a Canal.

There is, as we all know, a railway across the Panama Isthmus, but the necessity of breaking bulk twice makes its general use for large trade impracticable. It need not therefore be dwelt upon as a serious factor in this discussion.

I have said that the first and most notable users of the Canal would be the ships plying between the ports of Europe and the East of America on the one hand, and the West Coasts of the American Continent on the other. The trans-Pacific countries would need more time to become convinced of the advantage they would derive from a Nicaragua Canal.

In the first place the distances *via* the Suez Canal are as little as, and in some cases less than, those *via* Nicaragua. Speaking generally, there is not much difference between Suez and Nicaragua in passing from Western Europe to New Zealand or Japan; while to Australia and Southern China the difference is in favour of Suez. The route by Suez has also the advantage of convenient coaling stations, and much local traffic; and finally, it has been long established, and many interests have grown up around it. Commerce is conservative, looking always with doubt upon any suggestion of change.

But there are many features in the Nicaragua route which will gradually commend themselves with great force to certain Pacific localities, and to none more than to Japan.

By the Suez route Japan, although a terminal point, sees between itself and Europe more than one "way station" whose commerce with Europe overshadows that of Japan. India and Farther India, the East Indies and Southern China, make up so large a percentage of the Suez traffic that Japan suffers by comparison, and although really a terminus, does not have such corresponding commercial weight and importance as a terminus should possess. This, though perhaps natural, is not desirable for a great nation, whose evident destiny is to become one of the commercial powers of the world, in virtue of its admirable maritime location and the vigour and intelligence of its people. Japan cannot be satisfied until its trade is in every sense direct between its ports and London, Hamburg, and New York, and not simply a minor incident of the Indo-Chinese-European traffic. There must be no ports or coasts intervening between Yokohama and New York, between Kobe and London, which outweigh or even approach in importance the terminal ports of the route. I think all will agree with me that this is an essential condition to the development of great commercial qualities.

With these considerations in our mind it is easy to perceive that the Nicaragua Canal offers to Japan the final solution of the problem. Direct communication now exists with the western coast of North America, but that coast is as yet in its commercial infancy. The Nicaragua Canal will provide that direct intercourse between Yokohama, Kobe, Hakodate, Nagasaki, and Hamburg, London, New York, New Orleans.

This trade will not be limited in its powers of expansion as is the mail steamer and passenger service. Over this route will pass the principal heavy exports and imports to and from Japan and the Atlantic nations. By this route the opportunity at once presents itself to Japanese merchants and shipping to start their own lines of steamers and sailing ships between Japan and the Atlantic countries. By this cheaper route merchandise will be landed in foreign markets with less burthensome freight charges, and hence be sold at lower prices. Thus the demand increases, and greater areas of Japan are called into the productive field, while its industries, responding to the demand, widen their scope of manufacture. These healthy influences react upon each other, and more Japanese shipping will be needed to transport the increased amounts of products. But I need not dwell too long upon the important results flowing from a direct, uninterrupted trade communication between the Japan terminus and those at New York and Liverpool, for I believe the intelligence of this audience will quickly perceive its value for a nation like Japan, which is just beginning to stretch out its hand to grasp some at least of the world's trade.

I will here interrupt the discussion of the trade conditions in order to touch upon one feature that we have not yet considered. It is a matter of importance, and is destined in the future to hold the close attention of the statesmen of all maritime nations. This feature is the strategic value of the Nicaragua Canal, considered in a naval and military sense, and as a direct result its value in the eyes of politicians and diplomatists. It must appear plain to all present that this waterway between the oceans will be the key to power on both sides of the Continent and in both oceans; and will secure paramount influence to that nation which shall hold it in time of war or upon the approach of war. In these days of swift war steamers, a fleet holding the canal could issue from its western entrance, and within five days strike a blow at any point of the western coast from Peru to California. If the fleet's presence were needed on the Atlantic side, it could reach in three days the Gulf of Mexico or the principal channels in the West Indies, and in four days could be in a position to fight a battle off the Atlantic coast of the United States.

It must not be thought that these facts are only of interest to those nations which lie near the canal. It is not only the United States, Central America and Peru, which are affected by the canal. These countries are indeed near it in a geographical sense, but all maritime nations are near it in a commercial sense. All nations whose ships are to pass though it, who enjoy or hope to enjoy the advantages of foreign trade, will be virtually affected by anything which may happen to the canal in peace, and especially so in war. We know for example that Egypt is the nearest of all countries to the Suez Canal, while among European nations England and Germany are the most distant from it geographically.

Yet we know well how vast is the importance in a commercial sense of the Suez Canal to those distant nations, and how great would be their losses if in time of war their merchant steamers should find the canal closed to their passage.

It is therefore not only the nations of America that will have much at stake in the affairs of a Nicaragua Canal, but Europe, Japan, New Zealand must watch carefully that a passage for their ships be always kept open. This interest of the world's trade in the Nicaragua Canal will doubtless result in certain conventions or treaties between all nations, which shall provide for the unobstructed use of the Canal, whether in peace or war. The Republics of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, through whose territories the Canal is to pass, are inhabited by a brave and intelligent people, but their numbers are so small that it may be expedient for some more powerful nation to guarantee to them and to the nations of the world the absolute neutrality of the Nicaragua Canal.

The strategic value of the Canal is enhanced by the existence of the great sheet of fresh water, Lake Nicaragua, which is its summit level. Ships are now built of steel, and their bottoms when in sea water become quickly covered with a growth of barnacles and grass, which seriously impedes their speed and efficiency.

But fleets may lie at ease in the lake, keeping their hulls clean in the fresh water, while their crews grow healthy and vigorous in the salubrious atmosphere of that most healthful locality. Here in this wonderful inland lake, a fleet of swift and powerful war ships could await the proper moment, and sallying out from either entrance, strike powerful blows against an enemy, and returning to the lake could coal and repair while preserving in the highest degree the speed and efficiency of its ships, the health and discipline of their crews.

It is this lake which gives to the canal a strategic importance unique and significant. I believe the future will show it to be in this respect unparalled in the history of the world.

Taking up again the thread of our subject, and discussing the development of trade in the Pacific Ocean, resulting from the opening of a canal across the American Isthmus, it is proper to notice the difficulties, as well as the advantages, that will be encountered. In the first place, this canal will not provide rapid transportion for the merchandise of most of the countries whose shipping will use it. It will provide a cheap and convenient route, but not especially a speedy one. The Western coasts of South America and Mexico are an exception to this, and for them a most rapid transit will be provided by the canal, to New Orleans, New York, and Western Europe. But it may safely be predicted that mails and passengers from Japan will continue to pass across the Pacific and by rail across North America. For most of the maritime nations of the world the Nicaragua Canal will be a freight route.

Such being the case, and as the cargo steamers of Japan, the U. S. and Europe are to make large use of it in the future, it is desirable to examine all possible routes across the Pacific, which may be used in connection with such a Canal. We here come upon a notable difficulty, the lack of sufficient coaling stations. Those of my hearers who are familiar with shipping are well aware that for cargo steamers it is of first importance that coaling ports should not be too distant from each other along their routes of travel, for the cargo steamer must not be obliged to fill up with its coal supply too much of its stowage space and thus restrict unduly the amount of cargo it can carry.

This difficulty will be principally felt on the Southern route across the Pacific by the Western bound steamers. Those Eastern bound from Japan to the Canal will find their best route on a great circle between Yokohama, San Francisco, and Puget Sound, which will carry them quite near the Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific, among which a convenient coaling station can be selected, which will break the long distance between Hakodate and Puget Sound. On the Southern route, however, there will be felt a great need for a coal port West of the Sandwich Islands. The only points available are in the Marshall Islands or the Caroline Group—but none of these islands produce anything to export in large quantities, and the vessels that should take coal there, could expect no return cargo. Coal supplies at such points would be therefore kept up only at great and undue expense. These groups of Islands are also so far to the southward that they would cause too great a deflection from a vessel's course after leaving the Sandwich Islands, unless she proposed to visit Manila and the Chinese Coast before proceeding to Japan. In that case the natural route for a cargo steamer would be a circuit. It would leave the Canal and pass along the West coasts of Central America and Mexico, touching where desirable, and filling its bunkers at Mazatlan in Mexico. Thence it would steer West for the Sandwich Islands, take coal there and proceed to one of the Caroline or Marshall Islands. Thence to Manila, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama. From Yokohama a great circle route to San Francisco or Puget Sound would be the course to steer, touching if desirable at Hakodate, and of necessity at the coal port selected in the Aleutian Islands. By this means we would reduce the distances between coaling stations to about 2,000 miles, which is not excessive for a cargo steamer.

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It is interesting to notice that in following this route to San Francisco and continuing down the coast of America to Nicaragua, the total distance traversed is about 7,000 miles; while the route from Yokohama to Nicaragua by way of Honolulu is about 7,500 miles. The distance, which appears on these maps to be much the shorter *vid* Honolulu, is in reality 590 miles longer. In addressing this distinguished Society of geographers, to whom maps and charts are familiar, I need not dwell upon the cause of this apparent discrepancy. Mercator's method of projection, though convenient in many ways, has, as the Society knows, the fault of distorting the higher latitudes, thus producing such errors as I have mentioned. To compare intelligently the distances covered by different routes a projection is needed which will exhibit the great circles of the earth as straight lines. Such is the Gnomonic Projection, of which I have here a chart, and whose principles I will take pleasure in discussing with any of the gentlemen present who may not be familiar with that method. I have referred to this projection because of its close connection with the study of Trans-Pacific routes.

It is possible that the difficulties of the Southern route via the Sandwich Islands in the matter of coaling stations, may cause it to be abandoned, and the westward bound shipping to follow the same line to Japan as the eastward bound vessels from here to America. For sailing ships, however, and the slow cargo steamers to whom economy of coal is a great desideratum, there is still much to recommend the southern route when coming to the westward. The steady trade winds from the north-east, the favouring currents, the quiet weather and the smooth seas are strong arguments for ships which are to carry the cheaper and heavier merchandise of the world. In any case we have for the eastern bound traffic one natural route, namely by a great circle to the American coast and down that coast to the Nicaragua Canal. For the western bound shipping we have a choice between the southern route, longer but with better weather, and the northern route, shorter but with less favourable weater.

Five years must elapse before the Nicaragua Canal is open, but that period can be well devoted to a thorough study of the future commercial situation, and to preparation which will enable Japan to avail itself of the advantages to be then provided.

The time at my disposal permits me only to touch upon many points which deserve more thorough discussion, but I shall be well satisfied if this slight and superficial consideration of the subject should draw the attention of some of the able minds of this distinguished Society to the approaching change in commercial conditions due to a Nicaragua Canal.

The opening of that Canal will in my opinion mark the beginning of a great development in Japan's foreign trade, and signalize its entry to the brotherhood of commercial nations. When that day comes Japan will be welcomed by all countries, and by none more cordially than by her trans-Pacific friend, the United States of America. I thank you, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Geographical Society for the patience with which you have listened to me. It will give me much pleasure to reply to any further questions which gentleman may wish to ask on this subject.

A Japanese gentleman, addressing Capt. Taylor, wished to know the time required for the passage of a steamer from one end of the canal to the other.

The LECTURER stated that the amount of traffic which could pass through the canal was determined by the time it took one vessel to do the distance. Each lock required 45 minutes and the total time from ocean to ocean was 28 hours. Entering from Greytown Harbour, the speed for the first few miles would be 4 miles an hour through the narrow cuttings, with 6 miles an hour in the River, and 10 miles an hour in the Lake of Nicaragua. The total capacity of the canal was calculated at 20 millions of tons per annum at the above speeds. The canal would be furnished with electric lighting apparatus which would admit of ships using it with equally as much ease at night as in the day time. If the calculations had been for day work only, they should have been stated as 10 millions of tons. The average was about 14 vessels per day. The Lecturer also explained some of the charts to his hearers, and this terminated the proceedings.

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

January 24th, 1891.

The January holidays were not, this year, very enjoyable in Izumo. Just before Christmas we had a few exquisite days, during which Dai-Sen, the Fuji of Izumo (*Izumo Fuji* it is called by the people) revealed its magnificent snowy cone in the sky, far above the hills that ring in the beautiful city and lake. I think that such a charming vision of Dai-Sen usually augurs bad weather, just as, before a hurricane in the tropics, I have seen the sky become singularly beautiful and all the peaks standing out in strangely sharpened beauty against the loveliest of skies. The New Year began with a terrific rain-and-wind storm. It lasted nearly two weeks—almost the whole time of the holidays. In the city the force of the wind was extraordinary; and Lake Shinji roared like a sea. The police stationed themselves at the entrances to the main bridge, and prohibited every one from crossing the Ohashi, so that one district of the city was temporarily isolated from the other. Before this measure was taken, it had seemed quite possible that the bridge would give way to the fury of the storm, and a child who had tried to cross, was bodily lifted up by the wind and flung into the lake. The child swam like a fish, however, and made its way safely to shore. Shipping in the port was slightly damaged—masts and cabins being in some cases carried away. After a few days of this foul weather, and oceans of rain, there came a brief lull—sharp cold weather, frost, and a slight snow.

The lull gave me a chance to see something very interesting to a stranger—Matsue robed in Shinto attire for the celebation of the New Year. I suppose, in all parts of Japan, the holiday decorations are about the same:—the pine-trees and bamboos planted at every house-door, *shimenawa* over the entrance, the crossed flags above the gates bearing the symbol of the Red Sun. But in Matsue I think there were some unique features. Here the houses are nearly all of exactly the same height, and the awning at the same level. Consequently the *shimenawa*, on either side of the street, presented one symmetrical unbroken line as far as the eye could see. Here the people do not put up little thin straw cords. The *shimenawa* in Izumo are always massive and heavily fringed, and decorated with *gohei* at short entervals. I noticed a great many fern fronds interwoven with them. In all the houses, the *tokos* were decked with similar *shimenawa*; and upon the *kamidana*, the offerings of fresh rice cakes, laid upon white paper, and surrounded by fern fronds and sprays of the plants sacred to Shinto, were illuminated by lamps kindled at the sacred fire, which must be made by a flint and steel—never by match.

Soon after the lull, the bad weather set in again with great fury. One week ago it began to snow tremendously. In twenty-four hours the snow before my house had drifted in places to the height of four feet. *Kuruma* could scarcely be moved by two men. This snow continued for five days, accompanied with a very bitter wind. I never saw a heavier snow-fall, even in Western America; but the thermometer never went below zero. The day before yesterday became beautiful and sunny, and—fatal omen—Dai-Sen appears once more enchantingly beautiful. Thereafter more rain, more snow, more wind; and misery of cold in Japanese houses facing the lake.

The people say that such weather has not been known here before for more than fifteen years. It is very trying to persons of weak lungs. We have, however, as yet escaped the influenza: the wind from the Asiatic coast is blowing against the path of the infection, whose march is westward. Perhaps we ought to be grateful for the storms.

LETTER FROM DENVER.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Denver, Colo., December 20th.

The end of the year generally sees some stringency in the money market, but the most salient feature of the last few weeks has been a growing distrust and disquiet in commercial centres. Denver is still chiefly dependent on outside capital. Ten years ago its own resources were of course still most limited, and a period of "booming" was certain to be followed by a sharp reaction. We are not, and are not likely soon to become, self-reliant enough to keep the even tenor of our way when London and New York frown on speculation. We may brag of our progress, but after all it is the fruit of Eastern capital. The present experience reduces our selfsufficiency and abates our enthusiasm. If the pulse of the commercial world can best be felt on Wall street or in London, when that pulse runs slow and feeble we in the extremities get very cold. But present difficulties seem to be entirely due to lack of confidence and daring. Banks have been calling in every available dollar; and one of the largest of those institutions has boasted that in case of a run upon it every depositor could be paid in full. The result of this accumulation by the banks is that it is next to impossible to obtain a loan even on the best security. A gentleman whose estate is worth at least a million and a quarter cannot borrow a couple of thousand. But it is of course the smaller firms and those who have tried to conduct a big business with small capital who feel the pressure most severely, and many of them have gone to the wall. We confidently hope that, so soon as the semi-annual statements have been made by the banks and the inspector has been satisfied with abundant evidence of wealth, the stringency will give way, and Denver will boom as merrily as before. I imagine, however, that it is not merely Denver bankers who are pursuing this policy, and that we may possibly find it a matter of months instead of weeks before confidence is restored.

Nothing will satisfy the West now but a free coinage measure. Silver, we are told, has been the tool of unprincipled speculation and the silver miners have been its victims. Probably the immediate adoption of such a measure would make things easier for the present. But he would be a brave man who should dare to say that the free coinage of silver in this country would certainly issue in the permanent relief of commerce. Unquestionably in many respects it would be better than the present law. That law may be certainly called a failure. It simply offered a premium to the most skillful juggler in bullion. It did not secure a steady and high price for silver. A friend of mine, a banker, tells me that the best results may be expected from free coinage. But inasmuch as the silver question affects the whole world's trade, it does not seem possible for any one country to solve it finally. Some good might be done by a determined conference of business men and capitalists of all commercial centres, if mutual trust and the conviction of identical interests could but gain ascendency. In these days of universal intercourse it is fatal to the stability of trade for a medium of exchange to suffer constant variety through the separate action of individual nations, and through these are truisms they are commonly disregarded. One thing seems quite certain, namely, that the relative value of silver and gold is of less importance than the fixity of that value. And consequently the matter best desiring attention and decision is what shall that value be. Silver producers of course want a high price,—will be content with nothing short of the old standard. And yet it is hard to see how any metal can obtain a fictitious value largely higher than its value as a commodity merely by receiving a certain stamp. Our democracy had better study Locke's refutation of Lowndes if that theory is in their minds.

The last month has brought its full tale of drunken crime. The most recent instance was fatal to a well-known bully whose early days were spent in the prize ring. This ornament of life would seek the plaudits of his friends by exercising his pugilistic powers on inoffensive pedestrians; and as he kept a saloon he could generally make his peace with the guardians of that virtue. No one doubts that his assailant was an injured man, drugged by vile liquor, swindled by unscrupulous cunning, and maddened by loss. And no one seriously expects the murderer to be severely punished or regrets the disappearance of the burly scoundrel who paid so dear a penalty for his crimes. But it is an interesting fact that scores of red-eyed, heavy looking men paid a sort of drunken tribute to the dead by hanging about the coroner's office as long as the body lay there.

But the subject that overtops all others in point of interest is the Indian scare. It has been threatening for months. To an onlooker, however, most remarkable is the fact that from the beginning there seems to have been no evidence of evil doing, no instance of unprovoked violence on the part of the Indians. The settlers and they make bad neighbours. A kind of religious frenzy had recently taken possession especially of the Sioux. They engaged in what is called a ghost-dance, almost starving themselves, exerting their endurance to the utmost, and consequently were subject to trance and visions. They expect the advent of a Messiah or Saviour. If this hope assumes startling and sensuous forms it proves nothing against the Indians. The very same hope often takes on

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equally grotesque forms among the followers of a more enlightened faith. When men watch their nation dwindle, their lands fall into the possession of an alien and more crafty people, the terrible coil of fate closing on them in ever narrowing circles, is it wonderful that they should expect supernatural deliverance? And when harassed by the settlers, goaded into some kind of rebellion by men waiting for their inheritance and ready to find a flimsy pretext to win aid from Government forces, it would be very strange if brave hearts did not ever and anon burst into a flame of hated and kindle a war of desperation. This seems to be the genesis of the present trouble. On the one hand, there are no doubt many far-seeing and politic men among the tribes, who see the folly of resistance, the hopelessness of regaining freedom. Their buffaloes are extinct, and if they chase them they must first cross the dark abyss over which the beasts have been driven. A single generation has made the old free life impossible for evermore. And in their sane moments the Indians know it. Some among them appear content to live as paupers on the rations allowed by the Government. But there are not wanting more adventurous ones, whose valour would cast prudence to the winds, and these are the creators of the present mischief. It is a sad sight, but inevitable so long as material progress is the highest object of the white man's ambition. And there does not seem any ground for hoping that the white man will voluntarily recede from his present opinion as to the value of material wealth. If he does so it will be through sheer disgust and weariness and the gradual growth of the conviction that not by any abundance of "the resources of civilisation" will the spiritual wants of himself and his children be satisfied.

THE RECORD OF BADALIA HERODSFOOT.

By Rudyard Kipling.

The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his heaven—
All's right with the world;
Pippa passes.

This is not that Badalia whose spare names were Joanna, Pugnacious, and McCannat as the song says, but another and much nicer lady.

In the beginning of things she had been unregenerate; had worn the heavy, fluffy fringe which is the ornament of the costermonger's girl, and there is a legend in Gunnison-street that on her wedding-day she, a flare-lamp in either hand, danced dances on a discarded lover's winkle barrow till a policeman interfered, and them Badalia danced with the Law amid shoutings. Those were her days of fatness, and they did not last long, for her husband after two years took to himself another woman, and passed out of Badalia's life over Badalia's senseless body; for he stifled protest with blows. While she was enjoying her widowhood the baby that the husband had not taken away died of croup, and Badalia was altogether alone. With rare fidelity she listened to no proposals for a second marriage according to the customs of Gunnison-street, which do not differ from those of the Barralong. "My man," she explained to her suitors, "'e'll come back one o' these days, an' then, like as not, 'e'll take an' kill me if I was livin' 'long o' you. You don't know Tom; I do. Now you go. I can do for myself—not 'avin' a kid." She did for herself with a mangle, some tending of babies, and an occasional sale of flowers. This latter trade is one that needs capital, and takes the vendor very far westward, in so much that the return journey from, let, us say, the Burlington Arcade to Gunnison-street, E., is an excuse for drink, and then, as Badalia pointed out, "You come 'ome with your shawl arf off of your back, an' your bonnick under your arm, and the price of nothing at-all in your pocket, let alone a slop takin' care o' you." Badalia did not drink, but she knew her sisterhood, and gave them rude counsel. Otherwise she kept herself to herself, and meditated a great deal upon Tom Herodsfoot, her husband, who would come back some day, and the baby that would never return. In what manner these thoughts wrought upon her mind will not be known.

Her entry into society dates from the night when she rose literally under the feet of the Reverend Eustace Hanna, on the landing of No. 17, Gunnison-street, and told him that he was a fool, without discernment in the dispensation of his district charities.

"You give Lacar Loo custids," said she, without the formality of introduction; "give her pork-wine. Garn! Give'er blankits. Garn 'ome! 'Er mother, she eats 'em all, and drinks the blankits. Gits 'em back from the shop, she does, before you come visiting again so as to 'ave 'em all handy, an' Lascar Loo she sez to you, 'Oh, my mother's that good to me!' she do. Lascar Loo 'ad better talk so, bein' sick abed, 'r else 'er mother would kill 'er. Garn! you're a bloomin' gardener—you an' yer custids! Lascar Loo don't never smell of 'em even."

Thereon the curate, instead of being offended, recognised in the heavy eyes under the fringe the soul of a fellow worker, and so bade Badalia mount guard over Lascar Loo, when the next jelly or custard should arrive, to see that the invalid actually ate it. This Badalia did, to the disgust of Lascar Loo's mother, and the sharing of black eye between the three; but Lascar Loo got her custard, and coughing heartily, rather enjoyed the fray.

Later on, partly through the Reverend Eustace Hanna's swift recognition of her uses, and partly through certain tales poured out with moist eyes and flushed cheeks by Sister Eva, youngest and most impressionable of the Little Sisters of the Red Diamond, it came to pass that Badalia, arrogant, fluffy-fringed, and perfectly unlicensed in speech, won a recognised place among such as labour in Gunnison-street.

These were a mixed corps, zealous or hysterical, faint-hearted or only very wearied of battle against misery, according to their lights. The most part were consumed with small rivalries and personal jealousies, to be retailed confidentially to their own tiny cliques in the pauses between wrestling with death for the body of a moribund laundress, or scheming for further mission-grants to resole a consumptive compositor's very consumptive boots. There was a rector that lived in dread of pauperising the poor, would fain have held bazaars for fresh altar cloths, and prayed in secret for a new large brass bird, with eyes of red glass, fondly believed to be carbuncles. There was Brother Victor, of the Order of Little Ease, who knew a great deal about altar cloths but kept his knowledge in the background while he strove to propitiate Mrs. Jessel, the Secretary of the Tea Cup Board, who had money to dispense but hated Rome—even though Rome would, on its honour, do no more than fill the stomach, leaving the dazed soul to the mercies of Mrs. Jessel. There were all the Little Sisters of the Red Diamond, daughters of the horseleech, crying "Give" when their own charity was exhausted, and pitifully explaining to such as demanded an account of their disbursements in return for one half-sovereign, that relief work in a bad district can hardly be systematised on the accounts' side without expensive duplication of staff. There was the Reverend Eustace Hanna, who worked impartially with Ladies' Committees, Androgynous Leagues and Guilds, Brother Victor, and anybody else who could give him money, boots, or blankets, or that more precious help that allows itself to be directed by those who know. And all these people learned, one by one, to consult Badalia on matters of personal character, right to relief, and hope of eventual reformation in Gunnison-street. Her answers were seldom cheering, but she possessed special knowledge and complete confidence in herself.

"I'm Gunnison-street," she said to the austere Mrs. Jessel. "I know what's what, *I* do, an' they don't want your religion, Mum, not a single ——. Excuse me. It's all right when they comes to die, Mum, but till they die what they wants is things to eat. The men they'll shif' for themselves. That's why Nick Lapworth sez to you that 'e wants to be confirmed an' all that. 'E won't never lead no new life, nor 'is wife won't get no good out o' all the money you gives 'im. No more you can't pauperise them as 'asn't things to begin with. They're bloomin' well pauped. The women they can't shif' for themselves—'specially bein' always confined. 'Ow should they? They wants things if they can get 'em anyways. If not they dies, and a good job too, for women is cruel put upon in Gunnison-street."

"Do you believe that—that Mrs. Herodsfoot is altogether a proper person to trust funds to?" said Mrs. Jessel to the curate after this conversation. "She seems to be utterly godless in her speech at least."

The curate agreed. She was godless according to Mrs. Jessel's views, but did not Mrs. Jessel think that since Badalia knew Gunnison-street and its needs, as none other knew it, she might in a humble way, be, as it were, the scullion of charity from purer sources, and that if say, the Tea Cup Board could give a few shillings a week, and the Little Sisters of the Red Diamond a few more, and, yes, he himself could raise yet a few more, the total, not at all likely to be excessive, might be handed over to Badalia to dispense among her associates. Thus Mrs. Jessel herself would be set free to attend more directly to the spiritual wants of certain large-limbed, hulking men who sat picturesquely on the lower benches of her gatherings and sought for truth—which is quite as precious as silver, when you know the market for it.

"She'll favour her own friends," said Mrs. Jessel. The curate refrained from mirth, and, after wise flattery, carried his point. To her unbounded pride Badalia was appointed the dispenser of a grant—a weekly trust, to be held for the benefit of Gunnision-street.

"I don't know what we can get together each week," said the curate to her. "But here are seventeen shillings to start with. You do what you like with them among your people, only let me know how it goes so that we shan't get muddled in the accounts. D'you see?"

"Ho, yuss! 'Taint much though, is it?" said Badalia, regarding the white coins in her palm. The sacred fever of the administrator, only known to those who have tasted power, burned in her veins. "Boots is boots, unless they're give you, an' then they ain't fit to wear unless they're mended top an' bottom; an' jellies; an' I don't think anything o' that cheap pork-wine, but it all comes to something. It'll go quicker 'n a quarter of gin—seventeen bob. An' I'll keep a book—same as I used do before Tom went an' took up 'long o' that pan-faced slut in Hennessy's Rents. We was the only barrer that key' regiar books, mean'—'im."

She bought a large copy-book—her unschooled handwriting demanded room—and in it she wrote the story of her war; boldly, as befits a general, and for no other eyes than her own and those of the Reverend Eustace Hanna. Long ere the pages were full the mottled cover had been soaked in kerosene—Lascar Loo's mother, defrauded of her percentage on her daughter's custards, invaded Badalia's room in 17, Gunison-street, and fought with her to the damage of the lamp and her own hair. It was hard, too, to carry the precious "pork wine" on one hand and the book in the other through an eternally thirsty land; so red stains were added to those of the oil. But the Reverend Eustace Hanna, looking at the matter of the book, never objected. The generous scrawls told their own tale, Badalia every Saturday night supplying the chorus between the written statements thus:—

Mrs. Hikkey, very ill brandy 3d. Cap for hospital, she had to go, 1s. Mrs. Poone confined. In money for tea (she took it I know, sir) 6d. Met her husband out looking for work.

"I slapped 'is face for a bone-idle beggar? 'E won't get no work this side o'— excuse me, sir. Won't you go on?" The curate continued—

Mrs. Vincent. Confid. No linning for baby. Most untidy. In money 2s. 6d. Some cloths from Miss Eva.

"Did Sister Eva do that?" said the curate very softly. Now charity was Sister Eva's bounden duty, yet to one man's eyes each act of her daily toil was a manifestation of angelic grace and goodness—a thing to perpetually admire.

"Yes, sir. She went back to the Sisters' 'Ome an' took 'em off 'er own bed. Most beautiful marked too. Go on, sir. That makes up four and thruppence."

Mrs. Funnett to keep good firee coals is up. 7d.

Mrs. Lockhart took a baby to nurse to earn a triffle but mother can'd pay husband summons over and over. He won't help. Cash 2s. 2d. Worked in a ketchin but had to leave. Fire, tea, and shin of beef, 1s. 7½d.

"There was a fight there, sir," said Badalia. "Not me, sir. 'Er 'usband, o' course 'e come in at the wrong time, was wishful to 'ave the beef, so I calls up the next floor an' down comes that mulatter man wot sells the sword-stick canes, top o' Ludgate 'ill. 'Muley,' sez I, 'you big black beast, you, take an' kill this big white beast 'ere.' I knew I couldn't stop Tom Lockart all drunk, with the beef in 'is 'ands. 'I'll beef 'm,' sez Muley, an, 'e did it, with that pore woman a-cryin' in the next room, an' the top banisters on that landin' is broke out, but she got 'er beef-tea, an' Tom 'e's got 'is gruel. Will you go on, sir?

"No, I think it will be all right. I'll sign for the week," said the curate. One gets so used to these things profanely called human documents.

"Mrs. Churner's baby's got diptheery," said Badalia, turning to go.

"Where's that? The Churners of Painter's-alley, or the other Churners in Houghton-street?"

"Houghton-street. The Painter's-alley sold out 'an left."

"Sister Eva's sitting one night a week with old Mrs. Probyn in Houghton-street—isn't she?" said the curate, uneasily.

"Yes; but she won't sit no longer. *I've* took up Mrs. Probyn. I can't talk 'er no religion, but she don't want it; an' Miss Eva she don't want no diptheery, tho' she sez she does. Don't *you* be afraid for Miss Eva."

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"But—but you'll get it, perhaps."

"Like as not." She looked the curate between the eyes, and her own eyes flamed under the fringe. "Maybe I'd like to get it, for aught you know."

The curate thought upon these words for a little time till he began to think of Sister Eva in the grey cloak with the white bonnet ribbon under the chin. Then he thought no more of Badalia.

What Badalia thought was never expressed in words, but it is known in Gunnison street that Lascar Loo's mother, sitting blind drunk on her own doorstep, was that night captured and wrapped up in the war-cloud of Badalia's wrath so that she did not know whether she stood on her head or her heels, and after being soundly bumped on every particular stair up to her room, was set down on Badalia's bed, there to whimper and quiver till the dawn, protesting that all the world was against her, and calling on the names of children long since slain by dirt and neglect. Badalia, snorting, went out to war, and since the hosts of the enemy were many, found enough work to keep her busy till the dawn.

As she had promised, she took Mrs. Probyn into her own care, and began by nearly startling the old lady into a fit with the announcement that "there ain't no God like as not, an' if there *is* it don't matter to you or me, an' any'ow you take this jelly." Sister Eva objected to being shut off from her pious work in Houghton street, but Badalia insisted, and by fair words and the promise of favours to come so prevailed on three or four of the more sober men of the neighbourhood that they blockaded the door whenever Sister Eva attempted to force an entry, and pleaded the diphtheria as their excuse. "I've got to keep 'er out o' arm's way." said Badalia, "an' out she keeps. The curick won't care a —— for me, but—he wouldn't any'ow."

The effect of that quarantine was to shift the sphere of Sister Eva's activity to other streets, and notably those most haunted by the Reverend Eustace Hanna and Brother Victor, of the Order of Little Ease. There exists, for all their human bickerings, a very close brotherhood in the ranks of those whose work lies in Gunnison street. To begin with they have seen pain—pain that no word or deed of theirs can alleviate—life born into Death, and Death crowded down by unhappy life. Also they understand the full significance of drink, which is a knowledge hidden from very many well-meaning people, and some of them have fought with the beasts at Ephesus. They meet at unseemly places, exchange a word or two of hasty counsel or advice, or suggestion, and pass on to their appointed toil, since time is precious and lives hang in the balance of five minutes. For many, the gas-lamps are their sun, and the Covent Garden wains the chariots of the twilight. They have all in their station begged for money, so that the freemasonry of the mendicant binds them together.

To all these influences there was added in the case of two workers that thing which men have agreed to call Love. The possible chance of Sister Eva's catching diphtheria did not enter into the curate's head till Badalia had spoken. Then it seemed a thing intolerable and monstrous that she should be exposed not only to this risk, but any accident whatever of the streets. A wain coming round a corner might kill her; the rotten staircases on which she trod daily and nightly might collapse and maim her; there was danger in the tottering coping-stones of certain crazy houses that he knew well, danger more deadly within those houses. What if one of a thousand drunken men crushed out that precious life? A woman had once flung a chair at the curate's head. Sister Eva's arm would not be strong enough to ward off a chair. There were also knives that were apt to fly. These and other considerations cast the soul of the Reverend Eustace Hanna into torment, that no leaning upon Providence could relieve. God was indubitably great and terrible—one had only to walk through Gunnison-street to see that much—but it would be better, vastly better, that Eva should have the protection of his own arm. And the world that was not too busy to watch might have seen a woman, not too young, light-haired and light-eyed, slightly assertive in her speech, and very limited in such ideas as lay beyond the immediate sphere of her duty, where the eyes of the Reverend Eustace Hanna turned to follow the footsteps of a Queen crowned in a little grey bonnet with white ribbons under the chin.

If that bonnet appeared for a moment at the bottom of a court-yard, or nodded at him on a dark staircase, then there was hope yet for Lascar Loo, living on one lung and the memory of past excesses, hope even for whining, sodden Nick Lapworth, blaspheming in the hope of money over the pangs of a "true conversion this time, s'elp me Gawd, sir." If that bonnet did not appear for a day, the mind of the curate was filled with lively pictures of horror, visions of stretchers, a crowd at some villainous cross-ing, and a policeman—he could see that policeman—jerking out over his shoulder the details of the accident, and ordering the man who would have set his body against the wheels—heavy dray wheels, he could see them—to "move on." Then there was less hope for the salvation of Gunnison-street and all in it.

Which agony Brother Victor beheld one day when he was coming from a death bed. He saw the light in the eye, the relaxing muscles of the mouth, and heard a new ring in the voice that had told flat all the forenoon. Sister Eva had turned into Gunnison-street after a forty-eight hours' eternity of absence. She had not been run over. Brother Victor's heart must have suffered in some human fashion, or he would never have seen what he saw. But the law of his Church made suffering easy. His duty was to go on with his work until he died, even as Badalia went on. She, magnifying her office, faced the drunken husband; coaxed the doubly shiftless, thriftless, girl wife into a little forethought, and begged clothes when and where she could for the scrofulous babes that multiplied like the green scum on the water cisterns.

The story of her deeds was written in the book that the curate signed weekly, but she never told him any more of fights and tumults in the street.

"Mis' Eva does 'er work 'er way. I does mine mine. But I do more than Mis' Eva ten times over, an' 'Thank yer, Badalia,' sez 'e—'that'll do for this week' I wonder what Tom's doin' now long o' that—other woman. 'Seems like as if I'd go an' look at 'im one o' these days. But I'd cut 'er liver out—couldn't 'elp myself. Better not go, p'raps."

Hennessy's Rents lay more than two miles from Gunnison-street, and were inhabited by much the same class of people. Tom had established himself there with Jenny Wabstow, his new woman, and for weeks lived in great fear of Badalia's suddenly descending upon him. The prospect of actual fighting did not scare him; but he objected to the police-court that would follow, and the orders for maintenance and other devices of a law that cannot understand the simple rule that "when a man's tired of a woman 'e ain't such a bloomin' fool as to live with 'er no more, an' that's the long an' short of it." For some months his new wife wore very well, and kept Tom in a state of decent fear and consequent orderliness. Also work was plentiful. Then a baby was born, and, following the law of his kind, Tom, little interested in the children he helped to produce, sought distraction in drink. He had confined himself, as a rule, to beer, which is stupefying and comparatively innocuous; at least, it clogs the legs, and though the heart may ardently desire to kill, sleep comes swiftly, and the crime often remains undone. Spirits, being more volatile, allow both the flesh and the soul to work together—generally to the inconvenience of others. Tom discovered that there was merit in whiskey—if you only took enough of it—cold. He took as much he could purchase or get given him, and by the time that his woman was fit to go abroad again, the two rooms of their household were stripped of many valuable articles. Then the woman spoke her mind, not once, but several times, with point, fluency, and metaphor; and Tom was indignant at being deprived of peace at the end of his day's work, which included much whiskey. He therefore withdrew himself from the solace and companionship of Jenny Wabstow, and she therefore pursued him with more metaphors. At the last, Tom would turn round and hit her—sometimes across the head, and sometimes across the breast, and the bruises furnished material for discussion on doorsteps among such women as had been treated in like matter by their husbands. They were not few.

But no very public scandal had occurred till Tom one day saw fit to open negotiations with a young woman on the subject of matrimony according to the laws of free selection. He was getting very tired of Jenny, and the young woman was earning enough from flower-selling to keep him in comfort, whereas Jenny was expecting another baby and most unreasonably expected consideration on this account. The shapelessness of her figure revolted him, and he said as much in the language of his breed. Jenny cried till Mrs. Hart, lineal descendant, and Irish of the "mother to Mike of the donkey-cart," stopped her on her own staircase and whispered: "God be good to you, Jenny, my woman, for I see how 'tis with you." Jenny wept more than ever, and half dazed with the sickness that makes the bannisters swim in the morning, gave Mrs. Hart a penny and some kisses, while Tom was conducing his own wooing at the corner of the street.

The young woman, prompted by pride, not by virtue, told Jenny of his offers, and she spoke to Tom that night. The altercation began in their own rooms, but Tom tried to escape; and in the end all Hennessy's Rents gathered themselves upon the pavement and formed a court to which Jenny appealed from time to time, her hair loose on her neck, her raiment in extreme disorder, and her steps astray from drink. "When your man drinks you'd better drink too! It don't 'urt so much when 'e 'its you then," says the Wisdom of the Women. And surely they ought to know.

"Look at 'im!" shrieked Jenny. "Look at 'im, standin' there without any word to say for himself, that n'd smitch off and leave me an' never so much as a shillin' lef be'ind! You call yourself a man—you call yourself the bleedin' shadow of a man? I've seen better men than you made outer chewed paper and sput out arterwards. Look at 'im! 'E's been drunk since Thursday last an' e'll be drunk s' long's 'e can get drink. 'Es took all I've got, an' me—an'-me—as you see——"

A murmur of sympathy from the women.

"Took it all, he did, an' atop of his blasted pickin' an stealin'—yes, you, you thief—'e goes off an' tries to take up long o' that"—here followed a complete and minute description of the young woman aforementioned. Luckily, she was not on the spot to hear. "'E'll serve 'er as 'e served me? 'E'll drink every bloomin' copper she makes an' then leave 'er alone, same as 'e done me! O women, look you, I've bore 'im one an' there's another on the way, an' e'd up an' leave me as I am now—the stinkin' dorg. An' you may leave me. I don't want none o' our leavin's. Go away. Get away!" The hoarseness of passion overpowered the voice. The crowd attracted a policeman as Tom began to slink away.

"Look at 'im," said Jenny, grateful for the new listener. "Ain't there no law for such as 'im? 'E's took all my money, 'e's beat me once, twice an' over. 'E's swine drunk when 'e aint mad drunk, an' now, an' now e's' trying to pick up along o' another woman. 'Im I give up a four times better man for. Ain't there no law?"

"What's the matter now? You go on into your 'ouse. I'll see to the man. 'As 'e been 'ittin' you?" said the policeman.

"'Ittin' me? 'E's cut my 'eart in two, an' 'e stands there grinnin' as tho' 'twas all a play to 'im."

"You go on into your 'ouse and an' lie down a bit."

"I'm a married woman, I tell you, an' I'll 'ave my 'usband!"

"I ain't done her no bloomin' 'arm," said Tom from the edge of the crowd. He felt that public opinion was running against him.

"You ain't done me any bloomin' good, you dorg. I'm a married woman, I am, an' I won't 'ave my 'usband took from me."

"Well, if you are a married woman, go into the 'ouse," said the policeman soothingly. He was used to domestic brawls.

"Shan't—thank you for your impidence. Look 'ere!" She tore open her dishevelled bodice and showed such crescent-shaped bruises as are made by a well applied chair-back. "That's what 'e done to me acause my heart wouldn't break quick enough! 'E's tried to get in an' break it. Look at that, Tom, that you gave me last night; an' I made it up with you. But that was before I knew what you were tryin' to do long o' that woman——".

"D'you charge 'im?", said the policeman. "'E'll get a month for it, pre'aps."

"No," said Jenny firmly. It was one thing to expose her man to the scorn of the street, and another to lead him to jail.

"Then you go in an' lie down, and you"—this to the crowd—"pass along the pavement, there. Pass along. 'Taint nothing to laugh at." To Tom, who was being sympathised with by his friends, "It's good for you she didn't charge you, but mind this now, the next time," &c.

Tom did not at all appreciate Jenny's forbearance, nor did his friends help to compose his mind. He had whacked the woman because she was a nagging nuisance. For precisely the same reason he had cast about for a new mate. And all his kind acts had ended in a truly painful scene in the street, a most unjustifiable exposure by and of his woman, and a certain loss of caste—this he realised dimly—among his associates. Consequently whiskey was a good thing. His friends condoled with him. Perhaps he had been more hard on his woman than she deserved, but her disgraceful conduct under provocation excused all offence.

"I wouldn't 'ave no more to do with 'er—a woman like that there," said one comforter.

"Let 'er go an' dig for her bloomin' self. A man wears 'isself out to a skeleton shovin' meat down their mouths, while they sit at 'ome easy all day; an' the very fust time, mark you, you 'as a bit of a difference, an' very proper too for a man as *is* a man, she ups an' 'as you out into the street, callin' you Gawd knows what all. What's the good o' that, I arx you?" So spoke the second comforter.

The whiskey was the third, and his suggestion struck Tom as the best of all. He would return

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to Badalia his wife. Probably she would have been away, and he could then vindicate his authority as husband. Certainly she would have money. Single women always seemed to possess the pence that God and the Government denied to hard working men. He refreshed himself with more whiskey. It was beyond any doubt that Badalia would have done something wrong. She might even have married another man. He would wait till the new husband was out of the way, and after kicking Badalia, would get money and a long absent sense of satisfaction. There is much virtue in a creed or a law, but when all is prayed and suffered, drink is the only thing that will make clean all a man's deeds in his own eyes. Pity it is that the effects are not permanent.

Tom parted with his friends, bidding them tell Jenny that he was going to Gunnison-street, and would return to her arms no more. Because this was the devil's message, they remembered and severally delivered it, with drunken distinctness, in Jenny's ears. Then Tom took more drink till his drunkenness rolled back and stood off from him as a wave rolls back and stands off the wreck it will swamp. He reached the traffic-polished black asphalte of a side street and trod warily among the reflections of the shop-lamps that burned in gulfs of pitchy darkness, fathoms beneath his boot-heels. He was very sober indeed. Looking down his past, he beheld that he was justified of all his actions so entirely and perfectly that if Badalia had in his absence dared to lead a blameless life he would smash her for not having gone wrong.

Badalia at that moment was in her own room after the regular nightly skirmish with Lascar Loo's mother. To a reproof as stinging as a Gunnison-street tongue could make it, the old woman, detected for the hundredth time in the theft of the poor delicacies meant for the invalid, could only cackle and answer—

"D'you think Loo's never bilked a man in 'er life? She's dyin' now—on'y she's so cunning long about it. Me! I'll live for twenty years yet."

Badalia shook her, more on principle than in any hope of curing her; and thrust her into the night, where she collapsed on the pavement and called upon the devil to slay Badalia.

He came upon the word in the shape of a man with a very pale face, who asked for her by name. Lascar Loo's mother remembered. It was Badalia's husband—and the return of a husband to Gunnison-street was generally followed by beatings.

"Where's my wife?" said Tom, "Where's my slut of a wife?"

"Upstairs an' be —— to her," said the old woman, falling over on her side. "'Ave you come back for 'er, Tom?"

"Yes. 'Oo's she took up while I've bin gone?"

"All the bloomin' curicks in the parish. She's that set up you wouldn't know 'er."

"'Strewth she is!"

"Oh, yuss. Mor'n that, she's always round an' about with them sniffin' Sisters of Charity an' the curick. Mor'n that, 'e gives 'er money—pounds an' pounds a week. Been keepin' her that way for months, 'e 'as. No wonder you wouldn't 'ave nothin' to do with 'er when you left. An' she keeps me outer the food-stuff they gets for me lyin' dyin' out 'ere like a dorg. She's been a blazin' bad 'un has Badalia since you lef'."

"Got the same room still, 'as she?" said Tom, striding over Lascar Loo's mother, who was picking at the chinks between the pave-stones.

"Yes, but so fine you wouldn't know it."

Tom went up the stairs and the old lady chuckled. Tom was angry. Badalia would not be able to bump people for some time to come, or to interfere with the heaven-appointed distribution of custards.

Badalia, undressing to go to bed, heard feet on the stair that she knew well. Ere they stopped to kick at her door she had, in her own fashion, thought through several volumes of the book of human life.

"Tom's back," she said to herself. "An' I'm glad . . . spite o' the curick an' everythink."

She opened the door, crying his name.

The man pushed her aside.

"I don't want none o' you kissin's an' slaverin's. I'm sick of 'em," said he.

"You ain't 'ad so many neither to make you sick these two years past."

"I've 'ad better. Got any money?"

"On'y a little—orful little."

"That's a —— lie, an you know it."

"Taint—and, oh Tom, what, s the use o' talkin' money the minute you come back. Didn't you like Jenny? I knowed you wouldn't."

"Shut your 'ead. Ain't you got enough to make a man drunk fair?"

"You don't want bein' made more drunk any. You're drunk a'ready. You come to bed, Tom."

"To you?"

"Ay, to me. Ain't I nothin'—spite o' Jenny?"

She put out her arms as she spoke. But the drink held Tom fast.

"Not for me," said he, steadying himself against the wall. "Don't I know 'ow you've been goin' on while I was away, yah!"

"Arsk about!" said Badalia, indignantly, drawing herself together, "'Oo sez anything agin me 'ere?"

"'Oo sez? W'y, everybody. I ain't come back more 'n a minute fore I finds you've been with the curick Gawd knows where. Wot curick was 'e?"

"The curick that's 'ere always," said Badalia, hastily. She was thinking of anything rather than the Rev. Eustace Hanna at that moment. Tom sat down gravely in the only chair in the room. Badalia continued her arrangements for going to bed.

"Pretty thing that," said Tom, "to tell your own lawful married 'usband—an' I guv five bob for the weddin' ring. Curick that's 'ere always! Cool as brass you are. Ain't you got no shame? Ain't 'e under the bed now?

"Tom, you're bleedin' drunk. I ain't done nothin' to be shamed of.'

"You! You don't know wot shame is. But I ain't come 'ere to mess with you. Give me wot you've got, an' then I'll dress you down an' go to Jenny."

"I ain't got nothin' 'cept some coppers an' a shillin' or so."

"Wot's that about the curick keepin' you on five poun' a week?"

"'Oo told you that?"

"Lascar Loo's mother, lyin' on the pavemint outside, an' more honest than you'll ever be. Give me wot you've got!!"

Badalia passed over to a little shell pincushion on the mantelpiece, drew thence four shillings and threepence—the lawful earnings of her mangle—and held them out to the man who was rocking in his chair and surveying the room with wide-opened rolling eyes.

"That ain't five poun'," said he, drowsily.

"I ain't got no more. Take it an' go—if you won't stay."

Tom rose slowly, gripping the arms of the chair. "Wot about the curick's money that 'e guv you?" said he. "Lascar Loo's mother told me. You give it over to me now, or I'll make you."

"Lascar Loo's mother don't know anything about it."

"She do, an' more than you want her to know."

"She don't. I've bumped the 'eart out of 'er, and I can't give you the money. Anythin' else but that, Tom, an' everythin else but that, Tom, I'll give willin' and true. 'Taint my money. Won't the dollar be enough? That money's my trust. There's a book along of it too."

"Your trust? Wot are you doin' with any trust that your 'usband don't know of? You an' your trust! Take you that!"

Tom stepped towards her and delivered a blow of the clenched fist across the mouth. "Give me wot you've got," said he, in the thick, abstracted voice of one talking in dreams.

"I won't," said Badalia, staggering to the washstand. With any other man than her husband she would have fought savagely as a wild cat; but Tom had been absent two years, and, perhaps, a little timely submission would win him back to her. None the less, the weekly trust was sacred.

The wave that had so long held back descended on Tom's brain. He caught Badalia by the throat and forced her to her knees. It seemed just to him in that hour to punish an erring wife for two years of wilful desertion; and the more, in that she had confessed her guilt by refusing to give up the wage of sin.

Lascar Loo's mother waited on the pavement without for the sounds of lamentation, but none came. Even if Tom had released her gullet, Badalia would not have screamed.

"Give it up, you slut!" said Tom. "Is that 'ow you pay me back for all I've done?"

"I can't. 'Tain't my money. Gawd forgive you, Tom, for wot you're——" the voice ceased as the grip tightened, and Tom heaved Badalia against the bed. Her forehead struck the bed-post, and she sank, half kneeling, on the floor. It was impossible for a self-respecting man to refrain from kicking her: so Tom kicked with the deadly intelligence born of whiskey. The head drooped to the floor, and Tom kicked at that till the crisp tingle of hair striking through his nailed boot with the chill of cold water, warned him that it might be as well to desist.

"Where's the curick's money, you kep' woman?" he whispered in the blood-stained ear. But there was no answer—only a rattling at the door, and the voice of Jenny Wabstow crying ferociously, "Come out o' that, Tom, an' come 'ome with me! An' you, Badalia, I'll tear your face off its bones!"

Tom's friends had delivered their message, and Jenny, after the first flood of passionate tears, rose up to follow Tom, and, if possible, to win him back. She was prepared even to endure an exemplary whacking for her performances in Hennessy's Rents. Lascar Loo's mother guided her to the chamber of horrors, and chuckled as she retired down the staircase. If Tom had not banged the soul out of Badalia, there would at least be a royal fight between that Badalia and Jenny. And Lascar Loo's mother knew well that Hell has no fury like a woman fighting above the life that is quick in her.

Still there was no sound audible in the street. Jenny swung back the unbolted door, to discover her man stupidly regarding a heap by the bed. An eminent murderer has remarked that if people did not die so untidily most men, and all women, would commit at least one murder in their lives. Tom was reflecting on the present untidiness, and the whiskey was fighting with the clear current of his thoughts.

"Don't make that noise," he said. "Come in quick."

"My Gawd?" said Jenny, checking like a startled wild beast. "Wot's all this 'ere? You ain't——"

"Dunno. 'Spose I did it."

"Did it? You done it a sight too well this time."

"She was aggravating," said Tom, thickly, dropping back into the chair. "That aggravatin' you'd never believe. Livin' on the fat 'o the land among these aristocratic parsons an' all. Look at them white curtings on the bed. *We* ain't got no white curtings. What I want to know is ——" The voice died as Badalia's had died, but from a different cause. The whiskey was tightening its grip after the accomplished deed, and Tom's eyes were beginning to close. Badalia on the floor breathed heavily.

"No nor like to 'ave," said Jenny. "You've done for 'er this time. You go.

"Not me. She won't hurt. Do 'er good. I'm goin' to sleep. Look at those there clean sheets! Are you comin' too?"

Jenny bent over Badalia, and there was intelligence in the battered woman's eyes—intelligence and much hate.

"I never told 'im to do such," Jenny whispered. "'Twas Tom's own doin'—none o' mine. Shall I get 'im tools, dear?"

The eyes told their own story. Tom, who was beginning to snore, must not be taken by the law.

"Go," said Jenny. "Get out! Get out of 'ere."

"You—told—me—that—this afternoon," said the man very sleepily. "Lemme go asleep."

"That was't nothing. You'd only 'it me. This time it's murder—murder—murder! Tom, you've killed 'er now." She shook the man from his rest, and understanding with cold terror filled his fuddled brain.

"I done it for your sake, Jenny," he whimpered feebly, trying to take her hand.

"You killed 'er for the money, same as you would ha' killed me. Get out o' this. Lay 'er on the bed first, you brute!"

They lifted Badalia on to the bed, and crept forth silently.

"I can't be took along o' you—and if you was took you'd say I made you do it, an' try to get me 'anged. Go away—anywhere outer 'ere," said Jenny, and she dragged him down the stairs.

"Goin' to look for the curick?" said a voice from the pavement. Lascar Loo's mother was still waiting patiently to hear Badalia squeal.

"Wot curick?" said Jenny, swiftly. There was a chance of salving her conscience yet in regard to the bundle upstairs.

"'Anna—63, Roomer-terrace—close 'ere," said the old woman. She had never been favourably regarded by the curate. Perhaps, since Badalia had not squealed, Tom preferred smashing the man to the woman. There was no accounting for tastes.

Jenny thrust her man before her till they reached the nearest main road. "Go away, now," she gasped. "Go off anywheres, but don't come back to me. I'll never go with you again; an', Tom—Tom, d' you 'ear me?—clean your boots."

Vain counsel. The desperate thrust of disgust which she bestowed upon him sent him staggering face down into the kennel, where a policeman showed interest in his welfare.

"Took for a common drunk. Gawd send they don't look at 'is boots! 'Anna, 63, Roomer-terrace!" Jenny settled her hat and ran.

The excellent housekeeper of the Roomer Chambers still remembers how there arrived a young person, blue-lipped and gasping, who cried only: "Badalia, 17, Gunnison-street. Tell the curick to come at once—at once—at once!" and vanished into the night. This message was borne to the Rev. Eustace Hanna, then enjoying his beauty sleep. He saw there was urgency in the demand, and unhesitatingly knocked up Brother Victor across the landing. As a matter of etiquette, Rome and England divided their cases in the district according to the creeds of the sufferers; but Badalia was an institution, and not a case,

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and there was no district-relief etiquette to be considered. "Something has happened to Badalia," the curate said, "and it's your affair as well as mine. Dress, and come along."

"I am ready," was the answer. "Is there any hint of what's wrong?"

"Nothing beyond a runaway knock and a call."

"Then it's a confinement or a murderous assault. Badalia wouldn't wake us up for anything less. I'm qualified for both, thank God."

"I'd give much if our Church insisted on decent medical training. I've subscribed to the Thirty-nine Articles, but it would be better if I had subscribed to the *Lancet* intelligently from the beginning. Come along."

The two men raced to Gunnison-street, for there were no cabs abroad, and under any circumstances a cab fare means two day's good firing for such as are perishing with cold. Lascar Loo's mother had gone to bed, and the door was naturally on the latch. They found considerably more than they had expected in Badalia's room, and the Church of Rome acquitted itself nobly with bandages, while the Church of England could only pray to be delivered from the sin of envy. The Order of Little Ease, recognising that the soul is in most cases accessible through the body, take their measures and train their men accordingly.

"She'll do now," said brother Victor, in a whisper. "It's internal bleeding, I fear, and certain amount of injury to the brain. She has a husband, of course?"

"They all have, more's the pity."

"Yes, there's a domesticity about these injuries that shows their origin." He lowered his voice. "It's a perfectly hopeless business you understand. Twelve hours at the longest."

Badalia's right hand began to beat on the counterpane, palm down.

"I think you are wrong," said the Church of England. "She is going."

"No, that's not picking at the counterpane," said the Church of Rome. "She wants to say something; you know her better than I."

The curate bent very low.

"Send for Miss Eva," said Badalia, with a cough.

"In the morning. She will come in the morning," said the curate, and Badalia was content. Only the Church of Rome, who knew something of the human heart, knitted his brows and said nothing. After all, the law of his order was plain. His duty was to watch till the dawn while the grey worn moon went down.

It was a little before her sinking that the Rev. Eustace Hanna said, "Hadn't we better send for Sister Eva? She seems to be going fast."

Brother Victor made no answer, but as early as decency admitted there came one to the door of the house of the Little Sisters of the Red Diamond and demanded Sister Eva, that she might soothe the pain of Badalia Herodsfoot. That man, saying very little, led her to Gunnison-street, No. 17, and into the room where Badalia lay. Then he stood on the landing, and bit the flesh of his fingers in agony, because he was a priest and a man and knew how the hearts of men and women beat back at the rebound, so that Love is born out of horror, and passion declares itself when the soul is quivering with pain.

Badalia, wise to the last, husbanded her strength till the coming of Sister Eva. It is generally maintained by the Little Sisters of the Red Diamond that she died in delirium, but since one Sister at least took a half of her dying advice, this seems uncharitable.

She tried to turn feebly on the bed, and the poor broken human machinery protested according to its nature.

Sister Eva started forward, thinking that she heard the dread forerunner of the death-rattle. Badalia lay still conscious, and spoke with startling distinctness, the irrepressible irreverence of the street hawker, the girl who had danced on the winkle barrow, twinkling in her one available eye.

"Sounds jest like Mrs. Jessel, don't it? Before she's 'ad 'er lunch an' 'as been talkin' all the mornin' to her classes."

Neither Sister Eva nor the curate said anything. Brother Victor stood without the door, and the breath came harshly between his clenched teeth. He was in pain.

"Put a cloth over my 'ead," said Badalia. "I've got it good, an' I don't want Miss Eva to see. I ain't pretty this time."

"Who was it?" said the curate.

"Man from outside. Never seed 'im no more'n Adam. Drunk, I s'pose. Selp me Gawd that's truth! Is Miss Eva 'ere? I can't see under the towel. I've got it good, Miss Eva. Excuse my not shakin' 'ands with you, but I'm not strong, an' it's fourpence for Mrs. Imeny's beef-tea, an' wot you can give 'er for baby-tinning. Allus' avin' kids, these people. I 'adn't oughter talk, for *my* 'usband 'e never come nigh me these two years, or I'd a bin as bad as the rest; but 'e never come nigh me. . . . A man come and 'it me over the 'ead, an' 'e kicked me, Miss Eva; so it was just the same 's if I had ha' had a 'usband, ain't it? The book's in the drawer, Mister 'Anna, an' it's all right, an' I never guv' up a copper o' the trust money—not a copper. You look under the chist o' drawers—all wot isn't this week is there. . . . An', Miss Eva, don't you wear that grey bonnick no more. I kep' you from the diptheery, an'—an' I didn't want to keep you so, but the cwick said it 'ad to be done. I'd a sooner ha' took up with 'im than anyone, only Tom he come, an' then—you see, Miss Eva, Tom 'e never come nigh me for two years, nor I 'aven't seen him yet. S'elp me ———, I haven't. Do you 'ear? But you two go along, and make a match of it. I've wished otherways often, but o' course it was not for the likes o' me. If Tom 'ad come back, which 'e never did, I'd ha' been like the rest—sixpence for beef-tea for the baby, a shilling for layin' out the baby. You've seen it in the books, Mister 'Anna. That's what it is; an' o' course, you couldn't never 'ave nothing to do with me. But a woman she wishes as she looks, an' never you 'ave no doubt about 'im, Miss Eva. I've seen it in 'is face time an' agin. . . . Make it a four pound ten funeral—with the pall."

It was a seven pound fifteen shilling funeral, and all Gunnison-street turned out to do it honour. All but two; for Lascar Loo's mother saw that a Power had departed, and that her road lay clear to the cuttards. Therefore, when the carriages rattled off, the cat on the doorstep heard the wail of the dying unfortunate, who could not die—

"Oh, mother, mother, won't you even let me lick the spoon!"

HYOGO AND OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual general meeting of the Hyogo and Osaka Chamber of Commerce was held at the Municipal Hall on Friday, Mr. A. Evers in the chair. There were also present Messrs. Bull, Crowe, H. L. Baggallay, De Ath, Pigott, D. B. Taylor, Goodison, Hughes, Faber, C. P. Hall, Braess, M. Brown, Süth, Brenner, and Mur (Secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

The next business was the passing of the accounts, the CHAIRMAN remarking that the balance in hand was the same as that for the last half-year, with the exception of a few cents. The subscriptions had fallen off a little, but there had been a saving in some of the expenses.

Mr. MUR next read the annual report, which stated that during the interval since the last half-yearly meeting nothing had happened which had particularly called for the assistance of the Chamber. With regard to commercial matters, he would say that the year which had just closed had been the most disappointing of any in the history of their intercourse with Japan. When addressing them six months ago they were undergoing a course of severe depression which seemed to affect all branches of trade, but the hope was then held out that the incoming rice crop, the abundance and excellence of which was well assured, would bring wealth and prosperity to the people once more, and enable them at the same time to enter into new engagements and increase their purchases to an extent calculated to alleviate the unsatisfactory condition of the markets; but, contrary to all expectations, the relief expected did not come, and the large quantity of grain available for export seemed hard to move, as prices were kept up to such high figures by speculators and dealers that shipments could be made on a very small scale. Looking at the import market, almost every article appeared to suffer from want of demand, and the retrospect of the trade for the past year could not be viewed with satisfaction, as it had proved unprecedentedly disastrous to foreigners and Japanese alike. The reasons were not far to seek. They had had high prices for rice during most of the year, unfavourable markets abroad for Japan silk, and a heavy fall in the value of local shares of all kinds; these combined had had a telling effect upon all departments of trade. Another source of trouble and annoyance to importers had been fluctuations in exchange caused by the Silver Bill, every advance having been seized by dealers as an excuse for demanding lower prices for merchandise, and in many instances the most flimsy pretexts had been put forward for failure to carry out their engagements. It would be clearly seen that the course of business during the past year had accentuated the fact that supplies of almost every description of goods had been received greatly in excess of the momentary absorbing power of the country, and time was required to work off the heavy stocks remaining on hand. The balance of trade as shown by the Customs' statistics was against Japan, but that was in a great measure attributable to the heavy importations of foreign rice to make up the deficiency in the crop previously refered to. With regard to exports, he would only remark that the business done with foreigners had been remunerative to the native merchants beyond all their expectations, the prices obtained by them for most articles having never before been so high. The accounts had been audited as usual, and found correct, and a balance of $124.90 were carried forward to new account. The subscriptions to their circulars had fallen off a little, but since a saving in the expenditure had been effected, it allowed of the carrying over of a balance almost the same as that of last year. He thanked the gentlemen of the Committee for the assistance given him in the discharge of his duties during the past year.

The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. HALL, seconded by Mr. H. FABER.

The next business was the election of Chairman, and as Mr. EVERS explained that owing to the fact of his having been two years Chairman and that he was leaving in the spring, he did not offer himself for re-election, the voting was taken by ballot, with the result that Mr. H. St. John Browne was elected.

Some delay then took place with regard to the election of the Committee. On a ballot being taken Messrs. M. Brown, Baggallay, and Braess were elected, Messrs. Hughes and Faber tieing for the last place. Mr. Hughes withdrew in favour of Mr. Faber. Messrs. Baggallay and Braess next declined to serve on the Committee, and, as Messrs. Hall and Goodison, the next on the list, each also declined, another ballot was taken, Messrs. Goodison and Hall being elected, and agreeing to serve on the Committee, the four members of which, therefore, are Messrs. M. Brown, Faber, Goodison, and Hall.

The formal business being disposed of, Mr. TAYLOR inquired of the Chairman the reason why the statistics for the year ending 31st Dec. last had not been issued.

Mr. MUR said it was never customary to issue these circulars until some time after the meeting. The statistics could not be collected in such a quick time. They had never previously been issued before the end of January.

Mr. TAYLOR next asked the reason why shippers had been placed at such great inconvenience by not being able to obtain from the Chamber of Commerce the statistics of the shipments of tea until several days after the steamers had left.

The CHAIRMAN said they had been so very badly used by the tea shippers that they were thinking of leaving out those statistics altogether.

Mr. TAYLOR said it was not a matter of obtaining the assistance of the merchants, but a question of duty. They should demand the returns from the Consulate where they were all filed.

The SECRETARY said that in a great many instances the tea merchants were not duly registered at the Consulate. Very often they only registered at the very last minute, and all sorts of explanations were made for the invoices not being registered, but it was generally the fault of the merchant that the invoices were not at the Consulate.

Mr. PIGOTT said it was more likely to be the fault of the officials at the Consulate than of the merchants. If the invoices were not sent in the tea could not go on.

Mr. TAYLOR pointed out that the merchants would not be able to unship at San Francisco or Vancouver or at any other port unless they were duly registered. The explanation was absurd. It was a matter of great importance, for the tea people could not get up their circulars, owing to not having the statistics. He had very often been able to get these statistics from the Consulate when he had been unable to get them from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. GOODISON said that when Mr. Abell was Secretary they could get the returns next day, and very often on the day that the steamer left.

Mr. MUR said that Mr. Abell had admitted to him that very often the returns were all wrong—(laughter)—and what he gave in one statement had to be corrected in the next.

Mr. TAYLOR said he had looked over his own files, and found that during Mr. Abell's time there were very few alterations. He had gone into the matter very closely, and found that there were fewer alterations in Mr. Abell's time than there were at present. He thought something should be done in the direction of giving them a little more timely information with regard to the subject.

The CHAIRMAN said that no doubt the remarks which had been made would be sufficient to induce Mr. Mur to present the statistics sooner than he had hitherto done.

This concluded the business of the meeting.—*Hyogo News.*

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JAPAN.

Before Judge NISHIOKA YUMEI, President of the First Criminal Bureau, and Judges H. YAMANE S. KAWAGUCHI, S. SHOYA, and S. OKUYAMA.

AN IMPERFECT JUDGMENT AND INADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE.

THE PUBIC PROCURATOR OF THE MORIOKA CORRECTIONAL COURT.

Principles deduced from the following case:—The date on which an offence was committed must be mentioned in the sentence, as it affects both the question of prescription and the degree of punishment.

That the relatives of an accused person are disqualified from giving evidence is clearly shown in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference—Par. G. Art. 181, Code of Criminal Procedure:—"The following persons may not be witnesses:—Relatives of the plaintiff in a civil suit, or of an accused person."

The accused Yamamoto Minosuke, Sasaki Chomatsu, Sato Genyo, and two others were convicted in the Morioka Correctional Court of assault and battery and were each sentenced to major imprisonment for nine months under Arts. 301, and 305 of the Penal Code.

The three accused appealed to the Supreme Court, contending (1) that the original judgment was imperfect in respect that it did not state the date of the offence, so that no information was afforded as to whether the offence had or had not been extinguished by prescription; and (2) that as one of the witnesses, Yamamoto Sannojo, was the husband of Yamamoto Minosuke's sister, and was therefore disqualified under par. 2 Art. 181 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from being a witness, the lower Court was *ultra vires* in admitting his testimony.

The Public Procurator of the lower court contended that the appeal was groundless.

The Supreme Court held that every sentence of judgment must contain the date of the offence, because the insertion of the date affected the question of whether or not the offence had been extinguished by prescription and affected also the degree of the punishment. The original judgment which failed to clearly state the date of the offence was, therefore, in this respect, imperfect. In the second point of the appeal, par. 2. Art. 181 of the Code of Criminal Procedure set forth that the relatives of the accused person could not be witnesses. From the notes of the trial (*Kohan Shimatsusho*) it appears that Yamamoto Sannojo stated in reply to the judge of the lower court that his house was a branch of that of Minosuke and that his wife was a sister of the latter. That was to say, the accused and Sannojo were relatives within the scope of par. 3, Art. 114 of the Penal Code and of par. 2, Art. 181 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Sannojo therefore was not qualified to appear as a witness, and the judgment of the lower court was improper. The judgment must therefore be cancelled and the case be transferred to the Hiromaye Correctional Court for a new trial in accordance with Art. 428 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.—*Saiban Suishi*, Dec. 6th, 1890.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, January 24th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Parnell gave notice that he would move a resolution condemning the Administration for the working of the Crimes Act.

London, January 25th.

The Chilians have demanded the resignation of their President, Don José Manuel Balmaceda.

London, January 26th.

The Chilian rebels have bombarded Coronel. A strike at Greenock has been followed by riots.

London, January 29th.

The Attorney-General of the United States has filed an answer in the *Sayward* case which maintains that the seizure is legal.

FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS."

London, January 7th.

The correspondence relating to the Behring Sea question has been submitted to Congress; it is confined to elaborate arguments on both sides, but without anything menacing in tone.

London, January 8th.

It is expected at Washington that the Bill for the free coinage of silver will pass the Senate, but that it will be rejected by the House of Representatives, in which case it is probable that no financial bill will be passed this session.

London, January 10th.

The silver men in the House of Representatives consider that it is not at all certain that the House will reject the financial Bill.

London, January 12th.

There is renewed intense frost in Great Britain and on the Continent, where several railways are blocked with snow; a number of towns are completely isolated, and food is scarce.

London, January 13th.

The Canadian-Attorney General, with the approval of Great Britain, has empowered the owner of the *Sayward*, the vessel seized by the Americans in Behring's Sea, to apply for an injunction of the Supreme Court against the confiscation of the vessel on the ground that Behring's Sea is a high sea. The United States Attorney-General has been granted a fortnight to reply.

London, January 15th.

The United States Attorney-General maintains that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction in the matter of the seized vessel *Sayward*, since the suit originated in the Alaskan Court.

[FROM MANILA PAPERS.]

Madrid, January 12th.

Great cold prevails. In Paris the temperature has fallen so low that the Seine is frozen.

Madrid, January 13th.

Señor Alonso Martinez is dead. Great honours have been paid to the deceased statesman by the Government.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8 05, 9, 9.35,† 10 45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8 58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.00, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8 40 p.m.; YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8 02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3 26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62 *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between Kozu and Yumoto (distance 4 *ri*.) Jinrikisha may be hired between Yumoto and Miyanoshita (distance 1½ *ri*)

TAKETOYO-OFU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OFU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.03, 4 42, and 6.09 p.m., and 12.08 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11 55 a.m., and 3 32, 6.05, and 7.35 p m, and 1.24 a.m; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m, and 1.10, 4.35, 7.10, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12 17, 3.30, 6.35, and 8.55 p m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11 55 a.m., and 2 44 6, and 9.20 p.m, and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10 08 a.m., and 1.05, 3 48, 7 08, and 10.26 p.m, and 7.20 a.m.; OFU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8 52 and 11 55 p.m., and 8 59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, and 6 03 p.m, and 12.33 and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1 52 4 45, and 7 p.m., and 1.25 and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, and 7.29 p.m., and 1.54 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.32 a.m., and 3 47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 3.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 8 43 a.m., and 3.59, 7.01, 8.57, and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 10.18 a m., and 6, 8.40, and 10 26 p.m., and 4 50 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 11.05 a.m., and 6,50, 9.30, and 11.08 p.m., and 5.36 a.m, and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 12.36, 8.18, and 11.12 p.m., and 7 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, and 9.30 p.m., OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, and 10.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m. and 2.45 and 4 34 p.m., and 12.15 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, and 5.19 p.m., and 1.10 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.33 5.01, and 6.59 p.m., and 2.41 a m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3 05 a m.; OGAKI at 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m; GIFU at 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OFU at 9.01 and 11.53 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 5.57, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3 40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 50 a.m., and 6.02 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.08, 7.17, and 9 43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2 35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5 60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6 and 9.55 a.m., and 1 15 and 5 30 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 7.50, and 11.48 a.m., and 3.08 and 7.23 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 5'45 and 9.40 a.m, and 1 and 4.25 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 6.47 and 10.42 a.m., and 2 02 and 5.26 p m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1 98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6, 8.50, and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.45 p.m.

TOKYO-SHIOGAMA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UENO (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 9.57 a.m. and 3.04 and 6.11 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (down) at 8 a.m, and 12.34 and 5.42 p.m.; KORIYAMA (down) at 9.24 a.m. and 1.53 and 7.01 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (down) at 7.30 and 11.35 a.m. and 3 48 p.m.; and SENDAI (down) at 6.15 and 10.25 a.m and 2.35 and 6.45 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE SHIOGAMA (up) at 6 50 and 11 a.m., and 3.10 and 7.20 p.m.; SENDAI (up) at 7.30 and 11.40 a.m., and 3.50 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (up) at 6.40 and 10.23 a.m. and 2.36 p.m.; KORIYAMA (up) at 8.28 a.m., and 12.15 and 4.26 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (up) at 6.30 and 9.45 a.m., and 1.35 p.m.; and UTSUNOMIYA (up) at 6.15 and 9.3 a.m., and 12.20, 4.18 and 6.30 p.m.

FARES.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6 45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE SHINJIKU, TOKYO, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m; and HACHIOJI (up) at 5 25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

FARES—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60; third-class *sen* 30.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Feb. 6th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 31st.*
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 1st †
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, Feb. 9th.‡

* *City of Peking* left San Francisco on January 10th. † *Peiho* left Nagasaki on January 28th. ‡ *Belgic* left San Francisco on January 22nd.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 3rd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 1st.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wedn'day, Feb. 4th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 7th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 12th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 17th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Iraouaddy, French steamer, —, Flandin, 24th January,—Hongkong —, viâ Shanghai —, and Kobe 23rd January, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kasuga, 24th January,—Yokkaichi 23rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Umasono, 25th January,—Hachinohe 23rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 25th January,—Kobe 24th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 25th January,—Yokkaichi 24th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 27th January,—Handa 26th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 27th January,—Hakodate 24th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 27th January,—Yokkaichi 26th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lennox, British steamer, 1,343, C. Summerton, 28th January,—Kobe 26th January, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 28th January,—Hongkong 22nd January, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 28th January,—Shimonoseki 26th January, Coal.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 28th January,—Yokkaichi 27th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, Young, 28th January,—Hokodate 26th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 29th January,—Yokkaichi 28th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 29th January,—Kobe 28th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 30th January,—Hongkong 24th January, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 30th January,—Shanghai and ports 24th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 30th January,—Yokkaichi 29th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mino Maru, Japanese steamer, 550, Handa, 31st January,—Yokkaichi 30th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha;

DEPARTURES.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 24th January,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 24th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 24th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 24th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lochiel, British steamer, 1,378, John Cairn, 25th January,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuga, 25th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 25th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 27th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Umasono, 27th January,—Hachinohe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 27th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 27th January,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, John Wynn, 27th January,—Kobe 26th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,182, Walter, 28th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 28th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 28th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 29th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 29th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 30th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 30th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 31st January,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Hakodate:—2 passengers in cabin; 10 passengers in second class, and 40 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—20 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Iraouaddy*, from Hongkong, viâ ports:—Marquis Tokugawa, Minister to Rome, and child, Mr. M. T. Namura, Mr. and Mrs. Boos, Mr. Wataru Shimidzu, Mr. Baumgartène Eigenicvitch, family, and servant, Mr. Saintenoy, Mr. Malairalle, Mr. S. Erskine, Mr. Paussemagne, Mr. Moore, Mr. Dangerfield, His Excellency Viscount Li, Minister to Japan, Mr. Pau, Mr. Tau, Mr. Sulzberger, Mr. Lie and family, Messrs. Tsar, Woo, Lee, Wing, Shiog, Lee, Soo, Ching Woo, Ton, Ter, Lee, Shing, Ching, and Hung, Mr. Ko and family, Mr. Cing, various Chinese ladies and 2 children, six servants of the Chinese Minister, Marchioness Tokugawa, Count and Countess Tokugawa, Messrs. Koshiba and Yamanaka in cabin.

Per British steamer *China*, from Hongkong:—Consul von Kreitner and Mrs. von Kreitner in cabin. For San Francisco: Mrs. K. Williams, Mrs. J. Weston, Miss Gracie Plaisted, Mrs. E. Marston, and Mrs. Hazeltine in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. K. Watanabe and S. Hamada in cabin; 5 passengers in second-class; 24 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Nagasa in cabin; Mr. J. Cook in second-class; 23 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, from Hongkong:—Consul von Krencki and family, Mrs. Harlow, Mr. and Mrs. Hyruma, Messrs. B. Münster, S. Strauss, H. Marcus, H. Höpner, Moffat, and Hamilton in cabin; 25 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Hashiguchi, L'Abbé Barth, Miss Kirkpatrick, Messrs. Iwamura, A. Winstanley, and H. V. Dickinson in cabin; 2 Chinese and 1 Japanese in second class; 32 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. Ed. Ranger, Mr. A. T. How, Mrs. Thompson, child, and amah, Miss Harlow, Mr. Tachi, and Mr. H. T. Healing in cabin; Messrs. Muller, Yoshimiya, and T. Watanabe in second class, and 38 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER PORTS.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	8	19	144	171
Nagasaki	—	—	—	—
Hyogo	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	1,507	—	344	1,851
Hongkong	98	—	756	854
Total	1,613	19	1,244	2,876

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER PORTS.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	215	—	215
Hongkong	—	183	—	183
Yokohama	—	1,293	—	1,293
Total	—	1,691	—	1,691

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain F. E. Brown, reports:—Left Handa January 26th at 00.30 p.m.; fresh N.W. wind and fine weather up to Omaisaki which was passed at 7.30 p.m. thence experienced moderate N.E. wind and clear weather up to arrival. Arrived at Yokohama January 27th at 5.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Walter, reports:—Left Hakodate the 24th January at 2 p.m.; had westerly wind and snow. Arrived at Oginohama the 25th at 3 p.m. and left the 26th at 6 a.m.; had same wind and weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 27th January at 10 a.m.

The British steamer *China*, Captain W. B. Seabury, reports:—Left Hongkong January 22nd at 2.25 p.m.; strong N.E. monsoon to Turnabout, increasing to strong gale to Yokoshima, with high sea, thence to port moderate northerly winds. Arrived at Yokohama on January 28th.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe January 28th at noon, with light southerly winds and fine weather; passed Oshima at 9 p.m., with moderate breeze from the north and fine; at midnight a strong westerly wind and clear weather; the 29th at 8 a.m., wind shifting to the east and blowing a fresh breeze; passed Rock Island at 1.10 p.m. and Cape Sagami at 5.55 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama January 29th at 8 p.m.

The German steamer *General Warder*, Captain M. Eichel, reports:—Left Hongkong January 24th at 3 p.m.; the first two days through the Formosa Channel had strong gales from E.N.E. and N.E. with a heavy head sea. From thence to port variable winds with mostly fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama January 30th at 1.25 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai January 24th at 10.12 a.m.; fresh breeze and cloudy weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 26th at 3.45 a.m. and left at 5.10 p.m.; light breeze and fine weather. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 27th at 6.45 a.m. and left at 1.35 p.m. Arrived at Kobe the 28th at 8.20 a.m. and left the 29th at noon; light breeze and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama January 30th at 3.25 p.m.

SHIPPNG IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Lennox, British steamer, 1,343, C. Summerton, 28th January,—Kobe 26th January, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Arctic, British schooner, 49, Pyne, 22nd November,—North Pacific 15th November, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Bentensan, Norwegian schooner, 53, J. Johnson, 17th November,—North Pacific, Seal Skins.—Captain.

Clan Buchanan, British ship, 2,072, Geo. Harris, 20th January,—Cardiff 1st September, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Diana, American schooner, 75, Alex. Peterson, 15th September,—North Pacific, 6 Otter and 239 Fur Seal skins.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 130, J. T. Harrison, 31st December,—Guam 1st December, Cobra.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nautilus, British schooner, 95, Snow, 16th November,—North Pacific, Seals.—Eastern Whaling Co.

North American, American ship, 1,514, Crulman, 18th January,—New York 26th July, Oil.—Frazar, Farley & Co.

MEN OF-WAR.

Alliance, United States cruiser, Commander Rich, 28th December,—Kobe 24th December.

Hyacinth (8), screw cruiser, 1,420, Captain Robt. W. Cragie, 16th January,—Kobe 14th January.

Vipere (4), French cruiser, 490, Captain E. M. V. Goudot, 11th January,—Kobe 9th January.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is nothing fresh to report on the Import Market. The position remains the same, namely, nothing doing and prices are therefore quite nominal. Sales for the week amount to 25 bales English Yarn, 25 bales Bombays, and 1,500 pieces Shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb. 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb. 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb. 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 11 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.14
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per pc. 1.00	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¾ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¾ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 42 yards, 32 inches	$1.00	to	1.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	28.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	32.00	to	33.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	39.00
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

Very small business at lower prices. Market weak, and buyers want still further concessions.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.60	to	2.65
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.70	to	2.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.60	to	2.75
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.70	to	2.80
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.20	to	4.50
Tin Plates, per box	5.00	to	5.25
Pig Iron, No. 1	1.20	to	1.30

KEROSENE.

Prices are nominally unchanged, but there have been no recent sales to test then; although transactions to the extent of 60,000 cases made some time back have only just come to light. No arrivals since the *Mascotte*, which brought only a small quantity. The *Lochiel* has taken on about 25,000 cases of the original lading to Kobe. Present stock here about 600,000 cases.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.70 to 1.72½
Comet	1.67½ to 1.70
Devoe	1.65 to 1.67½
Russian	1.60 to 1.65

SUGAR.

A small business has been done. Prices again a shade lower. Arrivals of new Formosa kinds are expected very soon.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$3.80 to 3.85
Brown Daitong	3.00 to 3.75
Brown Canton	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Java and Penang	4.80 to 5.20
White Refined	4.00 to 7.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last was dated the 23rd inst.; since then settlements in this market amount to 2,099 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 27; *Filatures*, 1,238; *Re-reels*, 571; *Kakeda*, 187; *Oshu*, 76. Direct shipments have been light amounting to 14 bales only, thus making the total export trade of the week equal to 2,113 piculs.

The large business we reported a week ago continued for some days with the above named result. Now the market is quieter, but still with some fair amount of daily trade. Prices are unchanged from last report with a few unimportant exceptions; for while some holders maintain their strong attitude and do not offer their silks, other dealers are current in their ideas and go steadily selling at present quotations whenever buyers offer themselves.

Telegraphic intelligence from consumers reports dullness and bad trade, but at the same time they send along some orders at current rates. The under current of business for Europe continues, and the *Iraouaddy*, now loading, should take a pretty large shipment.

Arrivals from the country are still insignificant, and the stock list shows a further reduction of 2,000 piculs on the week, making 4,000 less than a fortnight ago.

The stock on offer also shows considerable decline in quality and in assortment offering. Prime summer reelings have been gradually taken up until they are now getting scarce, and by far the major portion of our stock is now cold weather reeled, showing thereby some inferiority in quality.

There has only been one shipping opportunity this week: the English mail steamer, *Ancona*, which left port on the 22nd inst., took 600 bales for various European points and the export figures to date are now 15,585 piculs, against 31,592 piculs last year, and 33,253 piculs to the same date in 1889. It will be noted from these export figures that about 3,000 piculs of recent settlements are still waiting shipment by the out going mail steamers, now loading.

Hanks.—Small trade in these, consisting of some common *Hachoji* at $460. The stock is small and neither sellers nor buyers appear anxious for business.

Filatures.—Again the chief trade has been in this class, some large parcels being taken both for America and Europe. For the first named country good No. 1 *Shinshu* have been done at $570, while *Koshu* have been booked at $555. In fine sizes several parcels of *Mino* and *Shinshu* Filatures have been taken at prices ranging from $570 to $590; the lower qualities at from $540 to $560. The stock in this class is now below 7,000 piculs.

Re-reels.—A good enquiry for these has resulted in considerable business at quotations. A parcel of *Five Girl* Chop was done at $550, while something in best No. 1 commanded $565. A great deal of the business has been in common and medium suits at prices from $480 to $540. Holders are fairly strong especially for better grades and well known marks.

Kakeda.—This has been in good demand, and holders have succeeded in getting their asking prices. It will be noted from our stock list that there has been very little on offer in this department.

Oshu.—Trade has been done in both *Sendai* and *Hamatsuki*, several parcels being taken at the beginning of the week at $495, $500, $505, and $522½.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 1 (Shinshu)	$500
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	490 to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	485 to 490
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	480 to 485
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	470 to 475
Hanks—No. 3	460 to 465
Hanks—No. 3½	450 to 455
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	580 to 590
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	580 to 590
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	570 to 575
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	560 to 565
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	560 to 570
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	540 to 545
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	530 to 535
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1	560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	555 to 560
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	545 to 550
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	530 to 535
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	520 to 525
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	500 to 510
Kakedas—Extra	Nom —
Kakedas—No. 1	540 to 545
Kakedas—No. 1½	525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 2	515 to 520
Kakedas—No. 2½	505 to 510
Kakedas—No. 3	495 to 500
Kakedas—No. 3½	485 to 490
Kakedas—No. 4	475 to 480
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	510 to 520
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	520 to 525
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	500 to 510
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 30th Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales	Bales.
Europe	6,055	13,611	18,090
America	9,137	17,594	14,992
Total {	Bales 15,192	31,205	33,082
	Piculs 15,585	31,592	33,253
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	18,750	33,650	34,300
Stock, 30th January	11,400	3,250	6,400
Available supplies to date	30,150	36,900	40,700

WASTE SILK.

There has been less doing in this branch, settlements for the week being 529 piculs, of which 119 are *Noshi*; and 410 *Kibiso*.

The operations of buyers are restricted by the poor assortment, best quality of *Noshi* being now almost extinct. Were these more plentiful there is no doubt that buyers are ready to take more of them. In the mean time they are at work upon *Kibiso*, and stocks generally are within a very reasonable compass.

Arrivals have been light, and the stock list is now down to about 6,000 piculs, which compares very favourably with the state of things last January. The English mail steamer, *Ancona*, carried 205 bales for Europe and the present export figures are now 20,060 piculs, against 19,282 last year, and 23,508 at the end of January, 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—Nothing whatever done. Prices purely nominal.

Noshi.—Some little business every day, but the absence of the higher grades interferes with business. *Oshu* has been done at $125, with *Joshu* at $72½ for good ordinary assortment.

Kibiso—Two or three large parcels have again been taken up, chiefly medium and low *Curlies*, at prices ranging from $40 to $25½, according to quality.

Nothing done in *Mawata* or *Neri*, during the week. Stocks of the former are small, and contain very little good quality.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to	145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Hushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	774	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 30th Jan., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	18,773	17,092	21,116
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,392
	20,060	19,282	23,508
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	14,050	20,500	26,700
Stock, 30th January	6,100	11,200	5,200
Available supplies to date	30,150	31,700	31,900

Exchange has not varied much during the week; and it closes practically at last quotations:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/5⅝; Documents, 3/6; 6m/s. Credits, 3.6⅛; Documents, 3/6¼; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $84¼; 4 m/s. U.S. $85; Paris, 4m/s., fcs. 4.40; 6m/s. fcs. 4.42.

Estimated Silk Stock, 30th January, 1891:—

Raw.	piculs.	Waste.	piculs
Hanks	290	Cocoons	390
Filatures	6,950	Noshi-ito	1,378
Re-reels	3,715	Kibiso	3,830
Kakeda	280	Mawata	139
Oshu	159	Sundries	363
Tayasaam Kinds	6		
Total piculs	11,400	Total piculs	6,100

TEA.

Retail business in Common and Medium. The season is practically over, and we withdraw all quotations. The stocks on offer are very small and very low both in quality and quantity.

EXCHANGE.

Rates the same (nominal, wires interrupted).

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/4⅞-¾
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/5⅛-¼
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 5⅛-⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3 5⅛-¼
On Paris—Bank sight	4.28
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.39
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1/16 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72¼
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	84¼
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	83½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	82¼
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	83½
Silver	47⅛

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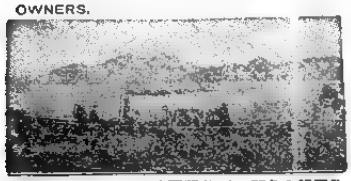

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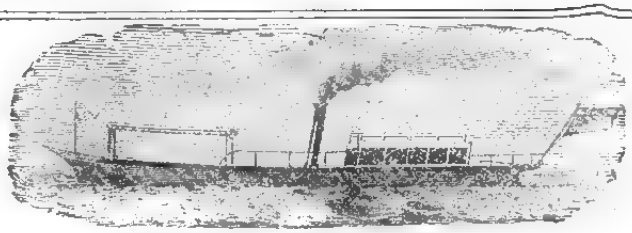

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 1891.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

COUNT ITO, President of the House of Peers, is a sufferer from influenza. He is at present at Odawara.

THE work of laying a telegraphic line between Sendai (Rikuzen) and Morioka (Rikuchu) has been completed.

THE Railway Bureau has granted a charter to the Osaka Railway Company for opening a line between Inaba and Sanoji.

THE total quantity of sugar imported into Osaka from foreign countries during the latter half of last year was 100, 460 bales.

A BRANCH of the Osaka Cotton Spinning Company was opened on the 1st instant at Odemmacho Itchome, Nihonbashi, Tokyo.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU (AKIHITO), accompanied by H.I.H. Princess Yoriko, left the capital yesterday for Shizuoka Prefecture.

MAJOR HAYAMIZU SHINICHI, of the Osaka Arsenal, who had been in Italy for some time on official business, returned to Japan recently.

THE Government has decided to lay a telegraph line between Sapporo (Ishikari) in Mashige (Teshiwo) by way of Ichikijiri and Sorachibuto (Ishikari).

MT. FUJINAMI NORITADA, father of Viscount Fujinami, Director of the Bureau of Imperial Mews in the Imperial Household, expired on the 31st ultimo.

FIRE broke out on the night of the 27th inst. in the house of Saito Masakichi, No. 312, Iseharacho, Osumigori, Kanagawa Prefecture, and destroyed 61 houses, 2 godowns, 16 sheds, and 1 Buddhist temple, and partly damaged 4 godowns before the flames could be got under control.

THE *Amagi Kan* arrived at Shinagawa on the 1st instant. On the day following, the *Hosho Kan* left Kobe for Kure, and the *Kaimon Kan* arrived at Yokosuka.

THE Higher Commercial School, Tokyo, was closed on the 28th ultimo for about two weeks in consequence of the prevalence of influenza among the teachers and students.

THEIR Imperial Highnesses Princesses Tsune Masako and Kane Fusako were to leave the capital on the 1st instant for Oiso, starting from the Shimbashi Station at 8.30 a.m.

THE section between Kobe and Kusashiki on the Sanyo Railway line will, it is expected, be completed about the middle of next month, the tunnel at Funasaka, Bizen, being completed.

DURING November last 2,566,490 catties of cotton were imported into Japan from Shanghai, of which 86,400 catties were for Nagasaki, 1,789,751 catties for Kobe, and 690,339 catties for Yokohama.

A GENERAL meeting of the members of the Shiba Sanitary Society was held on the afternoon of the 30th ult. Dr. Matsuyama Toan, President of the Society, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting.

ON the night of the 24th ult. fire broke out in a house at Nagasumura, Sanushinagori, Ibaraki Prefecture, and destroyed 20 buildings, including a police station and a village office, before the flames could be got under control.

THE premises of the Military Academy, which are now in course of construction at Ichigaya, Ushigome, Tokyo, will, it is expected, be completed before the end of March, and be occupied about the middle of April next.

MR. KONOYE TADAHIRO, father of Prince Konoye Atsumaro, is a victim of influenza. Mr. Konoye was once an instructor in penmanship to the Empress, who on receipt of tidings of his illness despatched a messenger with a present to him.

EARLY in the morning of the 3rd instant fire broke out in the house of Yamada Shintaro, No. 13, Tomimatsu-cho, Kanda, Tokyo, destroying 5 and partly damaging 6 houses, 4 persons being burned to death before the flames could be subdued.

DURING the month of January last 3,540 persons visited the Museum at Uyeno, of whom 3,430 were adults, 63 children, and 47 students. To the Zoological Garden at Uyeno there were 9,473 visitors, of whom 8,553 were adults 842 children, and 78 students.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Braid Company (Nippon Kumihimo Kaisha) was held on the 31st ult. in the Bankers' Club, Sakamotocho, Nihonbashi, Tokyo, and a dividend was declared at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

DURING 28 days of January last the Tokyo Library was visited by 3,088 persons, of whom 2,740 were ordinary visitors and 348 special. The number of books inspected during the period was 20,273, of which 18,651 represented Japanese and Chinese, and 1,622 foreign works.

THE opening ceremony of the Tokyo Hospital was held on the 1st inst., the chief part in the function being taken by Dr. Takagi Kanebiro. Over three hundred distinguished persons were present. Messrs. T. Sewaki, N. Hata, S. Nagayo, S. Marukawa, H. Miyake, T. Ishiguro, M. Iwaya, and T. Matsuyama addressed the company in the course of the proceedings.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Weaving Company was held on the 29th ultimo in the office at Hatagocho, Nihonbashi. Messrs. Amano Shensuke, Tamura Kisaburo, and Abe Takasuke were elected Managers, Messrs. Machida Takunosuke and Kawasaki Tokunosuke being elected superintendents.

THE total amounts of money deposited in and withdrawn from postal savings banks throughout the Empire during December last were *yen* 802,377, and *yen* 1,452,859 respectively, showing an increase of *yen* 109,415 in the amount of deposits, and *yen* 7559,238 in the amount of withdrawals as compared with the previous month.

THE receipts of the Charity Ball held at the Imperial Hotel about the end of last year were *yen* 3,031.95, of which *yen* 457 were set apart as miscellaneous expenses, *yen* 1,548 being subscribed towards the funds of the Red Cross Hospital, *yen* 400 to the Honjo Yoikuin (or Poor's Asylum), and *yen* 100 to the Anzendo Hospital, the remainder being deposited in the Mitsui Bank.

IT is stated that Messrs. Miyagi Kozo and Yamada Kinosuke, barristers of high repute in the capital, will appear for Mr. Soné, Chief Secretary of the House of Representatives, in the action raised by Mr. Yajima, Director of the Tokyo Electric Company, against Mr. Soné, demanding that corrections should be made in the report published by the defendant in the *Official Gazette* relating to the origin of the fire at the Parliament Houses.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Tokyo Marine Insurance Company was held on the afternoon of the 2nd instant. The receipts during the latter half of last year *yen* 98,278.649, of which *yen* 41,772.842 were were set apart as a reserve, *yen* 9,214.598 as remuneration to officers, and *yen* 39,000.000 as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, *yen* 8,291.208 being carried forward to the next account.

No change has occurred in the Import trade, the small lots of Yarn, Shirtings, and Italians taken being insufficient to make quotations. The same remark applies to the Metal market and the Kerosene trade. A sailing ship from New York has arrived with a full cargo, which further increases the already heavy stock. The Sugar trade has moved, and better prices are offered for White Refined. The first cargo of new Formosa has arrived in the steamer *Haiphong*, but no rate has apparently yet been fixed for new crop Sugar. There has been a small daily business in Silk for Europe, and holders are strong, especially those having prime summer reelings of the best chops, which are now getting somewhat scarce. Arrivals do not keep pace with the small sales effected, and stocks are being gradually if slowly reduced. There has been a fair demand for Waste Silk, and more could have been done in the better kinds had the parcels wanted been forthcoming. Prices are unchanged, but firm for the kinds in most request. Nothing to note in the Tea trade. Exchange declined from last week's rates, but has been moving upwards again these last two or three days.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE DIET'S SESSION ON THE 31ST ULTIMO.

THE proceedings in both Houses of the Diet on the 31st ultimo were exceptionally interesting. In the Upper House, the tactics adopted by the opposition in order to defeat the Registration Bill, showed pretty plainly that the mainsprings of parliamentary action in Japan are already much the same as those in countries where representative institutions have existed for a century. The Conservatives could find little of anything to oppose in the Bill, since its provisions, though drafted with the object of amending, will also have the effect of confirming, a system long in vogue and in some respects peculiar to Japan. Recourse was therefore had to another argument, namely, that matters of Registration ought to be regulated by Ordinance, not by law, a proposition which would certainly have been rejected by the Lower House, and which consequently, if accepted by the Upper, would have effectually shelved the Bill for this session. Professor Toyama ruthlessly exposed the fallacy underlying this contention. The Professor is beginning to take off his gloves, and to treat the august assemblage of which he is a member, to a little of the striking oratory inaugurated by him a couple of years ago. The Peers must have looked at one another curiously when the gentleman from the University, in his own brusque, merry manner, told them that they seemed to have been attacked by an Ordinance fever, and administered a dose of scathing rhetoric by way of febrifuge. Mr. Shimauchi, too, spoke out pretty plainly. Certain members, who had opposed the Weights and Measures Bill on account of the foreign origin of its standard of length, had the fine audacity to stand up a few days later and oppose the Registration Bill because precedents for its provisions could not be found abroad. That was a trifle too reckless, and Mr. Shimauchi did not hesitate to call it by its right name, opposition to a measure, not on its merits, but simply because of its official origin. Baron Senge and Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro, the chief offenders of this nature, probably expected to be unpleasantly exposed by Mr. Shimauchi, for they were not present in the Chamber when he rose to speak, a precaution that furnished him with a new weapon of attack. The House, however, passed the first reading of the Bill by a two-thirds vote

* * *

In the Lower House, Mr. Ishida Eikichi Vice-Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, was the hero of the session, and will figure in Japanese history as the first Government Delegate ever "sent down" by the House. More than once there have been threats of rejecting a Delegate because his answers were not satisfactory, and members have been heard to cry out "Bring on another Delegate." But dissatisfaction of this nature never found practical expression until the session of the 31st ultimo. The Vice-Minister of the Noshomusho appeared as Government Delegate to answer questions relating to the portion of the Budget devoted to that Department. At quite an early stage the affair of the subsidy granted to the Tea Company for the purpose of exporting leaf tea to America and brick tea to Russia, became the subject of inquiry, and Mr. Ishida was asked to explain the policy of the Department in respect of this subsidy; namely, whether it was proposed to give official protection to the Tea Company only, or whether the grant was to be regarded as part of a general system of protection to all companies. The inquiry was perfectly natural, and might, we cannot help thinking, have been answered by Mr. Ishida without much difficulty. Certainly he ought to have foreseen that such a query would inevitably be addressed to him. To discuss the item intelligently, it was essential that the House should know exactly to what it was pledging itself: whether special considerations applied to the Tea Company, or whether a policy of general protection was to be inferred from the subsidy. But Mr. Ishida resolutely declined to give any information on this point, his plea being that, as Vice-Minister, he could not undertake to expound the policy of his chief. The member by whom the question was originally propounded, seemed disposed to accept this plea, for he merely announced his intention of having recourse to the independent method of seeking information prescribed by the Law of the Houses. But the House, justly exasperated, voted first to go out of Committee in order to discuss the question, and then decided, after a very short debate, to apply for another Delegate, The Delegates who attend in the Houses are present under the sanction of the 54th Article of the Constitution, which provides that "the Ministers of State and the Delegates of the Government may, at any time, take seats and speak in either House." Further, the 44th Article of the Law of the Houses, by implication prescribes the attendance of Government Dele gates whenever the House is in Committee; and empowers members to seek explanations from these Delegates. It has thus become the habit, before proceeding to debate a Government Bill, to address queries, more or less numerous, to the Delegates. But the action taken by the House on the 31st ultimo assumed its right to pass judgment on the qualification of the Delegates; a proposition which the Government might hesitate to endorse. It happens, however, that the House was plainly justified in the present instance from the point of view of the Delegate's incompetence to supply essential information.

* * *

In the same session, Mr. Tanaka Shozo succeeded in paying his debt to Count Goto with interest, though he marred the effect of a fairly skilful stroke by pushing it home with tedious insistance. Count Goto, in his celebrated campain of 1888, did what many a political agitator does everywhere, namely, criticised the Government from a theoretical, not a practical point of view. Any zealous enemy, taking the speeches delivered by him at that time, and comparing them with his present position and procedure, might find material for a strong attack. Mr. Tanaka Shozo adopted that plan, and is doubtless reflecting now with satisfaction that he has amply vindicated himself against the charge of dementia which recently obtained so much publicity. But Mr. Tanaka is not an artist. The prominent and really admirable figure in this episode, and in its accompanying shower of questions, was Mr. Mayejima. He took the measure of his questioners with perfect accuracy, and answered them with all the ease and assurance of an exceptionally able and experienced statesman who finds himself confronted by a number of zealous and inquisitive tyros—for there are few members in the Lower House who can claim to be anything but tyros beside Mr. Mayejima. The Vice-Minister of Communications is the first Government Delegate who has passed through the ordeal of a parliamentary inquisition on the Budget, without having to defer a single answer to the sequel of further research.

SPINNING FACTORIES AND RAILWAYS.

THE *Keizai Zasshi* of a recent date repeats what it has more than once observed as a warning, and what we have written about for six years, that the conversion of floating into fixed capital has been carried to a dangerous extent, and hopes that capitalists will for the present abstain from sinking their money. Among industries that have attracted the largest share of capital, spinning factories and railways stand prëeminent. Of the former, the principal establishments are the cotton spinning factories of Tokyo, Osaka, and the Provinces of Ise, Izumi, and so forth. The Tokyo journal thinks that the best course at present offering to extricate these establishments from their difficulties is to amalgamate them into a few big companies. Then passing on to speak of railways, the *Keizai* observes that the entire length of lines, private as well as Government, already opened for traffic as well as under construction or projected, is more than 3,000 miles, with a capital of about 200 million *yen* in round members. The following table shows the names of the railway companies, with the length of their lines (opened or otherwise), and their capital:—

Company	Length of Miles.	Capital *yen*.
Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha	567	20,000,000
Ryômô Tetsudo Kwaisha	52	1,500,000
Mito Tetsudo Kwaisha	42	1,200,000
Kôbu Tetsudo Kwaisha	23	900,000
Kô shin Tetsudo Kwaisha	117	4,500,000
Han-kai Tetsudo Kwaisha	7	330,000
Ise Tetsudo Kwaisha	4	40,000
Sanuki Tetsudo Kwaisha	10	250,000
Osaka Tetsudo Kwaisha	37	1,800,000
Kwansai Tetsudo Kwaisha	72	3,000,000
San-yo Tetsudo Kwaisha	303	13,000,000
Kyushu Tetsudo Kwaisha	272	11,000,000
Chikuhô Tetsudo Kwaisha	30	750,000
Yamagata Tetsudo Kwaisha	78	2,000,000
Jô-etsu Tetsudo Kwaisha	190	6,987,000
Gan-etsu Tetsudo Kwaisha	—	—
Sô-bu Tetsudo Kwaisha	—	—
Gumma Tetsudo Kwaisha	13	500,000
Total	1,817	67,757,000

The above figures represent only privately owned railways. Putting the total sum of the capital of private companies at 70 million *yen*, and supposing that 7 per cent. profit is to be declared on the average for the shareholders, there must be a net profit of 4,900,000 *yen* annually, or in other words, the aggregate gross receipts on the whole lines must be some 10 million *yen* a year. The *Keizai Zasshi* thinks it altogether out of the question that such a large amount of gross receipts can be realized under the present circumstances of the business world. Our contemporary, consequently, considers it of vital importance for the sake of the general prosperity of the country to stop the construction of all new lines, so that the lines already opened for traffic may remain in a healthy financial condition.

"IL GENIO DELL' ISLAMISMO."

SAUL among the prophets was probably no stranger sight to his day and generation than Osman Bey Kibritzli-Zadé, the author of *Il Genio dell' Islamismo* is to us in this nineteenth century. The writer in question, himself an unspeakable Turk, comes to the aid of our social and socialistic reformers, and points out in his work, which was some months ago published by L. Roux and Co., at Turin in Italy, the utter futility of all their endeavours and the hopelessness of their contest with the rising tide of poverty and evil. Historically, of course, the cause of Europe's present miseries must be sought in the victory of Charles Martel at Poitiers and in the successful defence of Vienna in the seventeenth century. But on this ancient history the author dwells but briefly. When Schopenhauer said that Islam had scarcely any metaphysical basis, he was right; but when he added that it must be placed very low as a religious system, he was decidedly wrong; in fact the absence of metaphysical speculation is according to Osman Bey its true strength and very *raison d'être*. Mohammed's revelation sprang, not from the absorption of the human mind in the mysteries of God, but from the righteous indignation of a frank and noble heart at the strange perverseness of the so-called civilization of the empire of Eastern Rome, as well as from disgust at seeing the real power rest, not with the sword and the strong arm, but with the law and contemptible cunning, the *astuzia*, of the pettifogger, the priest, and the Jewish usurer. Intimately connected with the spirit of Mohammed, though vastly inferior in consistency and energetic manifestation, is, according to Osman Bey's way of thinking, the present anti-Semitic current that sweeps through the industrial centres of Eastern and Central Europe. Deception and trickery reign indeed among the dastardly race of men; but by him who with a true and hearty *Kismet* can boldly face whatever comes, the terrors of both life and death have been vanquished forever. To such a man belongs the world, and rightly. Islam's *credo* is hence very simple: God, a horse, a sword; and above us all inexorable Fate.

What must be, must happen;
And none of us is his own.

An overpowering simplicity, the vastness of

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the desert, the grandeur of the ocean—that is the character of Islam. A grand brotherhood in arms of all the faithful—that is its purpose. Its warlike and simply religious but not ecclesiastical character excludes avarice, intrigue, and that narrow-mindedness generally associated with terms like *bourgeoisie* and Carlyle's Philistism. Who has ever seen a Turk deplore the approach of his own death or lament the departure of another? It is fate—why tears? On the other hand, boundless hospitality and ready pity for all that suffer both among men and animals secure for the poor and unfortunate help and support in time of need. Of course, as our author admits, the ideal period of Mohammed's social system is past, especially in Turkey. Two Islamitic institutions remain to be noticed, the harem and slavery. The inferior position of woman, which she prefers to the freedom and emancipation of Europe, and the institution of slavery, with its humane treatment of the subordinate, are closely connected and give to society its peculiar mark and impress. Here Osman Bey grows indignant. "Slavery, according to European ignoramuses, a disgrace to mankind? Why, our serfdom is but an adoption made in due form. Take note, ye scribbers at Brussels!"—"Slavery is an absolutely necessary wheel in the machinery of Islamitic society. Without it the machine stops. Without it the harem is impossible. How can the slaves be free and the mistresses imprisoned? As the harem is an almost sacred institution of Islam, slavery also must be respected: attacks upon it are directed against Islam itself. Why then this call on the part of the 'civilised powers' for the abolition of slavery? The answer is simple: they wish to exploit the negro themselves, for he is a cheap and good labourer. We may then take what their employment bureaux will give us, the drunkards and rogues, in a word, the scum. Social and political ruin, that is the vista opened to us at Brussels." The sword seems to our author to offer the only solution of the difficulty, but he does not appear to be sanguine as to the result. However excellent the individual may be, the Islamitic world lacks discipline, cohesion, and leadership. On the whole, Osman Bey's solution of the social problem is easily understood. The introduction of the harem would do away with all the questions arising from the employment and remuneration of woman's work, while slavery, of a humane type of course, would forever rid us of the problems forced upon public attention by the occasionally very large number of the unemployed. Than this remedy nothing could be simpler or more effective. It bears the mark of genius, for it is simplicity itself. Voilà tout!

EARTHQUAKES IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.

THE good folks of Inverness in Scotland were startled by an earthquake which visited the town at the busy hour of six o'clock one Saturday evening in November last. A good many of the shops were full of customers, who had the new sensation of seeing articles tilt over on the shelves, and pictures go swinging. In one ironmonger's establishment lamps and other articles were overturned, and the scared employés rushed out into the streets. People who happened to be seated felt a rocking motion as if in a cradle, with the additional sensation of being violently dragged as in a railway carriage that has left the rails. There was no great damage done, although it is reported that a chimney and a staircase fell in Petty Street. In the West Highlands slight shocks of earthquake are not uncommon, and it is supposed that this earthquake travelled northwards up the great glen of the Caledonian Canal. It is four or five years since a similar occurrence took place.

SCOTTISH EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE past year saw the amalgamation of University College, Dundee, with the ancient corporation of St. Andrew's University. As the two cities are only fifteen miles apart, the long chimney-stalk of Lochee factory being plainly visible from St. Andrew's golf-links, the two institutions are likely to draw more completely together in the course of time. Dundee offers special advantages for medical study, a department in which St. Andrew's has but the making of a medical faculty, being provided with only three medical chairs. Some of the chairs are duplicated in the amalgamated corporation, but in the bifurcation of studies, which is the goal of educational reformers at present, the duplicate chairs can easily be made use of for special branches, if necessary. Professor J. A. Ewing, formerly of the University of Tokyo, which he left for University College, Dundee, six or seven years ago, has remained for but a short time a professor of St. Andrew's University. At the close of last year he was appointed to the new chair of engineering at Cambridge University, a post worth £700 a year. St. Andrews has received a windfall in the shape of the Berry bequest. When the estate of this Australian benefactor is realised,—a matter of three or four years still—it is expected that no less a sum than £100,000 will accrue to the University. As its usefulness has been seriously impaired in the past by lack of funds, this bequest comes in very opportunely. The recent additions to the staff of Glasgow University seem to be acceptable to the undergraduates. Professor Bradley, a nephew of the Dean of Westminister, who succeeded Henry Nicol in the English Literature chair, is lecturing to exceptionally large classes this session. Glasgow as well as Edinburgh has chosen for Lord Rector a member of the present Cabinet. Mr. Goschen in Edinburgh polled 1,378 to Sir Charles Russell's 805, and Mr. Balfour in Glasgow defeated Lord Aberdeen by a majority of 231, the votes being 948 and 717 respectively. When Mr. Gladstone, some twenty years back, was elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University, the only man whom he could think of for recommendation to the degree of LL.D. was Mr. A. J. Balfour, now his successor. Principal Donaldson has been having a fling at Normal Schools. These institutions in Scotland absorb £28,000 of national money, while the Universities receive only £42,000, a miserably inadequate sum. The work of the Normal Schools might easily be thrown on the Universities to the advantage of all concerned, when it would be done more efficiently and more cheaply. The principal is also troubled about secondary education in Scotland. The old arrangement allowed masters to be virtually independent each in his own department, but recent changes have tended to make them more and more subordinate to the head-master, who undertakes the complete responsibility. This change is operating unfavourably in lowering the status of masters, and rendering the profession less popular. The same class of men will not come forward, when their position no longer allows them a free hand. It is an English innovation, and is opposed to the best traditions of Scottish education.

THE ELECTRIC QUESTION.

MR. IWATA'S letter in our correspondence columns suggests the advisability of referring to a point which has given rise to some misrepresentations. A short time ago the *Japan Gazette* published a series of rules compiled by an insurance company with reference to electric lighting apparatus, and added the advice that Japanese electric light companies should be compelled to observe the rules. Referring to this we said:—"Some amusement has been caused by the publication of an insurance company's rules in the columns of a local foreign journal, with a context of well meant but rather naïve advice to Japanese Electric Light Companies in general, and to the Japanese Authorities in particular, the latter being urged to have the rules translated into Japanese and to insist on their observance by all companies. Excellent as is the motive of such writing, it can only provoke a smile. Japanese experts and the foreigners in Japanese employ are not so ill-informed as to need a text-book in the shape of an insurance company's regulations." It is inconceivable that these plain words should be misconstrued? They cannot by any possibility mean anything except that, in our opinion, there is matter for mirth in the conduct of a newspaper presenting to Japanese electrical engineers elementary rules with which they are already perfectly familiar, and accompanying the rules by equally superfluous advice to the authorities. Yet the *Japan Gazette* appears to imagine that our comment was directed against the rules themselves, and against "facts supplied to it by experts in electric lighting." And now comes "Electron" enquiring whether "the editor of the *Mail* means to say that Japanese engineers are competent to work without rules when these rules are found necessary for the guidance of engineers in Western countries." What an earth the *Gazette's* retort or "Electron's" query has to do with our original remarks, we are at a loss to perceive. If we laughed at the notion of presenting bread to a man already well supplied with food, would it follow that we condemned bread itself, or pronounced it unnecessary as food?

THE TELEPHONE.

THE telephone is sometimes a faithless servant. It betrays secrets as well as communicates them. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* says that a certain gentleman of gay proclivities, desiring the other day to consult a friend as to the possibility of spending a jolly evening, rang the bell of the telephone and asked to be placed in communication with Number so-and-so. Accustomed, however, to send messages in this way to his own family, habit made him give the number of his house. The connection was duly made, and his wife hastened to apply the trumpets to her ears in order to receive her lord's commands. "What can I do for you?" she asked. "What do you say," came the answer, "to an expedition to our usual haunt to-night, without letting the good folks at home know anything?" "Consult your own convenience," replied the angry lady. "I shan't wait for you." "Who is there?" inquired the puzzled husband. "It's I," signalled the lady, and then the disconnecting bell tingled violently.

* * *

Another story from the same source tells of a gentleman who, telephoning to a friend, said:—"Can I see you for a moment? Pray pardon me for interrupting you in the midst of your business." For answer the wire transmitted a hearty laugh, repeated more than once. By and by the inquirer grew angry, and asked curtly:—"Is everybody out?" "No," was the reply. "But there's no one here that can see you by telephone. We shall all be pleased to hear you, however."

MR. TANAKA SHOZO.

MR. TANAKA SHOZO, who charged Count Goto with harbouring seditious characters and was dubbed a madman for his pains, does not appear to be exactly the model of a parliamentary representative approved of by the people of Tochigi Prefecture. He certainly has unique merits. Few members of Parliament can boast, as he can, that he never speaks without startling the House and invariably manages to rescue from oblivion and neglect matters which, without his solicitude, would never attract any attention whatever. These are gifts of their kind, but they are not the kind of gifts that the voters in Tochigi seem to appreciate. A movement is said to be on foot in that prefecture to urge Mr. Tanaka to resign. We cannot honestly wish it success, for if Mr. Tanaka does not always convey instruction, he generally manages to furnish amusement.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY'S CASE.

THERE is great interest in Tokyo about the suit brought by the Electric Light Company against Mr. Soné. The novel character of the pleading astonishes experts. It is difficult even to ascertain against whom the action is laid; that is to say, whether against Mr. Soné, as a private individual, or against Mr. Soné, Chief Secretary of the House of Representatives. If the former, the difficulty arises that Mr. Soné merely expressed an opinion about the origin of the fire,

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and did not attribute carelessness or any other shortcoming to the Electric Light Company. If the latter, then it would appear that Mr. Soné cannot be called to account, since his statements in the House are privileged. Further, careful examination of the language of the plaint reveals the fact that no allegation of actual injury is made. It is merely stated that the results threaten to be injurious to the Company. The Japanese law does not assume injury in case of libel. The complainant is required to prove that he has suffered. Thus from many points of view people are perplexed to understand how the suit, as now preferred, can be entertained.

THE VICTORIA SCHOOL.

At the last annual meeting of the Victoria Public School, it was shown that the number of scholars had diminished from fifty to forty, and that, in order to maintain the School, it had been necessary to draw upon the capital fund, which has now shrunk from its original amount of over four thousand *yen* to a little more than one thousand. This state of affairs naturally excites a considerable share of public attention. It is hoped, indeed, that the decrease of pupils noticed during 1890 will prove a mere temporary fluctuation, and that the present year will see a sensible increase of numbers. No solid grounds for such a hope seem to exist, the simple fact being that material to draw from is not forthcoming. Were the management of the School or the instruction offered there deficient in any respect, the prospect might be brightened by remedying these defects. But there do not appear to be any grounds for finding fault with the school. On the contrary, circumstances have been particularly kind in furnishing it with a Head-master of quite exceptional abilities, and it has enjoyed throughout its whole career the advantage of thoroughly earnest and efficient supervision at the hands of a Committee of the foreign residents. For our own part, we entertain little doubt that the cause of the falling off in the attendance of pupils is to be sought in an external circumstance, namely, the establishment of a school in Tokyo with which the Victoria School cannot hope to compete successfully. We allude to the School of the Morning Star at Kudan. This institution is under the auspices of one of the best known and most highly reputed Educational Societies of the day. It has ample resources, and its staff of foreign teachers, now numbering eleven, is evidently far in excess of any staff that can be provided at a School depending entirely on local support in Yokohama. Several lads who were entered as boarders at the Victoria School, have been withdrawn within the past twelve months, and placed at the Kudan institution, not because any fault could be urged against the former, but simply because parents are morally bound to give their children the best instruction available. The conditions of competition between the two schools are hopelessly unequal. In the one case we have a greatly underpaid Head-master —a host in himself, certainly, but still only one man—a Japanese assistant, and a state of impecuniosity which forbids all liberal expenditure on account of equipment, and generally cramps the useful energy of the school. In the other, we have a staff of eleven foreign teachers, all of them specialists and having no object in life but the education of the young; several competent Japanese; a rich patron society which recently voted a sum of sixty thousand dollars for the purchase of a site and the erection of buildings, and the certainty that for each increment of students ample addition will be immediately made to the foreign staff. Thus the support which the foreign and Japanese Communities of Tokyo might otherwise lend to the Victoria School is effectually diverted by the presence of such an institution as the "Ecole de l'Etoile du Matin" at Kudan. The chief element of hope in the case of the Yokohama school was that Japanese boys would be sent there, as to a place where they could look forward to acquiring English thoroughly and easily by daily contact with English and American play-fellows. But the Tokyo School offers this advantage to an even greater degree, for a lad attending there learns, in a wonderfully short time, to speak both French and English. Indeed, it is not too much to say that the Tokyo institution presents almost unique educational facilities, and that with such a school at their doors, parents in Tokyo are most unlikely to turn to Yokohama. Doubtless there will always be a certain number of lads in Yokohama and Kobe to attend the Victoria School, so long as it remains under Mr. Hinton's management, but whether they will suffice to support it is a serious problem. The Committee has now been obliged to resort to the extreme measure of dispensing with the services of the second foreign teacher, and when a school finds itself compelled to reduce its staff of instructors in order to make ends meet, there cannot be much hope of attracting an increased number of students in the future. Everybody wants to see the Victoria School flourish, but despite the high qualifications and unflagging zeal of its principal, supplemented by the aid of a hard-working Committee, the School has steadily failed to present any prospect of becoming self-supporting, and its present condition seems darker than ever. What ought to be recognised, we think, is that the fault does not lie with the institution itself, but is to be sought in independent and uncontrollable causes.

MR. J. M. DIXON'S "IDIOMATIC ENGLISH PHRASES."

The *St. James's Gazette* says:—

If evidence was desired as to whether the Japanese have progressed in the study of European languages, it would be found in the volume which has just appeared. The *Dictionary of Idiomatic English Phrases* (London: T. Nelson and Sons, 1891), by James Main Dixon, M.A., Professor of English Literature in the Tokyo University, is the result of many examples collated to assist students in their work of studying English. Having had to look out so many for the benefit of his hearers Mr. Dixon has wisely enlarged the material he thus collected, and brought out the book now before us on a wider and more comprehensive plan. He was encouraged as there was nothing against him in the field except the clever but rather loose production of Mr. Kwong Ki-chiu, whose publication of a "Dictionary of English Phrases" we noticed a few years ago. Mr. Dixon objects to this work that it is American more than British, many phrases of the latter class being omitted altogether. He is likewise dissatisfied with the arbitrary and confusing arrangement of the book and with the examples given, which, though apt, have not the *imprimatur* of some well-known author's name. Mr. Dixon does not err in this way He has brought in many phrases that Kwong has omitted, followed an alphabetical arrangement, and gives quotations as examples of the meanings he describes. He divides the phrases into four categories, which are indicated by a letter. Thus P means that the phrase is used in serious composition; C in polite conversation; F in familiar circles, but not in polite society, and S for Slang, where the phrase is vulgar, and should be avoided. It is perhaps strange that the previous work of this kind was compiled by a Chinaman—clever and highly educated, no doubt, and with able American assistance—and that Mr. Dixon's chief object in work was to place in the hands of his students a ready aid to further comprehending the English language. By its means the Japanese at home or abroad will be able to study his phrases and adapt them exactly to the company he may find himself in Thus he may "egg on" any one whilst using a polite phrase, but if he calls anyone a "bad egg" he is using slang. "A fig for anyone" would be familiar, to be "run in" Mr. Dixon classifies as conversational, whilst to say anyone or anything was "slap up" would be again slang. The student may suggest "casting sheep's eyes," or remark he sees it "with half an eye," but the one would right in polite society whilst the other would be familiar; and unless he wants to be slangy he should never say "my eye," or "all my eye and Betty Martin" any more than he should talk of "Glasgow magistrates," or of "slipping into a man." Mr. Dixon concludes with a list of the works from which he has selected quotations.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR WORKS.

The critics have taken the field again, we perceive, but have changed the scene of their performances from Yokohama to London. We have not often read a statement so redolent of bias and disfigured by misrepresentation as an article on the Yokohama Harbour Works published by *Engineering*, and reproduced on Saturday last by one of our local contemporaries. A scathing reply by the Superintending Engineer of the works appears in our columns to-day. Plainly the article was written, or at least inspired, by some professional man, perhaps one better acquainted with Yokohama than he cared to be let seen. We are thus driven to the conclusion that there are to be found in the ranks of one of the finest professions black sheep for whom no methods are too unscrupulous when they seek to defame one of their own brotherhood. Misrepresentations too flagrant to be regarded as misconceptions are the disgraceful weapons employed by them. Happily in the present case the object of their attack cannot be harmed by the stabs of such *soshi*: his high standing and long record of good work in many parts of the world place him entirely above their reach. We have a very vivid recollection of a previous attempt to discredit the same gentleman when he was carrying out the Yokohama Water Works. It appeared in the columns of the *Japan Gazette*. We remember also what came of it. This second attempt is bolder, but we predict for it a similar fate.

* * *

As to the points raised by *Engineering*, we have made enquiries in respect of a few of them, and are satisfied that they proceed from entire misapprehension, real or pretended, of the character of the works and the details of construction. The non-connection of the breakwaters with the land, for example, would never have been honestly questioned by any one aware that they are so designed mainly for the important purpose of excluding from the anchorage, by training works, the silt-laden streams at present flowing into it and filling it up, especially the water of the Katabiragawa, which is and has been from time immemorial the harbour's worst enemy. Again, the notion that anything would have been gained by beginning at the shore and working steadily out therefrom comes strangely from a writer who states, wrongly as it happens, that the superstructures are to be below high-water level. If the breakwaters had been high enough and wide enough to facilitate continuous operations from the top of the finished work, creeping out gradually from the land, something might be said in favour of the plan, though, on the other hand, the fact of working off one forward face only would not have been conducive to rapid progress in the early stages of the work, while it would also have had the effect of delaying as long as possible the commencement of the outer parts, where the water is deepest and the breakwaters are most massive, and where, in consequence of the softness of the sea-bottom, the longest possible period is needed for settlement and observation. But, for excellent reasons, the breakwaters are to be carried only to one foot above high-water level, and it will hardly be contested, we think, that, in this windy region, work from a surface having so little command above the water would (unless the command were increased by costly staging) be only too often interrupted for hours of every tide; and this objection would have yet greater force in the case of the still lower breakwater height of the critic's imagination. Further, the breadth of the superstructures is small for the greater part of the distance, for the simple reason that greater breadth is not needed. As for the pretence that the work has been carried on from outwards inwards, it is a mere falsehood. For the sake of expedition, the laying of the foundations and substructure has, by gradual expansion, come to be carried on at more points than one—a method to which no objection can be taken in respect of the stages hitherto reached in the work; but each section has always progressed outwards. Once more, the silly fable about rocks and reefs can have been dictated only by malice. People who want breakwaters must make up their minds to a limitation of previously existing free water-space, while the works are in progress as well as after their completion; and it does not appear that the operations here have been spread over needlessly long lengths, having regard to rapidity of progress and other exigencies of the case. Lastly, so far from dumping having been began at the breakwater heads, the truth is that to this day not an ounce of material has been dumped within 1,530 feet

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of the head of the East Breakwater or within 400 feet of the head of the North Breakwater, while, at the latest possible date of the information so falsely supplied to *Engineering*, those intervals were considerably greater.

HAWAII.

THE assertion that the independence of Hawaii is guaranted by Great Britain, France, and the United States, having been made with some insistance in contradiction of our statements, we have examined the documents bearing on the question. From these we learn that, in February, 1843, Lord George Paulet, Captain of H.B.M.'s ship *Carysfort*, took possession of the Sandwich Islands in the name of the Queen. Five months later Admiral Thomas, commanding the British squadron in those waters, hauled down the British flag and restored the islands to independence. Negotiations ensued between England and France, with the result that, in November of the same year, the following declaration was made by those two Powers, with reference to the independence of the Islands:—

Her Majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Majesty the King of the French, taking into consideration the existence in the Sandwich Islands of a Government capable of providing for the regularity of its relations with foreign nations, have thought it right to engage, reciprocally, to consider the Sandwich Islands as an Independent State, and never to take possession, either directly or under the title of Protectorate or under any other form, of any part of the territory of which they are composed.

The undersigned, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Ambassador Extraordinary of His Majesty the King of the French at the Court of London, being furnished with the necessary powers, hereby declare in consequence, that their Majesties take reciprocally that engagement.

In witness whereof the undersigned have signed the present Declaration, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done in duplicate, at London, the 28th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1843.

(L.S.) ABERDEEN. (L.S.) St. AULAIRE.

It will be seen that there is here no question whatever of "guarantaing the independence" of Hawaii. The two Powers merely pledge themselves receiprocally to "respect its independence," as we stated in a previous issue. The Government of the United States took no part in these negotiations. But in a despatch dated November 19th, 1881, from Mr. Blaine to the United States Representative in Hawaii, we find the following:—"The Government of the United States has always avowed and now repeats, that under no circumstances will it permit the transfer of any of the territory or sovereignty of these islands to the great European Powers."

ELECTRICITY AND FIRE.

LITTLE acquainted as yet with the real nature of electric lighting apparatus and cognate matters, the middle and lower classes in the capital appear to have been greatly startled by the fate that overtook the Houses of Parliament. Nobody seems to doubt that the electric light was responsible for the catastrophe, and whereas formerly this method of lighting was believed to give absolute immunity against fire, now-a-days five people out of every ten regard each wire stretched overhead as a distinct source of peril. Not electric lighting alone, but every method of utilizing electricity has become an object of suspicion, the telephone among the rest. Certain folks have been asking experts whether the telephone might not be responsible for a fire one of these fine days, and others want to know whether cholera germs could not be propagated by this subtle instrument as well as waves of sound. We have not come across any of these inquisitive folks ourselves, and are disposed to attribute their rumoured appearance on the scene to the birth of a mood that generally overtakes the Japanese when they are emerging from any temporary excitement. With them the immediate successor of any distressing emotion is merriment. After a few more whimsical fancies have exhibited the ridiculous phase of this panic about electric lighting, things will return to their old groove, the Diet will be forgotten, and the pear-shaped lamps will once more begin to multiply. Previously to the 20th of January every foreign visitor to Tokyo was struck by the remarkable predilection shown by the pettiest tradesmen for the electric light. It was a common thing to see the new luminary glowing in a tiny store, the whole of whose visible stock in trade would not have fetched ten *yen*. Some time must elapse ere this tide of popularity begins to blow again.

* * *

A very foolish question has been raised about the propriety of Mr. Takanashi's undertaking to conduct the case of the Electric Light Company against Mr. Soné. A law-suit against the Chief Secretary of the House, is virtually a law-suit against the House itself, say the objectors, and it does not become a member of the House to appear in the Courts as Counsel for its prosecutors. This is certainly a confused kind of sentiment. If it really obtains currency in Japan, we shall have to set it down as another element of perplexity in estimating the character of a decidedly enigmatical people.

A PERSISTENT MISCONCEPTION.

IT is surprising that, if the *Japan Gazette* will not take the trouble to refer to Viscount Aoki's speech in the House of Representatives, so as to ascertain what he really did say, the inherent improbability of the stories which it continues to circulate about the former Minister of Justice and the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, does not occur to it at once. In the first place, these stories rest on no better authority than that of two newspapers both strongly and openly hostile to the present Government. The *Japan Gazette* has lately told the public with considerable insistance and emphasis that it refuses all faith to the arguments or assertions of any journal suspected of official proclivities. But it certainly fails to exercise any reserve whatever in respect of journals known to be anti-official. Every attack upon the Authorities by the latter class of newspapers appears to be accepted by our contemporary as sufficiently credible to form the basis of hostile criticisms on its own account. Be this as it may, however, the tale itself is so obviously concocted without regard to facts that we cannot understand the *Gazette's* attitude towards it. Our contemporary continues to put into Viscount Aoki's mouth a denial of "the connection of the Commercial Code with Treaty Revision." Now is it conceivable for one single instant that Viscount Aoki could make such a denial? The connection between the Codes and Treaty Revision has been a matter of public notoriety for the past seven or eight years. One of the chief causes of the failure of Treaty Revision in 1887 was that Japan, not being able to present her finished Codes to the foreign negotiators, was required to give such pledges with regard to their nature and permanency as no independent State could give without serious loss of dignity. Count Inouye himself, in addition to the arduous duties of his special office, undertook in those days to sit as President of a Committee of Japanese and foreign experts assembled to carry on the work of revising and comparing the Codes, which has been drafted long before that time. On Count Inouye's retirement from the Foreign Office, Count Yamada succeeded to the presidency of this Committee, and it was then, in 1887, that he sought to expedite the work of revision by reminding the Committee how closely the completion of their task was connected with a most important phase of the empire's foreign relations. Throughout the whole of this period Viscount Aoki remained Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in that position must have been familiar with, and an active participator in, everything that was going on. Certainly he, of all men in Japan, would have been the last to deny the intimate connection between the Codes and Treaty Revision. But in 1887 the nationalistic reaction set in, and soon the temper of the country grew to be such that whereas Western origin had previously guaranteed a popular reception for any innovation, the slightest taint of alienage became thenceforth almost deterrent. The new Codes could not hope to escape suspicion, since all the world knew that their revision had been hastened in the interests of Treaty Revision. Accordingly, when the Commercial Code was promulgated, one of the first charges preferred against it was that it substituted foreign customs for Japanese. Everybody who understood anything of the temper of the time, knew that this suspicion was at the root of the opposition raised in Parliament against the Code's speedy operation, and knew also that to dispel the suspicion was the only hope of inducing the Diet to vote against postponement. No member of the Cabinet was personally so interested as the Minister of State for Justice in saving the Code, and no member of the Cabinet gave him such open aid as Viscount Aoki. But Viscount Aoki did not tell the House of Representatives that no connection existed between the Code and Treaty Revision. Such a statement would have been ridiculous, and every one of his hearers would have appreciated its aburdity. What he told them was that Treaty Revision had not been the origin of the Code, and that its provisions had not been framed in the interests of two or three thousand foreigners living in Japan as her guests, but in the interests of forty millions of Japanese. This is a mere question of truth or untruth. The stenographic report of Viscount Aoki's speech is accessible to every one. Why does not the editor of the *Japan Gazette* consult it, instead of persisting in putting an extravagant falsehood into the mouth of the Minister of Foreign Affairs? Frankly speaking, we cannot persuade ourselves that the *Gazette* has given this matter any serious thought. For it actually suggests that the House might have voted against the postponement of the Code's operation, had it not learned from Viscount Aoki that the new law was not "connected with Treaty Revision." Now the fact is that had it been possible to convince the House of the Code's absolute independence from a legislative point of view, the chances of a hostile vote would have been immensely diminished. Viscount Aoki did what he could to assist Count Yamada, though the effect of his aid was doubtless greatly marred by the question of privilege immediately raised in connection with it. All this is so plain and so consistent with the circumstances of the time that it baffles our comprehension to understand how the *canard* now in circulation finds credence. The *Japan Gazette* may have its reasons for reposing in the anti-Government tales of second-class anti-Government journals confidence which it avowedly withholds from pro-Government journals in all conjunctures. But the utter improbability of the story it so implicitly accepts, and the easily established falsehood of the account it republishes of Viscount Aoki's speech in the Diet, render the incident very singular.

THE DAY AFTER THE STORM.

As might have been expected, the House of Representatives found itself in a peculiar position when it assembled on Tuesday. The resolution adopted on Monday provided for nothing more than the forwarding of a request to Mr. Mutsu Munemitsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, asking him to attend in his place in the House, in order to answer questions as to his general policy in respect of subsidies to industrial and commercial companies. The resolution said nothing whatever about the obviously possible contingency that Mr. Mutsu might be unable or unwilling to attend. As it happens, Mr. Mutsu is laid up with influenza; a rather fortunate conjuncture, for nothing is less likely than that, attending in the House as a private member, he would have consented to answer questions relating to his policy as a Minister of State. At all events, when the House re-assembled after its stormy session, no Mr. Mutsu was visible, while, on the other hand, the discredited Delegate, Mr. Ishida, was waiting quietly in his place, and the Orders of the Day placed the House in the predicament of having to go on questioning him as though nothing had happened. To this course, however, the members

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could not reconcile themselves. Nor did Mr. Ishida succeed in throwing any oil on the troubled waters. Having obtained a hearing, not without difficulty, he explained that his refusal to answer a question about the general policy of the Minister of his Department, had been prompted by a conviction that such information was not essential in discussing the Budget. This meant that the House should confine itself to the items actually submitted to it, a view naturally repugnant to such inquisitive economists as Messrs. Inugai, Kawashima, Otsu, and so forth. What was the House to do under the circumstances? To go on questioning Mr. Ishida as though nothing had happened would have looked decidedly fatuous. One member, indeed, ventured to formulate a query, but nobody paid any attention to him. As for Mr. Takanashi, the proposer of the obfuscating resolution, he made no attempt to solve the situation. Finally the House resigned itself to the only consistent course, namely, to postpone further queries about the Department of Agriculture and Commerce until Mr. Mutsu's attendance in his place. Mr. Mutsu will probably be unable to attend for several days, and in the meanwhile the fate of the Budget will be sealed for good or for evil.

* * *

It has been rumoured during the past ten days that the House might look forward to having some surprises sprung upon it in connection with the Budget. The anticipation received its first verification on Tuesday. There are two processes through which a Bill has to pass in the Japanese Parliament: the first is the inquiry stage (*shitsugi-kai*), the second the deliberative (*togi-kai*). During the session devoted to inquiry, the House, figuratively speaking, places the Government Delegates as well as its own Committee in the witness-box and examines them as exhaustively as it pleases in order to obtain a clear idea of the measure it is about to discuss. This inquiry stage occupied a space of 14 working days in the case of the Budget, for each section was investigated first as it stood in the original Budget, and secondly as it appeared after the Committee's amendments. The weary process came to an end on Tuesday afternoon, however, and as the House was about to rise at an unusually early hour, in order to prepare itself for the debate of the next day, Mr. Oyagi Biichiro asked permission to bring in an urgency motion. Mr. Oyagi is one of the most eminent barristers of the day. He is also a prominent figure among the "moderates" in the Lower House. In the early days of the Diet's session, he and men of acknowledged calibre and standing, as Messrs. Ooka, Suyematsu Kencho, Misaki and so forth, took an active part in the debates, but of late they have sat perfectly quiet, watching the band of busy Radicals and Progressionists who have made things so lively for the Delegates, the House, and themselves. When, therefore, Mr. Oyagi ascended the rostrum, the extremists scented the fray and began to fume at once. Mr. Oyagi's proposal aimed simply at shelving the Report of the Budget Committee by returning it to the Committee, with directions to amend it so as to make it consist with the Law and the Constitution. It will be remembered that a less equivocal motion was brought on the 12th of January by Mr. Nishi Kiichi, and that, though urgency was granted to it by a vote of 120 against 104, in a small and unprepared House, the Radicals and Progressionists mustered all their forces the next day, and defeated the motion by 140 against 124. Mr. Oyagi's proposition was less successful in one sense, for urgency was refused by 134 against 127. But, on the other hand, such a very slender majority as 7 in a House of 261, shows that a strong sentiment prevails in opposition to the extremists.

FIRE.

FIRE broke out about half-past ten on Sunday evening in the International Hotel, No. 93, the property of Mr. James Carey. The flames appear to have originated in one of the out-houses, but spread with surprising rapidity to the main building which, being largely composed of wood, was soon one mass of flame. The fire was seen at an early stage from the lookout tower of the Fire Brigade, and a hose cart was on the spot in a very few minutes, standpipes being fixed and several streams playing on the fire and on adjacent buildings. The fire had obtained such a hold, however, in a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes that no hope remained of saving the hotel. The residence of Mr. Carey, only a few feet distant from the hotel, was saved, and the new building of Messrs. Witkowski & Co., though in some danger, escaped the flames, which under the influence of a fresh breeze threatened destruction in more than one direction. Some half a dozen hydrants were in use; and the "Victoria" and "Relief" steam engines were on the spot, though only one was in action pumping from the well opposite the British Gaol. We understand the building and furniture were both insured, in one case in the Straits and in the other in the Manchester Fire Insurance Company.

PREDICTIONS FOR 1891.

THE *Kokumin* makes the following predictions for 1891:—

(1) The friction between political parties and the Houses will become more pronounced.

(2) Scholars and theorists of narrow views and desirous of winning popularity will raise vehement charges that the Bill for the examination of the Budget is a contravention of the constitution.

(3) The distinction between persons in the Government service and those outside it will become more marked.

(4) The Korean question will come to the front.

(5) The notion of emigrating to foreign countries will become very prevalent.

(6) Dramatic works will appear in the literary world.

(7) Students of English law will once more gain influence and English law schools will prosper.

(8) Changes in the journalistic world, some lights falling and others rising into view.

(9) A revolution will take place among the Constitutional liberals, and with the amendment of the regulation as to Political Associations, alliances according to different localities will be formed in the party.

(10) Detectives in high life will themselves be detected.

(11) A great reaction will be apparent in religious circles especially among Christians.

(12) Count Okuma will reappear on the stage of public life.

(13) Count Ito's reputation will be enhanced.

(14) Count Itagaki will be offended and will retire to his home at Tosa.

COUNT INOUYE.

A short time ago rumour was very busy with Count Inouye's name. Wise folks asserted confidently that the Government had invited him to come to the capital in order to mediate with the Diet in respect of the Budget. A more extraordinary task was probably never before conceived in connection with Count Inouye, but still the story obtained credence, its foundation being the undoubted fact that Mr. Tsuzuki Keiroku, one of the Minister-President's Private Secretaries, had proceeded to Yamaguchi. Mr. Tsuzuki has now returned to Tokyo, and accounted for his proceedings in a very matter-of-fact fashion. It appears that, although his feelings urged him to make his way to Count Inouye's residence, he might have failed to do so after all, had he not been prompted by a reason no more romantic than want of money. He had run short of travelling expenses, and the easiest way to supply the deficiency was to go to Count Inouye. He found the Count buried in poetical studies, the *Kokiu-shu* and the *Manyo-shu*, his constant companions. In answer to his visitor's inquiries, he said that his chief aim was to shake from his feet the dust of a wearisome world, and to bury the memory of political perplexities in a grave as deep as utter seclusion could furnish. But Count Inouye's merry humour is always active, and he did not suffer Mr. Tsuzuki to depart without something to set the public laughing. Hitherto he said, men had called him *Segai Mukyo Koji* (the Homeless Recluse) by way of posthumous title, but henceforth he was to be the *Sanyen Koji*, or Three-monkey Recluse. This last title is not plain to the uninitiated. It refers to a celebrated picture of three monkeys, one asleep, another with its paw to its mouth, and the third holding a paw to each ear. The picture is based on a pun. *Saru*, the Japanese for "monkey," is also the negative verbal terminal. Thus the three verbs, "not seeing," "not speaking," and "not hearing" are *mi-zaru*, *iwa-zaru*, and *kika-zaru*, and the Count's new name is intended to intimate his complete retirement from the political arena. "But although I have become a monkey," he added, "let no one erect a *Koshin-zuka* (wayside shrine) in my honour."

MISSIONARIES OUTSIDE THE SETTLEMENTS.

THERE appears in the correspondence columns of the *Hyogo News* a letter to which reference is necessary, because if the opinion expressed by the writer finds circulation and credence among missionaries, troublesome consequences may ensue. The letter is as follows:—

SIR,—In your issue of to-day I notice a paragraph, which, in justice to the Government of this country, if for no other reason, asks for immediate correction. I refer to the note about the Rev. G. L. Perin preaching in Nagaya. So far as "the law of the land" goes there is religious toleration, the Constitution promulgated in 1889 declaring all religions lawful, proved they do not militate against the peace of the State. Nor, again, is there any contravention of the law of the land in a foreigner addressing a meeting, religious or otherwise, outside of Treaty limits, nor is any permission from the police or any local authority needed. Information is simply given to the police station that such and such a meeting is to be held and addresses given on Christianity, education, or whatever the subject may be, and the police take what steps they may think necessary to prevent disturbance. The laws with regard to political addresses are of of course distinct from these.

Whether it was wise or not in the Rev. G. L. Perin engaging a theatre in Nagoya is a question on which it is hard to pronounce any judgment without knowing the special circumstances, but, so far as law-breaking is concerned, he must be at once declared guiltless, Japanese law being on these subjects as fully tolerant and almost invariably as generously administered as is law in England.

Yours truly,
A MISSIONARY.

Kobe, January 26th, 1891.

The writer, it will be observed, states his position with absolute confidence, and in some respects he is undoubtedly correct. The law of the land does guarantee religious toleration and the Constitution does declare all religions equal. Its 28th Article says:—Japanese subjects shall, within limits not prejudicial to peace and order and not antagonistic to their duties as subjects, enjoy freedom of religious belief." We do not understand, however, with what object "A Missionary" recalls these facts, since they have no bearing whatever on the Nagoya affair. The question is—has any foreigner, cleric or layman, travelling in the interior of Japan under passport, the right to deliver addresses, lectures, or sermons? We answer, undoubtedly not, and we do so not only as the result of inquiries addressed to officials, but also on the strength of simple reasoning. Passports are granted on one of two pleas, namely, for purposes of health or of scientific research. It is impossible to include religious lectures or addresses under either of these headings. The missionary, therefore, has no *right* to hold a public meeting for religious purposes outside the settlements, and it is well that this fact should be distinctly recognised, for the results of misconception might evidently be grave. But though the right does not exist, the privilege is tacitly extended by the Authorities to all missionaries, and is enjoyed by them with such absolute freedom that some have apparently conceived the erroneous idea stated in the letter reproduced above. Religion does not enter into this problem at all from the Government's point of view, as we understand it. A merchant is not entitled to deliver a commercial lecture, nor a

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philosopher a scientific address, to audiences publicly convened outside the settlements. The sole object of withholding recognition of such a right is to preserve the theoretical limits under which passports are now granted, and to avoid the growth of conditions which, if not ultimately incapable of control, might at all events be controllable only with difficulty and perhaps at the cost of some hardship. In the upper ranks of Japanese officialdom there are to be found very few men actively opposed to Christian propogandism, the majority being indifferent and the minority well disposed. The Constitution, has, of course, no application to foreigners as yet, nor can it have until they occupy the state of Japanese subjects in regard to the laws of the land. But so long as the missionaries do not specially challenge official notice, they may confidently count on uninterupted enjoyment of the freedom they now exercise. The one thing calculated to endanger that freedom would be any open or combined attempt to raise to the rank of a right what, for reasons of international policy, the Japanese Government can only recognise as a privilege. The letter of a "Missionary" shows a failure to appreciate the real state of affairs, and it is obviously well that there should be no misunderstanding whatever.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

UNLESS the patience of the Japanese people be of a most uncommon order, it must soon grow utterly weary of the tactics pursued by the Opposition in the Lower House. Obstruction has been carried to a very high point of art at Westminster, but there it is obstruction with a purpose. At Tora-no-mon, on the contrary, the obstructionists obstruct themselves. Presumably their object is to embarrass the Government, and with that view they have succeeded in getting the Budget Committee to present a Report which, if accepted by the House, will compel the Cabinet to choose between the alternatives of dissolving the Diet or consenting to reductions of a crippling character. Thus far successful, they ought, one would imagine, to push on the debate with all speed so as to obtain ■ vote as soon as possible. But instead of adopting that course, they indulge in device after device for frittering away time. We can understand the purpose of the rain of questions showered upon the Delegates. The hope was that under such a searching cross-examination some Delegate would break down, or some unguarded answer of ■ damaging character might be elicited. But the session for inquiry being concluded, and the Government Delegates having endured the 14 days' ordeal, the Opposition's aim should be expedition. On Wednesday they might very well have proceeded to discuss the only motion that separated them from the actual debate on the Budget. But they preferred to waste a whole day. The Government had been asked, through the President, to afford information in respect of its general policy as to State support of industrial and commercial enterprises. The House is not empowered to put questions to the Government in that manner. A Committee is competent to question a Government Delegate through the President, but questions to the Government can only be put under a procedure laid down in the 48th Article of the Law of the Houses. The Government, therefore, declined to answer, but at the same time, intimated very plainly that if the proper procedure were adopted, an answer would be given, and further qualified its refusal by a conciliatory clause explaining that it shared the desire of the House to see the Rules duly observed. Nevertheless, this answer was eagerly made the basis of a motion asking for a vote of want of confidence in the Government, ■ motion couched in the strongest terms. The House rejected the motion, but wasted an hour discussing it. Then followed another proposition, namely, that any ballots taken in the debate on the Budget should be written. The object of this proposition was quite plain: the Radicals and Progressionists wished to keep the members of their parties under the closest possible supervision. The whole of the remainder of the day's session only just sufficed to decide this point, a majority of 22 finally voting in favour of the motion. Thus not only was another day wasted, but the House also committed itself to the most tedious and least unbiassed method of arriving at a decision in regard to the various parts of the Budget. There are four ways of taking a vote in the House; first, by directing the "ayes" to stand (*kiritsu*); secondly by calling the roll (*shimei tenko*); thirdly by ballot without names (*mumei tohyo*); and fourthly, by ballot with names (*shimei tohyo*). When a clear result is not furnished by the first method, one of the other three is adopted, generally the third. But the House has now been pledged by the truculent majority to resort to the last and longest plan whenever the first and simplest is unsatisfactory. It is pretty certain that the divisions on all vital points of the Budget will be very close, so we may expect to see a considerable fraction of the House's time wasted in the mere process of voting. This materially reduces the chances of the Budget's passing through both Houses before the close of the session. Even supposing that a week's extension be granted in consequence of the fire, only 22 or 23 working days remain. From the Lower House the Budget has to go to the Upper, where the amendments of the Representatives are very unlikely to be accepted in their entirety. Supposing them not to be accepted, ■ conference of the two Houses would ensue, and if an agreement could be reached, there might be a slender possibility of the Budget's coming into the hands of the Government before March 3rd. But even if the Upper House endorse all the changes made by the Lower, the fact still remains that only 23 days are available for the debate in the Lower House; the voting item by item at the second reading; the examination by Committee in the Upper House, and the debate there. It looks very much as though the Budget will not be "brought into actual existence," in which event the Budget of the last fiscal year will be carried out, according to the Constitution. The Representatives ought to take that contingency into their serious consideration.

GERMAN TRADE IN JAPAN.

THE *London and China Express* says:—

The following is from *Kuklow*, which we give as printed, despite the number of grammatical errors:—Commercial people in Japan have had to battle for some years past with a very unwelcome change in the manner of payment of the home buyers, these trying more and more to introduce a system of taking goods on trust instead of paying directly as was the case formerly. In itself this is not difficult to comprehend, for also the home merchant, who manages the intercourse with the interior is also thrown on having book-debts. But with the loan-business not only the risk of the foreign commercial men is increased, but it must also be feared that hereby often an import on a much larger scale is favoured than is justified by the conditions, and under which—before everybody else—the foreign merchants, would have to suffer. Also those political parties there, who aim at the perfect independence of their country and whose programme embraces the gradual supplanting of European industrial products, and especially the entire removal of European merchants for the management of the export and import, threaten German influence on the Japanese market. That these endeavours have not remained without result is proved by the fact, that the direct total import by Japanese merchants reached in 1889 the sum of $9,607,706. or about 15 per cent. of the total import. Concerning Japanese industrial activity as compared with European it may justly be assumed, according to the opinion of experts—that the time is yet far off, where—with the exception of a few—a supplanting of the latter by equally good and cheap home productions is to be feared. Really excluded from the import in Japan are at present only matches and straw-boards. In the foreign trade the import of Japan amounted in the last year to 208 million marks (against 206 millions in 1888) and the export to 220 millions (against 206 millions), whereby may be seen, that a further increase of the economical development of Japan has taken place.

STUDENTS OF JAPANESE IN BERLIN.

THE *Kokkai* says that three students presented themselves for the first examination at the close of last year, in the Japanese Section of the School of Oriental Languages in Berlin. The School was established in 1887 and as the courses are of three years duration, the first examination for graduation took place in 1890. Two out of the three students passed, and one failed. The tests to which the students had to submit were, first, translating a portion of Japanese history in German; secondly, rendering a German letter and a short conversation into Japanese; thirdly, writing a German essay on Japanese history; and, fourthly, conversing in Japanese. These tests are said to have been most satisfactorily endured, the penmanship of the successful students being especially praised.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for December, showing the foreign trade of Japan for the month:—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	1889. SILVER YEN.	1890. SILVER YEN.
Exports	6,601,129,410	5,507,339,080
Imports	6,853,156,140	5,569,096,510

Total exports and imports	11,076,435,590
Excess of imports	61,757,430

CUSTOMS DUTIES. SILVER YEN.

Exports	126,474,002
Imports	238,353,724
Miscellaneous	11,291,868
Total	376,119,594

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
Great Britain	488,554,120	2,352,850,470	2,841,404,590
United States of America	1,730,899,730	306,842,650	2,037,742,380
France	1,215,859,160	245,339,960	1,461,199,120
Hongkong	881,508,450	401,881,790	1,283,390,240
China	368,240,570	678,896,230	1,047,136,800
Germany	142,456,660	773,968,430	916,364,110
Korea	151,987,000	353,370,220	505,340,220
British India	85,391,880	273,516,380	358,908,260
Australia	86,550,170	34,536,640	121,086,810
Switzerland	1,100,000	71,063,560	72,163,560
Canada & other British America	55,675,480	1,380,610	57,056,090
Austria	43,498,600	537,280	44,035,880
Russia	34,004,480	4,704,020	39,368,500
Philippine Islands	27,498,210	9,768,390	37,266,600
Italy	27,202,790	5,087,440	32,890,230
Belgium	1,647,390	28,685,340	30,332,730
Hawaii	5,206,720	82,280	5,289,000
Denmark	—	5,319,150	5,319,150
Holland	967,500	541,330	1,508,830
Peru	—	664,000	664,000
Siam	525,420	100,000	625,420
Turkey	400,000	30,000	430,000
Portugal	—	226,200	226,200
Sweden & Norway	—	105,760	105,760
Spain	—	79,060	79,060
Other Countries	54,064,340	15,078,720	69,143,060
Total	5,399,871,690	5,569,096,510	10,968,968,200

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Totals. Silver Yen.
Yokohama	3,162,229,440	2,501,511,420	5,663,740,860
Kobe	1,665,820,570	2,438,711,550	4,104,532,120
Osaka	90,017,790	241,585,140	331,602,930
Nagasaki	353,247,720	151,922,350	505,170,070
Hakodate	63,444,530	100,026,260	163,470,790
Niigata	—	1,479,200	1,479,200
Shimonoseki	21,974,480	110,148,680	132,123,160
Moji	23,130,130	—	23,130,130
Hakata	52,390	1,020,800	1,073,190
Karatsu	64,602,000	—	64,602,000
Kuchinotsu	88,680,100	—	88,680,100
Misumi	5,010,500	—	5,010,500
Idzuhara	4,647,160	19,084,180	23,731,340
Shishimi	1,939,350	842,580	2,782,330
Sasuna	1,936 530	1,764,350	3,700,880
Specie and Bullion Exports			470,883,410
Specie and Bullion Imports			104,730,960
Total			575,614,570
Excess of exports			366,152,450

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	588,885,230
By Japanese Merchants	Imports	1,647,946,000
Imported by Government		84,793,140

GRADUAL DISCOVERIES.

WE are gradually making discoveries. We have learned, for example, that if a Court of Law decides that certain paragraphs, occurring in the course of three leading articles, were not written for the purpose of bringing officials into contempt, the decision must be taken as implying that, in the opinion of the Court, the whole of the statements contained in the three articles are true. By parity of reasoning it would follow that if ■ newspaper were acquitted of seeking to caricature a statesman whose portrait it published, then the biography accompanying the portrait must be regarded as having received the endorsement of a tribunal of justice. That is startling enough as a proposition in logic. Another discovery is that if one of the vernacular journals relied on by ■ foreign newspaper is spoken of a "second-rate," then it must be understood that a charge of second-rateness is preferred against the whole Japanese

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press. These discoveries were owe to the *Japan Gazette*. The latter of the two is very handsomely set forth in its leading article of Wednesday, where, in a series of cumulative interrogatories, it wants to know whether the epithet "second-class" can be applied to the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Toyo Shimpo*, the *Nippon*, the *Kokkai*, and the *Yomiuri*. Now it happens that only two out of this list of journals could possibly have been implicated in the charge of second-rateness. They are the *Toyo Shimpo* and the *Nippon*. What on earth, then, is the meaning of flourishing the names of others in the air, and of pretending to think that the *Japan Mail* has called them "second-class," thereby publishing "mis-statements that can only be the result of prejudice"? It is utterly impossible that the *Japan Gazette* can have really suspected us of applying the adjective "second-class" to the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, and the *Yomi-uri Shimbun*. Moreover, there never was any question whatsoever of these journals. What are we to say, then, of our contemporary's attempt to fix this charge upon us? Is it an example of "honesty first, honesty second, and honesty last?"

THE DELEGATE FOR THE NOSHOMUSHO.

It appears now that Mr. Ishida, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, acted with a full comprehension of what he was about when he refused to answer the question put to him in the House of Representatives on the 31st ultimo. His action surprised us, and seemed to imply a remarkable degree of unpreparedness. But according to a reply made by the Government to an inquiry from the House, Mr. Ishida was quite justified, since the subject of the question put to him did not lie within the scope of the Budget actually before the Diet. Speaking technically this is doubtless correct. The figures written in the Budget for 1891 are quite independent of any figures that may be entered in future Budgets. But from a common-sense point of view, we are unable to follow the Government's line of reasoning. Surely when Parliament is asked to vote a subsidy to a tea-exporting company, it is entitled to know what such a vote pledges it to: whether, in short, the vote is part of a general system of State protection to commerce or industries, or whether it is a special act of consideration to a particular company. We find the question put to Mr. Ishida quite natural, and cannot perceive that it lies beyond the legitimate scope of a parliamentary inquiry into the manner of preparing the Budget. Everybody knows that the Government has no intention whatsoever of reverting to the old-time policy of "grants in aid," and that the Tea Company's case was altogether exceptional. We don't pretend to know why the Tea Company got its two hundred thousand *yen*, nor can we discover any valid explanation of such a step on the Government's part. But that the precedent is not to be generally followed goes without saying, and surely there ought to be no objection to telling as much to the House.

SUSPENSION OF THE "RIKKEN-JIYU SHIMBUN."

The organ of the Constitutional Liberals was suspended on Thursday, doubtless on account of its leading article, a powerfully written appeal to the members of the Diet and to the people. The former are called upon to put forth all their strength and vote for the reduction of the Budget; the latter are incited to follow the example of Ibaraki and one or two other Prefectures, by sending delegations to the capital to push the cause of the reduction of the taxes. The *Jiyu Shimbun* alleges that every man in the nation is groaning under the burden of taxation, and that to lessen the load is the most pressing necessity of the time. It compares this duty with that of Treaty Revision, and says that though the latter is of vital importance as concerning the national dignity, the former is a life-and-death problem to numbers of people. The tone of the article is highly inflammatory and mischievous, but it is greatly to be regretted that public opinion in Japan cannot yet be trusted to gauge such utterances at their true value, without recourse to the strong arm of the law. The suppression of their organ at this stage will not help to soften the vehemence of the procedure which the Radicals are adopting in the Lower House.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers finished of the Registration Bill on Thursday. The Peers have done well since they settled down to constructive legislation. They treated the Barristers' Bill badly, and, as we think, unwisely, but they got through the Weights and Measures Bill with commendable celerity, so far as mere procedure is concerned, and their progress with the Registration Bill is capital. Marquis Konoye does not hold the House as well in hand as Count Ito. That would be too much to expect. One of his decisions has been condemned by a majority vote, and there seems to be considerable readiness to challenge him. But on the whole his management is said to justify his nomination by Count Ito—who, we hear, is suffering badly from influenza. The House of Peers will have a fairly good record, when its session concludes. But truly it is difficult to be sanguine about the House of Representatives.

THE CHARITY BALL IN TOKYO.

We are requested by the Committee of the Tokyo Charity Ball to convey their sincere thanks to the foreign residents of Tokyo and Yokohama for the kind assistance given to the Committee in every respect. Owing to this charitable cōoperation the Ball was a great success. By the sale of tickets and by donations a total of 3,031.95 *yen* was realized, and as the expenses only amounted to 457 *yen*, there remained a sum of 2,574.95 for distribution. This was appropriated as follows:—To the Red Cross Hospital, 1,548 *yen*; to the Honjo Poorhouse and Hospital, 400 *yen*, and to the Honjo Lying-in Hospital, 100 *yen*. The balance, *yen* 526.45, has been banked as a reserve fund. The ladies of Tokyo have decided to organise a ball of the same kind annually in Tokyo, in the hope of relieving, to some extent, the sufferings of the sick poor.

KAGOSHIMA.

Political parties in Kagoshima seem to be in a very divided and dissentient condition. The *Doshikai*, founded by Messrs. Kawashima Jun and Gamo Sen, threatens to break up into several sections, and wise folks say that the disruption will be attended by all the heat and commotion usually generated when bodies are separated into their primitive elements. There are numerous rumours in circulation, but they are difficult of comprehension except by persons with accurate local knowledge. The sum of the matter is that the politicians of the premier province have grown weary of organizing themselves into fruitless bodies, and are determined to build up an association with some elements of cohesion in its programme, not in its units only.

EMIGRATION TO HAWAII.

Emigration to Hawaii is to be conducted on a scale of some magnitude this spring. Three batches of emigrants, each numbering a thousand, are to be despatched, the first by the Japan Mail S.S. Company's *Yamashiro Maru*, on the 26th instant; the second by the same Company's steamer *Omi Maru*, on the 15th of March, and the third by the *Yamashiro Maru* on the 10th of April. The sailing of these three fine steamers within a space of two months, offers a unique opportunity for a visit to Hawaii.

THE TOKYO LACQUER COMPANY.

The *Tokyo Shikko-kai*, or Tokyo Lacquer Company, formed only three months ago, has already attained considerable dimensions, its roll of members containing 432 names. It held its first general meeting at the Fine Art Gallery in the Uyeno Park on the 1st instant, when several very practical addresses were delivered. The President is Viscount Shinagawa, and the Vice-Presidents are Messrs. Nomura Sosuke and Saito Shiuichiro.

Mr. Takahashi Yoshinori, Director of the Accountant's Bureau in the Communications Department (and formerly Post-master at Yokohama) who for some time had been suffering from inflammation of the lungs, expired on the 3rd instant. The funeral will take place on the afternoon of the 6th instant at the Aoyama Cemetery.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The question of the estimates continues to occupy the greater portion of the attention of the Metropolitan press. The situation in respect of the Budget has somewhat changed since the publication of our last weekly summary. At the end of last week, it was generally supposed in intelligent circles that the moderates were slightly stronger in number than the extremists. But people who thought thus were surprised on the 3rd instant by the defeat of Mr. Oyagi's urgency motion to recommit the Budget Committee's Report. It is indeed premature to conclude that the Report will ultimately pass through the House: the extremists' victory on Mr. Oyagi's motion was too narrow to warrant any such conclusion. Still it is an undeniable fact that the extremists now possess more confidence in themselves than they ever had before. The circumstances principally instrumental in bringing about such a state of things are two, namely, the reunion of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, and the strained relations between the Government and the Diet resulting from the unfortunate incidents resulting from the refusal of the Delegate, Mr. Ishida, to answer certain questions put to him. In consequence of there union of the Constitutional Liberals, that section among them which, as already stated in these columns, was opposed to the Budget Committee's report, seems to have been gained over to the side of the extremists. There may be a few Liberals who will vote with the moderates even at the peril of having their names struck off the roll of their party. But the majority of those who, as some papers graphically stated, oscillated between their party and their conscience, have, it appears, decided to stand by their party. The Government's refusal to comply with the demands of the Lower House as to a change of Delegate for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce may not have influenced the votes on Mr. Oyagi's motion, but it cannot be gainsaid that the strained relations between the Government and the Representatives consequent upon this incident is not at all calculated to make things more favourable for the passage of the Budget.

* * *

There are, some who believe that the Government is really desirous of having the Representatives vote for the Report of the Budget Committee, because then it will have a plausible pretext for vetoing the Diet's decision and carrying out the original Budget. On the other hand, if the moderates be ultimately triumphant, the Government will be at a loss to find such a pretext, for the moderates do not, like the extremists, propose any encroachment upon the functions of the Executive. Some papers, especially the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, constantly dwell upon this feature of the problem. Possibly the object in giving prominence to such a story is to frighten the extremists into a less radical course of action. The *Nichi Nichi* observes in its latest article on the subject, that the moderate plan of reduction (a reduction of 5½ million *yen*) is unassailable either from constitutional or legal points of view, or on account of the amount to be reduced. "The proposed reduction," says our contemporary," is the minimum limit with which the 40 millions of the people are prepared to be satisfied. In opposing this proposal, therefore, the Government must be prepared to take upon itself the responsibility of opposing the public

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opinion of the whole country. To accept the proposed reduction is a painful task for the Government, while opposition to it will lead to a loss of popular confidence. Such is perhaps the reason why the Government does not desire the passing of the moderate plan of reduction. Should, on the other hand, the extremists be successful in carrying their proposal, the Government would be enabled to revert to the original Budget without incurring any troublesome responsibility. Such is the result we fear most. Who will be to blame, should such a contingency come to pass? The Representatives of the extreme section (*kō-ha*) will have to answer for it."

* * *

How will the discussion on the Budget end? This is a question anxiously asked by everybody who takes the least interest in political affairs. In a series of articles on the future prospect of the Budget, the *Mainichi Shimbun* remarks that two possible causes may bring about the contingency provided for in Article 71 of the Constitution, namely, the non-existence of the Budget. The first cause is the failure of all the plans of reduction to obtain a majority of votes; the second is the failure of the Budget as amended by the Diet to receive the consent of the Government. As to the former cause, our contemporary thinks that at present there is a probability that the three or four plans of reduction now before the House of Representatives may every one of them fail to obtain a majority of votes. In that case, the House will have a method of extricating itself from its embarrassing situation by carrying out Art. 123 of the Regulations of the House of Representatives. This Article provides that, "In case a Bill and its amendments alike fail to obtain the support of the majority, the House may, if it decides that the Bill should not be abandoned, cause a special Committee to draw up a new proposal and submit it for deliberation." The *Mainichi* thinks that, when confronted with the alternative of having the Budget of the preceding year carried out, the Representatives will see their way to agree on some reasonable plan of reduction. So the *Mainichi* hopes that the contingency mentioned in Article 71 of the Constitution may not be brought about by dissensions among the Representatives themselves. But what steps are to be taken in case the decision of the Diet be not approved by the Government? And there are, in the opinion of the *Mainichi*, grounds to fear that the Government may not approve of the proposed reductions now before the House of Representatives. Will it do in such a case to fume and cry out for vengeance on the Government? The only sensible course for the Diet will be, in the Tokyo journal's opinion, to demand, clause after clause, an explanation of the reasons why the Government is unable to consent to the amendment proposed by the Representatives, and placing all the explanations given by the Government on record, to leave it to posterity to judge which acted with more propriety, the Legislature or the Executive.

* * *

The vernacular press is divided as to the propriety of the course which the House of Representatives took about the Government's Delegate for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The prevailing opinion, however, seems to be that the conduct of the Representatives was, if not unconstitutional, certainly impolitic and inconsistent. The *Kokkwai*, the *Toyo Shimpo*, and the *Chūsei Nippo*, though not directly approving the constitutionality of the course adopted by the House, write in a manner clearly indicating that they are on this question on the side of the Legislature, for they all condemn the refusal of the Government to comply with the Lower House's request not as unconstitutional, but as ill-considered and unsympathetic. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* rebukes the Representatives for letting themselves be betrayed by passion into a course of action that cannot in any way contribute to increase their dignity. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* regrets the incident for the sake of both the Government and the House of Representatives. The latter ought to have adopted a more moderate course to obtain satisfaction, while the Government on the other hand, ought to have sacrificed its delegate for the sake of the confidence of the people in its policy. The *Tokyo Shimpo* condemns the conduct of the Representatives as inconsistent and unconstitutional. Its writing on this topic seems worthy of ampler notice; so we devote the following paragraph to a reproduction of its gist.

* * *

Early last December Mr. Ozaki Yukio brought a motion in the House that Government Delegates must be men capable of representing the Cabinet or the respective Ministers of State. In explaining the motion he spoke as though he was opposed to have officials of *sonin* rank sent in the capacity of Delegates. The motion was rejected by the House, on the ground that it was self-evident that Government Delegates must represent the whole Cabinet or the respective Ministers, and that it was entirely unnecessary to specify the rank which such Delegates should hold. Now in the face of this decision, to vote, as the House did in the case of Mr. Ishida, a resolution clearly implying the absence of such representative capacity in Government Delegates, was, in the opinion of the *Tokyo Shimpo*, rash and inconsistent. Further our contemporary thinks that, as the Agricultural and Commercial Department's policy in giving subsidies to companies has no direct connection with the items of expenditure in the Budget, the House of Representatives had no right to demand an explanation of that policy while engaged in the discussion of the Budget; and that the only constitutional course would have been to seek the information through the process of independent interrogations provided for in the Law of the Houses. The House, had it wished to adopt a decisive attitude, might have taken Mr. Ishida's answer for that of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, and then raised the question of the responsibility of Ministers of State. But instead of choosing that method, it took a line which, besides being timid and unconstitutional, could not fail to lead to its own humiliation.

* * *

A most lamentable difference of opinion has arisen between the Government and the House of Representatives on the interpretation of Art. 67 of the Constitution, respecting the proper time for obtaining the Government's concurrence to proposed reductions of expenditures referred to in that article. On the 5th instant Mr. Tsuda introduced a motion in the Lower House, that such concurrence should be sought by each House separately before proceeding to vote on the reductions in question. But the combined opposition of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* members proved too strong, and the motion was rejected by a large majority. The Lower House thus decided by implication that the concurrence of the Government should be sought by the Diet in its collective capacity after voting the reductions. Before the House rose Count Matsukata, Minister of State for Finance, addressed the House and declared that according to the Government's interpretation of the 67th Article, such concurrence should be sought by each House separately before voting the reductions.

* * *

This question has been from time to time discussed by the vernacular press. The *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* organs are of the opinion that the Government's concurrence must be sought by the Diet in its collective capacity, while other papers generally sustain the interpretation which has been put upon the Constitution by the Government. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* regrets that its repeated appeals to the Representatives to obtain the Government's concurrence before proceeding to vote on the Budget have been of no avail. But the Lower House having now committed itself to a definite course of action, cannot go back, and our contemporary earnestly hopes that the Government will not insist on its own interpretation of the Constitution in this particular case. The *Choya Shimbun* thinks that whatever hope remained of the smooth passage of the Budget has been shattered by the fatal difference of interpretation of the 67th Article of the Constitution between the Government and the Lower House. There are two unavoidable contingencies before the Diet. If the Upper House should oppose the reduction voted by the Lower House, then there will arise a serious collision between the two branches of the Legislature. If the Upper House should approve the vote of the Lower House, the Government will at once reject the decision of the Diet as being contrary to the Constitution, both in substance and in process. In either case, the inevitable result will be the non-existence of the Budget. The *Choya* sincerely regrets that such a bad precedent should be left by the first Japanese Parliament. Other papers have not yet written on this subject.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* notices that the books now eagerly devoured by the rising generation are no longer those on the French Revolution, but those treating of the geography and commerce of the South Sea Islands. To such an extent has the spirit of enterprise been roused in the breasts of the younger generation. Our contemporary advises youths to turn their attention more to industrial subjects, and prepare themselves to become the founders of Birminghams and Sheffields in Japan. It is all right to go abroad and find markets for Japanese commerce, but without goods to dispose of markets avail little. A commercial country is practically a manufacturing country. So the *Kokumin* recommends its young readers not to confine their attention to commercial pursuits alone, but also to devote a due share to arts and manufactures.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* is engaged in a crusade against titles of nobility and all other artificial social distinctions. Our contemporary, among all the papers in Japan, is most uncompromising in its opposition to such distinctions, as being inconsistent with the equality of human beings. The *Jiji* goes so far as to recommend the *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* to combine and form a Commons party, refusing to admit to its ranks persons possessing any artificial distinctions. The ultimate object of our contemporary in proposing such an extraordinary course is to rouse popular opposition to the excessive influence of officialdom in society.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* declares the rent paid by the House of Peers for rooms in the Imperial Hotel excessively high. It also reviews the foreign trade of the empire for the past year, and noticing the recent gradual brightening of the prospects of the silk trade, predicts that the present year will witness a still further increase of the volume of the country's foreign commerce, and recommends politicians to turn more attention to business questions, instead of throwing themselves heart and soul into discussions relating to the Budget, and to the reduction of a few million *yen* in the expenditures of the Government. The *Nippon* continues its articles on the question of tariff autonomy. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* devotes several articles to the discussion of the reduction of the land-tax, and the equalization of the assessed value of land, warmly advocating those measures. The *Toyo Shimpo*, in a series of long articles, narrates the modern development of Muscovite influence. The *Kokkai* writes on the declining importance of Nagasaki as a port of foreign trade. The same journal draws the attention of the nation to the international importance of the fisheries off the coast of Hokkaido. The *Mainichi Shimbun* writes on Government subsidies and the sale of Government property. The *Kokumin Shimbun* describes in a long series of articles the origin and objects of the Salvation Army, at the same time giving an epitome of "Darkest England." The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* condemns the grant of 200,000 *yen* to the Tea Company, and recommends the Authorities to be more cautious in future in giving away public money.

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE House of Representatives held its stormiest session on Monday. Contrary to expectation, its request to have Mr. ISHIDA, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, replaced by another Delegate, was emphatically refused, the Minister-President of State explaining briefly in his reply that the Delegates of the Government were free to answer or not answer questions according to their own judgment, and that the Government could not consent to change a Delegate merely because he had declined to reply to an inquiry. The greatest excitement ensued when this communication was read out. One after another the leading members of the anti-government parties ascended the rostrum and denounced the Authorities. Everybody had something to propose, and it seemed at one time as though the balance of opinion would sway in favour of eliminating altogether from the Budget the section relating to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The whole debate did very little credit to the House. Its request for another Delegate seems to have been conveyed to the Authorities in the briefest possible form, amounting simply to an intimation that as the House could not get the Noshomusho Delegate to answer questions, it wanted somebody else. To a demand thus curtly preferred, the Government could not reasonably have been expected to reply favourably. Had the House condescended to explain the nature of the question which the Delegate declined to answer, and the impossibility of intelligently discussing the subsidy item in the appropriation for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce without a clear statement of the general policy comtemplated in respect of such grants, it is scarcely conceivable that the Minister-President would have failed to satisfy so reasonable a requisition. But being asked simply to send another Delegate because the one already supplied would not answer the House's questions, the Minister had no choice but to reply in the negative. Had he acceded to a demand couched in such general terms, he would have openly enunciated the principle that a Delegate is not entitled to exercise any discretion, but must answer any and every question put to him, except, of course, questions trenching upon subjects specially removed from parliamentary purview by the Constitution and the Law. It is singular that the House did not appreciate this difficulty and provide against it, and still more singular that the point was not brought out in the debate of Monday. Of the speakers who occupied the rostrum very few indeed were disposed to reason calmly, the majority seemed simply to vie with one another in saying severe things about the Government, and seeking to pledge the House to some openly hostile course. But want of unity marred all chance of success. Everybody was so anxious to be the author of some history-making motion, that instead of combining to place an effective issue before the House, they frittered their strength away in putting forward wild and unpractical proposals. Meanwhile, the sober section sat quiet, and it appeared at one time as though the whole excitement would end in smoke. But the arch-agitator, Mr. ARAI SHOGO, took advantage of the mid-day recess to organize his fellow-thinkers, and when the House re-assembled, it was suddenly asked to vote upon a motion for changing the Orders of the Day in order to discuss the impropriety of the Government's reply. A majority endorsed this course, and it then became necessary to take another recess in order that the President might obtain the Government's permission to change the Orders. This led to a second surprise. The Government declined to give any such permission for any such purpose. The House, confounded by so sudden and forcible a reminder that it was not omnipotent, welcomed a proposal by Mr. TAKANASHI that the information withheld by the Delegate for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce should be sought from the Minister of that Department in his capacity of member of the House. Mr. MUTSU, though holding the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce, sits in the House as repesentative of the first division of Fukushima Prefecture. He has not hitherto taken any active part in the debates, but he will probably feel compelled to do so now, unless an illness from which he is suffering prevents his attendance. But if he does attend, and if he does expound his policy, we fail to see how the House will have made any progress towards a solution of the crux between itself and the Government. In fact a more illogical course than the one it has adopted could scarcely be conceived. Breathing all kinds of threats against the Government for refusing to give it a new Delegate, it quietly decided to fall back upon the expedient of seeking from one of its own members the information it could not procure from the recalcitrant Delegate. This certainly seems like making a hole to escape from the obligations of one's own bluster. Mr. TAKANASHI, perhaps the most eloquent man in the House, is always sure of a pleased hearing, but we should not have thought that even his power of speech could suffice to dignify such a stratagem. The Government, too, has unfortunately made its first display of firmness in a matter that demanded address rather than strength. Thus the outcome of the whole incident, so far, is that the House looks very small, and that its relations with the Administration have become decidedly strained.

COUNT YAMADA AND VISCOUNT AOKI.

A REMARKABLE accusation has been preferred against the Japanese Cabinet in general and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in particular by the *Japan Gazette*—a direct accusation of "double dealing," of seeking to "throw dust in the eyes of the Diet," and of deliberate deception. When such charges are publicly advanced by a responsible journal, it must be presumed that their bases will bear examination. Let us briefly consider whether such is the case in the present instance.

The *Japan Gazette* declares that the proximate cause of General Count YAMADA'S retirement from the Cabinet was an act of deceit practised by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who "deliberately said one thing to his fellow Ministers and another to the Diet." Thereupon Count YAMADA "the honest old warrior," "with a heavy heart resolved to sever his connection with the Government." The details of Viscount AOKI'S "double-faced" dealing are set forth by the *Gazette* itself. At the close of 1889, "when Count OKUMA'S scheme of Treaty Revision had to be sacrificed to the public opinion of the time," the Cabinet held a meeting to discuss the future policy of the Government. This meeting took place at the very close of the year, in November at the earliest, for Count OKUMA'S retirement did not occur until that month. At the meeting Count YAMADA—we quote from the *Gazette*—advocated the policy of increasing the Army and Navy as the best means of attaining the national object. Viscount AOKI, on the contrary, urged the importance of legislative and judicial reform, referring, by way of example, to commercial law, which, he said, would be constantly needed when foreigners were permitted to trade in the interior. Thereupon, according to the *Japan Gazette's* words, "Count YAMADA was convinced of the truth of Viscount AOKI'S remarks, and agreed to take prompt measures for the compilation of the Civil and Commercial Codes and for the re-organization of the Law Courts."

Three things occurred at the end of 1889. The question of date is important as showing the extraordinary nature of the story. We have it, then, that at the close of 1889, Count YAMADA, in deference to Viscount AOKI'S suggestion, "agreed to take prompt measures for the compilation of the Civil and Commercial Codes and for the re-organization of the Law Courts." Now the new Organization of the Law Courts was promulgated on February the 25th, 1890, and the Commercial Code on the 27th of the following month. That is to say, arguments presented to the Cabinet in November by Viscount AOKI were, according to the *Japan Gazette*, the cause of the compilation and promulgation of two extensive bodies of law within four months

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from the date of the Cabinet's meeting. We have never encountered a more wonderful assertion in print.

We are taking the case exactly as presented by the *Japan Gazette*, and in examining it our object is not to provoke controversy but to see how far a charge of bad faith and double dealing, preferred publicly against a Japanese Minister of State, can be reconciled with the grounds of the allegation. The compilation of the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure was commenced more than fifteen years ago. Of the four volumes containing these Codes, two were actually in print in 1880, long before Count YAMADA became Minister for Justice. The compilation of the Commercial Code was undertaken at a later date, but the draft had been put into type by 1886. The revision of the Codes was pressed forward with all possible expedition. Their promulgation, monthly expected all through 1889, was delayed for various purposes of comparison and correction. As for the re-organization of the Law Courts, the completed draft of the scheme had undergone full revision before Viscount AOKI accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, that is to say, before the end of 1889. Yet we are now asked to connect the preparation and promulgation of all these important enactments with a statement made by Viscount AOKI four months before their publication, and fifteen years after the first steps towards their compilation had been taken.

There is another curious feature of the case. It is this. Seven days before preferring the above accusation against Viscount AOKI, the *Japan Gazette* concluded a series of three articles attacking Count YAMADA. The principal basis of the attack was that, in 1887, as President of the Committee of Law Investigation, Count YAMADA had unduly precipitated the revision of the Commercial Code, alleging that its completion was essential to Treaty Revision. "I have promised," the *Gazette* made him say, "that within a year the required laws shall be prepared," since "the Civil, Commercial, and other Codes of Law and the Organization of the Law Courts are connected with the Revision of the Treaties." This same *Japan Gazette*, after an interval of only seven days, now tells its readers that "Count YAMADA, convinced of the truth of remarks" made by Viscount AOKI at the close of 1889, "agreed to take prompt measures for the compilation of the Civil and Commercial Codes and for the re-organization of the Law Courts." Thus Count YAMADA was induced to commence in November, 1889, what the *Gazette* itself shows him to have been actively pushing forward in 1887, and what had in fact been carried in part to a tolerably advanced stage before he even became Minister of Justice.

We come now to the count constituting the charge of "double dealing." Viscount AOKI having declared in 1889 that the Civil and Commercial Codes were required for purposes of Treaty Revision, "quietly informed the House of Representatives in 1890 that there was no connection between the Commercial Code and Treaty Revision." If this were true, the charge would be established. But it is not true. Here are the words used by Viscount AOKI, as translated literally from the stenographic report:—"I have a word to say to Mr. SUYEMATSU. He has stated, with respect to the origin of the compilation of the Commercial Code, that the Cabinet probably had ulterior objects. I cannot admit that assertion. There has not been the smallest attempt on the Government's part to make laws for the sake of two or three thousand foreigners, living here as guests, in the interests of Treaty Revision. The laws are to promote the well-being of 40 millions of persons. They are to preserve good order in the country. They are not laws compiled with any other object." No Japanese statesman would dream of denying that the compilation of the Civil and Commercial Codes was expedited in the interests of Treaty Revision. To that extent a connection exists, and everybody is well aware of it. But unfortunately certain Japanese politicians believe, or profess to believe, that the compilation of the Codes was not only undertaken for the sake of Treaty Revision, but also subsequently guided by a desire to present to the world laws consistent with high European standards, rather than adapted to the requirements of the Japanese nation. The prevalence of such an idea at this particular epoch would effectually discredit the Codes, and postpone for a long time that greatly-to-be-desired consummation, the enactment of a sound system of civil law in Japan. Count YAMADA would be the last to admit that the various projects of law which he found in process of preparation when he came into office, and of which the most important had been commenced long before Treaty Revision became a burning question, were undertaken, not to meet the legislative needs of the nation, but to conciliate foreign scruples. Nothing could be more mischievous than the spread of such a notion. Viscount AOKI did what he could to correct any misconception on the subject in the House of Representatives. Count YAMADA, before his retirement, had repeatedly sought to vindicate the new laws against the suspicion of having been undertaken or framed in the interests of foreign policy. The *Japan Gazette*, being, as we believe, honestly anxious for the country's progress, ought to assist in establishing the truth instead of obscuring it by preferring accusations unsupported by any tittle of evidence, and obviously incapable of credence in some of their most important details.

The truth is that it is unsafe to accept implicitly the political stories told by Japanese journals. The *Japan Gazette* doubtless has its own sources of information, but in this particular case it is avowedly guided, in the main, by the *Toyo Shimpo*, and it describes as thoroughly "intelligible and reliable" the account given by that newspaper of what took place at a Cabinet meeting 14 months ago, and of what Viscount AOKI said in the Diet on the 17th of December. Viscount AOKI, as may be seen by examining the stenogaphic report, and as we can vouch who heard him, did not say what the *Toyo Shimpo*—according to the *Japan Gazette*—attributes to him. Is it extravagant to conclude that a newspaper which cannot accurately quote a speech delivered only a month ago in the Diet, and preserved in stenographic records, may not be taken as an unerring exponent of the secret deliberations of the Cabinet in former years? On the 21st instant the *Japan Gazette*, relying on a narrative told by Mr. MURATA TAMOTSU, accused Count YAMADA of undertaking "a wild and unscrupulous scheme" in 1887, and of "proposing a plan calculated not only to undermine the authority of law, but to prove subversive of all morality." On the 28th instant, relying on a narrative told by the *Toyo Shimpo*, the same *Japan Gazette* described the same Count YAMADA as an "honest old warrior" who "believes in no trimming to the wind," and who "with a heavy heart resolved to sever his connection with a Government" capable of double dealing. It is not impossible that the very black character now given to Viscount AOKI by our contemporary may, in the course of a week or ten days, undergo a similar transformation. Perhaps the plain facts detailed above may expedite the process.

JAPANESE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

WE have several times had occasion to refer to the Weights and Measures Bill, which has been engaging the attention of the House of Peers. To appreciate the purpose of the Bill, it is necessary to bear in mind the present condition of the system which the Bill is designed to reform. The importance of having a good and well defined system of weights and measures cannot be over-estimated. The system must be good in the double sense of accurate and convenient; it must be well defined for the purposes of comparison with the systems of other nations. These conditions are certainly not satisfied by the present Japanese system; and to remedy this serious defect is one of the objects of the new Bill. The other chief object of the Bill is to put on a satisfactory basis the licencing to manufacture, sell, and repair instruments in use, and the modes of testing their accuracy. At present what regulations exist are practically ineffective.

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As regards the weights and measures themselves, we shall take them up for consideration in the usual order of length, superficies, capacity, and weight. The *shaku* or Japanese foot is generally supposed to be the standard. So far, however, it may be safely said that no real standard exists. True, a so-called copy of INO'S *shaku* is in the possession of the Noshomusho. But this is a roughly graduated brass rod without the remotest claim to accuracy. The thickness of the graduation marks is a respectable fraction of the whole; and the changes due to temperature are quite ignored. In short INO'S *shaku* might have any length between certain limits, small no doubt from an ordinary work-a-day point of view, but altogether too large in these days of scientific accuracy. Now the present Bill proposes to fix, to the highest degree of scientific accuracy attainable, the Japanese *shaku* so as to be within the limits of indefiniteness of INO'S *shaku*. This is to be done in terms of a *metre-prototype*, which has been directly compared with the standard métre at Paris. It is a platinum-iridium rod, the cross-section of which is intermediate in shape to an X and an H. This form provides the greatest rigidity, and gives at the same time a surface in the axis of the bar for bearing the graduations. The distance between the graduations on this rod is a little less than a metre at O°· C., the temperature of melting ice. The error is such as to make the distance one metre at O°· 15 C.; and the framers of the Bill get over the whole question of temperature correction by the very simple expedient of defining the *shaku* in terms of the length on this rod at this temperature of O°· 15 C. The *shaku* is then defined so that 3.3 *shaku* make this metre length; or the *shaku* is $\frac{10}{33}$ of the graduated distance of a particular rod at a definite temperature, which distance is a mètre. Nothing can be simpler or more satisfactory. This *shaku* is as correct a value of the ordinary *shaku* as any previously defined or measured *shaku*. Further, it is connected with the metre by a very simple numerical relation; and by accepting this definition, the Japanese nation will be saved all the expense and trouble involved in making a comparison of standards. There are 3.2809 English feet to the métre, so that the Japanese *shaku* is fully 0.6 per cent. shorter than the English foot. The *shaku* being thus defined, all the other Japanese measures of length are thereby definitely determined. In the Bill, the names in ordinary use are wisely retained; only their legal values in terms of European measures become known. The *ri* contains 36 *cho*; the *cho* 60 *ken*; the *ken* 6 *shaku*; while the usual subdivisions of the *shaku* (the *sun*, *bu*, *rin*, and *mo*) follow the decimal system. Then there is the *jō*, or ten-*shaku* unit, used in measuring the depths of wells, heights of waterfalls, etc. It is easy to calculate that 1 *ri* contains 3.9273 kilometres or 2.4403 statute miles. It will be noticed that there is no attempt made to establish a decimal system running up to the higher units. The *ri* with its 12,960 *shaku* is to retain its place as the geographical unit of distance. It is well to observe also that there is practically no change in the values hitherto used by the best authorities. SATOW and HAWES give 2.44 English miles to the *ri*; and the author of the article "Weights and Measures" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* gives the *shaku* as $\frac{10}{33}$ of a metre.*

As with the various units of linear measure, so with the superficial units, no essential change is suggested. The *bu* or *tsubo* is a square *ken* or 36 square *shaku*. The *cho* (= 10 *tan* = 100 *se* = 3,000 *tsubo*) is consequently 0.9917 hectare or 2.451 acres. For lower superficial measures, the *tsubo* is divided decimally. This system is all but decimal, the only break being in the passage from *tsubo* to *se*.

In the measures of capacity, the well established relation is still to hold: 1 *koku* = 10 *to* = 100 *sho*. The *sho* is, however, defined to be 64.827 cubic *bu*, or 64.827 cubic *sun*. This makes the *koku* equal to 4.963 English bushels, so that a *to* is very nearly half a bushel, or, for liquids, 4 gallons (accurately 3.970).

So far the framers of the Bill, under the influence of a rational conservative spirit, have no great difficulty to contend with, since there is already in Japan a nearly universally accepted system of measures of length, surface, and capacity, needing only a clear scientific definition of the fundamental legal *shaku* to place it above reproach. But it is otherwise with the weights. Even the legal *kwan*, as represented by the so-called standards in the possession of the Noshomusho, is quite indefinite. Of these standard weights there are several sets, not even consistent amongst themselves. Some years ago, at the Osaka Mint, the *kwan* was compared with the kilogramme; but the result of this comparison, though largely accepted, has no certain claim to being regarded as accurate. These various quantities called *kwan* suffice, however, to give a general idea as to its approximate value; and the Bill proposes to fix the real accurate value as having a simple numerical relation to the kilogramme-prototype that has been obtained from Paris. The *kwan* is to be defined as $3\frac{3}{4}$ of this prototype, so that a kilogramme is $\frac{4}{15}$ of the *kwan*. This makes the *kwan* equal to 8.2673 pounds avoirdupois. (The *Encyclopædia Britannica* gives 8.281 pounds, a value based probably on the Mint determination of the *kwan* as 3.757 kilogrammes.) The *momme* (1,000=1 *kwan*) will then be equal to 57.87 grains. It is worthy of remark that in the International Postal Convention 1 *momme* is taken as the equivalent of $3\frac{3}{4}$ grammes, this rate being assumed to be accurate enough for practical purposes. The new Bill proposes then to make the postal rate accurate and legal.

Some surprise has been expressed that the *kwan* and not the *kin* should have been adopted as the standard. But the truth of the matter is that at present the *kwan* is the legal unit, and the *kin* has no legal existence. The *kin* has been so far a nondescript kind of quantity, varying greatly in value according to locality and commodity. In England there are, as is well known, two pounds recognised—the pound Troy and the pound Avoirdupois. But the Japanese *kin*, which is vaguely regarded as a fair equivalent of the pound, is truly legion in its values. It may contain, for example, 60, 80, 100, 120, 160, and so on up to 320 *momme*. The 120-*momme kin* is nearly the English pound avoirdupois. It is used in selling beef, and is commonly, and very appropriately too, called the *pondo-kin*. The *kin* in most common use for such commodities as sugar, tea, silk, etc., is the 160-*momme kin*. It is probably of Chinese origin, being the hundredth part of a picul. Under the new Bill this *kin* (or *catty*) is to be made legal, forming an extra unit defined in terms of the standard *kwan*. It value is exactly 600 grammes (about $1\frac{1}{3}$ lb.).

After defining in the way just indicated the various weights and measures which are to be legalised, the Bill proceeds, in Article V., to enact that the Metric System shall also be legal, subject of course to the same regulations as the *shaku-kwan* system already described. It was over this article that self-styled patriotism had its fling. The Metric System is no doubt originally French; but it has taken such a hold of the civilised world generally that it has quite lost a distinctive national flavour. It has been freely adopted in many European countries, and is legal even in Great Britain. There is some difficulty then in appreciating the argument that a legalised Metric System is inconsistent with true patriotism. It is convenience alone that regulates such matters. The Englishman still sticks to his tons, his pounds, his yard, and his two-foot rule. These have all the advantages of a convenient and long established practical system, notwithstanding the awkwardness of their non-decimal relations. But a life-time usage minimises this awkwardness, as it does the awkwardnesses of symmetrical-toed boots, tall hats, and £ *s. d.* The métre is perhaps a shade too long for an ordinary sized draper to handle easily in measuring out his cloth; and the pound is a handier quantity for the grocer to deal with than a kilogramme. Nevertheless for a ten-fingered decimal-counting race the Metric System has great advantages which the scientific man all the world over has fully recognised. Science is the one great in-

* In this article, whose value depends on its accuracy, we have the extraordinary error made of giving 39 *cho* to the *ri*, with the result that the *ri* is stated to be equivalent to 2.647 miles!

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tellectual commodity which Japan owes almost entirely to the West; and to accept, nothing doubting, the whole trend of scientific thought and yet kick against its system of weights and measures, can hardly be regarded as evidence of strong logic. The legalising of the two systems will certainly not lead to any practical confusion. In arts bearing on scientific pursuits, it is probable that the Metric System will be the favourite; in the numerous industries that have to do with common life the "National System" will persist so long as it is found to be convenient. And that it will certainly continue to be for several generations.

The Bill further enacts that two sets of standard copies shall be made—the one set to be preserved by the Noshomusho along with the original prototypes; the other to be in the charge of the Minister of Education, that is virtually, of the Imperial University.

The remaining Articles of the Bill have to do with the very necessary regulations as to the licence to manufacture, sell, and repair instruments. In the Bill itself these regulations are of a general kind, the practical details being left to be arranged by Imperial Notification. It will suffice to note a few of the points that are of special importance. Every weight and measure, whether manufactured in the country or imported, cannot be used commercially without having been duly tested; and the same applies to all instruments (balances for instance) that have to be used along with the weights and measures. The instruments in public institutions are subject to the same control. Then there are such questions as the toleration of error, the material to be used in the manufacture of the weights and measures, the period after which these must be re-tested, the lowest denominations that are to be tested, and the fines for infringing any of these regulations. The Bill is to take effect from the first day of the first month of Meiji 26 (1893); but it is to be possible for manufacturers to obtain their licences six months earlier than that date.

Article 20, which fixes the term during which the instruments and weights now in use may be allowed to pass unchallenged, occasioned a good deal of debate. The framers of the Bill fixed this term at three years originally; but at the second reading in the House of Peers the term was extended to seven years. This long term seems a little extraordinary when it is remembered that the new weights and instruments are to be tested every 5 years. Practically, however, it will be of little consequence, as most of the old weights and instruments will almost certainly die a natural death before the seven years come to an end.

The Bill has just passed its third reading in the House of Peers by a large majority (almost unanimous). What its fate will be in the House of Representatives it is difficult to surmise. Whether the present Bill passes or not, one thing is pretty certain, namely, that the weights and measures will be taken as they have now been defined. In this respect the labours of Messrs. KIKUCHI, NAKAMURA, and YAMAGAWA, on whose report the scientific portion of the Bill was based, will not be lost. It is doubtful if, in the House of Representatives, the Bill will have a champion of the calibre of Professor KIKUCHI, whose knowledge of the subject and power of debate were so conspicuous in the House of Peers. What we hope for is that the Representatives will discuss the Bill entirely on its own merits, and not allow any irrelevant sentimentality to cloud their vision and rule their votes.

AN INTERESTING CASE.

LAST September there appeared in the columns of the *Nippon* newspaper, under the heading of *Shiho Jigen* (a discussion of the judicial affairs of the day) a series of three articles containing expressions which were considered by the Public Procurator to constitute the offence of *Kanri-bujyoku*, or an attempt to bring officials into contempt. A suit was accordingly instituted against the newspaper. In opening the case for the prosecution, the Procurator thus stated his case:—"In the articles entitled *Shiho Jigen*, the Japanese legal officials of the present day are stated to be men unsuited for their posts, and the cause assigned for this unsuitability is a faulty system of appointing law officers. Now, as the appointments are made by the Minister of State for Justice, to assert that the methods of appointment are not proper is to bring the Minister into contempt, and on this ground the present prosecution is instituted." The Procurator then proceeded to demonstrate the animus of the articles by further quotations, the parts selected being these:—"The evil of the present day is found not in any imperfection on the side of the law, but in imperfection of the administration of justice; not in any faultiness on the side of the judicial organization, but in inaptitude on the part of the Judges. * * * The Department of State for Justice is properly nothing more than an administrative office. But it is plain that in practice the Department to this day possesses the power of promoting, dismissing, and punishing law officers. Has that Department, then, accomplished much in the way of selecting law officers? Has it succeeded in eliminating the remnants of the old *Dan-jo-dai** elements, and in placing in their stead genuine officers of law? Has it respected the independence of the Judiciary, and abstained from subjecting it to the control of the Executive? In a word, previous to this time, when the new organization of the Law Courts is about to be put into force, has the Department of Justice fostered pure and upright customs among Judicial officials in general, and placed pure and upright judges in important posts? This is a grave question. We are not accurately acquainted with the state of affairs in the Department of Justice, but what we have heard induces us to arrest our pen, and hesitate before giving a decisive reply to such a query. * * * Nothing is more deporable at present than the fact that the improvements effected in institutions are not accompanied by proper selection of officials. * * * Not that men of ability are rare among the law officers of the present day, but that the method of employing them seems to be faulty. Men of deeply conservative notions and of small capacity are mixed up, like pebbles among jewels, with independent men of new ideas and new theories. In no other sphere of society are bricks and stones more frequently placed above jewels of precious value: * * * Not only is the method of selecting able men imperfect, but the manner of employing them is faulty in respect of salaries and official rank. * * * Cases of negligence, blundering, violation of rules, corruption, and so forth, cannot be rare among the numerous officers of law, but the information we have acquired as to the state of things up to the present, goes to show that law officers deem it a point of honour to screen one another. Thus there being no means of encouraging virtue, while there is a method of hiding vice, it is not difficult to gauge the future of judicial conditions. The evil lies at present, not in imperfection of the law, but in imperfection of the men that administer it; or rather, not in imperfection on the men's part, but in a faulty method of employing them. * * * The re-organization of the constitution of the Law Courts is doubtless calculated, so far as appearances go, to effect improvements in the judiciary. But for the present, the method of selecting able men being faulty, will not the new enactment prove, in practice, an obstacle to judicial progress? We repeat once more that the evil lies at present, not in imperfection of the law, but in imperfection of the men administering it; or rather, not in imperfection on the men's part, but in a faulty method of employing them."

The Public Procurator having read these quotations in support of the charge, the Counsel for the defence took them up, one by one, and argued that they could not possibly be interpreted to imply an attempt to bring the Minister of Justice into contempt, since they were plainly nothing more than ordinary criticisms such as the press is now at liberty to pass upon any

* The name of a Judicial Office created shortly after the Restoration, and subsequently transformed into the present *Shiho-sho*.

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branch of the Administration. He did not, of course, attempt to establish their truth, but confined himself strictly to their intention. The Public Procurator, in his closing address, explained that the quotations made by him had been cited by way of illustration, and that he based his charge chiefly on the paragraph wherein the propriety of the method pursued in appointing law officers was questioned. The Court, however, took a different view from that of the Public Procurator. It acquitted the editor and publisher of the paper. The words of the judgment were that the incriminated articles "merely expressed opinions on current judicial, topics, and did not contain anything implying insult to the Minister of State for Justice in his official capacity." The case was appealed, and on the 18th ultimo the Court of Appeal confirmed the judgment of the inferior tribunal.

The interest of the event centres in the evidence it affords of the independence of the Japanese Judiciary. With regard to the facts criticised by the *Nippon*, they are doubtless, to some extent, consistent with truth. The condition graphically described as a jumble of pebbles and jewels, is more or less inevitable in every department of the modern Japanese polity. Just as in the Army and Navy several of the highest posts are filled by men who owe their elevation to qualifications no longer counted sufficient to justify either appointment or promotion, so in the Judiciary there are to be found officials who represent the old regimen and are out of touch with the radically altered circumstances of their era. It would be unwise to minimise the evils inseparable from the presence of this comparatively inefficient element in the various departments of State, but, on the other hand, we have to remember that the only alternative is to set aside the senior generation altogether, and bestow the various offices on men of the younger school only. That is obviously impossible. Time must be trusted to remove the representatives of the discarded civilization. Thus there is an unquestionable substratum of truth in the strictures of the *Nippon*. But the justice or injustice of its criticism did not interest the public in the smallest degree as compared with the fact that although arraigned by the Public Procurator on a charge of seeking to bring the Minister of Justice himself into contempt, and although tried by Courts the officers of which, according to the *Nippon's* own account, owe their appointments to, and base their hopes of preferment on, the Minister's good-will, the newspaper was acquitted. It would have been impossible to furnish more significant testimony that the administration of justice in Japan has ceased to be swayed by official influence. Viewing the issue of the two trials in that light, the vernacular press expresses strong satisfaction, and even as outsiders we echo the sentiment.

Before dismissing the subject, it seems expedient to refer to some comments and inferences published by the *Japan Gazette*. That journal, in narrating the affair, says that "the articles in the *Nippon* were deemed actionable," and infers, from the verdict of acquittal, that "the facts published by the *Nippon* were of such an indisputable character as to enable the paper to win its cause in the Law Courts;" the "Public Procurator having failed to prove any of the allegations actionable." The injustice of this inference may be gathered at once from what we have written above. The Courts were not asked to decide, directly or indirectly, as to the truth or falsehood of *Nippon's* allegations. The sole question at issue related to the animus of the writer. Were certain sentences of his articles designed to bring the Minister of State for Justice into contempt, or were they not? The Courts decided in the negative. They ruled that the newspaper had not exceeded the limits of critical liberty, as now defined by the law, but their ruling did not extend in the remotest degree to the truth or falsehood of the *Nippon's* statements. The *Japan Gazette* seems to have entirely misapprehended the ground of action. It says that "the prosecution of the *Nippon* turned on the point of whether the facts (stated by it) could legally be proved to constitute a slander or not" whereas in truth there was not the smallest question of "slander." If, before undertaking to discuss this remarkable trial, the *Gazette* had ascertained what the trial was about, it would doubtless have avoided committing itself to the singular proposition that because the writer of certain phrases, occurring in the course of three long essays, is legally absolved from any intention to bring a Minister of State into contempt in respect of those particular phrases, therefore the truth of all the allegations contained in the articles must be taken as indirectly established. Nor do we find that the *Gazette's* epitome of the allegations which it thus accepts as proved, is consistent with the words of the *Nippon's* articles. We cannot discover, and we think our local contemporary would be greatly perplexed to discover, any assertions in the original text capable of being construed so as to support the following sweeping charges:—

> The present Minister of Justice, being a man of the old school, regards himself as the head of all law-making and law-administering agencies whatever, and his subordinates know that determined resistance to his decisions would mean loss of office. The good qualities of the theoretical organisation of the Department of Justice are thus nullified by the practice of its chief. The course pursued by the Minister has a most injurious effect on subordinates; it being understood among them that there is no play for the exercise of discretion, no sphere for shaping within legal limits their own courses, they sink into a subservient state and administer the laws like so many human machines, without troubling to think out cases, to weigh minor differences in the applicability of laws to circumstances.

These are not the words of the *Nippon*: they are words which the *Japan Gazette* puts into the mouth of the *Nippon*. Had they appeared in the columns of the latter journal, the charge of seeking to bring the Minister of Justice into contempt would have been proved without difficulty to the satisfaction of any Court of Law. In its next paragraph also the *Gazette* shows equal indifference about accuracy of quotation. It writes:—

> Our contemporary quotes the remuneration received by officials of the Preliminary Courts compared with that of those of the Courts of First Instance, whereas the amount and difficulty of the business transacted by officials attached to the latter Courts exceeds to an enormous extent that of those attached to the former.

This is precisely the opposite of what the *Nippon* says. That journal's contention is that the duties devolving upon Judges of Preliminary Courts are more difficult and onerous than those of other Judges—no comparison is set up as the *Gazette* alleges, with Judges of Courts of First Instance—and that consequently it is a subject for regret that Judges of Preliminary Courts (not Judges of Courts of First Instance as the *Gazette* puts it) are not accorded treatment differing from that received by other Judges, inclusive of the Judges of Courts of First Instance. Yet again, in its next paragraph, the *Gazette* makes the *Nippon* says:—"Men are promoted on account of age, or for social reasons, rather than for administrative ability." What the *Nippon* really does say is, "the lazy and incapable get promotion in the course of time," evident reference being made to the fact that a certain number of years in each judicial grade qualifies for promotion to the next. As to "social reasons," we can discover nothing corresponding in the original. Finally, the *Gazette* writes thus:—

> These abuses, affirms the *Nikon*, exist in a Department whose independence has been guaranteed by the State, and they are encouraged or winked at by the head of that Department, hence reform becomes impossible.

For this statement also we can find no manner of warrant in the *Nippon's* articles. The *Japan Gazette's* failure to ascertain the ground of the action and the extraordinary inference it consequently deduces from the verdict, are certainly not extenuated by its subsequent misrepresentations and exaggerations of the Japanese journal's language.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST.

The House met at 11 a.m. In the absence of Count Ito, Marquis Konoye acted as President. Mr. Miura Yasu, on behalf of the Committee, explained, in reply to a question, that although the Registration Law was called independent, it was in reality closely connected with the Civil Codes, being a part of the law of persons. The amendments inserted by the Committee aimed at securing for this Law sufficient independence to guarantee it against being affected by minor changes in the Civil Code. This independence was, of course, limited. It was impossible to foresee what alterations Parliament might make in the Civil Code. Alterations of magnitude might necessitate corresponding amendments of the Registration Law. Viscount Kiôka Kocho opposed the Bill, but for reasons different from those advanced by previous speakers. He opposed it because its provisions conflicted with the law now in force. It had

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been contended that laws were enacted now-a-days in too great number; that the people were weary of legislation, and that they were often unable to understand, and as a rule unable to remember, the numerous statutes promulgated. Therefore, said critics, the provisions of this Bill should be embodied, not in a law, but in an Ordinance. But if the laws were becoming too numerous for the nation to appreciate or follow, what help was to be gained by changing them into ordinances? The progress of the nation at present doubtless demanded unusual legislative activity, but it was essential that the connection of laws should be carefully preserved. This Registration Law corresponded in character with the Law of Persons in operation in the West. It was an enactment having a wide and important bearing on the comfort and convenience of the people. He pointed out several points of conflict between the proposed Laws and the Civil Code, and suggested that the best course would be to send the Bill back to the Government for amendment. Marquis Hachisuka traversed Viscount Kiôka's arguments, and urged the House to pass the first reading of the Bill at once. The House took a recess at 12.20 and re-assembled at 1.30 p.m. Baron Watanabe pointed out that the chief defect of the Law of Registration now in force, was that no penalties were provided for its infringement. It was necessary that there should be penalties, and as penalties could not be inflicted except by due process of law, the propriety of putting the provisions relating to Registration into the form of law seemed quite plain. Viscount Matsudaira combatted the idea of bringing matters of Registration into the sphere of Imperial Ordinances. Such a course would be a needless and regrettable curtailment of the Legislature's functions. He ridiculed the contention that the laws were already too numerous, and maintained that in considering a law they ought to confine themselves to the question of its utility or inutility, not taking any account of the mere arithmetical question of number. Professor Toyama said that the House seemed to have been suddenly attacked by an Ordinance fever. The opponents of the Bill claimed that it ought to be an appendix to the Civil Code. He denied that altogether; but even granting it, what argument was thus furnished against enacting the provisions of the Bill in the form of a law? On the contrary, it seemed to him that no other form was suitable. The regulations for the registration of transactions relating to property were already embodied in a law. What reason could be found for refusing to attach at least equal importance to the corresponding regulations for the registration of persons? To subject the person of the subject to the government of Ordinances, and to bring his property within the purview of law, was to reverse the proper order of things. As for the contention that the system enforced in Japan had no parallel in foreign countries, he pointed out that such was not the case, and quoted the methods pursued in England as even stricter and more secure than those of Japan. Mr. Shimauchi spoke strongly in support of the Bill. He asked how it happened that members who had opposed the Weights and Measures Bill on the ground that the mètre which it took for a standard of length was a foreign measure, were now urging the rejection of the Registration Bill because they could not find parallels for its provisions in foreign countries. He observed that Baron Senge and Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro, who had adopted this inconsistent course, were no longer in their places. Did they think that their parliamentary duties in respect of a measure so important were finished so soon as they had delivered their own speeches? A Government Bill should be judged on its merits. If bad, it should be rejected. To throw out every measure proposed by the Government merely because it came from the Government, was mere trifling. A ballot was then taken, when 67 votes were recorded for proceeding to the second reading and 32 votes against. The House rose at 3.30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 2.

The House met at 10.30 a.m. and proceeded to the second reading of the Registration Bill, Marquis Konoye acting as President. Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro moved that the Bill be returned to the Special Committee for further amendments. In its present state much confusion would certainly arise between its provisions and those of the Civil Code. In both the latter Code and the present Bill, affairs relating to births, marriages, and deaths were dealt with, whereas affairs relating to changes or terminations of domicile and alterations of name were provided for in the Bill but not in the Code. Thus from one point of view the two instruments were complementary, from another, independent. The Special Committee should be asked to revise the Bill once more. Viscount Kiôka supported the motion, but suggested that another Special Committee be appointed. Mr. Miura pointed out that Viscount Kiôka had not really supported the motion since his proposal involved the appointment of another Committee. Marquis Hachisuka said that Mr. Hosokawa's motion was merely a device for getting the House to vote again upon a subject already decided, namely, whether the Bill should be read a second time. He repeated the argument that the Law of Registration proposed by the Bill was independent of the Civil Code. The motion was then put to the House, but rejected by a large majority. The House then proceeded to discuss the Bill article by article. During the course of the debate, Mr. Hozumi was about to ascend the rostrum when the President ruled him out of order, on the ground that a member must not speak twice on the same subject. Mr. Hozumi replied that his former remarks had been made in his capacity of member of Committee, and their purpose had been to supplement the explanation given by the President of the Committee. Nevertheless, he bowed to the President's ruling. Mr. Miura protested against the principle that an explanation offered by a member of Committee should be regarded as a speech, in the sense of the prohibition prescribed in the Rules. A hot debate followed. Mr. Hozumi declared that he was content to abide by the President's decision, and that to raise the question again would be to "slay the slain twice." Mr. Miura asked Mr. Hozumi whether his desire to speak had committed suicide or been killed. Mr. Hozumi said it had been killed. At this point some confusion ensued. Finally, on the motion of Viscount Matsudaira, and in accordance with the 85th Article of the Rules of Procedure, a vote was taken as to the propriety of the President's ruling. A majority voted against its propriety. The House adjourned for its mid-day recess, and re-assembled at 1.25 p.m. The debate on the articles of the Bill was resumed. Mr. Fujimura Shiro sought to put a question with regard to an article not yet reached, and being ruled out of order by the President, disputed the ruling, alleging that his purpose was to prepare an amendment, and that if he waited until the article came up for discussion, he could not be in time. The President insisted, and after some difficulty Mr. Fujimura yielded. The House having reached the 5th Article at 2.40 p.m., the President announced that as the Committee on Memorials and the Budget Committee had to meet, the House should now adjourn.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3.

The House met at 11 a.m. In the absence of Count Ito, Marquis Konoye acted as President. A motion by Mr. Hayashi Soyemon to expedite progress by taking four or five articles of the Bill (Registration) at a time, was rejected. The discussion of the Bill article by article then proceeded. On coming to the eleventh article, Mr. Murakami proposed that the fees for Registration should be included in the local revenues instead of in the State revenue, and the House voted in favour of this motion. On coming to the 31st Article, Mr. Fujimura Shiro moved to expunge the clause providing that every person registering should state the day and hour of his birth. It would be almost impossible, he urged, for almost any middle aged person, and quite impossible for any old person, as a rule, to comply with such a condition. Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, strongly opposed this change. He asserted that the day and hour of birth had always been preserved in Japan—being written on the packet containing the umbilical cord—and he dwell upon the absolute necessity of having accurate records for every purpose of civilized society. The motion being put, was lost. The 23rd Article was expunged. The House rose at 3 p.m., having reached the 34th Article.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4.

The House met at 10.50 a.m., Marquis Konoye presiding in Count Ito's absence. The debate on the Registration Bill was continued, from Article 34 to Article 73, and the House rose at 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5.

The House met at 11 a.m., under the Presidency of Marquis Konoye. The debate on the Registration Bill was continued and concluded, the House passing each Article from No. 72 to No. 108, without any noteworthy discussion or change, the amendments recommended by the Special Committee being in most cases adopted. The House rose at 2.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—SATURDAY, JAN. 31.

The House met at 10.25 a.m. The President announced that the Weights and Measures Bill had come down from the Upper House, and that Mr. Satake Yoshikaga desired permisson to introduce a Bill for the amendment of the Commercial and Civil Codes. The House then went into committee, and proceeded to consider the section of the Budget Committee's report relating to the Department of Education. The President said that documents explaining the transations as to the sale and purchase of the land at Yenoki-zaka, now occupied by the United States Legation, had been forwarded from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and of Agriculture and Commerce, and were distributed in the Section Rooms. Mr. Amano Tamayuki, representing the Budget Committee, said, in anwer to questions, that with regard to appropriations for schools generally, the rule was that a certain sum was granted by the Treasury, and if it exceeded the actual expenditure, the surplus went to form a capital fund for the maintenance of the school. This had led to a system of sending in requisitions larger than were needed for present purposes, and the Committee deemed it advisable to put a stop to such a system. As for the abolition of the appropriation for Upper Middle Schools, he was individually opposed to that measure, but as a member of the Committee he should explain the Committee's reasons for recommending the abolition. It was not pretended that the Upper Middle Schools were useless and might be dispensed with, but only that, under existing educational conditions, no valid reason presented itself for supporting them out of the public funds. Their functions might very well be performed by private schools, and by Prefectural and City Schools. The same considerations applied to the Female Upper Normal School and to the School of Music. With regard to the future of the pupils now receiving education at these various schools, the Committee had not entered into any discussion. The abolition of the schools as State-supported institutions being considered necessary, nothing offered but to leave the students to their own resources. The Committee had not touched the appropriations for the Commercial School and the Tokyo Deaf and Dumb School, believing that the support of these institutions was essential at present. After some further questions, the House proceeded to the section of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in the Budget. Mr. Inugai, referring to the antimony mine in Ehime Prefecture, said that it had originally been worked by the people of the locality, but he believed that the Authorities had resumed possession and then transferred the mine to one person, Mr. Fujita Denzaburo, together with a grant of 80,000 *yen*. He wished to know whether this was the case. He also asked why a subsidy of 200,000 *yen* had been given to the Tea Company. The Government Delegate said that he could not answer the first question without reference, but as to the second, the tea merchants, being in considerable difficulties, had petitioned the Go-

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vernment for assistance in order to export leaf tea to America and brick tea to Russia. The memorial had been supported by the Prefects of the localities concerned, and the Government had complied, after much consultation and enquiry. Replying to a query as to why a subsidy had been granted to a company not yet possessing any capital, the Delegate said that the Company was now engaged in raising capital. The Company had not yet commenced the business of export. In answer to Mr. Nakamura Yeisuke, he explained that no injury would be inflicted on other tea merchants by the course adopted, the intention being to promote the prosperity of the tea trade generally, and at the same time to relieve present distress. Replying to Mr. Yebashi Ko, he said that no explicit statement was possible with regard to the procedure which might be adopted in case the Company failed to become a practical reality. But as for the subsidy of 200,000 *yen*, it was safely lodged in a Bank. Mr. Inugai pointed out that a general principle must guide the granting of subsidies. What the State did for a tea company, it seemed equally bound to do for a silk company, or for any other trading association. He desired, therefore, to have a distinct statement of the Government's reasons for assisting the Tea Company. If the Delegate could not answer at once, he trusted that a reply would be given after due inquiry. The Government Delegate said that, even after inquiry, he could not answer such a question. Mr. Inugai observed that, in that case, he should take the steps otherwise prescribed to obtain an explanation. The Delegate promised to comply with a request by Mr. Kudo Kokan, that copies of applications for subsidies and of the Department's answers to such applications be laid before the House. Mr. Otsu Junichiro said that the question put by Mr. Inugai had referred simply to the financial policy of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce. If the Delegate could not answer such questions the House would be seriously inconvenienced. He proposed that the President (of the House) make application that the Delegate (Mr. Ishida) should be replaced by a better informed official. The Delegate was about to offer an explanation, but the President ruled him out of order. Mr. Nagata Sadayemon asked whether the Delegate's refusal to answer Mr. Inugai's questions was because the subject of inquiry lay beyond his functions, or because he did not possess sufficient knowledge. The Delegate explained that as the subject concerned the policy of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, it did not lie within the functions of an inferior official to expound it. There was no secrecy in the matter, but when he was asked to explain why the Department protected one company and did not protect another, he could not undertake to reply. Several members rose to support the suggestion of Mr. Otsu Junichiro. Mr. Hayama Chuyemon protested against the course advocated by Mr. Otsu. If the House wanted fuller information than the Delegate could furnish, there was a prescribed method of obtaining such information. The President asked the House to decide whether steps should be taken to put the proposal of Mr. Otsu to the vote. A majority voted in the affirmative. The House then went out of Committee. Mr. Shimada Saburo, President of the Committee of the whole House, reported to the President of the House that a resolution had been voted in Committee to the effect that inasmuch as the Government Delegate was unable to furnish the information desired by the House, another Delegate be substituted for him. Mr. Otsu ascended the rostrum and argued at some length that the questions put to the Delegate were strictly germane to the matter before the House, and that his refusal to answer must be taken as an indication of incapacity. Several members supported this view. An altercation took place between Mr. Arai Shogo and Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, the former desiring to know whether the Delegate's refusal to answer was due to want of knowledge or to want of authority, the latter asserting that this point had been already settled. The Government Delegate ascended the rostrum and was about to speak, when Mr. Hashimoto Kintaro protested, on the ground that the House was already in possession of the information sought by Mr. Arai. Other members supported the last speaker. After some further discussion the President put the motion of Mr. Ostu, namely, that another Government Delegate be applied for. A majority voted for the motion. Mr. Sasaki urged that the attendance of the Minister of the Department be asked for. If a Chief of Bureau was sent, his replies would probably be less satisfactory than those of the Vice-Minister, for whose replacement they had just voted. After some further discussion, the House rose for the mid-day recess, and on re-assembling at 1.15 p.m., went into Committee to consider the section of the Budget relating to the Department of Communications. Mr. Shiota Okuzo enquired about the Osaka Mercantile Marine Company. From investigations undertaken, he understood that the Company, receiving a subsidy from the Government, had been able to drive its competitors out of the field. Now however, the railway had become its competitor. Did the Government intend to continue the subsidy in order to maintain this new competition? Mr. Tanaka Shozo said that he wished to address a few words to the House before the business of putting questions to the Government Delegate began. He had observed that the stenographic records were abbreviated, and that questions and answers of some moment were omitted. It seemed desirable that everything relating to this important discussion of the Budget should be fully and accurately reported. With regard to the Department of Communications, he noted that whereas its appropriation had been only 4 millions in 1888, it was now 6 millions. Apparently, a steady increase in the number of its officials and the cost of administration was the order of the day. The House knew who was Minister of State for Communications and doubtless remembered the speech made by Count Goto two years ago in Yamagata Prefecture—(cries of "Needless,"—where upon a member rose and protested against such interruptions, claiming that he wished to hear what the speaker had to say). That speech had met with the approval of them all.—(A voice—"Are you going to avenge yourself now?" The President sternly called the House to order, and at the same time asked Mr. Tanaka to confine himself as closely as possible to the important points of his subject.) In his speech Count Goto had told the nation that from the day of the opening of the Diet, the Cabinet's responsibility must be clearly established and excessive expenditure of the Government reduced. The Count had alluded specially to the Department of Communications, asserting that, whereas the duties of the same Department in France were discharged at a cost of 900,000 *yen*, they involved an outlay of three millions in Japan. Naturally people had looked to see these fine principles put into practice when the Count entered the Cabinet, but so far from this expectation being fulfilled, the Department over which Count Goto presided now asked them to pass estimates seven times as large as the French outlay, which the Count had taken as a standard in his Yamagata speech. True, there was a difference between speaking when in opposition and acting when in power, but under the circumstances he thought the House had a right to ask what was the policy of the Minister of State for Communications—(as the speaker descended the rostrum, he called out that Count Goto's speech might be seen in the book called *Daido Danketsu*, and in the newspapers of the time). Mr. Kudo Kokan said that Mr. Tanaka's inquiry related to statements made by Count Goto before he came into office, and that it would plainly be out of order to seek an explanation of such matters from the Government Delegate. Mr. Otsu Junichiro differed from the last speaker. He considered it perfectly proper to inquire why the expenditure of the Department had increased yearly. Ministers of State must be guided by some policy in compiling the estimates, and the House had a right to be informed about that policy. In the days of autocratic government, a Minister could scarcely be required to fulfil, when in office, the promises made by him in opposition. But those days were past. They possessed constitutional government now, and it could not be suffered that a man should tell the nation one thing one day, and act another thing when in power the next. Mr. Kudo Kokan explained that he did not raise any objection to questions about an increase of expenditure or about the policy of the Minister, but he protested against questions relating to the sayings of an official while not in office. If that were permitted, they might begin to inquire what so and so had said, or how he had behaved, during his visits to a hotel or a tea-house. Mr. Mayejima, Vice-Minister of Communications, as Government Delegate, said that while prepared to give every possible information about the affairs of the Department and its policy, he did not feel called upon to enter into any discussion of what the present Minister had said or done before taking office. As to the increase of expenses, that was in no sense due to the policy of the Minister. On the contrary, since the Minister assumed the control of the Department, no effort had been spared to effect economies. The increase was the inevitable result of social development. The difference of 800,000 *yen* between the estimates for the current fiscal year and those for the next year, resulted entirely from extensions of essential business. The outlay on account of telegraphs, post offices, banks, and so forth had grown, and was bound to grow. If the number of officials had been augmented, so had the business to be discharged by them, and that too in even greater proportion. He trusted that this general explanation would suffice, and that the necessity for minute inquiries would be obviated. With regard to the Osaka Mercantile Marine Company, the support given to it had not been prompted by any idea of raising one company and throwing down another. The thing had been done purely in the interests of the quick and safe despatch of mail matter, an object which the Department was bound to attain if possible. The assistance given to the Department by the Mercantile Marine Company had been of the greatest utility, and had also satisfied economical requirements. A company, no less than an individual, was entitled to be remunerated for its work, and the company in question had given to the public full value for the subsidy granted to it. With regard to its competition with rival companies, or with the railway, that was a matter in which the Government had no concern. Mr. Otsu asked whether the revenue of the Department increased in the ratio of its expenditure. Mr. Tanaka Shozo said that his question had been judged inadmissible, but he presumed that the Count Goto of former days had the same head on his shoulders as the Count Goto of to-day. His practice in office ought to be consistent with his professions in opposition. A clear explanation was desirable. The Government Delegate declined to make any further reply to Mr. Tanaka, but in answer to Mr. Otsu said that the ratio between outlay and income could not be considered constant. In some cases expenditure was incurred with a view to a return in future years. In the case of railways, for example, though the construction of a line might save expense of transit in one respect, it might increase it in another by calling for the establishment of a post-office within the train. The Delegate gave several other illustrations of causes operating to affect expenditure in respect of communications, and said that he should be glad to enter into fuller particulars if necessary. In reply to Mr. Shiota, he said that the Osaka Commercial School had not been established for the purposes of any particular company, but in order to afford mercantile education to a city of the highest commercial importance. Being pressed by Mr. Inugai to tell why an explanation was not appended to the estimates showing why an additional sum of twenty thousand *yen* had been given to the Mercantile Marine Company,

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the Delegate said that the Department of Communications did not stand on its trial like a thief. It acted according to the best of its judgment so as to secure safety and celerity of transport, and it was not required to append a separate explanation to every item in its general estimates. Moreover, there was a Board of Audit by which every figure of the accounts was carefully examined. The increase of twenty thousand *yen* had been a fair and proper allowance for the labour of carrying mails of greatly increased weight and bulk. Replying to other questions, he said that it would be impossible to have the mail matter carried in the interior by contract. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi asked a number of questions about the Japan Mail S.S. Company: what tonnage had been fixed for its fleet at the time of extending Government protection to it; whether the voyages to be made by its vessels had been determined; whether the protection now given to it was considered necessary to enable it to compete with foreign ships; whether in the present advanced state of maritime enterprise, the presence of a subsidized company's ships on routes like that between Yokohama and Kobe did not serve to deter independent companies; whether, without abolishing the subsidy to the Japan Mail Steamship Company, the routes taken by its vessels could not be changed in accordance with the 37th Article of its charter; what basis had been taken in fixing its subsidy at 880,000 *yen*; what expenses were incurred in carrying out the official inspection of the Company's ships, and whether attention had been directed to points needing change in the salaries of the Company's officers. Further, he wished to know whether some of the work carried on in the Department's shops could not be done just as well at private factories, and finally he desired to be supplied with information about the purchases of goods made by the Department, a point that had given rise to much comment and led to striking criticisms in the press, notably in the *Hochi Shimbun*. The Delegate said that the comments of the *Hochi Shimbun* had not escaped attention, but were found to be based on incorrect information. The general public apparently failed to understand that many of the articles required by the Department were of such a character as to require very particular specifications, and in calling for tenders language was employed which probably puzzled the uninitiated. The Department exercised its discretion in accepting tenders, and did not necessarily take the lowest. There had been a case of misconduct on the part of an official charged with the duty of laying in certain stores, but he had been duly punished and the fact announced in the *Official Gazette*. As for the Japan Mail Steamship Company, the voyages to be performed by its ships were laid down in the charter, but the allowance on account of each voyage was not fixed. After the Tokaido Railway had been opened, the Company had no longer been obliged to carry the mails between Kobe and Yokohama, but, on the other hand, it had opened a new service between Vladivostock and Ninsen. As for the question of subsidy, the original calculation had been made on the basis of the services required of the company and the tonnage at which it was obliged to maintain its fleet, but the Government had subsequently deemed it much wiser and more economical to pay a fixed sum instead of pledging the Treasury to a varying obligation. He entered further into a lengthy explanation of the difficulty of dividing the items of public service performed by such a company so as to compare them with the amount of the subsidy; declared that the Department saw no reason to interfere in respect of the salaries paid to officers of the Company, and pointed out that full answers to several of the questions asked could be found in documents supplied to the House, whereas to explain them point by point from the rostrum would entail serious delay. In reply to another question, he said it was quite true that the shares of the Company held by the Imperial Household Department, 2,500 in number, had been transfered to the company, as a special consideration, at their face value, which was less than their market price at the time. After several questions of a minor character, Mr. Tanaka Shozo again pressed for an answer to his original enquiry. He urged that a clear answer should be given in Count Goto's interests. Otherwise the Count would be regarded by the nation as an irresponsible Minister, to whose public declarations no value attached. The Delegate said he should be glad to answer any question about the Minister of State for Communications, but he must decline to discuss a speech delivered by Goto Shojiro in his private capacity. The President announced that he should consider the questions concluded in reference to this particular section of the Budget. The House rose at 4.05 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 2.

The House met at 10.30 a.m. The President announced that an answer had been received from the Minister-President of State to the House's request for a different Delegate to represent the Department of Agriculture and Commerce; that Mr. Amano Saburo asked leave to bring in a Bill amending the 3rd Article of the Conscription Regulations, and Mr. Shoma Shuko a Bill directing the sale of the Tomioka Filature. The reply of the Minister President was then read by a Secretary, as follows:—The Government Delegates, within the limits of their competence, are at liberty to answer or not to answer the questions put to them. Therefore the Government cannot consent to change a Delegate because he has refused to answer a question." Mr. Yamada Toji protested against this reply, and asked for permission to move, as a matter of urgency, another application to the Government. Mr. Otsu Junichiro spoke in the same sense, maintaining that the action of the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce amounted to an insult to the House, and that such procedure could scarcely be consistent with the spirit of the Constitution and its accompanying laws. He did not think, however, that the present was the proper occasion to push the matter. A fitting opportunity would occur when the House came to debate the Agricultural and Commercial Section of the Budget. Mr. Naito deprecated hasty action, and hoped that the further consideration of the question would be postponed. Messrs. Yamada and Inugai strongly condemned the Government's action. Mr. Nakamura Yoroku said that, after such a reply, the House could have no confidence in the Government. The people did not pay taxes to support useless officials and rebels. Why, then, was full information as to the Budget withheld from the House? Mr. Minoura Katsuta saw no occasion for further reference to the Government. It amounted to this, that the Government withheld information essential to the intelligent discussion of the Budget, and the House must act upon that conviction. Mr. Ishida Kannosuke thought that the issue should be raised and distinctly decided, whether the Government Delegates were really at liberty to answer or not as they pleased. If the principle enunciated in the Minister-President's reply were admitted, it followed that all information about the Budget might be withheld from the House. Mr. Iwasaki Manjiro thought that, without raising the question of whether or no the Delegates were at liberty to refrain from answering, the proper plan would be to ask the Minister-President to attend in the House, and explain under what circumstances a refusal to answer was justifiable. He moved that steps be taken with that object. Mr. Hashimoto Kintaro said that the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce had refused to answer because he could not undertake to expound the policy of the Minister of his Department. The Government, however, could expound it, and for that reason the House had applied to the Government for another Delegate. He could not but think that some misunderstanding had occurred, and he suggested that instead of committing themselves to any hasty resolution, a Committee of twelve should be appointed to investigate the matter. Mr. Arai Shogo begged the President to determine whether the proposition advanced as a point of urgency had received sufficient support to come before the House for debate. The President said that Mr. Yamada's motion had not yet found one supporter. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo urged the necessity of deliberation. He recalled the circumstances under which the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce had declined to answer on the 31st ultimo, and the reason given, namely, that a junior official could not expound the policy of the Minister of his Department. Plainly the bearings of the question were very wide. The answer would show exactly what policy the Government intended to pursue with respect to the support of industry and trade in general, and he, the speaker, shared the anxiety of all the members to obtain distinct information on such a vital point. But they could not expect a Vice-Minister to make himself the exponent of the thoughts and views of the Minister of his Department. To obtain such an exposition they must seek it from the Minister himself, and he therefore moved that the Minister be asked to attend. Mr. Suzuki Manjiro denounced the idea of wasting time over this discussion. The Government Delegate had declined to give them information. They had asked to have him changed, and the Government replied by sending him back to them. Under the circumstances the only course was to expunge the whole portion of the Budget relating to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Mr. Amano Saburo supported this proposal. Mr. Kashima Hidemaru suggested that the method adopted in reporting to the Government decisions like that of the 31st ultimo ought to be considered. He thought that, on an occasion of such importance, the House itself should determine the nature of the report. Otherwise many circumstances calculated to influence the Government's reply might escape attention. If the stenographic record had been attached to the President's letter forwarding the resolution of the House in the present case, the Government would have appreciated the temper of the House, and could scarcely have returned such an unsympathetic reply. On the other hand, the Government had had time to read the stenographic report, and, moreover a number of Government Delegates had been in their places listening to the debate. Under these circumstances the reply given by the Government indicated a suicidal policy. If that was the resolve on the Government's side, the House knew what course to take. They wanted no Minister to come before them, and had no need to put further questions. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro totally disapproved of the Government's answer, but failed to see what could be gained by repeating the original application. If the House had made up its mind how to act in the sequel of a second application, it had better proceed to act in that way at once. There had been talk of appointing a Committee. They knew by experience what that meant. The House fell into a fever, appointed a Committee in hot haste, and then, in two or three days, cooled down. It had been so in the case of Mori Tokinosuke. As for the suggestion that no more questions need be asked in the section of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, such a course would not ultimately secure public approval. What he suggested was that, since this particular Department was generally disapproved of, and since public opinion inclined to its abolition, they should cut down item after item of its appropriation when they came to vote the Budget, and so exterminate it. After some further discussion, the President said that as the original motion had failed to receive the requisite support, it was not before the House, and the same was true of the subsequent motions, which necessarily took the form of amendments. The House would therefore proceed to the Orders of the Day. Several members spoke briefly criticising the Government in bitter terms. Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro said that the occasion was one eminently demanding a clear understanding between the Government and the House. Many plans had been proposed, but he thought that the simplest of all would be to seek an explanation from the

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Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in his capacity of member of the House. The advantage of a Minister being also a member of the House was to be realized under precisely such circumstances as they were now dealing with. The President then put to the House the motion of Mr. Yamada Toji, but a majority voted against it. The House adjourned for the mid-day recess, and re-assembled at 1.25 p.m. The President announced that during the recess a motion of urgency had been sent in by Mr. Makino Kozo, to the effect that the Orders of the Day should be changed in order to admit of a discussion as to the impropriety of the answer received from the Government. The motion was supported by Messrs. Arai Shogo, Aoki Tadasu, and Inugai Ki. Mr. Arai, in a speech of some length, repeated the arguments against the Government's procedure, and explained that the proposition now made was intended to give voice to what was evidently the general opinion of the House. There had been much discussion in the forenoon, and various proposals had been made. He begged the members to postpone for the moment any consideration of what particular steps should be taken towards the Government, and to decide the broad fact of the impropriety of the answer given to the application of the 31st ultimo. The President, in accordance with the Rules, took the sense of the House at once as to the question of changing the Orders of the Day. A majority voted for the change. The House took a recess in order that the Government's permission for the change might be sought, and re-assembled at 3.10 p.m. The President announced that the Government had refused to consent to the change. Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro said that this was a grave conjuncture. They could not discuss it, however, without changing the Orders of the Day. The wisest plan seemed to be to proceed with the regular business, and then to prolong the session after 4 o'clock in order to consider the motion of Mr. Arai and others. Several members rose to speak, but the President ruled them out of order. The House went into Committee and proceeded to consider the report of the Budget Committee relating to the Department of Communications. Mr. Otsu Junichiro said that as the matter before the House was the Budget, it was within the competence of a member to bring forward any motion relating to the Budget. The 44th Article of the Constitution seemed to indicate that the Delegates of the Government had no special obligations towards the House, but the 44th Article of the Law of the Houses provided that a Committee in meeting might, through the President, demand explanations from the Delegates of the Government. They had asked for an explanation of the policy of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and they had received an answer that left them quite unable to discover the principles upon which the Budget had been framed. He moved, therefore, that they reject the whole Budget and appoint a Committee to draw up another Budget. The President ruled this motion out of order. Mr. Shoma Shiku explained, on behalf of the Committee, that the reductions made in the appropriation for the Communications Department were small in comparison with those of other Departments. The reason of the difference was shown in the following figures:—

	Department of Agriculture and Commerce.	Department of Communications.
	Yen.	Yen.
Appropriation on account of horses, grooms, &c.	3,904	2,400
Office expenses	143 (per head)	67 (per head)
Allowance to Officials on Retired List	15,754	7,159
Pensions	5,221	1,511
Funeral Allowances	1,500	900

This striking difference between the two Departments was not due to any difference of establishment: on the contrary, the officials in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce numbered only 350 against 511 in the Department of Communications. Morever, the salaries of *Hannin* officials in the former Department averaged 30 *yen* against 24 *yen* in the latter. For these and similar reasons no special reduction had been made in the case of the Communications Department. After some further explanations, several members urged that the discussion on this section of the Committee's Report should terminate, and that, as the section relating to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce was not yet concluded, questions might be put about it in the extra session. A confused debate followed. Mr. Ozaki Yukio moved that the House go out of Committee. Mr. Ishida, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, wished to address the House, but a violent uproar ensued, members calling out that they did not desire to hear him. The President rebuked the House for want of decorum and disregard of rules. The Government Delegates were entitled by law to address the House at any moment, and the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce must have permission to do so. Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke urged the House to behave in an orderly and manly manner, and to give the Delegate a hearing. The President repeated that the Delegate had the right to address the House, but again an uproar arose, several members calling out that it was past 4 o'clock. The President (Mr. Shimada Saburo) rebuked the House sternly. He said that such disorderly conduct was disgraceful, and he warned Mr. Suzuki Manjiro not to make any further attempts to speak without permission. He called upon Mr. Takanashi to explain his motion. Mr. Takanashi spoke at some length, urging that the most expedient course was to ask the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to attend in his place as a member of the House and explain his policy. Mr. Hashimoto Kiutaro moved that a Committee of nine be appointed to investigate the matter. Mr. Nishio Genzo supported Mr. Takanashi's motion, but said that he understood that Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, was suffering from sickness. It would be impossible for him to attend, and the business of the House could not go on. He moved as an amendment that Count Yamagata be asked to attend, and that if he declined, the House should proceed to discuss a motion of want of confidence in the Government, or adopt some other suitable course. A short discussion ensued, after which the President put Mr. Takanashi's motion and it was carried by a majority. The House rose at 4.35 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3.

The House met at 10.35 a.m. The President announced that Mr. Ayai Takeo and 39 others had handed in a series of questions relating to the Treasury Reserves and Loans; and Mr. Kawashima Jun and 62 others, a series of questions relating to the present Government. A member suggested that more punctuality should be observed in assembling, at the sound of the President's bell; and another member urged that an accurate report should be speedily furnished showing what books and documents had been destroyed by the conflagration. Mr. Hamano Noboru complained that the *Kokkai Shimbun* had spoken of him as an "animal" because, being afflicted with a severe cold, he wore an overcoat in the House. The President said that such matters did not fall within his province. The House went into Committee on the Budget. Mr. Shimada Saburo, President of Committee, said that the order of business was to continue the questions relating to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Mr. Ishida, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, said that his refusal to answer a question on the 31st ultimo having led to much discussion, he desired to offer an explanation. The function entrusted to him as Delegate was to give information about the Budget submitted to the House. It had not seemed to him that a question bearing on the general policy of the Government as to the protection of industries, could fairly be considered to fall within the scope of an item relating to the Tea Company only. He thought the House might have obtained that information in some other manner. At the same time, they would find him perfectly willing to afford all the information in his power in respect of matters needing elucidation. Messrs. Inugai, Tachiiri, Hashimoto, and Higashio objected to put questions to Mr. Ishida under the circumstances. The House had voted that information should be sought from the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, and until he attended in his place it was useless to make any further inquiries. The President pointed out that the House had not voted to suspend its inquiries, but only to ask for the attendance of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. If, therefore, members did not choose to put questions, the session of the committee must go on all the same. Mr. Yamada Toji said they had decided the preceding day that the Delegate, Mr. Ishida, was morally incompetent to answer question, and he therefore protested against questions being put to him. Mr. Hamano Noboru said that since the Mori Tokinosuke incident the House had received five or six rebuffs from the Government, and had made no return. If they acted similarly in the present case, the public would say that the three hundred Representatives were fossils. The President warned Mr. Hamano that any repetition of such language would compel him (the President of Committee) to report the matter to the President of the House, and request that due punishment be meted out. If Mr. Hamano undertook not to use similar words again, his remarks on this occasion might be overlooked. Mr. Hamano promised to be more circumspect. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro said that the House had decided to ask for the attendance of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce. It had not decided to interrupt its inquiries, nor had it decided that the Delegate was morally incompetent to answer. He protested strongly against such statements being made by a member. A long discussion followed as to the propriety of postponing the inquiry in regard to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce until the Minister himself attended. The President finally, in the exercise of the powers vested in him, decided that the inquiry should be postponed, and that the House should proceed to consider the Revenue side of the Budget. Various questions were put to the Government Delegate, Mr. Watanabe, with regard to re-surveys of land for purposes of taxation and with regard to loans to Cities and Prefectures. Mr. Kudo Kokan asked for information about loans made by the Government during the Meiji era. The Delegate replied that the documents containing information on this subject would fill two large chests. They were accessible to all the members. After a number of minor questions, the majority of which the Government Delegate promised to answer at a future date, Mr. Ayai Takeo moved that as the House had already devoted 27 days to the session of inquiry it should proceed at once to debate the Budget. The motion being put, a majority voted in the affirmative. The House then went out of Committee. Mr. Oyagi Biichiro moved that the Report of the Budget Committee and the amendments proposed by Messrs. Suge and Matsuda should be grouped together, and returned to the Committee, in order that only such portions of them as complied with the law and the Constitution might be embodied in a new Report. He urged the expedency of this course in a long speech. The motion being brought forward as one of urgency, the House was asked to decide whether the Orders of the Day should be altered for the purpose of debating it. A vote was taken by ballot, when 134 members voted against changing the orders, and 127 voted in the affirmative. The House rose at 2.26 p.m., the President having announced that the business for the next day would be the debate on the Budget.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. The President announced that in answer to the inquiry addressed by him to the Government, the following had been received:—"With reference to the question concerning the general policy of the Government in respect of State aid to industrial and commercial enterprises—a question lying outside the scope of the actual Budget—it is desired that, in accordance with Article 48 of the Law of the Houses, the question should be accompanied by the memorandum therein prescribed. The Government, in common with the House, being anxious to comply strictly with the law, this reply is given." Mr. Aoki Tadasu

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severely condemned this reply. He called it a mere confession of inability to give the information sought for, contended that the original inquiry had been strictly within the scope of the Budget now before the House, and moved that the Government was not only treating the House with great want of consideration, but also failing to discharge its duty by withholding information which the House considered essential to the intelligent discussion of the Budget, and by giving no reply to the request that the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce be required to attend in the House. He argued that in order to discuss this motion, which amounted to a vote of want of confidence in the Government, no permission need be sought to depart from the Orders of the Day. Messrs. Nakamura Yeisuke and Naito Rihachi supported the motion. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho opposed it. He said that this trouble had not arisen out of any evil intention on the part of the Government. It had grown out of a casual incident. Moreover, the Delegate whom they condemned so strongly had offered an explanation virtually amounting to an apology. Was it manly or dignified to push the affair farther? If, indeed, they wanted to fight the Government, such insistance would be intelligible. But in that case he thought that they might choose some occasion to which the disgrace of unmanliness would not attach. The answer from the Government, too, did not seem to call for any censure. It merely said, "Comply with the law and accompany your question by a statement of reasons." Mr. Wakai Yeitaro took the same view in the main. He denounced the whole affair as undignified from the outset, but suggested that any further discussion of it should be postponed until after the important debate on the Budget had been concluded. Mr. Tanaka Shozo supported the motion. He relied on Article 44 of the Law of the Houses, which provides that a Committee may through the President, demand explanations from the Delegates of the Government. As he proceeded to dilate upon the necessity of mutual forbearance on the part of the Administration and the Legislature, several members laughed. Mr. Tanaka inquired sternly what they found to deride in such an important subject. His speech lasted some time, and when he was in the act of descending from the rostrum, cries of "Can't understand" were heard. "If you can't understand, listen, you rude fellows," cried Mr. Tanaka (*wakarankeriya kite iro, burei monomega*). The motion was then put to the House and lost. A proposition was made to take all votes relating to the Budget by ballots with names. The President thought that as the Rules provided for a show of hands as well as for ballots, a general decision of this kind would amount to a change of the Rules, and could not, therefore, be taken without due discussion involving a departure from the Orders of the Day. Several members argued against the necessity of changing the Orders, their contention being that the motion related only to the matter before the House, namely, the Budget. The motion was subsequently altered so as to refer only to occasions when a vote by ballot was taken. A confused debate ensued, some members endeavouring to speak to the motion, despite the President's ruling that the question of changing the Orders must be decided first. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro charged the President with failure of duty because he allowed two questions to be simultaneously discussed. The President gave an explanation, and said that he must ask the House to decide as to the propriety of Mr. Inouye's stricture. Mr. Inouye withdrew the remark. After further discussion, the House decided that the motion might be debated without changing the Orders. After the mid-day recess the debate was continued, and amid some confusion the motion was carried by a considerable majority, the closure having been voted, although several members' names had been sent in as desiring to speak. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo and others protested against such arbitrary behaviour on the part of the majority. The result of the voting was also questioned, whereupon the roll was called. During this process Mr. Shiota Okuzo answered for the member beside him as well as for himself, and a motion was made for handing him over to the Committee for Disciplinary Punishments. The motion was lost. The voting by names was then continued, and resulted in 135 "ayes" and 113 "noes." The House rose at 3.55 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5.

The House met at 10.5 a.m. Mr. Tsubota Shigeru's motion came up for discussion, namely:—"With respect to the concurrence of the Government in the matter of expenditures mentioned in the 67th Article of the Constitution, so soon as this House comes to a decision involving such concurrence, steps shall be forthwith taken to seek that concurrence." Mr. Tsubota explained that there were three views about the rendering of the 67th Article:—First, that the Diet had simply to vote for any reductions or rejections approved by it, and then to leave the Government to endorse these or not as it pleased; secondly, that as the expression used in the Constitution was "the Diet," neither House could act independently in respect of the Government's concurrence; thirdly, that either House was competent to seek the Government's concurrence in relation to any reductions or rejections made by it. He held that the third view was correct. The first he condemned as conflicting with the 64th Article of the Constitution, which provided that the Budget must have the consent of the Diet. It could not be said to have that consent if alterations voted by the Diet might be endorsed or otherwise as the Government pleased. The second view he condemned because, as a matter of reason, whichever House desired to make a rejection or reduction should be at liberty to seek the Government's concurrence. The arguments relating to these points were set forth by Mr. Tsubota at considerable length, and the third view was advocated as best calculated to expedite the process of legislation. Several questions were addressed to the mover, after which Mr. Yasuda Yuitsu spoke in opposition, maintaining that the concurrence of the Government related only to the carrying out of the rejections or reductions voted by the Diet. In the course of his speech he condemned the Japanese Constitution because the phrase "concurrence of the Government" did not occur in any other Constitution. This led to some commotion which the President ultimately quelled. Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke supported the motion, his contention being that if the rejection or reduction of a particular class of expenses was not permitted without the Government's concurrence, then that concurrence must be sought before the House passed a final vote on the subject. He supported this view by reference to the Articles providing that a member could not be arrested while the House was in session without the permission of the House, and that, except in cases provided by law, the dwelling of a Japanese subject must not be entered or searched without his consent. It was perfectly plain that in the case of the dwelling and the member alike, the act of entry or that of arrest must be preceded, not followed, by the consent of the owner or the permission of the House. No material difference could be discerned between the phraseology of these Articles and that of the 67th Article which they were now considering. He dwelt upon the fact that by the Constitution the Budget had to be submitted to the Lower House first, a provision which endowed the House with a certain amount of independence in the exercise of its fiscal functions. Some people contended that because the Minister of State for Finance had announced the Government's inability to consent to the Committee's Report, therefore no occasion existed for further inquiry as to the Government's concurrence. But he thought such a view untenable, as the Minister had merely made a general statement, and had not referred to any item, whereas it was fair to conclude that some portions, at any rate, of the Report would meet with favourable consideration at the Government's hands. He contended for independence of the Lower House in respect of the Budget, and claimed that the share taken by the Upper House in passing it was a mere matter of form. Mr. Aoki Tadasu spoke on the other side, and pointed out that if the final decisions of the House were to be taken in the sequel of obtaining the Government's concurrence, then, in order to seek that concurrence, a preliminary decision must be arrived at. In other words, the whole procedure of the House would have to be changed. As to the contention that the House of Representatives might act independently in this matter, he wished it were so, but the language of the Constitution was plain. The 67th Article said "the Diet," and the Diet consisted of two Houses. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo asked to have the stenographic record read, and this being done, it appeared that the expression "improper," applied by Mr. Yasuda Yuitsu to the Constitution, was duly recorded. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo protested strongly against such language being used in the House, and maintained that if it were permitted, similar epithets of condemnation might be applied without illegality to the Imperial messages themselves. He thought that it fell within the President's duty to rule such language out of order. The President said that he had reproved Mr. Yasuda, but that doubtless Mr. Suyematsu failed to hear him. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho urged that the incident need not delay the House. It was on record that Mr. Yasuda had denied his intention of using the words impugned, and his denial amounted to a withdrawal. The words should be expunged from the records. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo then proceeded to argue in favour of the motion. He asserted that the power of dealing with the Budget rested virtually with the Lower House, the members of which had been elected by the people, and he laid down the proposition that the Upper House, which contained only a few elected members, ought not to interfere in such a matter. Mr. Ishida Kanosuke opposed the motion, and charged its supporters with want of obedience to the Constitution, where it was distinctly enunciated that the Diet consisted of the Upper and the Lower Houses. The word "Diet" in the 67th Article could not possibly be read as referring to either House singly. He also pointed out that no machinery existed for seeking the concurrence of the Government, as suggested by the mover of the proposition. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho opposed the motion, on the ground that the 33rd Article of the Constitution defined the Diet as consisting of two Houses, and the Lower House could not, consequently, take action which would prevent the Upper House from receiving the Budget in its original form. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo supported the motion, and warned the opposition that the responsibility of future complications would rest on their shoulders if they rejected it. Mr. Seki Naohiko moved the closure, but the President said that many names of intending speakers were still before him. Several members, however, having urged the needlessness of further debate, the closure was put and carried. The motion was then put, at first by show of hands and afterwards by calling the roll, when 93 "ayes" and 138 "noes" resulted. The President then announced that the Minister of State for Finance wished to address the House. Count Matsukata, ascending the rostrum, said:—"Gentlemen. In connection with your discussion of the urgency motion just now decided, I think it advisable to say a word on one point. It being necessary that the Government's concurrence be obtained in the event of any reduction or rejection of the expenditures enumerated in the 67th Article of the Constitution, the moral duty plainly devolves upon the Government of clearly intimating its opinion to you for your information. According to the Government's view, then, when rejections or reductions are to be made of the expenditures referred to in the 67th Article the proper course is that each House before coming to a decision, should seek the Government's concurrence." The House rose at 4.30 p.m.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR WORKS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—With reference to the article headed "Yokohama Harbour" which appeared in *Engineering* on the 12th of December, may I ask you to be kind enough to publish the following letter which I am sending to the editor of that journal?

Yours faithfully,

The Engineer of the Harbour Works.

February 1st, 1891.

To the Editor of "Engineering."

Sir,—On the 12th of last December you published an article purporting to describe the Yokohama Harbour Works, and commenting in strong terms on the Japanese authorities and their advisers. To fair criticism, founded on a knowledge of facts, no reasonable objection could be taken. But against criticism supported only by misstatements and suppressions of fact so numerous and so extraordinary as those which I find in the article referred to, it is really necessary to make a serious protest. I will do so as briefly as I can.

I have to point out, in the first place, that the statement that "the Japanese wise men must begin outwards and work inwards," in constructing the breakwaters, is absolutely untrue; as also is the statement that "the mercantile community of Yokohama recently held a meeting to protest" against "this method of procedure." Equally false is the assertion that "a commencement has been made at the pier-heads by dumping down the rubble base;" and equally false and unjust are the sneering comments founded on that fabrication. False, again, is the assumption that the works "cannot be carried out for less than half a million sterling," on the "most moderate computation." They will cost barely two-thirds of that sum. And, as for the statement that the Japanese "are going to waste a large sum of money," it is a mere slander, unsupported by a shred of proof. To cite a few other errors, your writer states that "the breakwaters are to consist of rubble-stone mounds, with a concrete superstructure below high-water mark." The mounds, however, are not of rubble stone, and the superstructure is to be carried above high-water mark. Further, that class of construction is to extend to but little more than one-third of the whole length of breakwater. The pier is to be 1,900 feet long, instead of 1,500 feet as stated in your article; and the graving-docks form no part of the harbour-works scheme, but are the separate concern of a private company. The geographical data in the article are inexact; the longest fetch of the sea outside of the proposed harbour is 27 miles instead of "from 11 to 15 miles;" and one of the chief features of the scheme—the training works for the Katabiragawa water—is neither mapped nor mentioned.

The above and many other errors, running through nearly every sentence of your article, sufficiently betray its author's ignorance of the local conditions and the scope and particulars of the works. No other conclusion is possible, in respect of a writer who seems to think it a simple matter to provide at this port means of "berthing vessels alongside quays, or to furnish" quay room for all classes of vessels," with "a small amount of shelter;" who argues that the "sensible plan would have been to have commenced with internal docks or wharves," leaving the anchorage alone for a while; who suggests that the present works are "monumental," and designed without regard to expense or to "the commercial aspect of the question;" who complains that the breakwaters are not built out from the shore, and that the entrance is "right in the middle of the anchorage;" and who talks of our ornamenting the bay with "two sunken reefs," on which, for years to come, there will, perhaps, be occasional wrecks. If he had tried his best, he could not have given surer proof than by this random writing of his ignorance of the special conditions which really govern the case—of the nature of the bottom in the different parts of the Bay and its shores; of the needs of the port; of the destructive effects of typhoons; of the limit of money which was available for the enterprise; of the substantial amount of berthage for cargo-vessels that is provided under the present scheme; of the training-works by which the silt-laden streamwaters that have operated for ages past to fill up the anchorage are to be conducted seaward past the inner ends of the breakwaters; and of a dozen other essentially local particulars by which the whole problem is hedged in. In the face of all these considerations, it is idle to propound abstract theories as to what would be the most perfect method of procedure under some imaginary set of conditions, just as it is perfectly idle to attempt to apply to Japan, in matters at large, the canons of criticism that in our own country have been evolved, in the course of centuries, from a wholly different order of things. The main point is that in these Yokohama Harbour Works the Japanese authorities are going to have exactly what they want, at a decidedly moderate cost—that is to say, breakwater shelter for the anchorage, prevention of the rapid silting-up latterly observed, and a pier affording some 3,000 linear feet of berthage for cargo vessels, in direct railway communication with the railway system, leaving to private enterprise the further development of berthage as the needs of the port may dictate.

One can understand the exigencies of a newspaper writer attempting to describe a large engineering work in a distant country, aided only by the imperfect and inaccurate little sketch which served to illustrate your article. But the heedlessness with which, in this case, sweeping charges, founded on false premises, have been preferred against the Japanese authorities and their advisers is less intelligible. And I certainly should have thought that at the hands of *Engineering*, of all papers, members of the engineering profession might fairly count on receiving some measure of protection from anonymous and unjust attacks.

On the unkindly spirit which influenced the writer of your article I do not care to dwell. It is so palpable as to furnish its own condemnation and to call for no rejoinder. But I have thought it right and necessary to show up a few of the chief misstatements of fact by which the article is disfigured, not only as a just protest on behalf of those for whom I act, but as an answer to a really unpardonable attack upon my own good name.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

The Designer and Engineer of the Works.

Yokohama, Feb. 1st, 1891.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—From the fact that Mr. "Electron" wrote something about my report on the fire in the Diet building and published it in the *Japan Gazette* of the 28th inst., I noticed that my report had been published in your paper on the 26th inst., in which some parts were mistranslated and ought to be translated as follows:—(4) Both the insulation resistance and conductivity of the system had been tested several times. (6) From about 12.50 a.m. to 1 o'clock, however, the *number* of *lamps* or *amount* of *current* gradually increased up to 100 amperes, and between 10 o'clock and 1.5 a.m. the needle of the amperemeter oscillated violently once or twice. . . . . The covering of the wires must therefore have disappeared. Even if the covering remained, however, *it certainly turned to be very rough*, and throwing water *over the wires should cause a short-circuit there so that* the safety fuses, &c. . . . . , whereas in the station *there was no other change than the gradual increase of lamps switched in or of amount of current.* . . . . . If, however, the fire . . . and water had been thrown on to the *perfect* wires *through a floor or a ceiling*, the water reaching the covering of the wires and penetrating into them slowly, the amount of current at the station would have been increased *just as though more and more lamps had been switched into the circuit*, and ultimately, &c. &c.

Mr. "Electron" denies that the fact of nothing having occurred at the Russian Legation and Mr. Kuki's residence proves anything, but both theoretically and practically this fact proves a most important thing which I leave him once more to find out himself.

If Mr. "Electron" . . . will study the construction of the dynamos, he will see that the error in his statement is distinctly on his own side, for he writes that *the effect of a length of copper wire becoming red-hot would be to start a fire in several places at once.* Well, is it possible to produce such a state of affairs practically? I suggest that he avoid repeating this statement for it shows nothing but that he is quite ignorant of electric lighting both practically and theoretically.

But, on the whole, I devote many thanks to Mr. "Electron" for his writing; for otherwise I should never have noticed that my report was placed before foreigners in the form mistranslated.

Yours, &c., T. IWATA, M.E.,

Chief Engineer to the Yokohama, U.E.L. Co.

Yokohama, Jan. 29th, 1891.

[The Japanese copy of the report which we translated was evidently faulty. Mr. Iwata's corrected sentences did not occur in it.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE RECENT HALO OF THE MOON.—SCIENCE AND SUPERSTITION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have been watching your columns for some reference to the beautiful halo of the moon of last Tuesday evening, the 27th inst. I cannot believe that it was visible only from this vicinity; and am more inclined to think that it may be of such frequent occurrence as not to call for any special notice. And yet that even does not seem like a satisfactory explanation; for the people here say that, while moon halos are not infrequent occurrences, such a large and magnificent halo as that of last Tuesday evening is very rare. Your correspondent must acknowledge that he has never in Japan or in the United States seen such a one. Is there any special reason why such a phenomenon should be more clearly manifested in Japan than in the United States? Does the humidity of the atmosphere have any effect? Your correspondent, being ignorant, asks for information.

In connection with that wonderful phenomenon of nature, some curious fears and superstitions were brought to light. Our attention was first directed to it by a neighbour, who called in at the window: "*O Tsuki San wo goran nasai.*" When I went outside to look at the moon, he excitedly pointed out the striking features, such as the streams of light in the shape of a cross, the spots of red light; and he seemed greatly worked up over the matter. He knew of the cross as the symbol of Christianity, and red as the colour of blood; and he seemed to think, that the phenomenon was a sign of Christ's coming. He is by no means an educated man, or a believer in Christianity: he is in fact, a wicked old "heathen," if "X. Y. Z." will excuse me for using that term. But, being extremely superstitious, he was considerably frightened, and, if one had been inclined to play on his fears, would have been a good subject for "conversion." As he turned to leave, he raised his hands, and bowed his head, in the attitude of prayer.

There were some others who were inclined to connect the phenomenon in some way with Christianity; but most of those ignorant of its scientific aspects looked upon it as a sign of impending misfortune. I am rather inclined to think that the latter opinion must have spread a little; for the local paper, a day or two later, took occasion, on the authority of one of the High School teachers, to say directly, that such an idea was a great mistake.

Our final query is, "Was the cross which Constantine is said to have seen in the sky some such phenomenon as this?"

I ought, perhaps, to add that some said that the phenomenon was a sign to accept Christianity; while others claimed that it was a sign to drive out that religion!

Yours, &c., CLEM.

Mito, January 31st, 1891.

THE NAGOYA EPISODE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Referring to the comments of the *Hyogo News* upon the Nagoya episode, reprinted in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of Jan. 31, may I ask in what way "the law of the land" was broken by Dr. Perin? While it is, of course, true that foreigners are not competent to hold Christian services outside the limits fixed for their residence, I had not supposed that the right of Japanese subjects to hold such meetings could be impugned. Further, after a somewhat long experience in missionary work in the interior, I think I have unimpeachable evidence that the right of Japanese subjects to secure the aid of foreigners in the conduct of Christian meetings is fully recognized by the Japanese Authorities. The only question raised in connection with a foreigner's presence on such occasions has been, so far as I am aware, whether his passport gave him the right to be in that particular town at that particular time. In the case of teachers, the inquiry has gone farther, and means have been taken to ascertain whether any contract existed involving pecuniary obligation without the sanction of the proper Authorities. In no case within my observation has any objection been made to the rendering of temporary aid in schools or in church work, where it was evident the aid was of a purely gratuitous character.

Nearly all work in the interior on the part of touring missionaries is of this description. As regards myself, my own visits to the interior are always at the invitation of the Japanese concerned, and my speaking is confined to such times and places as my Japanese friends sug-

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gest. I should as soon think of intruding myself into a pulpit of New York or Boston, as of making an independent appointment in connection with any of the churches affiliated with the American Board, whose missionary I have the honour to be. This subordination of my activity, in these lines, to that of the leaders of the Japanese churches is not mere matter of form. It is the actual condition of affairs. It is a necessity of the situation, as I view it, and I acquiesce in it with great heartiness.

As I understand the case, Dr. Perin arranged to address the meeting in Nagoya in pursuance of a definite invitation from a Japanese friend. That friend was fully within his rights as a Japanese subject in extending the invitation, and Dr. Perin was quite within his rights in accepting it and appearing on the platform.

With many thanks for the opportunity of making this statement, I remain, yours faithfully.

DANIEL CROSBY GREENE.

[We do not think that Dr. Perin was "within his rights" unless his presence in Nagoya—*i.e.* outside Treaty Limits—was sanctioned by some form of engagement qualifying him to teach moral doctrine. If he travelled on an ordinary passport, he did not possess the *right* to lecture in public. But he availed himself of a privilege which is willingly permitted by Japanese officials and Japanese people alike.—ED. *J. M.*]

MR. ICARUS LUMPKIN AND MR. HAUGHTY STYLUS.

(A DIALOGUE OVERHEARD BY OUR DEFUNCT REPORTER.)

HAUGHTY.—Good morning, Mr. Icarus. How goes the new trade?

ICARUS.—Tough work, Mr. Haughty, tough work. Folks are so exacting.

H.—Indeed. Not disposed to see your wings yet, are n't they, Mr. Ic.?

Ic.—No, confound them. They seem to regard me as a sort of blundering prancer. My kindliest intentions are misconstrued. Look here. The other day I re-published a malicious attack upon one of our leading residents, just that the able man might have a chance of answering his assailant. What do you think? The ungrateful fellow called me a ventilator of slanders.

H.—That's bad. But accidents will happen, you know.

Ic.—Then there's that morning contemporary of mine. He makes me mad all the time with his "style."

H.—Well, you can't have expected to sail along perpetually in a clear empyrean. You appreciated, doubtless, that some clouds would mar the serenity of your 'prentice flight.

Ic.—Don't talk like that. You remind me of the *Mail*. I wish I had n't been brought up to eschew swearing. Yes, of course I foresaw some difficulties. But I have a back-door that lets me out of every tangle. That's one comfort.

H.—A back-door, have you? How do you work it?

Ic.—Very simply. It's the motives door. Whenever that *Mail* gets troublesome I divert attention from its arguments by charging it with being servilely pledged to support the Japanese Government through thick and thin.

H.—Very clever, Mr. Ic. May I inquire whether you yourself discovered that useful postern?

Ic.—Well, not exactly. It's been the favourite exit of the *Mail's* opponents for quite a number of years. That old reviler over in the alley scurries through it once a week, on the average, all the year round.

H.—You mean Mr. Tubbie Maunder, I suppose. He's a good model, is he?

Ic.—He, the yapper! I don't even condescend to notice him. We have nothing in common.

H.—Not even the back door?

Ic.—Ah! But that's so serviceable. One can slip through it at any moment. Mercenary motives; obsequiousness to officialdom; pandering to the powers that be—such handy and effective weapons for discrediting an adversary! They take splendidly with the masses. Then, too, there's the incidental charge of inconsistency. A writer that supports Cabinet after Cabinet cannot be consistent.

H.—Hum! Is that true in Japan's case?

Ic.—True? Of course it is. "Surely the principles and practice of the statesmen who in succession have held the reins of State are widely different. They cannot all be equally good."

H.—Perhaps not. But my memory of Japanese Cabinets during the past twenty years is that they have consisted of pretty much the same men throughout. Am I wrong?

Ic.—Quite wrong. There have been "the Sanjo Government, the Ito Government, the Kuroda Government, the Yamagata Government," and so forth.

H.—So there have. And you can doubtless show in what respect "the principles and practice of these statesmen have been widely different?"

Ic.—I must decline to discuss the matter if you talk in that fashion, "ignoring the significance of my disclosures, undermining the value of any testimony, and trying to trip the witness up on small points."

H.—I beg your pardon. I had nearly fallen into the popular error of supposing that to convict a man of inconsistency in politics, he must be shown to have advocated conflicting lines of policy. Besides, I imagined that the foreign policy of the Japanese Government was the main point of discussion between you, Mr. Maunder and the *Mail*, and I am ignorant enough to think that the country's foreign policy has undergone no marked change during the past ten years.

Ic.—That only shows how "undiscerning" you are. Why, in this very matter of foreign policy, there have been three distinct and widely different programmes of Treaty Revision put forward by the Japanese Government, and the *Mail* has supported them all in succession.

H.—How very unconscientious! May I inquire what the first of those schemes was?

Ic.—Count Inouye's scheme, of course.

H.—And the second?

Ic.—Well, at the time of its discussion I was too much occupied with other things to pay any attention to it: I cannot tell you what its leading features were.

H.—And the third?

Ic.—The third has not been published. We don't know what it is.

H.—Yet you aver that the *Mail* has advocated them all, and that their radical differences convict it of inconsistency.

Ic.—There you are again, trying to trip me up on minor points and ignore the significance of my disclosures. I believe that the connection between the *Japan Mail* and the Government could be proved in a court of law.

H.—Quite so. But that's the postern. Talking of courts of law reminds me that you have said a good deal on that subject lately?

Ic.—I should think so. I have made most significant disclosures. You see, "owing to the fact that I can read the vernacular newspapers," I recently "came across some very awkward disclosures" made by Mr. Murata Tamotsu. They showed that in 1887, Count Yamada, Minister of State for Justice, had attempted to promote "a wild and unscrupulous scheme, calculated not only to undermine the authority of law but to prove subversive of all morality." They also "demonstrated, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the Commercial Code was unsuited to the nation's condition."

H.—May I ask you where you found these "awkward disclosures?"

Ic.—In the *Nippon*.

H.—Humph! Oh yes, I've heard of that paper once or twice. It's one of the journals strongly antagonistic to the Government, is'nt it?

Ic.—Antagonistic, yes; but "if the principle of praising the men in power were universally adopted as a maxim of journalism, would any reforms in Government ever take place?"

H.—Quite true. But I imagined that since, according to your view, a pro-official paper is utterly untrustworthy, some caution ought also to be observed in accepting the statements of an anti-official journal.

Ic.—If you try to "trip me up on minor points" I shan't argue with you.

H.—Pardon, again. Mr. Murata, then, "demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Commercial Code is unsuited to the nation's conditions." How did he do that?

Ic.—He made significant disclosures. He brought three principal charges against the Code.

H.—But these charges were controverted by the *Mail*, I think?

Ic.—The *Mail*, Mr. Haughty, is a very artful journal. What do you think it did? It "availed itself of the services of one or two lawyer friends" and then "wrote an article three or four columns long undermining the value of Mr. Murata's testimony."

H.—What a weary business! But I imagined that the *Mail's* one article was a reply to three of yours.

Ic.—Don't try to "trip me up on minor points."

H.—Pardon, again. But what a dirty advantage the *Mail* took of you when it consulted lawyers about a Code of law. Well, what did the lawyer friends do?

Ic.—They proved that "in several details Murata was wrong."

H.—In several details! Why you told me that he only brought three principal charges against the Code. How many of the three remained if "several" were wrong!

Ic.—There you are again, "trying to trip me up on minor points."

H.—Quite accidental, I assure you. Besides, you made other "awkward disclosures" about the Department of Justice, did n't you?

Ic.—I should think so. I showed that Count Yamada had been treated with shameless duplicity by his colleagues in the Cabinet.

H.—Indeed. How did you discover that?

Ic.—In the *Toyo Shimpo*.

H.—The *Toyo Shimpo*. I have an indistinct recollection that such a journal exists in Tokyo. Anti-Government I think?

Ic.—Yes, but "suppose the principle of praising the men in power were universally adopted as a maxim of journalism, would any reforms in Government ever take place?

H.—Certainly, certainly. And what did the *Toyo Shimpo* disclose?

Ic.—It disclosed that whereas Count Yamada was induced to undertake the compilation of the Civil and Commercial Codes in 1889 because Viscount Aoki declared them essential to Treaty Revision, the same Viscount Aoki, in 1891, told the Diet that "no connection existed between the Commercial Code and Treaty Revision."

H.—"Induced to undertake the compilation of the Codes in 1889!" Why their compilation had been undertaken years before then. Besides, a few minutes ago you accused Count Yamada of unscrupulous and immoral conduct in 1887 because he tried to push the Revision of these same Codes in the avowed interests of Treaty Revision.

Ic.—Pooh! What matter about "a few dates." Moreover, I'm happy to say that my charge was confirmed.

H.—Indeed. By whom?

Ic.—By the *Nippon*.

H.—Ah. That other Anti-Government paper that supplied "the significant disclosures about Count Yamada and the Commercial Code."

Ic.—You "think it advisable," do you, "to make a good sweeping statement about the sources of my information."

H.—Not at all. I imagined that it was you who made sweeping statements about the bias and servility of your opponents.

Ic.—I believe it could be proved in a Court of Law that the *Japan Mail*—

H.—Assuredly. But we needn't take the postern yet. And so Count Yamada was left in the lurch by Viscount Aoki?

Ic.—Yes. And thereupon "the honest old warrior, believing in not trimming to the wind, with a heavy heart severed his connection with the Government, a leading member of which could deliberately say one thing to his fellow-Ministers and another to the Diet."

H.—"Honest Old Warrior!" "No believer in trimming to the wind!" Why, you said just now that Count Yamada, was the author of a "wild and unscrupulous scheme, subversive of law and morality."

Ic.—There! That's one of your "journalistic dodges." "Words are always capable of being understood in two ways. By understanding them one way your adversary does not contradict himself." "But you won't give him the credit of consistency." "The word honest is of course used in the sense of bluntness and openess. It is also used to express deceitfulness. If taken in the former sense in this instance, a contradiction in my description of Count Yamada's character can be made out."

H.—Ah! Then you meant to say that the deceitful Old Warrior, believing in not trimming to the wind, with a heavy heart severed his connection with a deceitful Government." Yes, I daresay he was sorry for the parting.

Ic.—"It belongs to the art of journalism to try and show that an opponent contradicts himself, whether he actually does or not, and more especially is this the case when grave issues are concerned."

H.—Yes. They're a bad lot those journalists. May I be permitted to ask what is your own particular policy?

Ic.—"I am one of the warmest friends of the Japanese Government, as I hope to prove in print before long."

H.—Oh, indeed, I thought you had described the Government of Japan as an "administration said to work incalculable harm, liable to commit a series of blunders that take years to set to rights;" an administration that "has encouraged abuses, bribery for instance, or the employment of hundreds of useless and corrupt officials for personal reasons; and has been guilty of a score of shady transactions in the use of State money."

Ic.—I repeat that "it belongs to the art of journalism to try and show that an opponent contradicts himself whether he does or does n't?

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H.—May I ask how long you have been an editor?

Ic.—Something over a month.

H.—And during the whole of that time, have you, in discussing Japanese affairs, written a single article that is not calculated to discredit the Japanese Government, to bring Japanese institutions into disrepute and to obstruct the realization of Japan's national aspirations?

Ic.—You are again trying "to trip me up on minor points."

H.—No, but have you ever written in anything but a hostile spirit?

Ic.—"I am one of the warmest friends of the Japanese Government, as I hope to prove in print before long."

H.—Well, well. Don't get excited. You have been an editor for a little over a month, you say. Would it be an impertinence to inquire how much you have written during that time with the object of proving the *Japan Mail* to be a mercenary and biassed supporter of the Government?

Ic.—I have written four leading articles and some editorial notes.

H.—Indeed. It seems to me that your use of the postern is about up to the average of your friend, Tubby Maunder.

Ic.—"I see no reason whatever why I should expose myself to a shower of cynic arrows by taking the trouble to argue with you."

H.—I beg your pardon, Mr. Icarus. My only object is to examine both sides of the question. Your position, I understand, is that an honest controversialist should address himself to the arguments of an opponent, not to his motives or his personal proclivities. Am I right?

Ic.—I hold that all discussion "ought to be raised far beyond the range of sensationalism and perversion."

H.—Yet, unless I have read you wrongly, the only weapons you have hitherto used in your discussion with the *Mail* have been general charges of mercenary motives, servility, a studied resolve to conceal the truth, insolence of style, artful trickery, and assumption of superiority.

Ic.—I "decline the thankless task of replying to an organ which, on the question of Treaty Revision it bound to be one-sided. I shall in future, as far as possible, adopt the plan of leaving my contemporary to follow its course of officialdom defensive warfare, while I proceed on my own independent lines."

H.—Has the *Japan Mail* ever retorted in a similar spirit?

Ic.—No. How could it?

H.—Softly, Mr. Icarus. Remember that you are the salaried editor of a Company whose avowed policy is to prove Japan's unfitness to exercise the right of an independent State, and remember that during the whole time of your editorship every one of your comments on Japanese affairs has been directed to discredit the country.

Ic.—I defy your insinuation. "I am sorry to observe that you are unable to give an opponent credit for the possession of the same honesty and conscientiousness that you claim for yourself."

H.—But I thought that it was you who refused to give your opponent, the *Japan Mail*, credit for any honesty and conscientiousness whatsoever?

Ic.—You are trying to undermine the value of my testimony. I "carefully avoid the imputation of motives." My journalistic object is "to provide an antidote for the mischief which the one-sided writing of the *Japan Mail* is bound to work," and in that way it results that "a glance at the leading articles which have appeared in my columns since I became editor might lead a casual observer to infer that my object is to institute a crusade against the Japanese Government."

H.—The exigencies of your position must be very trying, Mr. Icarus. Unless the *Japan Mail* becomes converted, it appears, according to your own showing, that you will be condemned to continue your crusade against the Japanese Government in perpetuity. However, you have at least the comfort of knowing that such a course will not be censured by your employers.

Ic.—I'll have none of your cynic arrows. I "deny that the tendency of my criticism is anti-Government."

H.—Hullo! I thought you just said that you had hitherto been carrying on a crusade against the Government.

Ic.—"It belongs to the art of journalism to try and show that an opponent contradicts himself whether he actually does or not." "Words are always capable of being interpreted in two ways." Thus the words "crusade against" are of course used in the sense of attacking or assaulting. But they are also used to express supporting and defending. Taken in the latter sense, no contradiction can be made out.

H.—I think that the Judicial Department has come in for the major share of your hostile criticism. Perhaps I sought to explain that I use the word "hostile" in the sense of "inimical," not in that of "friendly."

Ic.—Undoubtedly. The Judicial Department deserves the severest condemnation. Last year its "defects and weaknesses were exposed in three articles" by the *Nippon*, and "the facts published by the *Nippon* were of such an indisputable character as to enable the paper to win its case in the Law Courts" when action was taken against it by the Public Procurator.

H.—Do I understand you to say that if articles are proved to be not actionable, the truth of the allegations contained in them is also proved?

Ic.—I say that "the accusations of the *Nippon* were indirectly confirmed by officers appointed by the very Department whose methods and organization it had attacked."

H.—What was the ground of action against the *Nippon*?

Ic.—That it tried to bring officials into contempt.

H.—On what portion of its articles was that charge founded?

Ic.—On one sentence chiefly, but five or six others were referred to by the prosecution.

H.—Was any question raised about the truth or falsehood of the *Nippon's* statements?

Ic.—None whatsoever.

H.—The whole issue turned, did it not, upon whether certain sentences in the articles were written with the intention of bringing officials into contempt?

Ic.—Yes.

H.—And yet you claim that the truth of all the statements contained in the articles was established by the verdict?

Ic.—No. "It would be going too far to understand the acquittal of the paper in the sense of a direct confirmation of all the allegations about the Department of Justice made thereby."

H.—But I understood you to say just now that "the facts published by the *Nippon* were of such an indisputable character as to enable the paper to win its case in the Law Courts."

Ic.—"It belongs to the art of journalism to try and show that an opponent contradicts himself whether he actually does so or not."

H.—I believe that you published a résumé of the *Nippon's* allegations, explaining, at the same time, that the interest of the trial for foreigners lay in the circumstance of the paper having been enabled to win its case owing to the indisputable character of its facts?

Ic.—Yes, I did. I deem it a duty to "expose serious official abuses."

H.—Certainly, but if "the acquittal of the paper must not be understood in the sense of a direct confirmation of all its allegations," may I ask how you made your selection from among those allegations? Which did you select as proved, and on what authority?

Ic.—You are trying to "ignore the significance of my disclosures." "I am far better acquainted with the editors of most of the chief papers of Tokyo and with their literary and other qualifications for pronouncing opinions on public affairs than the editor of the *Japan Mail* is."

H.—Yes? And you doubtless know exactly how many acquaintances the editor of the *Mail* has among the Tokyo representatives of the press, and what is the degree of his intimacy with them?

Ic.—I know nothing whatever about the relations between the editor of the *Japan Mail* and the Japanese editors in Tokyo.

H.—Really! On what grounds, then, do you assert the wider scope and closer intimacy of your own acquaintance with those gentlemen?

Ic.—You are trying to trip me up on minor points.

H.—Well, well, let us part friends. I appreciate the tangle you're in, but keep your head down and rush it.

Ic.—"My motto is honesty first, honesty second, and honesty last."

H.—Which kind of "honesty." "Old-warrior" honesty or Icarus Lumpkin honesty?

LECTURE BY M. BOISSONADE.

M. Boissonade, the distinguished jurist, having been invited to deliver a course of lectures at the Imperial University, alluded in the first to the question of the Japanese Codes. We translate, from the columns of *Le Japon*, the portion of his lecture bearing upon this important subject:—

Before going farther, and since I am speaking of ancient Japanese customs and of the modifications that the Civil Code has produced therein, allow me to reply to some pretty sharp, even impassioned, criticisms of which the new codes have been the object before and since their promulgation.[1] In the first place, the system of codification in general has been criticized. It has been claimed, too, that there were contradictions between the Civil and the Commercial Codes, the former having drawn its inspiration especially from French and the latter from German law. Lastly, the codifiers of these codes have been reproached with having abandoned, without any necessity, national customs and traditions, and with having too much imitated foreign legislations. I will reply to these three criticisms.

I.—It is not from the present time that codification in general has had its detractors as well as its defenders. Formerly, in Germany especially, the controversy among legists upon this subject was very sharp; but you know that Germany itself has resolutely entered into the system of codification. One understands that England has up to now refrained from codifying its civil law (although some good minds have sometimes regretted it): England possesses a jurisprudence that is very rich in precedents; these precedents have been collected, classified, published, and are known to the legal gentry (it would be well if they could be easily so to those amenable to them), and they differ but little, I believe, in the various parts of the United Kingdom. But such was not the condition of Japan when your Government undertook to give it codes; your jurisprudence was unsettled, because there were very few laws and ordinances, and because customs, not being in written form, were uncertain; besides, they were silent upon a crowd of matters liable to contestation. However, you had the pretension, a very legitimate one most assuredly, of arriving at the subjection of foreigners residing upon your territory to your laws and to your tribunals. For that purpose, the body of laws to which they would be subjected had in the very offset to be presented before them. A regular and complete judicial organization too was necessary; finally a settled mode of procedure. Codification alone could respond to these necessities. It is claimed besides, that in the system of codification there are two inconveniences:—

1. That it incites legislators to anticipate without any necessity the wants of the country, with the sole view of having a complete legislation to meet all events.

2. That it is hostile to reforms that experience may show the need of, but which are not made for fear of disorganizing the ensemble of a code.

The first of these objections is no better founded than the second. Doubtless there are in the new codes many provisions of which there is no trace in old Japanese law, as usufruct, as last wills and testaments, as privileges granted to certain evidences of indebtedness. But does it follow that these provisions are destined to satisfy imaginary needs only? The drafters of your codes have recognized that if similar provisions exist in all foreign codes it is because they respond to real needs that belong to all times and to all countries. It does not follow that because the old Japanese law did not afford relief to these wants the wants did not exist. Besides, civil and commercial transactions acquire every day in Japan developments that require that her laws shall be in a posture to provide for all situations of which other countries give daily examples. For more than ten years Japan, out of the necessity of her commercial and industrial development, has been making use of bills payable to order, of bills of exchange, and of cheques, without there having been any law in regard thereto; joint stock companies have been founded with the authority of the Government, while to grant or to refuse this authority the administration has had to be influenced only by its own prudence and by new needs; of marine insurance and of insurance upon property on land almost no use has been made in Japan up to now, for want of legislation. Your new Commercial Code, by enacting on all these subjects, has not then anticipated needs; it has furnished urgent relief for them. I will say as much for the Civil Code: in establishing under the name of servitudes new rights and duties among neighbours; in organising payment by a third party with the transfer to him of the rights of the creditor (*subrogation*); in settling the conditions of substitution of one obligation for another (*novation*), and those of offsets (*compensation*); in instituting privileges for certain preferred debts; finally, in organizing the forms and conditions of last wills and testaments, scarcely ever made in Japan, for fear of their not being valid; in all these cases, I say it does not anticipate the needs of the country, but responds to them.

It is not as easy for me to prove that the Japanese codification will not be an obstacle to

[1] M Boissonade asks us to draw attention to the fact that his speech, having been delivered in October, makes allusion only to the criticisms of the press, and not to those, more moderate moreover, that have been enunciated in the Diet.—(Ed. *T.M.*)

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the progress of civil and commercial legislation: here, indeed, it is a question of the future, and I have no pretension to predict anything. But two considerations reassure me.

In the first place, for more than twenty years past Japan has shown herself so zealous for progress that even the reproach of temerity has been made to her on account of it. It is not likely, then, that having given herself codes, she believes herself to be henceforth in possession of absolute and immutable truth and goodness in matters of legislation. In the second place, I perceive that codification has not prevented other peoples from correcting and perfecting their laws. To take but one example, that of France, I find that the French Civil Code has been modified by more than thirty laws, many of which have been therein incorporated or substituted without any discomposure of its ensemble. If there have been fewer modifications of the Code of Civil Procedure and of the Commercial Code, they have been more important ones; at this very time, even, new ones are in preparation. Our two Criminal Codes also have, at various times, undergone notable changes without nevertheless having lost their identity. I do not see why Japan should in this respect have any more scruples than France has.

II.—The second criticism will not detain me long. It has been claimed, without furnishing sufficient proofs, that the Japanese Civil Code, inspired especially by the French and Italian Codes is not always in harmony with the Commercial Code and the Code of Civil Procedure drawn from German Codes. What I do know is that the commission of revision has striven to avoid these contradictions, and that it found many that had to be corrected; if some few have escaped it, it would not be the first time that a legislator has given an example of human frailty. Many contradictions have been found even in the various French Codes. If there are any in the Japanese Codes, it will be as easy as it will be necessary to correct them. Contradictions would be much more to be feared if civil and commercial laws were not codified but resulted (as critics would have had it) from special successive enactments, not conceived in one and the same spirit, and necessarily influenced by circumstances.

III.—I come to the third, the most serious criticism: national customs, it is said, have been too much sacrificed to foreign law.

In the first place, this criticism has been premature; later on it would not perhaps have been brought forward; it was formulated before the promulgation of the book concerning *persons* and of the matter concerning *inheritance*: now, it is ill-founded in fact as regards these matters, for on the contrary great account has been taken of Japanese customs and traditions. For my part, I should say that they have been too much conformed to, especially in the matter of inheritance, by preserving the right of primogeniture with an absolute characteristic that at no period has it ever presented in Europe. In the matter of *property* even, you can see a certain number of articles wherein the law refers "to local usages" when they are different from the provisions it enacts: for instance in the matter of leases and of neighbouring servitudes. However, in the matter of *property*, of ownership, and of its dismemberment, of obligations and of securities for indebtedness, as well as in that of *proofs*, I recognize that the new Code has made many innovations, but that was necessary. The fact is that in these matters there is an ideal of reason, justice, and of economical utility that can scarcely vary with times and places; there is a universal common law, the first manifestation of which we find in the Roman law, one that has transmitted itself more or less directly, to the people of Europe with the complements demanded by the variety and complication of modern transactions. You have to-day, at the University, classes in Roman law where you are learning the merits of that imperishable legislation. Your ancient customs were in general distant from this ideal of justice and of reason; they were moreover necessarily greatly diversified and above all incomplete. Sufficient, perhaps, when the feudal provinces, having each one a particular government of its own, held scarcely any communication the one with the other, these customs could no longer suffice as soon as communications between the North and the South, between the East and the West, by steamboats and by railways, by post and by telegraph, became of daily occurrence. Besides, in contracts between persons of different provinces, which custom would have been applied? That of the debtor? But if the contracts were reciprocal, where each party is creditor and debtor of the other? The custom of the place where the contract was made? But if the contract was made by letter? The unity, the uniformity of the civil and of the commercial legislations, was not then less necessary than that of the penal and administrative legislations. Japan has already for more than twenty years been a country politically centralized; it had to be so in like manner juridically and judicially; furthermore, you have a Court of Cassation to insure uniformity of jurisprudence. It is no longer even sufficient to have in Japan a legislation uniform for the whole Empire; you now have international relations; you enter into contracts with foreigners, either in your own country or in theirs; a legislation in harmony with that of the West is assuredly needed by you. And not only is it necessary for the development of your commercial relations with foreign lands, but also it is the formal condition under which you can recover your complete autonomy in matters of legislation and of jurisdiction. This latter consideration comes to the support of what I was saying just now about the necessity of a general codification; for you could not submit to foreigners a confused legislation, disseminated in part in the laws of different periods of time, always incomplete (when they had no other defect), and in part in customs as different as was the spirit of the old provinces. However, it is not in Japan alone that one meets with this sacrifice of local customs to unity of legislation; I can give you other examples of it, the one of France in 1804, that of Italy twenty-five years ago, that of Germany in our times. At the beginning of this century when France gave herself codes, she had, like Japan in 1868, just abolished what still remained of the feudal system; she found herself confronted by provincial and local customs. The former and the greater number of the latter were officially reduced to writing (what has never been done in the case of your customs), and yet they had to be sacrificed to the unity of legislation. When, by the aid of the French arms, Italy commenced her political unification in 1859, it was composed of three monarchies, comprising the Pontifical States, with several autonomous duchies, and of two provinces subjected to Austria. When unity had been consummated to the benefit of the Crown of Sardinia, a legislation uniform in civil and commercial, in penal and administrative matters, had to be given to new Italy. The civil code borrowed much from the old Sardinian code, more yet from the French code; but the particular legislations of Naples and of Sicily, of the duchies of Modena, of Parma, and of Tuscany, of Lombardy, and of Venice (former provinces subjected to Austria), had to be sacrificed.

In our times, Germany, which forms a vast confederation of monarchies, of duchies and of principalities, having still a certain political existence, also gave herself a uniform legislation: already she has one general Penal Code and one general Code of Criminal Procedure, one general Code of judiciary organization and of Civil Procedure, and one general Commercial Code, and she has in preparation a general Civil Code. Assuredly, the particular legislations of each German and Italian State had a real value, and doubtless answered the wants of each one of them just as well, if not better, than customs did in Japan; but political unity there again has imposed unity of legislation.

You see that Japan has had honourable predecessors in this path of sacrifice of particular customs to the general good of the State. From what precedes, I find I have at the same time replied to the last reproach made to your Codes, as regards whatever of truth there is in it, of having sacrificed national to foreign law. I will add that your national *amour propre* should not suffer from it. You do not blush at having borrowed from West its sciences and its industry, its means of communication by steam and by electricity, its arms and its armoured vessels: why should you blush at having also borrowed from it a little in the way of legislation? We ourselves have had in France for the last twenty years a Society of Comparative Legislation to which your University and your Department of Justice are adherent; well then, in France, no law, civil or commercial, penal or administrative, is prepared without the Society of Legislation being admitted, invited even (in concert with the Bureau of Comparative Legislation established in the Department of Justice) to give information about the state of foreign legislation concerning the matter in question. This Society has already given its attention to your new codes, and has noticed certain innovations in them with interest and sympathy. I doubt whether your old customs would have attracted its attention to the same degree. They would interest more deeply our Ethnographical Society or one of historical studies, as presenting the reflection of a civilisation that grew up and seriously developed itself in former times almost exempt from of all European influence.

I hope that these remarks, which I should have liked to present more briefly, will make your codes sympathetic to you as the object of your studies and that you will know how to defend them in your turn, if necessary, against attacks more impassioned than those here discussed. Do not forget above all that the double obstacle your country has met with up to now towards the abolition of the privileges of foreigners in matters of legislative and of jurisdiction, has been the absence of a positive and satisfactory legislation together with the insufficiency of judicial guarantees. Already, for several years back, the recruiting of the magistracy has taken place only from among the young men who, after severe examinations, have come out of the University and of Law Schools recognized and controlled by the State (you are called upon to make a part of it upon the same conditions); moreover, the magistracy has been made independent by irremovability. Since several years, too, the two Criminal Codes have been in vigour and have given satisfactory results owing to the scrupulous proportion of penalties to the gravity of the offences. All that was wanting in Japan was these last codes; they have to-day been promulgated. It seems then that the time is not far off when the wish of the country, which has always been mine as it is yours, will at last be realized.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the Nippon Race Club was held on Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the Club Hotel. Senator Oki, President of the Club, presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. B. Walter (Vice-President), N. Mitsuhashi, F. Walkinshaw, F. Varenne, J. E. Beale, J. Merian, E. Knaff, H. H. Jacobs, A. Hearne, F. Biagioni, P. Beretta, L. Longin, and J. H. Pinn (Secretary).

Mr. W. B. WALTER said—I have been requested by Mr. Oki, the President of the Club, to act for him at this the annual general meeting of the Nippon Race Club. I think we shall not have occasion to take very long. I am only sorry to see the very small attendance here to-day. During the last year, as you will see from the accounts before you, the financial position of the Club has, we may say, fairly satisfied expectations, and the Executive Committee are able to present to you an account showing that we have now in hand the sum of no less than $3,275.24 against our balance for the previous year of $2,333.36. The subscriptions during the year amount to $2,295 against about $2,125 last year, showing a small gain of about $150 in subscriptions. The entries are about $100 more than they were in the previous year; the gate money has declined considerably, owing, I believe, to the very bad state of the weather at the spring meeting, which prevented a great many from being present who would otherwise have attended. The Pari mutuel brought in about the same amount as in the previous year. In spite of the Club having distributed in prizes about $400 in excess, we are certainly in a better position than before. There is a diminution in the expenditure caused by the fact that for the previous year we had the sum of $378 to pay on account of the Grand Stand, being in excess of the cost as compared with the amount raised by Mr. Robison in the shape of subscriptions. That, of course, does not occur for the current year. The Club has sustained a heavy loss by the death of Mr. Fitz-Henry, who was always one of our most active and energetic members, and who has been a loss not only to this Club but, I may say, to everyone in Yokohama, with whom he was universally popular. Mr. Tyler was elected on the Committee in his place; Mr. Kaufmann retired on account of ill-health, but as this occurred after the autumn meeting the Committee did not elect a successor in his place. The present Executive Committee are Dr. Wheeler (Chairman) and Messrs. Varenne, Tyler, Beale, Mitsuhashi, and Hara Rokuro, and it is for you at this meeting to elect a fresh Committee. We regret that His Imperial Majesty the Emperor was unable to come down during the past year, but His Imperial Highness Prince Haru favoured us with his presence last autumn. We have pleasure to note that several additional Japanese gentlemen have joined the Club, which shows that in that direction more interest is taken in our affairs. During the last two or three months a subscription list has been sent round for Hokkaido Griffins but the Committee are sorry to say the list is not filled up. A list, however, for half-breds which was circulated at the same time, has met with a certain amount of success, for already ten or fifteen names have been put on it. These ponies are now, I believe being selected at Shimosa and in Hokkaido through the aid of Viscount Fujinami. The course, I believe, has been kept in excellent order, and Mr. Beale informs me that it is now in better condition than it has been for a long time past. Before you elect fresh members of Committee it might

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be as well to mention that our old friend Mr. Robison, who has been such an active member of the Club, and whom we hope to see again taking an active interest in racing matters, and Mr. Thomas, who rendered us great assistance for many years, are on their way back. I will now ask that the accounts be read, and if you approve of them perhaps some gentleman will propose that they be adopted.

On the motion of Mr. MERIAN, seconded by Mr. JACOBS, it was unanimously resolved to hold the accounts as read and to adopt them.

The following were the accounts:—

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER.—Dr.

To Rent of course for 1890	$ 750.00	
Rent of additional ground	30.00	
		$ 780.00
Printing and advertising	60.35	
Printing race books	105.95	
		166.30
Stationery and petties		7.52
Momban's wages, course and paddock expenses		213.43
Miscellaneous expenses at spring meeting, decorations, hire of furniture, carriages for the band, repairing scales, and watch, &c.		217.21
Sundry repairs, new gates, &c.		158.75
Prizes at spring meeting		2,785.00
Cost of Hokkaido subscription ponies		1,530.00
Cost of China subscription ponies, landing charges, &c.		1,257.58
Printing and advertising		102.70
Printing race books, &c.		174.45
Repairs		96.56
Shroff for collecting subscriptions		50.00
Momban's wages, course and paddock expenses		252.74
Miscellaneous expenses at autumn meeting, decorations, hire of furniture, carriages, &c.		181.45
Premium fire insurance grand stand and stables		52.00
Prizes at autumn meeting		3,140.00
Secretary's salary		200.00
Stationery and postages		7.17
Cost of Hokkaido subscription ponies		1,292.40
Balance in hands of Hon. Treasurer		3,275.24
		$15,660.50

CR.

By Balance		2,233.36
Subscription, full members	$2,070.00	
Subscription, honorary members	225.00	
		2,295.00
Entries at spring meeting	2,155.00	
Less returned	25.00	
		2,130.00
Entries autumn meeting		2,155.00
Presented prizes		225.00
Gate money: spring meeting		529.00
Gate money: autumn meeting		507.00
Sale of race books		213.60
Objection fee		10.00
Rent of stalls		710.00
Rent of refreshment rooms		75 00
License fees		130.00
Pari-mutuel account		397.00
Cost of ponies		3,879.90
Interest on current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		70.56
		$15,660.50

E. & O. E.
Yokohama, January 26th, 1891.

F. VARENNE, Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined the above statements with the vouchers and books and find the same correct.

Yokohama, January 31st, 1891. O. SCHINNE.

The CHAIRMAN, remarking that the next business was the election of an Executive Committee, stated that the new rules, having been approved by the Permanent Committee, had been printed and distributed amongst the members. The new rule relating to the election of the Committee read:—"The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than five and not more than seven members; they shall be elected by the full members of the Club by ballot at the annual general meeting." It would perhaps be better to elect seven members in all, which would make allowance in case any one should not be able to serve.

The ballot was then taken for the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN, while the scrutineers (Messrs Walkinshaw and Pinn) were counting the votes, invited remarks from members present.

Mr. JACOBS said many of the members would like to know whether the proposed programme was to be read to day so that it might be discussed.

Mr. WALTER said the programme concerned the new Committee, who would attend to it no doubt as soon as they were appointed.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the ballot had resulted in the election of the following:—Dr. Wheeler, and Messrs. Robison, Varenne, Thomas, Walkinshaw, and Hara Rokuro. This only numbered six members. The next four gentlemen tied—Messrs. Mitsuhashi, Tyler, Beale, and Strahler, and it would be necessary to elect from them one more member.

A second ballot resulted in the election of Mr. Strahler.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sorry to find that there had been some misapprehension about the rules of the Club, several gentlemen not having received them. He would suggest that to prevent further misapprehension application be made at once for copies. The rules had been printed for a considerable time, and it was understood they had been sent to all members.

Mr PINN said copies were sent to all members of the Club at the same time.

This concluded the business, and the meeting, having, on the motion of Mr. JACOBS seconded by Mr. LONGIN, passed a vote of thanks to the retiring Committee and to the Chairman, was adjourned.

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Matsue, January 25th.

A singularly painful tragedy took place here at the opening of the year—a tragedy, which, I think, had some peculiarly Japanese features. Two lovers took poison, and died in each other's arms as desperate lovers very often do in the Occident. But the only non-Oriental feature of this tragedy was the poison: it was a product of modern chemistry. In old days, doubtless, the sword or knife would have been the terminator of earthly cares. Why poison was preferred seems to have been because the young man, although a soldier, was the son of a physician, had studied chemistry a little before adopting the military career, and—for his frailer companion's sake—had decided to end their troubles as gently and as sleepily as possible.

It is somewhat the fashion abroad to jeer at love-suicides. They are usually spoken of as examples of weakness and folly. Only a feeble character, practical people say, would commit suicide for a woman's sake. The strong man battles with his despair, trains himself to forget, travels, wins his way in the world, and finds at last better luck. Such is held to be the "healthy opinion" on the subject. Somehow or other, to me this so-called "healthy opinion" seems little more than an echo of the worship of force for its own sake only. Is one sort of human nature much better than another because its nerves are less sensitive, its imagination less susceptible, its passions cooler, its blood less vigorously young? Is that human nature in which the intellect preponderates at the expense of the emotions really very much superior to that in which the higher emotions preponderate and rule? Is the being in whom the passions are torpid and the calculating faculties extraordinarily active, a higher creature than the being in whom the heart governs the life? Perhaps this question cannot be decided now. The age is worshipping intellect as a force and condemning emotion. But the future will decide—for the Occident, at least—whether intellect cultivated by the suppression of the emotions can produce welfare and improve the present enigmatical social conditions of the world. I am heterodox enough to believe that natures capable, during vigorous youth, of suicide for love's sake, for honour's sake, are among the most generous and the bravest.

The case in Matsue was to the point. It was one of those which the philosopher Schopenhauer would have cited with telling power in a chapter upon the reason of love.

The girl's name was Mitani Kame; she was very beautiful; she was twenty-one years of age. She had another name, a "flower-name,"—Yoshiko. She was a *joro*. In the Occident, the simple announcement of this fact would be sufficient to kill all sympathy. But in this Orient, except, perhaps, in some of the open ports, the girls exercising this profession do not sink to the degraded level of their sisters abroad. Woman is everywhere what man makes her; and man has not made the *joro* in Japan the dangerous and loathsome being which she has been made abroad. Sometimes the career is adopted as a desperate sacrifice for the sake of parents or relatives reduced by infirmity or other misfortune to the last degree of hopeless misery. Such was the case of Yoshiko: she had sold herself into slavery for the sake of a mother and child-sister.

The man's name was Tashiro Rinchiro; he was twenty three years old, a handsome, gifted youth; the son of an eminent Matsue physician. He had two years before voluntarily enlisted in the Imperial Guards. Last spring, in consequence of a severe fit of sickness, he returned to Matsue on leave of absence. During his stay here, he met the girl; and the two fell in love with each other at first sight. The result of a mutual passion under such circumstances could only be misery. In order to be always with her, the young man, after expending whatever money he possessed, incurred a larger debt than he was able to pay. He probably felt that to appeal to his parents to buy the girl's freedom would be hopeless. She, on her part, also incurred a heavy debt for the sake of her lover. The means of both becoming exhausted, despair followed. Without money the lovers could not meet. Nothing more horrible than the consequence of love under such conditions could well be imagined; on the man's side the frenzy of jealousy and impotent rage against the social vice which raised an impassable legal barrier between him and the object of his affection; on the woman's side, loathing unspeakable for her position, despair,—vain appeal to hearts hardened to regard affection as a weakness to speculate upon. Nevertheless, by some means, the lovers were able to arrange for a last meeting. On New Year's night the girl secretly visited the young man's house at a late hour; the signal agreed upon was the throwing of a little pebble against the *shoji*. The family were so occupied with preparations for the new year's festival that they heard nothing, and suspected nothing. Indeed the young man's parents had never had a suspicion of the amour. Their first knowledge of it came with the morning of the new year, when a servant, opening the *shoji*, found their young master dead, with a dead woman in his arms, and some letters lying beside them explaining the tragedy. They had taken morphine.

The letters were very characteristic; the girl's letter, especially. Most suicides abroad write very stupid letters, if they write any. This woman wrote a very beautiful letter: I think no one could read it without feeling touched. But the strangest circumstance about it—to a foreign mind at least—was that this letter was a letter of gratitude to—the house in which she had been a slave! (Fancy the possibility of a similar episode in the West!) A very curious letter, a letter full of kind thoughts, kind words, and strange faith. "You know," she wrote, "that I fell in love with him last spring. I do not know why I love him so much. We can never live together in this world; and I promised him—I do not know why—to die with him, so that we might live together in the next world. And according to that promise I must now take my way with him to the *meido* (*meido-no-tabiji*). You were very, very kind to me, and to my mother, and to my sister; and I would that I could thank you as I ought to, but I cannot now, not in this world. Still, though I am going to another world, I will never forget your goodness to me; and I will surely return that kindness hereafter to you and to your house. *From under the shadow of the grasses* I will send my gratitude to you; you will be thanked; you will never be forgotten. Please do not be angry with me."

The city's heart fluttered a little while over the event. There was a great funeral, of course; and a procession of women in white, ghostly as the dreams of processions of souls painted upon *kakemono* representing the Shadow-world. Then the great storm came; and the event was quickly forgotten; and the new graves were hidden with the old beneath high drifts of snow. And the life of the town proceeded precisely as before.

I do not know whether there is a moral to this incident. Are the conditions which render such little tragedies possible very much more evil than our social conditions abroad? And if changed by legislation, would the result of the change be morally for the worse or for the better? To some the question may seem easy. But those who have studied sociological problems the most profoundly would probably hesitate the longest in replying. The brutalities and the horrors and the monstrosities of Western unlicensed vice are happily still unknown in this Orient.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCICO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

San Francisco, January 10th.

Since I last wrote, the American people have been generally devoted to the gaieties of the season, and to the usual interchange of good wishes for the New Year. Nothing of interest has transpired in Congress, except the transmission of the Behring's Sea correspondence to that body by the President. The Force Bill is practically dead. The dominant party appear to be weary of contention over silver, and to be willing that Stewart of Nevada and other cranks should frame the bill which it is proposed to pass. Of amendments to the tariff, the public hears nothing. The Republicans declare that the McKinley Act is a very good act as it stands; the Democrats, when they undertake to amend it, will not attack it piecemeal.

The correspondence between Mr. Blaine and Lord Salisbury is entertaining reading. Your readers will remember that the contention of our Government was that the waters of Behring Sea were territorial waters, and that American Revenue cutters were justified in seizing foreign

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vessels found sealing therein, in contravention of the Act of Congress of 1870. On more than one occasion, if I remember rightly, I stated in this correspondence that it would be difficult to reconcile this contention with the traditional policy of the United States Government, and with the recognized principles of international law. That law declares that those seas only are closed seas which are enclosed on all sides by the territory of the nation claiming territorial jurisdiction over them. It appears that it took Mr. Blaine something over a year to realise that this is the law, and that the position formerly assumed by himself and by his predecessors was untenable. In writing to the British Minister, he now states that no one ever denied that the limit of territorial jurisdiction was one league from low water mark; forgetting that he himself, and Secretaries of the Treasury, from John Sherman to Mr. Windom, did most emphatically deny it. However, it is better to be right late, than never. It is agreeable to find that the Government has at last assumed an attitude is consistent with the policy faithfully pursued by all administrations since that of Adams, until the Alaska Commercial Company came into existence.

M. Blaine proposes an arbitration on the question whether, in the interest of the preservation of the fur seal, it would not be well for the maritime nations to agree upon a close season, and upon some regulations to prevent the killing of seals and especially female seals en route for the Prybiloff Islands. There seems to be no reason why this proposal should not be accepted, and the proposed restrictions on indiscriminate seal killing adopted. In the meantime, the United States will have to pay for the British sealers seized in Behring's Sea just as Great Britain had to pay for the depredations committed by vessels launched from Laird's ship-yard.

General Miles continues the work of corraling the hostile Indians in a strip of territory lying north of the Nebraska State line. Troops are encamped, north, south, and west of them; the eastern side of the corral is left open, because the line of retreat on that side leads to the reservation. Miles has suspended Colonel Forsyth of the 7th Cavalry, first for having unnecessarily exposed his men to the Indian fire, and next for having permitted the killing of squaws and children. He states in his report that sixty women and children were buried on the battle-ground. In the States west of the river valleys, the killing of an Indian woman or her child involves no disgrace, and in bar-rooms it is rather regarded as a feather in the cap of the slayer. But humanity and civilization still reign at the East, and are supposed to pervade the minds of the officers of the army. If the facts as alleged are proven, it will go hard with Colonel Forsyth.

In my letter of December 18th, I mentioned that the President had removed Minister Mizner for allowing a party of Guatemalan soldiers to murder General Barrundia on board a Pacific mail steamer carrying the American flag. Secretary Tracy has now administered the following rebuke to Commander Reiter, of the Navy, who had two ships of war under his command at the port where the occurrence took place:—

From the moment that the approach of the *Acapulco*, a steamer bearing the American flag, was known to you, you should have taken every step legally in your power to give countenance and support to her captain and protection to all persons on board, especially when you knew their safety was likely to be menaced. Instead of this, in your apparent endeavour to escape the responsibility, you remained so completely passive that, as far as the events on board the *Acapatco* were concerned, you and your vessels might as well have been on the other side of the ocean.

Whenever any passenger, whether American or foreigner, is received on board an American vessel he comes under the American flag and is entitled to the protection and security of which that flag is a guarantee. It was within your legitimate power, as it was your imperative duty, to execute by every means legally at your command the guarantee of protection which the United States gives to all vessels under its flag. Your ships were on the spot; you had full knowledge of General Barrundia's approach; you were informed of the intention to seize him as a political offender. He was not a fugitive from the Territory of Guatemala, seeking to escape territorial jurisdiction; neither was he a conspirator attempting to return to his country to foment a revolution. He was a passenger on board an American ship which he had joined in Mexico with Panama for his destination, and he had thus, without your intervention and outside of local jurisdiction, obtained a place under the flag and protection of the United States.

In this situation you found him. His safety was threatened. Under these circumstances it was your plain duty to proceed at once to meet the steamer before she cast anchor in port, to warn the captain of the danger and offer to his passenger, should he desire it, an asylum on board your ship. It is believed that few cases have ever occurred in the history of the United States Navy where a commanding officer so completely abandoned the responsibility of his position as, according to your own showing, you did upon this critical occasion. A United States officer does not ask of foreign Governments permission to offer an asylum to any person on board an American vessel at sea, who stands in need of a refuge. At officer who so abdicates his authority and that of the nation he represents, and surrenders it to others, has a lesson to learn before he can safely be entrusted with the command of a ship of war.

This has the right ring. It contrasts with the shifty chatter of those who argued when the event was first announced, that the conduct of Mizner and Reiter would be justified by some legal quibble.

Most of the South and Central American States have agreed to the proposal of the Pan-American Congress, to establish a silver currency which shall be uniform in weight, and shall circulate throughout the Americas, from the Canadian border to Patagonia. The Mexican dollar is to be taken as the standard of the new Pan-American dollar; subsidiary coins will be made to conform to it. It is believed that the reform will prove of service in commercial exchanges. It will certainly obviate one of the annoyances which travellers experience. It would be a good thing if the American nation would go a step further, and make their currency uniform with that of the Latin Union in Europe. There is no reason why the Union, like the Postal Union, should not embrace Japan as well.

On August 18th last, a furniture dealer named Jacobson was "held up" by two foot-pads opposite his house in California Street, at 10 p.m., and, resisting them, was shot dead. The police scoured the city for the murderers, but were unable to get any clue until this week, when they arrested two young men named Bell and Campbell. To the surprise of the detectives, both men confessed that they were professional highway robbers, and had been engaged for some months in the prosecution of their calling in this city. Only on one point did they differ. Campbell testified that he saw Bell shoot Jacobson. Bell denied the crime. According to the story which Jacobson told before his death, he was "held up" by a man who stood in front of him, and with whom he struggled. This man suddenly cried to his pal, who was behind Jacobson—"Let him have it," and then the fatal shot was fired. Campbell says he was the pal, but that it was Bell and not he, who fired the shot. Both were committed for trial, and evinced remarkable composure.

Emma Abbott is dead. Some of your readers will remember her as a popular singer of light opera, and one of the most successful managers of the day. She was beautiful in her youth, and not a whisper was ever heard against her fair fame. Some years ago (she was forty-two at the time of her death) she married a business man at Denver, and lived happily with him, though she never bore children. He died a couple of years ago, and since then his widow has indulged in gloomy forebodings that her own life would not be long. On a visit to Salt Lake City, pneumonia attacked her; she seemed to have lost her vital power, and quickly succumbed to the disease. She is said to have left a fortune which exceeds a million.

The man Hammond, who kept an unsavoury den in London for the use of the aristocracy, and was bundled out of England in a hurry to prevent his being called as a witness, is again in trouble. He went to Seattle, where all the bad people go, and there opened a saloon. But he had no notion of abandoning the milch cow which had strayed in his path. He was in the habit of writing to his noble ex-customers, and of demanding regular supplies of hush money. They got tired of paying, at last, and sent over an English detective to work up Mr. Hammond's case, and see if there was nothing against him at Seattle. The detective did his work cleverly. He soon got Hammond foul, and had him laid by the heels in the county jail. He languishes there at this moment, swearing that he will tell the whole truth about the English den. It is no fun to get into the clutches of such a scoundrel.

Another of the double homicides which are becoming so common occurred in this city yesterday. A man named Barnett lived with a beautiful girl of the town named Margaret Custrine. Last evening, shortly after they had retired to their room, two shots were heard. The door was broken open; the woman was found lying on the bed in her nightdress, with blood flowing from a wound in the breast. The man was leaning back in a chair, bleeding from an injury in his chest. To a detective who asked what had happened, Barnett replied, with gasps and groans:—

This is a case of booze. For three days we have been drinking together. We are old acquaintances. For the last six months she has begged me to kill her, and she repeated the request time and time again. We have been drinking to-day, and when we went to the room we agreed to die together. She pointed out the spot where I should shoot. I shot and hit it just where she had placed her finger, over her heart. After I hit her I fired at myself, and I am so sorry I made such a bad job of it, for I am suffering terrible pain. I fully realize my position and that the finger of death is upon me.

As I close this letter, the poor fellow is in extremis.

IN H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before N. J. HANNEN, Esq., Judge—THURSDAY, February 5th, 1891.

EDITOR V. PROPRIETOR OF THE "JAPAN GAZETTE."

An action was raised to-day at the instance of E. P. Nuttall against J. R. Anglin.

The petition and answer in the case were as follows:—

The petition of Edgar Pearson Nuttall of Yokohama, journalist, the above named plaintiff, shows as follows:—

1. By an agreement dated the 17th day of July, 1888, and made in England between the defendant (therein described as the Proprietor and Manager of the *Japan Gazette*) by his Attorney, William Harwood, and the plaintiff, it was agreed that the plaintiff should proceed from London to Yokohama in the month of August, 1888, and during the term of three years from the date of his arrival at Yokohama should act as Sub-editor and Reporter of the defendant for the said *Japan Gazette* at the salary therein mentioned, and it was provided by clause 5 of the said agreement that the defendant might determine the engagement of the plaintiff at any time before the expiration of the said term on giving to the plaintiff one week's previous notice in writing and a sum equal to three calendar months' salary, and that if the defendant should terminate the engagement of the plaintiff pursuant to that clause he should provide the plaintiff with a second-class passage to England.

2. By an agreement dated the 28th day of Dec., 1889, and made between the parties to the said agreement of the 17th day of July, 1888, and endorsed thereon, it was agreed that the said agreement of the 17th day of July, 1888, should be so far modified that from the 1st day of January, 1890, the plaintiff should assume charge of the editorship of the said *Japan Gazette* at a salary of $185 per mensem and that in all other respects the said agreement should be confirmed.

3. The plaintiff served the defendant under the said agreement up to and until the 1st day of January, 1891, and has always been ready and willing so to serve the defendant, but the defendant towards the end of the year 1890 assigned the said *Japan Gazette* and all his rights in connection therewith to the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, as from the 1st day of January, 1891, and the said company assumed the proprietorship of the said *Gazette* on the said 1st day of January, 1891.

4. By the said action of the defendant he has determined the engagement of the plaintiff, but the defendant has not paid and refuses to pay to the plaintiff the sum or any part of the sum named in clause 5 of the said agreement of the 17th day of July, 1888, or to provide him with a second-class passage to England.

5. The plaintiff has lost the benefit of the said agreement and has remained unemployed since the said 1st day of January, 1891, and has also suffered damage by his detention in Yokohama from that date until the trial of this action.

The plaintiff therefore prays:

1. That the defendant may be ordered to pay the plaintiff the sum of $555, being a sum equal to three months' salary of the plaintiff as Editor of the *Japan Gazette*, and that the defendant may be ordered to provide the plaintiff with a second-class passage to England or a sum equivalent thereto, namely $250.

2. That the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff $1,500 damages.

3. That the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff the costs of this action.

4. That the Plaintiff may have such further or other relief as the nature of the case may require.

AMBROSE B. WALFORD,
Counsel for the Plaintiff.

The defendant to this Petition is Mr. James Raymond Anglin, of No. 70, Yokohama.

James Raymond Anglin, the above named defendant, in answer to the petition of the above named plaintiff, says:—

1. That he admits the agreement mentioned in the first paragraph of the said petition. And that the said agreement was afterwards modified, but wishes to refer to the said agreement to determine the terms of the plaintiff's engagement.

2. The defendant denies that the plaintiff was ready and willing to serve the defendant as alleged, but says that the plaintiff, contrary to the expressed wishes of the defendant, absented himself from the office of the *Gazette* newspaper on the 1st day of January, 1891, and has since absented himself from such office without consent or approbation of the said defendant and has refused to obey the directions of the said defendant.

3. The defendant denies that he has determined the engagement of the plaintiff.

4. The defendant denies that the plaintiff has suffered any damage by the action of the said defendant as alleged.

5. The defendant says that he never was indebted to the plaintiff as alleged.

(Signed) HENRY C. LITCHFIELD,
Defendant's Counsel.

Mr. Walford in opening the case for the plaintiff, said the plaintiff in this case, Mr. Nuttall, had been until recently editor of the *Japan Gazette*, the defendant, Mr. Anglin, having been until the same period the proprietor of that journal. Mr. Nuttall had been serving under an agreement with Mr. Anglin, which would naturally have expired in October this year. The agreement was determinable by Mr. Anglin at any time before October, but by the terms of the agreement, if it were determined, Mr. Anglin was to pay Mr. Nuttall compensation equivalent to three months' salary, and also to provide Mr. Nuttall with a second-class return passage to England. Mr. Anglin did in fact terminate the agreement, and now refused to pay the compensation provided, and therefore

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Mr. Nuttall was driven to bring the present action. The petition stated in the first place an agreement made in England by which Mr. Nuttall was engaged as sub-editor and reporter by Mr. Anglin for the *Gazette*, and subsequently by another agreement made in December, 1889, an alteration was made by which instead of being sub-editor he was made editor of the paper, and his salary was increased to $185 per month. In all other respects the agreement was confirmed. By the third paragraph of the petition it was stated that the plaintiff served the defendant until Jan. 1st, 1891, and has always been ready and willing to serve him, but the defendant assigned the *Japan Gazette* to a company from the end of the year, and the said company assumed proprietorship on January 1st, 1891. In the fourth paragraph of the petition it was claimed that the defendant, in assigning the *Gazette*, had determined the engagement of the plaintiff, but refused to pay the compensation, so that the plaintiff now claimed for compensation and damages. The answer admitted all the facts stated in the petition, but denied that the action of Mr. Anglin amounted to a determination of the agreement, and denied also that Mr. Nuttall had sustained any damage by such determination.

Mr. Litchfield said he did not, in the answer, admit all the facts.

Mr. Walford understood they were admitted. As he understood, the answer admitted the facts but denied their consequences.

Mr. Litchfield denied that the agreement was broken by the defendant or that the plaintiff had suffered any damage.

Mr. Walford said the real facts of the case were somewhat as follow. The plaintiff, Mr. Nuttall, had been for many years engaged in journalism, and was on the staff of the *Rochdale Observer* in 1888 when it came to his knowledge that Mr. Anglin was on the lookout for some one to take a position on the staff of the *Japan Gazette*. Mr. Nuttall put himself in communication with Mr. Anglin's agents in London, Messrs Harwood and Stevenson, solicitors. Mr. Harwood showed him a draft agreement, the terms of which were discussed, and after some conversation the clause providing for the determining of the agreement by Mr. Anglin was shaped into its present form, namely that Mr. Anglin should have the power of determining the agreement, but if he did so he should pay Mr. Nuttall his return passage and compensate him by the equivalent of three months' salary. The agreement was signed by both parties, and Mr. Nuttall determined his engagement with the *Rochdale Observer* and took passage for Japan, arriving here in October, 1888. On his arrival in Yokohama he introduced himself to Mr. Auglin, and asked to see the editor, but found to his astonishment that there was no editor. He went to work immediately, and from that time was really editor of the *Japan Gazette* for rather more than a year, till, at the end of 1889, his agreement was modified, and Mr. Anglin agreed that he should take rank as editor his salary being fixed at $185 per month. From that time, therefore, he was really editor of the *Gazette* under a distinct agreement. The paper was not in a very flourishing state when Mr. Nuttall first came out, but by his exertions and talent its tone was very much raised; and its circulation very much increased, in fact nearly doubled. Mr. Anglin was very well satisfied with the work done by Mr. Nuttall, and from about the middle of 1890 frequently approached him with the idea of entering upon a new and better agreement, saying that from the beginning of 1891 he would pay Mr. Nuttall a better salary and enter on an agreement for a much longer time, so that Mr. Nuttall might in fact consider himself in a permanent position in Yokohama. At the same time Mr. Anglin told the plaintiff that it was not consistent with his position that he should live in a hotel, and recommended him to take a house and furnish it. Relying upon this, Mr. Nuttall took a house, rented it for a year and spent considerable money in furnishing it. That, Counsel thought, was in July, 1890, and everything went smoothly till a rumour was started that a company was being formed to purchase one of the Yokohama newspapers. Eventually the *Gazette* was purchased by the company from Mr. Anglin in October, 1890. Discussion took place between Mr. Anglin and Mr. Nuttall as to whether the latter should enter the service of the new company. Obviously Mr. Anglin could not assign to the company his contract with Mr. Nuttall, and obviously also there may have been many objections to Mr. Nuttall entering the service of the new company. Even when the proprietor and the editor were distinct and separate, difficulties might often arise when the views of the proprietor and editor did not coincide. But it appeared to be well understood among journalists that to take service under a company placed an editor in a very difficult position, because he had to deal with the views of a board of directors, who might not themselves be unanimous and who would be frequently changing. While these considerations were floating about in Mr. Nuttall's mind, Mr. Dening was engaged as editor by the company, and then Mr. Nuttall told Mr. Anglin that he could not enter the service of the company because they had another editor. Mr. Anglin said the company would make that all right, and shortly afterwards Mr. Anglin arranged an interview between Mr. Nuttall and Mr. Lowder, who was chairman of the new company. They discussed the matter. Mr. Nuttall was not anxious to enter the service of the company—in a subordinate position especially—and told Mr. Lowder so, but at the same time said if the company could make him any good and satisfactory offer he would be prepared to consider that offer. The result of that was that he received a letter from Mr. Lowder enclosing the proposed terms of an agreement which Mr. Nuttal might enter into with the company. In that agreement the plaintiff's salary was to remain at $185 a month, and he was to take the post of sub-editor and reporter, and the agreement was to be determined by six months' notice at any time. That was not satisfactory to Mr. Nuttall, because it gave him no advantage over his former agreement in salary, and because he had an objection to serving under a company at all, but the most serious objection was because it involved a fall from the editor's chair to the sub-editor's stool. Mr. Nuttall had his own reasons for believing that he would not be employed for the company beyond a part of this year, if so long, and he considered that his agreement with the company, leaving him only as sub-editor and reporter, would place him in a very much worse position to obtain new employment than if he left Yokohama as editor of the *Japan Gazette*. Under his agreement with Mr. Anglin, he was entitled to leave Japan in October as editor of the *Japan Gazette*, and, going back to England, having been editor of a flourishing paper which owed its prosperity to his exertions, considered that he would then be in a very good position to obtain a position in England, whereas his position would be much prejudiced if he went from here simply as sub-editor. He therefore refused to enter the service of the company on such terms. Mr. Anglin, who did not quite like the look of matters, said if Mr. Nuttall would accept the salary proposed by the company he himself would make it up to $200 a month by supplying $15 a month from his own pocket. Mr. Nuttall, however, refused that offer entirely, upon which Mr. Anglin shifted his whole position. By that time he had recognized that he could not assign Mr. Nuttall, body and mind, to the company, but he now said "You are still bound by your old agreement, although I have assigned the newspaper." It would be for the other side to make out how Mr. Nuttall could be bound by his old agreement, considering that he had agreed to serve Mr. Anglin and that Mr. Anglin had parted with the paper so that the only person the plaintiff could serve would be the company, which as a matter of fact had already engaged an editor, and could only offer him a subordinate position. On this point Counsel quoted the remarks of Pollock in his work On Contracts; first edition, page 384, referring also to Stevens against Benning reported in 24 *Law Journal* (Equity) page 156, in which it was held that a publisher's contract with an author was not assignable without the author's consent. Applying the words of that case to the present one, Counsel submitted that Mr. Nuttall had made an agreement to serve Mr. Anglin, and that he had not agreed or intended to place confidence in the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, however trustworthy; nor had he intended to associate himself with them, however respectable. Counsel also quoted the case of Reid against the Explosives Company (Limited) reported in *The Times* Law Reports, volume 3, page 588, which said that the appointment of a receiver and manager of the business of a company operates as a discharge of the servants and officers of the company. As to the other point, that Mr. Nuttall could not be compelled to serve as sub-editor when his agreement was to serve as editor, it was illustrated by a Scotch case, Ross against Pender, mentioned in Macdonald's Master and Servant, page 193, in which it was held that a head gamekeeper who was offered the post of assistant game keeper at the same salary could not be compelled to accept the subordinate position. Having pointed out that the present case was even stronger than the one he had quoted, Counsel said in the matter of damages there was a clause in the agreement providing for a stipulated amount, but as Mr. Anglin had not paid that amount, Mr. Nuttall was entitled to some damage for Mr. Anglin's breach of contract, Mr. Nuttall having been kept in Yokohama from 1st January to the present time. He would therefore be entitled to some compensation as the equivalent of his salary during the time of his detention, and he had also suffered considerable loss in being compelled to sell his furniture, which he only bought last July, and in being compelled to determine the lease of his house.

Edgar Pearson Nuttall, sworn, deponed—I am the plaintiff in this case. I am a journalist by profession and have been so for 11 years. In 1888 I was on the staff of the *Rochdale Observer*, and became aware of a vacancy on the staff of the *Japan Gazette*. I went to London and interviewed Mr. Harwood, who produced a proposed agreement. Several clauses were discussed, more particularly the one as to determination of the agreement. Eventually we decided on it as it stands. The agreement (dated 17th July, 1888) shown me is the one entered into between me and Mr. Harwood as Mr. Anglin's attorney. On this document there is another agreement dated 9th November, 1888, and another dated 28th December, 1889.

Mr. Walford here read the agreement as follows:—

Articles of Agreement made the Seventeenth day of July, One thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight between James Raymond Anglin of Yokohama in Japan the Proprietor and Manager of the *Japan Gazette* a daily newspaper published at 6 p.m. in Yokohama with a morning supplement for advertisements, and a fortnightly summary of the news for dispatch for the United States Mail by his Attorney William Harwood of No. 31, Lombard Street in the City of London, Solicitor of the one part, and Edgar Pearson Nuttall of Rochdale in the County of Lancashire, journalist of the other part. It is mutually agreed as follows:—

1.—The said Edgar Pearson Nuttall shall leave London and proceed with all diligence to Yokohama aforesaid by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's steamer leaving London on the twenty-third day of August next for Yokohama aforesaid, his passage (second class being provided by the said James Raymond Anglin, who shall also allow the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall the sum of ten pounds in or towards payment of the incidental expenses of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall on his said passage, the said sum of Ten pounds to be paid to the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall immediately after the signing of these presents.

2.—The said Edgar Pearson Nuttall shall during the term of three years from the date of his arrival at Yokohama act as Sub-editor and Reporter of the said James Raymond Anglin for the said *Japan Gazette* and shall proceed to such place or places in Japan or elsewhere as the said James Raymond Anglin shall direct, his necessary travelling expenses on any such journey being paid by the said James Raymond Anglin.

3.—The duties of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall during the said engagement will be to report all law cases, meetings, theatrical performances, and sports in the Settlement and neighbourhood, also to write paragraphs and "locals," correct proofs and generally to promote the interests of the said newspaper, and the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall shall during the said engagement conduct himself with all due diligence, honesty, sobriety, and temperance and shall diligently and faithfully perform the said duties and devote his whole time and attention thereto and shall use his best endeavours to promote and extend the interests of the said newspaper, and shall in all respects diligently and faithfully obey and observe all lawful orders and instructions of the said James Raymond Anglin in relation thereto and shall not without his consent divulge any secrets or dealings relating thereto.

4.—The said James Raymond Anglin shall pay to the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall during the said term of three years so long as he shall duly observe and perform the agreements herein on his part contained, a salary which shall be as follows namely, the sum of seventeen pounds a month during the first year of the said term, the sum of twenty-five pounds a month during the second year of the said term and the sum of thirty pounds a month during the third year of the term. The said salary shall be paid in Japanese yen or dollars at the current rate of exchange of the day, and shall commence from the date of the arrival of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall at Yokohama to take up his duties as aforesaid, and shall be paid monthly on the last day of each month in which the same becomes due, and shall cover all board lodging and other personal expenses whatsoever of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall (except the travelling expenses mentioned in Clause 2).

5.—Provided always that the said James Raymond Anglin may determine the engagement of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall at any time before the expiration of the said term of three years and without assigning any reason whatsoever for so doing on giving or sending by post to the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall one week's previous notice in writing (such notice to be given or sent to the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall at his usual or last known place of abode in Yokohama or at the Office for the time being of the said newspaper), and on giving to the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall a sum equal to three calendar months salary: Provided also that if the said James Raymond Anglin shall determine the engagement of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall pursuant to this clause he shall provide the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall with a second class passage to England, provided the said E. P. Nuttall shall start on his journey to England within one calendar month from such determination of the engagement.

6.—If the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall shall at any time wilfully neglect or refuse or from illness become or be unable to comply with any of the provisions herein contained or to obey any of the orders of the said James Raymond Anglin or to perform any of the duties devolving upon him under this engagement it shall be lawful for the said James Raymond Anglin to suspend the salary of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall during such neglect refusal, illness, or inability as aforesaid. And further it shall be lawful for the said James Raymond Anglin immediately to determine the engagement of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall without giving any such notice in writing or making such payment as is provided for in Clause 5. From and after the determination of the engagement of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall pursuant to this clause no further salary shall be payable to the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall.

7.—The said Edgar Pearson Nuttall shall not at any time within twenty years after the determination from any cause of this agreement accept or take any situation as reporter, sub-editor, or editor with or in relation to any other journal or newspaper in Japan and further shall not during such period engage or be interested directly or indirectly in China or India or accept employment in China or India with or on any newspaper for which he may have come out to Japan as agent or correspondent, and if he the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall shall commit any breach of the stipulation contained in this clause or any of them, the said James Raymond Anglin shall be entitled to recover from the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall substantial damages for each and every such breach and the receipt of such damages shall no wise affect or prejudice the right of the said James Raymond Anglin to obtain an injunction to prevent the continuance or repetition of any such breach.

8.—The said William Harwood shall incur no personal liability under or in respect of this agreement.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

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Signed by the said James Raymond Anglin by his attorney William Harwood in the presence of
(Signed) Gregory Haines, Clerk to Messrs. Harwood and Stephenson.
31, Lombard Street, London.
(Signed) James Raymond Anglin
by his attorney
William Harwood.

It is hereby agreed that clause 4 of this agreement shall be so far modified as to read that the salary of the said Edgar Pearson Nuttall shall be twenty-five pounds a month during the said term of three years instead of the amounts in the said clause specified.
Dated Yokohama, Japan, 9th November, 1888. J. R. Anglin.

Signed by the said J. R. Anglin in the presence of
(Signed) H. C. Litchfield,
No. 32, Yokohama.

It is hereby agreed that the second clause of this agreement shall be so far modified that as from the first day of January, 1890, the within named Edgar P. Nuttall shall assume charge of the editorship of the *Japan Gazette*, and that clause IV. of the said agreement shall be further modified, in that from the same date the salary to be paid to the said Edgar P. Nuttall as such Editor shall be $185 per mensem, in local silver currency. In all other respects the said agreement is confirmed.
(Signed) J. R. Anglin.
Dated the 28th day of December, 1889.
Witness to the Signature of J. R. Anglin.
(Signed) H. C. Litchfield.
No. 32, Yokohama.

Examination continued—Having entered into this contract and determined my engagement with the *Rochdale Observer*, I left England, arriving in Yokohama in October, 1888. I met Mr. Anglin, and was informed that there was no editor for the paper. The day following my arrival I entered on my duties—on the 12th October. I performed the duties of editor, and eventually in 1889 I became editor. I worked under that agreement till the 31st December, 1890. Mr. Anglin has expressed himself satisfied with my services, and said he would give me an increase of salary in 1891. In the middle of 1890 he pressed me to enter on a new agreement and to go and see Mr. Litchfield with the view of entering on an agreement for three, five, or seven years at my option. No salary was mentioned. About that time or a little previous he had said it was scarcely consonant with my position to live in a hotel, and added that it would be more comfortable to live in a private residence. I told him repeatedly that I liked Japan, and he said he was well satisfied with me, and that I might view myself as a permanent servant of his. I so viewed myself. I took a house and furnished it. I had a half share in the furniture, and I estimate my loss at $150 on the sale of my half share. In October, 1890, the *Gazette* and all its appurtenances were sold by Mr. Anglin to the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Co., Lt'd. This was on the 27th October. Prior to this it was intended to purchase the *Herald*, and Mr. Walter Dening was spoken of as the editor. Eventually, however, the journal purchased was the *Gazette*, and Mr. Dening was appointed editor in November and advertised as such for two months. Mr. Anglin himself informed me of the sale, and that Mr. Dening was coming down as editor. I told him I could not remain on under another man. I told him I viewed the sale as a breach of agreement in the first place, and that in the second place I viewed the appointment of Mr. Dening as another breach. He responded that he would make that all right with the company. He did not do so. The next I heard was in November. Mr. Lowder was in the office one day, and Mr. Anglin half introduced me to him in reference to my serving the company. I invited Mr. Lowder up to my room, and we had a long conversation, when Mr. Lowder expressed himself as surprised at my unwillingness to enter the service of the company, and suggested that Mr. Anglin had evidently misrepresented my views on the subject. He was not aware that I had been engaged as editor; he was under the impression that I was sub-editor. The result of the conversation was that I left it with Mr. Lowder, as Chairman of the Directors, to make an offer. About a fortnight later he wrote to me enclosing a draft agreement. The letter stated that the financial condition of the Company would not permit of my salary being increased, but offered me the post of sub-editor and reporter, it being open to the company to make me do practically any work from washing the ink roller to writing an article. I was to take a subordinate position at the same salary; and was to be dismissed at six months' notice. There was not the slightest compensation offered on termination at all. I refused the offer. My first reason was that the proprietary had been changed. It had become corporate property, and I should have above me an editor and a board of directors, men holding diverse opinions on many subjects, and it would be very unsatisfactory and unpleasant to work for such a board of directors. Another reason was that Mr. Lowder had stated to me that while regretting my departure from Japan, they would view it as a distinct saving of $185 a month to the company. I had also to find a motive for the company's engagement of me, and the motive was not all satisfactory to me. Further, under the proprietary of one man, the expenses were exceedingly light, but under the new proprietary the expenses were quadrupled, and, knowing the concern, I thought it could not stand the lavish expenditure to which it was pledged. I mean as a matter of fact to say that I thought my engagement would not be permanent. I objected to serve the board, and in any subordinate position. Later an offer was made by Mr. Anglin, who offered me $200 a month. The inference I drew was that he was going to pay the salary himself. I replied that I could not consider any offer from him to serve the company. The offer must come from the company. We had some discussion, and he asked me to sleep on it; I think that was the expression. I slept on it, and I refused it. He then ordered me to return to the office on the 1st of January and thenceforward. I had been told by Mr. Anglin that I must give up my office to Mr. Dening. I did so, and left on December 31st, and Mr. Dening came in on January 1st. Mr. Dening had previously asked me to let him have the office on December 28th, and to this I consented as a favour. Mr. Dening, however, was otherwise occupied, and did not come on December 28th. I have been connected with the *Japan Gazette* for more than two years; during that time the circulation has advanced—taking the three publications, the morning supplement, the evening paper, and the mail summary—the circulation has advanced from 244 to 380 copies, a gain of 136 copies. At the same time the advertisements have increased. Having been appointed editor, if I had returned to the sub editorship, the impression would certainly be that I had been inefficient. The reversion to the lower position would mean that I was incompetent for the higher position. That certainly is how it would be viewed, and in consequence of that it would be much more difficult to obtain a position. I wrote Mr. Anglin that I would be willing to go on under my agreement as editor. Since the 1st January I have had no engagement. I could not obtain a position as editor under my agreement. Under it I must bear the expense of going home, and could not work here or in China or in India. I have had to sell my furniture in consequence of the breach of my agreement. A second-class passage home costs $250. I should say, having lost touch with home affairs, that six months would elapse before I could secure a post.

Cross-examined—I went to see Mr. Lowder.

Did not you tell Mr. Lowder that the chief objection to the agreement between yourself and Mr. Anglin was the harshness of the terms, which restricted you from taking any appointment in China and India as well as Japan?—I did not tell Mr. Lowder in the sense in which you put it. I raised the objection as a minor one, one of many, that my dignity would not permit me to consent to an agreement which would not allow me to work for my living. I did not put it in the abnormal sense in which you put it. Mr. Lowder prepared a draft agreement. In that draft the restrictive covenant was modified. The remuneration in the draft was $185, the same as I was obtaining from Mr. Anglin. I had a conversation with Mr. Anglin, and told him I should not return to the office on the 1st January as I deemed that he had broken the contract. He wrote me a letter saying:—"With regard to our conversation, I order you to attend at this office on January 1st and thenceforward." I replied that I was willing to fulfill my part of the agreement.

To the Court—This would be near the close of December.

To Mr. Litchfield—The letter dated 30th Dec. is the letter, and is as follows:—

"I was surprised to receive your letter last evening. You have repeatedly informed me that you have sold your newspaper, and that Mr. Dening has been engaged as editor from the 1st of January.

"If this had not been so I should willingly have continued working under my agreement with you, but as you have put an end to the agreement as from the end of this year, and as I am not prepared to enter into any fresh arrangement, I must claim the compensation which the agreement provides." That is the only occasion on which I wrote to that effect. I had told Mr. Anglin the same several times. Mr. Anglin did not propose a continuation of my engagement at $200. He proposed a new engagement as sub-editor. That was later than the middle of December. The only engagement mentioned was an engagement as sub-editor of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Co., at a salary of $200. I did not accept it. I told Mr. Anglin I could not take any offer from him on behalf of the company. I saw Mr. Lowder afterwards on the same subject. He did not at that interview say that he was busy, and that he thought he could make me an offer through Mr. Anglin. I went there on the understanding from Mr. Anglin that the company would make me a better offer. Instead of that the previous offer was renewed, and curtly refused. The interview did not last three minutes. After the offer was made in December, I had an interview with Mr. Lowder, who said the offer came from the company through Mr. Anglin. He made this explanation when I said the offer was by Mr. Anglin. Mr. Anglin before the sale told me negotiations were pending to carry on the *Gazette* by a company. I expressed my willingness to serve as editor with him, not with the company. After the purchase by the company Sir Edwin Arnold did not make any proposals to me for an engagement.

Did not Sir Edwin Arnold make an offer to you for the London *Telegraph*?—He did not. He made nothing approaching an offer.

Did not you tell Mr. Anglin that he had made an offer?—No; I did not.

You say that the circulation of the newspaper increased very much during your editorship?—Yes.

Do you know whether or not it has increased since you left?—I know by rumour that it has increased by 15 copies.

Even among editors, I suppose there are grades, one editor is better than another?—Certainly; just as in the case of barristers.—(Laughter.)

This closed the plaintiff's case and the Court adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming,

Mr. Litchfield said the present claim was founded on the 5th paragraph of the agreement. That paragraph was optional, not compulsory on Mr. Anglin; that was to say he was not obliged under such circumstances as Mr. Nuttall might suggest to him to determine the engagement, and it was not for Mr. Nuttall to say "You must pay me so much salary and provide me with a passage to England." The defendant might, if he chose, determine that engagement. Counsel would therefore contend that unless the plaintiff had made out that the necessary notice was given, and that he had started on his journey to England within one month of such notice—assuming it to have been given—or that he was ready and willing to start, which was not alleged in the petition, then the plaintiff's case must fall. As to the allegation that the defendant put himself in such a position that he incapacitated himself from carrying out his agreement with Mr. Nuttall, Counsel submitted that that allegation had to be proved emphatically and clearly by the plaintiff. Counsel took it that there were two issues, first that the contract terminated in the manner stipulated for by paragraph five, for which there was no evidence—the testimony indeed going entirely the other way—or the alternative issue that the defendant had by his actions incapacitated himself from carrying out his contract. Counsel referred to case of Frost against Knight, reported in Law Reports, 7 Exchequer, page 111, for the purpose of pointing out that that case was one of breach of promise of marriage. Of course by the law of England a man could not have two wives—perhaps fortunately so—but there was no law in England establishing that newspapers might not have two editors. If, the defendant was ready and willing to continue Mr. Nuttall in his engagement to pay his salary until the termination of the time stipulated by the contract of July 17th, 1888, then by that agreement the defendant had no cause of complaint. The plaintiff admitted that Mr. Anglin had required him to continue work after December 1st, but Mr. Nuttall declined to accede to his request. If Mr. Nuttall had been at work on January 1st, as Mr. Anglin wished him to be, the former's salary would have been paid regularly. Even more; Mr. Anglin was ready, with the sanction of the company, to employ him and to raise his salary to $200 per month. Under those circumstances, Counsel submitted that the contract had been broken by the defendant. Even supposing it were technically broken, the plaintiff had suffered no damage by not being continued in employment under the agreement because he had been offered a continuation of his employment at an increase of salary. The position of the defendant after the formation of the new company was to a certain extent changed, but not so absolutely changed as to prevent him from carrying out his agreement with Mr. Nuttall of July, 1888. The present case was different from those referred to by the other side, for the *Japan Gazette* was not a company the business of which had been wound up and stopped, but was sold as a going concern, the company being willing to continue the existing agreements with Mr. Anglin's staff or to make new agreements if those were wished. He submitted that by the formation of the company Mr. Anglin was not incapaciated from continuing the agreement. As a matter of fact the agreement had really been broken by Mr. Nuttall, unnecessarily and very much to the prejudice and inconvenience of the defendant.

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John Frederick Lowder, sworn, deponed—I am a barrister-at-law. In October I was one of the promoters of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Co. (Ld.) I had some negotiations with Mr. Anglin as to the purchase of the *Japan Gazette*, its plant and goodwill. Subsequently an agreement was made for the purchase of the plant and goodwill, and that agreement was reduced to writing. There was an agreement as to the staff of the *Gazette*. The agreement was that we should take over the whole of the staff if they wished to remain in our service. Among other members of the staff I communicated with the plaintiff. I had an interview with him. The first interview was about the latter end of October or the early part of November. I presume it must have been in October that I first spoke to Mr. Nuttall. It was in consequence of a communication that I had from Mr. Anglin. I went up to Mr. Nuttall's office. He was aware of the fact that a company was formed or in process of formation for the purchase of the *Japan Gazette*, and I asked him whether he was willing to continue in the service of the company. He said he took a great interest in the venture, but that there were certain parts of the agreement between himself and Mr. Anglin to which he took exception, notably the restrictive clause which prevented him from joining the staff of any newspaper in Japan, China, and India. He also raised another point. "I understand," he said, "that you are getting a new editor; I have hitherto been acting as editor of the paper, and it is a question of *amour propre* with me." Those were the two principal points; I think the only two points that he made. I may say he was speaking for himself and also for Mr. Littlewood at this time. Mr. Littlewood was also in the employ of the *Gazette* as shorthand reporter. I replied—"As far as the editorship is concerned we have appointed a new one, and there can be no question about that." But I said that as to the restrictive clause point we were prepared to make a great concession and to insert a clause in the agreement to the effect that it was determinable at six months' notice on either side. The result of it was that he said to me, "Well, Mr. Lowder, I will leave the matter entirely in your hands." I then undertook to send him the draft of an agreement based upon the conversation that had taken place, and I did so. Unfortunately I have destroyed the draft, but I can tell you that it was in fact what I have said just now, the rate of salary being the same as Mr. Nuttall had hitherto had. Afterwards, much to my surprise I received a letter from him saying that he objected to the draft. I presumed the matter was all settled until I received this reply from Mr. Nuttall. The longer of the two letters you hand me is the one I received first. I wrote to the best of my recollection expressing my surprise at receiving such a letter, the matter having been placed in my hands and the shorter letter is the one I received in reply to it.

The letters were as follows:—

"November 22nd.

"Dear Mr. LOWDER,—Mr. Littlewood and the writer have carefully considered the proposals of the Directors of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Co. (Lit'd.) and we regret that they are not such as to induce us to enter the service of the company. We are already aware, as you say, that the expenses of the company are heavy, but we fail to see why we should be viewed as a medium by which in some small measure to counterbalance the outlay to which the directors have pledged themselves. You know the circumstances under which we can leave Japan. You know also that we were distinctly promised an increase of salary at the end of the present year. The offer the directors submit does not, however, take either of these phases into consideration, and it would perhaps be out of place to expect otherwise seeing that they were in no sense party to them. Again there are other circumstances which influence us in the decision contained in the present answer. In conclusion we desire to recognize your individual promise which, however, is not really tangible, to remark that there is no feeling on our side, and that our earnest hope is for the success of the journal to which we are at present attached.

"Yours, &c., "E. P. NUTTALL."

"November 22nd.

"Dear Mr. LOWDER.—Herewith the draft. I did say that I left the offer to you and your co-directors, or, as you put it, left my interests, in your hands. We are sure you have done your best, and we sincerely thank you for your endeavours.

"Yours, &c., "E. P. NUTTALL."

Examination resumed—In December I authorised Mr. Anglin to make a proposal to Mr. Nuttall. It was that Mr. Nuttal and Mr. Littlewood should either remain in Mr. Anglin's employment or in the company's; Mr. Nuttal at a salary of $200 and Mr. Littlewood at a salary of $150 a month; either carrying out the existing agreements with Mr. Anglin or entering into new agreements with the company at their option. After that offer was made Mr. Nuttall called upon me. I am inclined to think that that interview was stated to be without prejudice. I see that Mr. Nuttall nods his head, and that convinces me it was so. I am not quite certain whether what he said then was without prejudice or not, but to be on the safe side I would prefer not to answer your question. My co-promoters were cognizant of the offer I had made; all the promoters were to be directors of the company for a year at least. If Mr. Nuttall had accepted the offer of $200 a month, the promoters were prepared to carry out their part of the arrangement—clearly so; we should not have made the offer unless we were.

Cross-examined—The draft agreement was sent to Mr. Nuttall by me as representing the directors of the company. I was a promoter and was to be a director. Whether I sent it personally or officially I do not know, but it came from the company. All that I did in reference to Mr. Nuttall was after consultation with the directors.

How came you, then, to write to Mr. Nuttall that it was in no sense a proposal from the directors but that it emanated from yourself?—Did I write that? (Letter shown). Well, as a matter of fact, as I said before, I took no step whatever without consulting the promoters. You are placing a slightly strained construction on that letter. Perhaps if you will read it will be better understood.

The letter was as follows:—

"November 22nd.

Dear Mr. NUTTALL.—Please return the draft agreement I sent for the consideration of yourself and Mr. Littlewood. It was in no sense a proposal from the Directors of the new Company, but emanated entirely from myself. Had it been accepted, or rather I should say, favourably entertained, it was my intention to have submitted it to the Board of Directors for their consideration. I understood from you that you had placed your interests in my hands, and the draft was the result of the best thought I have been able to give to the matter. But of course you are the best judge.

"Yours, &c., J. F. LOWDER."

Cross-examination continued—It would be clear to the recipient of that letter that the offer came from me.

And that it was an offer for his consideration?—Well, the letter speaks for itself.

I mean you sent it as an offer for him to favourably consider?—Yes,

And what he left for you to do was to make him an offer which he would consider?—Well, I cannot say it was so, because the last words were—"I leave the matter in your hands," after speaking of the terms of the new agreement. The matter having been left in my hands I drafted an agreement which I believed to embody practically what had taken place between us. In that sense it was an offer; that is to say it was putting into writing the result of the conversation between us.

In the interview I think I am correct in saying you did not fix on any salary?—In the interview I think I told him that the salary would be the same, and he replied that it seemed rather hard that the editor and manager were to get such high pay, and that his pay could not be increased. I think it was at that interview. I answered that the company were not in a position to increase the salary at present, but that in time if it were prosperous, we wanted all our employés to be satisfied with the service and held out hopes of an increase.

You did that in your letter, but at the interview before you wrote to him the question of salary had not been fixed?—It had not been fixed, but I think it was mentioned at that interview. He did not positively say he was not willing; he said:—"Here is you editor getting so much and your manager so much." He was willing to remain in the service but he was raising these points. There was no final agreement. The final agreement or remark was that the matter was left in my hands. Not only Mr. Anglin but Mr. Nuttall had told me that the latter was willing to enter the service of the company. He mentioned those points, but he gave me to understand and said distinctly that he wished to remain in the service of the company.

On satisfactory terms of course?—Yes.

The following letter was here read:—

"November 21st.

Dear Mr. NUTTALL.—Will you and Mr. Littlewood look over the accompanying draft agreement and let me know whether you are willing to enter into the service of the Printing & Publishing Co. on the terms therein set forth. Our expenses will be very heavy and until we have felt our way a little further we are not in a position to pay higher salaries than you at present receive from Mr. Anglin, but as long as I am on the board of directors my policy will be to treat the employés of the company as generously as our funds will permit.

"Yours, &c., J. F. LOWDER."

Cross-examination continued—That evidently has reference to the conversation which I thought had taken place at this interview.

And your proposal was that he should enter your service as sub-editor and reporter?—My proposal was that he should enter the service as sub-editor and reporter, but I added that if he liked we could make an arrangement to call him editor of the morning paper to get over his scruples. I told him our intention was to enlarge the morning edition and if that was the only doubt in his mind we might call him editor of the morning *Japan Gazette*.

That was after the agreement was sent to him?—Subsequently did you not tell Mr. Nuttall that the paper could not afford to pay him $200 a month?—Subsequently to the offer of $200 a month? Certainly not. I do not know now whether it can afford it or not and could not have said so.

Was not there some discussion as to whether Mr. Nuttall should not take the morning paper at a salary of $210 a month?—To reply to that I should be replying to a question which I refused to answer when put by Mr. Litchfield.

Mr. Walford did not press the question.

James Raymond Anglin, sworn, deponed—I have for some years been proprietor and manager of the *Japan Gazette*. At present I am part proprietor (holding $27,000 of shares) and manager. Mr. Nuttall was one of my employés, at the time the company was formed. He came out under agreement in 1888. From that time the salary was increased over the original amount. I was satisfied with him up to a certain period. An agreement was made by which the company was to take over the staff at the same wages if they were willing; if not the staff to stay under my control till the engagements expired—I to have supreme control. All hands have been kept on except the interpreter, and Mr. Nuttall and Mr. Littlewood, who did not come to work after Jan. 1st. The very day that Mr. Lowder and Mr. Walter called on me in the office and asked me to sell the paper, I said the paper was not in the market. They said if I did not sell they would start a paper in opposition to me. I considered and said my price was so much. I consulted my friends, and you as my legal adviser, and I accepted their offer. They were desirous of buying the *Herald*, and it seems Mr. Brooke would not give them any information about the accounts, or plant, or anything of that sort. After that Sir Edwin Arnold came to the office and saw Mr. Nuttall who came down immediately after he left and told me that he had an offer from Sir Edwin to go home to London to join the *Telegraph* for £500 a year, that he would not work for the company, that he had me "on toast," and that he would make me pay three months' wages and his passage to England. That was the first time he said anything about leaving the employ of myself or the company. I was authorised by Mr. Lowder to offer to him and Mr. Littlewood that they should remain with me or enter into a new agreement, Mr. Littlewood at $150 and Mr. Nuttall at $200 from January 1st. He thought he had me settled, and therefore said he would stick to what he was doing, and that from the 1st of January he would not work for me or the company. Last night I found out for the first time that Mr. Nuttall never made that offer to Mr. Littlewood. I made the offer to Mr. Nuttall, as he had taken Mr. Littlewood in his hands, and he answered for Mr. Littlewood, and wrote to the directors that he was writing for both. I made the offer to him, and last night Mr. Littlewood told me for the first time that the offer was never made to him. In my opinion the services of both were required for the newspaper after January 1st, 1891. Since that date the subscription has increased by about 125 to 140 subscribers. One day Mr. Nuttall told me he was going to make an agreement with the company, and next day he said he would not, and again he was going to London on the staff of the *Telegraph*. He certainly definitely told me he would not work on the staff of the *Gazette*, on which I wrote to him in these terms:"—

"December 29th.

"Dear Sir,—In reference to your conversation with me this afternoon I have to inform you that I require your attendance at this office on the 1st of January next and thenceforward, to discharge your duties in performance of your contract with me.

"Yours, &c., J. R. ANGLIN."

The result of the withdrawal of Messrs. Littlewood and Nuttall was that I was put to great inconvenience. An important law case against me by

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Mr. Beale, manager of the *Japan Mail*, and another case in the Portuguese Court, I could not report. On the 1st of January, all the deserving clerks and compositors got increases of wages. I gave all my men a bonus, except Messrs. Nuttall and Littlewood, and if they had stopped they would have had $500 between them.

Cross-examination—I have a number of shares in the company. You now show me the articles of association of the company; I have read them through.

Mr. Walford read Art. 107 stating that the management of the business and the control of the company was vested in the directors; and Art. 108, sub-section 5, empowering the directors to appoint and at their discretion to remove employés of the company.

Cross-examination continued—Mr. Nuttall was on my staff under an engagement with me. I as manager of the company am responsible for the staff.

You are responsible for the whole staff of the company?—Except the editor, the working staff are all under my control as manager.

You do not appoint the editor?—I have no power to appoint any one without the expressed consent of the directors; except the native staff; they are all in my hands. If I have a complaint against a member of the foreign staff I have to send it in to the board of directors. The appointment of the foreign staff is in the hands of the directors.

You make a statment, which has been contradicted in advance, that Mr. Nuttall told you Sir Edwin Arnold had made him a definite offer?—He told me that Sir Edwin had offered him £500 a year. Those were his words to me about five minutes after Sir Edwin came down-stairs. I think that was about a month previous to Sir Edwin's leaving Japan. It was some time in November. I do not know what the position was on the *Telegraph*. I did not ask. I was authorised—and told Mr. Nuttall so—to make the offer to Mr. Nuttall. I had not the power to do so myself. I told Mr. Nuttall he could either serve me to the end of the engagement, or I would break it and he could make a new one with the company. Mr. Nuttall did not tell me Sir Edwin Arnold would do his best for him. He told me he had an engagement, and I went immediately and told Mr. Lowder.

Frank Littlewood, sworn, deposed—I am a reporter on the *Gazette* and was so last year—reporter, sub-editor, and assistant manager nominally. In Dec. last Mr. Nuttall told me that Mr. Anglin had offered an advance of $15 himself. He did not tell me of any offer from the company—except that the company would pay the same salaries, and Mr. Anglin would pay an additional $15 from his own pocket.

This closed the case for the defendant.

Mr. Litchfield submitted that if Mr. Nuttall had suffered any damage it had been entirely owing to his own wilfulness. As would be gathered from Mr. Anglin's statement, the plaintiff had objected to continuing in the service either of Mr. Anglin or the company. That fact distinguished the claim in the present case from those cases which approached most nearly to it. Counsel instanced the case of Planchet against Coulburn, referred to in Cutter against Powell in Smith's Leading Cases, volume 2 page 37, and Robinson and Sharpe against Drummond on page 35 of the same work. This case differed from those quoted in respect that the defendant was able to carry out his contract.

The Judge—Do you consider that he was entirely able to carry it out, or do you say that he was able to do something that was equivalent to it? Because you see the agreement was that Mr. Nuttall should be editor. Now do you say Mr. Anglin was in a position to continue him as editor of the *Japan Gazette*?

Mr. Litchfield—As editor of the *Japan Gazette* if he close to call himself so. I submit there is nothing in the name.

The Judge—Do you say Mr. Anglin ever offered to continue him as editor or an editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

Mr. Litchfield said no; he did not say it was the defendant's business to make an offer. It was for the plaintiff to show that he was prevented by Mr. Anglin from continuing as an editor. There was no reason why there should not be two editors of a paper; no reason why there should not be an editor of the evening paper and an editor of the morning paper; an editor and a conductor. There had been no evidence to show that Mr. Nuttall after January 1st, attempted to be editor of the paper or offered his services as editor on any paper.

The Judge—Your best point is that no damage ensued. It seems to me to be quite out of the question to contend that it was necessary for Mr. Nuttall to go down there and try to turn out Mr. Dening from his chair. That was the only way he could offer to become editor.

Mr. Litchfield did not say there was a necessity for such violent measures, but he submitted that the mere fact of the appointment of one editor did not preclude Mr. Anglin in the circumstances of the case from continuing Mr. Nuttall as an editor of the *Japan Gazette*. It was difficult to cite any particular case on all fours with this one, because as a rule a man did not choose—to use a homely phrase—to quarrel with his bread and butter, and when a business was sold as a going concern he was generally too ready and willing to accept a continuation of his services, especially when an increase of pay or its equivalent was offered. From the evidence of Mr. Lowder it would be seen that for some time Mr. Nuttall was playing fast and loose with the company; first ready to enter into a new agreement, then declining, then apparently coquetting for further advances from the company or from Mr. Anglin; and it was not until December 29th that he finally made up his mind that he would not continue in the service any longer. He definately declined at the eleventh hour to fulfill his part of the agreement, and therefore by his own conduct he was precluded from claiming damages; such damages as he fancied he had suffered being entirely the result of his own wilfulness. The formation of the company did not create dissolution of the agreement between the plaintiff and the defendant. After quoting a case reported in volume 27 of the *Law Journal*, Exchequer Cases, page 205, Counsel went on to say that if Mr. Nuttall went to England, instead of his editorship of the *Japan Gazette* being a feather in his cap as the result of which he would be welcomed and probably eagerly snapped up, he would have to rely more upon his individual talents, which were undoubtedly considerable, than upon any fancied glamour thrown upon them by the fact of his having been editor of the *Japan Gazette*. If he went back to England he would probably find himself in the same position as the *Eatonswill Gazette* or the *Eatonswill Independent*, the editors of which when they moved out of their provincial town found that neither they nor their principles, nor their politics had ever been heard of before. Counsel could not help thinking that Mr. Nuttall had been led by a will-o'-the-wisp to quarrel with his bread and butter. Mr. Anglin stated positively that offers had been made to Mr. Nuttall by Sir Edwin Arnold, and it was very evident that Mr. Nuttall could not make up his mind whether he would accept them or continue with the company. With a view to swelling the claim in this case, Mr. Nuttall told them that Mr. Anglin had pressed him to make an engagement for two, three, or five years. But no doubt Mr. Nuttall preferred to remain under the three years engagement under which he came out. He wished to leave himself free—and Counsel could not blame him—to act for his best interests, but he ought to home made up his mind as to what he considered best for his own interests, instead of waiting till the eleventh hour and they declaring that he considered himself no longer in Mr. Anglin's service and leaving the new concern without help or assistance at the time of its starting. Counsel contended that the petition was based upon the specific clause in the agreement which provided that the plaintiff had power to determine the agreement in a certain way. There was no allegation, and no proof that the plaintiff did determine the contract in that way. On the other hand, there was strong proof that Mr. Anglin was ready, if Mr. Nuttall had asked, to pay him his salary, and strong evidence to infer that if Mr. Nuttall had continued to work for the *Gazette* his agreement would not have been determined at the end of the three years unless he wished it.

Mr. Walford said the petition was framed in such a way as to provide if necessary for the objection raised by the other side, claiming in fact under clause 5, but also claiming apart from that clause. If the Court held plaintiff entitled to damages under clause 5, of course all that Mr. Litchfield said about the damages being the result of plaintiff's own folly must fall through. In addition to the three months salary and a passage home, Mr. Nuttall would be entitled to some damages for his detention in Yokohama and also for the loss incurred on the sale of his furniture. The other side contended that as notice was not given the agreement was not determined under that clause, but Counsel held that it was entirely against the plaintiff that no notice was given. Mr. Nuttall had waived the notice which was entirely inserted for his benefit, and therefore Counsel contended the clause did apply. If, however, the plaintiff was not limited by that clause of the agreement then the damages he had sustained became an important feature in the case, and as it appeared had been more considerable than the small sum of three months' salary. In fact they might very well be assessed on the basis of salary to the end of the engagement in October as well as loss sustained on the sale of furniture and the passage to England.

The Judge—What do you say to the offer of the company to engage him at a salary of $200 per month?

Mr. Walford said he was coming to that point. Mr. Anglin had said that Mr. Nuttall had been offered £500 a year from Sir Edwin Arnold, but Mr. Nuttall had denied that Sir Edwin made the offer or that he said so to Mr. Anglin. After again quoting the case of Reid against the Explosives Company, Counsel said it was quite beyond the power of Mr. Anglin to assign his contract to the company, and it was mere subterfuge for him to say to the plaintiff, "You go on and work for the paper belonging to the company but in my service." Mr. Litchfield had reflected upon what he called the uncertainty of Mr. Nuttall's position, but they had it from Mr. Nuttall that he had frequently told Mr. Anglin he would not go on, and the letter of December 29th, which Mr. Litchfield regarded as his first, was really the last indication that he would not go on. Further, Mr. Anglin engaged Mr. Nuttall as editor, not sub-editor, of the newspaper, and when Mr. Anglin sold the paper the company appointed another editor. How was it possible for Mr. Nuttall to go on? Mr. Anglin had nothing more to do with the appointing of editors, and could not appoint an editor for the morning paper. He had in short rendered the performance of the contract quite impossible, and by so doing had determined the engagement of Mr. Nuttall, who was therefore entitled to damages. Counsel was then about to refer to his Honour's remark as to the offer of £200 by the company when,

The Judge said the exact point in his mind was this: that Mr. Walford was saying that the damages might include salary up to the time of the expiry of the engagement with Mr. Anglin. Suppose Mr. Nuttall had been wrongfully dismissed, but that during that time it could be proved that somebody offered him $200 a month. It was quite manifest that he would not be entitled to recover the whole of his salary for the time. It was from that point of view that his Honour desired to call Counsel's attention to the fact that plaintiff had been offered $200, whereas he was only getting $185.

Mr. Walford referred to the case of Rose against Pender.

The Judge did not see that that case gave any indication of the measure of damages. In that case evidently a man had been offered by his old employer the same wages in a different employment as it were. That was almost on all fours with Mr. Anglin offering to take the plaintiff back at $185 as sub-editor. Plainly according to that case Mr. Anglin would not have a complete defence, but it said nothing about the measure of damages. Suppose his Honour came to the conclusion that some damages were to be given, that case would not help him to say what the damages should be.

Mr. Walford said the measure was the wages of the servant less the value of any employment he might have got by reasonable exertions, but he was not bound to take any post which was subordinate. Counsel then referred the Court to the morning supplement of the *Japan Gazette* to show that the post of editor would be a purely nominal one; contended that a man was not altogether blotted out when he came to this foreign land, and that Mr. Nuttall's performances and the fact that the paper flourished while under his management would be recommendations in his favour at home, which would be considerably injured if he returned as sub-editor, after being removed from the post of editor. Mr. Nuttall then was entitled to damages under clause 5 of the agreement; for detention and for the loss on the sale of his furniture. If not entitled under the clause, then he was entitled outside the clause, and those damages would be assessed to the end of his engagement, adding his passage home and the loss on his furniture, without reference to any other position which he might have obtained out here, and which it would have been very much against his interest and to the prejudice of his future prospects in life for him to accept.

Judgment was reserved.

FOR DEBILITY USE HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

DR. B. MALLAM, M.R.C.S., and L.S.A., Meadow Sides, Staines, says: "I find it a most admirable preparation in cases of extreme debility."

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LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, January 30th.

Owing to dissension, there is a Republican minority in the United States Senate, and the prospect of any silver legislation this session is declining.

Mr. Goschen favours the issue of notes of the value of one pound ten shillings.

London, February 1st.

Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, M.P. for Northampton, is dead.

The Hon. William Windom, Secretary of State for the Treasury, died suddenly in New York.

General Von Waldersee, Chief of the General Staff of the German Army, has resigned.

London, February 2nd.

The Crispi Cabinet has resigned.

The Scotch railway strike has come to an end, and resulted in a complete victory for the railway companies.

London, February 3rd.

The United States Supreme Court has admitted that Great Britain has the right of appeal in the case arising out of the seizure of the sealing-vessel *Sayward*.

London, February 4th.

Canada has decided to open negotiations for a treaty of commerce with the United States.

The regular troops have regained Valparaiso.

Later.

The Manchester Ship Canal will require £1,700,000 additional capital.

[From the above message it would appear that the Chilian rebels had captured Valparaiso, but no telegram to that effect has reached Japan.—ED. *J.M.*]

[BRADLAUGH, CHARLES, M.P., son of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, a solicitor's clerk, was born in the East end of London, Sept. 28th, 1833. He was educated at elementary schools in Bethnal Green and Hackney Road; and afterwards became successively errand-boy, coal-dealer, Sunday School teacher, and a free-thought lecturer. In Dec. 1850, he enlisted in the 7th Dragoon Guards, and served for some time in Ireland. He became orderly-room clerk, got his discharge, and in 1853 returned to London, becoming clerk to a Mr. Rogers, a solicitor. Having become confirmed in his Secularist views, he began to write and lecture regularly, adopting the pseudonym of "Iconoclast." He lectured at the Hall of Science, City Road; wrote abundantly, and in a few years was well-known throughout the country for his discussions with clergy and others on public platforms. In 1868 he began his efforts to enter Parliament, and after three times contesting Northampton in vain, was returned for that borough in 1880, his colleague being Mr. Labouchere. Meantime, in 1868-9, he fought a great battle in the law courts against the Attorney-General (who was prosecuting *The National Reformer*), which resulted in complete victory for himself. He also took a considerable part, during the winter of 1870, in getting up expressions of sympathy for France; and he travelled in Spain and in America, lecturing in several cities, and being well received. Since his entering Parliament, his name has been chiefly heard in connection with the long, arduous, and unfortunate struggle with regard to his right to take, or dispense with, the oath of allegiance. It is impossible here to find room for all the details of this most painful controversy; how the committee appointed to examine whether he had the right to affirm, pronounced, by one vote, in the negative; how he was refused permission to take the oath; how he persisted, was forcibly removed from the House, and committed to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms; how he was sued for a penalty for sitting and voting, being unqualified; how he in return sued Mr. Newdegate for "maintenance," and got a decision against him; how he thrice resigned his seat, in order to appeal to his constituency against the House, and was thrice, after fierce contests, re-elected; how the Affirmation Bill was brought in, and, in spite of one of Mr. Gladstone's finest speeches, was lost by a majority of 3; and how finally, after the Parliament of 1880-85 was dead, Mr. Bradlaugh (who had been again elected by Northampton) was allowed to take his seat in peace. He has since then taken a prominent part in debate, and has signalised himself by successfully moving for the establishment of a Labour Bureau. Of Mr. Bradlaugh's opinions it is necessary to say very little. He is the leader of the Secularists, and with Mrs. Annie Besant has professed what are called Malthusian opinions on the population question. Prosecuted in 1868 for the publication of an old book by a certain Dr. Knowlton, Mr. Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant were sentenced to six months' imprisonment and £200 fine; but the Court of Appeal quashed the conviction. Mr. Bradlaugh has also headed the agitation against perpetual pensions.—*Men of the Time.*]

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Feb. 13th.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, Feb. 9th.*
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 21st.†

* *Oceanic* left San Francisco on January 22nd. † *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on February 5th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 10th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 7th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, Feb. 13th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 17th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 24th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Lydia, German steamer, 1,169, Peterson, 31st January,—Hamburg viâ ports —, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 31st January,—Hakodate 28th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Gosch, 31st January,—Shimonoseki 28th January, Coal.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 1st February, —Nagasaki 29th January, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 1st February,—Takao 26th January, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 1st February,—Kobe 31st January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 1st February,—Hongkong 25th, Nagasaki 28th, and Kobe 31st January, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 3rd February,—Hakodate 31st January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,129, R. R. Seaele, 4th February,—San Francisco 10th January, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 3rd February,—Kobe 2nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alliance (6), United States cruiser, 1,375, Captain H. E. Taylor, 4th February,—Gun practice.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Umasono, 4th February,—Hachinohe 2nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 4th February,—Hakodate 2nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

John McDonald, American ship, 2,172, Stover, 5th February,—New York 21st July, Oil.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 5th February,—Kobe 4th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ning Chow, British steamer, 1,735, Allen, 5th February,—Kobe 4th February, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 1,491, Williams, 6th February,—Hongkong 28th January, General. —Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 31st January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 1st February,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iraouaddy, French steamer, 2,489, Flandin, 1st February,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 1st February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Gosch, 1st February,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alliance, United States cruiser, Captain H. C. Taylor, 2nd February—Target practice.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 3rd February, —Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,530, G. W. Conner, 3rd February,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 3rd February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 4th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Lydia, German steamer, 1,169, Peterson, 4th February,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 4th February,—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 4th February,—Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 4th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 5th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong, viâ Nagasaki and Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Carleton, Misses Carleton (3), and maid, Captain D. Lewis, Mrs. W. L. Merriman, Miss Pole, Messrs. A. Rogers, R. Yue Pwon, C. Henrique, Meimann, J. Chandos Pole, and Chope in cabin; 3 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—For Hongkong: Miss Billings, Mrs. C. Richards, and Mrs. Liebenthal in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Yuzawa and U. Kasiwagi in cabin; Rev. Beliose in second-class; 44 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—Mrs. K. Williams, Mrs. Weston, Miss Gracie Plaisted, Mrs. E. Marston, Mrs. A. C. Corham, Miss Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Boss, Dr. Boninger, Miss A. B. West, Miss A. D. H. Kelsey, Messrs. R. S. Furlonge, S. Garcia, A. Boss, M. Russell, G. C. Wood, R. Lucas, E. M. Wood, M. Ikuta, Thos. Smith, and J. Hensen in cabin.

Per French steamer *Iraouaddy*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Modest and child, Messrs. A. Deguy, E. C. Passey Adams, Wong Ye Woo, E. de Smot, M. Lehmont, Sujo, Faussemagne, V. Longine, and Breton in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. N. Bougard and child, Messrs. R. Kirby, Perrott Forshaw, O. Sasaki, H. Orita, and H. A. Collins in cabin; Mr. Kee Shi Yuong in second-class; 50 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Consul von Krencki, family, and European maid, Mr. Otto Reimers, family, and governess, Mrs. Fricke and servant, Miss E. Wood, Messrs. W. Bütgen and Loo King Cheen in cabin; 1 Portuguese, 2 Turks, and 6 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Belshaw in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Iraouaddy*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 603 bales; for Italy, 31 bales; for other countries, 15 bales; total, 649 bales; Waste Silk for France, 315 bales; Treasure for Shanghai, $3,000.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain F. E. Brown, reports:—Left Kobe January 31st at 00.30 p.m.; moderate N.W. wind and rain up to Hino Misaki; thence N.W. winds and cloudy weather to Oshima, which was passed at 9.25 p.m., afterwards moderate N. and N.E. winds up to arrival. Arrived at Yokohama February 1st at 6.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate January 31st at 2 p.m.; moderate north easterly winds and overcast sky; February 1st fresh breeze, overcast, with snow squalls. Arrived at Ogimohama at 12.00 m. and left the 2nd at 4.45 p.m.; moderate breeze from west to north and cloudy sky. Arrived at Yokohama February 3rd at 6 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain C. Young, reports:—Left Kobe February 3rd at noon; had light variable winds and clear weather to Oshima, which was passed at 8.15 p.m., wind freshening from the northward; passed Rock Island the 3rd at 10.15 a.m., fresh breeze and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama February 3rd at 4.30 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain R. R. Seaele, reports:—Left San Francisco on the 10th January; crossed the Meridian in 34° N.S., S.W., and westerly gales throughout the entire passage. Arrived at Yokohama on the 4th February.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. Wynn, reports:—Left Hakodate February 2nd at 2 p.m.; had light northerly to westerly winds throughout the passage, with clear weather and moderate or N.E. swell. Arrived at Yokohama February 4th at 0.30. p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Kobe February 4th at 12.10 p.m.; had S.E. heavy winds and high sea to Rock Island; heavy rain from Rock Island to port, with strong N.E. winds and heavy sea. Arrived at Yokohama February 5th at 1.30 p.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The Import Market still continues in a very depressed condition. Sales of Yarns during the week are almost *nil*, only amounting to 20 bales English and 10 bales Bombays. A few small lots of Shirtings have been sold, amounting to 3,450 pieces, Italians 250 pieces. Prices are quite nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

		PER PIECE.	
Grey Shirtings—8⅓ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.07	to	0.14
Turkey Reds—1¼ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	PER PIECE. 1.00	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 44 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	$ 5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Grape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.13½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

		PER PICUL.	
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	28.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.00	to	30 00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to	32 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to	38.00
		PER BALE.	
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—	

METALS.

Dull market, sales and deliveries both being on the most retail scale. Prices nominally unchanged.

		PER PICUL.	
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.60	to	2.65
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.70	to	2.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.60	to	2.75
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted	2.70	to	2.80
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.20	to	4.50
Tin Plates, per box	5.00	to	5.25
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.20	to	1.30

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged, dull tone. The *John Donald* has arrived from New York with a full cargo, thus increasing the stock once more.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.70	to	1.72½
Comet	1.67½	to	1.70
Devoe	1 65	to	1.67½
Russian	1.60	to	1.65

SUGAR.

Better market reported for White Refined, and buyers are said to be willing to pay higher prices. New Browns are shortly expected to arrive from Formosa.

		PER PICUL.	
Brown Takao	$3.80	to	3.85
Brown Daitong	3.00	to	3.75
Brown Canton	4.50	to	5.50
Brown Java and Penang	4.80	to	5.20
White Refined	4 00	to	7.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 30th ult. since which date settlements in this market amount to 730 piculs divided thus:—*Filatures*, 479; *Re reels*, 161; *Kakeda*, 40; *Oshu*, 50. In addition to these figures Japanese shipments have been 138 bales, making the total export trade of the week equal to 870 piculs.

The Market has continued strong, and with a declining exchange sellers have managed to advance prices, while many holders refuse to sell at all.

The telegraphic news from abroad continues dull, and we think holders here would do well to settle currently and not block the trade by raising their pretentions.

There has been some amount of daily trade from Europe; American buyers keeping out of the Market. Good silks of prime summer reelings get more and more scarce every day, and holders who are not in want of money seem justified in their conservative course.

Arrivals from the interior continue small, and the stock is reduced day by day. It is now less than 11,000 piculs, and with any revival in trade at all we shall soon see a further smart reduction.

There have been two shipping opportunities during the week, the S. S. *China* on the 31st ult, took 1,293 bales for the New York trade; while the *Iraouaddy*, on the 2nd inst, had 946 bales for Europe. These departures bring the present export figures up to 17,575 piculs, against 31,747 last year and 34,542 at the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Not a single transaction during the week. The stock is small; sellers are not anxious and prices are all nominal in the absence of business.

Filatures.—Considerable enquiry for these for Europe. Good quality of fine size being freely settled at $600 per picul. Others a little worse in quality at $590, $580, and $575. For the States but little has been done, holders asking higher prices which buyers do not seem willing to pay.

Re-reels.—Business in these has been small. The principal brands of *Joshu* are still held off the Market and holders generally are unwilling to do business. We apparently require a short spell of inaction to bring them round into the Market again.

Kakeda.—Here again prices have been forced up as the exchange declined, with the consequence that very little business has been done.

Oshu.—Here there has been a little more doing; some demand for these coarse silks coming from Europe. *Hamatsuki* has been done at $540 for best, with $515 and $510 for the lower grades.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$500	
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	490	to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	485	to 490
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	480	to 485
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3	Nom.	470	to 475
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	460	to 465
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	450	to 455
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.		—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		590	to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		590	to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		580	to 585
Filatures—No. 1¼, 13/16, 14/17 den.		570	to 575
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		570	to 580
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		550	to 555
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		540	to 545
Re-reels—Extra			—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		575	to 580
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		565	to 570
Re-reels—No. 1¼, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		555	to 560
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		540	to 545
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		530	to 535
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		510	to 520
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.		—
Kakedas—No. 1		550	to 555
Kakedas—No. 1¼		535	to 540
Kakedas—No. 2		525	to 530
Kakedas—No. 2½		515	to 520
Kakedas—No. 3		505	to 510
Kakedas—No. 3½		495	to 500
Kakedas—No. 4		485	to 490
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		520	to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		530	to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510	to 520
Sodai—No. 2½			—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 6th Feb., 1891:—

		Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		7,997	13,764	18,613
America		9,137	17,594	15,715
Total	Bales	17,134	31,358	34,328
	Piculs	17,575	31,747	34,542
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		piculs. 19,600	piculs 34,100	piculs 34 500
Stock, 6th February		10,900	2,850	6,400
Available supplies to date		30,500	36,950	40,900

WASTE SILK.

There has been rather more doing this week, and settlements are 700 piculs divided thus:—*Noshi*, 300; *Kibiso*, 315; *Neri*, 85.

The trade appears to languish for lack of prime quality, especially in *Noshi*. It looks as though the bulk of the trade for the present season were already done.

Prices are unchanged, but decidedly firm for anything of choice quality.

There have been two shipping opportunities, the French and German Mails. The former, *Iraouaddy*, on the 2nd inst., carried 315 bales and the latter, the *General Werder*, 4th inst., had 95 bales, all for Europe. These shipments bring the present total export up to 21,310 piculs, against 20,395 piculs last year, and 23,772 piculs at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No transactions at all this week, and the stock seems likely to remain on hand until holders are willing to sell at a reasonable price.

Noshi.—One parcel of *Tama ito* has been done at $207½. Good *Oshu* has been done at $130, with medium at $120. The better qualities being now very scarce, buyers are turning their attention to *Joshu*, and several long lines have been fixed at from $60 to $75, according to assortment.

Kibiso.—Not a large business in this class; filatures have been done at $110, $105, $100, and $90. Ordinary *Hira* kinds at from $50 to $30, according to grade.

Mawata.—Still no business, the quality on offer not being suitable for buyers' requirements.

Neri.—Considerable business passing, and two or three large parcels have been done at from $9 to $13 for the uncleaned stock.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to	145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Hushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 6th Feb., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	20,023	18,205	21,380
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,392
	21,310	20,395	23,772
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	piculs. 24,450	piculs. 21,600	piculs. 27,000
Stock, 6th February	6,100	10,200	5,300
Available supplies to date	30,550	31,800	32,300

Exchange apparently touched bottom two or three days ago, and has risen again to the following rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/5; Documents, 3/5⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 3/5¼; Documents, 3/5⅜; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $82½; 4 m/s. U.S. $83⅛; Paris, 4m/s., fcs. 4.31; 6m/s. fcs. 4.33.

Estimated Silk Stock, 6th February, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs
Hanks	300	Cocoons	400
Filatures	6,450	Noshi-ito	1,300
Re-reels	3,650	Kibiso	3,940
Kakeda	350	Mawata	150
Oshu	145	Sundries	310
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	10 900	Total piculs	6,100

TEA.

The tail end of the season drags slowly along, with nothing at all noteworthy in the state of the market.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange declined from last week's rates, but has been moving upwards again these last two or three days.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/3⅞-¾
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3 4½
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/4⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/5
On Paris—Bank sight	4.27
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.33
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 ⅛ dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	83½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	82½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	81½
On San Francisco—Private 10 days' sight	82½
Silver	46⅝

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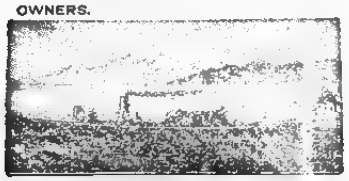

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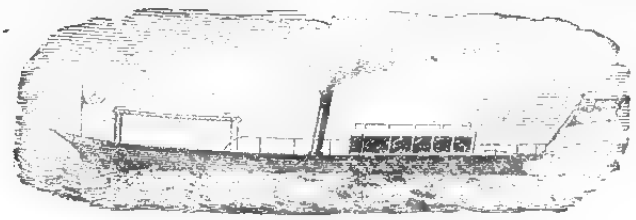

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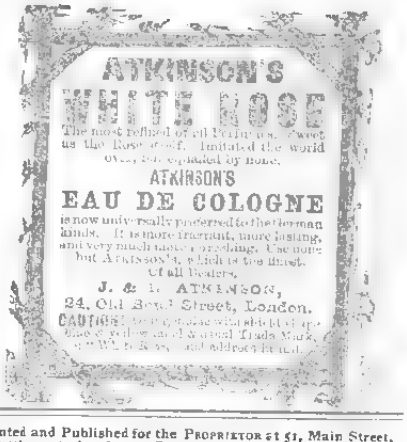

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 14, 1891.

BIRTH.

On February 10th, at No 3, Kaga Yashiki, Tokyo, the wife of Dr. L. Busse, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Yokohama, on the 8th instant February, Charles Wirgman, aged 57 years.

On February 9th, at 239, Bluff, Yokohama, JAMES MARTIN, in his 81st years.

At No. 7, Kaga Yashiki, Tokyo, on the 10th instant, HENRY PELHAM, son of Professor C. G. Knott, D. Sc., F.R.S.E., aged 1 year and 2 months.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Prince Imperial, who is now at Atami, will remain there during the present month.

THE section between Inabayama and Sanoji on the Osaka Railway was opened for traffic on the 8th instant.

THE Japanese man-of-war *Chiyoda Kan* started from Gibraltar on the 3rd instant for Port Said *en route* to Japan.

THE work of laying a tramway between the Kanzaki Station, Hyogo, and Kameoka, Tamba, will be commenced shortly.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR, who had been suffering for some time from influenza, has now recovered from his illness.

THE House of Representatives has voted the adoption of the Committees Report in the case of all the Departments of State hitherto discussed.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO returned to the capital on the 7th instant from Shizuoka Prefecture, where he had been staying for some time.

THE resignation of Mr. Okamura, President of the Yokohama Law Courts, was accepted on the 10th instant. Mr. Komatsu, Chief of the Civil Bureau in the Judicial Department, will, it is stated, succeed him.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Seamen's Aid Society was held on the 7th instant, to discuss the advisability of erecting a life-saving station at Oshima in Kishiu.

A FIRE of considerable magnitude occurred in the Igura district of Tokyo on the 10th instant. The Episcopalian Church and the residence of Bishop Bickersteth barely escaped destruction.

THEIR Imperial Highnesses Princesses Kane and Tsune, who left the capital on the 1st instant, are at present at the Shorinkan, Otsu, where they intend to remain for about five weeks.

A GENERAL meeting of shareholders of the Taiko Shipping Company, Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, was held a few days ago, at which a dividend was declared at the rate of 1.8 per cent. per annum.

A REPORT by the Toyama Prefectural Government shows that owing to the recent heavy snowfall in that Prefecture some 343 buildings were destroyed or damaged, 6 persons severely injured, and 7 persons killed.

DURING the month of January last, gold, silver, and nickel coins were struck in the Osaka Mint to the following amounts:—Gold 5 *yen* pieces *yen* 57,175, silver 1 *yen* pieces *yen* 210,440, and nickel 5 *sen* pieces *yen* 297,000.

RESIDENTS of Osaka, desiring to have various articles shown in the Exhibition to be held at Chicago in 1893, held a meeting on the 5th instant at the Osaka Industrial Museum and discussed arrangements.

VISCOUNT KABAYAMA, Minister of State for the Navy, who had been suffering for some time from influenza, was able to attend business on the 6th instant. The same day he proceeded to the Palace, and was received in audience by the Emperor.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the afternoon of the 6th instant, at which Counts Yamagata, Saigo, Oyama, and Matsukata, and Viscount Kabayama were the only Ministers present. The meeting closed at a little past 5 p.m.

A TELEGRAM from Osaka dated the afternoon of the 10th instant announces that fire broke out the same morning in the godown of the Temma Cotton Spinning Company, Osaka, and destroyed 30,000 catties of cotton before the flames could be subdued.

ON the night of the 31st ultimo an outbreak of fire took place in the house of Umeda Kinosuke, residing in Kanauka-mura, Yamamotogori, Akita Prefecture, and destroyed 11 dwellings, 4 persons being burned to death before the flames could be subdued.

THE regular half-yearly general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Beer Company was held on the 8th instant at the Kosei-kan, Kyobashi, Tokyo. The loss on the working of the Company during the latter half of last year amounted to over *yen* 10,000.

THE shareholders of the Osaka Mercantile Shipping Company have presented to Mr. N. Kawahara, Director of the Company, the sum of *yen* 1,500, accompanied by a letter of thanks, in recognition of his services to the Company. Mr. Kawahara, while accepting the letter, placed the money to the credit of the Company.

AT the regular general meeting of shareholders of the Omi Hemp Spinning Company held on the 18th ultimo, Messrs. Koizumi Shinkichi and Yamanaka Riyemon were elected President and Vice-President respectively, Messrs. Takaya Mitsuo, Igari Yazayemon, and Abe Ichitaro being elected Directors.

LORD LI, the new Chinese Minister, and Mr. Li Shu-chang, his predecessor, proceeded on the 10th instant to the Palace, where they were received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. On the same day Major Sakamoto Hachirota, who was appointed some time ago a military attaché of the Japanese Legation at St. Petersburg, was admitted to an Imperial audience.

THE ceremony of presenting certificates to graduates of the Koshu Gakko (a Preparatory School of Engineering) was held on the 8th instant, the ceremony being opened by the reading of the reports of the school for the last year. Mr. Wada, Director of the Mining Bureau in the Agricultural and Commercial Department, and Mr. Fujioka Ichisuke addressed the meeting. Viscount Enomoto, a Privy Court Councillor, was also present at the meeting.

THE receipts of the Omi Hemp Spinning Company during the latter half of last year were *yen* 61,473.768, to which *yen* 5,012.324, brought over from the last account, were added, making a total of *yen* 66,486.082. Of this amount *yen* 56,288.530 were set apart for miscellaneous expenses, *yen* 400.000 for rewards to officers, and *yen* 3,397.562 were carried forward to the next account, the remainder, that is *yen* 6,400.000, being appropriated as a dividend for the half-year at the rate of .8 per cent. per annum.

THE ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders of the Hokkaido Coal Mining Railway Company was held on the afternoon of the 10th instant at the Kosei-kan, Kyobashi, Tokyo. The net profits during the latter half of last year were 212,422.025, to which *yen* 11,273.685 brought over from last account were added, making a total of *yen* 223,695.710. Of this amount, after adding to the reserve fund, and setting aside the usual amounts for rewards to officers, and miscellaneous expenses, *yen* 137,150.000 was appropriated as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum.

THERE is no improvement in the Import trade, Yarns and Shirtings being in the same position as last reported. The Metal market is dull. Holders try to get an advance to level up exchange, but buyers are few and will not take anything if they can help it. The little doing in Kerosene seems to be principally damaged cargo *ex* late arrivals. Rates are easy, and deliveries appear to be fairly good. The Sugar trade has been active, and some large parcels of white Refined have sold for more money. Brown sorts are quiet, but a good deal has arrived during the week. There has not been a great deal of Silk sold. The market is strong, and holders take every opportunity of pushing prices up, many taking their Silk off the market altogether. A little low grade Tea has been bought, but there is nothing left now but undesirable leaf. Exchange has fluctuated, and during the last few days the tendency has been downwards.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE DIET.

THE 6th instant was a day full of the keenest interest. However little concern Japanese domestic politics may seem to have for the residents of Yokohama—a point concerning which we by no means share the opinion of the author of "Things Japanese"—the issues depending upon the debate now commenced in the Diet cannot but attract attention. After weary days of endless questioning, the House of Representatives has at last addressed itself to the serious business of dealing finally with the Budget. Before proceeding to the task it had to decide how to divide the Budget for purposes of discussion, and in respect of this two propositions were submitted, one making a Bureau, the other a Department, the unit of voting. The former course seems to have been regarded as favourable to the Government. It was rejected, and thereupon, with a degree of haste certainly looking injudicious under the circumstances, the President put the second motion and declared it carried by a majority. Vigorous protests ensued, but the House abided by its decision. At this stage another attempt was made to bring about a re-discussion of the whole question of the Committee's Report. Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu, an eminent journalist, moved a resolution which, if adopted, would have involved that result. His speech in support of the motion was forcible and eloquent, but permeated by an undertone of hopelessness. He knew that he was fighting a losing battle. Of course the House refused to grant urgency for the motion. Then the debate on the Budget began at last. It was opened by Mr. Shiota Okuzo, a member of the *Riken Jiyu-to*, who supported the Committee's Report, making, indeed, no attempt to demonstrate its legality, but dwelling on the general necessity of reducing the present expenditure, which, he alleged, was not really required for State purposes, but had been swelled to unbearable dimensions by the system of favouritism developed under a Bureaucratic Government. The line taken in this speech doubtless indicates the tone that will be generally adopted by the opposition. The next speaker was Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, formerly a prominent member of the *Kikken-Jiyu-to*, but now a free lance. Mr. Inouye set himself to pull the Report to pieces in the most systematic manner. After he had spoken for about an hour, it was found that the time for the House to rise had already passed. Thereupon a member inquired politely how much longer the speech was likely to last, and Mr. Inouye, with an air of meditative alacrity, said that he thought he could get through in about four hours more, an announcement that sent the members home at once. It should be remembered, in order to understand the proceedings, that in addition to the Committee's Report, there are other schemes of reduction before the House, and that an opponent of the Committee's Report is not necessarily a supporter of the Budget. Still, speaking generally, the House may be divided into two camps, the one occupied by men advocating reductions which the Government will certainly decline to concede; the other by men also advocating reductions, but not of such a character as to challenge strong official opposition.

* * *

The proceedings in the House of Representatives on the 7th were uneventful. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, whose attitude in respect of the Budget seems to be particularly exasperating to the members of the *Riken Jiyu-to*—the party that recently numbered him as a prominent members—continued his powerful indictment of the Committee's Report. He did not indeed, carry out his threat of devoting four hours to the delivery of the portion of his speech remaining over from Friday, but he did address the House for nearly two hours, and his criticisms of the Report were of an exceedingly damaging character. But it is now abundantly evident that the opposition cares very little whether the methods of dealing with the Report are constitutional or not. "If the reductions recommended involve changes of the organization of the Administration, then let those changes be made," say the Extremists. This attitude was well illustrated by Mr. Minoura's replies to the pertinent questions of Mr. Takanashi. His own opinion, the former said, was that the administrative changes necessitated by the reductions ought to follow as a direct result of the reductions, but at the same time he thought it advisable that the steps prescribed by the Constitution should be followed. In other words, the Constitution provides that "the Emperor determines the organizations of the different branches of the administration, and the salaries of all civil and military officers, and appoints and dismisses the same." It further provides that if the Diet has any reforms to suggest in respect of the exercise of these Imperial prerogatives, the suggestions shall take the form of representations. And it finally provides that the expenditures required for the exercise of these prerogatives shall not be reduced or rejected by the Diet without the Government's concurrence. But the opposition asks the House to reduce not only the expenditures, but also the number of officials, and either to rest content that the Organization of the Administration must be re-adjusted so as to suit the reduced Budget, or, if any doubts are entertained on that point, to prepare and forward the prescribed representations. "First do what you want to do, and afterwards ask permission to do it," appears to be the motto of the Extremists. Presumably a vote will be taken to-day, but possibly the speeches still to be delivered will occupy the House until to-morrow. The Foreign Office happens to come first on the list, and is consequently the point about which the battle rages most fiercely, for inasmuch as the same principles of reduction are applied to every Department, the decision of the House with reference to any one will be equivalent to a decision with reference to the whole.

* * *

Monday furnished another surprise. The House having listened during a great part of three sittings to speeches for and against the Budget Committee's Report, and understanding that quite a long list of members still desiring to speak was in the President's hands, voted the closure at 2.30 p.m., by the very small majority of 4 in a House of 251. It seemed as though now, at length, the first conclusive decision would be taken in reference to the Budget. But no; another serious interruption occurred. Viscount Okabe, Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who appeared as Government Delegate for the Foreign Office, had intimated to the President his desire to address the House after the voting of the closure. If the President had entertained any suspicion that the House would object to hear the Delegate at such a time it would obviously have been his duty to give immediate publicity to the intimation he had received. But he appears to have suspected nothing, knowing, in the first place, that the Government Delegates have the right to address the House at any time, and remembering, in the second, that no objection had been raised when Count Matsukata recently spoke after a decision had been arrived at in respect of the procedure under Art. 67 of the Constitution. Accordingly the President allowed the closure to be voted, and announced that he had given permission to Viscount Okabe to address the House. Protests were immediately raised. A majority of the members showed plainly that they disapproved altogether of the Government Delegates addressing them after the opportunity of further discussion had been lost. No feeling could be more natural. An explanation offered or an announcement made by a Government Delegate might greatly influence the voting, and ought to be subject to full discussion. So resolute was the House on this point that despite the precedent of its own behaviour a few days previously, and despite the plain language of the Constitution, it voted against hearing the Delegate, albeit by the smallest majority yet on record, a majority of 2 in a House of 270. But there was evidently a feeling of uneasiness among the members. The decision not to hear the Delegate had been taken on a motion which included a proposal to rescind the closure. It was therefore still possible to consider the simple question of allowing the Delegate to speak, and a proposition to that effect was made. Thereupon Viscount Okabe declared, as the Cabinet's opinion, that he had the right to speak, and the House was thus suddenly placed in the position of determining whether its own interpretation of the Constitution—for it had in effect voted against hearing the Delegate—or the Government's interpretation, was correct. It wisely decided to sleep over so important a question, and thus, instead of a virtually definite vote on the Budget that day, the business of discussing a weighty point of procedure intervened. There can be little doubt, we think, that the convenience of the House would be best consulted by the Delegates of the Government making any necessary announcements before the closure has been voted, and while the House is still at liberty to debate the subject matter of such announcements. But as to the question of right, we fail to see how there can be any hesitation. The Constitution is perfectly clear. It says:—"The Ministers of State and the Delegates of the Government may, at any time, take seats and speak in either House;" and the Law of the Houses says:—"The Ministers of State and the Delegates of the Government shall be allowed at any time to speak, but the speech of no member shall be interrupted that they may do so." It is thus absolutely certain that a Delegate is legally competent to address the House after the closure is voted or before it, just as he pleases, and the House placed itself on the 8th in the not very creditable position of having postponed its regular business for the purpose of discussing whether it would do what it could not refuse to do without a flagrant breach of the Constitution. If it objected—and it had, we think most excellent reason to object—to a Government Delegate speaking after the voting of the closure has effectually silenced every one else, then its simple course was to make a representation on the subject.

* * *

The House of Representatives must have felt rather foolish on Tuesday. At the commencement of a debate which promised to land it in an unpleasant dilemma, the Minister-President of State appeared upon the scene, and in a brief address intimated very plainly that the course contemplated by the House with regard to the expenditures enumerated in the 67th Article of the Constitution was regarded by the Government as unconstitutional, and could not possibly be endorsed. In other words, Count Yamagata told the House that if it persisted in going its own way despite the Government's—and therefore the Emperor's—declaration of the unconstitutionality of its proceedings, it must look forward to finding its resolutions treated as illegal. The Minister-President, answering questions subsequently put to him by members, gave three reasons for the Government's interpretation of the 67th Article; namely, first, that since the Diet has no means of rescinding or reducing public expenditures except by voting, a law forbidding it to rescind or reduce without the Government's concurrence, can only mean that concurrence must be sought and obtained before voting. Secondly, that the right to make Representations to the Government, as provided in the Constitution, is distinctly designed to meet such contingencies (*i.e.* is distinctly designed as a means of enabling the Diet to seek the Government's consent or concurrence in respect of steps which the Diet is not competent to take of its own motion). And thirdly, that since each House carries on its procedure independently of the other, the word "Diet" in the 67th Article must be taken to mean each House separately, for the purposes of the procedure mentioned in that Article. In brief, Count Yamagata declared that, in order to obtain the Government's concurrence for reducing or rejecting the "fixed expenditures" of Article 67, the one and only constitutional plan is to make a "Representa-

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tion," and that the Government will not be a party to any other course. This significant announcement was accompanied by a statement that the Delegates of the Government have a right to address the House at any time according to the Constitution, and that, as much as the House values the rights enjoyed by itself under the Constitution, so much is the Government entitled to guard the rights similarly conferred on it. Receiving these intimations, a section of the House showed some disposition to re-consider the decision previously taken with regard to the 67th Article, but the Radicals and Progressianists, confident in their majority, refused to suffer any step of the kind. Thereupon the debate was about to be continued, when Viscount Okabe, whose attempt to speak the preceding afternoon in his capacity of Government Delegate had been opposed, rose and said that as the communication he himself had desired to make had now been made by the Minister-President, he need not trouble the House any further. The more sensible members ought to have felt relieved by this *denouement*, but there was no concealing the fact that while the House hesitated and chafed about allowing a Government Delegate to speak after the voting of the closure, the Minister-President of State had come quietly and said what the Delegate wanted to say. There the episode of the Delegate was suffered to drop, and the voting on the Budget proceeded. Contrary to expectation, a great majority—52 in a House of 254—voted for the Budget Committee's Report, the minority numbering only 101. It had been known, indeed, for some days that all chance of the Report being rejected was gone, but the public did not suppose that the majority on the side of the Extremists would be so large. There is no longer, we imagine, any doubt about the fate of the amended Budget. If it comes into existence at all, which is very problematical considering the rumoured attitude of the Upper House, not to speak of the brief interval remaining before the close of the session, it will be rejected by the Government as unconstitutional. The Lower House might have avoided this abortive result by a very small exercise of circumspection and judgment, but neither of these qualities has been conspicuous in the attitude of the Representatives towards the Budget.

* * *

Thursday's divisions in the Diet show that a sense of hopeless defeat has driven out of the field many of the opponents of the Budget Committee's Report. They mustered in full strength on the occasion of the first vote, that relating to the Foreign Office appropriations, and succeeded in making a powerful minority—101 against 153. But that vote practically settled the question, since it pledged the House to the general principles of reduction applied by the Committee to all the Departments alike. Thus, though the opponents of a manifestly unconstitutional measure, continue to raise their voices at each stage of the proceedings, they evidently take little interest in the balloting. Only 32 gave themselves the trouble to vote on the Finance Department Section, and thus it resulted that the supporters of the Report had a majority of 83 in an evidently listless House. The whole proceedings, indeed, were exceptionally devoid of interest. Some flash of vitality was imparted to them by Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister for Home Affairs, when, in the course of an exhaustively reasoned speech, he proudly claimed that while the Report adopted by the House flagrantly violated the Law and the Constitution, the Budget itself had been compiled in strict obedience to every legal provision. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, too, helped to relieve the general monotony by charging that whereas the Government should have aided the House to arrive at the proper interpretation of a knotty Constitutional problem, the members had been left to work it out for themselves, and then, having committed themselves to a solution, had been told, too late, that the Cabinet disagreed with them.

THE DIET'S PROCEEDINGS.

It seems only fair to remonstrate against the unacknowledged use to which our reports of the Diet's proceedings are put. The preparation of these reports is a matter of no small labour. By deferring their publication for one day, our task would be greatly lightened, since it would then be possible to use the stenographic records appearing in the *Official Gazette* the morning after a debate. But we have not been able to reconcile ourselves to so much delay. The House of Peers seldom sits after five o'clock in the afternoon and the House of Representatives used to rises at 6 p.m. and now rises at 4. It is therefore possible, by making special arrangements, to obtain reports of the proceedings during the same day, and to translate them for publication in the *Japan Mail* the following morning. The reports reach us in instalments, from 5 or 6 p.m., until 11 or 12 p.m., and their epitomised translation is seldom completed before the small hours of the morning, the task necessarily devolving upon the editor himself. These reports, prepared at such heavy cost of labour and attention, are taken by the *Japan Gazette* when convenient, and published in its evening issue the same day in a re-epitomised form without acknowledgement of any kind. We cannot think that this is either fair or consistent with journalistic courtesy. That our reports should be used by a contemporary is in no sense a grievance. On the contrary, we are pleased if anything appearing in our columns can serve to lighten the editorial task of a confrère. But, after all, the foreign journals published in this settlement are competitors, and it cannot be considered just that our keenest competitor should appropriate our work to its own purposes without the least acknowledgement. The present editor of the *Japan Gazette* can translate and epitomise Japanese reports or other documents at least as well as we can. But even for him the task of rendering into English and abbreviating, where necessary, page after page of parliamentary proceedings, could be no light labour. On the other hand, to take an already translated report and cut it down to a fraction of its length, without making any material alterations of phraseology, is a business of great ease, capable of being achieved in twenty or thirty minutes. We are entitled to ask, therefore, that if our reports be employed in the latter fashion, their source should be acknowledged.

* * *

In connection with this question of journalistic competition, we desire to make brief and final reference to the matter of telegrams, so frequently discussed lately in the columns of a local contemporary. The story of Reuter's telegrams to the *Japan Mail* has been fully related before, but for some reason its simplest facts are persistently misunderstood. Originally Yokohama obtained its telegraphic news by means of a combination among public bodies, leading mercantile firms, and the newspapers. This arrangement proving unworkable, was ultimately discontinued, and for a time the Settlement remained in darkness so far as foreign intelligence was concerned. The *Japan Mail* then subscribed for Reuter's telegrams, bearing the whole cost itself, a very heavy item. There was no monopoly whatever. Any other newspaper might have done as the *Japan Mail* did. Neither of our local contemporaries made any attempt in that direction for a long time—some two years, if we remember aright. They contented themselves with reproducing our telegrams. By and by the *Japan Gazette* proposed combination. No obstacles were thrown in its way, but when figures were submitted, the proposal quietly expired and things fell into their former groove. Again after a long interval, during which we continued to bear the whole expense of the service, Reuters' Agent at this port, without consulting us, entered into an agreement to furnish the same telegrams to the *Official Gazette*. It became necessary then to consider the question of combination, and in the sequel of various consultations an agreement was finally concluded which, though not by any means securing a monopoly to the *Japan Mail*, did provide that neither of the Yokohama evening journals should be allowed to become partners in the arrangement. The chief reason of this proviso was very simple. Between newspapers published at the same hour, approximately, there need be no difficulty in effecting a combination for the purposes of telegraphic items. But between newspapers of which one is published in the morning and another in the evening, no conceivable terms of partnership are consistent with the hypothesis of competition. Further, when a journal has for several years incurred heavy expense to procure telegraphic news, it aquires a title to any advantage connected with the sole publication of that news. This is surely a principle of ordinary justice. Any business man would laugh at the notion of being required to share with keen rivals special facilities which he has secured for himself at heavy cost, and which, by his own enterprise, he has been enjoying for years while they, too timid or too economical, shrank from making a similar effort. The attempt which has been made to import spurious sentiment into this matter by representing the *Japan Mail* as a selfish monopolist, scarcely deserves serious notice.

BANKRUPTCY OF AN OLD FIRM.

It is stated that the Shimada Bank in Kyoto has put up its shutters. The firm of Shimadagumi is one of the oldest and most respected in Japan. It occupied a high position in the days of the eighth Shogun of the Tokugawa Dynasty, and received from that Prince the honour of being appointed one of the *yo-tasshi* of the Yedo Court. At the beginning of the *Meiji* era, the house stood almost on the same level as the houses of Mitsui and Ono. But in 1885, troubles overtook it, and only by great exertions was it enabled to continue its business. Its chief employment of late years has been banking. The Shimada Ginko in Aya-no-Koji, Kyoto, was well known and generally trusted, and its downfall will doubtless entail heavy losses. The cause of the catastrophe is the recent deadlock in the silk trade.

A COINCIDENCE.

A curious coincidence is said to have occurred a few days ago in Tokyo. A number of electrical experts held a meeting at the rooms of the Geographical Society, in Nishikonya-cho, Tokyo. A lecture was given by Mr. Katogi Shigenori, on the subject of electricity and fires. The lecturer demonstrated by drawings and by reference to actual electrical apparatus, that, speaking scientifically, there ought to be absolute security against fire in using electric lights. A few questions were asked, and then one of the audience rose and said:—"Mr. Katogi has just told us that fires ought not to be caused by electricity, but if the safety fuses are not properly constructed and attached, it is too much to predict immunity from fire. As I was on my way to this meeting, I passed through Minami Kinrokucho, and heard people saying that fire had broken out from electric lighting apparatus in the upper storey of a furniture shop. On going there I found that the statement was true. Some three feet of the flooring had been destroyed by a portion of the electric wire becoming red hot, owing to the safety-fuse being defective."

OGASAWARA-JIMA.

Mr. Taguchi, in a recent number of his journal the *Keizai Zasshi*, writes on the peculiar position which Ogasawara-jima (Bonin Islands) occupies in regard to the South Sea trade, and argues that that group of islands should be made a free port open to the commerce of the whole world. At present the islands are not open to foreign commerce, but they are visited every year by a number of American whaling vessels on their way to the North. These vessels are considered to be seeking shelter under stress of weather. Further, there are many Japanese who go abroad in these vessels without satisfying the necessary formalities. Such irregularities, Mr. Taguchi continues, may be passed over, but there are other things which cannot be so easily overlooked, considering their bearing on the growing trade between Japan and the South Sea Islands. According to the present customs regulations,

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vessels engaged in foreign trade are prohibited from trading in any port not opened for foreign commerce. Such a provision is at present necessary for the purpose of preventing smuggling, but as to Ogasawara-jima, Mr. Taguchi pleads that its case presents a widely different aspect. Its only chance of becoming prosperous consists in trading with foreign vessels, and there would be little harm if smuggling were carried on there. He consequently thinks it absurd to bring Ogasawara under the regulations applicable to other parts of the Empire. He then alludes to his personal experience of the inconvenience of the rule as applied in the Bonin Islands. When he touched there on his way home from the South Sea Islands, he found the islanders greatly disturbed about the scarcity of rice in stock. He had some surplus quantity of the grain in his ship, and to the great joy of the people, he sold it, after receiving the approval of the local authorities. He did this for the benefit of the inhabitants, but he questions the perfect legality of such a proceeding on his part. Further when he was on the point of leaving for Tokyo, he was entreated by the islanders to transport a quantity of sugar to the latter place, but in consideration of the regulations now in force, he declined to comply with their wish. Thus the application of the rigid customs regulations in Ogasawara-jima excludes it from whatever benefits it might otherwise receive from the increasing trade between Japan and the South Sea Islands. Such a condition of things in that outlying group is also regrettable from another point of view. Ogasawara-jima occupies an extremely important position in the outer lines of national defence. It was here that Commodore Perry established his head-quarters in view of probable hostilities with this country. An enemy once establishes there, the arms of the sea at the head of which Tokyo stands would be virtually in a state of blockade, and within two months the capital would be deserted by its inhabitants through the fear of starvation. The best method of guarding against such contingencies, is, in the opinion of Mr. Taguchi, to made Ogasawara-jima what Hongkong already is, a free port to all the world. The objection that much of the trade now centring in Yokohama would that be diverted to the Bonins, and that import duties would be evaded by passing goods through there, does not possess any weight with Mr. Taguchi who, an enthusiastic free-trader, is not at all perturbed about such contingencies.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN JAPAN.

THE practice of employing female labour in Government offices was, we believe, inaugurated by the Finance Department. Everybody who has visited the Printing Bureau of that Department remembers the long rows of dapper, clean-looking girls, with their simple uniform, that worked there, and still retains a vivid recollection of the extraordinary nimbleness and precision of their fingers. The introduction of telephones has now opened up a new field for the services of women. At most of the exchanges (*Kokan Kyoku*) the work is almost entirely carried on by females, and the results are eminently satisfactory. It is rumoured that the Ministry of Communications, finding that things get on so smoothly in the Telephone section, contemplates extending the experiment to the Telegraph section also.

RING UP THE CURTAIN!

THERE has been a most criminal habit of concealment in vogue for several years in Yokohama. If such a system were pursued in London it would "call forth a howl of indignation and scorn," but "in Japan from ancient times concealment of the faults of statesmen while they are in power has been customary." The general motto of public writers, who ought to know better, drat 'em! has been that "while men are in office their practices are of the most unquestionably honourable and straightforward type," and that even "if a foreign journalist in his own secret soul knows it to be otherwise, it ill becomes him to take the public into his confidence." "The principle has been to conceal as much as possible." "If you can't hide everything, then go on the principle of hiding as much as possible." But thank the kind stars a new era has dawned. The veil is about to be lifted, and the penetralia of wicked officialdom exposed to our unaccustomed gaze. How exciting it will be! And what gratitude the community ought to feel towards the Great Unveiler! He will be a general benefactor. He possesses access to "secret-revealing newspapers like the *Toyo* and the *Nippon*" and he's really going to take us all behind the curtain with him. Isn't it thrilling? Only twenty *yen* a year and you can sit at the perpetual peep-show; aye, and get a copy of Webster's dictionary free gratis all for nothing into the bargain. The servile villains who have been hiding the naughty Government's wickedness and exploiting the credulity of the foreign public for all these years, will now be put to utter shame. The day of triple honesty peeps, and line upon line of startling revelations will teach us the truth. Oh, happy time! oh, blessed Unveiler!

EDUCATION.

OUR education continues. We have now learned another point in the art of journalism. It is this:—If, having avowedly "given a summary of the articles" contained in another journal, you are proved to have included matter not contained in those articles, then fall back upon the device of saying that the interpolated portions were what you "read between the lines of the articles." The beauty of this scheme is that it has absolutely no limit. The unprinted matter contained between printed lines is capable of endless expansion. You are therefore quite secure against any charge of exaggeration or misrepresentation. Your answer simply is that your "acquaintance with the style of the articles was sufficiently minute to enable you to read between the lines," and that, if other folks are not gifted with equally microscopic vision, so much the worse for other folks. Under pretence of quoting what a writer says, you are thus always enabled to represent him as saying what you wish that he had intended to say.

THE "SOSHI" AGAIN.

THE *Chova Shimbun* says that the *soshi* are again becoming truculent. The present objects of their wrath are Messrs. Inouye Kakugoro, Oyagi Biichiro, and Suyematsu Kencho, all prominent opponents of the Budget Committee's Report, though it is not distinctly stated that this particular question is the direct cause of the *soshi's* excitement. They belong, we read, to the *Young Men's Association* (*Seinen-kai*) of the *Kwan-to*, and they have been considerate enough to convey a warning to the above three gentlemen that assault and battery are in the air. Information of this outlook was immediately conveyed to the police, says the *Choya*, with the result that the constables on duty at the Diet were increased, on the 7th instant, and that a guard of three men each was attached to Messrs. Inouye, Yanagi, and Suyematsu after the session closed.

A DESERVING FAMILY.

ENGLISH readers, happening, in their perusal of home journals, to light on reports of the proceedings of the various Royal Commissions appointed to investigate the condition of the Scotch crofter, must have been peculiarly impressed by the ignoble whine which at times marked that interesting person's appearances in the witness box. In the Highlands, as in Ireland, the wily tongue of the agitator has had its effect, and while many stories of real distress and hardship have come before the Commissioners, there have not been wanting such witnesses as have awakened less the sympathy than the derision and contempt of their examiners. In too many instances the publication of the evidence of these unworthy representatives of a most deserving class have given rise to the impression that the Scotch crofter is a whining, lazy vagabond, who shrinks even from emigration, because of the prospect of hard work which it unfolds to his gaze. Here is a story which may serve to illustrate the character of the real Scotch crofter, untainted by the poison of the political agitator:—Father Macdonald, the parish priest of Shiel Bridge, in Ardnamurchan, tells the following: Poorold John Macdougaid, with his little holding and hisstock of three cows and a few sheep, is now in his ninety-third year. He has been burdened for twenty years with a bed-ridden wife and an idiot daughter incapable of work. John himself, some six years ago, was stricken down, and for twelve months was unable to leave his bed. During—and it might almost be said, long before and since—this period the cultivation of the croft, besides the entire care of attending to the parents and the imbecile sister, has been bravely undertaken single-handed by the aged couple's unmarried daughter Anne. "No one," says Mr. Macdonald, "can say how she faced the difficulty; but she did it, and without a murmur." Meanwhile Margaret, another unmarried daughter, the only remaining member of the family in a position to render help, being in service in the south, has, year after year, done her part by regularly remitting a considerable portion of her earnings. The result is that, with the exception of being excused from paying the poor rates, neither the crofter nor his children have ever asked for a penny of assistance from the public. It is pleasing to read that old John has lately recovered something of his bodily powers in a marvellous way, so as to be able to take a hand again in the work of the little farm.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND HIS LONDON COUNSELLORS.

IT is to be hoped that the kind folks in London who, through the Lord Mayor, addressed the Emperor of Russia on behalf of the Jews within Russian territory, will appreciate the justice of the rebuke they have received. The notion of a body of philanthropic gentlemen constituting themselves into a sort of tribunal of judgment to pronounce upon the propriety or impropriety of a European Ruler's conduct towards the inhabitants of his own realm, has little to commend it to sensible people. But when the self-constituted tribunal undertakes to forward a species of remonstrance to the Sovereign concerned, one is puzzled whether to call the proceeding officious or impertinent, or both. We should like to see how the Lord Mayor of London and his busy fellow-agitators would look if some citizens of St. Petersburg addressed, through their civic dignitary, an appeal to the Queen of the United Kingdom on behalf of her subjects in Ireland. The Russian humanitarians would receive a pretty strong hint to mind their own concerns.

COUNT YAMADA.

THE immediate resumption by Count Yamada of the active duties of his post as Minister of State for Finance is now, we believe, assured. It was, indeed, expected that an intimation to that effect would appear in the *Official Gazette* yesterday, but doubtless no further delay will take place. We cannot be surprised that Count Yamada's chagrin at the postponement of the Commercial Code induced him to think seriously of resigning his portfolio. So far as the main body of the Code is concerned, the postponement of its operation until 1893 cannot, we think, be regretted. Its enactment separately from the Civil Code always seemed a measure of doubtful utility from a purely legislative point of view. But when we remember that the postponement voted by the Diet involves the continued want, for two years longer, of any efficient laws of bankruptcy or companies, it is impossible not to regret deeply that the originally fixed date had to be altered. With the laws in their present condition, the Japanese Courts are virtually closed to foreign creditors. The Judges may be intelligent, competent, and well-disposed, but the dishonest debtor can snap his fingers in the face of their judgment; an appeal is always open, and pending its hearing the debtor's property may be effectually placed beyond the reach of his unfortunate creditor. Such a state of affairs being quite elysian for unscrupulous Japanese dealing with foreigners, we can easily account for the alacrity

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with which one section of public opinion opposed the speedy operation of the Commercial Code. Another and much more important section is composed of merchants, manufacturers, and speculators directly or indirectly interested in the bubble enterprises that have been floated during the past five years. The Osaka tradespeople made a gallant fight in the interests of the law that would have subjected these gentlemen to thorough control, but prejudice, aided, says rumour, by persuasive methods not unworthy of the cause in which they were employed, turned the scale against the Code. Perhaps in the history of modern Japan no stranger spectacle has been seen than that of respectable barristers and foreign journalists uniting to oppose the operation of laws so essential to the sound and prosperous conduct of business as were the Bankruptcy and Company Sections of the discredited Code. Count Yamada, we repeat, might well be disgusted to encounter opposition of such a character. The point raised with reference to the connection between the Code and Treaty Revision is quite inexplicable, except in so far as the action of the Diet may be interpreted to signify hostility to the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure also. In the interests of Treaty Revision it did not matter a whit whether the Commercial Code went into operation before the Civil Code or simultaneously with it. The speedier enforcement of the Commercial Code was evidently dictated purely by domestic considerations. For the rest, Count Yamada's return to his post must of course be interpreted to signify that he has confidence in the stability of the Cabinet.

THE EMPEROR.

It is pretty certain that His Majesty the Emperor has suffered from a very severe attack of influenza. A rumour to that effect found its way abroad at the time when nearly all the Court Ladies were attacked by the epidemic, but the Imperial ailments are kept wonderfully quiet in this country, and people soon became persuaded that the Sovereign's condition had been falsely represented. Now, however, the vernacular press states very confidently that this Majesty's illness lasted for forty days, and that a high degree of fever was registered at one time. Happily His Majesty is now convaleseent.

THE "SOSHI."

The *Soshi* who on Monday were reported to be menacing Messrs. Inouye Kakugoro, Suyematsu Kencho, and Oyagi Biichiro, made an attempt yesterday against the first-named gentleman. It appears that when the House of Representatives rose for its mid-day recess, Mr. Inouye proceeded directly towards the Dining Room, and just as he was about to enter it, he received a blow on the right side of the face from an iron stick. He turned at once, seized his assailant, just as the latter was about to repeat the blow, and, pinning him against the wall, held him there until the police, summoned by Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, came and secured the man. He proved to be a *shizoku* of Mito about 30 years of age, and named Aoki Yasuatsu, but no information of a fuller character has yet been obtained. Mr. Inouye, being only slightly injured, was able to attend in the House, where he gave an account of what had occurred. According to his version, the arrested man seems to have had three or four accomplices, for they were observed running away immediately when Aoki was seized. It is pretty evident that the intentions of these *Soshi* are not of a very deadly character, since, being armed with iron sticks, they deliver blows that do not even temporarily disable their victims, and since they think rather of making their escape than of accomplishing anything serious. All this only tends to confirm the gradually growing belief that some of them are actually in the pay of members of the Diet, at whose bidding they undertake the rôle of intimidation. Their presence within the very precincts of the House is an exceedingly suspicious circumstance. They could not have got there, or ought not to have been able to get there, without the assistance of members, unless, indeed, the arrangements for excluding strangers are not as complete in the temporary chamber as they were in the original building. It will certainly be the duty of the Diet to see that this affair is sifted to the bottom.

EDUCATION.

Our education proceeds. We now learn a new controversial device. It is this:—If you cannot disprove an opponent's statement, adopt it as your own, put it into the mouth of your own witnesses, and then turn round and ask your adversary whether he ventures to contradict you any longer. In order to explain this admirable process more clearly, we append a recent illustration of its practice:—

Japan Mail, JAN. 31ST, 1891.

No Japanese statesman would *dream of denying that the compilation of the Civil and Commercial Codes was expedited in the interests of Treaty Revision.* To that extent a connection exists, and everybody is well aware of it.

Japan Gazette, FEB. 5TH, 1891.

Mr. Suyematsu Kenchō, the son-in-law of Count Ito, and a man who has taken honours in England, Mr. Motoda Hajime an eminent lawyer, and a number of other men of reputation, *distinctly asserted that the primary object of hastening the compilation of the Codes was Treaty Revision.* We recommend our contemporary to study Mr. Motoda's speech on the postponement of the operation of the Code, if it really doubts our assertions on this subject.

FIRE IN TOKYO.

On Tuesday evening at a few minutes past 6 o'clock, fire broke out in Igura, Tokyo. A bitter and blustering wind had been blowing all day—one of those cruel winds that so often come at this season to make the citizens of the capital shiver, and seldom go without leaving a record of their presence in the form of a street, perhaps a whole district, reduced to ashes. The houses in the Igura quarter are, for the most part, inhabited by the lower middle classes, and being close together, they offer a ready prey to a conflagration, especially when it is fanned by such a boisterous wind as that of Tuesday. The flames literally swept along the narrow streets, reducing the wooden buildings to ashes as though they were constructed of tinder. The suffering must have been terrible, for although the force of the wind abated greatly before nine o'clock, the coldness of the night was quite exceptional. Fears were at one time entertained for the residence of the Venerable Archdeacon Shaw, but happily the flames did not reach so far.

* * *

It was ascertained the following morning that this disastrous fire reduced 163 dwelling houses and 6 godowns to ashes, and partially destroyed 11 dwellings and 1 godown. One life was lost. A man named Kawashima, who was helping to remove a friend's furniture, remained too long in a burning building, and was caught by the falling roof. Owing to the violence of the wind the spread of the conflagration was extraordinarily rapid. Very soon after the first alarm was given, the flames were found to be at work in three different places, and it seemed as though the whole district from Igura to Shiba, and possibly thence to Akabane and the seashore, must be included in the area of the catastrophe. Indeed, looking at the ruins as they now lie, it is difficult to conceive how this immensely greater calamity was averted. Driven by a fierce wind, the flames at first leaped intervals of thirty or forty yards, yet their course was finally arrested by a narrow street which even in calm weather could scarcely have been expected to delay their progress. The Igura Church and the residence of Bishop Bickersteth, with the adjoining school-house, were at one time in imminent peril. The church, a solid brick structure, would have been safe had not some officious folks, in obedience to the usual Japanese custom, removed a portion of the tiles from the roof, thus exposing inflammable material on which the flames did actually at one moment lay hold. The Bishop's residence, however, and the school-house are wooden buildings, which would have burned like a pack of cards had the fire spread a little more. The Venerable Archdeacon Shaw, at the very gate of whose garden the conflagration raged in its early stages, was able to relieve much suffering by distributing hot coffee and rice-cakes to the unfortunate sufferers. The Archdeacon's residence, the church, the Bishop's residence and the school-house were all placed at the disposal of the burned-out folks, but only the very poorest among the crowd availed themselves of shelter which ought, one imagines, to have been eagerly utilized on such a bitter night. Many people camped in the Archdeacon's grounds, sheltering themselves as best they could against the icy wind by raising ramparts of *shoji* and *amado* and crouching under cotton quilts. But into the rooms offered for their use, they would not come. A striking illustration this of habits that have become crystallized into a sort of code of honour among the citizens of Tokyo. The first article of their creed is that no one can be a denizen of the capital if he dreads a conflagration, and in accordance with this melancholy vaunt certain rules of conduct receive strict observance. Thus, the master of a burned house—assuming him of course, to belong to the lower middle classes—and the male servants are expected to camp out in the immediate vicinity of the scene, until the ruins of their former dwelling are fenced in. The speedy accomplishment of this latter operation is a point of pride: to defer it for many days suggests the humiliating notion that the fire has left the family resourceless. The women and children, indeed, are removed to the house of a relative or friend, but the men have a campaign to conduct and are expected not to flinch from its duties. Their friends and acquaintances, on the other hand, count it an inviolable dictate of etiquette to keep the campaigners well supplied with food, and to this principle is to be attributed a custom of sending gifts of picnic-boxes containing fish, rice, and vegetables, with bottles of hot *saké*, during the three or four days following the fire. Habit is a hard task-master, but we have seldom heard of any exercise of its tyranny quite so unreasoning as that furnished on the night of the 9th instant, when in obedience to a valueless tradition, people preferred a bed on the grass under the stars of a frosty sky to the comfortable shelter of a neighbouring roof. Some, doubtless, were influenced by the often quoted aversion of the Japanese to become objects of charity under any circumstances, but we suspect that the dictates of the fire-creed of Tokyo were chiefly responsible for such needless purgatory.

COUNT YAMADA.

Count Yamada's temporary retirement and subsequent return to office have been severely criticized by his enemies, who liken his behaviour to that of a child biding itself in a fit of pique, and then emerging from its place of concealment with a mien of mingled concession and contrition. But rumour now begins to deal less harshly with the Minister of Justice. It is understood that he was the recipient of more than one urgent message from the Emperor, and against such commands a loyal Japanese never ventures to struggle obstinately. Besides, his resignation of his portfolio was not actually accepted. Before the public knew anything definite as to his desire to leave the Cabinet, he had apparently consented to reconsider his resolve, and agreed to a compromise of which temporary relief from active duties constituted an item. He resumes those duties, it is said, on two conditions. These, whether truly or untruly we do not pretend to judge, are described as referring first to the state of the Cabinet itself, and secondly to its relations with the Diet. The Count thinks that the Cabinet is not sufficiently united, and therefore not as firm as it might be. He stipulates for fuller mutual confidence, and more practical concurrence on the part of its members. With regard to the Diet, he re-affirms a proposition often advanced before, namely, that the circumstances under which representative institutions have come into existence in Japan, differ radically from the circumstances of their birth in Western countries; for whereas there they were wrested from reluctant rulers by popular insistance, here they have been

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voluntarily conceded by a benevolent monarch. If this be granted—and as a historical euphemism it cannot be denied—there follows at once the conclusion that the attitude of the Government towards the Diet ought to be essentially friendly and conciliatory, since in helping men to reap the fruits of a gift, the giver does not treat them as though they owed to their own exacting strength what is really due to his magnaminity. If these are indeed the theses of which Count Yamada, through Count Saigo's intervention, has secured his colleagues' endorsement before resuming his functions as Minister of State, he may count on public approval.

THE DEFUNCT PANAMA CANAL.

According to the report of the official liquidator of the Panama Canal Company, which gives the story of that disastrous enterprise, the total amount received by the Company on shares, bonds and various other receipts was £52,453,969. In addition, the company entered on the credit side of the account certain sums not yet paid which, added to this, bring up the total amount of the account to £53,187,723. The total amount expended on the isthmus, including preliminary administration expenses, installations, machinery, and implements, fuel and other materials, excavation works, purchase of land, &c., is £31,331,018. The expenditure in Paris, including promotion charges, the charges of the American Committee, interest on shares and bonds and redemption of bonds drawn, financial charges for the issue of the shares and bonds, office and general administrative charges, liquidation charges and costs of the Liquidation Commission of Inquiry into the state of the works at Panama, is given at £15,628.066. Of this sum the amount returned to the shareholders and bondholders as interest or for redemption, was £9,525,978, and the liquidation and investigation payments account for £11,499, leaving upwards of six millions sterling as the amount received by the various agents, committees, and officials in Paris, and expended in printing, office and other general expenses there in connection with this gigantic scheme. In addition to these two sets of accounts, for Panama and Paris respectively, there are certain miscellaneous entries, including the cost of the Panama Railway shares, £3,730.728, and sundry sums still in suspense or disputed and held in deposit making in all a further sum of £5.577,749. The grand total of these three groups of credit entries is £52,536,754, leaving the net assets in cash and bills on March 8th last, exclusive of the unfinished canal and other property on the isthmus, and the office and office furniture in Paris, £650,890. The history which the liquidator gives of the various stages of the enterprise, dealing first with the installation period under contracts of 1881-2; secondly, with the period 1883-5, when the work was divided amongst a number of small contractors; thirdly, with the period of large contractors who were substituted for the smaller men in 1885, when it was found that the work was likely to be indefinitely protracted: and finally, with the expenditure in connection with the last desperate effort to save the undertaking—M. Eiffel's scheme for locks over the Culebra—is a remarkable revelation.

PLAGIARISM.

The *Japan Gazette* essays to give a very equivocal and halting denial of our assertion that its reports of the Diet's proceedings are, when convenient, mere summaries of the reports previously published in these columns. In support of its denial the *Gazette* instances two reports which, it says, will, on comparison, be found to differ from ours. This is its answer to a charge not of *invariable* but of *frequent* copying! Such palpable equivocation is, in itself, sufficient to discredit the *Gazette*. But since, in however timid a fashion, it has undertaken to deny the justice of our complaint, we shall show briefly on what grounds the complaint was founded. Our reports are epitomes of matter averaging probably ten times their bulk. Day after day the *Japan Gazette* published reports amounting in length to only a fraction of ours, but never by any chance including any points not taken in our reports. Now it is beyond the remotest range of human probability that two foreigners, sitting down to make independent précis of a long Japanese document, would be found to have selected exactly the same salient points. Convincing as this consideration is, however, we should not have made it the basis of any public accusation, were it not confirmed by the repeated appearance of identical phrases in the two series of reports. Concerning the value of this latter piece of evidence, our readers can easily judge for themselves. We extract a few phrases from various reports of the Diet's proceedings, published in the *Japan Mail* and the *Japan Gazette*:—

"Japan Mail."	"Japan Gazette."
He wished to know why this great difference was observable in respect of the progress of the interior and exterior defences,	Mr. Kato Katsuya wished to know why there was so much difference between the progress of the interior and exterior defences,
to say why the ratio of the cost of provisions to that of clothing was nearly three times as great in the Army as in the Navy.	stated that the ratio of the cost of provisions compared with that of clothing was nearly three times as great in the Army as in the Navy.
Mr. Shigeno ridiculed the notion of saying that the adoption of foreign weights and measures affected the dignity of the nation.	Mr. Shigeno ridiculed the idea of the adoption of foreign weights affecting the national honour.
that public convenience would be better consulted by adhering to the Japanese system hitherto in force.	He considered public convenience would be better consulted by adhering to native measures as much as possible.
Mr. Tsuji replied by giving a brief retrospect of the history of the University.	In answer to these, Mr. Tsuji gave a short history of the University.
Mr. Mitsukuri, Vice-Minister of Justice, said that the reorganized system had only come into force in November last, and there were not yet sufficient *data* to form an idea of its results.	Mr. Mitsukuri, the Vice-Minister of Justice, who replied that the reorganisation of the Courts only commenced in November last, and that hence as yet there were no data for judging of results.
In answer to another member, he said that though the study of law had made great strides in Japan, it was not yet by any means perfect, and a necessity existed for sending students abroad Nevertheless, the number sent had been gradually reduced, and in time the practice might doubtless be discontinued.	In reply to a question about expenditure for students abroad, Mr. Mitsukuri said that though the law had made great progress in Japan, it was still imperfect, and hence there was a necessity for sending students abroad. The number sent, however, had been gradually diminished, and probably after a while the practice might be discontinued.
Mr. Mitsukuri, Delegate for the Department of Justice, answered a number of queries as to minor points. * * * Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi, on behalf of the Committee, pointed out that, as compared with other Departments, the reduction (1,320,000 *yen* in a total of 4,660,00 *yen*) recommended in the case of the Department of Justice might seem excessive, but the difference was due to the principle adopted by the Committee, namely, to cut down administrative expenses as much as possible, and not interfere with expenses required for actual works of public utility.	After Mr. Mitsukuri, the Government Delegate, had answered a number of questions on minor points, Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi, on behalf of the Budget Committee, observed that the reduction recommended might seem excessive when compared to that of other Departments, but that the principle on which they had acted was to cut down administrative expenses as much as possible, and leave untouched expenses required for works of public utility.

In comparing these extracts, the phraseology of which is almost identical in every case, it has to be remembered that they are not literal translations, but greatly abbreviated epitomes, and that the original was not in a language bearing any resemblance to English, but in Japanese. Can there be a shadow of doubt as to the justice of our complaint that our reports were used without acknowledgment?

* * *

Another curious though trivial fact is that the *Japan Gazette* has steadily followed us in erroneously calling the Acting President of the Upper House "Marquis Konoye," whereas he is really "Prince Konoye." Strange that even our mistakes should be repeated by a journal claiming to be entirely independent.

HARE AND HOUNDS.

The game of hare and hounds is very entertaining when played well. Suppose that the hare is Treaty Revision. Then in order to play the part of hunter, a meeting should be held, and a vote passed to the effect that the time not having yet come for Revision, it must be driven out of the field. So, with hue and cry, the driving out is accomplished. Next, in order to run with the hare, you turn and declare yourself the animal's very good friend, your only objection being to the colour of its coat, which is unfortunately brown. Another way of playing the game is to edit a newspaper, and devote your columns to showing, first that the above meeting was quite right in denouncing the hare's appearance in the field, and secondly, that if the animal be allowed to remain there, serious trouble may occur with a landlord over the way, called China. You are then running full cry with the hounds, and therefore in a position to make a striking volte-face in the direction of the hunted animal. This latter feat may be accomplished by suddenly calling out that you "most emphatically repudiate the title of an anti-hare organ," and that, when you applauded the hunting operations of the meeting, and supplemented them by showing that the hare was bound to be driven out, your "attitude could not correctly be called anti-hare." People will laugh at you of course, but then the object of the game is to make merriment.

* * *

Another feature of the game is that, while hunting with the hounds, you can bring charges of insincerity against any one who prefers more deliberate methods. You can proudly ask him why he has neither the courage to acknowledge himself a hunter also, nor the honesty to be as heroically demonstrative as you are yourself. Then, when it comes to running with the hare, you can indignantly inquire why you were suspected of taking the other side, and with what show of justice your absolute impartiality has ever been doubted. By observing these rules, persons not in the game may be pleasantly bewildered, and you yourself may actually get the reputation of being a straight goer, despite your counter-marches and doubles.

THE INTERPORT FOOTBALL MATCH.

The match between football teams representing Yokohama and Kobe took place on Monday, and resulted in complete victory for the home team, the score being four goals to none. The Kobe team in respect of their fine physique were the favourites, but soon after the game commenced the superiority of the Yokohama representatives became apparent. The visitors were undoubtedly the heavier and more powerful team, but their opponents, playing in style which their practice had hardly prepared their warmest friends for, were undeniable. The first goal was disputed on the score of handling, but eventually awarded to Yokohama, and the other three followed in rapid succession. Towards the close Yokohama had to play against a mild breeze which manifestly operated to their disadvantage. Played under Association rules, the match presented few points to be described, and it seems invidious to mention individual players in such a lively game. It would be impossible, however, to omit mention of Edward's splendid play as a back, greatly neutralised though it was by the wind; of Crawford's brilliant and self sacrificing play; of the younger Edward's fine dribbling, or of Fenton's cool and careful work, though marred in many cases by reluctance to "pass." For the strangers capital work was done by Weston (back); Hall (right half back); Whymark (right back), and Stewart (centre forward). The match was witnessed by a large number of spectators. The following were the teams:—

YOKOHAMA.		V.	KOBE.
Mr. C. H. Hinton		Goal	Mr. H. W. Gye.
Mr. W. D. S. Edwards (Capt.)	Backs.		Mr. W. Weston.
Mr. G. W. Barton	Backs.		Mr. G. Whymark.
Mr. D. McNeill	Half Backs.		Mr. A. C. Sim, (Capt.)
Mr. C. W. Arnould	Half Backs.		Mr. F. J. Hall.
Mr. A. L. Robinson	Half Backs.		Mr. B. Enthoven.
Mr. H. Fardell	Half Backs.		
Mr. F. B. S. Edwards	Forwards.		Mr. W. Kerr.
Mr. E. R. Morriss	Forwards.		Mr. P. A. F. Cobeldu.
Mr. P. Morriss	Forwards.		Mr. A. Stewart.
Mr. G. Fenton	Forwards.		Mr. F. Collins.
Mr. K. F. Crawford	Forwards.		Mr. F. T. Liss.

MR. INOUYE KAKUGORO AND THE "SOSHI."

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro's experience in the precincts of the House of Representatives on Monday is treated with some levity by the vernacular press, which apparently takes its tone from Mr. Inouye himself. That gentleman seems to have made light of the affair from the outset, speaking of his assailant as a silly fellow actuated entirely by a desire to gain notoriety, and not entertaining any really mischievous design. Mr. Inouye says, with evident truth, that if the

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man had intended to accomplish anything, he would not have chosen for his scene of operations a place crowded with members of Parliament, and guarded by police. But, on the other hand, the *soshi* can scarcely have expected to encounter such a Tartar as Mr. Inouye, and had he not been mastered almost immediately by the superior strength of his intended victim, the result might have been very different. Mr. Inouye escaped with a swollen face and a dislocated finger, which apparently gave him no manner of concern. He is said to have gone home from the Diet the same evening in high spirits, guarded by fifteen friends, whom the newspapers are pleased to call *soshi*, and by three police constables.

* * *

It is to be hoped that this affair, insignificant as its immediate results were, will not be permitted to rest. The public has long suspected that *soshi* are in collusion with, or supported by, members of the Diet, and the suspicion acquires great force from the fact that the rioter of Monday must have gained admittance by the aid of a ticket obtained from a member. The Diet is bound to purge this stain from the early history of Parliamentary institutions in Japan. A committee of inquiry ought to be appointed, and if, after careful investigation, proof is found of the complicity of a member, he ought to be expelled from the House at once.

M. RASPE AND CO. AGAINST ENOMOTO SHIUZO.

THE punishment inflicted by a Japanese Court on a fraudful dealer who had sold as Stock Beer imported by M. Raspe & Co. a beverage of a very much different nature, will, it is to be hoped act as a deterrent of similar impostures in future. For some considerable time it had been known that empty bottles bearing imported beer labels were utilised by persons like the plaintiff in the case under notice, for fraudulent purposes, but it was not till August, 1889, that the production of spurious "Stock Beer" was traced to the premises of Enomoto Shiuzo, where it was openly sold to a representative of the plaintiffs. Under the advice of Mr. Masujima, a criminal complaint was instituted in the Yokohama Court under Arts. 390 and 392 of the Criminal Code. These articles deal with all forms of criminal fraud, including the condition known in English law as "false pretences;" Art. 239 describing as an offence the act of selling or exchanging goods that are not genuine or are of false measure or weight. The defendant being proved to have refilled with his "Stock Beer" bottles bearing the complainants' labels or colourable imitations, the only question was whether the scope of the Act extended to the articles mentioned. The judge before whom the preliminary examination was conducted, dismissed the complaint, holding that the sale of spurious beer under forged labels on the one hand, and its purchase knowingly by the complainants did not constitute a breach of the law, no deception having been practised. An appeal was taken to the Supremer Court on the ground that the only fact of which proof was necessary was that of the sale of the spurious beer, injury sustained by an interested party forming no essential of the offence. This view was upheld by the Supreme Court and the case was transmitted for further examination to the Tokyo Criminal Court. Here the complaint was again dismissed, the Court deciding that the facts found by the Yokohama Court afforded no proof of criminal intention. A second appeal was taken, it being pointed out that criminal intention could only be inferred from facts; that direct proof could not exist of that which was really only a mental condition, and that if such proof were essential it would be impossible to administer criminal law. The Supreme Court upheld the appeal and sent the case to the Urawa Criminal Court, where the defendant was at length sentenced on the 5th inst. to suffer two month's imprisonment with hard labour, to pay a fine of 4 *yen* and to remain under police surveillance for six months. It is somewhat puzzling to account for the action taken by the Yokohama and Tokyo judges in acquitting the defendant, the contravention being so palpable and the offence so barefaced, and it is impossible, moreover, to avoid the reflection that a severer penalty would have been a more emphatic warning to dishonest dealers of the defendant's class.

THE LATE MR. C. WIRGMAN.

MR. CHARLES WIRGMAN, whose remains have now been consigned to their last resting place, was one of the most generally and sincerely liked members of the Yokohama community from the day of his landing here thirty years ago until this moment when we are required to bid him a final farewell. Brilliant, genial, a boon companion and a staunch friend, he might have attained opulence and distinction had not his high qualities been marred by incapacity for steady application, a fault only too common in men of exceptional gifts. His artistic tendencies were very strongly developed, and with careful training might have gained him a distinguished place as a painter, but the easy rôle of caricature had fatal charms for him. He devoted the greater part of the few hours of his working week to the preparation of a comic paper, the Yokohama *Punch*, the pictures and letter-press of which were both from his own hand. During the long course of twenty years, with very few intervals, this publication made its appearance once a month, every incident of local interest and every resident of local note finding, at one time or another, a place in its columns. Very seldom indeed, and then only toward the close of its career, did the quaint periodical display any feeling save genuinely good-natured humour, and never, so far as we know, could it be charged with having cost its author a friend. Apart from the unique fact that one and the same pencil limned every picture, and one and the same pen composed every line, of the well known journal throughout such a long series of years, a melancholy interest now attaches to pages where we can once more find ourselves face to face with the mirth-making fancies and happy sketches of a friend who added something of sweet and light to every life, and bitterness to none, that came into contact with his own. It was inexpressibly sad that the closing days of such a man should have been clouded by the complete decay of his reasoning faculties, and that he should have passed his last years among, yet completely severed from the society of, a community that for more than a quarter of a century had known him as the very soul of merriment and laughter.

DISCOVERY OF COAL.

FOR the past two months, says the *Nagasaki Express* of the 4th inst., we have been privately in possession of very important information referring to the discovery of a new seam of coal, or rather three seams, at Takasima; but by special request we have refrained from publishing the fact up to the present. However, as our native contemporary the *Chinzei Nippo* divulged the matter in its issue of the 28th ult., it can no longer be regarded as a secret. Had our contemporary followed our example, and waited until the proper time arrived for publishing the news, instead of obtaining its informa- surreptitiously, probably by bribery, it would no doubt have been furnished by the Company with full particulars. As it is, our contemporary's report is misleading. The facts of the matter are briefly as follow:—In working what is known as the eight-foot seam, a fault was met, and for a time it was thought useless to extend the mine in that direction. Eventually, however, it was decided to try the experiment of proving the fault, and in doing so three new seams were struck, of a total thickness of about sixteen feet. Steps were once taken to follow the discovery up, and so far, we are happy to say, there is every reason to believe that it means a new lease of life for the mine, which may now go on for many years to come, instead to dying a natural death from exhaustion. The new coal, it is unnecessary to state, is of excellient quality, and rather harder than the usual Takashima coal, consequently it will show a much greater percentage of large, but will be harder work, and the out-put not quite so prolific. The Company's reason for being reticent in the matter for a time is, that the new seams will have to be worked for a short distance before any idea can be formed of their value, and even then, owing to their lying under the sea, it is difficult, in fact impossible, to make any reliable calculation of their extent. Should things continue favourable after further exploration, it will eventually be necessary to shift a portion of the mining machinery to a convenient position on the other side of the island. It is, of course, to be hoped that the sanguine expectations raised that there is an extensive vein of coal in that direction will be realised, and, whilst there is still an element of doubt in the matter, we are very confident that Takasima will still prove a source of profit to its enterprising owners, and at the same time, what it always has been, namely, the mainstay of the foreign shipping trade of the port.

HONESTY FIRST, HONESTY SECOND, AND HONESTY VERY MUCH LAST.

THE honest *Japan Gazette* having now exposed its data, the task of finally refuting it becomes at once easy. The point at issue is this—Did Mr. Suyematsu Kencho apply certain words to the Government Delegate, Mr. Ishida, or did he apply them to the Cabinet? The *Gazette* prints the words—in character—and says they were used by Mr. Suyematsu "when explaining in the Diet the Government's action," and that they "referred not to the Government Delegate as much as to the Cabinet." Very well. Here is a literal translation of the sentence in which the words quoted by the *Gazette* occur:—"As to yesterday, though the person who originated this affair (*Kono koto no genin wo nashta hito*) does not say distinctly that he made an error or an incorrect statement, he does explain that his meaning at that time was so and so. Regarded from one point of view, the language used by him is not an absolute admission of error, but when he says that what he appears to have said on that occasion was slightly wrong, and that what he really meant was so and so, it is the same as though he apologised to the Diet." Now there is not the shadow of obscurity about this. The reference is to the Delegate and to the Delegate only. The *Japan Gazette*, however, claims that the words refer to the Cabinet. So positive is the *Gazette* that, when originally charging us with error, it affirmed that Mr. Suyematsu had alluded to the communication received from the Government an hour before he made his speech, whereas he explicitly refers to words used the previous day. The honest *Gazette* has not the honesty to acknowledge that in the matter it has blundered grossly. It continues to defend its position, but has been rash enough to descend from generalities to particulars, thereby enabling us to identify the sentences on which it relies, and to adduce them as an evidence of its much-vaunted knowledge "of the meaning of Sinico-Japanese phrases." Yes, indeed, "puerilities" these things are from one point of view, but they should seem anything but puerilities to a newspaper which they place in the unenviable position now occupied by the *Japan Gazette*.

CHINESE OR JAPANESE.

THE following paragraph appears in the *St. James's Budget*:—

At the West London Police Court yesterday, Charles Stewart Kaw, a barrister, was brought up on remand charged with attempting to murder Edwin Brooks, possession man to the bailiff of the Brompton County Court, by presenting a loaded revolver at him. It appeared that the prisoner, who was a native of China or Japan, rented a room at 4, Holly-terrace, Drayton-gardens, South Kensington, and on Monday afternoon the complainant with another officer went to eject him by order of the judge. They had to force open the door, when the prisoner, who was in bed, sprang out with a loaded revolver, which he took from under his pillow, and presented it at the complainant, who struggled and took it from him. He made a rambling statement about Lord Salisbury and Mr. Gladstone, and of his having £2,000 a month from his parents. The prisoner was brought up on Monday shortly before the closing of the court, and the Magistrate remanded him to be medically examined. This morning Dr. Walker said he had examined the prisoner; but he could not quite make out what he stated, as he spoke incoherently; but he was of opinion that he knew what he was doing. Mr. Plowden inquired

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whether there was any fresh evidence. A police-constable was called and said he examined the revolver, which was handed to him. He found it fully loaded in five chambers with ball cartridge. In answer to the magistrate, the prisoner pleaded not guilty. In a long rambling story he stated that he heard a noise at the door; but he thought it was caused by a lodger who was going up and down stairs in a "facetious" manner. The door was broken open and he was pulled out of bed undressed. He wanted to know the meaning of the assault and battery upon him. He did not present the revolver, but simply carried it to use it in case of emergency. Mr. Plowden said he had great doubts whether he ought not to send the prisoner for trial; but he bore in mind that he was a foreigner, of Japanese extraction, and should deal with the case one of comm n assault. It was an assault to present a revolver. Although the prisoner, who was a barrister, should be acquainted with the English law, yet he might not have known that the use of firearms was not tolerated in this country. He called upon him to find two sureties in £25 to keep the peace for six months, and in default to be imprisoned for one month. The prisoner who wished to address the magistrate, was then removed.

It appears from this account that the English public is still confronted by the old difficulty of distinguishing between Chinese and Japanese. The magistrate indeed, described Mr. Charles Stewart Kaw as "of Japanese extraction, but we venture to think that this was a mistake. No trick of transliteration with which we are familiar could convert a Japanese name into "Kaw," unless, indeed, this somewhat eccentric barrister happens to be a believer in the curious system inaugurated some twelve years ago by two of our best sinologues—the system that converted plain "Tokyo" into "Taukiyau" and "Taiko" into "Taikafu."

THE PEACE PRESERVATION REGULATIONS.

On Wednesday morning it became known in Tokyo that the authorities had decided to carry out the provisions of the Peace Preservation Regulations in the case of eight *soshi*, in addition to those expelled from the capital last month. The proximate cause of this renewed recourse to an exceptional and unpopular law was said to be the attack made upon Mr. Inouye Kakugoro within the precincts of the Diet on the 9th instant, which event, sufficiently disquieting in itself, had been supplemented by evidence that further outrages might be anticipated unless resolute preventive measures were adopted. The eight men destined to be banished from the capital during the Diet's session were the following:—

Aoki Yasuatsu	*Shisoku* of Ibaraki Prefecture.
Noguchi Mosaburo..	*Heimin* of Gumma Prefecture.
Tsukui Jutaro.....	—
Jimba Yeikichi	—
Hagiwara Motokichi.	—
Amako Yoshihisa ...	—
Ochiai Toraichi	*Heimin* of Saitama Prefecture.
Hasegawa Ito	*Heimin* of Chiba Prefecture.

More accurate enquiries showed, however, that of these eight men, the first five on the list are under arrest, and that, consequently, no sentence of banishment will be executed in their cases until the offences for which they are detained have been fully investigated and expiated. Against Amako Yoshihisa, also, grounds of suspicion are not yet clearly established. Thus two only, Hasegawa and Ochiai, were deported from Tokyo Wednesday, bringing to 56 the total number expelled under the Peace Preservation Regulations since they were put into operation for the second time on the 13th of January. It is not without a purpose that we record these names. Reference to the list of Peace-Preservation exiles of 1887 discloses the fact that many of the turbulent spirits of that time are now sitting in the House of Representatives, and it may be that we shall have to consult the lists of the present epoch when we come to consider the antecedents of public men a year or two hence.

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR FREE SPEECH.

The victory of the *Nippon* journal, recently recorded, has now been followed by another of a similar character. On the 14th of December last, a political meeting was held in the Suzukitei, Sakamoto-cho, Tokyo. Two of the speakers, Messrs. Ito Kichiyei and another, having used language which, in the opinion of the police constables present, constituted the offence of *Kanri bujyoku* (attempting to bring officials into contempt) in respect of the Minister President of State, the Public Procurator proceeded against them in the District Court, but failed to obtain a verdict, the evidence being declared insufficient. He carried the case to the Appeal Court, where judgment was delivered on the 9th instant, Judge Matsuda presiding. The Court dismissed the appeal, and endorsed the finding of the inferior tribunal. These two defeats of the Public Procurator in similar cases, occurring within so short an interval, will greatly strengthen the cause of free speech, and materially add to the confidence felt by the public in the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

BURNING THE RECORDS.

There is some impish denizen of the *Japan Gazette's* office who burns records, day by day, and condemns the editor to depend upon his memory for consistency. The consequences are sometimes unhappy. For example, our contemporary recently brought against us a circumstancial accusation of having advocated in succession three different schemes of Treaty Revision, of which the third was said to be that of Viscount Aoki, the present Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. But the same *Gazette* now writes:—"With no definite programme of Revision before the public, to argue *for* or *against* Treaty Revision seems to us equally inane. It is like a fight over the unknown quantity. Data for discussion not being forthcoming, it is the duty of impartial writers to be silent." So then our honest contemporary, by its own admission, knew nothing of Viscount Aoki's scheme when it accused us of advocating it. Why not discharge the mischievous boy that meddles with the records?

THE DEADLY CONTRAST.

The Profession.	The Proof.
We are no enemy of the Japanese Government; on the contrary, we are one of its warmest friends, as we hope to prove in print before long.—*Japan Gazette*, Feb. 3rd.	The Minister President made his appearance in the House and, in the opinion of competent judges, performed the first of a series of despotic acts by which the Government intends to suppress freedom of opinion and violate the rights of the Diet, provided the Representatives and the country consent to crouch beneath the iron rule of the Clan Government, of which all who know the strength of feeling that lies behind the present opposition of the Diet have serious doubts. * * * It is the fight of freedom and despotism that we are watching, despite the untiring efforts of pro-Government organs to represent it otherwise. There are strong men out of power to take the place of the present cabinet, and hence the country need shed no tears over its resignation. It has had its chance of controlling the nation since it has decked (*sic*) its constitutional dress and entered on a new era, it has proved itself unequal to the occasion, and consequently may well be called on by the country and by the men which (*sic*) it has supplanted to make room for abler hands.—*Japan Gazette*, Feb. 11th.
An attempt has been made, we observe, to represent this journal as an anti-government organ. We beg to state that it is nothing of the kind. * * * We deny that the tendency of our criticism is anti-government.—Idem, Feb. 4th.	

THE REVOLUTION IN BRITISH RAILWAY TRAVELLING.

From the latest British railway returns, which have recently been issued, it appears that in ten years first-class passengers in Scotland have decreased in number by 7.1 per cent, while in the same period those going third-class have increased from nearly 35 millions to about 66 millions, or 88.5 per cent. While ten years ago there were 23 railway passengers of the two higher classes to every 100 of the third, there were last year rather less than eight. In recent years the change has been proceeding more rapidly, for in 1887 third-class passengers numbered 90 per cent., and in 1890 the half-yearly figures indicate that the proportion will be nearer 95 per cent. In the second class the decrease has been most marked—from slightly over 3,000,000 in 1879 to 834,640 in 1889, and some companies, recognising the tendency of the times, have ceased running intermediate carriages. The revenue returns show a greater proportionate difference than in the case of the number of passenger journeys. In 1879 each £100 of the gross passenger revenue of Scotch railways was made up as follows:—£20 16s. from the first class, £8 14s. from second class, £65 from third, and about £5 10s. from season tickets, while in 1889 the receipts were in the proportion of £14 5s. from first, £1 15s. from second, £77 from third, and £7 from season ticket-holders. Of the last item £5 was paid by third-class passengers, so that of every £100 taken by Scotch companies £82 is paid by third-class travellers. In nearly all countries the same change is taking place. In Ireland a decrease is shown in first-class payments of about 35 per cent. in ten years, and an increase of 30 per cent. in payments by third-class passengers. There is also a gain in the intermediate class of nearly 10 per cent. Throughout the kingdom the receipts from first-class travellers have decreased by 23 per cent. to £3,187,000 those from the second class by 20 per cent. to £2,704,000, while third-class pay now about 20 millions sterling, or over 30 per cent. more than ten years ago. In France it is a common saying that only princes and fools travel first class. Belgium has the cheapest third-class rates on the continent of Europe, and the Belgians are the most extensive of continental travellers, yet the preponderance of third-class passengers to the total is not much greater than in England. Russia and Denmark are in the same position as regards proportion of third-class. Germany, with probably the most extensive railway system on the continent, and with 90 per cent. of the lines worked by the State, also runs Britain closely in this matter. The British colonies follow somewhat slowly. In New South Wales there are but two classes. The passenger traffic in the year ended in June last showed an increase of 10 per cent. over the previous year, and both classes contributed. In ten years the first-class payments had increased from £100,000 to about £395,000, and the second from £175,000 to about £440,000; but since 1887 the advance in the latter case has been relatively greater than in the former. In India during the year ended March last there were but three first-class and 23 second to each thousand passengers in the cheaper classes, and on an average not one first-class traveller to each train. Of course the natives all go third or fourth class. They pay about a farthing per mile. Third-class travellers last year paid three-fourths of the receipts from passengers on British railways, and about one-third of the total receipts. A first-class carriage, it is computed, earns on the average £514; second class, £561; and third class, £1,020.

CORRECTIONS.

The following corrections may, perhaps, prevent misconceptions on the part of readers of our local contemporaries:—(1) It is not true that Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, in his speech in the Diet on the 5th instant, used the words *wabisuru* or *ayamari wo shasuru* with reference to the Government's action. (2) It is not true that, in the same speech, Mr. Suyematsu described the condition of the Cabinet as "penitent." (3) It is not true that Mr. Suyematsu, in the same speech, did not attribute an apologetic attitude to the Government's Delegate. (4) It is not true that the Minister of State for Finance spoke in support of Mr. Kubota's motion in the House of Representatives on the 6th instant.

COMPETITION FOR THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

It is pretty generally rumoured that owing to a belief in the insufficiency of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's ships to perform the extensive duties devolving on them, no less than eight minor shipping companies, at the instigation of the Osaka Sosen-kaisha, have agreed to combine for the purpose of opposing the big association. The names of the companies are, the Kyoritsu Kisen Kaisha, the Tokai Kisen Kaisha, the Hanyei-sha, the Kanyo-sha, the Yamamoto-sha, the Hokkai Kisen Kaisha, and the Hakodate Kisen Kaisha.

HARD WEATHER IN KOBE.

A northerly gale of considerable violence prevailed at Kobe last evening, says the *Hyogo News* of the 10th instant. Four junks and some sampans were sunk in the harbour, while some of the new buildings in course of erection suffered severely. In one instance a house at Shi-

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moyamatedori completely collapsed. The gale had its redeeming feature; it stopped the Chinese firework orgie. The U.S. man-of-war *Omaha* came in this morning with a large junk, which had been badly crippled, in tow. We are informed that during the bitterly cold wind of last night a Chinaman and a Japanese were frozen to death on board one of the cargo boats in the harbour.

FIRE IN THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, TOKYO.

On Monday night the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, was for a time in considerable danger. Owing to the exceeding cold of the night, large fires had been lit in the bedrooms, and at some time after twelve o'clock a quantity of live coals seem to have fallen from the grate in the chamber occupied by Mr. Mandl. Tumbling outside the fender, they burned their way through the floor, and had set fire to the space below the boards when fortunately Mr. Mandl awoke and gave the alarm. A little longer delay would probably have enabled the conflagration to gain a strong head. Whether, in that case, the Hotel would have been destroyed, it is difficult to say, for provision against fire has been made by placing an immense tank in the third storey. But what is certain is that had the building been burned, nothing could have persuaded the public that political incendiaries were not responsible for the destruction of both the Diet and the Hotel, since the latter is now used by the House of Peers.

SOME FISHERY FIGURES.

The coast line of the principal islands of Japan is said to measure 6,400 *ri* (16,000 miles), and the value of the fish caught annually averages fourteen million *yen*, so that each *ri* of coast is worth 2,200 *yen*. The fishing population numbers 740,000 so that, speaking approximately, the income per head is 20 *yen*. In Hokkaido the record is much better. There we have 600 *ri* of coast, producing 7½ million *yen* worth of fish, with a fishing population of 6,000 persons. Thus each *ri* of coast is worth 12,500 *yen*, and the income of each person is 125 *yen* annually.

THE BURNING OF THE DIET.

Counsel for the Electric Light Company in the action against the Chief Secretary of the House of Representatives, yesterday made application to the Court to have an expert examination made at once of the brick chimney stacks as they now stand. It is claimed that the chimnies afford strong evidences that the fire may have been caused by faults of construction, and that, as the lapse of time is injurious to the preservation of these evidences, an official examination should be made without delay.

IBARAKI.

The possession of a railway connecting them with the capital has evidently produced a strong effect on the people of Ibaraki Prefecture. They have just made themselves conspicuous by sending a delegation to Tokyo to urge a reduction of the land-tax and the re-survey of their lands. We read also that Messrs. Koike and Yanagita, well known farmers of Ibaraki, have organized an Agricultural Society, which held its first meeting on the 20th of December, and will meet henceforth three times annually.

EXHIBITION IN HOKKAIDO.

The industrial progress of Hokkaido has been so considerable of late years that the Local Authorities and leading residents are planning a domestic exhibition there in July or August of 1892. We trust the project will succeed. The productions and manufactures of the northern island, not to speak of its fisheries, are full of interest, and a trip there in the heat of summer with an exhibition in perspective would be delightful.

CONCERT.

It will be seen by an announcement in this issue that Madame Patey will give a concert in the Public Hall on Tuesday, the 24th inst. Madame Patey, who is on her way home from Australia, has been giving concerts in Singapore and Hongkong, and is at present in Shanghai. With the company is Mr. John Lemmone, the flautist, who created so favourable an impression here with Miss Amy Sherwin's company.

THE LATE MR. MARTIN.

The interment of the late Mr. Jas. Martin took place Tuesday afternoon at the General Cemetery. The coffin was followed to the grave by a large number of residents, and many wreaths attested the high esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held. At the grave Rev. Mr. Irwine made fitting reference to the loss the community had sustained by the melancholy event.

THE BUDGET.

We publish elsewhere a translation of the Budget, accompanied by the Report of the Committee. Our readers will thus be able to see the reductions proposed by the Committee as compared with the original figures of the Budget. The explanation appended by the Committee will be published later on.

NORTH AND RAE, LIMITED.

At the annual general meeting of North and Rae, Limited, held on Tuesday evening, the report of the directors was agreed to and the payment of a dividend of ten per cent. per annum on the subscribed capital declared and agreed to.

COUNT YAMADA.

Count Yamada has now definitely resumed his functions at the Ministry of Justice, Count Oki being gazetted as having been relieved of his temporary appointment in that Department.

Dr. Meacham will preach in Union Church tomorrow morning, and his subject will be—"A Love Song."

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The collision between the Government and the House of Representatives in respect of the interpretation of the 67th article of the Constitution as to the process of obtaining the Government's concurrence in the reduction of expenditures mentioned in that article, has been the principal topic of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the week under review. On this question, as noted in our last weekly summary, several papers had expressed themselves in favour of an interpretation more or less in accord with that now adopted dy the members of the Cabinet; but even these papers join in general disapproval of the method taken by the Ministry in communicating its view to the Representatives. Some papers even hint that the ultimate object of the Government is to appeal to the nation, on the ground of the unconstitutionality of the Representatives' procedure with respect to the expenditures specified in the 67th article. But the prevailing idea is that the Cabinet will not resort to the dissolution of the Diet, but will either simply reject the Budget as amended and carry out the current estimates, or accept only such reductions as do not effect expenditures falling within the scope of the 67th article. It is, however, premature to predict the ultimate fate of the Budget, for there are still several contingencies difficult to calculate.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, writing on this subject, recommends the Representatives to proceed in the course they have choosen for themselves, regardless of what the Government may think or say. The Government may not endorse their action and the Sovereign many order their dissolution, but apprehension of such contingencies ought not to deter them from the exercise of their independent constitutional rights. Nothing, continues our contemporary, can be more degrading and unbecoming for the Legislature than to tamely obey the dictation of the Executive. Then turning to the Ministry, the *Yomiuri* tells the Minister President that what he ought to have done was not to make a useless speech in the House as he did some days ago, but to take early steps either to dissolve the Diet or to seek the Imperial decision on the point at issue. To try to induce the Legislature to abandon the position it had taken in due exercise of its constitutional rights, was on the part of the Government an evident insult to the dignity of the Diet. On the other hand, the Representatives are warned that the insult they have suffered at the hands of the Government is to a certain extent invited by themselves, for they displayed inconsistency and want of firmness. The Government is asked in conclusion to expedite the solution of the question by laying the points in dispute before the Sovereign and asking his decision.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* calls upon the Privy Councillors to make public their opinion as to the sense in which they understood the 67th article when they were engaged in discussing it previously to the promulgation of the Constitution. Their opinion will settle the question one way or the other, and they are, says our contemporary, morally bound to let the public know their views as soon as possible.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* regrets the present difference of opinion between the Ministry and the Representatives, and observes that the only course left for the disputants will be to abide by the decision which the Privy Council may give on the point at issue. Meanwhile our contemporary calls upon the constituencies throughout the country to give public expression to their ideas on the question. They have abundant means of ventilating their opinions; they may present memorials or petitions; they may write in the newspapers and periodicals; they may hold lecture meetings; or they may organize associations. They are exhorted to use every method in their power, within the limits of law, to bring the pressure of their opinions to bear on the Diet, the Ministry, and the Privy Council.

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As to the probable attitude of the House of Peers towards the amendments which the Representatives are now voting on the Budget, public opinion is very much divided. Some say that the amendments will be rejected by the Peers without debate, on the ground of unconstitutionalty. But there seems to be slender reason to anticipate such summary dealing. Others assert that a small but influential group of Peers contemplate reductions far more sweeping than those proposed by the extremists in the Lower House. Viscount Tani is said to be the leader of the section. But members who entertain such a radical plan—if indeed anything of the kind has ever been contemplated in the Upper House—must be too few to influence the decision of the House. The Upper House contains, however a popular element which may be expected to be far from unfavourably disposed to any fiscal reform, calculated to lessen public burdens. We refer to members representing the highest tax-payers in each locality. These members are peculiarly interested in the success of the reductions voted by the Representatives, because the avowed object of the reductions is to decrease the tax on land. To such members of the Upper House, therefore, the Extremists in the Lower House are now looking for support, as may be seen from the following paragraph.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* alludes to the rumour that members of the Upper House who represent the 15 highest tax-payers in each locality lately held a meeting, and decided to support whatever decision the Lower House might come to on the Budget. Our contemporary applauds in high terms the step said to have been taken by these members, and notices, with much satisfaction, that their opinion is shared by many of their fellow legislators. As these members are most directly interested in fiscal reforms, the *Jiyu* thinks it natural and proper

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that they should have decided to endorse the Representatives' action.

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The *Yomiuri Shimbun* mentions the same report, and hopes that the example of "the highest tax-paying members" may be followed by other members of the Upper House. Our contemporary admits that the Peers have a perfect constitutional right to introduce amendments in the estimates sent up from the Lower House, but hopes that they may imitate the conduct of their *confrères* in England and abstain from proposing amendments to the decision of the Representatives in respect of the Budget. The *Yomiuri* further thinks that it is the plain interest of the Peers to concur with the Representatives in this matter, for, should they choose either to reject or amend the decision of the Lower House, there would ensue a delay which might lead to the non-existence of the Budget. In that event the blame would rest with the Upper House and it would become an object of universal execration.

* * *

The whole press of the capital is united in rebuking in strong language the disorder and want of decorum shown in the House of Representatives. The *Kokkwai* goes so far as to state that the Representatives have forfeited the confidence of the nation, and suggests a novel experiment, that of taking a vote of want of confidence in the House of Representatives. "We do not find in the history of foreign countries," says the *Kokkwai*, "any instance of the people voting want of confidence in the Parliament. But our Diet, especially the House of Representatives, has already invited the severe censure of the nation, and there is not an impartial observer who does not complain of its disorderly conduct *(futeisai)*. Is it not then, most unfortunately and regrettably, time that the constituencies should vote want of confidence in the Diet?" We (*Japan Mail*) do not know whether the *Kokkwai's* opinion of the Diet is shared by the majority of the electors or not, but it is a fact that the present Diet has not given much satisfaction to the independent public.

* * *

Buddhist priests have presented to the Diet two petitions of contradictory nature. One is for the purpose of obtaining the franchise; the other is for release from compulsory service with the colours. When the Constitution was promulgated, a section of the Buddhist priests loudly clamoured, as noticed in these columns at the time, to obtain the franchise, of which they were deprived by the Law of Election. The movement, though strongly condemned by the press and the general public, still continues, and the result is the petition above alluded to. Another section of the Buddhist body has taken an exactly opposite course, and, being anxious to preserve the order free from all contact with political matters, has petitioned to be exempted from military service. The vernacular press, as may be expected, is in sympathy with the latter petitioners, while it is unsparingly hard upon the former for their persistent advocacy of a generally discredited course. We condense in the following paragraph a series of articles on this subject published in the columns of the *Mainichi Shimbun*.

* * *

After alluding to the two petitions above mentioned, the *Mainichi* observes that it cannot approve of petitioners who complain about their exclusion from the franchise. As to those asking for exemption from military service, our contemporary acknowledges the justice of their contention. The Government, when framing the existing Conscription Law, probably thought it unadvisable to make any exception on account of Buddhist priests, lest the priestly profession might be used by unscrupulous persons as an excuse for evading service with the colours. But this, in the opinion of the Tokyo journal, is like branding a whole family as robbers on account of the criminal tendency of one of its members. Turning to discuss the evils attending the mixing up of religion with politics, our contemporary refers to what Buckle said of the case of Spain, and further illustrates its point from the contemporary history of Ireland and the Catholic countries of South America. In Japan also, during the middle ages, Buddhist priests wielded immense influence in the practical politics of the country. But since the time of the coming into power of the Tokugawa family, religion has been systematically excluded from the political sphere, a state of affairs highly beneficial for the sake of religion no less than of the State. Priests who clamour for the franchise are divided by the *Mainichi* into two classes, namely, those who are really desirous of interfering with the politics of the country, and those who have joined the present movement, from jealousy of certain advantages possessed over them by their deadly enemies, the propagandists of Christianity. Article 12 of the Law of Election provides that "Shinto priests, Buddhist priests, and teachers of religion shall be ineligible." (We do not follow the official translation, as it is slightly different from the original in the case of this article.) Now the term "teachers of religion" is generally understood to cover ministers of Christianity and other religious besides Shintoism and Buddhism; and the Buddhist priests complain that, while in their case it is easy enough to distinguish who are priests and who are not, it is extremely difficult, in the case of Christian ministers, to draw the line between those who ought and those who ought not to be included in the term "teachers of religion," and consequently their antagonists can easily contrive to get into the Diet, while they can never do so. Such jealousy on the part of Buddhists, continues the *Mainichi*, is natural enough, but it is at the same time founded on no good ground. On the contrary, our contemporary is of opinion that not Buddhists but Christians ought to complain of inequality of treatment. For while Buddhist temples and grounds occupied by them are exempt from taxation, no similar privilege is extended to buildings and grounds devoted to Christian worship. Our contemporary, therefore, thinks it only proper that the same exemption from taxation should be granted to the places of worship of all religions alike.

* * *

The question of seal fisheries off the islands of Chishima (Kurile Islands) is beginning to engage the attention of the native press. We have already reproduced in these columns what the *Kokkwai* had to say on this subject. We will here refer to an article in the *Hochi Shimbun*. After alluding to the fact that a great quantity of seals is yearly brought away by foreigners from the waters of the Chishima group, our contemporary proceeds to blame the Naval Authorities for not sending to the north a few of the war vessels now lying idle in the ports of the warmer regions of the country. In the present condition of fishermen, the Tokyo journal thinks it impossible to expect the ignorant members of that class to compete successfully with the foreign adventurers who are yearly robbing the products of the national waters. At present the difficult task of guarding the coasts of Chishima against the unlawful intrusion of foreign vessels, is entrusted to a few police constables stationed on board vessels belonging to the Imperial Marine Produce Company. As to the contention that the Naval Department does not undertake the task of protecting the seal fisheries because the northern waters are foggy and full of hidden rocks and may thus cause the loss of war-vessels, our contemporary ridicules such a plea, and observes that the alleged dangers of the northern voyage ought, on the contrary, to be a reason for sending war ships thither, for thus and thus alone can the Navy be expected to become efficient and strong in time of war. Some persons say that the seal fisheries had better be left alone until the completion of the military preparations of the country; but our contemporary cannot approve such a policy. Should foreign intruders be allowed to carry on their depredations unmolested, they may in time claim a right to pursue seals, and difficulties like those now pending between the British and the United States Governments in respect of the Behring Sea fisheries may possibly arise between Japan and foreign countries. Our contemporary, therefore urges upon the Naval authorities the paramount importance of dispatching to the north a few men-of-war.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* as usual pays little attention to the exciting topics of current politics. In its issue of the 12th instant, it published a picture illustrating the present mania for political talk and discussion. A number of stores are represented, over which are respectively inscribed Politics, Commerce, Industry, Science, and Agriculture. "Politics," wearing a silk hat, is drawing all the customers to his own window; "Commerce" scratches his head; "Industry" is crest-fallen; "Science" sleeps with his face on his folded arms by the window; and "Agriculture" is yawning with his hands raised over his head. Our contemporary, as stated in our last summary, is waging a crusade against the social inequalities of the present day, especially the ennoblement of meritorious servants of State. The *Jiji's* ambition is to level down all artificial eminences in society, and make every man equal to his neighbour in every respect. It condemns in strong language the growth of aristocratic tendencies among statesmen who have been at the head of the State for the past twenty years. At the time of the Restoration these men were distinguished by simplicity and moderation, but gradually as they began to feel secure in power, they proceeded to load themselves with honours and rewards until at last they revived the old system of the orders of nobility, and raised themselves to the same height of social status with their former masters of the feudal times. But power and honours are very apt to invite envy and jealousy. So our contemporary, by implication, warns the great men of the day that the gathering clouds of popular opposition against them are partly of their own creation, and recommends them to spare nothing to rectify their errors and become more moderate and unostentatious while they continue in power. Our contemporary even advises them to return the large sums of money which they are believed to have received from the Crown at the time they were ennobled. The *Jiji* has just commenced another series of articles, in which it proposes to discuss the position of the merchant class.

* * *

The *Toyo Shimpo* devotes a series of articles to reviewing the foreign policy of the Muscovite power. The *Hochi Shimbun* writes on the impropriety of indiscriminately using the name of the Emperor in political discussions. The *Mainichi Shimbun* has concluded a series of articles on official salaries, its object being to prove that present salaries are higher than they ought to be. The *Kokumin Shimbun* exhorts Privy Councillors to prove their *raison d'etre* by making an impartial decision on the present constitutional controversy between the Government and the Diet. The *Kokkwai* regrets the defeat of the moderates in the House of Representatives, and rebukes the extremists, whose unconstitutional plan of reduction has given the Government a good pretext to reject all the reductions relating to the expenditures mentioned in the 67th Article of the Constitution. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes on the question of the independence of Representatives. The *Nippon* has brought to a conclusion its long series of articles on the recovery of tariff autonomy, discussing the question from the Japanese merchants' and farmers' points of view. In another article, our contemporary reviews the history of the commercial class during the past twenty years. Hitherto the business of the country has been chiefly in the hands of the so-called "new merchants" (*Shin Shōnin*), composed first of sharpers and adventurers who have made their fortune by trading with foreigners at the open ports, and, secondly, of another set of men of equally despicable character who have enriched themselves by catering to the cupidity and passions of the official class. The time has passed for such merchants, and the *Nippon* advises young beginners in trade to reflect on the changing condition of things and adapt themselves accordingly.

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THE 67TH ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

AMONG all the Articles of the Constitution not one has given rise to anything like as much controversy as the 67th, which runs thus:—"Those already fixed expenditures based by the Constitution upon the powers appertaining to the EMPEROR, and such expenditures as may have arisen by the effect of law, or that appertain to the legal obligations of the Government, shall be neither rejected nor reduced by the Imperial Diet, without the concurrence of the Government." At first the controversy turned upon the significance of the phrase "already fixed expenditures based by the Constitution upon the powers appertaining to the EMPEROR." What did that mean? What expenditures were to be regarded as falling under that category? Critics whose opinions deserved the highest consideration professed to find no difficulty in interpreting the Article. Certain affairs of State, they said, had been expressly reserved by the Constitution to the independent control of the Sovereign, and all outlays required in connection with such affairs must be included in "expenditures based on the exercise of the Imperial Prerogative." But others opposed this view, not, so far as we could discover, because they found it inconsistent with the language of the Article, but because to admit its correctness, would be to reduce to a comparatively small amount the portions of the Budget falling within the control of the Diet. The matter was ultimately set at rest by the issue of an Ordinance defining the exact significance to be attached to the 67th Article for the purpose of compiling the Budget. Even this act on the part of the Government did not escape criticism, several writers claiming that the issue of such an Ordinance was *ultra vires*. The supporters of the Government, on the other hand, pointed out that the step had been taken under Article IX. of the Constitution, which provides that the EMPEROR issues or causes to be issued whatever Ordinances are necessary for the carrying out of the laws. In order to follow the provisions of the 67th Article in the actual compilation of the Budget, some authoritative explanation was absolutely essential, and the Government issued that explanation in an Ordinance, thus obeying the direction of Article IX. This phase of the discussion is, however, no longer before the public. It has been replaced by another question which turns upon a point of procedure. The Constitution, as quoted above, says that certain items in the Budget must not be "reduced or rejected without the Government's concurrence." How is that concurrence to be obtained. Our readers are already familiar with the complicated and tedious steps of the Budget's progress through the Lower House—its lengthy examination by a Special Committee; its subsequent revision, item by item, in a session of inquiry, and finally its debate by the House. Suppose, now, that in the course of this scrutiny, a majority of the House votes for the reduction or rejection of some item which cannot be touched without the Government's concurrence. Is it necessary that, before seeking that concurrence, the Budget must pass through all the prescribed steps of procedure in the Lower House; ascend to the Peers; be subjected by them, perhaps, to fresh alterations; be returned, in that case, to the Lower House; be there debated again in respect of the new amendments; be laid before a conference of the two Houses, in the event of the Peers' alterations not being endorsed by the Commons; be discussed again in the Commons, after adjustment in Conference; and finally pass once more to the Peers? Is all this wearisome procedure necessary before the possibility of obtaining the Government's concurrence can be ascertained?

Such is the question that has been agitating politicians of late. Naturally the Representatives desire to ascertain at the earliest possible moment whether their amendments of reserved items will be sanctioned by the Government. They desire this, not only for the sake of saving themselves needless discussion, but also because the Government's decision in respect of any particular item might materially affect their manner of dealing with the rest. Accordingly, there was introduced into the House on Thursday, by Mr. TSUBOTA SHIGERU, after due notice, a proposition that "with respect to the concurrence of the Government in the matter of expenditures mentioned in the 67th Article of the Constitution, so soon as this House comes to a decision involving such concurrence, steps shall be forthwith taken to seek that concurrence."

Now it appears pretty plain that if the principle involved in this proposition were admitted, the relations between the two Houses, as laid down by the Constitution, would be affected. In fact, the Houses would become to a considerable extent independent, since the one would be entitled to submit its amendments for Government concurrence before the Bill under discussion had reached the other. Thus, in the case of the Budget, the Peers might be asked to debate it after reductions or rejections made by the Commons alone had received or failed to receive Government sanction. But the Peers have theoretically as full a right as the Commons to proceed to the discussion of the Budget in its original form; and the Government, on the other hand, seems bound to consult the opinion of both Houses before endorsing or rejecting the verdicts of either. The language of the 67th Article supports this view. It does not say:—"shall be neither rejected nor reduced *by either House*:" it says:—"shall be neither rejected nor reduced *by the Diet*." In a word, it implies that the view of the whole Diet must be taken before the concurrence of the Government is sought.

Thus we have, on the one side, a strong argument based on the relation between the two Houses and on the apparent signification of the Constitution; on the other an equally strong argument founded on the great practical inconvenience that would result from following the former course. The whole question was debated calmly and exhaustively in the Houses on Thursday. Several prominent members took the view that the relations of the two Houses are not the same for the purposes of the Budget as for the purposes of an Ordinary Bill, since an ordinary Bill may be presented to either House first, whereas the Constitution distinctly provides that the Budget shall be laid before the Lower House first. But this argument failed to convince the majority that the precedence thus given to the Representatives carried with it the right of treating the Budget as though the Peers had no voice in its control. It appeared, too, that the whole question had been debated and decided more than a year previously at a general meeting of the Constitutional Liberals, and on being reminded of this fact, several intending speakers refrained. Thus the debate was brought to an end by 4 o'clock, and a vote being taken, the motion was rejected by a majority of 45 in a House of 231. But immediately after the announcement of the members, Count MATSUKATA, Minister of State for Finance, rose and told the House that, according to the view taken by the Government, the proper course is for each House to seek the Government's concurrence in dealing with the expenditures enumerated in the 67th Article. In other words, the Government's interpretation of the Constitution differs from the interpretation of the House.

We are thus confronted by another strange conjuncture in the early history of Parliamentary institutions in Japan. The House of Representatives has voted that the Constitution is to be interpreted in one way; the Government has decided that it must be interpreted in another. It will occur to some persons, doubtless, that Count MATSUKATA'S declaration might have been made more advantageously at an earlier date, while others will ask why it was made at all after the House's decision. An answer to the former question is to be sought, we imagine, in the Government's reluctance to make its voice heard directly in the debates of the House; while as to the latter, the idea plainly conveyed in the language of the Finance Minister was that the Government considered itself under a moral obligation not to remain silent, lest its silence might be construed as a token of acquiescence in the decision of the House. Without pausing, however, to examine this phase of the incident, we note rather the curious consequences that are likely to result from the

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present situation. The House of Representatives, following the course of procedure indicated by its decision, will doubtless, without any attempt to obtain the Government's concurrence make whatever reductions or rejections seem proper to the majority, and will transmit the Budget in its altered form to the Peers. How will the latter act on receiving it? The view of the Constitution taken by the Lower House is not binding on the Upper. The Peers will have to interpret the 67th Article on their own account, and, assisted by the Government's declaration, they will probably decide to adopt the rendering indicated by Count MATSUKATA. In that event, the duty of seeking the Government's concurrence in respect of reductions or rejections of expenditures coming within the scope of the 67th Article, will devolve upon the Peers, and the Commons will find that by their own action they have divested themselves of the virtually independent functions which they might have assumed in this all-important matter of Supply. Mr. OOKA IKUZO, speaking on Thursday in support of Mr. TSUBOTA'S motion, warned the Representatives that they would have themselves alone to blame for the consequences of rejecting the motion. We see now what he meant. The Lower House may find that it has surrendered to the Upper, no small part of the financial control properly devolving upon the elected representatives of the people.

FACTS v. FICTION.

IF the question of Viscount AOKI'S action in the House of Representatives on the 17th of December simply supplied food for journalistic controversy, we should not think of devoting another inch of space to it. But it presents itself to us in a very different light. The *Japan Gazette* has publicly preferred an accusation of wilful falsehood and double-dealing against the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, and is bound, by the commonest principles of fairness to substantiate its charge or to withdraw it. Eight days ago the charge was made in these emphatic words:—"Viscount AOKI in his speech in the House of Representatives distinctly denied the connection of the Commercial Code with Treaty Revision." During these eight days the *Gazette* has diligently endeavoured to fix the charge, and has claimed that its own action in the matter must be regarded as "persistent truthful representation." Now the simple and straightforward method of settling the question was to refer to the stenographic record of Viscount AOKI'S speech contained in the *Official Gazette*. If the *Japan Gazette* really cared to be just, it would have consulted the record before publishing its original charge. But even though, setting the interests of journalistic dispatch above the dictates of justice, it hastily snapped up a rough statement made by a vernacular journal known to be hostile to the person criticized, surely when the accuracy of that statement was challenged, the *Gazette* should not have hesitated a moment in examining the stenographic record. Will it be believed that up to the present moment our contemporary has apparently not given itself the trouble to take this essential step? Referring to the subject on the 5th instant, in an editorial where it claims to have "amply proved the point in dispute"—*i.e.* to have successfully branded Viscount AOKI as a double-dealing, disloyal man—it makes the astounding admission:—"We do not happen to have the *Kwampo* (*Official Gazette*) containing the report at hand." Anything more wonderfully barefaced than this it would, we think, be extremely difficult to find. There is only one verbatim stenographic report of the Diet's proceedings published in Japan. It appears every morning in the *Official Gazette*. Every other journalistic report is either partial or a précis. This one and only trustworthy report of Viscount AOKI'S speech the *Japan Gazette* "does not happen" to have consulted, all the while it has been founding, on the supposed language of the speech, accusations of duplicity and faithlessness against the man who made the speech.

Not having "happened," then, to see the verbatim report, but being in no wise daunted by that palpable disqualification for discussing the matter of the report, the *Japan Gazette* proceeds to confirm its original misrepresentation by three statements, every one of which is utterly untrue. The statements are; first, that "a commotion was caused in the Diet by the assertion of Viscount AOKI" (as to the Code and Treaty Revision); secondly, that "a visitor, alluding to the Minister's remarks denying the connection of Treaty Revision with the Code, said:—"'*Gi-in wo keibetsu suru-na* (do not treat members with contempt)'"; and thirdly, that "the Diet was certainly of opinion that the connection of the Commercial Code with Treaty Revision had been misrepresented by the Minister, and that a serious attempt to deceive the House had been perpetrated." Every one of these statements, we repeat, is untrue. We will examine them briefly in order. To the first the *Japan Gazette* attaches great importance. It describes the incident as "throwing more light on the impression produced by the Foreign Minister's assertion than anything else that has been published," and it reproves the *Japan Mail* for having failed altogether to notice the circumstance. The *Japan Mail* could not have noticed the circumstance, without inventing it, for it never occurred at all. Not one breath of visible commotion was produced in the House by Viscount AOKI'S statement about the Commercial Code. Not one member, except Mr. SUYEMATSU KENCHO, to whom Viscount AOKI'S remarks were addressed by name—not one other member alluded, either directly or indirectly, to the connection between the Code and Treaty Revision. The stenographic account places this beyond the shadow of a doubt, and we ourselves, having been present with a number of other foreigners in the House, can confirm the correctness of the record from point to point. A commotion did occur in the House at a later period, but it was due to a wholly different cause, as will presently be seen. So much for the incident which, according to the *Japan Gazette* "throws more light on the impression produced by the Foreign Minister's assertion than anything else that has been published," and so much for the charge that the *Japan Mail* failed in its journalistic duty by not publishing an account of the occurrence. We proceed now to the second count:—"A visitor, alluding to the Minister's remarks denying the connection of Treaty Revision with the Code, said 'do not treat members with disrespect.'" Now what actually happened was this. No sooner had Viscount AOKI turned to Mr. SUYEMATSU and begun to address him by name with reference to his speech in the House the preceding day, than Mr. ABEI, sprang to his feet, and protested that the Minister had no right to address a member by name. The President called Mr. ABEI to order, but the latter remained standing, and when Viscount AOKI had finished his sentence in regard to the Code, Mr. ABEI again loudly repeated his protest against a Minister of State's naming a member. Again, and this time more sternly, the President warned Mr. ABE to keep order, whereupon a voice from the gallery called out:—"Don't treat a member with disrespect." Mr. SUYEMATSU SABURO then called upon the President to have the strangers' gallery cleared, and the President sent officials to remove the offending visitor. This is the incident which the *Japan Gazette* endeavours to twist into a proof that even the visitors in the gallery regarded Viscount AOKI'S statement about the Code as a gross attempt to deceive the House, and therefore as an insult. A protest on a point of order is perverted into a denial of the truth of a statement. We come finally to the third false assertion, namely, "the Diet was certainly of opinion that the connection of the Commercial Code with Treaty Revision had been misrepresented by the Minister, and a serious attempt to deceive the House had been made." This statement is apparently based upon the fact that the House fell into a state of commotion. Now it is quite true that the House fell into a state of commotion; but the cause of the commotion had not the remotest connection with Viscount AOKI'S remarks about the Code. At the conclusion of the Minister's speech Mr. ARAI SHOGO, in whose name the original queries that led to the Minister's speech had been forwarded, asked some supplementary questions, and Viscount AOKI, having answered those as fully as he

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considered expedient, withdrew. But other members had also desired to question him, and when his absence was discovered, various protests were uttered, with the final result that the House grew very excited, and passed a vote directing the President to apply for the Minister's attendance the next day. From the time that Viscount AOKI left the rostrum until the time when the House rose, not one syllable was uttered by a member referring, directly or indirectly, to the question of the Codes and Treaty Revision. That part of the affair had evidently passed entirely out of the recollection of the House, and the only thing present in the members' minds was that the Minister had taken his departure without waiting to hear whether any further questions would be addressed to him. The incident is among the most remarkable and best remembered in the annals of the first Japanese Diet, for it led to an excited discussion the following day, and its sequel established an important point of parliamentary procedure. In support of the *Japan Gazette's* assertion that "the Diet was certainly of opinion that the connection of the Commercial Code with Treaty Revision had been misrepresented by the Minister, and that a serious attempt to deceive the House had been perpetrated," there is not one title of evidence. Can anything be more reckless than to advance such an assertion in the face of the fact that, Mr. SUYEMATSU'S brief rejoinder excepted, not one solitary allusion, of however trivial a character, was made by any member of the House to the question of the Code and Revision, and in the face of the further fact that the House's subsequent excitement was caused entirely by the Minister's unlooked for withdrawal. Now, there is not the least use in the *Japan Gazette's* seeking to confuse the issue by charging us with bias, journalistic artfulness, an attempt to trip it up on minor issues, or a desire to conceal the truth. We have taken, one by one, the points upon which it avowedly bases its slander, and we have shown that every one of those points is false. Neither is there the least use in pretending that we have ever denied the influence exercised by Treaty Revision upon the process of compiling the Codes. Our unequivocal statement is on record that the work of compilation was undoubtedly expedited in the interests of Treaty Revision. The whole thing is narrowed to this:—that the *Japan Gazette* has preferred public charges of deceit and disloyalty against the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; that it has endeavoured to confirm its charges by repeated arguments; that by its own confession, while continuing to assert the truth of its charges, it has not, to this day, taken the trouble to read the only existing verbatim record of the speech upon which it founds its accusations; and that, in support of those accusations, it has now published an utterly perverted and false description of the doings in the House of Representatives; a description the absurdity of which the editor of the *Gazette* would detect at once did he refer to the verbatim report. Our readers will readily believe that it wearies us just as much to write all this as it must weary them to read it. But there is no resource. Having once touched the subject, we cannot, in the face of the *Gazette's* repeated asseverations, lay it down without seeming to acquiesce in one of the most unwarranted slanders ever published by a responsible newspaper. Let us not be told what Mr. This has since asserted; where Mr. That received his education; or how high are the claims of Mr. the Other to be believed in preference to a pro-official organ. Such pleas are mere subterfuges. The facts are before the public, and to the facts let the author of the slander confine himself.

THE "HYOGO NEWS" AND YOKOHAMA JOURNALS.

WE have failed, apparently, to make our meaning clear to the *Hyogo News*. Referring to its just and in the main accurate strictures on the style of Yokohama journalism, we advanced some considerations, not by any means intended to excuse that style, but sufficient, on the whole, to account for the fact that newspapers in this Settlement do not follow the wholesome example of their home contemporaries by letting each other severely alone. We did not discuss the question of invective and abuse, the importation of which into journalistic controversy we condemn as heartily as our southern contemporary condemns it. Our point was simply this—that misstatements circulated among a small audience have a peculiar capacity for mischief because they do not fall into that ample sieve of public opinion by which, in England or America for example, all assertions and theories are thoroughly winnowed, and the chaff is in the end effectually separated from the grain. Here the winnowing process takes place on a very limited scale only. There is a marked willingness to accept, without scrutiny, any criticisms unfavourable to the Japanese. It is natural that such should be the case, for a considerable section of the community, being reluctant to admit Japan's fitness to exercise jurisdiction over foreigners, gives ready credence to assertions or arguments helping to confirm its distrust and justify its conservatism. A writer who adapts himself to this tendency can confidently count on a favourable hearing, and has also the great advantage of knowing that his readers will be ready to believe him because they wish to do so. Under these circumstances it becomes a serious consideration whether a journalist can afford to take no notice of the contents of his local contemporaries' columns, and whether he does not himself become guilty of vicarious misrepresentation if he fails to correct statements which he deems erroneous or misleading. Local public opinion, in many cases, has no material to correct such statements, and, on the whole, is disposed to be hostilely credulous where Japan is at the bar of judgment. To attempt correction, however, is to challenge controversy, and, as the *Hyogo News* truly says, journalistic controversy in Yokohama never fails to offer a miserable spectacle of bickering and bitterness. The radical way to avert such discreditable exhibitions would be a policy of absolute mutual indifference on the part of the local newspapers. But for the reasons advanced here and in a previous issue, such a policy cannot be adopted without prejudice to the cause of truth. That difficulty, and that difficulty only, we sought to explain when writing recently on the subject. Certainly it never entered our conception to extenuate the practice of "jumbling together scraps of reasoning with opprobrious personal epithets." Neither can we think that we ourselves have ever descended to such a practice. Our rule, observed with all the consistency at our command, is to take no notice whatever of abuse levelled at ourselves or attacks directed again us personally, but only to discuss arguments, statements, and contentions of public interest. A complaint was advanced against us recently, with evident sincerity and a considerable show of feeling, that our style is "haughty" and that our language often implies an assumption of superiority which we are not entitled to claim. To be arraigned on such a charge seems a novel journalistic experience, but since criticism of style is based upon individual opinion, we do not think of disputing the accusation. Invective, personal abuse, and Eatenswill vituperation are horses of another colour, however, and it has long been a subject of surprised comment that Yokohama should patiently endure a perpetual parade of such sorry steeds. Still stranger is the distorted reasoning which underlies the creed implied, if not actually expressed, in many of the local journalistic utterances, the creed that courage of speech and independence of opinion can only be demonstrated by hostile criticism of the administration, legislature, judiciary, morality, and general ability of the Japanese. It is not easy to see how any proof of intrepidity or independence is furnished by carrying on a campaign against an opponent who cannot strike back; by trimming one's sails to the general set of the more demonstrative section of local public opinion, and by uttering loud condemnation where not even a shadow of inconvenient retort is possible. The courage of the preacher whose pulpit protects him against contradiction, is of a far higher quality, in our opinion, than the courage of men who, under the ægis of a system guaranteeing absolute immunity

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from the usual consequences of evil-speaking, give free exercise to that least intelligent and most forcible of all faculties, the faculty of traduction. Simply by the force of fierce and importunate enunciation, some credit has been secured in this Settlement for the singular doctrine that the independent and intrepid writer is he who adroitly caters to local prejudice and loudly leads the chorus of uncontradicted criticism. Fallacies of that kind may flourish for a time, but will surely fall sooner or later. Reason, not to speak of any finer sentiment, must one day condemn a state of affairs which requires that any writer desiring to be popular should set out by attacking the institutions and rulers of the country, and which permits that while exercising this license under the immunity attaching to a specially privileged guest, he should at the same time claim to be honoured for courage and independence.

THE LAND-TAX AND PUBLIC OPINION.

ANY observant reader of the vernacular press for the last few weeks must have noticed that a gradual and steady change is taking place in public opinion on the question of the land-tax. Until lately it appeared that the whole country was in favour of reducing the tax, but the independent section of the community—the section not associated with professional politicians—is beginning to make its voice heard. Instead of a chorus of approval, we are now invited to consider the fallacious nature of the arguments employed by politicians who, in order to curry favour with the masses, bring forward the question of fiscal reform in a popular and attractive manner. The practical and outspoken editor of the *Jiji Shimpo*, Mr. FUKUZAWA, at present the autocrat of the journalistic world, was one of the first to ventilate an opinion long entertained by the major part of the independent public. His voice soon found an echo in periodicals of such high standing as the *Keizai Zasshi* and the *Koku-Hon*. Mr. SAKATANI YOSHIRO, of the Department of Finance, a well-known writer on financial subjects, also discussed the question in an elaborate paper published in the journal of the *Kokka Gaku-kwai*. He explained, as we noticed in a former issue, that the land-tax in Japan partakes chiefly of the nature of rent, and that, thus regarded, the present rate is very moderate. More lately an able refutation of the fallacies of the popular creed on this subject appeared in the columns of the *Kokkwai*, from the pen of Mr. KON SOTOSABURO, one of the proprietors and regular contributors of the *Nippon-jin*. But the most elaborate, and in many respects the most interesting, essay appeared in a recent number of the journal of the Japan Agricultural Society. The writer is Mr. SAWANO JUN, of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, one of the most distinguished graduates of the former Komaba Agricultural College. At the outset, he alludes to the explanatory document accompanying the Land Tax Amendment Bill, lately introduced in the House of Representatives by one of the members. In that document much stress is laid upon the expediency of maintaining a just proportion between the different kinds of taxes, and on the necessity of lessening the burdens of the agricultural population. On what ground, Mr. SAWANO asks, does the framer of the Bill base his estimate about the present rate of the land-tax? From the explanatory document, it would seem that the introducer of the Bill considers the present rate unbearably high, simply because he observes much distress among the rural population. Now the fact is that this much talked of distress is principally found in the section of the agricultural population having little or no concern with the land-tax; namely, the section consisting, either wholly or in major part, of tenants cultivating other people's land. The agricultural proprietors, who alone are affected by the incidence of land taxation, are doing very well, the majority of them being able to increase the acreage of their farms year by year. This simple consideration suffices to show the mistake of supposing that the alleged distress among the peasantry is caused by the burden of the tax on land. Some people, Mr. SAWANO observes, think the present rate of the land-tax high, because it is 2½ per cent. of the assessed value of the land (*chi-ka*). But the *chi-ka* is a quantity quite distinct from the real market value of a given estate, and cannot be taken as a standard for judging the heaviness or lightness of the land-tax. Another set of people argue that the present rate is excessive because it is higher per *tan* than the impost in other countries. To such people Mr. SAWANO replies that a *tan* of Japanese soil, under the present system of cultivation, is equal, in respect of producing capacity, to several *tan* of land in other countries. To substantiate his assertion, he adduces the following table, showing the average area of land under cultivation per head of the agricultural population in various countries:—

COUNTRY.	AVERAGE AREA OF LAND PER FARMER. Cho (2½ acres.)
Germany	1.953
France	2.275
Italy	1.233
England	9.714
Austria	1.239
Belgium	1.595
Japan	0.196

From these figures he argues that European farmers have to cultivate for their sustenance about fifteen-fold as many acres of land as their Japanese *confrères*, and that, consequently, it is only proper that the Japanese farmers should pay a larger tax than European farmers on a given area of land. As to this point, however, many who in the main are of the same opinion as the writer of the essay will be inclined to question the validity of his conclusion. Our present purpose, however, is to reproduce his views without any attempt to criticize them. There is yet, he goes on to say, another class of writers who consider the present rate of impost excessive because the proportion which the land-tax bears to taxes of other descriptions is very much greater in Japan than the corresponding proportion in European countries. Such an argument reveals ignorance of the essential difference in the economic condition of Japan and that of Western States. That the land-tax should be the most considerable source of national revenue in Japan is only natural, because in this country agriculture forms the principal occupation of the people. But the result of the recent growth of other kinds of industry is already visible in a gradual decrease of the land-tax. In 1879 the land-tax formed more than 67 per cent. of the whole revenue, but the percentage was reduced in 1887 to about 47. From what has thus far been said, Mr. SAWANO concludes that the land-tax is not unreasonably heavy in Japan. He then passes on to consider the general question of distress among the farming class. The cause of distress among the lower class of the rural population is assigned to the growth of luxurious habits since the Restoration; in other words, the expenditure of the peasants is not warranted by their income. And this, too, dispute the fact that their income has considerably increased, because, in the first place, improved methods of cultivation have augmented production, and, in the second, public burdens have repeatedly been lightened during the present era, as may be seen from the following figures:—

	LAND TAX.	
Year.	Per Tan (⅛ acre) Rice-fields (average quality.) Yen.	Per Tan. Upland Farms. (average quality.) Yen.
1868	5.491	2.425
1872	2.620	1.109
1876	1.178	1.009
1877	1.625	0.882
1882	1.755	0.736
1888	1.678	0.704

N.B.—The figures for 1868 and 1872 are based on the then current price of rice.

From another table showing the comparative amount of land-tax (including local rates) paid by a middle-class farmer in Yosha Gun, in the Province of Tango, it is shown that an agriculturist who paid land-tax and local rates aggregating about 161 *yen* in 1868, paid only about 33 *yen* in 1889. Still another table demonstrates that a farmer possessing 5 *tan* of land in Arima Gun, in the Prefecture of Hyogo, paid the following taxes in different years:—25 *yen* 25 *sen* in 1868; 15 *yen* 66 *sen* in 1872; 14 *yen* 43 *sen* in 1877; 15 *yen* 64 *sen* in 1882; and 14 *yen* 83 *sen* in 1887. While thus the public burdens of the farmers have been gradually decreased, and while their land has increased in productive capacity

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their expenditure has grown out of all proportion to the growth of their income. Hence it has come to pass that land held by improvident farmers is rapidly passing into the hands of their more frugal neighbours. According to the census of March, 1888, the number of farmers paying annually 5 *yen* and upwards in the form of the land-tax was 1,825,027; and the number of those paying 10 *yen* and upwards, 863,041. But in December, 1889, the corresponding figures were 1,602,249 and 884,754; that is to say, a decrease of 202,078 on the side of farmers paying 5 *yen* and upwards, and an increase of 21,713 in the total of those paying 10 *yen* and upwards. Mr. SAWANO concludes by examining the consequences likely to ensue to individual farmers from the proposed reduction of ½ per cent. in the present rate of the land-tax. According to agricultural reports from Tokyo and twenty-four other localities for the year 1888, the agricultural population may be classified as follows:—

	Those possessing 10 *cho* and upwards (1 *cho*=2½ acres.)	Those possessing less than 10 *cho*.	Those possessing less than 3 *cho*.
Number of Families	22,486	304,004	1,219,579
Percentage.....	1½	19½	79

From this table it is plain that 15 farmers in every thousand would be benefited to the extent of 15 *yen* 73 *sen* annually, were a reduction of ½ per cent. made in the land-tax—assuming that a man holding 10 *cho* of land is at present paying land-tax to the amount of 78 *yen* 65 *sen*. On the other hand, 790 in every thousand—the men farming less than 2 *cho*—would be benefited only to the extent of 3 *yen* 14 *sen* at the utmost. According to other statistics furnished by the Department of Home Affairs, 75 out of every 100 farmers paying land-tax would only be benefited to the extent of about 1 *yen* annually, if the present rate were reduced by ½ per cent. Thus the vast majority of farmers would not derive any appreciable advantage from the proposed reduction. The substantial gains would fall to the share of the wealthy minority. Again, in the case of tenant farmers, the reduction would have no effect on the rents paid to landlords. For with the decrease of the tax, land would proportionately rise in price, and proprietors would naturally expect to receive the same rate of interest as before on the selling value of their properties. Thus the proposed reduction in the land-tax could do little or nothing towards alleviating distress among the peasantry. Mr. SAWANO recommends in preference the adoption of some measures calculated to increase production; as for instance, the introduction of a thorough system of drainage, the construction of good roads, and so forth.

It is very plain, if we are to accept statistics like the above and other gradually accumulating evidence, that the reduction of the land-tax, so vehemently advocated by political parties, is a measure dictated by sentiment rather than by practical reasoning. Yet for the sake of accomplishing this reduction, the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives has recommended such sweeping changes in the estimates that ■ conflict between the Diet and the Government seems inevitable, unless the former abates its pretensions.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—FEBRUARY 9TH, 1891.

The House met at 10.55 a.m. under the presidency of Prince Konoye. The business before the House was the third reading of the Registration Bill. Messrs. Obata Hoshiine and Murata Tamotsu opposed the third reading on the ground that certain portions of the Bill conflicted with the provisions of the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure. The debate was continued by several members. Mr. Kioka opposed the Bill on the ground that it was not up to the standard of the rest of the Government's legislation. Mr. Miura Yasu spoke at length and with force in reply to the various objections. He pointed out that the members who wished to have the provision as to Registration promulgated the in form of an Ordinance instead of being enacted as a law, might have had some reason on their side before the Constitution came into force, but were now entirely behind the time, since the respective provinces of Laws and Ordinances had been distinctly defined by the Constitution. Mr. Ando opposed the Bill, first because it contemplated cases of legal actions between parents and children, a notion entirely opposed to the moral code hitherto observed in Japan; and secondly because of the expense involved in carrying out its provisions. Marquis Hachisuka expressed astonishment at the opposition offered to the Bill at this stage. Every one of the points made by its present opponents had either been dealt with at the previous readings, or should have been advanced then if advanced at all. The third reading was finally put to the House and carried at 4.10 p.m.

FEBRUARY 10TH.

The House assembled at 10.45 a.m. under the presidency of Prince Konoye, and proceeded to consider a proposal by Mr. Hayashi Soyemon to amend the 116th clause of the Regulations of the House, in the sense of enabling persons who could not sign their names to become parties to memorials by merely affixing their seals. Mr. Miura Yasu supported the motion. He explained that since December the 6th the Memorials Committee had received 142 memorials, and out of 52 already examined, 19 had been rejected because the signatures attached to them were written in the same hand. It was essential to provide some means of legal signature for people not competent to write their own names. He suggested, however, that a change of phraseology be made in the draft of the proposal. Mr. Hayashi expressed his willingness to make the change suggested, but a discussion arose as to whether this was possible. The President ruled that Mr. Miura's proposal must be treated separately as an amendment of Mr. Hayashi's. After ■ long discussion, Baron Senge moved that Mr. Hayashi's proposal should be left to the Committee to deal with, but this motion was lost, as were the amendment of Mr. Miura and the original motion. Mr. Ozawa Takeo then proposed that a Conference Committee of nine be appointed to confer with the House of Representatives in the event of the latter's introducing any amendments into the Weights and Measures Bill. The motion was passed, and the House decided that the selection of the Committee be left to the President.

FEBRUARY 12TH.

THE House met at 11.15 a.m. under the presidency of Prince Konoye. The President announced that the following had been chosen to form a committee for conferring with the House of Representatives:—

Viscount Kano Hisanobu	Mr. Ito Miyoji.
Mr. Miura Yasu.	Mr. Hozumi Chincho.
Baron Ozawa Takeo.	Mr. Watanabe Jinkichi.
Mr. Ozaki Saburo.	Mr. Takeguchi Kichiro.
Mr. Watari Masamoto.	

The decision of the Qualifications Committee with respect to a petition from Wakayama Prefecture criticising the election of Mr. Mayeda Kensuke, was read. The decision was in Mr. Mayeda's favour. Mr. Murata Tamotsu contended that the petition having been sent up in the name of one person, should have been at once rejected, as not offering sufficient grounds for an inquiry. Mr. Kato Hiroyuki objected to the principle of the decision, and entered into a discussion of the difference between moral and legal codes, and the effect of this difference on methods of voting. A long debate ensued. Finally the closure was voted, and the House, by ballot, cast 58 votes for and 67 against the decision of the Qualifications Committee, so far as concerned the manner of voting endorsed by it. Further debate on the subject was postponed until the next day. The House rose at4.15 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—FEBRUARY 6.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. A desultory discussion as to certain motions not yet in the hands of the members, ended by the House proceeding to debate a motion by Mr. Takei Itei, that in discussing the Budget, decisions need not be taken on each item but only on the totals for each Department. Mr. Takei explained that the object of his proposal was to expedite the business before the House. There were 482 items in the Budget, and if each were taken separately, the delay would be great. The motion was put and lost. A motion by Mr. Taketomi that ■ Bureau of a Department should be taken as the unit of discussion, was then immediately put and passed. This led to loud remonstrances. The two motions had been before the House simultaneously, and the opponents of the second motion claimed that no opportunity of discussing it fully had been given. The commotion grew so great that the President announced a recess (11.55 a.m.). The House re-assembled at 1.10 p.m. Mr. Hayama Chiuzayemon asked how the House intended to proceed in the event of the Budget Committee's Report being adopted, seeing that the Report dealt with expenditures falling within the scope of the 67th Article of the Constitution. Mr. Ayai Takeo complained again of the action taken by the President with regard to the motion of Mr. Taketomi. The House had been taken entirely by surprise. The usual course would have been to decide first whether urgency should be granted or not, and then to debate the motion. He proposed that another vote be taken. The point was put to the House, and lost. Mr. Otsu Junichiro asked the Government Delegates to inform the House, before the debate on the Budget opened, which items fell within the scope of Article 67th of the Constitution. Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu made an eloquent speech protesting against the arbitrary manner in which the majority was attempting to deal with the Budget. The changes recommended by the Committee could not be legally made without following certain prescribed steps, of which no notice was apparently to be taken. He thought that the majority was about to rush into a fight without properly marshalling its own forces or reconnoitering the position of the enemy. To employ the Budget as a weapon for attacking the Government, they had to obtain the cooperation of the Upper House, and upon that they could not count. He proposed that before proceeding to discuss the Budget, the whole question of the legality of the course recommended by the Committee be fully debated. After some questions, the President asked the House to decide whether urgency be granted to the motion. The House decided in the negative. The debate on the Budget then commenced, the Foreign Office being taken first. The President announced that the second and third readings should be dispensed with, to which Mr. Tachiiri took exception. Mr. Watanabe, Government Delegate, replying to the question put by Mr. Otsu, said that, in order to find what items fell within the scope of the 67th Article of the Con-

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stitution, the easiest course was to consult the Finance Law now in the hands of the members. Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi, referring to amendments proposed by Mr. Suge Ryoho, inquired by what authority he proposed to reduce the appropriation (31,100 *yen*) for foreign employés of the Foreign Office by 7,859 *yen*. The employés were engaged under fixed agreement, and though a vacancy had occurred at the Legation in Berlin and one at the Legation in Holland, these would have to be filled. He also inquired whether the Secret Service Fund (38,000 *yen*) of the Legations and Consulates abroad could be cut down as Mr. Suge proposed without disturbing agreements. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, as a supporter of Mr. Suge's proposals, said that they knew nothing about the uses of the Secret Service money, but they considered it right to reduce it. Mr. Hayama Chiuzayemon pressed the Budget Committee to say how far they had obeyed party considerations in their proposed reductions. Mr. Ishida, on behalf of the Committee, said that an opportunity for discussing this would occur later on. Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro inquired whether the reductions involving administrative changes were based on any precedents furnished by foreign countries, or on any scientific principle, or merely on the idea of the Committee. Mr. Ishida said that they were permitted by the Constitution. Mr. Takanashi asked by what article of the Constitution. Mr. Ishida replied, by the 64th. In reply to another member, he said that administrative changes could only be made by exercise of the Imperial prerogative, and that the Committee had dealt with questions of finance alone, but he failed to explain why the Committee, in its explanatory notes, had denied that its recommendations would interfere with the administrative organization. Mr. Arai Shogo urged the President to forbid any further questions. The House had sat in Committee during many days for the purpose of putting questions, and to continue the process now was only to waste time. Mr. Sasaki Zenyemon agreed with the principle of Mr. Arai's protest, but said that the errors of the Budget Committee must be held responsible for the delay. Mr. Shiota Ozuko, speaking from the rostrum, supported the Budget Committee's report. He said that the country, having long been governed by an oligarchy, suffered severely from the evils incidental to that system, and was now in the throes of eliminating them. Constitutional institutions had at last been established, and it was for the House to see that they became practical realities. Favouritism was at the root of the heavy expenditure of the nation. Offices were created for men, and one office led to the creation of another. Unless some drastic measures were adopted, the prosperity of the country could not be secured. The theory that some of the reductions recommended by the Committee trenched upon expenditures enumerated in the 67th article of the Constitution, was untenable. The Minister of State for Finance had told them that the Government could not consent to the Committee's Report. Such a discourteous declaration was probably to be regarded as emanating from that one Minister only. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro opposed the Report. He yielded to no one in his desire to reduce the burdens of the people, but he could not possibly agree to pursue that aim by illegal methods. The first objection to the Report was that the time fixed by law for the examination of the Budget by the Committee had been exceeded by 7 days. The second objection was that numerous mistakes of calculation occurred in the Report, some of which he pointed out. The third objection was that the recommendations contained in the Report involved an interference by the Legislature in Administrative affairs. In the converse case —administrative interference with the Legislature —the House would certainly be found in opposition. (Here the speaker was interrupted by shuffling of feet and cries of "We don't want to be lectured." The President warned Mr. Inouye to confine himself to the part of the Budget then before the House). Fourthly the Report was in conflict with the law. That the Diet, which made the laws, should also break them, was as though a publican should preach teetotalism, or an opponent of licensed prostitution build a brothel. Fifthly, the Report was contrary to Imperial Ordinances, and sixthly it could not be carried into practice. In deference to the President's ruling, he refrained from dwelling on these points and passed at once to the Foreign Office Section. Referring to the reductions recommended in salaries and travelling allowances, he showed that these expenditure could not be touched without encroaching upon the Sovereign's prerogatives. There were duly prescribed methods of bringing about such reforms. He then showed that the Committee had apparently adopted a regular general rule in cutting down the number of officials, as though special considerations need have no weight in such matters. The amount of the total reduction recommended also seemed excessive. In the 19th year of *Meiji* the salaries of Foreign Office officials had amounted to nearly double of the sum appearing under the same heading in the Committee's Report, although great efforts were made in the former year to get rid of all superfluous officials. There could be no doubt that the functions of the Foreign Office had increased during the past five years, yet it was now proposed to cut down its allowance for salaries by 100 per cent. At this point Mr. Suzuki Shoji enquired how much longer, Mr. Inouye's speech was likely to last. Mr. Inouye replied about four hours. The President said that, in that case, the House had better rise for the day (4.20 p.m.).

FEBRUARY 7TH.

The House met at 10.45 a.m. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro was about to continue his address when several members attempted to have him ruled out of order, Mr. Arai Shogo leading this attempt. The point made by these members was that several schemes of revision were before the House, and the speaker had not indicated which of them he supported. Mr. Inouye said that he spoke in opposition to the Committee's Report. Objections were still raised, and a member charged the President with allowing the time of the House to be wasted. The President warmly replied that the members themselves were responsible for whatever waste of time occurred, and ruled that Mr. Inouye should continue his speech. Mr. Tanaka Shozo objected to this ruling as improper. The President asked Mr. Tanaka whether he should appeal to the House to decide between them, to which Mr. Tanaka made no reply. Mr. Inouye then continued his speech. He explained, at the outset, that he approved of Mr. Sasada's scheme of amendment, but if that scheme were thrown out, he should support Mr. Suge's, and failing the last, he should vote for the Budget as submitted by the Government. He then proceeded to examine the items of the Committee's Report relating to the Foreign Office. The recommendation to reduce the salaries and ranks of Ministers Plenipotentiary, he declared to be a violation of the Imperial Prerogative, and opposed to the interests of the country in view of Treaty Revision negotiations. The same objections applied to the reduction of Consuls, nor could he understand why the Consulate at Canton alone was dealt with if the Committee had proceeded on any intelligible principle. He remembered that before Count Okuma came into office as Minister of Foreign Affairs, the *Hochi Shimbun* had advocated a reduction in the number of Ministers Plenipotentiary. The public had fully expected this recommendation of the Progressionists' organ to be carried into practice by Count Okuma, but, on the contrary, that statesman had declared such a course injurious to the national dignity and to the cause of Treaty Revision. Doubtless Count Okuma was wrong, and the Budget Committee were right. If they wanted the number of Consuls reduced, there were regularly prescribed means of approaching the Government with that object. The Committee proposed to make the appropriation for Legations and Consulates sixty thousand *yen* less than it had been in 1886. Were such measures consistent with the successful conduct of Treaty Revision negotiations, and the recovery of the nation's tariff autonomy? How, again, did they propose to cut down the Legation allowances so suddenly? Did they think it would conduce to the national credit if the Japanese Minister in Paris were driven to begging his bread in the streets? For these reasons he supported Mr. Sasada's amendments, because they reduced the appropriation for the Foreign Office by a comparatively small amount. He also argued strongly against cutting off the allowance for students in foreign countries, and against the reductions made in respect of Repairs to Buildings, Travelling Expenses, and Office Expenses. With regard to the last item, the Budget Committee recommended a reduction amounting to *229 yen* per head of the Foreign Office officials, whereas Mr. Sasada's amendments only amounted to *177 yen*. He pointed out instances where the Committee had failed to recommend necessary economies, and he condemned the whole report as a disorderly and arbitrary scheme, not guided by any sound principle and not showing any obedience to proportion. His earnest wish was to effect such economies as would justify a reduction of the land-tax by however small an amount, but he could not, even for that purpose, be a party to methods which would interfere with the smooth practice of constitutional institutions and injure the reputation of the first Japanese Diet. He concluded with an eloquent appeal to the House to show itself capable of dealing worthily with an occasion so important. Mr. Shiota said certain words used by Mr. Inouye suggested that he held a brief for the Government; was that so? Mr. Inouye thanked him for the remark, and suggested that he should adopt some more creditable line of opposition. Mr. Koma Shiku supported the Committee's Report. He said that to answer all the arguments advanced by Mr. Inouye in a three hours' speech would require a six hours' reply. Speaking briefly, however, the gist of Mr. Inouye's contention had been that in certain items the Committee sought to reduce the appropriations to figures below those of 1886, whereas, and in view of the increased and increasing functions of the Administation, such a course was plainly impossible; and that the method of making these reductions interfered with the Imperial Prerogatives, and with the Organization of the Administration. As to the contention that no ratio was preserved in the manner of dealing with the various items of the Budget, he failed to understand it, seeing that no necessity for applying a hard-and-fast ratio existed. Mr. Inouye, in taking the Budget for 1886 as a standard of comparison, implied that no superfluous expenditures had been made in that year, but with such a hypothesis it was impossible to agree. He had also expressed his approval of schemes which adopted a fixed co-efficient of reduction, and applied it to every Department, as though circumstances did not alter cases in respect of finance as well as of everything else. Moreover, in point of fact the Committee's Report showed considerable uniformity of procedure, for, with the exception of the Army, Navy, and Communications Departments, to which special considerations applied, the reductions averaged forty thousand *yen*, more or less, for each Department. Proceeding to consider the various measures before the House, he dispensed with any discussion of the Budget itself, assuming that not more than two or three members in the whole House approved of it. As to Mr. Suge's scheme, however, it might suffice to point out that while it left the salaries of *Shinnin* and *Chokunin* officials virtually untouched, it recommended sweeping reductions in the salaries of *Sonin* and *Hannin* officials. In this respect and in many others, its proposals were distinctly opposed to public opinion. Passing on to Mr. Sasada's scheme, he showed that it reduced the appropriation for Building Repairs by 50 per cent., those for Office Expenses by 30 per cent., and those for Travelling Expenses by 40 per cent., while its method of dealing with salaries resembled that of Mr. Suge's scheme. In a word, the author of the scheme had applied himself to lopping off a few leaves and twigs, leaving the main trunk untouched. He denied altogether that the re-

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ductions recommended by the Committee could be censured as interfering with the administration. Reforms of the administration might result from such reductions, but to claim that the House must not touch the appropriations for that reason, was to divest themselves deliberately of the power delegated to them. Even the Provincial Assemblies, in which powers much inferior to those of the Diet were vested, did not hesitate to debate administrative reforms. The reductions of salary advocated by the Committee could not possibly be regarded as interfering with administrative functions: they merely meant that the discharge of such functions should be less highly remunerated. Mr. Sasada Tsutomu offered a brief explanation of certain points in his scheme which seemed to be misunderstood by the House. The gist of his remarks was that he differed from the Committee's Report only in respect of items which trenched on the Imperial Prerogatives or the Administration's organization. His scheme recommended a reduction in the Secret Service Fund for the Foreign Office because he did not believe that secret covenants made by the Government were inviolable. He insisted that, if his scheme were adopted, the much desired reduction of the land-tax by one-half per cent. would be quite possible. Mr. Ayai Takeo opposed the Committee's Report. His arguments chiefly turned on the unconstitutional and illegal character of the reductions recommended by the Committee. Mr. Minoura Katsu said that, in this vital matter of finance, it was to be earnestly hoped that the Cabinet Ministers would be governed by public opinion, and would not refuse to endorse the decision of the House merely because some insignificant administrative reforms were involved. The Minister of Finance had told them that the Government could not agree to the Committee's Report, but he trusted that that statement was not final, and that the Cabinet would re-consider it. He then proceeded to advocate the adoption of the Committee's Report. All were agreed as to the necessity of economy; the difference of opinion only related to methods. But for his part, it seemed to him that the alternative schemes submitted to the House were calculated to interfere with administrative efficiency more than the Committee's scheme. He contended that since legislative power was vested in the Diet its capacity to effect reforms of administrative organization could not be questioned. As to the contention that the progress of Treaty Revision negotiations might be impeded by reducing the number of Ministers Plenipotentiary, he claimed that a reduction of numbers did not by any means involve a diminution of total efficiency. Some persons condemned the idea of applying to the Foreign Office appropriation a larger reduction, in proportion, than to the appropriations for other Departments, but it should be remembered that the principle observed with respect to domestic affairs need not be observed with respect to foreign. Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro inquired whether it was maintained that the necessary administrative changes should be effected as a direct consequence of the reductions in the Budget, or whether it was proposed to petition the Throne on the subject. Mr. Minoura Katsu replied that, in his opinion, the changes should follow as a direct result of the reductions, but that, for his part, he thought it advisable to petition the Throne, according to the duly prescribed course. Mr. Okada Ryoichiro asked how it would be possible first to vote reductions of the Budget, and afterwards to prepare and present recommendations for the administrative changes involved in such reductions. Mr. Minoura saw no difficulty. Mr. Watanabe Osamu supported Mr. Suge's scheme of amendment. The House rose at 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9TH.

The House met at 10.35 a.m. The President announced that a question had been handed in by Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro, to be forwarded to the Government, with respect to the subsidy to the Tea Company and the future policy of the Government in respect of such subsidies; also, a series of questions from Mr. Inouye Kakugoro relating to Korean affairs. Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi supported the Budget Committee's Report. He contended that, by throwing out the motion proposed by Mr. Nishi, the House had long ago pronounced its opinion as to the legality of the reductions recommended by the committee. To debate that point again would be to slay the slain. He therefore addressed himself to special items. Some members claimed that the Commercial Bureau in the Foreign Office ought to be amalgamated with that in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, but he pointed out that the functions of the two Bureaux were sufficiently different to justify their independent existence, as recommended by the Committee's Report. With regard to the criticism that the empire's relations with foreign States might be affected by reducing the number of Ministers Plenipotentiary, he reminded the House that the real purpose of the Committee's recommendation was to combine in the person of one Minister the duties of several posts. The business of Treaty Revision was entrusted to special Plenipotentiaries, and could not possibly suffer by any reduction in the number of Ministers abroad. Besides, although the fixed number of such Ministers was six, it very seldom happened that so many were serving at the same time. The actual number now was only five. The Committee had not interfered with the Legation in Holland, because it had existed for so many years, and because of the intimacy of Japan's relations with that State in ancient times; but no such argument applied to the Legations in Belgium and Switzerland, which might very well be dispensed with. He then dwelt at some length on features of the Budget which seemed open to criticism. He asserted that the Minister-President of State took no active interest in financial questions, and that although the Minister of Finance was undoubtedly very skilled in that branch of administration, it was a fact proved by history that every Minister hitherto appointed had increased the public expenditure. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo said that there were five schemes before the House for amending the Budget, the Committee's Report advocating the largest reductions, and the scheme of Mr. Suge the smallest. But the Committee's Report, being illegal in character would certainly be rejected by the Government, and the best that could be hoped from it would be a total reduction of 4½ million *yen*. Therefore he supported Mr. Suge's proposals. Apart from the question of amount, he opposed the Committee's Report as distinctly contrary to the 10th Article of the Constitution. With regard to the last speaker's contention that the House, by its rejection of Mr. Nishi's motion, had already declared the Committee's Report legal, he ridiculed it on the ground that they were assembled to-day to discuss that Report, and to reject it if they pleased. He denounced, in strong terms, the pretence made by the other side that he and his fellow-thinkers, in opposing the Committee's Report, were acting contrary to public interests. Both sides alike were animated by a desire to promote the prosperity of the nation, but they differed as to their methods of procedure. Alluding to the argument advanced by Mr. Inugai that administrative efficiency could not be impaired by cutting down the salaries of extravagant and luxurious officials, he protested against such attempts to stir popular prejudice by appeals to sentiment, and said that in order to get rid of finely painted and richly carpeted houses, some other way might be adopted than trampling the Constitution under foot and violating the laws. The other side complained that the present Administration was disfigured by favoritism. He did not deny it, but, on the contrary, was one of the most earnest advocates of reform. He believed, however, in the good old doctrine, "physician heal thyself," and he remembered that very recently Count Itagaki had preferred the very same charge against the Party which now called out so loudly for the correction of this particular abuse. He then dwelt at length on the defects of the Committee's Report, and compared its supporters to the wild boar which rushes at what it sees before it but never looks back. In their eagerness to oppose the Government they lost sight altogether of the Constitution and the laws. The House rose for the mid-day session, and on re-assembling at 1.30 p.m., Mr. Suyematsu Saburo called attention to an act of violence of which Mr. Inouye Kakugoro had been the victim. The outrage had occurred within the precincts of the House, and was attributed to the fact that Mr. Inouye belonged to the party of the Moderates. He urged that the matter be inquired into at once. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro said that when he left the chamber for the mid-day recess and was about to enter the Dining Room, he received a blow on the right side of the face. Turning quickly, he seized the arm of his assailant with his left hand and his breast with his right, and forced him against the wall. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, who was three or four paces in the rear, called the police, and at the second summons they came and took charge of the rioter. Three or four others were apparently engaged in the affair, for they were seen to run off. He knew nothing of what had subsequently occurred. The President said that, according to the police report, the man arrested was a *shizoku*, by name Aoki Yasuatsu, of No. 5, Tokiwa-koji, Kamiichi, in Mito. The reason of the assault had not yet been clearly ascertained, and apparently the only course was to leave the matter in the hands of the police. Mr. Hayama Chiuzayemon said that, in view of the large number of members who had given notice of their desire to speak on the Budget question, he should hesitate to move the closure, were not the time at the disposal of the House so short. He therefore moved that the debate do now close. Several members approved, but the President said that as he had already given permission to Mr. Iwazaki Manjuro to speak, he could not immediately put the closure. Mr. Iwazaki Manjuro supported the Committee's Report. He claimed that the ultimate purpose of the Constitution was to give effect to public opinion in the counsels of State, and that it was entirely out of harmony with that purpose to pretend that any measure voted by the House could be unconstitutional in the sense claimed by the opponents of the Report. He also pointed out that in 1886 a larger reduction in the *personnel* of the Government than that now recommended by the Committee had been made without any loss of administrative efficiency. At the conclusion of Mr Hayama's speech the President put the closure, by the usual method, and declared it lost. This decision being challenged, a ballot by roll-call was taken, when 127 voted for and 123 against the closure. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro took exception to the ballot as having been taken without closing the doors of the Chamber. This led to some altercation, but the President explained that in the temporary Chamber then occupied, strict rules as to doors could not well be observed. Mr. Inouye withdrew his objection. The President announced that the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs desired to address the House. Messrs. Suyematsu Kencho, Suyematsu Saburo and others took exception to allowing the Government Delegates to speak after the closure had been voted. The President said that the Law of the Houses clearly gave the Delegates the right to speak whenever they pleased. Mr. Kono Hironaka said that the Government Delegate, having been present all the time in the House, need not have waited until the closure had been voted before asking permission to speak. He condemned such a course, and said it was calculated to produce friction between the Government and the Diet. Mr. Sasaki Genyemon urged that the words of the Law of the Houses referred to the period when debates were in progress, and not to the time when the closure had been voted. Mr. Kondo Jumpei suggested that as the manner of voting the closure had been challenged, the challenge might now be admitted with advantage, so as to hear the Delegate beforehand. Mr. Oota Minoru argued that, as the Law in question provided that the privilege of speaking must not be exercised by the Delegates in such a manner as to interrupt the speech of any member, it was obvious that the privilege

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was only intended to be enjoyed while debates were going on. The discussion was continued by several members, the great majority protesting against the principle of allowing a Delegate to speak after the closure had been voted. Some, however, advised that as the Minister of State for Finance had been permitted to speak after a division, and as the Constitution and Law of the Houses gave this privilege at all times, the Delegate should be allowed to speak on this occasion, and the vote for closure should then be rescinded. Mr. Yamada Taizo said it appeared that the Delegate's request to be allowed to speak after the closure had been placed in the President's hands before the closure. The blame therefore rested with the President, who failed to convey the intimation to the House. The President replied that he had not seen any necessity to consult the House, inasmuch as the Minister of Finance had been allowed to speak some days previously after the House's decision had been taken. After some further discussion, a recess was taken at 3.20 p.m. The House re-assembled at 4.45 p.m. Mr. Uyeki Yemori moved that although, according to law, it did not appear that the Delegate was entitled to speak after the closure had been voted, circumstances necessitated the granting of permission in this case; the closure should therefore be rescinded, and the Delegate permitted to speak. Mr. Tanaka Shozo did not think that the Delegate's remarks were likely to produce much effect, but he did think that the law distinctly authorized the Delegate to speak. Mr. Uyeki Yemori's motion was then put to the House by the usual method and declared carried, but, the decision being challenged, a ballot by roll-call was taken, when 134 "ayes" and 136 "noes" were found. The motion was therefore lost. Mr. Itakura urged that though Mr. Uyeki's motion, as put by him, had been lost, the House should be asked to decide the simple question whether it would or would not hear the Delegate. Viscount Okabe, Government Delegate for the Foreign Office, said that, according to the 54th Article of the Constitution, he had the right to speak. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo asked whether that was the opinion of the Delegate himself alone, or of the Cabinet. The Delegate replied that it was the opinion of the Cabinet. Mr. Misaki said that the question now acquired great importance, and that he thought it should be fully debated. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro moved that as the hour for adjournment had already past, the debate be deferred until the following day. Several members supported Mr. Misaki's suggestion. Mr. Suzuki Shoji thought there was no occasion for further discussion. The House had rejected Mr. Uyeki Yemori's motion, and should proceed to vote on the Budget. After some further remarks, from other members, in the sense of Mr. Misaki's suggestion, the President said that as the question at issue was the interpretation of the Constitution, its importance justified full debate. The House would therefore adjourn (5.35 p.m.)

FEBRUARY 10TH.

The House assembled at 11.35 a.m. The President announced that the Minister-President of State desired to address the House before the debate commenced. Count Yamagata said:—"Gentlemen—The Minister of State for Finance announced to you recently the view taken by the Government with respect to procedure for obtaining the Government's concurrence in the matter of expenditures enumerated in the 67th Article of the Constitution. The Government believes that the course then announced is the proper course. It would appear, however, from the direction which the affairs of the Budget have taken, that instead of each House seeking the concurrence of the Government before coming to a decision, concurrence is to be sought after both Houses have come to a decision. If that be so, there is a conflict of opinion between the Government and the House, and in consequence, the Government will be unable to offer any explanations with reference to the portions of the Budget falling under that category. In respect of other portions, however, the Government desires to offer the fullest explanations. Further, the 54th Article of the Constitution provides that the Ministers of State and Government Delegates shall be at liberty to address the Houses at any time. Yesterday, however, various objections were raised when a Government Delegate sought to address the House. Doubtless these objections were founded on the nature of that particular case. The Government, at the same time that it respects the privileges of the House, cannot possibly interfere with rights conferred by the Constitution and the Law. Even as the House values its own rights, I trust that it will consider this question carefully." Mr. Nishigata Tamezo asked Count Yamagata whether he interpreted the words "Imperial Diet" in the 67th Article of the Constitution to mean one House only. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo said that the House had already decided how to interpret the 67th Article, and no occasion existed to question the Government. In answer to further questions, Count Yamagata gave three reasons for the Government's interpretation of the 67th Article: first, that the reductions and rejections referred to in that article must not be decided upon by the House until after the Government's concurrence has been obtained; secondly, that the right of making representations is vested in the House with a view to contingencies of this nature; and thirdly, that since the legislative procedure of each House is carried on independently, their combined action cannot be referred to in the 67th Article. Some disposition was shown to put further questions to the Minister-President, but the House showed itself impatient of a course which seemed to reflect upon a decision already taken by it. A recess was taken at 12.15 p.m., and on re-assembling at 1.30 p.m. Viscount Okabe, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, informed the House that, the statement which he had sought to make the preceding day having now been made by the Minister President, he had no further occasion to seek a hearing. The House then proceeded to vote upon the Foreign Office Section of the Budget. A discussion arose as to the manner of voting, but it was finally decided that the vote should be taken, in respect of the whole appropriation for the Foreign Department, first with regard to the amendments of Messrs. Sasada and Suge; secondly with regard to the Committee's Report, and thirdly with regard to the Budget itself. The voting commenced with Mr. Sasada's amendments, "ayes" 42; "noes" 215. Mr. Suge's amendments were then put, the result being "ayes" 98; "noes" 161. The Committee's Report was next voted upon, the result being "ayes" 153; "noes" 101. This last result was received with loud cheers on the part of both the members and the visitors. The House rose at 3.40 p.m.

FEBRUARY 12TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. The President announced that Mr. Suzuki Shigeto had applied for leave to bring in an urgency motion for a memorial to the Throne praying for administrative reforms; that a Representation had been presented by Mr. Kammuchi Tomotsune relating to customs duties and other matters; and that questions relating to the Osaruzawa Mine had been handed in by Mr. Takanashi and 31 others. The House then proceeded to discussion the section of the Budget referring to the Home Department. Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, premising that, as already declared by the Minister President of State, no explanations could be offered with regard to expenditures falling under the category of Art. 67 of the Constitution, said that he should proceed to make some remarks about the other items of the Budget in this section. At the same time, he could not but remind the House that the recommendations of the Budget Committee were distinctly opposed to the Constitution, and that had the Budget itself been prepared in defiance of law, the House would surely have rejected it. Happily, however, it had been compiled in strict accordance with law and ordinance, and it "stood as firm as Fuji-yama towering above the storms at its base." He then proceeded to enter into an exhaustive explanation of the necessity of the various items in the Budget for the Home Department, showing that in some cases the recommendations of the Committee would involve expense nearly equal to the saving suggested, and that in others they would disturb arrangements commended by practical results of long standing, as well as interfere with the public service. Mr. Shiota Okuzo interrupted the Delegate, on the ground that at this stage of the debate and in view of the limited time at the disposal of the House, there was no occasion for a lengthy explanation from a Government Delegate. The Delegate retorted that he had been listening in silence for a tolerably long time to the speeches of the members, and he expected to be heard now in turn. He concluded his explanations. Mr. Kondo Jumpei said that he had spoken in support of the Budget Committee's Report, and he wished to ask the Chief Secretary why his speech alone had been omitted by the newspapers. This question elicited shouts of merriment throughout the House. Mr. Takatsu Nakajiro said that all laws had to receive the consent of the Diet. He wished to know, therefore, why the expenses for Kushiro Harbour had been included in the Budget before the passing of the law relating to that harbour. The Delegate said that the Government had had an object in view. Mr. Hamano Noboru argued forcibly against the amalgamation of the Sanitary Bureau with the Bureau for General Affairs. He said that sanitary arrangement were yet in their infancy in Japan, and after pointing out many matters that ought to be dealt with, he warned the House that the course recommended in respect of the Sanitary Bureau would, if adopted, do great injury to Japan's reputation. For the rest, he approved the Budget Committee's Report. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi critised the amendments proposed by Messrs. Sasada and Suge, and maintained that they were greatly inferior to the Report of the Budget Committee. The House rose for the mid-day recess at 12 15 p.m., and on its re-assembly at 1.15 p.m., the President announced that the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce would attend the following morning, and answer the questions put by Mr. Takahashi and others as to the subsidy to the Tea Company, and the general policy of the Government in respect of aid to industry. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi continued his speech. Referring to the contention that the recommendations of the Budget Committee would interfere with the Administration's organization and were therefore illegal, he said that the Budget itself was illegal since the item relating to the Kushiro Harbour had been included before the law opening the harbour for purposes of foreign export had been passed. Mr. Shirane, Government Delegate, said that as reference had again been made to this point of the Kushiro Harbour, it might be well to remind the House that the Bill for creating special ports of export had been submitted to the Diet at the same time as the Budget, and that if the Bill did not pass, the appropriation in the Budget could be immediately omitted. That was very different from taking measures in direct contravention of existing laws. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho opposed the schemes of reduction of Mr. Sasada and of the Committee, as well as the Budget itself. He pointed out numerous instances of carelessness and disproportion in the items of the Committee's Report, and he adduced the reduction of the salary of the President of the House by 50 per cent. as in itself an ample proof that the Committee had treated the law without a particle of respect. On the other hand, he objected to the Budget, because he thought that some economy of the expenditure was absolutely necessary. It seemed to him that Mr. Suge's scheme best satisfied the conditions of the moment, since the reductions recommended by it were not excessive, whereas those recommended by the Committee could scarcely be carried out without much inconvenience, and certainly could not be put into force during the present year. He thought that the desired economies ought to be spread over several years instead of being rashly attempted at one *coup*. Finally he condemned the Government strongly for its action in respect of the interpretation of the Constitution. It was the Government's duty to help the House in such a

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task, whereas the House had been left to interpret the Constitution according to its own lights, and the Minister President of State had then come and told them that as their view differed from that of the Government, no explanations could be given as to the items falling within the sphere of Article 67. The closure was here moved and carried. The following votes were then recorded by ballot:—

	"Ayes."	"Noes."
Mr Sasada's Proposals	22	183
Mr. Suge's Proposals	48	138
The Committee's Report.....	130	57

The House then proceeded to debate the Finance Department section of the Budget. Mr. Watanabe, Vice-Minister of Finance, in obedience to instructions received from the Minister of State for Finance, entered into an explanation of the various items. He pointed out that to reduce the appropriation to the Reserve from two millions to one million would be to disturb the stability of the whole financial system, and he demonstrated that the other reductions recommended by the Committee would cause much inconvenience. Mr. Tanaka Shozo wished to know how it happened that whereas Count Goto, when out of office, had declared four million *yen* a sufficient appropriation for the Finance Department, the Cabinet of which he was now a member endorsed a much larger expenditure. The Delegate replied that the Finance Department based its estimates on its requirements, not on the opinion of any individual. Various questions were put to the Delegate and answered. Mr. Ayai Takeo spoke in opposition to the Committee's Report. He did not discuss the legality or illegality of the measures recommended, that question having been fully examined already, but he pointed out that the Committee, instead of confining themselves to legitimate economies, had interfered with the interest on deposits and with the pension allowances; a proceeding obviously contrary to the provision of the Constitution. He instanced other items of an objectionable character, and warned the House that it was pursuing a course which would evidently end in no reductions at all being made. He particularly aminadverted on the proposal to cut down the pay of Privy Councillors to 1,500 *yen*, and pointed out that this step, unjustifiable from any point of view, would only result in a miserable saving of twenty or thirty thousand *yen* annually. It was conceivable that the members of the Radical Party should approve such a course, but he failed altogether to apprehend the considerations that influenced the *Kaishin-to*. If they thought that the salaries of the Privy Councillors should be reduced, why did they not reduce those of the members of the Diet also, who received far more in proportion than the proposed allowance for the Privy Councillors? Mr. Otsu Junichiro supported the Committee's Report. He did not think it worth while to attack the Budget, because it had not found a single defender, but he criticised several points in the proposals of Messrs. Sasada and Suge. The speech was of great length, and at its conclusion the closure was moved and carried. The following votes were then recorded :—

	"Ayas."	"Noes."
Mr. Sasada's amendment	13	137
Mr. Suge's amendment	33	117
The Committee's Report	115	32

The House rose at 4.50 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A "MINOR POINT."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Not only are words "always capable of being understood in two ways," a piece of information a gapingly expectant public is indebted to the new editor of the *Japan Gazette* for, but new and novel ones may at a push be coined. Fitting thing that the *Gazette* has arranged to distribute dictionaries to trusting subscribers! The possession of such a work of reference seems likely to be peculiarly needed. Another authority on English as well as matters political appears to have arisen, an authority as "independent" as indifferent to the pertinency and weight of "minor points." Yesterday's *Gazette* contained a brief and confiding explanatory note that in an editorial of some days previous, *deceitfulness* had been erroneously substituted for *deceitlessness*. An escape more clever than happy! Unfortunately there is no such word as *deceitlessness* in the English language, conveniently elastic though it is. Even the much-prized Webster recognises no such noun. Sad somewhat, amusing very, true nevertheless. Of course this is only a "minor point," but it is one your honest and modest contemporary will do well to pay a little more heed to in future.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
SALTS.

Yokohama, February 7th, 1891.

THE NAGOYA INCIDENT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you allow me a few words with regard to your comments upon my recent letter? It is, perhaps, true that my language was inaccurate when I wrote of a missionary's being "within his rights" in lecturing outside of treaty limits. Certainly it was not my intention to assert that in the legal sense of the term a missionary, or any other lecturer, had a *right* to take part in a meeting under such circumstances. In view of the uniform courtesy and even generously liberal treatment accorded me, in common with other travellers in the interior, it would be most ungracious to assume any such attitude toward the Government as the strict meaning of that word might seem to imply. I wished simply to repel the charge of law breaking most gratuiously brought against the touring missionary by your Hyogo contemporary, and to assert that he was within the limits of freely permitted practice.

It may not be out of place to call attention to the fact that the attitude of the Government has not been that of merely passive toleration. For many years it was, and to a certain extent still is, the custom to require a formal notification of the character of any contemplated meeting, including the names of the speakers and the subjects of their addresses, before permission to hold the meeting could be secured. These specific licenses have been many times given in cases in which I myself have been personally concerned. Moreover, the matter has several times been brought to the notice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the result has always been an assurance that the Imperial Government had no objection to urge. This assurance has come to me direct—from the lips of at least two American Ministers. This important privilege has been enjoyed for more than a dozen years, and while we have no wish to claim it as a "right," it will, I think, be generally conceded that to accept and act upon it involves no *wrong*.

I remain, yours faithfully,
D. C. GREENE.

Tokyo, February 9th, 1891.

ROBERT ELSMERE AS A RELIGIOUS REFORMER.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Perhaps most of your readers have heard that Mrs. Ward's attempts to put her religious ideas of "Robert Elsmere" into a practical shape by establishing a hall where free lectures are to be delivered on a *theistic* religion, based purely upon some sort of effervescent sentimentalism, of which it is needless to say its vapidity is a question of time only. These ideas or rather religions, are very much similar to the phenomena which show for a brief duration of time in the clear skies of these regions caused by the wonderfully phosphorescent comet which just has passed away, leaving behind a short tail with a feeble light flickering only for a short time.

It should be borne in mind that Mrs. Ward hitherto has not brought into the market any "ideas" which have not been hashed and rehashed a thousand times from the beginning of Christianity to the present day by adversaries far surpassing Mrs. Ward in every respect. Still there are some features which are quite interesting for a calm consideration from every human soul which is subject to salvation through Mrs. Ward's high priesthood.

Perhaps the most striking feature of this religion is the claim of being a scientific religion. With an unsurpassable audacity Mrs. Ward tells us that 19th Century science is adverse to Christianity, nay, its results are at variance with its fundamental dogmas. That there is a large group of the first rank scientists who openly avow these views it cannot be denied, but the researches and conclusions of that school of thought are not more favourable to Elsmerism than they are to orthodox Christianity. The conclusions of Darwin, Wallace, Huxley, Spence, Schmidt, Haeckle, and a large host of others do not prove that the new religion is based upon a scientific subjective human consciousness, nor that the seat of authority in religion is centred in man or anywhere else. Of course those who have tried all their life to destroy Christianity will be too glad to welcome a new and perhaps an efficient comrade, because when such gigantic bulwarks as the Church are destroyed, to destroy such childish works as Elsmerism is not a difficult task.

The positive features or principles of Mrs. Ward's religion is the belief in a Creator who reveals Himself subjectively only in the *heart* and never objectively in the history of mankind. It is needless to say that this is not a new idea, hence Mrs. Ward cannot claim the maternal honours. The German mystics of the 17th century held similar views though still believing in an objective revelation; the modern German rationalistic school, from which, by the way, Mrs. Ward has so freely borrowed that if the creditors demand payment she will become bankrupt ignominously, held and hold, the same views; Parker and Emerson in America and a crowd of less conspicuous luminaries in England from the lack of originality have harped and still are harping upon it. Amongst the ancients, Plato's "Ideas" had the same meaning. Therefore when I say that Mrs. Ward has no right to claim the honour of such high fraternity, I hope no reader will accuse me of robbing this accomplished lady of her due honours. It is unnecessary to say that Mrs. Ward has also painted her religion with some phantastically attractive colours of philanthophy, the love of fellow man and many other similar godlike aspirations, which are the "cry of all but the game of a few," using an excellent expression of the great idealist philosopher, Bishop Berkeley.

The negative features of this religion can be told in a few words:—the denial of the true nature of the Deity, the denial of the Judaico-Christian revelation; the denial of miracles, and so on. To her the only recognizable trinity is compassed of three human persons, viz.:—Strauss, Baur, and Renan. It is very amusing to notice that two members of this trinity started from similar theistic notions and finally sank into the chaos of atheism: Strauss, in his "Leben Jesu" said that the greatest service of Christianity to the world was in raising human nature above the sensual religion of Greece on one hand, and Jewish *legalism* on the other; on one side the belief that the world is governed by a spiritual and moral Power; on the other, the perception that the service of such a Being can only be like Himself, namely, a moral and spiritual one, a worship of the disposition and the heart. In promoting this spiritual worship Strauss claimed that he was endeavouring to throw away the effete rubbish of Christianity. And the same Strauss in his last work "Old Faith and New" after reasoning in favour of a monastic cosmic organization, then pauses for a little while and gravely asks "Have we left any religion?" and calmly answers "No! and "Have we left any God?" "Yes or no, just as you please."

In regard to Renan, he seems to me a medley of contrarities; still his theism is more near to atheism than to Mrs. Ward. Now these are two principal authorities upon which the author of the new religion securely places her foundations!

It appears to me that Mrs. Ward has studied only one side of the German critical literature: of the orthodox side she hardly seems to have any knowledge. At the stupendous works of Schliermacher, Rathe, Nitzoch, Neander, and many others in the early stage and of an immense host of first class critics like Thoberk, Weisse, Hose, and Delitzch she hardly has condescended to look. The truth is that the Rationalistic Critical School in Germany has never reached the magnitude of intellectuality of the orthodox school. All those monuments of learning and philosophical acumen like Domei's "System," Neander's "Church History," Lange's Commentary, and Meyeer's unsurpassable New Testament Commentary are produced by these Christian scholars. While in the enemy's camp I cannot recollect a single work to match in any respect the above mentioned books. Now let me ask the impartial and calm reader: Is it not sheer dishonesty to say that the battle has been won by the enemy?

Another point which Mrs. Ward brings forward frequently is the impossibility of miracles. Of course it would be beyond my power at present to enter into that controversy, but for a man who calls himself a *theist* to exclaim in an excited manner like Robert Elsmere "Miracles never happen!" is absolutely nonsensical. A human being who believes in a Creator and Regulator of all cosmic laws and yet says that that Author will never suspend or alter the same laws does not understand what he is talking about.

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I see every day in an infinite number of instances the same laws altered, suspended, and deranged by human will; how then can I have the presumption of saying that they have never been changed by their Creator? A human being who can make such an affirmation must possess a greater sphere of prophetic knowledge that has been manifested in the history of humanity; nay, he must be that God himself.

The most important question to us is: Will this religion prove permanent and supersede all others? I think it does not require great thinking power to answer this question negatively; because of one thousand and one convincing reasons. In the first place, because, as I have said before, the ideas constituting this religion are not new things, they have been tried before and have utterly failed. It is true that Mrs. Ward is stating them with such a reverential dignity as to make us think that no creature in heaven, or earth, or under the earth is able to unseal the great book or even to look upon it except the great female descendant of the Delai-Lama of Rugbi.

Again, because man is a sinful animal, he has an enormous appetite for sinning. If science tells him that there is no God, no soul, no future retribution, and his animal lusts and desires every moment excite him to their full satiation, Robert Elsmerism is not a strong dam to stop the downward rushing of the freshet. I am a rather close examiner of the present revolt of the masses against Christianity: hitherto I have not detected any inclination among those masses towards a theistic cult resembling the one which Mrs. Ward intends to inaugurate. In his article on "Robert Elsmere," Mr. Gladstone very forcibly showed that the present day Unitarianism, which is almost an identical stuff with Elsmerism, instead of increasing is dying away.

Of course every individual member of the human race has the right, an inherent right, to interpret the signs of the times according to his own reason and conscience, and both my reason and conscience honestly convince me that the new movement will not be a permanent institution for cultivating spiritual and moral faculties of mankind, though its priestess be the greatest literary Jezebel of the 19th century, who has bewitched by her charms such well balanced minds as the venerable Dr. James Martineau.

Truly yours, ISAAC DOOMAN.
Nara Eiwa-Gakko, January 30th, 1891.

DEAKIN BROS. & CO. (LIMITED).

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders of Deakin Bros. & Co. (Limited), was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Grand Hotel. Dr. C. U. Gravatt took the chair, and among those present were Messrs. J. Rickett, Paymaster Macdonald, U.S.N.; Messrs. B. C. Howard, E. de Becker, H. Deakin, Magee, D. Simon, A. B. Walford, C. W. Arnould, and Dr. Tripler.

The Secretary, Mr. DE SOUZA, read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said this report had been, or was supposed to have been in the hands of the shareholders for the last week, and therefore the chair would dispense with the formal reading of it unless objection were taken. (There being no objection the report was taken as read.) As there were several matters connected with the report and with the accounts in reference to which the directors desired that the shareholders should have fuller knowledge than could possibly be obtained in the report without carrying it to tedious and unnecessary length, the directors thought the report should be brief and condensed, and that such amplifications as might be considered necessary should be made by way of statement from the chair. In pursuance of that decision he would now say in the first place that merely because they did not find themselves in a position at this time to declare a dividend, that fact should not be looked upon in any way as discouraging. He thought all would agree that no company could in so short a time declare a dividend, unless operating under the most unusual and phenomenally favourable circumstances. In all lines of business there were seasonal fluctuations, ups and downs; and in looking over the past record of Deakin Brothers, as a firm, he found that it was no exception to the rule. There were certain seasons when the best business was done, and then there were other seasons, in autumn and winter, which corresponded to waves of depression, spring and summer, representing the highest tide. While the company earnestly desired local patronage, still they could not look on that as a very important feature towards their success. It was to the travelling public that they mainly looked and the same causes that affected travelling would quite naturally affect the conduct of such a business as this. They knew that spring and summer were the times for travellers, and hence they knew that those should be the important time for this business. He said those things to show that no brief period—especially if, as in this case it was the worst period—should be taken as the standard for calculating the business of the company. To illustrate his remarks, he might say that in looking over the past records of Deakin Brothers and Company for 1887 he found that in four months the gross sales were only $2,500, while the year's sales reached nearly $30,000; in 1888 during five months the gross sales were only $750, while the year's sales were nearly $30,000; in 1889 during four months the gross sales were $2,882, but for twelve months they were nearly $100,000; and in 1890 for three months they were a little over $1,500, but for the same year they reached over $70,000. In six consecutive months—October, November, and December, 1889, and January, February, and March, 1890, the business was less than $3,500, and yet on the whole year it reached over $75,000. They, however, must not get discontented or discouraged because of this period during which they had been operating, but must remember that it was the worst period of the year and must take the aggregate. There was another cause, different from those natural causes. There could be no question that the alarming and extravagant accounts of cholera in Japan which had appeared in American and European papers affected travelling to some extent, and hence it was not surprising to find that the ordinary depression to be expected at that season of the year was much greater. As a matter of fact last December was the largest December so far as regarded business that the firm ever had experienced, while the month that had elapsed from the time of the closing of the accounts was also larger than the corresponding month of any year in the history of the firm. The year had opened very auspiciously for the company. In regard to management it would be seen that the report stated that Mr. Deakin, in accordance with an arrangement entered into with the directors was about to go home, and the directors expected to make some satisfactory arrangement for the conduct of the business in his absence. In this connection he wished to impress upon the shareholders that without intending in any way to depreciate the importance of Mr. Deakin to the concern—no one valued Mr. Deakin's services more than the speaker did—still they recognised that no one man was ever essential to any business. A king might be dethroned but the nation went on; worlds might be destroyed but the universe still continued; for every vacant chair there was always some one found to fill it. Therefore the directors anticipated no difficulty in tiding over the time till Mr. Deakin's return. In addition to the two vacancies mentioned there was still another. At the time of drawing up the report the directors were under the impression that those two vacancies complied with the requirements of the articles of the association; but on looking into the matter closely they found that one of the remaining three directors should also retire. They had consequently determined by lot that Mr. Howard should retire, but he was very much pleased to say that Mr. Howard was elegible for re-election and that he offered himself.—(Applause.) Mr. Beyhs' chair had been declared vacant by reason of his departure and in accordance with section 89 of the articles of association; and Mr. Dare, he was sorry to say, was compelled to resign owing to a rule of his bank which prevented any of the staff from accepting a directorship in any company. Hence the directors had no choice but to accept his resignation. At the proper time Mr. Vacher's appointment as auditor would be put before the meeting for confirmation. Turning now to the accounts he would endeavour to go through them seriatim. The first item was goodwill, fixtures, &c.; the term fixtures in which represented some $6,000 at No. 16, which was the orginal item in the accounts. Furniture account, $1,878.05 represented glass show cases, shelves, tables, stands, &c., in the new building. Materials in hand represented wood and other materials for cabinet making. The item unexpired policies explained itself; the stationery, pamphlets, &c., in hand consisted of a thousand copies of "Hints to Tourists," 500 copies of the articles of association and 2,000 share warrants. The articles of association and the share warrants were each disposed of at a charge of 50 cents each. The "Hints to Tourists" was of course an advertising pamphlet and inasmuch as there was a supply to be used over a term of several years, probably two or three years, it was not thought proper to apply this to any one half-year, but to spread it as advertising over several years; and thus gradually writing it off, the sale of the articles of association and share warrants would wipe out the item. The stock account showed an increase of $7,552.75 over the original item. In the item of sundry debtors were represented amounts advanced to other dealers for very desirable articles, upon which they paid the company the current rate of interest, the articles themselves being held as approved security. Of course some of the amounts represented buyers and money not yet collected. The balance of $911.88 represented the profit of the working account. Under the heading of liabilities the item of sundry creditors $15,500.56 was almost entirely an over draft at the bank, against which the company had articles to show. The directors had informed the manager that generally he was to manage the business for the company as he had been in the habit of doing for the firm, and therefore in all questions of material he was to be the judge. Among other things Mr. Deakin told them that he had always been accustomed towards the close of the year, when he knew that owing to the condition of the Japanese, articles were put down at very low rates—he had been in the habit of taking advantage of those reduced rates to increase his stock. As the company had not sufficient money they obtained this overdraft from the bank without any difficulty, the articles purchased standing against the overdraft. It would be seen that the difference between the increase of stock and the sundry creditors item was $7,947, and that the items, cash in hand, furniture account, materials in hand, unexpired policies, stationery, sundry creditors, and balance from working account would exactly balance the account. Had it not been so the auditor would not have passed the accounts. In the working account the first item of any importance was the rent. It was necessary for them to take over the new premises on the 15th November, but it was found impossible to open them for business before the 16th December, so that for a considerable time the shareholders were paying rent on the building without any return. The matter, however, was an exigency of business. He wished the shareholders to understand certain things in regard to the rent of those premises, which might seem rather large. Had they not taken them at that rent they would have been put in the market, and the directors knew that another dealer in their line of business thought it so valuable that he offered a bonus of several thousand dollars—might he say five? (Mr. MacDonald—Yes, five thousand)—to have it for a term of years. They could understand therefore how valuable the building was, and there could be no doubt that if they had not taken it and it had been put into the market their competitor would have offered the present rent, and the company, would have been run up above $500, and have had the alternative of paying increased rent or leaving the premises in the hands of a competing firm. Another thing was that the building was provided with the electric light, which would enable the company to carry on their business at any hour. Had they attempted to put in those lights themselves the cost would not have been less than $150 per month; so that properly the rent of the room was reduced to $350 a month. The salaries item explained itself, the staff of the company, he added being at present 14 persons. In general charges were included carting, printing, and advertising, gas, water rate, and all incidental expenses for carrying on the business. Of course the heavist item was the advertising, which came to nearly $100 a month. On the other side of the account he proceeded to explain the item of unalloted shares. The company's prospectus, he said, provided that any founders' shares that might remain unallotted should be allotted by the directors at such times and for such purposes as they might consider most desirable in the interests of the company. The unallotted shares were nine founders' shares. The directors disposed of these at $150 each, making in all $1,350, but $5 per share going to capital subscribed left $1,305, which was a distinct gain to the company. He had now endeavoured to go through the accounts and to give as full and lucid an explanation as he possibly could, but if anything had escaped him and if any shareholder wished further information he should be glad to give it.

Mr. DE BECKER said, referring to the stock account $77,500, he gathered from what the Chairman had just said that the item $15,000 put down to sundry creditors in the liabilities showed an overdraft from the bank, and that that overdraft was incurred for the purchase of certain things which could be bought very cheaply at the close of the year. That would bring down the normal stock to $62,000. Was that the stock value as shown in the books of Deakin Brothers? Or was it the present market value?

The CHAIRMAN—It is the book value.

Mr. DE BECKER—Has anything been written off since the concern was turned over?

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The CHAIRMAN—Nothing has been taken off as yet.

Mr. DE BECKER went on to say that in connection with the unallotted shares, $1,305 had been placed to the credit of the working account, but supposing that this instead of being the first was the second half-year, the half-year's working—for the period to which the accounts referred was practically a half-year—would really show a loss just over $2,200.

The CHAIRMAN—Exactly so.

Mr. DE BECKER pointed out that this profit on unallotted shares must not be taken as a part of the working account of the business. Supposing those shares were not in hand, there would be a loss of $2,200 in actual cash.

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly.

Mr. DE BECKER said that showed the accounts were really in a worse state than they at first appeared. He supposed nothing whatever had been written off the goodwill?

The CHAIRMAN—Nothing.

Mr. DE BECKER—The directors propose doing that as the business works on?

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly; at the proper time.

Mr. DE BECKER thought—keeping in view the fact that there must have been a lot of breakages in removal, and that the price of curios was higher when the company was floated than when these accounts were made up—that something should have been written off the stock account.

The CHAIRMAN said in answer to the question relating to unalloted shares that if that line of argument were followed out they might say that if they did not consider the amount gained by transfer fees the loss would be much greater. These accounts must stand as they were; he offered them as they stood. Of course they might enter into any discussion as to how they would be in different circumstances, but as a matter of fact he offered them simply as they stood.

Mr. MAGEE moved that the report and accounts be adopted.

Mr. RICKETT seconded, and the proposal was carried.

The report and accounts are as follows:—

REPORT.

The Directors have the honour to submit their first report under the Articles of Association, accompanied by the Accounts and Balance Sheet duly audited.

The time embraced in this report is from the taking over of business on the 8th of August to the 31st of December, 1890.

Reference to the Balance Sheet will show that there is no fund available at this time upon which to declare a dividend, but Shareholders will doubtless appreciate in this connection the brief period covered by the report, less than five months, and the fact that, owing to unavoidable delays, control of affairs by the Company was not assumed until about the close of business activity for the year.

Notwithstanding these obstacles to success a decided reaction followed the opening of the new premises connected with the Grand Hotel, and the value of that extension is fully established.

As a Show-room it has no equal in the East, and the collection of Art Goods there displayed has probably no superior in any metropolitan city.

MANAGEMENT.

After a prolonged absence from home, and in accordance with an arrangement understood at the time of taking over the concern, our Manager, Mr. H. Deakin, expects to leave Yokohama in the coming summer. The Directors, however, have pleasure in announcing that he will return within twelve months to resume management, and that satisfactory arrangements will be made for conducting the business during his temporary absence.

DIRECTORS.

Two vacancies have occurred in the directorate by the departure of Mr. W. Beyfus, and the resignation of Mr. A. H. Dare, which should be filled at this meeting.

AUDITOR.

The appointment of Mr. H. Vacher as Auditor is presented for confirmation.

C. U. GRAVATT, Chairman.

DEAKIN BROTHERS AND COMPANY, LIMITED.—BALANCE SHEET TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1890.

ASSETS.

Cash in hand	$ 589.85
Goodwill, fixtures, &c., account	80,000.00
Furniture account	1,878.05
Materials in hand	97.28
Value of unexpired policies	899.35
Value of stationery, pamphlets, &c., in hand	1,243 70
Stock account	77,552.75
Sundry debtors	2,327 10
Balance from working account	911.88
	$165,500.06

LIABILITIES.

Capital subscribed	$150,000.00
Sundry creditors	15,500 06
	$165,500.06

WORKING ACCOUNT.

To Interest	$ 92.07	By Insurance bonus	$ 43.27
To Fire Insurance premia	469.31	By Transfer fees	133.60
To Rent	1,080.00	By Unalloted shares	1,305.00
To Discount	165.53	By Commission	110.00
To Salary	2,341.60	By Profit in sales	2,559.28
To General charges	909.52	By Balance as above	911.88
	$5,063.83		$5,063.83

M. C. McDONALD, B. C. HOWARD } Directors.

I have compared the above statements with the books of the company, and fonnd the same to be in accordance therewith.

Yokohama, 17th January, 1891. H. VACHER, Auditor.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed as auditor Mr. Vacher who, he said, had already audited the accounts.

Mr. DE BECKER seconded and the appointment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting had now to deal with uncompleted business in reference to a resolution passed at the former meeting in regard to the remuneration of the directors. That resolution was held in abeyance to be decided at this meeting. That question, therefore, was now in order.

Mr. WALFORD said in view of the state of affairs at the present time—and he might say he had the sanction of the Chairman in what he was about to propose—he would move that for the period which expired at the end of December no remuneration should be given to the directors.

The CHAIRMAN—Do you mean prospective also?

Mr. WALFORD—No, I am only speaking for the past.

Mr. McDONALD seconded the proposal.

Mr. RICKETT, on the grounds that the labourer was worthy of his hire, and that the directors had had a great deal of trouble, thought they should not consider the state of the accounts. The directors deserved remuneration and he thought it should be settled now. He was in favour of fixing a fee for the past five months in spite of the adverse state of the accounts.

The CHAIRMAN said the Directors had had no conversation on the matter. So far as he knew it had never been alluded to since the last meeting. But, speaking for his colleagues, he felt sure that it would be pleasanter for them if for the past five months no remuneration were voted.

Mr. RICKETT said if that were so he would withdraw his amendment except so far as it was applicable to the future.

In the course of some conversation which ensued,

Mr. MAGEE asked what was the custom as regarded Directors' fees in Yokohama.

The CHAIRMAN said it differed according to the company.

Dr. TRIPLER said the fee of each director of the Grand Hotel was $250 per annum.

In answer to Mr. MAGEE,

The CHAIRMAN said it was proposed that there should be a managing director to attend to affairs generally.

Mr. MAGEE thought under those circumstances the directors ought to be remunerated.

Mr. RICKETT wished to understand if during the absence of Mr. Deakin one of the directors was to act as managing director.

The CHAIRMAN said the proposal at present, in view of the difficulty of filling Mr. Deakin's place as manager satisfactorily during his absence, was that one of the directors should act as managing director, and take upon himself as much of the responsibility with the present staff as was possible.

Mr. DE BECKER thought that if one of the directors took the duties of managing director there should be remuneration. It was impossible to suppose that the directors should take up a great deal of their time and have no remuneration. Even if the particular period under review had not been as good as they wished there was no reason why there should not be, as the Chairman said, fluctuations and up and downs. They ought, he thought, to "stump up" as a company, and give a fee, especially to the managing director.

Mr. SIMON understood that the managing director was to receive a salary in addition to the fee the directors were to receive.

The CHAIRMAN said that was not proposed.

Mr. RICKETT proposed that the fee of the company should be decided at once and should not be fixed at less than $250 a year. He put it that way, because he did not wish to place a limit on the amount, to prevent its being increased at a future time if business warranted.

Mr. DE BECKER seconded, remarking that he thought the motion should refer to the past.

The CHAIRMAN said that had already been disposed of.

Mr. ARNOULD asked if any distinction was contemplated between the managing and the other directors.

Mr. RICKETT pointed out that the duties of managing director would be temporary, as Mr. Deakin would return shortly.

Mr. DEAKIN said he would be back in about ten months.

In reply to Mr. ARNOULD,

The CHAIRMAN said the board of directors consisted of five, and there was not supposed to be any distinction between one director and another. The amount voted would be for the five directors a total of $1,250 a year.

Mr. RICKETT's motion was put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said he had intentionally delayed to the last the question of electing directors so that if there was any difficulty they might adjourn to another day. He said he first proposed to name Mr. Howard for re-election under article 97 of the articles of association.

Dr. TRIPLER seconded and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said that in answer to the notice given no names had been handed into the head office for election to the board. He invited the shareholders present to propose names for election, but none being offered, said the directors had the pleasure of recommending the names of Mr. E. Andreis and H. E. Mr. Neyt.

Mr. RICKETT proposed that those gentlemen be elected, remarking, however, that as they were not present to answer for themselves it would interesting to know whether there was any provision in the articles of association bearing on the point, so that in case the gentlemen mentioned could not act the Directors might fill the vacancies without calling another meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said if either of the gentlemen could not accept, then the vacancy would be a casual vacancy, and could be filled by the board.

Mr. MAGEE seconded Mr. Rickett's motion, which was carried.

This concluded the business.

Mr. ARNOULD proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the board of directors for the manner in which they had discharged their duties during the past period. They had had a great deal of work and a considerable amount of anxiety and the shareholders were very grateful to them for their services.

The CHAIRMAN said in reply to the very generous vote of thanks it was a pleasure to the directors to feel that the shareholders viewed their best efforts in that way. The duties had been some what trying, for they had known for some time that more on less disappointment must follow. Their belief in the stability and the sucess of the Company had not wavered; they were as confident now as in the beginning, in spite of the depression. As he said before there were indications at the beginning of the year which assured them that when they had again the pleasure of meeting the shareholders, they would be able to lay before them accounts satisfactory to all.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

At a meeting of the Committee held on the 4th inst., the subjoined account for the year 1890 was submitted and accepted.

The account shows that the calls upon the Committee for charity and some small necessary expenses were small, but as the fund at the Committee's disposal is now exhausted, it was determined to appeal to the community for subscriptions to raise a few hundred dollars for the care of the indigent sick during the current year.

In accordance with this resolution, a list will be placed in the hands of Mr. F. G. Woodruff, who is authorized to collect subscriptions for the purpose named.

A. O. GAY,
Chairman of the Committee.

Yokohama, February 7th, 1891.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements during the year 1890.

Receipts.

Cash Balance on January 1st, 1890	$154.15

Disbursements.

Payment to Dr. Mècre for Patients	$113.00	
Expenses for Advertising and Repairs	16.50	$129.50
Balance on hand December 31st, 1890		$24.65

E. & O. E.

(Signed) A. O. GAY, Hon. Treasurer.
" O. KEIL, Hon. Secretary.

Yokohama, 31st December, 1890.

Examined, and found correct.

(Signed) J. L. HALPHEN, M. ENGERT } Auditors.

Yokohama, 4th February, 1891.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.
A Tonic and Food for the over-worked brain and muscles.

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GENERAL BUDGET OF AND BUDGET COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE EXPENDITURE OF THE 24TH YEAR OF MEIJI.

EXAMINED AND PASSED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

GENERAL BUDGET OF ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended by the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives.	Amounts asked.
The Crown	3,000,000.000	3,000,000.000
Foreign Department	628,592.233	844,636.319
Home Department	6,841,645.851	8,551,808.787
Financial Department	25,880,103.151	28,350,797.657
War Department	12,127,078.359	12,713,161.749
Naval Department	5,749,833.729	6,100,691.707
Judicial Department	3,270,262.888	4,216,350.709
Educational Department	512,360.527	1,075,583.255
Agricultural & Commercial Department	698,382.488	955,934.009
Communications Department	4,803,849.638	4,991,347.327
Total	63,512,108.864	70,800,311.519

Items.	Decrease.
Crown	—
Foreign Department	216,044.086
Home Department	1,710,162.936
Financial Department	2,470,694.506
War Department	586,083.390
Naval Department	350,857.978
Judicial Department	946,087.821
Educational Department	503,222.728
Agricultural and Commercial Department	257,551.521
Communications Department	187,497.689
Total reduction	7,288,202.655

GENERAL BUDGET OF EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended by the Budget Committee of the House.	Amounts asked.
Foreign Department	4,902.500	5,000.000
Home Department	2,176,736.813	2,209,561.802
Financial Department	16,134,020.000	16,163,838.588
War Department	1,165,509.347	1,279,558.627
Naval Department	1,460,840.034	1,472,619.293
Judicial Department	59,454.277	448,257.700
Educational Department	50,000.000	50,000.000
Agriculture & Commercial Department	72,563.180	79,151.500
Communications Department	1,487,525.660	1,496,095.460
Total	22,611,551.211	23,204,082.970

Items.	Decrease.
Foreign Department	97.500
Home Department	32,824.989
Financial Department	29,818.588
War Department	114,049.280
Naval Department	11,779.259
Judicial Department	388,803.423
Educational Department	—
Agricultural and Commercial Department	6,588.320
Communications Department	8,570.400
Total	592,531.759
General Total Decrease of Ordinary and Extraordinary Expenditures	7,880,734.414
General Total of Ordinary & Extraordinary Expenditures	86,123,660.075 94,004,394.489

DETAILS.

THE CROWN.

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Expenses of the Crown	3,000,000.000	3,000,000.000

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked
Department proper	92,012.980	154,108.200
Legations and Consulates	536,579.453	690,528.119
Total	628,592,233	844,606.319

Items.	Decrease.
Department proper	62,095.420
Legations and Consulates	153,948.666
Total	216,044.086

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Cost of repairs	4,902.500	5,000.000

Items.	Decrease.
Cost of repairs	97.500

HOME DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURES.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Ise and other Shrines	27,113.000	27,113.000
Department proper	218,323.112	373,254.300
Shrines and Temples	179,698.250	179,698.250
Public Works' Superintending Offices	92,569.503	139,654.982
Prisons	371,558.385	401,725.129
Railway Bureau	23,554.780	31,075.712
Metropolitan Police Bureau	—	385,789.426
Public Expenses of the Seven Islands of Izu	1,580.000	1,580.000
Hokkaido Administration Board	1,054,374.243	1,236,541.088
Sapporo Agricultural College	35,590.015	46,593.896
Hokkaido Prison	509,971.250	550,973.433
Cities and Prefectures	4,163,842.353	5,001,933.971
Local expenses of Bonin Islands	8,124.000	8,124.000
Local expenses of Okinawa Prefecture	143,427.320	152,897.600
Local police expenses of Tsushima	6,544.113	8,149.000
Local police expenses of Oshima	5,375.527	6,705.000
Total of ordinary yearly expenditure	6,841,645.851	8,551,808.787

Items.	Decrease.
Ise and other Shrines	—
Department Proper	154,931.188
Shrines and national shrines	—
Public Works' Superintending Office	47,058.479
Prisons	30,166.744
Railway Bureau	7,520.932
Metropolitan Police Board	385,789.426
Police Expenses of the Seven Islands of Idzu	—
Hokkaido Administrative Board	182,166.845
Sapporo Agricultural College	11,303.881
Hokkaido Prison	41,002.183
Cities and Prefectures	838,091.618
Local expenses of Bonin Islands	—
Local expenses of Oshima Prefecture	9,470.280
Local police expenses of Tsushima	1,604.887
Local police expenses of Oshima	1,329.473
Total of ordinary yearly expenditure	1,710,162.936

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Subsidies	314,975.000	314,975.000
Aids to expenses of shrines (*jinja-hi*)	10,000.000	10,000.000
Aids to Public Works	481,032.602	481,032.602
Repairs and constructions of rivers	795,000.000	795,000.000
Cities and Prefectures	850.000	25,850.000
Yokohama Harbour Works	200,000.000	200,000.000
Office for building Shrines	1,300.000	1,500.000
Cost of building offices and houses	237,732.711	250,000.000
Rebuilding of shrines	65,000.000	65,000.000
Construction and Repairs	35,860.000	36,217.700
Emigration of Totsugawa residents	22,543.000	22,543.200
Competive Exhibition for products of Hokkaido	12,443.300	12,443.300
Total of extraordinary yearly expenditure	2,176,736.813	2,209,561.802

Items.	Decrease.
Office for building shrines	200.00
Cost of building offices and houses	12,267.289
Construction and repairs	357.700
Total of extraordinary yearly expenditure	32,824.989

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Financial Department Proper	355,265.000	572,797.000
National Debts	19,921,352.619	20,000,000.000
Rewards and Pensions	896,282.524	896,282.524
Cabinet	164,028.673	357,815.000
Privy Council	62,222.650	170,181.000
House of Peers	295,637.053	357,390.250
House of Representatives	380,952.930	413,383.250
Board of Audit	71,056.704	138,841.138
Administrative Court	19,250.960	61,586.000
Official Gazette	136,593.000	162,210.000
Custom-Houses	179,088.000	233,871.000
Cost of levying excise duties	1,687,516.188	2,101,520.041
Cost of dealing with currency	511,107.000	511,107.000
Moneys for miscellaneous repayments, and for supplying defects and losses	199,749.850	199,749.850
Salaries of officials on Retired list	—	174,063.604
Reserve fund of the Treasury (*Yobikin*)	1,000,000.000	2,000,000.000
Total	25,880,103.151	28,350,797.657

Items.	Decrease.
Financial Department	217,532.000
National Debts	78,647.381
Rewards and Pensions	—
Cabinet	193,786.327
Privy Council	107,958.350
House of Peers	61,753.197
House of Representatives	32,430.320
Board of Audit	67,784.434
Administrative Court	42,335.040
Official Gazette	25,617.000
Custom-Houses	54,783.000
Cost of levying excise duties	414,005.853
Cost of dealing with currency	—
Moneys for miscellaneous repayments and for supplying defects and losses	—
Salaries of officials on Retired list	174,063.604
Reserve fund of the Treasury (*Yobikin*)	1,000,000.000
Total decrease	2,470,694.506

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Subsidies	978,224.000	978,224.000
Cost of preparing land records	155,424.000	172,693.423
New works	372.000	12,921.165
Repayment of public loan bonds	14,899,650.000	14,899,650.000
Expenses of producing and issuing Consolidated Public Loan Bonds	100,350.000	100,350.000
Total	16,134,020.000	16,163,838.588

Items.	Decrease.
Subsidies	—
Cost of preparing land records	17,269.423
New works	12,594.165
Repayment of public loan bonds	—
Expenses of producing and issuing Consolidated Public Loan Bonds	—
Total decrease	29,818.588

WAR DEPARTMET.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
The Department Proper	203,182.678	236,123.865
Expenses of Military Affairs	11,209,417.144	11,727,217.008

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Gendarmerie	280,977.377	300,063.000
Colonial Militia.....	425,951.160	442,207.876
Donation to the *Yasukuni Jinsha* ...	7,550.000	7,550.000
Totol 12,127,078.359		12,713,161.749

Decrease.

The Department Proper.....	32,941.187
Expenses of Military Affairs	517,799.864
Gendarmerie.....	19,085 623
Colonial Militia	16,256.716
Donation to the *Yasukuni Jinsha*	—
Total decrease	586,083.390

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Construction of Forts	250,741.145	250,741.145
Construction of artillery	76,284.336	76,284.336
Arms and Ammunition	382,286.748	382,286.748
New Works	456,197.118	570,246 398
Tatal.....	1,165.509.347	1,279,558.627
General Total...13,292,587.706		13,992,720.376

Decrease.

Construction of Forts	—
Construction of Artillery...	—
Arms and Ammunition	—
New Works	114,049.280
Total decrease	114,049.280
General Total decrease	700,132.670

NAVAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
The Department Proper	140,334.102	165,013.237
Expenses of Naval Affairs	5,609.499 627	5,935,678.470
Total	5,749,833.729	6,100,691.707

Decrease.

The Department Proper	24,679.135
Expenses of Naval Department	326,178.843
Total decrease.....	350,857.978

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Construction of men-of-war	418,000.000	418,000.000
Expenses of arms and torpedoes ...	188,300.000	188,309.000
Works (*doboku-hi*).	642,233.300	642,233.300
New works	138,945.734	150,724-993
Repairs and construction of vessels.	73,361.000	73,361.000
Total	1,460.840.034	1,472,619.293
General Total...	7,210,673.763	7,573.311.000

Decrease.

Construction of men-of-war.....	—
Expenses of arms and torpedoes	—
Works (*doboku-hi*)	—
New works.....	11,779.259
Repairs and construction of vessels.....	—
Total decrease	11,779 259
General Total decrease	362,637.237

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Judicial Department Proper	142,991,497	228,521.609
Courts of law	3,127,271.391	3,987,829.100
Total	3,270,262,888	4,216,350.709

Decrease.

Judicial Department Proper ...	85,530.112
Courts of law	860,557.709
Total	946,087.821

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Cost of making copies of land records	—	150,000.000
Investigation of laws	3,454.277	5,016.000
Subsidies to law schools	—	15,000.000
Buildings.....	56,000.000	278,241.700
Total	59,454.277	448,257.700

Decrease.

Cost of making copies of land records	150,000.000
Investigation of laws	1,561.723
Subsidies to law schools	15,000.000
Buildings	222,241.700
Total	388,803 423

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Educational Department Proper,.....	106,998.310	181,810.400
Schools and Library	405,362.217	893,772.855
Total	512,360,527	1,075,583.255

Decrease.

Educational Department Proper	74,182.090
Schools and Library.....	488,410.638
Total decrease	563,222.728

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
New works	50,000.000	40,000.000

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Department Proper.	262,530.282	426,386.539
Forestry Offices ...	433,152.206	529,540.470
Total	698,382.488	955,934.009

Decrease.

Department Proper	161,156.257
Forestry Offices.....	96,395.264
Total decrease	257,551.521

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Survey of forests and fields	72,563.180	79,151.500
Total	72,563,180	79,151.500
General Total..	770,945 668	1,035,085.509

Decrease

Survey of forests and fields.....	6,588.320
Total decrease	6,588.320
General Total decrease	264,139.841

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

ORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Department Proper	317,276.358	399,351.620
Marine School (*Shosen Gakko*)...	27,005.120	30,992.000
Expenses of Communications	4,438,642.210	4,537,000.707
Postal and Telegraphic School...	20.925.950	24,003.000
Total	4,803,849.638	4,991,347.327

Decrease.

Department Proper	82,075.262
Marine School (*Shosen Gakko*).	3,986 880
Expenses of Communications...	98,358 497
Postal and Telegraphic School.	3,077.050
Total	187,497.689

EXTRAORDINARY YEARLY EXPENDITURE.

Items.	Amounts recommended.	Amounts asked.
Subsidies	943,000.000	943,000.000
Expenses of travelling.	14,931.200	15,170.000
Construction & repairs	529,593.860	537,925 460
Total 1,487,525.060		1,496,095.460
General Total.....6,291,374.698		6,487,442.787

Decrease.

Subsidies	—
Expenses of travelling	238.800
Construction and repairs	8,331.600
Total decrease	8,570.400
General Total decrease	196,068.089

RURAL LIFE IN EAST ABERDEENSHIRE.

IV.

Let us glance shortly at the various operations of the Agricultural year. A good deal of the ploughing and preparing of the ground has been accomplished in the Autumn, but no sowing is done until the month of March. As soon as frost is out of the ground ploughing and harrowing are proceeded with energetically. To this succeeds the sowing of the oats and barley and the planting of potatoes. In May comes the sowing of the turnips, a very important Crop in Aberdeenshire, where vast numbers of cattle are reared for the Southern market, and where stall feeding begins early in September, and the pasture is not ready before May.

Whitsun-day is the great term time when leases expire and farms change hands. Servants are engaged for the half year at the great Whitsun-day feeing markets, and there is altogether much bustle and excitement. Hardly has this subsided, and everybody got settled in their new places, when hoeing time comes on. This is a period of anxiety, as a few days' delay may bring disaster upon the turnips. Fresh hands from the villages are brought in, and a feverish excitement is observed until the future of the precious *neeps* seems secured. Even then all is not safe, for about the time of the second hoeing they are often attacked by the desease popularly kown as *fingers and toes*, which especially in a dry season, often works havoc among the crop.

Next succeeds the hay season, and *the peats*. Within the radius of a dozen miles there are at least three *mosses* or moors from which peat is procured. Each moor has its *moss-gréene* or overseer, who measures off a certain portion of the *layer* from which each householder has a right to dig turf, or, as we call it, *cast peats*. The *casting* or digging is performed with a peculiarly shaped spade, which cuts each peat exactly the same size and shape. The *casting* is always done by men, but the soft wet peats have to be carefully separated and laid on the ground to dry; this work is called *spreading* and is generally performed by women, as well as the next operation *setting*, which consists in building the half-dried peats into little heaps called *rickles*, in which way they get thoroughly dried by the sun and wind. After the *setting*, the mass looks like a city of liliputian huts, built up with black bricks. The heat on a peat moss is sometimes intense. Shade there is none, and the only water is that of the black peat *bogs*, dismal indeed to look upon. Everyone is glad when the last load has been carted home, and all built into a neat pile with gables and sloping roof, known as the *peat stack*.

Year by year the mosses are getting smaller, some indeed having disappeared altogether. More and more of the moor *is taken in*, *i.e.* brought under cultivation, and corn and turnips are taking the place of bog-cotton and ragged-robin. Turnips want rain, and hay and peats require sunshine, so no wonder that the farmer is never quite contented with the weather, but by the latter part of July, if all goes well, he begins to breathe freely, and feels able to enjoy *Aikie Fair*, the great summer festival.

In former times the fair lasted for three days, and there farmers' wives made their purchases for the year. Although shorn of much of its importance, *Aikie Fair* is still a large cattle and horse market. Here, too, servants engage for the harvest, men waiting to be hired are known by their wearing an ear of green corn struck in their bonnets, a trophy sometimes hard to come by in a late season.

Farm servants, tradesmen, cottagers, all make holiday on *Aikie Fair* day. The lads are supposed to treat the lasses, and altogether a good deal of roughness and licence is permitted.

Aikie Brae, where the fair is held, is named after an Early King of Scotland, who was killed on this spot by a fall from his horse, thus fulfilling a prophesy of Sir Thomas the Blymer :—

> Thomas the Liar thou callest me,
> A true tale I will tell to thee.—
> On Aikie side thy horse shall ride,
> It shall stumble, thou shalt fa'
> And mauger a' thy pin and thee,
> Thine own sword-belt thy bier shall be!

The King, so the story goes, was carried on an extemporised bier, formed of his own and his attendants' sword-belts, across the Ugie, to the neighbouring abbey, where his brother Drostane was Abbot, and there died.

As children we looked forward for months to *Aikie Fair*. Early in the morning we were sure to receive a visit from Sergeant Birnie, an old pensioner who had seen service in the Peninsular War, and who had faught at Waterloo. The old man was a great favourite, and we would hang about him open-mouthed, while he told us stories

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of Salamanca, Badajoz, and Coruna. According to his own account, he was one of those who buried Sir John Moore,

The sod with their bayonets turning.

There was one terrible tale which we liked best of all, of the retreat before, or after, Coruna, which was it? when Sergeant Birnie had no opportunity of changing his clothes for six weeks, at the end of which time his boots had to be cut off his swollen feet. Those boots had a horrible fascination for us, and as for doubting the veracity of the story, we never thought of such a thing.

The Sergeant had taken to basket-making in his old age, and he never failed to bring us a pretty basket as a present, on the occasion of this his yearly visit. He lived in a distant parish, and doubtless disposed of some of his handiwork at the fair.

But not long did we linger indoors on *Aikie Fair* day. Our favourite post of observation was the garden, which only a grassy bank and hawthorn hedge separated from the high road. From early morning till midday the stream of fair-going travellers was constant; on foot, horseback, in gigs. A coach and four filled with Aberdeen butchers, heavy farm carts, made almost comfortable for the nonce by bolsters and pillows—the cry was, "Still they come." But what we liked best was the droves of sheep in charge of Highland shepherds who wore the kilt and plaid, and spoke Gaelic to their collies; the fine cattle from nearer home; and McBey, the Aberdeen horse *couper*, with his contingent of farm and carriage horses, and, best of all, little Shetland ponies. In early childhood I imagined a dim connection between Mr. McBey and a *bay* horse, of which fancy I have never been able fully to rid myself to the present hour. About two o'clock in the afternoon the tide began to turn, those who had gone to the fair on business only, usually returning early and sober. All through the Summer afternoon and long twilight would we watch the home-coming stream. Many a jolly red faced farmer would throw a box of sweeties or packet of gingerbread over the hedge, and the farm servants, if they chanced to raise their eyes and see us, would scramble up the bank, and hand a *fairin'* to the maids and children.

The one drop of bitterness in our cup was that we were strictly forbidden to go to the fair, or even beyond the garden on this day. The utmost we could obtain was permission for one of the servants to go and expend our savings for us. And oh! the rapture with which we greeted the maid's return, and the joy with which we received the *clagum* (a kind of stickly butter scotch), white wooden cups and plates and bowls, and above all little churns, each one with its conventional red rose, daubed on in a manner enough to drive a Japanese into a fit, but which we Philistines thought charming. A little cream was forthwith begged, or pilfered from the dairy, and who shall picture the delight when a few sickly looking crumbs of butter made their appearance, the reward of much patience and perseverence? I can taste the woody flavour of that butter in imagination at this moment.

After *Aikie Fair* comes a breathing space before the harvest, which hardly commences before September. Much of the work is now performed by reaping machines and other labour saving appliances, but, at the time we are speaking of, every stalk of corn was cut with the scythe. Two, three, or even four scythes, keeping regular time, each cutter followed closely by his gatherer, always a woman, whose work it is to gather the corn into sheaves, straightening her bent back every few minutes, as she stands up to make a band with two handfuls of the corn, rapidly but firmly knotted together. The sheaf placed on the band, she hurries on, leaving it to be fastened by the *bandster*. Next the *stooker* seizes a couple of sheaves, one under each arm, and set them up an end, the crops leaning against each other, the ends firmly planted on the stubble. Twelve sheaves form a *stook*.

Last of all comes the *raker*, who, with a big-toothed iron rake bound round his shoulder by a strap, gleans up the fallen ears, and binds them up into shapeless little bundles, known by the name of *brock*. In harvest time the quality of the food is improved, and the quantity increased. Bread and cheese and beer are brought out to the field twice a day, and if it be a distant one, dinner is also eaten on the spot. Working hours are from daylight to dark, and every effort is strained to complete the harvest while the fine weather lasts. What a day of rest is Sunday then! A veritable Sabbath, as they call it, and what a pleasant resting place is a sunny *stook* side!

The last sheaf is cut with great ceremony, being gathered and bound by the children of the household, or at any rate by some member of the family. It is called the *cliak* sheaf, and the conclusion of the corn cutting is spoken of as *taking cliak*. What the word means, or from whence derived I have no notion. The *cliak* sheaf is dressed up in old clothes, something after the manner of *Aunt Sally*, but unlike that long suffering individual is treated with marked respect, stands in a corner of the kitchen at the harvest supper, is played with by the children, and finally finds its way to the poultry yard, where its ripe ears are devoured by the cocks and hens.

A word about the harvest supper which is called the *meal and ale*, from the traditional dish which appears upon that occasion, and upon no other. I don't suppose it would appeal to English palates, but there are worse dishes than *meal and ale*. It is made of raw-oatmeal mixed with strong ale, sugar or molasses and a little whiskey. The consistency is that of thick pea soup; it is mixed in a huge bowl or milk-pan, a ring or a sixpence hidden in its depths, and a pinch of powdered cinnamon sprinkled over all. The feast is held in the kitchen; friends and neighbours are invited. The farmer and his family lend their countenance for the first half-hour, but it is the servants' party, and they are soon left to conduct it according to their own taste. A few spoonfuls of the meal and ale only are eaten, each one dipping low in the dish with the hopes of fishing up the ring. When this has been accomplished amid a good deal of rough joking and horse play, the more substantial part of the supper follows. Then the table is cleared, the fiddles tune up, and reel and country dance succeed each other into the small hours of the morning.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

San Francisco, January 22nd.

I have to report the death of the only sovereign who ever breathed his last in San Francisco—King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian islands—who departed this life at 2.30 p.m. on the 20th. The King came here a month ago on a pleasure trip, as was stated at the time; but in fact he came to consult physicians, as his state of health had alarmed his friends. His symptoms indicated Bright's disease in the incipient stage. He appeared to be in excellent health, and heartily enjoyed the festivities to which he was invited. But on a trip to Santa Barbara, he developed a morbid tendency to somnolency, and one day at dinner, he had a paralytic stroke. From this he recovered, but his medical attendant insisted on his return to this city. He had hardly arrived here, when another stroke followed, and a few days afterward, he had a convulsion—marking the early close of his sufferings. He lay for a day or two at the Palace Hotel surrounded by friends, and tenderly nursed by a young Hawaiian girl who never left him; but for a whole day prior to his decease, he was unconscious and equally unable to take food, or to hear the services of the episcopal church which were read by the Minister of Trinity. He passed away without a struggle.

Kalakaua was a genial kindly man, without much learning or much intellectual force. He was elected to the throne of Hawaii in 1874, on the death of the fifth and last of the Kamehamehas, and had been sixteen years on the throne. It may be questioned whether any man would have filled the position satisfactorily; certainly Kalakaua did not.

He is to be succeeded, according to an arrangement made in 1874, by the Princess Liliokolani, a lady of 53, who married an American or an Englishman. It is perhaps doubtful whether this arrangement can be carried out without trouble. A large proportion of the people of Hawaii, perhaps a majority, are in favour of a transfer of the Islands to this country and their recognition as a Territory of the United States; and though this scheme has never met with favour at Washington, the partition of the Pacific Islands between Great Britain, Germany, and France which is now going on, and the unconcealed purpose of Germany to snap up any unconsidered trifles which lie within range of her gunboats, may possibly induce the Administration to reconsider our traditional policy, and at least think on the subject. It is hardly likely that either England or France would protest very loudly against the annexation of the islands to this country when both Powers are diligently engaged in annexing other islands wherever they can find them.

The proceedings of Congress, since I last wrote, have been without interest. Hoar of Massachusetts continues to press his force bill in the senate. One day last week, he kept the senate in continuous session for thirty hours in the hope of getting a vote. But he was foiled at last. The bill, however, may pass before this letter gets out of the harbour. The silver men are wrestling with a proposition to require the Government to buy up all the loose silver in the country which is reckoned to amount to some $13,000,000: the idea being to relieve the speculators who bought silver on the passage of the bill of last year of a load which is mightily inconvenient to carry. It seems incredible that such a bill should have any chance of passing. But it has. In the House, Mr. Mills and the speaker have had another tilt, in which the gentleman from Texas informed the gentleman from Maine that he was a bald fraud, and the speaker received the rebuke in abashed silence. This is quite *fin de siècle*, is it not?

There is trouble in Chile. The telegraph wires are in the hands of the Government, and our information is consequently scanty. But it seems that the disturbance arises from the old cause; a desire of certain parties to overthrow Balmaceda, the present President, and that either by him or by his opponents, the nitrate ports have been closed by a blockade. Ships of war are steaming to Valparaiso from all parts of the world, and the old question whether a Power can blockade its own ports is likely to be revived.

Rumours of approaching war come from Gautemala. Purchases of arms of approved type and of horses are being made in the East by persons who are more or less clearly identified with the President of Guatemala, and the gossips say that when the coffee crop has been harvested in March, a quarrel will be picked with Salvador. This latter State has always been the chief impediment in the way of Central American Union. It is small, but it is rich, and its leading men have no notion of being absorbed by their larger neighbours. It was the treachery of San Salvador which defeated Barrios' well laid plan for a consolidation of the five States in 1887. It is quite likely that it will be necessary to extinguish the autonomy of Salvador as a preliminary to the establishment of the United States of Central America.

Nothing has thus far been developed by the Committee of Investigation on the alleged speculation of Congressmen in silver last year. Everybody knows that Congressmen and Senators did speculate, and did make money by the rise in silver caused by the passage of the Silver Bill; but it seems impossible to get evidence of the fact. The only man to whom actual purchases of silver have been traced is Senator Don Cameron of Pennsylvania, and he admits the fact, saying that he had as good a right to buy silver as to buy wheat or pork. As he has just been re-elected senator by the legislature of his state, it must be inferred that in his own home it is not considered that he did wrong.

The 1891 vacancies in the senate are being rapidly filled up to the present time; the only change of moment is the substitution of Governor Hill of New York, a Democrat, for Mr. Evarts, Republican. But in several other states, which have yet to elect, Democrats will be chosen over the present incumbents, who are Republicans. The control of the body will remain in Republican hands, but by a reduced majority.

A fresh complication with Germany has arisen. Within a few days, Secretary Blaine received a communication from the Imperial Government through the German Minister at Washington, complaining of an unprovoked and wanton assault by the police of Hoboken upon members of the crew of a German steamer lying at a wharf in that port. The secretary referred the missive to the Governor of New Jersey for investigation. Inquiry was instituted, and it turned out that the firemen of the German steamer had gone ashore, got drunk, and were making a row in the streets when a policeman endeavoured to induce them to return to their ship. Failing in that he attempted to arrest them, on which he was severely beaten, and knocked senseless; a subsequent attempt to effect the arrest by other policemen who boarded the steamer for the purpose led to their being pitched off the ship by the crew under the direction of the officers. On the following day, proceedings were renewed, and the captain ordered his men to submit to arrest. They were arraigned, and by the advice of their counsel, pleaded guilty, and were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. This, in the opinion of the German Minister constituted an outrage which calls for reparation. Mr. Blaine will be apt to give Chancellor von Caprivi a piece of his mind.

A curious murder case has just ended at New York. On 9th October last, one James McDougherty, a patient in the Flatbush Insane Asylum, escaped from custody, and shot dead Dr. Lloyd, one of the medical attendants. He was himself the chief witness for the defence. He said that he had escaped by picking the lock of the asylum door with a piece of wire. Having re-

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covered his liberty, he resolved on revenge for real or imaginary handships to which he had been subjected in his confinement, and he consulted lawyers with a view to instituting prosecutions. The lawyers declining to take his case, he bought a pistol and resolved to execute vengeance himself. He determined, he said, to put to death an editor who had urged his incarceration as a lunatic, the cook, who had served him bad victuals, the barber who had shaved him carelessly, and Dr. Lloyd, who, he said, was a cool calculating fellow, who never laughed. It happened that the latter was the first of his victims whom he met, and he shot him coolly and deliberately. His review of the evidence was searching and evinced high reasoning power. He commented at great length on the expert testimony and gave high praise to one doctor who pronounced him insane. He then went into a scientific discourse on insanity, and showed that his knowledge of the disease was thorough. Thus far he had been convicting himself out of his own mouth. But something diverted his attention to the subject of cyclones, and then he began to rave like a typical maniac. If he had kept silent on his pet theory, he would probably have been hanged; but the cyclones saved him, and he may be found guilty of murder in the second degree, which in his case means imprisonment for life in a lunatic asylum. He is the man who fell in love with Mary Anderson the actress, and persecuted her till she feared for her life.

IN H.B.M COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before N. J. Hannen, Esq., Judge.—Saturday, February 7th, 1891.

JUDGMENT IN THE NUTTALL-ANGLIN CASE.

Judgment in this case was given to-day.

Messrs. Walford and Litchfield, and the plaintiff were in attendance, but the defendant did not appear. A considerable number of the public was present.

The Judge said—This case does not to my mind present any great legal difficulties. The plaintiff had entered into a contract by which he was serving as the editor of the *Japan Gazette*. In the agreement that paper is described as an evening paper with a morning edition. The defendant by his own action transferred that paper to a company, and the company appointed an editor. I think for the purposes of this case Mr. Litchfield's proposition in regard to the law is accurate enough. Where a person puts it out of his power to carry out an agreement, that is in itself a breach. In this case it seems to me that it is a question not of law but of fact—whether the defendant had put it out of his power to carry out his agreement. Inasmuch as he had transferred the whole of the paper to the company, and the company had appointed an editor, it seems to me plain that he had put it out of his power to carry out his agreement. There was, therefore, in my opinion, a breach. I do not think that the circumstances which were contemplated in the agreement by clause 5 have arisen, and I do not think that the liquidated damages which were provided by clause 5 should be in this case given. Therefore there is a contract and a breach, and the plaintiff is entitled to some damages for it. Then comes the really difficult question: what are the damages? The plaintiff complains that he was put in a different and worse position in several ways, but the two which I think of importance, and which really are sufficiently grave to be considered by the Court are that he was transferred to the service of the company instead of being the servant of a single person, and, secondly, that he was to be sub-editor instead of editor of the paper. From the evidence it appears that he might have obtained the sub-editorship of this journal upon terms which I think were substantially as good as, if not better than, those under which he was serving in accordance with this agreement. Had therefore the company offered him the editorship of the paper, and all the other conditions which were proved before me to have been offered to him, I think there would be no damage. But he was offered a different position, serving under different people, and I think that he was not bound to accept that. He is, therefore, in this position: that up to the present time he has not had any offer which I think he was bound to accept, and he is entitled to such damages as the Court thinks are fair under such circumstances. Now, he claims a certain amount, and he puts into it various claims which I have no doubt he thought himself at the moment entitled to. On the other hand, the defendant might say there were exaggerations. It is very difficult to determine what is really the damage, and I think the only fair way to determine what it is is to look at what the parties themselves contemplated when they were both calm, when they had no reason to exaggerate on the one side or depreciate on the other what the damage might be. They came to the conclusion that if at any time this agreement was to be terminated by the defendant certain damages were to be given. I therefore think that the fairest way will be to consider that stipulation—not because the circumstances provided for in Art. 5 have arisen but because that is the only fair way I can see of judging what the damages to be given to the plaintiff ought to be. I think the Court ought to follow the procedure suggested in clause 5 of the agreement. The plaintiff is therefore entitled to a week's notice from now, and entitled to three months' salary after that, and he is entitled to his passage home. My judgment therefore is for the plaintiff, for the sum of $1,082.50 and costs.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, February 8th.

Great difficulty is being experienced in the formation of the new Italian Cabinet.

London, February 9th.

Signor Rudini, a Conservative, has succeeded in forming a Coalition Cabinet in Italy.

The rebels in Chile have captured one of the new ironclads.

London, February 9th.

Count Schleiffen has been appointed to succeed General von Waldersee as Chief of the Staff of the German Army.

The Egyptian Administration troops have been ordered to Tokar to expel the Dervishes from that place.

London, February 10th.

The letter addressed by the Lord Mayor of London to the Emperor of Russia, enclosing a memorial in favour of the Jews, has now been returned by the Czar unanswered.

London, February 11th.

The Army Estimates show a decrease of £290,000.

The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill has passed the second reading by a majority of 47.

[From the "Singapore Free Press."]

London, January 21st.

At a mass meeting held at Boston it was resolved that the Coinage Bill should not be accepted, and that an appeal be made to President Harrison to veto the bill if it passes.

London, January 22nd.

Mr. Furness, a Gladstonian, has been elected for Hartlepool.

Speaking at Cambridge, the Marquis of Salisbury said that a lesson had been learnt from the recent events in Ireland of the tremendous power of the priesthood, which, if Home Rule were granted to govern Ireland, would crush Ulster beneath its ruthless heel.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Feb. 20th.
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Monday, Feb. 16th.*
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 21st.†
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 22nd.‡
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Monday, Mar. 2nd.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'nday, Mar. 4th.

* *Ancona* left Nagasaki on February 12th. † *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on February 5th. ‡ *Nanshan* left Hongkong on February 13th. The French mail is on board the steamer *City of Peking*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 15th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 17th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 17th.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Feb 21st.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 24th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wed'nday, Mar. 4th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 7th.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

Down Trains leave Shimbashi Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

Up Trains leave Yokohama Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.58, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8 58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

Fares—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

Trains leave Yokohama (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and Kozu (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11 05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

Fares—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between Kozu and Yumoto (distance 4 ri.) Jinrikisha may be hired between Yumoto and Miyanoshita (distance 1½ ri.)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

Trains leave Ofuna (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; Kamakura (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8 31 p.m.; and Dzushi (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8 40 p.m., Yokosuka (up) at 6 25, 8 02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; Dzushi (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7 51 p.m.; and Kamakura (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3 26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

Fares—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

Trains leave Oyama (down) at 6.50 and 9.25 a.m., and 2.20 and 5.15 p.m.; and Mito (up) at 6.25 and 10.10 a.m., and 2.05 and 4 55 p.m.

Fares—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

TOKYO-MARBASHI RAILWAY.

Trains leave Tōkyō (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and Marbashi (up) at 6, 8.50, and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.45 p.m.

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

Trains leave Shinjiku, Tokyo, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m; and Hachioji (up) at 5.25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

Fares—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60; third-class *sen* 30.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

Trains leave Utsunomiya (down) at 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and Nikko (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Uyeno.

Fares—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen*; third-class, 25 *sen*.

TOKYO-SHIOGAMA RAILWAY.

Trains leave Ueno (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; Utsunomiya (down) at 9.57 a.m. and 3.04 and 6.11 p.m.; Shirakawa (down) at 8 a.m. and 12.34 and 5.42 p.m.; Koriyama (down) at 9.24 a.m. and 1.53 and 7.01 p.m.; Fukushima (down) at 7.30 and 11.35 a.m. and 3.48 p.m.; and Sendai (down) at 6.15 and 10.25 a.m. and 2.35 and 6.45 p.m.

Trains leave Shiogama (up) at 6.50 and 11 a.m., and 3.10 and 7.20 p.m.; Sendai (up) at 7.30 and 11.40 a.m., and 3.50 p.m.; Fukushima (up) at 6.40 and 10.23 a.m. and 2.36 p.m.; Koriyama (up) at 8.28 a.m., and 12.15 and 4.26 p.m.; Shirakawa (up) at 6.30 and 9.45 a.m., and 1.35 p.m.; and Utsunomiya (up) at 6.15 and 9.3 a.m., and 12.20, 4.18 and 6.30 p.m.

Fares.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6.45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

TAKETOYO-OFU RAILWAY.

Trains leave Taketoyo (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and Ofu (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

Fares—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

Steamers leave the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and leave Yokosuka at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 6th February,—Shanghai and ports 30th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Agostino Rombo, Italian bark, 807, R. Rottini, 8th February,—Bangkok 22nd October, Timber,—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 8th February,—Hongkong 3rd February, General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Bushmills, British steamer, 1,543, O. Venning, 8th February,—Kobe 6th February, Oil and General.—American Trading Co.

Calédonien, French steamer, 2,500, Maubenge, 8th February,—Hongkong 28th January, Shanghai 3rd, and Kobe 7th February, General.—Messageries Maritimes & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 8th February,—Kobe 7th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 8th February,—Kobe 5th February General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 9th February,—San Francisco 22nd January, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,445, Clark, 10th February,—Kobe 9th February, General.—Cornes & Co.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 10th February, —Nagasaki 7th February, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 10th February,—Hakodate 7th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niobe, German steamer, 1,666, Thomsen, 10th February,—Hongkong 3rd February, General. —Simon, Evers & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, Young, 10th February,—Hokodate 8th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, John Wynn, 10th February,—Kobe 9th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Volturno (8), Italian corvette, Captain Royeli, 11th February,—Kobe 9th February.

Gleneagles, British steamer, 1,837, E. F. Park, 12th February,—Kobe 11th February, Oil and General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Wordsworth, British steamer, 1,314, Phillips, 12th February,—Kobe 10th February, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 12th February,—Kobe 11th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 13th February,—Shanghai and ports 6th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

W. W. Crapo, American bark, 1,573, Hardy, 13th February,—New York 31st July, Oil.—Mouriyan, Heimann & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 6th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lennox, British steamer, 1,343, C. Summerton, 8th February,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 8th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 7th February,—Hongkong, viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,107, W. M. Smith, 10th February,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 10th February,—Shanghai and ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ning Chow, British steamer, 1,735, Allen, 10th February,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,182, Waller, 10th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 1,491, Williams, 11th February,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 11th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 12th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 13th February,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 13th February, —Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 13th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bushmills, British steamer, 1,543, O. Venning, 14th February,—Kobe, General.—American Trading Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. A. J. Lines, R. Kirby, and N. Krell in cabin; Mr. Chin Yue Tong in second class; and 39 passengers in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. Lee Show Cho in cabin.

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, from Hongkong, viâ Shanghai and Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. d'Almeida, Mr. and Mrs. J. Valentine, Mr. and Mrs. Coltman and 3 children, Messrs. I. Kato, Shinamura, I. Ejitchi, T. Chokonei, T. Thomas, Audenet, Thevenet, Faga, Ch. Nicolas, Hausile, J. Révilliod, and G. Yanny in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from Hongkong:—Captain L. Shoak, Messrs. T. Tanaka, A. M. Essabhoy, and Woug Get Hing in cabin. For San Francisco: Messrs. R. Tray and F. W. Carlson in cabin.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from San Francisco:—Rev. G. F. Verbeck, D.D., Mr. and Mrs. Theo. G. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Fortmann, Miss Stella Fortmann, Miss Emma Fortmann, Mr. and Mrs. Inazo Natobe, Messrs. G. N. Macondray, Harry W. Whitcup, G. Matsu, M. Inagaki, Walter Leslie, Z. Horikoshi, K. Takahashi, Norman Knowles, and Shirasu Fumi in cabin. For Shanghai: Rev. and Mrs. A. P. Parker in cabin. For Hongkong: Miss Grace Field, Mrs. Thekla Goldsmith, Bishop and Mrs. D. A. Goodsell, Messrs. Lau Cheuck Nam and M. Sato in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. C. Sim, F. T. Lias, A. Stewart, G. Whymark, W. Kerr, F. A. Cabeldu, F. Collins, F. Brockhurst, and H. Gye in cabin; 30 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. K. Tanizu and M. Yendo in cabin; 11 passengers in second-class; 26 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. J. B. Coulson, S. Rosenfeld, S. Hashimoto, and Mr. and Mrs. Teler in cabin; and 31 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. L. L. Forbes and R. F. Oilinger in cabin; and 27 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Reamey and infant, Hon. Paul Newman, Mr. V. Lavacry, and Mr. O. Sasaki in cabin; Mr. T. Takeno in second class, and 24 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Hayashi, Momoyawa, Kawasaki, Tashiro, Nabeshima, Takahashi, Wilson, Stewart, Collins, Cabeldu, Gye, Sim, Hansell, and Eothoven, Rev. A. Parker and wife in cabin; Mrs. Hean, Mrs. Chai, Mrs. Chang, Master Lo Sun, Rev. A. P. Parker, Messrs. Shin King, Chin Tuck Poy, Fukuhara, Aoki, Ito, Ishu, Erik Pilquirt, Soverstrom, Toonvall, Hagquiet, Holman, Rosenquirt, Tunell, Aglstraud, Hendrickson, Rydberg, Abrahamson, Rydell, Renins, Nordlund, Olson, Gullbrandson, Nelson, Misses Johnson, Lindvall, Nordstrom, Anderson, Pesson, Sanders, M. Anderson, E. Nilson, Olsen, Penderson, Steomslu, Anderson, Karlson, H. Anderson, Elofson, Eeger Klint, and Athlstrom in second-class; 46 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong, viâ Kobe and Nagasaki:—Mr. and Mrs. Hoggan, Mrs. T. Sinclair, Messrs. Symes, E. W. Barberry, Y. Todoroki, and Private Martin Saunders in cabin; 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—Major-General Knowles, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Coltman and three children, Messrs. A. Kurtzhals, C. C. Helssler, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Mortimer and child, Messrs. E. Geiger, R. W. Gorrill, R. Tray, Siegfried Pohl, Miss Leinbach, Messrs. S. Takagi, F. W. Carlson, and Lee Shon Cho in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong, viâ Kobe and Nagasaki:—Raw Silk for France, 431 bales.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	241	23	264
Hyogo	—	544	124	668
Yokohama	706	—	849	1,559
Hongkong	65	6,279	1,630	7,974
Total	771	7,064	2,626	10,461

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	235	—	235
Hongkong	—	76	—	76
Yokohama	—	691	—	691
Kobe	—	44	—	44
Total	—	1,046	—	1,046

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai January 30th at 1.52 p.m.; weather dull with thick fog at times; passed Tungsha Light-ship at 6.15 p.m.; thence experienced moderate N.N.W. gale with heavy beam sea and cloudy weather. Arrived at Nagasaki February 1st at 9.17 a.m and left the 2nd at 5.10 p.m.; weather overcast and cloudy with moderate N.W. winds. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 3rd at 6.43 p.m. and left at 11.44 a.m.; experienced cloudy weather with fresh E.S.E. winds. Arrived at Kobe the 4th at 8.15 a.m. and left the 5th at 2.48 p.m.; experienced moderate N.E. gale and overcast weather and very heavy S.E. swell with rain at times; passed Oshima Light at 11.05 p.m., very heavy sea and moderate N.E. gale with thick rain; passed Omaisaki the 6th at 9.30 a.m.; wind hauled to east and blew furious gale, very heavy sea and thick weather with rain and fog; passed Rock Island at 12.45 a.m.; thence to port had strong N.E. gale and dirty-thick weather. Arrived at Yokohama February 6th at 6.45 p.m.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain W. H. Walker, reports:—Left Hongkong on February 3rd; moderate and variable winds and sea from Hongkong to Yokoshima, thence to port strong northerly winds and head sea. Passed a bark outside bound in. Arrived at Yokohama February 8th at 11.34 p.m. Passage time 5 days 7 hours and 33 minutes.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain W. M. Smith, reports:—Left San Francisco January 22nd at 4.09 p.m.; crossed the Meridian on February 1st, in Lat. 31.51 N., passed Noshima 3.40 a.m. February 9th; had light to fresh variable winds, and moderate sea with fine weather all the way with the exception of a moderate gale from S.W. to N.W., which lasted 18 hours when about 600 miles off the Japanese coast. Passage time 16 days 21 hours and 28 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 7th January at noon; had moderate light N.W. winds and fine clear weather; passed Oshima Light at 8.15 p.m. On the 8th at 4 a.m., moderate N.E. winds and passing rain showers, clearing after passing Rock Islands; moderate breeze and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the same day.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain F. J. Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate February 7th at 2 p.m.; dense snow fall and strong N.E. winds; 6.30 p.m. rounded Shiriyasaki; midnight wind hauling to the N.W. with clear weather. Arrived at Ogimohama the 8th at 1.03 p.m. and left the 9th at 6 a.m.; gentle southerly winds and cloudy weather changing to fresh northerly wind with snow and rain up to Inuboye, which was passed at 8 p.m.; thence strong to moderate northerly gale up to arrival. Arrived at Yokohama February 10th at 7 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Wynn, reports:—Left Kobe the 9th February at noon; had moderate N.W. winds to Oshima; thence strong N.W. winds with high N.W. sea to Rock Island and moderate N.E. winds to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 10th February at 6.30 p.m. Passed a foreign bark about 10 miles to N.E. of Rock Island.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 11th February at noon; had moderate breeze from the N.W. and fine weather; passed Oshima at 9.27 p.m., wind moderate, breeze from the north and fine weather; on the 12th at 4 a.m., fresh winds from N.W. and cloudy, continuing to 11 a.m., wind falling light and shifting to the N.E.; passed Rock Island at 0.40 p.m.; at 2.30 p.m. passed an American barque to the westward of Vries Island signalising request to be towed; passed Cape Sagami at 5.15 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th February at 7.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 6th February at 8 a.m.; had strong N.W. winds with cloudy weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 8th at 7 a.m. and left the 9th at 5 p.m.; had fresh N.E. gales with heavy snow and squalls. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 10th at 1 p.m. and left at 4.20 p.m.; had fine weather throughout Inland Sea. Arrived at Kobe the 11th at 3.45 p.m. and left the 12th at noon; had fresh N.E. winds with fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 13th February at 6 p.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is nothing fresh to report in the position of the Import Market, which still remains very dull. Sales for the week amount to 50 bales English Yarns and 10 bales Bombays, and 4,000 pieces Shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

			PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.30
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	PER YARD. 0.14
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.00	to	PER PIECE. 1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 51 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 51 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

			PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	28.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to	32.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to	38.00
			PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

Prices of all kinds are unchanged, but there is very little doing, and holders are trying to obtain some advance in rates to compensate for the lower exchange. But so far they seem to meet with no success, buyers being apparently unwilling to buy anything if they can help it.

			PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.60	to	2.65
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.70	to	2.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.60	to	2.75
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted	2.70	to	2.80
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.20	to	4.50
Tin Plates, per box	5.00	to	5.25
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.20	to	1.30

KEROSENE.

Sales consist principally of some damaged cargo ex recent arrivals. Prices are somewhat lower, but with a declining exchange; holders hope for some improvement in this respect. Small arrivals from New York per steamers *Bushmills* and *Gleneagles*, but these do not increase very materially the present stock. Deliveries are good and there is apparently a fair demand for Oil in the interior.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.67½	to	1.70
Comet	1.65	to	1.67½
Devoe	1.62½	to	1.65
Russian	1.57½	to	1.60

SUGAR.

White Refined has been sold to a good extent at higher prices, while Browns are quiet at about former quotations. There have been considerable arrivals and the total stock is about 100,000 piculs.

			PER PICUL.
White Refined	$4.25	to	7.25
Brown Takao	$3.80	to	3.85
Brown Daitong	3.10	to	3.75
Brown Canton	4.70	to	5.70
Brown Java and Penang	4.50	to	5.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 6th inst., since which date settlements on this Market amount to 373 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks*, 62; *Filatures*, 130; *Re-reels*, 123; *Kakeda*, 53; *Oshu*, 5. There have been no direct shipments during the week, so that the total business stands as above at 373 piculs.

Market has continued strong, sellers pushing prices up daily. Against this rise in dollar quotations, exchange has declined about 1½ per cent. but not nearly sufficient to compensate for the increased first cost of silk. The number of holders who refuse to sell at any price increases daily.

Telegraphic information from abroad does not seem to warrant this state of things, but holders and dealers here are apparently very confident that prices will rise yet further. During the week our Chinese New Year Holidays have practically made business a dead letter, and our quotations are in some instances, more or less, nominal with holders very strong indeed. In fact, if buyers should offer to take some silk at present quotations, sellers would immediately back out and ask higher figures.

In spite of the holidays, settlements have not ceased altogether, there being a few small purchases both for Europe and America. The situation is very difficult there are orders in town at 5 per cent. under present quotations, but there seems no chance at all of filling them or of buyers and sellers meeting half-way.

Arrivals from the interior are very light and the stock is down to 10,800 piculs.

There has only been one shipping opportunity during the week, the English mail steamer, *Verona*, on the 7th inst., taking 431 bales for France. The departure of this vessel brings the present export figures to 18,013 piculs against 32,950 piculs last year and 34,763 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Only one transaction, a buyer taking about 100 native bales of *Shinshu Hanks*, good medium quality, at $495 per picul. Anything above No. 2½ in quality is held beyond all hope of business.

Filatures.—Some few small purchases at gradually advancing rates, No. 1 *Usen*, fine size, having notched $620; with *Mino*, Nos. 1-1½, at $605. The first sorting of *Turtle* Chop re-reels (so called Filatures) have been done at $600.

Re-reels.—These have advanced beyond all proportion, holders now asking $580 for silk equal to *Five Girl* chop. They sold a good sized parcel of *Turtle* chop at $577½, and are now refusing to go on at any price. Some *Bushu* re-reels, *Watarase* chop, have actually been done at $565.

Kakeda.—Small business in these, prices being forced up daily. *White Horse-head* was done on the 6th at $540 and has since been done in conjunction with *Daruma* at $560.

Oshu.—Several parcels have been sent to and fro, but very little has been weighed up. Prices are strong at last rates.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		$495 to 500
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	490 to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	480 to 485
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	470 to 475
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	460 to 465
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		600 to 610
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		570 to 580
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		575 to 585
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		550 to 560
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		540 to 545
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		580 to 590
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		575 to 585
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		560 to 570
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		550 to 555
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		540 to 545
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520 to 530
Kakedas—Extra	Nom	—
Kakedas—No. 1		560 to 565
Kakedas—No. 1½		545 to 550
Kakedas—No. 2		535 to 540
Kakedas—No. 2½		525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 3		515 to 520
Kakedas—No. 3½		505 to 510
Kakedas—No. 4		495 to 500
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		520 to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		530 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 12th Feb., 1891:—

		Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		7,135	14,006	18,843
America		10,430	18,535	15,715
Total	Bales	17,565	32,541	34,558
	Piculs	18,013	32,950	34,763
		Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		20,000	34,300	34,700
Stock, 12th February		10,800	2,700	6,300
Available supplies to date		30,800	37,000	41,000

WASTE SILK.

Small business; settlements are only 300 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 145; *Kibiso*, 145; and *Neri*, 10.

Buyers complain very loudly that they cannot find the qualities which they require, especially in *Noshi*. Some of them are turning their attention to *Kibiso*, but so far no very great sales are made. Quotations are unchanged, but more or less nominal in the absence of business. Buyers would gladly pay these prices if the quality were forthcoming.

The P. & O. steamer *Verona*, on the 7th instant, carried 236 bales for Europe, and the present export figures are now 22,033 piculs against 20,613 last year and 25,038 at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No sales for export, and the Japanese are apparently beginning to use up the stock now of this market—50 piculs having been re-transferred to the interior for home consumption.

Noshi.—The business done has not been large for lack of the requisite quality. Some few parcels of *Oshu Tegara* have been taken at $120, a few bales of fine *Bushu* at $137 and a line of *Joshu* at $75. Beyond these transactions nothing has been done.

Kibiso.—A few small purchases in filatures at prices ranging from $100 to $115. In other kinds we note *Shinshu* at $55; *Mino* at $45 and *Joshu* at $32½.

Mawata.—No business at all; the quality on offer not being suitable for shipment.

Neri.—Only one transaction this week, a parcel having been done at $10, for the uncleaned stock.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—	
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—	
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		$135	to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		125	to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130	to 145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—	
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100	to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—	
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best		130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85	to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½	to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70	to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110	to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100	to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		55	to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50	to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35	to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good		45	to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½	to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15	to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180	to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 12th Feb., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	20,746	18,423	22,360
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	22,033	20,613	25,038
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	24,750	22,300	27,100
Stock, 12th February	5,800	9,700	5,300
Available supplies to date	30,550	32,000	32,400

Exchange has declined in sympathy with the fall in silver at home. Present quotations are:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/4⅜; Documents, 3/4½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/4⅝; Documents, 3/4⅝; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $81⅛; 4 m/s. U.S. $82½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.26; 6m/s. fcs. 4.28.

Estimated Silk Stock, 12th February, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	230	Cocoons	350
Filatures	6,400	Noshi-ito	1,180
Re-reels	3,600	Kibiso	3,770
Kakeda	400	Mawata	170
Oshu	160	Sundries	330
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	10,800	Total piculs	5,800

TEA.

A very small retail business in the lower grades, but the season is practically defunct. Stock now is reduced to less than 1,500 piculs; all undesirable leaf.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has fluctuated, and during the last few days has seen several successive falls.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2⅜ Nom.
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3 3½
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.13
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.23
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	79½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	80⅛
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	79½
On San Francisco—Private 10 days' sight	80⅛
Silver	46

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 1891.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MR. YOSHIKAWA, Minister of State for Education, suffers at present from influenza.

H.E. PRINCE SANJO, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, died of inflammation of the lungs, consequent on an attack of influenza, on the 18th instant.

IMPORTANT speeches were delivered in the House of Representatives on the 16th instant by the Minister President of State and the Minister of State for Finance.

THE Matsusaka Tramway Company, which has been established by residents of Matsusaka, Ise, proposes to construct a tramway between Matsusaka and Tsujihara (9 miles).

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 17th instant, and attended by Counts Yamagata, Saigo, Oyama, Goto, and Matsukata, Viscount Kabayama, and Mr. Mutsu.

MR. TERAO HISASHI, President of the Tokyo Physical School, has issued invitations to the graduation ceremony of the institution, which will take place on the 22nd instant.

THE new buildings of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, which had been in course of construction at Hamadori, Nichome, Dogashima, Kitaku, Osaka, were completed on the 12th instant.

DURING the month of January last 1,193 applications for patents were made to the Patents Bureau, and 1,259 were granted, for which fees to the amount of *yen* 1,265.60 were received. The above shows a decrease of 326 applications, of 1,008 patents granted, and of *yen* 539.70 in fees as compared with the previous month.

MR. N. NABESHIMA, a son of Marquis Nabeshima, who intends to leave Japan shortly for England to prosecute his studies, was entertained by a number of his friends on the 15th instant at the Sanyen-tei, Shiba.

THE graduation ceremony of the Marine Products School will take place on the 22nd instant. His Imperial Highness Prince Komatsu Akihito, President of the Japan Marine Products Society, will, it is expected, attend the meeting.

THE work of constructing the new buildings of the Higher Commercial School, the contract for which was obtained by the Nippon Doboku Kaisha, the cost being *yen* 14,000, has been commenced at Hitotsubashi, Kanda.

EARLY in the morning of the 11th instant an outbreak of fire took place in a house at Amatsu-cho, Nagasagori, Awanokuni, Chiba Prefecture, and destroyed 136 houses, 3 houses being partly damaged before the flames could be got under control.

A MEETING of officials of the Sanitary Bureau in the Home Department was held on the 18th instant to discuss matters in reference to the compilation of regulations for the use of Dr. Koch's remedy, as samples of the lymph are expected to arrive in Japan shortly.

A MEETING of the Privy Council was held on the 17th instant, at which Counts Terashima, Yanagiwara, and Soyeshima, and Viscounts Sano, Yoshida, and Enomoto were present. The proceedings lasted from 11 in the forenoon till a little past 3 in the afternoon.

SUZUKI IKUZO and Shimizu Shinkichi, residing in Yokohama, who were arrested some time ago on a charge of having counterfeited 10 *sen* silver coins, were found guilty and sentenced on the 14th instant in the Tokyo District Court to thirteen years' imprisonment with hard labour.

FIRE broke out on the night of the 14th instant in the house of Sugiyama Heijiro, Haramachi, Suntogori, Suruga, destroying 36 houses, and 2 telegraph posts before the flames could be subdued. On the following night 29 houses and 2 telegraph posts were burned at Mishima-cho, Kimizawagori, Izu.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO and Princess Yoriko, who had been absent for some time on a tour through Shizuoka Prefecture, returned to the capital on the 16th instant. On the same day H.I.H. Prince Kitashirakawa Yoshihisa arrived in the capital from Atami, where he had been staying for some time.

MESSRS. KONISHI SHIRO and Konishi Goro, of Hamamatsucho, Shikichigori, and Takamori, of Tenomura, Nagakamigori, Shizuoka Prefecture, have found a gold vein among the hills of Shuchigori in that prefecture, and have applied to the Authorities for permission to make experimental essays in mining.

THE former Chinese Minister left the capital for home on the 14th instant, starting from the Shimbashi Station by the 10.45 a.m. train. A number of distinguished persons accompanied him to the station, among whom were Counts Yamagata, Matsukata, and Oyama, and Viscounts Aoki and Hijikata, Ministers of State, Counts Terashima, Soyeshima, and Yoshii, Privy Councillors, and several of the Foreign Representatives.

MESSRS. FUJITA, a Private Secretary of the Minister of State for Communications, and Indo Marumitsu, Assistant Director of the Postal Bureau in the Communications Department, who had been ordered to proceed to Austria to attend the Postal Congress to be held at Vienna in May next, will, it is expected, leave Japan about the end of next month.

A FAREWELL entertainment was given on the night of the 13th instant at the Sanomo, Otamachi, Yokohama, by Messrs. Asada, Governor of Kanagawa, Tamura, Secretary, and Mitsuhashi, Councillor of Kanagawa Prefecture, Arishima, Superintendent of the Yokohama Custom House, and several other officials of various Government offices in Yokohama, to Mr. Okamura, the former President of the Yokohama Law Courts.

FIRE broke out on the night of the 11th instant in the house of Oka Torakichi, No. 84, Sattemachi, Kita-katsushikagori, Saitama Prefecture, destroying 10 dwellings before the flames could be subdued. On the same night an outbreak of fire took place in the house of Hasegawa Heisaku, Fuchimura, Yenagori, Gifu Prefecture. The flames were confined to the buildings where they originated, but one man was burned to death.

A SHOCK of earthquake was experienced in the capital on the 13th instant, at 6h. 30m. a.m. The duration was 2 minutes and 50 seconds, and the direction from S.E. to N.W., the maximum horizontal motion being 0.5 milimètre in 1.4 second. The shock was a sharp one. A severe shock was felt at 6h. 56m. 20s. a.m. The duration was 2 minutes, and the direction was from S.E. to N.W., the maximum horizontal motion being 0.5 milimètre in 1.1 second.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the afternoon of the 13th instant, and was attended by Counts Yamagata, Oyama, Yamada, Saigo, and Matsukata, Viscounts Kabayama and Aoki, and Mr. Mutsu. The proceedings lasted till a little past 5 p.m. Lieutenant-General Katsura, Vice-Minister of the War Department, Mr. Magaki, a Private Secretary of the Minister of State for Justice, and several other Secretaries of various Government Departments were also present at the meeting.

THERE is an improvement to note in the Import market. The total Yarn taken has been rather less than 500 bales, mostly English spinnings, and 5,000 pieces Shirtings and a few Italians have also been sold. The Metal trade is looking up a little, and there has been a fair amount of sales at better prices, with further enquiry at the close. Kerosene has been sold in considerable quantities, and prices tend upwards. There has been a continuation of the late demand for Sugar (Whites), and Browns will probably soon be in request. There has been some demand for Silk, and 1,000 piculs, not including a small direct shipment, is the business of the week. Prices have been somewhat irregular, but every opportunity has been taken by holders to push up values. The stock has been brought below 10,000 piculs. Waste Silk has been in better request, at full rates, but the assortment is showing signs of becoming impoverished, the stock being reduced to 5,000 piculs. Tea is now finished. Exchange has declined all the week till yesterday, when a slight recovery took place.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

EXISTENCE OR NON-EXISTENCE.

It is beginning to be possible to see daylight in the debates of the Lower House on the Budget. The House has practically reached to the end of the Expenditure side of the Budget. The Revenue side, however, remains to be debated, and there is some difficulty in predicting what that process may involve. The House has to determine what changes should be made in the Revenue to balance the sweeping reductions of Expenditure already voted. A month or two back, one might have expected tolerable unanimity in this matter. The talk at that time was all in favour of lightening the Land Tax. But public opinion has begun to think seriously about the Land Tax, and some valuable essays and articles recently published must have produced an effect inside the Diet as they certainly have outside. Possibly, therefore, an interesting and not unequal discussion may take place with reference to this important item of Revenue. Be this as it may, however, the debate on the Revenue side cannot possibly begin before the 22nd instant, and if the Budget reaches the House of Peers by the 25th or 26th, its last stages in the Lower House will have been much more rapid than its previous history justifies us in expecting. Arrived in the Upper House, it has to be submitted to a Committee, and we cannot expect that the Committee will finish the examination and compile a Report in less than seven days. This would bring us to March 5th. The Constitutional period of the Diet's session terminates, however, on March 1st (Sunday). It appears, therefore, that unless the session is prolonged there is not the least chance of the Budget's passing through the House of Peers. In other words, it will not come into existence, and the Government, according to the Constitution, will have to carry out the Budget of the preceding year. The general opinion at present is that there will be a prolongation. A week was lost owing to the burning of the parliamentary buildings, and a week's unexpected delay was entailed by the failure of the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives to prepare its Report within the prescribed period of fifteen days. Possibly the Government, taking both of these points into consideration, may agree to prolong the session for a fortnight, namely, until March 15th. In that case the House of Peers, supposing that its Committee reports by March 5th, would have eight days to debate and pass the whole Budget. Can it accomplish such a task? Possibly, Even if it does, however, there remains the difficulty that unless it accepts all the amendments of the Lower House without cavil, a conference of the Houses, a re-adjustment of the Budget, and finally its re-voting by each House will be necessary. On the whole, therefore, the chances seem to be entirely against the Budget's coming into existence. The Lower House has talked away its opportunity.

DR. KOCH AND JAPAN.

Dr. Hamano Noboru, a Japanese physician of eminence, may congratulate himself on having been the first to obtain a grant of money from the House of Representatives. A man of decidedly progressive tendencies, the Doctor believes in keeping his country's medical science as far as possible abreast of Western research, and like everybody else he has doubtless been greatly struck by the wonderful discovery of Dr. Koch. Accordingly he asked the House to add a sum of ten thousand *yen* to the appropriation on account of medical students sent abroad by the Educational Department, in order that steps might be taken to obtain practical knowledge of the methods now creating so much excitement in Europe and America. The House agreed, and as there is not the least question that the Government, which really leads progress in Japan, will gladly endorse the recommendation, we may presume that three or four Japanese physicians will soon wend their way to Germany. Possibly some critics will say that Japan might well have rested on her oars for a season in this matter, since the Koch discovery can scarcely yet be said to have reached a really practical stage. But we can scarcely imagine any medical fraternity able to restrain its impatience in such a matter. Koch has sworn to hold his peace until he shall have put the finishing touches to his work, years hence, perhaps; but meanwhile men like Morell MacKenzie do not hesitate to write:—"Possibilities of the utmost benefit to humanity are in view, for after a time we may not only be able to cure consumption, but to prevent it in the way vaccination protects against small-pox. Dr. Koch has succeeded in making guinea-pigs invulnerable to tubercle, and this happy result may yet be attained by him in the case of man."

JUDGE HANNEN.

The promotion that takes Judge Hannen to Shanghai will deprive Yokohama of a man whom this community has learned to regard with affection and respect In an official capacity Judge Hannen's record is worthy of the service to which he has the honour to belong, and as an individual he has made well deserved and firm friendships. That he leaves us to fill the highest judicial post attainable by an Englishman in his branch of the service, must be our consolation for the heavy loss that Yokohama society will suffer by his departure. It is to be regretted, however, that Her Majesty's Government should have chosen this occasion to carry out an economy of doubtful benefit, namely, the amalgamation of the duties of Chief Justice and Consul-General in Shanghai. The prizes attainable by members of the Consular Service in the East are few, and at the head of the list stood the Consul-Generalship in Shanghai. It may be that the duties attaching to the office were not of a very arduous nature, but in view of the peculiar position occupied by the municipality of Shanghai, and the nature of its relations with the Chinese Authorities, there can be little doubt as to the advantage of having a Consul-General to act as a channel of communication and as a representative generally. We may assume that the course adopted by the British Government in this instance is founded on precedents such as that of the Judge and Consul-General at Constantinople, and that the question of salary has also been affected by similar considerations. Under ordinary circumstances, when the duties of one office are added to those of another, an increase, not a reduction, of the emoluments attached to the latter might be expected. But whereas the salary of the Chief Justice in Shanghai has hitherto been £2,500 annually, and the salary of the Consul-General £1,500, the pay of the united posts is henceforth to be £2,000 only. A yearly saving of £2,000 is thus accomplished, but whether the loss in other directions will not outbalance the pecuniary gain is exceedingly problematical. At all events, the first occupant of the united positions is, in one sense, to be commiserated with, since the unpopularity of the economical measure by which he is no small sufferer, will probably extend in some slight degree to himself.

THE TERRIBLE IDEOGRAPH.

An ideograph is a formidable looking affair to eyes not accustomed to such a species of caligraphy. It has an imposing as well as a convincing effect. A few ideographs scattered through a leading article in English, convey an excellent impression of the writer's scholarship, and exercise an awful influence on the minds of the uninitiated. But there are limits to the efficacy of the ideograph. It cannot, for example, cover the tracks of an editor who having for several days obediently copied the erroneous translation of a contemporary, tries to avoid the charge of plagiarism by going in for a mistranslation on his own account. It is a striking coincidence that so long as we made "Marquis Konoye" acting President of the House of Peers, our contemporary the *Japan Gazette* made him a Marquis also. And it is also a striking coincidence that so soon as we discovered our mistake and made him into a Prince, the *Japan Gazette* also abandoned the title of Marquis and adopted that of Duke. These, of course, are mere coincidences. But now comes the consummate strategy of the *Gazette*. Having converted the quondam Marquis into a Duke, it adds this footnote:—"(公爵) *Kōshaku*, not Prince, as the *Mail* has it." Observe the subtlety of inserting the ideographs. Who will venture to deny that *Koshaku*, with these mystic hieroglyphs, can mean anything but Duke? Still there is one trouble about the scheme. No such title as "Duke" exists in the Japanese nobility. The Japanese Government decided years ago that 公 should be translated "Prince," and so it has been translated ever since. There are no Japanese "Dukes" outside the *Japan Gazette's* imagination, neither will this curious device obscure the force of the above coincidences. Sand is a poor covering for an ostrich's head, but in respect of shrouding capacities it beats an ideograph.

THE NEW ADMIRAL.

Admiral Sir F. Richards, the successor of H.E. Sir Nowell Salmon in command of the China Squadron, arrived yesterday morning, says the *Singapore Free Press* of the 27th ult., per P. & O. steamer *Bengal* which came alongside the wharf at about 8 a.m. Sir Nowell Salmon was present to meet Sir F. Richards, and was attended by his flag-lieutenant and secretary. There were also in attendance on the wharf Capt. Massy, A.D.C., Capt. Clutterbuck, H.M.S. *Caroline*, Capt. Balfour, H.M.S. *Mercury*, Capt. Adair, H.M.S. *Alacrity*, and Commander Rason, H.M.S. *Plover*. Upon the gangway being placed in position Sir Nowell Salmon and the other naval officers proceeded on board to welcome the new Admiral. Sir F. Richards is accompanied by Lieut. Nicholson, his flag lieutenant, and his secretary, Mr. Carlisle. Yesterday was occupied by the usual ceremonies of the transfer of the China command; beginning with the hoisting of the flag of Sir F. Richards on board H.M.S. *Alacrity*. Sir Nowell Salmon hauled his flag down to-day at 8 a.m., from H.M.S. *Mercury*, that of the new Admiral aking its place. The usual salutes accompanied these proceedings.

NEWSPAPER INTOLERANCE.

Some years ago we wrote an article showing how to gain notoriety and lose popularity in this quarter of the Orient. Summed up in a sentence, the method was to defend Japan's cause publicly, with whatever degree of unobtrusiveness. Mr. W. S. Liscomb has just furnished a practical verification of the soundness of our counsel. He ventured to write to the New York *Nation* showing that the celebrated anti-Revision meeting of last September was not quite so incontrovertibly convincing an affair as its promoters would have the world believe, and he was immediately assailed, on the one hand, with ferocious banter such as the *sans-culottes* were wont to address to the occupants of the tumbrils, and on the other by a display of clumsy insolence characteristic of a certain genus of writers when they believe themselves to be with the many against the one. Judged by its newspaper press, this Settlement would appear to be among the most tyrannically intolerant places under the sun. A man must either go with the crowd or be treated as a kind of moral pariah. How amusing it must all seem to the better class of residents, if they ever give themselves the trouble to think about the matter at all. For in point of fact there is no such intolerance. In social intercourse everybody is perfectly free to maintain his own opinions, and if he happens not to take his colour from the majority of his surroundings, he is neither reviled nor avoided. But the press would put him into the inquisition at once, and pelt him with all kinds of choice missiles until he abandons his independent attitude and slinks in among the multitude. There is no possibility of a man being anything but a simpleton or a knave in the eyes of our liberal and courteous local journals unless he echoes their own benevolent and gently-judging verdict about things and people Japanese. If he does echo it, however, let his

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notes be ever so false in other respects, he is quoted and re-produced without a breath of criticism or a word of correction. Mr. Liscomb knows all about it now. He has run the gauntlet, and will be able to warn his friends against any similar exhibition of rashness.

DIPLOMACY AS A MEANS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

THE *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, noting that the public opinion is tending more and more towards the augmentation of the Army and the Navy, observes that it is a grievous mistake to suppose, as some persons do, that military equipment is the only defence on which a country can rely for security from foreign invasion. So far as concerns an increase of the fighting power of the nation, the Tokyo journal would be the first to welcome such an undertaking, were the required funds forthcoming. There can be no doubt, it says, that the military equipment of a country is its last resort for defence. But such is the complexity of human affairs that it is not always necessary or even advisable to depend upon military equipment alone as a means of national defence. "Attention must be likewise paid to the pursuance of a wise policy in foreign intercourse; diplomacy and warlike preparations must always go hand in hand." Our contemporary illustrates the importance of diplomacy by referring to the interesting history of the so-called warlike ages in ancient China, and also to the history of the unification of modern Italy by the skilful foreign policy of Cavour. Turning to the modern annals of Japan, the *Kokumin* observes that the Tokugawa Government maintained exceptionally close relations with France, from which it took its military as well as naval models. After the Restoration, the new Government found itself for some years under the influence of the late Sir Harry S. Parkes, and England stepped into the position which had previously been occupied by France. In 1882, Count Ito visited Europe to collect materials for the compilation of a Constitution, and since then Germany has dislodged England from her leading position in Japan. The *Kokumin-no-Tomo* does not seem to think favourably of this last change in the foreign policy of the country. What, it asks, is the position of Germany in the East? "Her territory is not, like that of Russia, contiguous to Japan. She is not, like England, a great Power in Asia. Neither is she, like the United States, connected with this country by close relations of commerce and social intercourse. The only results of choosing her as a new ally have been to make England cold to Japan, to cause France to recall her officers from the service of the Japanese army as well as to shut the doors of her military academies against Japanese cadets, and to make America to lose much of her sympathy with this Empire." Further, the *Kokumin* fails to notice any definite plan in the foreign policy of the country during the past two decades. Want of consistency is especially notworthy, it avers, in the policy pursued by the *Meiji* Government towards China and Korea. Our contemporary then compares the daring and resolute manner in which Japan behaved in the Formosan, Ryukyu, and Korean questions, with her irresolute and timid attitude towards China and Korea. In conclusion the Tokyo journal observes that the blame is not to be laid wholly at the door of the Government, but that the people at large are also open to censure. They have hitherto attached too exclusive an importance to the question of Treaty Revision. The revision of the treaties is of course very important, but men ought not to forget that there are other equally important questions in the foreign affairs of the country. The *Kokumin* warns the Government and the people alike that, in order to settle these questions in a proper manner, a wise and sound policy in the diplomacy of the country is as important as military preparations.

THE LAST SHUFFLE.

THAT the *Japan Gazette* would fail to establish any one of the statements advanced by it in support of its charge against the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was certain from the outset. Perhaps, too, experience should have prepared us for the course pursued by the *Gazette* at this final stage of the controversy. Still, we confess that we were sanguine enough to look for some slight evidence of straightforwardness; sanguine enough to expect that our contemporary would either honestly try to re-establish the discredited grounds of its accusation, or would confess that it had blundered. When a newspaper openly charges a man with double dealing and disloyalty; when, in support of the charge, it puts forward three pieces of testimony, every one of which is proved to be a misconception of its own, we know of no code of honesty, however rudimentary, which justifies it in allowing the matter to drop. Such a course could only be called evasive and pusillanimous. But when, not even possessing the decency to take refuge in silence, though leaving the original charges unretracted and their bases unestablished, it endeavours to re-habilitate its credit and thereby to obtain vicarious credence for its slanderous accusations, by diverting the issue to points which, whether established or refuted, in no wise affect the original question, its conduct seems to us to deserve epithets not often put upon paper. It may be, however, that the new *Japan Gazette's* methods are attributable to pure carelessness, or perhaps inability to retain any grasp of the threads of a discussion. We prefer to adopt the most lenient view. The *Japan Gazette* says:—"Are the readers of our contemporary simple enough to believe that when all the leading journals interpret Viscount Aoki's action one way and the *Mail* another that (*sic*) the *Mail* is likely to be right and the vernacular press wrong." We are compelled to say that a falser and more misleading assertion than this was never put upon paper. There can be no mistake about its object. It seeks to persuade the public that the *Japan Gazette's* account of the occurrences in the House of Representatives on the 17th of December is consistent with the accounts contained in all the leading vernacular journals, and that the *Japan Mail's* account is inconsistent. Now there is not one Japanese newspaper, not so much as one, great or small, among those published in Tokyo, that in the remotest degree substantiates the *Japan Gazette's* account. There is not so much as one Japanese journal, great or small, in the capital, which, in its report of the proceedings in the House of Representatives on December 17th, gives the most shadowy ground for any one of the four following assertions of the *Japan Gazette*, or for anything resembling them:—(1) that Viscount Aoki in his speech denied the existence of any connection between the Commercial Code and Treaty Revision; (2) that a commotion was produced in the House by this denial of Viscount Aoki's; (3) that a visitor, alluding to Viscount Aoki's denial, cried out "do not treat members with disrespect"; and (4) that "the Diet was certainly of opinion that the connection of the Commercial Code with Treaty Revision had been misrepresented by the Minister, and that a serious attempt to deceive the House had been perpetrated." Every one of these four assertions are absolute fictions, evolved by the *Japan Gazette* either by some extraordinary process of blundering, or out of its own imagination. Is it possible to put the matter more plainly? Here are the *Japan Gazette's* assertions. Instead of vaunting the scholarship of its editor; instead of falsely pretending that the *Japan Mail* has asserted the existence of "a wide discrepancy between the parliamentary reports of the *Kwampo* and those of the leading papers;" instead of taking refuge in the wretched subterfuge that the foreign public's general ignorance of Japanese affairs is being imposed on, cannot the *Japan Gazette* fairly and squarely meet the issue by translating, from the *Official Gazette* or any leading Japanese journal such portions of the report of the Diet's proceedings as bear out the above four statements? This discussion is unique in our journalistic experience—unique in the wonderful resolution of the *Japan Gazette* to shirk the responsibility of its own statements, to refrain from laying before the public the proofs of which it alleges the existence, and, by recourse to subterfuges and irrelevant issues, to hide from its readers the plain truth, namely that it has uttered a gross libel for which it cannot offer a shred of testimony.

MR. THOMAS JACKSON.

LAST evening, says the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 3rd instant, a farewell dinner was given at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank by the staff to Mr. Thos. Jackson, who is about to leave for home. A number of guests were invited, covers being laid for fifty in all. The interior of the Bank had been tastefully decorated. At one end of the room appeared a huge monogram of the initials of the Bank, with the Bank flag in silk above it. Facing this at the opposite end were the initials "T. J." with the Irish flag, also of silk, above it, the whole being blue cloth. Each of the panels was decorated with a shamrock and a harp alternately. The embroidery work was done by the inmates of the Italian Convent, while the whole work of decorating was carried out by Mr. W. S. Marten, who was warmly congratulated by the staff on the pretty and effective display he made. The Band of the A. & S. Highlanders was in attendance, and played various selections throughout the evening.

A PROOF.

SAYS the *Mainichi Shimbun* of on Wednesday: "We are really very sorry for the Electric Light Company, but on the 16th instant, when the architect, Mr. Yoshii, was inspecting the ground preparatory to the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament, he took occasion to examine the warehouses, which were not destroyed by the fire. He found that the only change in the condition of the warehouses was in the part where the electric wire had passed, inside the plaster, and this was blackened and charred. It is perfectly plain that such a condition could not have been caused by anything but the heating of the electric wires." This is certainly not the least mysterious statement among the many published on the subject.

THE DIET.

THE Report of the Budget Committee met with its first reverse on Saturday, in connection with the vote on the appropriations for the Educational Department. The Committee had recommended the complete withdrawal of State aid from the Upper Middle Schools, the Female Normal School and the School of Music, and a large reduction of the sum set down for the Deaf and Dumb School. Strong opposition was, however, raised by the Radical numbers themselves when the question came up for debate. No one, indeed, had a word to say in behalf of the Deaf and Dumb School, but several speeches were delivered in opposition to the recommendation as to other Schools. The Committee, in reply to questions addressed to it during the interrogatory stage of the Bill's passage, replied that no thought had been taken about the future of the schools in the event of State aid being withdrawn from them, and this admission of inconsiderate treatment probably influenced the House unfavourably. Accordingly, the Budget Committee's Report was rejected in respect of the clause of the Estimates including these appropriations, and, all the other amendments before the House having also been rejected, one might have expected, in the ordinary course of things, that the Budget itself would have been passed. But the majority in the House of Representatives, as at present disposed, will do anything rather than approve any portion of the Budget in its Government form. Accordingly, this portion of the Budget also was thrown out. In such an event, when both the orginal Bill and the amendments to it have been rejected, it is provided by law that if the House desires not to dismiss the question altogether, a Special Committee may be appointed to prepare another scheme. That course was accordingly adopted.

SENTIMENTAL LEGISLATION.

THE temper of the House of Representatives towards the Government, and towards all measures emanating from the latter, was strikingly

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illustrated on Tuesday. The business before the House was to debate the extraordinary expenditures of the various Departments of State. In almost every instance the Committee's Report suggested reductions, but in one section such was not the case. The President accordingly announced that he should take the sense of the House in respect of the Budget itself so far as concerned that section. But the majority would not hear of any such course. They were determined not to vote for the Budget in any shape or form, so they insisted on recording their opinion in favour of the Committee's Report, though it made no change whatever in the original figures. This would be veritable child's play if the House were really dealing with the question of finance in a financial spirit. But since it happens to have taken the Budget simply as a weapon to attack the Government, it is treating the estimates on the time-honoured principle that any stick will do to beat a dog. The figures are nothing as figures, but everything as a vehicle for exhibiting the Opposition's hostility to the powers that be. No intelligent discrimination has been shown in dealing with the appropriations. A signal proof of this was furnished when Mr. Noda, Delegate for the War Office, complained that the Committee had recommended a reduction of the construction expenditure of the Department, without asking any questions or even desiring to be shown the drawings and estimates of the buildings concerned. Such damning evidence of reckless reduction might have been expected to confound the Committee and convince the House. But no: a member of the Committee coolly explained that a general principle of cutting down construction expenses by twenty per cent. had been adopted by the Committee, and that the War Department had come in for its share of indiscriminate lopping in due turn. Such procedure merely puts the House in the wrong and the Government in the right.

TREATY REVISION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE following Representation to the Government by the House of Representatives has been handed in for debate, the mover being Mr. Kanmuchi Tomotsune, one of the members for Kyoto City:—"Whereas, the Treaties now in force, by which the authority of the Legislature and of the Executive cannot be put into operation without the concurrence of foreign Governments, violate the sovereign rights of the Empire and injure its fiscal administration and economic system in the most extreme degree; and whereas, having regard to the actual condition of national industry and financial administration, an increase of import duties is a measure of very urgent necessity; and whereas, the Treaties now in force, by which foreigners residing in the Empire are exempted from the operation of the national laws and permitted to have recourse to Consular Tribunals in civil suits, violate the sovereign rights of the Empire in the most extreme degree; and whereas, to admit foreigners to participation in the coastwise carrying trade would injure the development of the national mercantile marine in the most extreme degree: therefore, this House earnestly desires, with respect to the negotiations now actually in progress for Treaty Revision, that the Government will take steps for the immediate recovery of this Empire's sovereign power in relation to its legislative and executive exercise in Tariff affairs, and for the immediate imposition of such an increase of import duties as may be suited to the actual circumstances of the country's financial administration and industrial progress. Further, this House earnestly desires, with respect to the negotiations now actually in progress for Treaty Revision, that although, as explained by Viscount Aoki, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in his speech in this House, it may be unavoidably necessary, in pursuance of the idea of offering the various laws as guarantees to the peoples of Foreign States, to agree to a delay of some years in order to await the complete operation of those laws, the Government will make it an essential object that foreigners residing in this country shall be brought entirely under its jurisdiction, and that Consular Courts may be abolished. Further, this House earnestly desires, with respect to the negotiations now actually in progress for Treaty Revision, that the Government will arrange that there shall be no doubt whatsoever as to foreigners being forbidden to take any share in the coast-wise carrying trade. The above points, being of the gravest national importance, have been the objects of the people's ardent hope for many years. Believing that the Government will distinctly endorse the views of this House, the present Representation is made."

* * *

There can be little doubt, we imagine, that the House will adopt the above Representation. It has evidently been prepared with great care, and after full consultation among the members. We submit it to our readers, who will not fail to appreciate its importance, and we shall take an early opportunity of commenting on it.

THE MINISTER PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ON Monday was a noteworthy day in the history of the first Japanese House of Representatives. The whole Cabinet came down to the House at the commencement of the afternoon session, and Count Yamagata, Minister President, delivered the following speech, which we submit to our readers without comment:—

GENTLEMEN,—In the early days of your House's session, I had the honour to make a brief statement of the Government's domestic and Foreign policy, and subsequently I told you the view entertained by the Government with regard to the 67th and the 54th Articles of the Constitution. I now desire again to speak a few earnest words to you, begging that you will give them your thought and attention.

In what does the government of the country consist, and in the practical work of administration what objects must be kept in view? It is of these things that I would speak to you.

It may seem unnecessary to allude now to the fact that ever since the Centralization of the Government, a fixed and changeless programme has been followed in administering the affairs of the Empire. Since, however, the policy and aim of the Government have been directed in the past and will be directed in the future uniquely to giving practical effect to that programme, it is essential that you should be informed clearly as to the ends which the Government has in prospect.

Ever since the policy of opening the country was inaugurated in accordance with the Imperial Rescript at the Restoration, the aim of the administration has been to adopt the cardinal features of civilization, to develop military resources, to further education, to reform the various branches of the State polity, to correct the evil usages of other times, to increase the prosperity and happiness of the people at home, to cement friendly relations, and to place the Empire on terms of equal intercourse, with other countries. For the consummation of these, the true aims of the Administration, high and low have been unanimous in hoping.

Looking back to-day with profound respect at the various Rescripts issued by the Emperor since His Majesty ascended the Throne, from the Imperial Edict at the time of the Restoration down to the Message that convoked the Diet, numerous as they are it is found that, from first to last, they are permeated by the gracious purpose of securing peace and tranquillity to the people at home, and enhancing the reputation of the country abroad.

It being then the principle of His Majesty's wise rule thus to raise the national dignity and place the country on terms of equality with other States, and this being the fixed policy of the administration, our predecessors in the Government reverentially kept that purpose in view, and by painful efforts, sustained through the long course of over twenty years, succeeded in reaching fairly satisfactory results as to the various branches of domestic administration. But in respect of establishing the rights of the State in its foreign relations, unfortunately no appreciable success had yet been attained when my colleagues and myself came into office.

Profiting by and pursuing the work planned by our predecessors, we have not abandoned their cherished aim, but, encountering each difficulty with redoubled resolution, have made it our object to preserve inviolate and unchanged their administrative policy and to carry it towards achievement. The still incomplete condition of the national autonomy is, however, a heritage handed down to us from the treaties of the Bakufu, and to recover that autonomy in a day is a task beyond our power to accomplish. It must be attained by gradual steps along the right route, and we are fully persuaded that you, gentlemen, loyally and honestly share our sentiments in this matter.

If we look carefully at the conditions existing in the world, we find that a country can maintain its independence and autonomy among the nations only by the prosperity of its people and the power of its armaments. Without strength sufficient to preserve and assert the national rights, there can be no hope of enjoying friendly, close, and absolutely unsubmissive intercourse with foreign States. Turning from the immense armaments of the modern Occident to the condition of the Orient, we find nothing to warrant us in neglecting the development of our Army and Navy. If again we seek to place the country on an equal footing with civilized States, we must enter their comity and join them in the mutual preservation of rights; a task which requires that, equally with them, we must undertake the duties properly devolving on us. What are those duties? To obey a fixed policy of government; to perfect all the branches of the administration; to make ourselves worthy of the respect of other countries, and to maintain our prestige. If our policy of government is to be preserved, that these duties must be discharged is beyond dispute. Strength to maintain the country's rights must be nurtured, and sooner or later, as the opportunity presents itself, must be utilized.

Nearly eighty days have elapsed since the Diet was opened. You have been holding debates; you have attended many sittings; by your diligence business has made great progress; there are few subjects of domestic or foreign policy that have not come before you and elicited expressions of opinion. Reviewing the cardinal features of your debates up to the present, it appears that your thoughts have been chiefly fixed upon reducing the administrative expenditure. To effect economies in that direction has always been the Government's policy. Month by month and year by year all sorts of devices for retrenchment have been essayed. Even expenses that were not superfluous have been cut down. To the utmost limits compatible with efficiency economy has been carried. Hereafter also the Government will spare no effort to achieve that object. But when there is question of applying excessive reduction to expenditures absolutely needed, in accordance with a fixed administrative policy, for the purpose of asserting and fully establishing the national rights abroad; of continuing, in domestic affairs, to tread towards their goal the routes already opened; of nurturing strength to guard the prestige of the State, and of developing the prosperity of the people, my colleagues and I cannot but be pained by the thought of running counter to aims that have hitherto guided the practical administration of the State's affairs. Unfortunately, however, it seems as though the Budget were about to undergo such amendments at the hands of a majority of your House, as will leave only a sum plainly insufficient for administrative requirements. I need not enter into particulars; they will be given to you by the Minister of State for Finance. More especially, in the case of items which, according to the Constitution, cannot be touched without the Government's concurrence, the course pursued by your House in rejecting and reducing them according to your own decisions, cannot bear any fruit. These are points concerning which it is not possible for us to remain silent. That people who, by the virtue of a high mandate, have come to live under representative institutions, should, at the same time, simply for the sake of economising administrative expenses, turn back upon a fixed and changeless policy of government, adopt a course inimical to the development of the national resources at home, destructive of the country's prestige abroad, and opposed to the permanent interests of the State, is something to which we, the Government, cannot possibly consent. Gentlemen, you know the fixed policy of the administration, and are well acquainted with the necessity of establishing the country's rights. I trust that you will appreciate the unavoidable nature of the expenditure required for those purposes.

COUNT MATSUKATA'S SPEECH.

THE following is a translation of Count Matsukata's speech in the House of Representatives on the 16th instant:—

GENTLEMEN,—At the commencement of your debate on the report of the Budget Committee, I told you that the Government could not concur in the recommendations of the Committee. Appearances indicate, however, that the Committee's Report is on the point of receiving the approval of a majority of the House. I would therefore beg

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your attention to a few words which I have to say to you in the sequel of the Minister-President's speech. The Report applies to the Budget a total reduction of about eight million *yen*, the major part of which is in the item of salaries. The Committee has resorted to reforms of the administrative organization as the chief means of diminishing public expenditure, and has consequently embodied a draft of proposed reforms in its Report. Now the Budget represents the estimate formed by the Government of the expenditure and revenue of the next fiscal year, and that estimate, having obtained the consent of the Diet, becomes the fixed basis of financial administration. Upon the Government devolve the duties of preparing and carrying it out. The Diet occupies towards the Budget the position of an overseer. Under these circumstances, can it be said that to interfere directly with the administrative organization, and to settle that organization, falls properly within the functions of the Diet in connection with the Budget? Further the recommendations of the Report conflict in many respects with the provisions of laws now actually in force. For example, the proposed reduction of the salaries of the Presidents of the two Houses of the Diet, the inclusion in the general revenue of money raised for Consolidated Bonds, the transfer to special revenue of monies set apart for the Famine Relief Fund, and of the interest on deposits—all these are measures which, though voted by you, can have no practical effect unless the laws on which they are based be previously altered. Turning to the reductions of salaries recommended by the Committee, it appears that not only the pay of the Army and Navy has been cut down, but also the total emoluments of officials in the various Departments of State have undergone a reduction of over thirty per cent. If the salaries of officials be altered in the sense of the draft of organization reforms, they must be cut down to the extent of forty, fifty, or even sixty per cent. Can this be called anything but a violent alteration? With regard to office expenses, which have undergone the largest reduction after salaries, they depend obviously on the number of persons employed and the amount of business to be done, and unless both the staff and the duties can be summarily reduced, such a diminution of expenses as the Report recommends is impossible. Still, the Government's great aim being to cut off all superfluous expenditure, it would make every effort to endorse your decision within the limits of administrative efficiency. But inasmuch as the measures of retrenchment now debated by you involve reductions and rejections that exceed the bounds of moderation and propriety, they cannot receive the Government's approval. The 24th fiscal year is close at hand. It is perfectly plain that the time required to make full preparations for carrying out the suggestions of your Committee is not available.

Gentlemen, the Diet of this year is the first step in the establishment of constitutional institution in the Orient. The results of the opening of the Diet will greatly affect the Empire's fair fame. The Government sincerely hopes, with your due and earnest concurrence, to attain a complete and creditable issue. If by any chance an ill-advised Bill is adopted, it will be the unavoidable duty of the Government, as directed by the Constitution, to announce its dissent and adopt suitable measures in consequence. My colleagues and I, having regard to the national interests, view this conjuncture with the utmost concern.

OTHERWISE OCCUPIED.

PREOCCUPATION is a dangerous thing for a newspaper editor when it obscures his perception of the most important events going on around him. We know how, unfortunately for himself, the editor of the new *Japan Gazette* happened to be otherwise occupied in 1889, so that all the long national disturbance about the Foreign-judges provision in Count Okuma's scheme of Treaty Revision completely escaped his attention. It appears now that his preoccupation lasted until the close of 1890 also, for he is actually ignorant of the circumstance which created so much amusement and provoked so much banter in connection with the celebrated anti-Revision meeting of last September. In a series of numerically tabulated indictments of Mr. Liscomb, who lately committed the crime of disagreeing with the action of the New York Chamber of Commerce, this preoccupied editor says:—"Mr. Liscomb speaks of representatives of the Chinese Settlement taking part in the Yokohama meeting. Will he kindly give his authority for this statement?" Evidently the editor never heard of Mr. Wong Yick Tong, who was among the thirty-seven gentlemen "unanimously chosen" to form a Committee which should "act as the representatives of the Yokohama Community in any and all questions incidental to or arising out of the resolutions" passed at the meeting. "Will Mr. Liscomb kindly give his authority for this statement?" Truly it is very entertaining. Why does not the preoccupied editor procure some back files of the *Japan Mail*, and read up the history of this Settlement? He will bury himself under a mountain of blunders unless he takes measures to procure a little information about the past.

FESTIVITIES AT THE BRITISH LEGATION IN PEKING.

THE Poet's Corner in the *Chinese Times* has become one of the most welcome institutions of Eastern journalism. Tientsin—or should we not rather say Peking?—is happy just now in the possession of one or two bards who, to a wonderful facility for turning a neat rhyme, add a large fund of wit and sparkling good humour. Supplementing the excellent articles of the editor of the *Chinese Times*—articles as conspicuous for the polish of their style as for their deep insight into Chinese affairs—the efforts of these bards help to make the Tientsin journal a publication of which British residents in China may well be proud. In its latest issue to hand we find a clever dialogue in verse, which was spoken at the New Year's festivities at the British Legation in Peking. We wish that space permitted the re-publication of the dialogue in full. Here is the finale, a ditty sung by "Time," one of the *personæ*:—

TIME 1. A recent assignment has come to hand
To adorn H.M's Legation;
It's really hard to understand
How those good people, who saw them land,
Could write them down as a German band
On a journey of exploration.
They really are the last thing out
And all of them very clever,
Of that there is no possible doubt,
No probable possible shadow of doubt
No possible doubt whatever.

2. We're all a very contented lot
(Tho' some of you may not think so)
When we've nothing to do, we hatch a plot
To build a Club, but who cares a jot
Whether we get that Club or not?
(And then it might make us drink so)
So walls fall in and Committees fall out.
And our books get lost for ever,
Of that there is, etc., etc.

3. The fierce Influenza has come and picks
His various victims grimly
On many of those we want, he'll fix
To keep them in bed five days or six
And, like our Doctor, he plays *odd tricks*
That we only see through dimly
So play while you can till the lights go out
For these tricks are passing clever,
Of that, etc, etc.

4. Our next spring races will be they say,
Unlike those held in autumn,
For a serious stable is under weigh
That buys a griffin or two per day
And teaches 'em many a novel way
To win for the men that bought 'em.
But the men who win the most may shout.
While the Haikuan Cup stands ever,
Of that there is, etc, etc.

5. And so we're going the Palace to see
In the month that hares go mad in
Then, after the audience, there's going to be
A dinner and speeches and much "Esprit"
And won't it be fun for you and me
If we should be there, Aladdin!
How fine if we only could work Pears' soap
On China with one endeavour,
But of that there is no manner of hope,
No probable possible shadow of hope,
No possible hope whatever

6. Now Time is up, good Friends, I fear,
Our play must be ended shortly,
But ere we go we'll ask all here
To wish full many a glad New Year
To good Sir John and his lady dear
So kind and exceeding courtly.
And though we may roam the world about
They'll live in our memories ever!
Of that there is no possible doubt
No probable possible shadow of doubt,
No possible doubt whatever.

THE OPIUM REVENUE OF INDIA.

THE report entitled "The Moral and Material Progress of India," which is annually laid before the British Parliament, and which sums up the general broad results of each year's administration, usually contains a large amount of information of a most interesting character. The volume, if it were anything but a blue-book, would be widely read. Being what it is, no one reads it. On the interesting subject of the opium revenue of India, the volume last issued says that the net Indian revenue from opium during the fical year 1888-89 was Rx. 5,964,000, as compared with Rx. 6,090,000 and Rx. 6,213,000 in the two previous years, and as compared with 8¾ millions, the net revenue in the year 1880-81. The decrease in the revenue is due mainly to the fall of price in China, consequent on large extensions of opium cultivation in that country, and partly to the terms of the Chefoo Convention, under which the import duties on opium carried into China were increased. Nearly the whole of the opium revenue accrues on opium exported to China; in 1888-89 nearly three-fifths of the net opium revenue was raised in Bengal under the monopoly system, and a little less than two-fifths in Bombay by levying a pass duty. Under the monopoly system certain cultivators are licensed to grow opium in selected districts of the Bengal Presidency, and elsewhere the cultivation is strictly prohibited. All the crude opium grown by licensed cultivators, save a small quantity produced in the Punjab, is carried to two factories, where it is made into marketable opium, and whence it is sent to Calcutta. Opium from the stores is sold by auction once a month in quantities of which notice is published 15 months before. The area of opium cultivation in Bengal was 518,930 acres in the year 1888-89. Steps have now for two years been taken to reduce the area, because the good opium harvests of the past few years yielded more than was required to supply the monthly sales and keep up the reserve. The opium harvest of 1888-89 was very short; only 38,305 chests were made as compared with 69,500 chests in the preceding year, while 57,000 chests were exported to China. Bombay opium is produced in the Native States of Central India and Rajputana; and it pays a pass duty of Rx. 65 on each chest exported to China. The Native States have engaged so to manage their opium cultivation and production as to safeguard the British revenue; and in exchange for this service they receive either money compensation or other concessions. The amount of Bombay opium entering British territory from Native States during the year was 33,800 chests, or 4,662 less than in the previous year. The total number of chests of opium exported from India during the year was 90,096, of which 85 per cent. were consigned to China, 14 per cent. to the Straits Settlements, and 1 per cent. to other countries. Rx., it should be explained, means tens of rupees.

CHINESE NEW YEAR.

THE Wuchang correspondent of the *North China Daily News* writes:—

The 23rd and the 24th of the last moon of the Chinese year are days of great import to Chinese home life. The kitchen god on one of these two days goes up to heaven with his report of the household conduct for the year. We are all familiar with the Chinese idea that the unseen world is a counterpart of the seen. In the various Temples of Horrors, the Buddhist hells are fitted with mandarins, yamên runners, lictors, and all the paraphernalia of earthly justice of the Chinese pattern; so the Milky Way is the heavenly stream from which runs the Yellow River, and each star has connection with some person, if only he be of any consequence on the globe.

From all this it follows that there must be a due hierarchy in the spiritual powers that rule the world corresponding to the degrees of dignity and duty on earth. The higher deities cannot be expected to know the details of everyday life, hence the necessity of lower intelligences to inform them. The Jewelled Emperor, who in little over a thousand years has been somehow promoted from his commonplace life on earth to a supremacy in the sky, receives at the end of the year from the kitchen god of each home a detailed account of what wrong each member has committed through the year.

In preparation for the day a printed form of a sort of "prayer of reconciliation" is left at each house in Wuchang by Taoist priests together with a paper horse for the god's journey and often a picture of the god. On the day itself the dust of a twelvemonth is wiped from the table above the hearth, which is adorned with red cloth; a banquet is also spread before the shrine to comfort the stomach of the traveller and put him in a good humour. One dish is a special broth of glutinous rice of which the god is specially fond, and which is likely to stick his teeth together so that he can't get

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his mouth open to tell tales in the august presence to which he is going! He remains invisible making his report for ten days, when he is received home again with all ceremony to the neglect and cobwebs of another year.

So universal is this custom that highly intelligent Confucian scholars take their part in the ceremonies. Many of them, superior to crass idolatry, yet fall in with the old ideas from a vague expectation of harm through omission. Many others haven't the moral courage to give up a custom supposed by the greater part of their world to be of the essence of religion. Even the high officials join in sending their kitchen god on his journey with congratulations and good wishes. The mental position of one of these towards such observances must be very similar to that of a Roman official in the decadence of the empire; religion another name for superstition and the whole a convenient matter for statecraft. For instance this autumn the usual drought led to the usual prayer in this city for rain. The Viceroy with his attendant high officials went to the temple to bow down before the image of the Dragon King to pray for rain. For some days the weather remained as fine as ever, whereupon the Treasurer and Judge represented to him that it was undignified for a Viceroy to pray day after day without answer, offering themselves to bear the brunt of the indignity of the interval. After about a week there came a slight shower for half an hour. This was sufficient, the fast from meat was ended, prayers ceased—and, as it proved, so did the rain. It was a sort of duel with heavenly powers in which the slightest scratch was sufficient and "honour was satisfied." When I asked how a man like Chang Chih-tung could bow down to an image and engage in the after farce for hoodwinking the deity, I was told that he knew the people would curse him for callousness to their interests if he refused to pray in the idol's temple—and, though of cour knowing the whole to be sheer nonsense, he went through the usual performance. And so we see it; the official is perforce the priest of the people. By training he is an agnostic; but, for statecraft, he goes through the degrading form, and smiles complacently in his sleeve as he is borne home by his eight bearers. What would be the effect if a high official were to arise with moral courage enough to declare that he wouldn't truckle to a people's superstition, nor play at a game of "saving face" with the unseen powers?

BOYCOTTING.

We find the following in the *Mainichi Shimbun*:—"Trouble has arisen between the Yokohama Takifuji porcelain store, represented by Mr. Oumi Shinkichi, and the American firm known as the Tuska Shokai, of 194, Settlement. It appears that the porcelain folks undertook to manufacture and deliver certain wares, the contract price of which was 2,946 *yen*, to the American firm by the end of last October. A part of the ware was delivered and payment received, but when, the whole order being completed, delivery was sought and the balance of the money asked for, Messrs. Tuska and Company declined to receive the wares, alleging that their shapes and decoration did not accord with the terms of agreement. They were willing to take delivery of the porcelains at a reduction of some 35 per cent., but the other side, unable to agree to such terms, referred the matter to the Porcelain Guild. Representatives of the Guild held a meeting on the 3rd instant, and opened negotiations the following day with Messrs. Tuska and Company. The latter, however, replied in the same sense as before, namely, that the wares were not according to agreement, and further that the state of the home market was unfavourable. Renewed negotiations on the 6th instant, resulted in the same reply, and as no prospect of a compromise offered, an emergency meeting of porcelain manufacturers was held on the 11th instant. One hundred and thirty-nine representatives were present. Mr. Hoda Junichi presided, and having informed the meeting of the result of the negotiations, said that it was proposed to give up all dealing with the firm of Messrs. Tuska and Company. This course was unanimously approved. The resolution took effect from the 15th instant. Any associate of the Guild who violates the arrangement, makes himself liable to expulsion or a fine of from one to fifty *yen*, under the 32nd article of the Guild's rules."

* * *

There is small blame to the *Mainichi*, perhaps, for publishing the above, inasmuch as it doubtless represents the extent of that journal's information, but we (*Japan Mail*) have received a very different account of the affair. The facts are that a contract for certain goods of specified shapes and decoration was entered into last year between the parties, the work proceeding during the absence of the principal in the United States, and money being drawn by the manufacturer as portions of the order were executed and delivered. On the return of the principal of the Yokohama firm the goods were examined and found to be not made according to contract; old shapes that had been some time in stock "in white" had been decorated, instead of the new shapes as agreed upon, these old shapes being unsuitable for the market for which the order was intended. Moreover, the decoration was in many respects faulty and not according to contract, and the goods were consequently worth considerably less than they would have been had the contract been properly carried out. Large advances having been made by the Yokohama firm, there was no other course, if the goods were to be accepted, than that the manufacturers should submit to a reduction. This they declined to do, and with scant ceremony placed the matter in the hands of the Guild. A committee of the Guild waited on the Yokohama firm, and, after discussing the matter, admitted that the goods were not according to contract, and that certain misrepresentations had been made to the Guild by the complaining firm of potters, but nevertheless said that, as the matter had been referred to the Guild, the foreign firm would have to make some better offer than they had done or put up with "boycotting." The *Mainichi Shimbun* is entirely incorrect in saying that the "state of the home market" which is described as "unfavourable" had anything whatever to do with the matter, which was one purely of agreement as to shapes and decoration.

* * *

This affair appears to afford food for comment to more than one vernacular journal. The *Tokyo Shimpo* of yesterday has the following paragraph about it:—"With reference to the cessation of business with Messrs. Tuska and Company, of No. 194, Settlement, Yokohama, Messrs. Fraser, Lowder, and other gentlemen of Yokohama, known in connection with anti-Revision, held a consultative meeting at the Drug Company's Council-room (*Shogaku Kaigisho*), for the purpose of inquiring into the circumstances of the dispute. It being debated whether the Drug Company should or should not propose an amicable settlement, Mr. Fraser said that as the affair was closely connected with the part taken by himself and the rest in respect of Treaty Revision, it was essential that the facts of the affair should be examined into, and its rights publicly established. If it were found that the Takifuji firm was in the wrong, the truth should be openly announced. With that understanding they separated, intending to hold another meeting in the afternoon of the 17th instant."

* * *

It will be seen that the story is getting into a delightful tangle. The part attributed to Messrs. Fraser and Lowder is, we take it, one of those "items" which Tokyo newsmongers sell by measure. One thing is certain, namely, that if the Potters' Guild has really resorted to the device of "boycotting" (*torihiki kyozetsu*) for the purpose of forcing unjust terms upon a foreign firm, the foreign buyers ought to take prompt retaliatory measures. A boycott from the seller's side would be regarded as a huge joke, we imagine, anywhere but in this Settlement.

THE AMERICAN TREATY OF 1878.

In the House of Peers on the 13th instant, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs answered a question propounded some time previously by Viscount Tani, in due accordance with the rules of procedure. Viscount Tani's enquiry related to the treaty concluded by Japan with America in 1878. The Foreign Minister, alluding to that Treaty in his historical retrospect, spoken in the Lower House on the 17th of December, used language which led Viscount Tani to suppose that the Treaty was no longer in existence. Hence the question. The Minister, in reply, explained very clearly that the Treaty is emphatically in existence, having been duly ratified by both the High Contracting Parties, but that, owing to the peculiar provision contained in its tenth clause, it possesses no operative value. The most superficial student of Japan's foreign relations knows all about that celebrated tenth clause, the subject of so much discussion and misrepresentation. Viscount Tani expressed himself quite satisfied with the answer of the Foreign Minister, as he might well be. The whole matter was plain and above-board, the question direct, and the answer unequivocal. Yet the *Japan Gazette's* comment on the incident is this:—"The speech and the reply to it bearing the plainest marks of their artificiality, they have deceived no one. There is one thing in which the Japanese show great keenness, and that is in detecting the absence of reality in speech or action." Where on earth the artificiality came in we are perplexed to perceive. Some ignorant people, imagining that Viscount Tani intended to raise a debate in connection with the Minister's reply, or to put further questions, and being disappointed in their expectation of a scene, may feel vaguely indignant. But neither Viscount Tani nor the Minister for Foreign Affairs is bound to cater to the entertainment of the ignorant public. As for the *Japan Gazette*, it reminds us forcibly of the old woman who readily swallowed all the marvellous incidents of her grandson's travels except the flying fish. The beldam's credulity stopped short at an *exocœtus*. Natural history was a sealed book to her, just as the annals of Japanese treaty-making and Japanese treaty revision are evidently a sealed book to the *Japan Gazette*. No sooner does anything crop up which lies outside the sphere of our contemporary's very limited knowledge, than it fancies itself confronted by some awful mystery, some flying fish, that wily folks are trying to palm off on it. Yet its doubts ought not to be so stubborn, for if there ever was a fish out of water it is the present editor of the *Gazette* when he essays to soar into the Treaty-Revision element.

NEW TUG FOR THE CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.

The Yokohama Engineering and Iron Works have all but finished work on a very fine new tug built to the order of Messrs. Frazar & Co., the local agents of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Co. The extension of the business falling to be transacted in connection with the steamers, and the anticipated impulse which that business will receive when the new ships are placed on the line, necessitated arrangements of a very different nature from those which have hitherto sufficed. Three large freight barges are being built, and with the new tug the agents will be in a position to deal with cargo in a method alike expeditious and effective. The *Spindrift*, as the new vessel is to be named, is 70 feet in length on the keel and 74 feet over all; 14 feet beam, and 7 feet 3 in. depth of hold. She has hard wood frames throughout; her stem and rudder-posts, garboard strakes, sheer strakes, and covering boards being of *keyaki*; her kelson of teak; her deck frames of angle-iron, with planking of teak, of which material also her deck houses are constructed. She is fitted with twin compound surface-condensing engines, driving two propellers, which measure four feet in diameter, and which along with their brackets are of gun metal, the shafting being 3½ in. Steam is supplied to the engines by a double-flued steel boiler 8 feet by 8; which will work at a pressure of 110 lbs. Independent of the engines are air and circulating pumps; while, as a special feature designed to increase the usefulness of the steamer for the particular work in which she is to be engaged, there is also provided an independent Dean's direct acting pump of 4 in. delivery, for salvage work and for pumping fresh water in the steamers. The cylinders of her engines are 8 in. by 16 in., with 10 in. stroke. With her engines in, the *Spindrift* draws 5 ft. 9 in. aft and 4 feet 9 in. forward; so that she may go alongside such landing stages or piers of shallow berthage as may be necessary. Forward of the boilers are situated the saloon and pilot-house; the latter sufficiently elevated to afford facilities for steering, while aft of the engine-room is another

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cabin 8ft. in width. The saloon is to be upholstered in a manner consonant with the superior character of the other fittings. The houses, with the exception of the pilot-house, are 5 feet above the deck, giving a total height of 6 feet 4 in above their floors. In every respect the *Spindrift* is a model of skilful designing and of careful and painstaking workmanship, constituting indeed a capital illustration of the capacities of the works that have turned her out. We believe it is the intention of Messrs. Frazar and Company to fit up the electric light on the *Spindrift*. The installation has already arrived, and consists of an Edison plant of a capacity of eighteen 16-candle power lights, with which the cabins and engine room will be lighted, the side-lights also being electric; while there are two 100-candle power lights to be used on occasions when it is necessary to load or discharge cargo by night-time. At her trial, which will take place in about a week, the new steamer is expected to attain a speed of about 10½ knots, so that with twin screws she will be not less fast than handy.

"BURNING THE RECORDS."

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that the theory propounded by us on this subject, is insufficient to account for all the contradictions in the *Gazette*. Our correspondent would substitute mastication in place of incineration, and the office cat in place of the "impish denizen" as the active agent. He says:—"The burning-of-the-record-theory might account for diurnal contradictions, but not for repugnancy in the same article. For instance: the *Gazette* in its issue of the 17th inst. first declares that the report given by the *Jiji* and *Mainichi*, on which its assertions were founded, were *absolutely identical* [the italics are not mine] in every particular with that of the *Kwampo*. A little further on your contemporary drops from the *absolutely-identical*-in-italics, to the important-particular-in-roman stage, and finally lands on the wide-discrepancy platform. First, the reports are absolutely identical in every particular; secondly, they do not differ in a single important particular, and, thirdly, the *Mail* cannot prove any wide discrepancy between them. I might point out that on this one question alone, the *Gazette* takes just as many different positions as it has kinds of honesty, but the thought will doubtless occur to you, and besides it is not pertinent to the main question. Now the burning of the record theory might, as I have before remarked, account for the inconsistencies pointed out by you, but it would not satisfactorily explain those I have referred to, because sentence-by-sentence cremation would deprive the printer of copy. My idea is that the honest office cat gobbles up the honest sentences, as they fall from the honest pen of the honest editor of the honest *Gazette*, and passes them on to the honest printer. This theory I admit, has one serious defect, but I maintain that it is good, and ought not to be discarded merely because it has holes in it. My difficulty is to discover how it happens—assuming the cat to be the channel through which copy is conveyed to the composing room—that any sense whatever can be made out of the editorial fulminations of your contemporary. But, after all, that is only 'a minor point.'"

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

PUBLIC opinion becomes daily more excited about the course which the House of Peers is likely to adopt in respect of the Budget. Plainly there are three eventualities in sight: first, the Peers may take the Budget as sent up to them, debate it, and adopt the amendments of the Lower House *in toto*, or with a few minor exceptions; secondly, they may refuse to accept the Budget on the ground that it reaches them in an unconstitutional form; and thirdly, they may accept it, but proceed to amend it on constitutional lines and intelligent principles. The general idea appears to be in favour of the third course, and a majority of the Peers themselves are said to approve it, their belief being that the Upper House should stand between the Lower and the Government, and should exhaust its good offices to effect a peaceful adjustment of disputes. In the event of this forecast being verified, the Budget has still a long route to travel before it reaches the Government. The amendments made by the Peers would have to be discussed by a Conference Committee of the two Houses, and the results of the compromise thus effected would then have to be brought before each House separately. All that could not be accomplished within any time likely to be at the disposal of the Diet. We believe that the Budget is doomed, and that the Representatives will have to carry to their constituents the news of a big fiasco.

A PARALLEL ON A LARGE SCALE.

FOR the comfort of the gentlemen who found the police at Nagoya too forbearing, we re-produce the following account of a meeting in the United Kingdom, where the police remained calmly indifferent amid a scene of far greater violence than was witnessed at Nagoya. Two wrongs do not make a right, but it is more or less reassuring to know that the conduct of the police at Nagoya is not without parallel in the "vanguard of civilization." It will be observed, too, that the two cases have another feature in common, namely open inciting to violence by a Roman Catholic clergyman, and secret inciting—as is supposed—by Buddhist Priests:—

The anti-Parnellite meeting at Tipperary on Sunday December 13th, gave rise to several exciting scenes. It was anticipated that either Mr. Healy or Mr. Sexton would attend, but at the last moment an intimation was received that the presence of those gentlemen was required elsewhere, and the only members who put in an appearance were Mr. Condon, M.P., and Mr. J. O'Brien. A meeting was held at half-past two in an open space outside New Tipperary arcade. Canon Cahill was elected to the chair, but as soon as the reverend gentleman attempted to speak, two young men, named Hurley and Dalton, on the platform, called for cheers for Mr. Parnell. Great disorder prevailed. The crowd was divided into faction, who glared at one another, and brandished sticks. Canon Ryan (says *The Times* correspondent at Tipperary) advanced to the platform and roared, "We will walk on the Hurleys and the paid cut-throats of our country. Clear them away; crush them down." Both Dalton and Hurley were torn from the platform by the rabble beneath. Several policemen were present, but they did not interfere. A table on the platform was broken and thrown to the crowd, and some sturdy fellows armed themseves with the shattered pieces to belabour their opponents. The Parnellites attacked the other side, to be driven back some distance. Disorder reigned supreme, and both parties struggled for the mastery. Canon Ryan addressed the anti-Parnellites, telling them they were worthless and cowards, as they could not clear off the scruff and dirt of Tipperary, and he called on the horsemen on the outskirts of the crowd to come in and trample the hirelings down; but the command met with no response. Some speeches having been delivered amid constant interruptions, Canon Ryan asked, "Why does not our side beat out the rascals or kick out the blackguards?" A man on the platform cheered for Parnell, and an effort was made by the anti-Parnellites to pull him down. His friends rushed to his rescue to resist the attack, and were freely beaten with sticks and swept away some distance from the platform. Outnumbered and overpowered they changed their line of attack and discharged a volley of stones at their opponents. Both sides ranged themselves into lines and fought in this style for some time. The peaceful spectators fled in all directions and left the field to the fighting men. Every one was driven from the platform by the fusillade of stones, and several people were hurt. Canon Ryan and Father Humphreys, wielding umbrellas, rushed amid their supporters, and, calling on them to follow, charged upon the other side. A fierce conflict ensued for several moments, during which the stone-throwing continued, but at last the Parnellites yielded and fled in all directions; a few who took shelter in an open building were attacked with stones and driven away. A priest on the platform then gave directions, when the Parnellites returned, that they should station "Groups of ten or twenty on the outskirts of the crowd prepared to beat out the brains of any one who interrupts." The meeting from this time proceeded with some show of order. The number of persons present in all is variously estimated from 400 to 2,000. Not more than 200 men were engaged in the fighting.

THE CASE OF RASPE AND CO. V. ENOMOTO SHUZO.

THE report of the above case recently published in these columns has evoked criticism that does not appear to have been preceded by full consideration of the details. The *Hyogo News*, for example, draws from the case this conclusion:—"To the Oriental legal mind it seems that for a man to fill a bottle with a vile decoction and to label it with the name of another firm, is so far from being an offence that five or six Courts in succession refuse to convict an offender caught in the act." Now, in the first place, this statement contains an exaggeration. Not "five or six courts" but two, refused to convict Enomoto Shuzo. The Supreme Court never showed any doubt at all in the matter. It sent the case back twice for re-examination, and finally Enomoto got a portion at least of his deserts. In the second place, if the *Hyogo News* had read our report with care, it would have perceived that the point which perplexed the two Judges was whether the evidence sufficed to furnish proof of fraudulent intent. The purchaser of the beer had bought it willingly. He knew it to be a spurious compound, and consequently was not deceived. On the other hand, there appears to have been no attempt, if indeed there was any necessity, to prove that Enomoto Shuzo was not aware of the character of his customer as a representative of Messrs. Raspe and Company. The two Judges argued, therefore, that, so far as the testimony laid before them was concerned, the case did not fall within the legal definition of "selling *for fraudulent purposes*." There is a radical and easily appreciated difference between the import of this judgment and the sweeping inference that the fraudulent sale of a vile and spurious decoction does not constitute an offence in Japanese eyes. It does most distinctly constitute an offence. The fact that Enomoto was finally sent to prison ought to have prevented such an unjust assertion. The crux of the whole matter was whether fraudulent intent had been sufficiently established. It did not suffice to tell the Court, as a matter of common report, that Enomoto Shuzo had been in the habit of selling his bad beer to the public at large. Evidence of sale had to be adduced, and in the only instance concerning which testimony was furnished, fraudulent intent did not, in the Court's opinion, appear to be established. We cannot ourselves appreciate such a subtlety, but still less are we able to accept the conclusion based on it by our Kobe contemporary. The judgment of the two Courts showed, not that there is any question in Japan as to the culpability of selling bad wares under a spurious title, but that the Judges required more explicit proof of fraudulent intent than plain practical folks would think of asking for. The Criminal Code, which has been in force since January 1st, 1882, contains provisions dealing distinctly with acts of fraud such as that perpetrated by Enomoto Shuzo, and convictions under these provisions have, we are informed, been obtained. But the case in question presented a peculiar feature of which the *Hyogo News* does not appear to have taken any notice. There may be a tendency on the part of a certain school of Japanese lawyers to think that Courts of Law should concern themselves about vice rather than about crime, and to forget that "hearts are outside the jurisdiction of legislatures and magistrates, who have to do only with men's actions." Certainly in the case of Enomoto Shuzo, a distinct failure of justice might have resulted had not the Supreme Court overruled a subtlety that ought to have possessed no practical weight.

THE SPEECHES OF THE MINISTERS.

THE great importance of the speech delivered by Count Yamagata in the House of Representatives on the 16th instant, induces us to refer to a matter which we should otherwise have left unnoticed, namely, the very misleading nature of the translation published by the *Japan Herald*. We know well the difficulty of finding any Japanese competent to interpret such speeches in English. It would, indeed, be too much to expect renderings faithful to the polished diction and terse style of the original. But surely something better could be accomplished than the jumble of inconsequential phrases and confused thoughts attributed to the unfortunate Minister President by the *Japan Herald*. The speech, instead of being as it really was, a dignified, eloquent, and closely reasoned statement, becomes in the *Japan Herald's* columns a farrago of bathos. Happily the construction of the sentences and their coördination are so flagrantly bad that discerning readers will at once acquit Count Yamagata of having uttered such rubbish. Take, for example, this sentence:—"Since the accession of the present Emperor to the Throne, there have been many speeches delivered by His Imperial Majesty—from the subjugation of the rebellion to the one made at the opening of the Diet." Fancy Count Yamagata alluding to "the subjugation of a rebellion" as a speech from the Throne! One

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is obliged to conceive the Japanese Sovereign a second and greater Jupiter *fulminans*, hurling from his lips treason-quelling thunderbolts. Of course Count Yamagata never said anything of the kind, and equally of course he never spoke of subduing a rebellion. However, our purpose is not general criticism, for that would necessarily extend to every sentence of the wonderful hotch-potch attributed to the Minister President by the *Herald*. It is on account of one portion only that we allude to the matter. The *Japan Herald* makes Count Yamagata say :—

I think it will be difficult to remedy at once the long standing abuses which grew out of the treaties contracted with foreign Powers at the time of the old *regime*, nor will circumstances permit of it. Therefore I believe that you, who are thoughtful and faithful representatives, will feel as I do, not only that treaty revision cannot be effected without proper reasons, but that the question should be effected on legal grounds.

These, certainly, are striking and singular statements. First, that "circumstances will not permit of remedying at once the abuses growing out of the Treaties with Foreign Powers," secondly that "Treaty Revision cannot be effected without proper reasons," and thirdly that it "should be effected on legal grounds." The Minister President did not say anything of the kind. Here are the words really used by him :—

The still incomplete condition of the national autonomy, is, however, a heritage handed down to us from the treaties of the Bakufu, and to recover that autonomy in a day is a task beyond our power to accomplish. It must be attained by gradual steps along the right route, and we are fully persuaded that you, gentlemen, loyally and honestly share our sentiments in this matter.

It may be well to refer also to a clause in Count Matsukata's speech, which, as translated by the *Herald*, commits the Government to a remarkable declaration. The translation of our contemporary makes the Minister of Finance say :—

In case the amended Budget comes into existence, the Government will declare its dissent in accordance with the provision of the Constitution, and will be obliged to take proper measures to carry out and enforce its will.

We need scarcely point out that Count Matsukata did not attribute to the Government any resolve "to carry out and enforce its own will." Such an arbitrary announcement would be more than strange. What Count Matsukata said was :—

If by any chance an ill-advised Bill is adopted, it will be the unavoidable duty of the Government, as directed by the Constitution, to announce its dissent, and adopt suitable measures in consequence.

We call attention to these points on account of their significance, not for any purpose of mere criticism or fault-finding. It is desirable that there should be no misunderstanding in respect of matters of so much moment.

BLUNDERING AGAIN.

"The only reports that have appeared in any European language on Japanese Courts, as far as we are aware," says the *Japan Gazette*, "are those of Mr. Masujima, short extracts from which have been published in the *Japan Mail* from time to time." We should like to know where these "reports by Mr. Masujima in a European language have appeared." They are spoken of as "reports on Japanese courts," but as nothing of that kind has ever been published, we presume that the meaning concealed in this peculiar phraseology is "reports of cases tried in Japanese Law Courts." Where then, we ask, have such reports been printed or compiled by any Japanese barrister in a European language? We have never heard of them, and no extracts from them have ever appeared in the columns of the *Japan Mail*. There is published in Tokyo a legal periodical called the *Saiban Suishi*. It contains, *inter alia*, short reports of interesting cases tried by Japanese Law Courts within the past few years. Knowing that ignorance of the ways of Japanese tribunals lies at the root of much of the distrust which foreigners feel towards them, and thinking that it falls distinctly within the province of an English local journal to supply information in such an important matter, we have taken the pains to translate some of these reports, and lay them before our readers. All this we explained fully when the series of translations was commenced in our columns, yet we are now told that we have been merely publishing short extracts from reports prepared by Mr. Masujima in a European language. How long it will take the *Japan Gazette* to bury itself under a mountain of its own blunders, is becoming a curious problem. Does it imagine that the *Saiban Suishi* is printed in a foreign tongue? Or does it know anything whatever about the existence of such a periodical?

* * *

It is a case of Pelion upon Ossa. We imagined that the *Japan Gazette* must have climbed pretty nearly to the pinnacle of blundering; but no, its agility continues. It made a great point, as it imagined, against a correspondent of the New York *Nation*, by denying that there were any Chinese present at the anti-Revision meeting of September last. This simply showed that it knew nothing at all about the meeting, because not only were Chinese present, and not only was a Chinaman elected to serve on the Representative Committee, but the fact was generally commented on by the press at the time, and created no little merriment. Convicted of blundering, the *Gazette* had to confess itself mistaken about a fact perfectly familiar to ninety-nine out of every hundred residents of Yokohama. Coming on the top of all its previous blunders, this escapade might have sufficed for a time. But the *Gazette* resembles the youth at the auction, bidding against himself. It essays to cap its own performances, and this time we frankly admit that it has succeeded. Here is what it says about the Chinese incident :—

We find that we were mistaken on the point of the presence of Chinamen at the meeting of September 11th. There were Chinamen present, but we have yet to learn that the dignity of the meeting was lessened thereby, any more than the dignity of the Treaty Revision conferences held in Tōkiō, when Count Inouye was Foreign Minister, was lowered by the presence of the Chinese Minister at such conferences.

Now this becomes absurd enough in view of the fact that no Chinese Minister ever attended a Treaty Revision conference in Tokyo. If that were all, however, the curiosity of the thing would be less marked, especially since we might credit the *Japan Gazette* with having obeyed some hasty impulse of retributive justice by inserting a Chinese Minister at the Tokyo Conference to balance the Chinese merchant excluded from the Yokohama Representative Committee. In the abstract, it is not a bigger blunder to assert that no Chinaman was present at the meeting than to say that a Chinaman was present at the Conference, for both allegations are equally false. But the new blunder involves infinitely more than the old one. It involves ignorance of the important fact that China's Treaty with Japan is on a special footing, quite distinct from that of Japan's Treaties with the other Foreign Powers, and that, consequently, China has never been invited to take part in any of the Revision conferences. It involves ignorance of the fact that Viscount Enomoto, Mr. Shioda, and Mr. Otori, Japan's Representatives in Peking, were supposed to have been instructed, one after the other, to open separate negotiations with China in view of the seemingly imminent conclusion of Treaty Revision with Western Powers. It involves ignorance of the fact that China's probable attitude in the event of Western States agreeing to the imposition of increased tariff rates by Japan, has been speculated upon by diplomatists, and discussed by every foreign and vernacular journal in Japan for the past five years. It involves ignorance of the fact, repeatedly commented on, that owing to the special nature of her Treaty with China, Japan is happily in the position of being able to withhold from the Chinese the privilege of mixed residence while granting it to other aliens. In short, it involves ignorance of one of the most important, the most perplexing, and the most widely debated phases of the Treaty Revision problem. We have not the smallest desire to comment on the strange mistakes of our contemporary. That function of journalism is particularly distasteful to us in the present case. But the *Japan Gazette* is now the representative of a company of prominent residents of Yokohama, and the avowed object of its proprietors was to establish an organ which should place the Treaty Revision question before the public in a just and correct light. It has interested us, therefore, to follow the *Gazette's* course during the seven weeks of its existence up to the present, and to determine how much credit its utterances deserve. But we promise our readers that the task shall not occupy much more space in these columns.

A NEW FINANCIAL RESOURCE.

The *Keizai Zasshi* offers for the consideration of the Representatives of the people a new and hitherto neglected source of the public revenue. The Bank of Japan has the right of issuing convertible notes to the amount of 85 million *yen* in excess of the specie reserve in its vaults. According to the official returns for the week ending January 10th, the total amount of convertible notes issued was, at that time, 102,953,364 *yen*, of which the amount in actual circulation was 74,977,523 *yen*, while the reserve of specie amounted to 44,244,011 *yen*. The difference between the last two sums, namely 30,733,511 *yen*, represents the amount for which the Bank has no reserve in its vaults. Our contemporary thinks that the profit resulting from this issue of notes ought not to be enjoyed solely by the *Nippon Ginko* as is now the case. The profit reaches, on the basis of 5 per cent., 1,536,675 *yen*, and will steadily increase in proportion to the quantity of convertible notes issued by the Bank. Supposing that the maximum limit (85,000,000 *yen*) be reached, the Bank would then be compelled, according to its charter, to advance to the Government a sum of 22 million *yen* without any interest, so that the actual amount at the Bank's disposal would be 63,000,000 *yen*, and the profit accruing on the use of the latter sum would be 3,150,000 *yen*, at the rate of 5 per cent. The *Keizai Zasshi* admits that the Bank is entitled to a certain amount of compensation for the trouble it takes in the issue of the convertible notes, but strongly protests against the appropriation of the whole profit arising from the transaction. In the case of the various subsidies to companies now engaging the attention of the Representatives, contracts bind the Government to pay the subsides. But no contract exists in the case of the Bank of Japan. The Government can, therefore, take from the Bank without any injustice a portion of the profit now accruing from the circulation of convertible notes in excess of the specie reserve. Our contemporary recommends the members of the Diet to bring this question up for discussion before the close of the present session. With regard to the use of the new income thus derived, the Tokyo journal proposes to employ it as a means of abolishing the tax on confectionary and on exports.

"ROUND THE WORLD FOR THREE YEN AND A HALF."

This is the title of a book just published in Tokyo by a young traveller named Yorimitsu Hôsei, a native of Tosa. As usual the book contains laudatory prefaces from the pens of several distinguished politicians and authors, including Counts Itagaki and Katsu, and Messrs. Shimada Saburo, Nakae Tokusuke, Ueki Emori, members of the Lower House, and Tokutomi Iichiro, editor of the *Kokumin-no-Yomo*. A poor student of English, Mr. Yorimitsu left Nagasaki in the spring of 1885 on board an American ship bound to Hongkong. Having only three *yen* and a half in his pocket, he had to work as a deck boy. He then spent ten months in visiting some of the open ports of China and also some cities of Siam and Burmah, always earning his passage as a cabin boy or a cook. Some time in the spring of 1886 we find him sailing from Singapore to New York on board an American merchant ship, the captain of which is described as being a man of chivalrous spirit and very kindly disposition. He worked as a steward. In the course of this voyage, he touched at Colombo, Bombay, and Cape Town. Everywhere the young adventurer seems to have devoted all his spare time and what money he had to making himself acquainted with the modes of life and customs of

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the place. After reaching New York, he worked in various capacities, and mingled with all sorts of people, high and low, especially the latter. Some Americans took such interest in him that they offered to send him to a college, but he declined, and after staying there for about six months, sailed for Europe in a merchant vessel, though in what capacity we are not told. He first went to Belgium, then to France, and lastly to England, everywhere engaging in manual labour of some kind and, as soon as he had earned a little money, putting on gentleman's costume and mixing in society. He made the acquaintance of several distinguished men; principal among them being M. Clemenceau, Mr. Gladstone, and the late John Bright. To the last-named gentleman he had brought a letter of introduction from one of his American friends in New York. He returned to Japan by way of Australia in the spring of 1889, thus having spent four complete years abroad. Such is the general outline of his wanderings. He certainly deserves to be congratulated on the good fortune that attended him in his novel travels. But we are disappointed by the contents of his book. He occupies himself chiefly with recording, not his personal experiences, which could not fail to be various and interesting, but his not very favourable impressions of the life and manners of Occidental nations. His work is on that account comparatively uninteresting. Like his more brilliant predecessor, Mr. Shiga Shigetaka, editor of the *Nipponjin*, he seems to have been impressed, as the result of what he observed abroad, with the importance of a grand alliance among the nations of the Orient, especially Japan and China, against the steadily growing power of European races in this part of the world. Further, he recommends his countrymen to devote their energies to the development of their national resources by extending commerce with the outer world, a trite piece of counsel. According to one of the prefaces to his book, he is going soon to China as a commercial explorer, and since he is still young and evidently a man of considerable energy and pluck, we expect to hear more about him by and by.

THE DIET AND PETTY TRADESMEN.

THE petty tradesmen of Tokyo expected that the assembling of the members of the Diet would bring them an exceptionally brisk and profitable season. But they have been entirely deceived, and are giving backhanded blessings to the very persons whose presence in the capital they so gladly anticipated. The Diet's clamour for the reduction of the number and salaries of Government officials, has, it seems, exercised a strong economical influence on the whole official class, whose patronage is so vital to the petty tradesmen of the capital. It has hitherto been customary with officials to give entertainments at the end and beginning of each year. Toward the close of the last month in every year, the resources of the tea houses used to be taxed to their utmost to accomodate these jovial parties, celebrating what they termed *bo-nen kwai*, or ringing the old year out. The first half of January was wont to be similarly enlivened by *shin-nen enkwai* (New year's feasts). But last December, as well as last January, these social gatherings were few and far between. The tea houses, with the exception of those in the very first rank, all complain bitterly that the season has been ruinous. Equally unfortunate have been shoe-makers, tailors, and so forth, who regularly go round the various Departments and Bureaux to take orders on two or three months' credit. Higher class officials are of course able to pay their bills at any time, but those in receipt of medium and small emoluments give their orders, in most cases, on the basis of monthly instalments. Of late, however, petty officials are thinking more of their future prospects than of ordering new clothes and new shoes. The effect of the panic, for it is scarcely less, among the official class generally, is also discernible in other directions. The wives of officials, alarmed by the reported attempt of the Diet to cut down their husbands' salaries, and economical always, have become so extremely careful of *sen* and *rin*, that dealers in *katsuwo*, eggs, beef, fish, fruit, and all other articles of daily consumption, complain bitterly of the hard times, and there are even cases of utter ruin among small merchants. These circumstances have contributed to produce general distress among the poorer classes in Tokyo. The only persons that have profited by the meeting of the Diet are a few hotel keepers and the *soshi*.

A PETITION.

MR. HIKIDA YEIKICHI, of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, has presented to the House of Representatives a petition urging the abolition of *jinrikisha*. He assigns seven reasons for getting rid of these useful vehicles. First, the men who draw them are practically slaves; secondly, by sanctioning such a trade, the number of persons available to develop the resources of the country is reduced; thirdly, by sanctioning such a trade, the number of the poor is increased; fourthly, by sanctioning such a trade, the number of criminals is increased; fifthly, by sanctioning such a trade, the number of early deaths is increased; sixthly, *jinrikisha* have the effect of developing luxurious habits; and, seventhly, *jinrikisha* disfigure the aspect of the city. If this petition should come up for discussion in the House, the debate will probably be interesting.

SILK-WORMS' EGGS.

THERE is apparently some trouble between the sericulturists of Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures. The former are in the habit of obtaining their supply of eggs from the latter, their annual purchases amounting to some sixty thousand cards. The quality of the eggs, however, having given rise to complaints, a guild was formed, and it was decided that a board of examination should subject the cards to expert inspection before delivery was taken. The immediate consequence was that 3,300 cards were pronounced bad and returned to the producers, who expressed themselves much dissatisfied, and clamoured for a revision of the rules of inspection. The vernacular press says that the matter is difficult to adjust.

OPIUM AND INDIAN FINANCE.

"THE Moral and Material Progress of India" is the title of a Blue-book annually laid before the British Parliament, which is so full of interesting matter that if it were published in any other shape it would command a large circulation. As it is, no one reads it, although it is, in fact, an account of the broad features and results of each successive year's administration in India, and of the methods adopted for dealing with current political questions in that vast and interesting region. The last of these reports has recently been laid before Parliament and has some interesting remarks on the opium trade and its bearing on Indian finance, of which the following is a summary. The opium revenue is raised partly by a monopoly of opium in Bengal, and partly by the levy of a duty on all opium exported from Native States. Though the poppy grows freely in most parts of India, its cultivation in British territory is permitted, as a Government monopoly, only in a tract 600 by 200 miles in extent in the Ganges Valley. The cultivator receives advances to enable him to prepare the land for the crop, and he is required to deliver the whole of the produce at a fixed price to opium agents, by whom it is despatched to the Government factories at Patna and Ghazipur to be refined for the China market. The chests of manufactured opium are sold by auction at monthly sales which take place in Calcutta; and in order to prevent speculation and to steady prices, the quantity to be sold during each year, is notified in the previous year. A sufficient reserve is retained to supply the deficiencies of bad seasons; and a small quantity is retained for the use of the Indian excise departments. In 1861 the average price of opium sold by auction for the China market was as high as Rx. 185 per chest of 140 lbs. weight, but since that year it has fallen. In 1886-87 the average was Rx. 112; in 1887-88 it was Rx. 106; and in 1888-89 it was Rx. 112. (Rx. means tens of rupees, and may be taken roughly as equivalent to pounds sterling.) Opium is grown in many Native States of Central India and Rajputana. These states have agreed to assimilate their internal opium arrangements to the British exise system, and to prevent contraband dealings. They levy heavy dues from opium exported from their territories for the China market, and such opium pays to the Indian Treasury a duty of Rx. 65 per chest on exportation. The yield of the opium revenue for the past two years has been :—

	1887-88.	1888-89.
	Rx.	Rx.
Auction sales of monopoly opium	6,037,967	6,383,948
Duty on Bombay or Malwa opium	2,267,493	1,964,497
Issues of opium to the Exise Department	210,002	213,864
Total	8,515,462	8,562,309
Opium expenditure chiefly in Bengal	2,424,575	2,597,905
Net opium Revenue	6,090,887	5,964,414

The number of chests of Bengal opium sold in each of these two years was 57,000; the number of chests of Bombay opium paying duty was 34,884 in 1887-88, and 30,222 in 1888-9. The quantity of opium issued to the excise departments of the Bengal Presidency was 6,078 maunds in the latter year; and the receipts shown above are outside the provincial opium duties of Rx. 761,660, shown in the excise section of this statement. The net revenue from opium is now considerably below what it was in previous years; thus :—

Net Opium Revenue in Rx.		Net Opium Revenue in Rx.	
1872-73	6,870,423	1880-81	8,451,276
1875-76	6,250,660	1883-84	7,701,518
1878-79	7,700,671	1886-87	6,213,913
1879-80	8,251,670	1888-89	5,964,414

The fall in the Indian opium revenue is due to the increased quantity, and the improved quality of the opium produced in China. The Chinese production of opium has been variously estimated at from three to ten times the Indian importations. Consular reports from China show that in the northern and inland provinces Chinese opium is taking the place of the Indian drug. It is probable that the increased duties, imposed under the Chefoo Convention on foreign opium entering China, have operated in favour of the consumption of the native drug. In pursuance of the policy of reducing the opium area, the land actually cultivated with opium in the Ganges valley was reduced to 518,930 acres, or 3 per cent. below the area of 1887-88, and 7½ per cent. below the opium area of 1886-87. The contraction of the opium area caused some dissatisfaction among the ryots, among whom opium cultivation with its accompaning cash advances at a critical season of the year is popular. The number of chests of opium paying duty at Bombay was less by 4,662, or 13 per cent., than in the preceding year. The decrease is attributed partly to the increased poppy cultivation in China, and the cheapness of the native drug there, and partly to the dearness of Bombay opium, caused by the partial failure of the rainfall in 1886 and 1887. Of the Malwa supply, one chest was exported to London, 18½ chests to Zanzibar, and 75 chests to Cochin and Allepey; while 118 chests were supplied to Native Chiefs in Guzerat and Kathiawar, and 1,090 chests were issued to opium farmers or to Native States. The licensed consumption of opium in British districts of the Bombay presidency was 148,511 lbs., as compared with 140,527, and 150,657 lbs., in the two previous years.

SINGULAR RECOVERY OF A RING.

A RING which its owner, one of the officers of the *Omaha*, might well have despaired of recovering, has found its way back to him under somewhat peculiar circumstances. The ring was dropped, while the *Omaha* was last here, in the harbour in seven fathoms of water, a depth which, in view of the muddy bottom, made recovery a very problematical matter.

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A reward was offered, however, and on the return of the ship it now appears that the ring was recovered by a *sendo* who carried it to the Yokohama Police Station, whence it has found its way back to its owner. It appears that the finder used a net or dredge of the kind known as *keta* provided with iron spikes in which the ring caught, and was brought to the surface.

THE INFLUENCE OF LAND OWNERS IN JAPAN.

THE movement against the proposed reduction of the land-tax is steadily gaining ground. The *Keizai Zasshi*, as already stated, is one of the most important strongholds of the opposition. In its issue of the 14th instant, it again recurs to the subject, and draws attention to the fact that the influence of landowners is already dangerously great in the politics of the country. From the Diet down to the communal assemblies, the basis of the franchise is in every case almost limited to possession in land. It is the landowners who elect and are elected to these assemblies, and the inevitable result is that the interest of the landed class is taken care of before that of every other class. Our contemporary substantiates this assertion by figures showing the amounts of local taxes in each City on Prefecture that are legally leviable, and those that are actually levied. From these statistics, it appears that in no locality is land taxed up to the legal limits. The local tax on land is fixed by law at a maximum of one-third of the national tax (*chiso*). But the practice and principle differ widely. To take an extreme case:—The legal limit of the local tax on land in Saitama Prefecture amounts to 516,628 *yen*; but the amount actually voted by the Local Assembly is only 231,305 *yen*; in other words less than one-half of the legal limit. This is the worst case, but there are many others almost equally bad. In proportion as the farmer's local liabilities are thus lightened, the merchant, the mechanic, and the manufacturer are compelled to bear correspondingly heavy burdens. Thus the *Keizai Zasshi* truly observes that the landed class, with its voice almost exclusively dominant in politics, already menaces the interests of all other classes of the people. Our contemporary deems it of vital importance for the welfare of the country to put restraints upon the self aggrandizing spirit of the dominant class. Otherwise "a dangerous type of socialists may, in no long time, make their appearance in our midst."

PRINCE SANJO'S FUNERAL.

THE *Official Gazette* contains an Imperial Rescript, ordering that a State Funeral be given to the late Prince Sanjo. The cortége, as announced in our columns yesterday, will leave the residence of the deceased statesman in Ichibei-machi at 9 a.m. on the 25th instant, and will proceed to the temple of Gokoku, in Otowa. It was at this temple that the late Prince Arisugawa was buried in 1886. The funeral will be a magnificent affair. Preparations on a large scale have been commenced, the house formerly occupied by Mr. F. T. Piggott having been appropriated to serve as an office for the officials engaged. The cortége will pass by the following route:—down Reinan-zaka; to the right, down Yenoki-zaka, keeping the Naval Department on the left; past the front gate of the Naval Department; along the moat, and thence over Atarashi-bashi; by Uchisaiwaicho; past the front gate of the Rokumeikan; along the Moat; past Hibiya Gate, on the left; along the Moat; by Kijibashi to Iida-machi; over Iida-bashi; to the right, and over Funakawa-bashi by Yedogawa-cho, Suido-cho, and Otowa-cho to Gokokuji.

KATO SOGORO AGAINST R. A. WILLIE.

THIS case, which is a claim for about $590 alleged to be due on a building contract, came up on Saturday in Chambers before Judge Hannen, on an order served on the defendant at the instance of the plaintiff requiring the former to show cause why the plaintiff should not receive permission to sue *in forma pauperis*. The plaintiff produced certificates attesting his poverty, and also a legal opinion to the effect that his case was, *prima facie*, one for relief. After reading the certificates and hearing Counsel (Mr. Litchfield) for the defendant, and the statement of the plaintiff in reply, His Honour granted permission to sue as requested, and directed an answer to be filed within eight days.

MR. PARNELL AND GUTTER SPARROWS.

". . . . The miserable gutter-sparrows who were once my comrades."—Mr. PARNELL at Freshford.

Ah, yes! that the sparrows, late perched on the gutter,
No more are your "comrades" is painfully true.
'Twas a sudden vibration that set them a-flutter—
The waterspout shook and they flew,
At present their alienation is utter;
But does a complaint of their holding aloof,
Come with quite a good grace (they may possibly mutter),
From *you*—the tom-cat on the roof?

St. James's Budget.

MR. T. B. CLARKE-THORNHILL.

MR. T. B. CLARKE-THORNHILL, Second Secretary of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation in Tokyo, has been appointed to the Embassy in Paris. Mr. Clarke-Thornhill is to be sincerely congratulated on this transfer to the most important among the European Embassies. His departure from Japan will take place at the end of next month, to the great regret of his many friends in this quarter of the world.

A NOVEL OFFENCE.

FIVE leading members of the *Rikken-Jiyu-to*, Messrs. Tanaka Kaido, Kataoka Kenkichi, Shigeno Kenjiro, Ishizaki Juhei, and Ishizaka Masataka, were yesterday arraigned before a Local Court in Tokyo and fined *2 yen* each for violating the Law of Political Societies. Their offence was the act of enrolling in their Society a youth, Yoshida Yoshinosuke, whose age is below that prescribed by the Law.

THE "TOKYO MARU."

THE *Tokyo Maru* has been successfully towed into Yokosuka harbour. What amount of damage she has suffered it is difficult, as yet, to tell, but on the whole her condition is said to be much better than could reasonably have been expected under the circumstances. Her cabin fittings will probably prove the most costly item in her repairs.

RIDICULOUS!

"THE Government is dignified and slow like the Chinese in very ancient times." Such is the sentiment attributed to the *Mainichi Shimbun* by a local English exponent of Japanese ideas. The present Government of Japan is "dignified and slow like the Chinese in very ancient times." Is it possible to write anything more ridiculous?

LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

PROFESSOR DR. EGGERT'S lecture, the second in the series recently announced by the German Scientific Society, will be delivered on Monday evening in the Lecture Hall of the Imperial University at 6 o'clock punctually. The subject is "The Vital Stages of Economic Development."

JUDGE HANNEN.

WE learn that Judge Hannen has been offered and has accepted the joint offices of Chief Justice for China and Japan and Consul-General at Shanghai. It is not expected that Mr. Hannen will leave Yokohama before the close of summer.

THE "HALCYON."

WE learn that a telegram has been received stating that the schooner *Halcyon*, which dragged her anchors and went ashore in Tateyama Bay, is "all right." This assurance probably refers to the vessel's having been floated.

WHICH?

WE were rebuked recently by a local savant for translating Prince Konoye's title of nobility by "Prince." Our honest critic said, in *ex cathedrâ* style, "Duke, not Prince," and to silence all question, added the ideographs. Now, will this honest critic be so kind as to say why he renders the same ideographs "Prince," in the case of the late Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal. Why should it be right to say "Prince Sanjo" and wrong to say "Prince Konoye," when the Japanese title of both is precisely the same?

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The question of the Budget has been more than ever the absorbing topic of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the week. A rumour, for some time prevalent, as to the intention of the Government to dissolve the Diet, received confirmation from the speeches of Counts Yamagata and Matsukata on the 16th instant. In certain quarters, this rumour is held worthy of entire belief. The *Kokkwai* writes on the consequences of a dissolution as though that measure had been actually determined upon by the Ministry. According to those who place confidence in this rumour, the Government will order the dissolution of the Diet as soon as the debates on the Budget have been brought to a close in the House of Representatives. Another section of the public is entirely sceptical, as to the notion of dissolution. It is stated by these persons that, although a number of the Cabinet Ministers—notably Counts Goto and Matsukata, and Viscount Aoki and Mr. Mutsu—are strong advocates of dissolution, the Minister President is firmly opposed to such a course, and that he will not change his mind, unless things assume a totally new aspect. The latter of these two rumours now seems to represent the general opinion of men usually well informed about current politics. But that a considerable portion of the public seriously apprehends the dissolution of the Diet, is shown by the earnestness with which papers like the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and others, endeavour to persuade the Government of the unwisdom of appealing to the nation on the question of the estimates. A new House of Representatives, say these journals, would be more radical than the present one, and the Government would have either to yield to the new House or to dissolve it once more, thus engaging in a serious conflict with the nation. These papers have strong personal motives for disliking a dissolution, as their editors are members of the Diet. But still their opinions as to the effects of the measure are shared by intelligent observers of current politics.

* * *

What reception will the decision of the Lower House on the Budget meet with in the House of Peers? This is the question now eagerly asked by every one. As stated in our last weekly summary, it is generally believed that the members of the Upper House, who represent the fifteen highest tax payers in the respective localities—about 45 in number—are united in their determination to make common cause with the extremists in the House of Representatives. The latest report is to the effect that most of "the ex-Senator Members" and a considerable number of the titled members are also inclined to respect the decision of the Lower House. Yet another rumour states that Viscount Tani and a few others purpose mediating between the Government and the Representatives, and trying to induce the latter to be contended with a reduction of a few million *yen*. But this report is scarcely credible in view of the general belief that Viscount Tani is among the most radical reformers in financial questions. The general opinion thus seems to be that the Peers will show themselves favourably disposed to the reductions proposed by the Lower House. But, as some papers justly say, it is premature to attempt any definite forecast as to the ultimate attitude of the Upper House, because those who intend to oppose the decision of the Representatives are naturally slow to declare themselves.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, which usually abstains from discussing the political questions of the

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day, has devoted during the present week a number of articles to the consideration of the Budget question. The object constantly kept in view by our contemporary in all these articles, is to counsel moderation to both the Government and the Representatives. Speaking of the causes of action now open to the Ministry, the *Jiji* observes that the latter may either dissolve the Diet, or refuse to give its concurrence to the reductions voted and carry out the estimates of the current year. But in order to take the first course, the Cabinet must be prepared to resign in case the new Diet is opposed to its Budget. The adoption of the second course would lead to a similar result; for, if the Government should continue year after year to reject the reductions proposed by the Representatives, it would soon find itself in an embarrassing situation. The *Jiji* further tells the Ministers of State that their ostentatious and expensive policy in the past is received by the nation with no goodwill, and that, consequently, the best course open to them at the present juncture is to yield a step to the Representatives, and at the same time to become more conciliatory in their attitude to those outside officialdom, and more simple and moderate in the exercise of their immense powers. Writing of the unwisdom of the course of policy now pursued by the House of Representatives, the *Jiji* remarks that the blunders of the Lower House are attributable to the absence of men of experience in it. There are a number of distinguished men both within and without the Government who are in every respect superior to the present members of the popular branch of the Legislature; but these men have been disqualified for presenting themselves as candidates for the Lower House by their elevation to the peerage. Had they been in the Lower House, our contemporary thinks that both the Diet and the Government would have been saved much of the present unpleasantness and difficulty. Thus the original cause of the conflict between the Executive and the Legislature is to be attributed to the mistaken policy of the Government in "reviving the antiquated orders of nobility." In another place, the *Jiji* states that, according to its private information, the Ministry has it in contemplation to submit a revised Budget to the Diet when the present Budget comes before a conference of the two branches of the Legislature, and heartily applauds such a course of policy on the part of the Authorities. The Tokyo journal advises the members of the Diet to receive the revised Budget in a conciliatory spirit, should it be submitted to them.

* * *

The speeches delivered by Counts Yamagata and Matsukata in the House of Representatives on the 16th instant, have elicited various comments from the vernacular press. On this matter, as in every other question connected with the Budget, the papers are divided into two distinct groups. The *Kaishin-to* and the *Riken Jiyu-to* organs, that is to say, those in favour of "the extremists" in the Lower House, criticize the speeches in no appreciative tone; while the papers that sympathize with "the moderates" either applaud the speeches or turn them into weapons for attacking the unconstitutional and impolitic course of action adopted by "the extremists." The *Hochi Shimbun* and the *Jiji Shimpo* are conspicuous for careful avoidance of any words capable of being construed into either approval or censure. This is the fourth time that the Ministry has declared its dissent from the conduct of the Representatives in relation to the Budget. By Count Matsukata's speech of January 9th, the Government told the members of the Lower House that it could not approve their proposed reductions, on account of their great amount. On February 5th Count Matsukata, and on February 10th Count Yamagata, declared their disapproval of these reductions from constitutional points of view. On the 16th instant the Minister President and the Minister of Finance announced the Government's opposition to the procedure of the House of Representatives, on account alike of the amount and of constitutional reasons. The native papers, notwithstanding their difference of view on minor points, all agree in regretting that things have come to their present pass.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun*, writing on Count Yamagata's speech, observes that it is entirely at one with the Minister President of State so far as his ideas of the national policy are concerned, but that it can by no means endorse his notions of what is required to carry out that policy. The maintenance of the prestige of the country, our contemporary admits, is very important, but the people are groaning under heavy burdens, and a reduction of 8 millions *yen* or thereabouts is a measure of urgent necessity. The Ministry says that with such a large reduction, it would be impossible to carry on the administration, but the Constitutional Liberal organ replies that, with proper economy, there should be no impossibility. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, an organ of the *Kaishin-to*, writes in a similar strain, and maintains that the reduction of the number and salaries of Government officials cannot have any effect on the prestige of the country in its relations with other nations. As to the constitutional side of the question, the *Mainichi* maintains that to vote reductions of the expenditures mentioned in the 67th article of the Constitution is not illegal, as alleged by the Government. For, in the first place, the Diet is certainly empowered by the Constitution (Articles 38 and 40) to propose amendments of laws and ordinances, and secondly, the Representatives, while voting reductions of the expenditure specified in the 67th article, do nothing more than make representations to the Government in the sense of changes of organization demanded by those reductions.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Kokkwai* and the *Tokyo Shimpo* maintain the constitutionality of the views taken by the Cabinet as to the 67th Article of the Constitution. The last mentioned paper, which is generally well informed on legal matters, condemns the course taken by the extremists as unconstitutional, and observes that the maintenance of the country's prestige abroad would be seriously interfered with by the adoption of the reductions voted by the Representatives, for those reductions involve important expenditures for the completion of the military equipment of the country. The *Kokkwai*, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and others deplore the collision between the Government and the Diet, and complain that all this has been brought about by the short-sighted and unconstitutional policy of the extremists in the House of Representatives.

* * *

The untimely death of Prince Sanjo, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, has deprived Japan of one of the most loyal and patriotic statesman of the present era. The noble antiquity of his house, the romantic beginnings of his public life, the distinguished services rendered by him to the State, and his genial and disinterested nature, combined to endear him to all classes of the people, above other statesmen of modern times. The whole press of the country unites in paying high tributes to the singularly pure and loyal character of the great *kuge*.

* * *

There is a rumour that the *Taisei-kwai*, whose members constitute the back-bone of the moderates in the House of Representatives, will become a political party. Hitherto, the association has abstained from adopting any party programme, its object being to remain strictly independent of all existing parties. Lately, however, the members have held a series of meetings, for the purpose says rumour, of arranging matters with a view to the formal organization of a political party having a distinct platform. The principal promoters of the movement are said to be Messrs. Suyematsu Kencho, Watanabe Osamu, editor of the *Choya Shimbun*, Tanaka Gentaro, and Okada Ryoichiro. Their supposed object is not only to turn the *Taisei kwai* into a party, but to induce all the moderates to join it. Rumour further states that the new party will follow the lead of Count Ito, and in support of this assertion, we are referred to the frequent visits paid to the Count by his son-in-law, Mr. Suyematsu, the principal promoter of the scheme. That Count Ito will consent to become the leader of the party, seems scarcely worth considering, but it is quite possible that the *Taisei-kwai* members of the Diet may form themselves into a political association. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* alluding to this rumour, recommends the members of the *Taisei-kwai* to openly acknowledge themselves supporters of the present Cabinet. They are at great pains to maintain their independence of existing parties, yet in everything but name they are partisans of the statesmen in power. Their past history as well as their conduct on the question of the Budget prove this. As for the Government, the *Yomiuri* advises it to organize a political party which will support it against the opposition of the progressive parties, the implication being that it should acknowledge its connection with the *Taisei-kwai*.

* * *

The votes of the House of Representatives for the reduction or abolition of subsidies to different companies, have produced an evil effect in the financial world, the shares of those companies having fallen considerably. Business men are greatly excited, and loud complaints are uttered about the partiality of the Representatives in favour of the landed interest as opposed to the interest of the commercial class. In relation to this question the members of the Lower House are censured by the majority of the native papers. The *Hochi Shimbun*, while reproving the short-sighted policy of the House, at the same time reproves men of business for their notorious indifference to politics. Many of them might have easily procured election to the House of Representatives, had they but presented themselves as candidates. But they generally kept aloof, and are now paying dear for their habitual indifference. Thus they have only themselves to blame for the present disastrous disturbance of the financial world. They are recommended to pay more attention in future to the politics of the country.

* * *

The prolongation of the session of the Diet engages the attention of several newspapers. Two contradictory rumours are current. According to one, the session will not be prolonged under any circumstances; while according to the other, it will be extended by two or three weeks, certainly one week. The latter rumour seems to be the more credible. Meanwhile, the Metropolitan papers have written one after another urging upon the Government the importance of prolonging the session. They plead that due allowance should be made for the inexperience of the first Diet, and for the loss of time caused by the burning down of the Parliamentary buildings.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* protests against the undue importance given by the teachers of primary schools to the study of metaphysics and allied subjects. These persons are said to pore over the translation of Bain's Mental Science from year's end to year's end. They are advised to abandon impossible attempts to master the principles of a science which baffles the lifelong attacks of even born philosophers. They had better pay their attention to history and biography. A writer in the *Jiyu Shimbun* advocates the abolition of export duties. Mr. Uyeki Emori urges in the same paper the establishment of a local assembly in Hokkaido, for which a petition has been presented to the Diet by the inhabitants of the island. The *Jiji Shimpo* continues its articles on the condition of the mercantile class. Merchants occupy an inferior position in society, but greatly as our contemporary deplores such a state of things, it admits that the merchants themselves are principally to blame for the scanty respect shown to them. They are at present little better than usurers. Our contemporary recommends them to become more self-respecting and enterprising.

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DEATH OF PRINCE SANJO.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRINCE SANJO, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, expired on Wednesday night at his residence in Ichibei-machi, Azabu, Tokyo. The Prince was attacked by influenza at the commencement of the month, and by the 14th instant the malady had developed grave symptoms, inflammation of the lungs supervening, and the temperature rising to over 40°. Doctors ITO, HASHIMOTO, and BAELZ were in constant attendance, but medical skill could do nothing for the sufferer. His temperature, indeed, fell, but he gradually grew weaker, and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 17th it was evident that his condition threatened to become critical. Shortly before daylight in the morning of the 18th the physicians announced that the end must come after a few hours. Intelligence was immediately despatched to the Palace, and at half-past eleven the EMPEROR repaired to the dying statesman's residence, and, entering his chamber, conferred on him the highest rank attainable by a Japanese subject (*Sho-ichi-i*)—a rank not possessed by anyone in this empire since the eleventh century, when it was held by FUJIWARA TAKECHIMARU. The EMPEROR, whose keen pain at the loss of his loved and well tried servant, was strongly betrayed by his broken voice and trembling hand, said, as he conferred the rank :—

> In the early years of my reign, while I was yet a youth, you were my chief aid. It was you who, not shrinking from a post of weighty responsibility, lent me assistance so constant, so steady, and so true that you were to me as a teacher and a parent. Never from first to last did you falter or fail in the discharge of your large trust. Your services are a model for all subjects of our time. In recognition of your noble fidelity, I confer on you the First Class of the First Rank.

The document containing these gracious words was laid beside the dying man's pillow. Prince SANJO, though so weak that all movement of his limbs had for some time back seemed impossible, deeply touched by this signal mark of his Imperial master's favour, raised his head and joined his hands in token of gratitude. Chamberlains were also sent on behalf of the EMPRESS and the EMPRESS DOWAGER, and from morning until night the stream of inquirers never ceased, Ministers of State, nobles, all the dignitaries of the Government and all the leading residents of Tokyo hastening to pay their respects to a man whom the whole nation honours. Shortly after eleven o'clock in the forenoon intelligence of the Prince's critical condition was conveyed to the House of Peers, and the House rose forthwith. The Prince lingered throughout the day in a semi-conscious condition, and breathed his last at 7.15 p.m.

Prince SANJO was born in February, 1837, and had therefore just completed his fifty-fourth year when death overtook him. The second son of SANJO SANEKAZU, Second Minister of State (*Udaijin*) in the reign of the Emperor NINKO, he belonged to the *Kuge* class, and was thus a direct descendant of one of the former occupants of the Imperial Throne. From his earliest childhood the deceased statesman breathed the atmosphere of reactionary conservatism that for years had been permeating the intellect and colouring the fancy of his country's greatest men. It was a reaction against the indolent luxury begotten of three centuries of peace; against the gradual disappearance of the pure and simple old creed under the magnificence and pageantry of Buddhism; and above all, against the subtle despotism of the TOKUGAWA institutions which, while securing national tranquillity, held the necks of the *Samurai* in a yoke of iron, and destroyed every opportunity of individual distinction. The young noble was only sixteen when PERRY'S four ships cast anchor off Uraga. If anything were needed to inflame his conservative ardour, it was this event, for while, by the EMPEROR'S express command, the Priests of the Imperial Shrines at Ise were offering prayers to heaven for the expulsion of the barbarians, the SHOGUN'S Ministers in Yedo concluded a treaty of commerce and amity with the new comers. The empire was stirred from end to end by this act. Everywhere men began to prepare for battle. Forts were erected, cannon cast, and the leaders of the reactionary movement loudly proclaimed their belief that the TOKUGAWA Regent had betrayed the national cause, and bartered the safety of the country for his own quiet tenure of power. It was at this time that six men, destined to live in the pages of Japanese history, began to be recognised as working in a common cause. They were SANJO, IWAKURA, KIDO, SAIGO, ITAGAKI, and SHIMAZU SABURO. Their object was to overthrow the TOKUGAWA dynasty, and to restore the executive power to the EMPEROR. Strongly supported by the feudal barons of Echizen, Uwajima, and Tosa, as well as by the whole body of the Court nobles, their design would probably have matured at an earlier date had not the reins of authority in the Yedo Court fallen into the hands of the astute and uncompromising II KAMON, who became Prime Minister during the minority of TOKUGAWA IYEMOCHI. It shrunk from no exercise of abitrary power to crush the disaffection that he detected growing up against his Prince, but he fell under the sword of the assassin in 1861, and the conservative party renewed its strength. In 1863, the EMPEROR'S advisers judged that the time had come for an open effort. SANJO, then only 26 years of age, and ANE-NO-KOJO, were sent as envoys from the Court in Kyoto to the Court in Yedo. The message they conveyed was that the administration must be thoroughly reformed; that active steps must be taken to restore tranquillity to the public mind, and that preparations for the expulsion of foreigners must be set on foot. The SHOGUN himself was required to repair to Kyoto within a few months, in order to lay an account of his government before the Throne. This message amounted to an ultimatum, and was construed in that sense by the Bakufu rulers. They put forth their whole strength, and by various measures, too long to be recounted here, succeeded in recovering a part of their influence in Kyoto. Many nobles, still uncertain as to the issue of the conservative movement, and still, perhaps, only lukewarm in their sympathy, were induced to join a pro-Tokugawa coalition in Kyoto. Once more the counsels of the Imperial Court acknowledged the direction of the Shôgunate, and the Emperor, KOMEI, was induced to order the condign punishment of SANJO and six others, recognised heads of the Restoration policy in that city. Care was taken, however, to warn the seven of their peril, and they fled to Chôshiu, remaining there for two years in seclusion, when they were obliged to take refuge in Chikuzen. Not until 1866, when the death of the Emperor KOMEI placed the present Sovereign on the Throne, were SANJO and his friends able to emerge from their concealment, and to resume openly the efforts which they had never ceased to carry on secretly in the conservative cause. It is not necessary to describe here the now familiar events of the following two momentous years. SANJO took a leading part in the Councils of State, and at the fall of the Shogunate and the restoration of peace, was chosen to superintend the affairs of the eastern portion of the empire and was also nominated Captain of the left wing of the Imperial Guards. In 1868 his skilful discharge of mediatory offices when the adherents of the TOKUGAWA assumed a threatening attitude, won for him fresh renown, as well as appointment to the high post of Second Minister of State (*Udaijin*). Shortly afterwards the EMPEROR named him First Minister (*Sadaijin*), and in 1870 he became Prime

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Minister (*Daijo Daijin*), which office he held until succeeded by Count ITO in 1886. It is not easy to say at what stage of his career Prince SANJO exchanged the anti-foreign feeling of his early years for the strong liberality of his policy in office. Like all the prominent Japanese with whom he shared the former sentiment in pre-Restoration days, he doubtless recognised, at a very early period, that the traditions of bygone centuries had become utterly untenable under the altered conditions of modern international intercourse, and that the way to preserve Japan's independence was not by isolation, but by intelligent progress and friendly comity. Certainly, from the time of the Restoration no one more ardently encouraged the spirit of wholesome liberalism than did the deceased statesman. A man of singularly sweet manners in society, he nevertheless knew how to maintain on all occasions the dignity of the old Court noble and the imperturbable calm of the *Samurai*. On his resignation of the post of Prime Minister in 1886, he became Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, an office involving no active share in administrative affairs. His advice, however, continued to be valued by the EMPEROR and sought by his former colleagues as much as ever, and the confidence felt in his sagacity was again demonstrated in 1889, when, by special desire of his Sovereign, he consented once more to assume the temporary leadership of the Cabinet at a season of much political perplexity. The loss of such a man in this critical era of the nation's history will be keenly felt and universally mourned. The foundation stone of constitutional government was laid by Prince SANJO and his intrepid fellow-thinkers a quarter of a century ago, and it is sad that he, the most renowned survivor of the illustrious band, should have died at a moment when the smooth working of the new system had not yet come in sight. In the West, a statesman has seldom passed the threshold of his career at the age of fifty-four, but in the Japan of Prince SANJO'S prime, stirring events crowded so rapidly upon each other's heels that men could not await the wisdom of ripe years before playing for lasting fame or signal failure. Prince SANJO was only thirty-three when he attained the highest administrative post in the Empire, and during the first fifteen years of the *Meiji* era, fifteen years demanding such an exercise of constructive statesmanship as had never been called for at any epoch in the history of any other nation, he directed his country's affairs with wonderful sagacity and judgment. No honour that Japanese can bestow on his memory will be in excess of his merits.

SELF-ELECTION.

THE discussion in the Upper House on the 12th and 13th was of an interesting and novel character. In the House of Peers sit forty-six members representing the Cities and Prefectures into which the empire is divided. These members are elected, one in each City and Prefecture, "from among and by the fifteen male inhabitants thereof"—we quote from the Imperial Ordinance relating to the House of Peers—"of above the age of full thirty years, paying therein the highest amount of direct national taxes on land, industry, or trade." Last year, when the election of a representative for Wakayama Prefecture was held under this law, it was found that the two candidates at the head of the list had received 7 and 6 votes respectively. Among the ballots cast for the recipient of 7 votes, Mr. MAYEDA KENSUKE, one bore his own signature, so that, had he not voted for himself, his opponent, Mr. NAKANISHI KOSABURO, would have tied with him. A protest was immediately lodged by the latter, but the election authorities decided that since Mr. MAYEDA had already been declared duly elected, the only course for his opponent was to present a petition to the House of Peers as provided by law. This was accordingly done. The petition reached the House, and being received by the Qualifications Committee, was fully examined, together with the answer put in by Mr. MAYEDA. The Report of the Committee, submitted to the House on the 12th instant, became the subject of debate on that and a portion of the following day. The point chiefly relied on by the complainant was that the ideograph *go*, employed in the compound *gosen* (election from among and by), embodies the signification of "mutual," and that, since to vote for oneself is obviously opposed to every notion of mutuality, such a proceeding could not have been contemplated by the law. The Qualifications Committee, however, took a different view. They contended, in the first place, that no provision of law could be cited explicitly prohibitory of balloting for oneself, and that if the framers of the law had intended to interdict such a practice, they would certainly not have failed to include a distinct provision to that effect. This view evidently included one of the chief points taken by Mr. MAYEDA in his defence, namely, that whereas the law ordained that the election should be made by fifteen men in each City and Prefecture, the number voting would really be only fourteen if each member were forbidden to ballot for himself. The Committee further held that the right of voting is absolutely unrestricted, so long as the person voted for is duly qualified, and that if a man believes himself to be the most suitable candidate, the act of giving effect to his conviction by voting for himself does not, in principle, differ from the act of offering himself for election. The Committee's report to the House, and Mr. HOZUMI'S accompanying explanation, were specimens of close and careful reasoning. But Mr. KATO HIROYUKI made a powerful speech in opposition. He prefaced his arguments on the special point at issue by asserting that the tendency of the time was to rely too much on the letter of the law—a tendency which Japan had received from her intercourse with the West, inasmuch as her own laws in former times were by no means of a minute character, and had to be largely supplemented by moral principles. He did not, of course, condemn exactness of legal phraseology or strict interpretation of it, but he pleaded that the spirit ought not to be sacrificed to the letter, and by a subtle chain of reasoning he demonstrated that a man who votes for himself violates both the spirit of the law and the doctrines of morality, since his return to Parliament ought to be decided entirely by his constituents, whereas by voting for himself he encroaches upon their domain. The question certainly lends itself to debate, but for our own part we fail to see how the Qualifications Committee could have decided in any other sense. Delicate points of morality such as Mr. KATO raised, have not yet been brought within the sphere of practical legislation. Laws, as he truly put it, are framed so as to accord, as closely as possible, with the principle of securing to every one the full enjoyment of his own rights within the limit of non-interference with equally full exercise of corresponding rights by others. But to assert that because a man votes for himself he impairs the absolute right of choice vested in his brother-electors from a legal point of view, is a proposition exceedingly difficult to admit. Certainly it may be argued with force on the other side that unless a man loses his vote by becoming a candidate for election, he is perfectly entitled to cast it for himself. He possesses the right of candidature, and he possesses also the right of voting. But by the act of becoming a candidate he publicly declares his conviction that he is better fitted for election than any one else, and he must therefore vote either for himself in obedience to that conviction, or for some one else in defiance of his conviction, or abstain from voting altogether. After all, however, such a problem is not to be finally solved by the rules of logic. It must be appealed to the tribunal of morality, where the inevitable verdict is that, even though the written law be silent, the unwritten law forbids a man to cast a vote in his own favour. The Qualifications Committee, guided solely by written law, was in a manner compelled to reject the ground of Mr. NAKANISHI's demurrer, but the House of Peers, free to base its judgment on higher considerations, did not hesitate to adopt the view of the President of the University (Mr. KATO). Its decision was

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that the ballot cast by Mr. MAYEDA for himself could not be counted. Thus the two candidates were brought to the position of having received an equal number of votes, a contingency clearly provided for by the Law of Election, where it is laid down that in such a case the elder of the two shall be declared elected. Mr. MAYEDA, having the advantage by nine years, accordingly took his seat in the House. The incident is very interesting. We are not aware that such a question has ever before been raised and publicly discussed.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ON COUNT YAMAGATA'S SPEECH.

THE Tokyo press of on Tuesday does not discuss Count YAMAGATA'S speech in the House of Representatives with such earnestness as might have been expected in view of the gravity of the situation. More than one leading journal alludes to the manner in which the speech was delivered. Count YAMAGATA'S voice is not well suited for oratorical purposes, and the novelty of addressing a large audience seems to disturb his self-possession. When he spoke in the House on the 10th instant, he depended on his memory to reproduce statements doubtless seriously considered beforehand, but unfortunately he was compelled to have recourse to manuscript in the middle of his speech. Of course the effect was bad. Moreover, it afforded an opportunity to some bathos-loving folks to assert that the Minister, appreciating the gravity of the struggle in which the Government was about to engage—a struggle which they described as despotism against freedom—trembled as he would not have done in the face of bullets and bayonets! Taught by previous experience, Count YAMAGATA did not attempt, on the 16th inst., to speak from memory. Indeed it is not likely that he would have made the attempt under any circumstances, for every word of his speech possessed value on its own account no less than on account of its context, and the Minister President knew well that what he said would be accepted by the nation as a declaration of the deepest import. Accordingly he read the speech from first to last, and though, by that means, he was able to avoid every symptom of embarrassment, he did not succeed in making himself heard throughout the House. There was keen anxiety not to lose a word. One member took the precaution of begging the Minister to speak as loud as possible, and many of those in the back of the House crowded forward into more convenient positions, but still the difficulty of catching what was said proved very painful. The highly scholarly nature of the language employed, abounding as it did in words of classical flavour, made strong and distinct elocution particularly desirable, and without that adjunct the speech failed to move the audience as it would certainly have done otherwise. The *Hochi Shimbun* notes this with regret, and says that the noble thoughts and earnest purpose of the address deserved to elicit greater sympathy. Count MATSUKATA, on the other hand, read out his declaration in a sonorous, clear voice, and every syllable he uttered was audible even in the galleries. As for the attitude indicated by the speeches, there does not appear to be any disposition on the part of the vernacular press, thus far, to challenge its correctness. It is acknowledged (*Nichi Nichi Shimbun*) that the Government is master of the situation, and that if it rejects the reductions voted by the House, the latter will be without recourse, while if it dissolves the Diet on the ground of unconstitutional procedure, the country cannot complain. A suggestion is made, indeed, that the Government may have connived at the unconstitutional issue, but there is no question that the responsibility of bringing about such an issue rests with the House. The whole conduct of the latter does not escape severe criticism (*Tokyo Shimpo*). It is alleged that the Opposition has led the Representatives open-eyed into a situation where they trample under their feet the Constitution and the Law, and treat the charter of national liberty as so much waste paper. At the same time, two points of congratulation are noted. The first is (*Choya Shimbun*) that the country now finds itself at length in a position to receive from Ministers of State distinct announcements of their policy. Never since the Restoration had any such explicit statement been made of the programme pursued by the Government as that laid before the House of Representatives on the 16th instant by Count YAMAGATA. This is justly regarded as a conclusive proof that the old barriers between rulers and ruled have been broken down, and that the people are now definitely admitted to a share in the Government. The second point is (*Hochi Shimbun*) that a square and unequivocal attitude has finally been assumed by the Cabinet towards the financial problem. At the earlier stages of the House's radical procedure, the Government appeared disposed to take its stand on the Constitutional pedestal only, and the public was perplexed to discover whether a disposition existed to oppose or to countenance economies of magnitude if proposed in legal form. Now, however, all doubt is at end. The Government has come out openly on the question of amount as well as on that of legality, and has declared that it can never consent to such reductions as those proposed by the Budget Committee. With regard to Count MATSUKATA'S speech the point which seems (*Mainichi Shimbun*) to excite most curiosity is his statement that, if the amended Budget be adopted by the House, the Government will be compelled to take suitable measures in accordance with the Constitution. There are many Constitutional methods of procedure in the premises, but the course thought most likely is an appeal to the EMPEROR.

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

THE House of Representatives having now pledged itself finally to the scheme of financial reform recommended by the Budget Committee, it becomes a matter of great interest to know exactly what that scheme is, and how far its elaboration falls within the legal province of the House. We therefore print, elsewhere, a translation of the Committee's Report. By consulting the tables accompanying the Report, which were published in these columns on the 7th instant, our readers will already have gathered what is the arithmetical extent of the reductions advocated by the Committee. The question, however, has ceased to be one of amount and become one of principle, and to understand the latter point of view it is necessary to consult the explanatory document now presented. From this it will be seen that, beginning with the Cabinet itself and proceeding downwards, the Committee has materially changed the organization of every Department of State, the Army and Navy excepted, and has further taken upon itself to alter the whole scale of salaries of civil servants, from the salary of the Minister-President of State to the salary of tenth-class *hannin* officials. The changes of organization involve not only offices and bureaux but also officials, and extend even to the abolition of the Metropolitan Police Bureau. Against the expediency of the latter abolition we have ventured to express a very strong opinion, but with regard to the proposed redistributions and reductions of bureaux and diminutions of *personnel*, we cannot, as outsiders, advance any definite view. Speaking generally, an excessive staff is the bane of all Japanese organization, whether official or private, and we strongly sympathise with every earnest endeavour to lessen the number of officials engaged in carrying on the administration of the empire. But when we look at the scale of salaries recommended by the Committee, it is quite impossible to avoid the conviction that this advice comes from men whose absorbing anxiety to effect economies has blinded them to every sound theory of Government. That the Prime Minister of an empire like that of Japan should only be allowed one thousand sterling annually, and the Cabinet Ministers eight hundred, is parsimonious enough, but may possibly be defended as part of a system which aims at securing for the State the services of men of independent means. The heads of the administration in Great Britain do not, in every case, attach much importance to the question of emolument, nor are their salaries sufficiently large to support the state they keep. It is for the Japanese themselves to determine whether they will make the experiment of cutting down the pay of their Ministers of State to pittances which even a country like Hawaii would

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deem too small. When, however, we come to consider the salaries proposed for the Judiciary, we understand how reckless has been the method of the Committee. The Bar is a profession which men embrace primarily as a means of earning a livelihood, rather than with the hope of gaining distinction. No profession requires greater talent and perseverance for its successful pursuit, and to no profession should it be more earnestly sought to attract men of the highest qualifications. The Bench is the goal of the Bar. The State which seeks to secure for its people the first desideratum of civilization, namely, a thoroughly efficient and incorrupt administration of Justice, will be careful to invest a seat on the Bench with every element of distinction and emolument that can attract expert ability and encourage patient industry. Such is the principle followed in Great Britain, and its results may be soberly pointed to as incontrovertible evidence of its soundness. But it is not the principle followed in Japan. The miserable salaries of Japanese Judges, their comparatively low official rank and the consequent scantiness of the consideration in which they are held, deter really able men, and convert the Bench from a goal of high ambition into an asylum for mediocrity. What we should have expected of the House of Representatives, so soon as it approached the question of the Judiciary, was reform in the sense of raising the status of the Bench and increasing the wretchedly low salaries of the Judges and Magistrates. But the House of Representatives has proceeded on precisely the opposite tack. It has cut down the salary of the President of the Supreme Court—the Lord Chief Justice of Japan—to £650, and it has proposed a scale of emoluments according to which the pay of the eight ranks of Judges would vary from £85 to £400 annually. To an official receiving a salary of 41.66 *yen* monthly the House of Representatives would entrust the duty of deciding questions that concern the persons and properties of Japanese subjects. The strange nature of this schedule becomes even more apparent when we observe that the President of the Administrative Court would stand on the same level, in respect of emoluments, with the Chief of a Section in the Audit Bureau, and that a Judge of the Seventh Rank would receive less pay than the Second Superintendent of a Police Station. It is impossible to reconcile such a system with any admitted principles of sound administration. If Japanese legislators imagine that their Judiciary deserves no more respect or consideration than it has received at the hands of the Budget Committee, they proclaim to the world their own incapacity to appreciate the vital tenets of civilized society. This alone is enough, and more than enough, in our opinion, to condemn the whole Report of the Committee, without noting that the Report proposes to give the same salary (1,500 *yen* annually), to Engineers of third rank as to Privy Councillors, who, in the words of the Constitution, are, with the Ministers of State, "the EMPEROR'S most eminent assistants," and that it proposes to give to a Judge presiding over a Division of the Supreme Court, less pay than to a Secretary in a Prefectural Office.

As to the legality of the changes recommended by the Report, there is nothing to be said. Being recommendations only, they evidently fall within the legitimate scope of the Committee's functions. Their adoption by the Diet is, of course an entirely different matter, for although the law imposes no manner of restriction on the advice tendered by a Committee to either House, it does very distinctly prescribe the limits within which the legislative authority of the Houses shall be exercised. With that question, however, we are not immediately concerned. Our object is merely to show our readers what kind of counsel the House of Representatives received from its Budget Committee, and in what kind of spirit these economists approached the problem of financial reform. It will be recognised hereafter, we are persuaded, that the work of the first Japanese Diet was in no sense serious legislation. Not upon making laws are the present representatives of the people bent, but upon re-making the Government. No fault is to be found with them for that. The struggle has been inevitable for years. An oligarchical Government cannot exist side by side with representative institutions. Sooner or later Japanese Cabinets must come to rest upon a party basis. But the means resorted to by the House of Representative to effect this great political change confirm the often repeated assertion that, whether the present Government derives its mandate from the clans or from the nation, it represents an abler and safer administrative machine than anything which the parties in opposition seem capable of furnishing.

THE TROUBLE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

IT is inevitable that misconceptions should grow up in the public mind with regard to an international controversy extending over a number of years and conducted with the usual privacy of diplomatic etiquette. On the other hand, nothing can be more essential than to keep the original issues clearly in view during the late stages of such a discussion, when prejudice and obstinacy, engendered by the mere fact of long argument, inter fere to obscure the truth. The dispute which recently threatened to develop an acute tendency between the United States and Great Britain, illustrates these general principles. A great majority of the public seem to be to-day persuaded that the claim advanced on America's side is the right to close the Behring Sea, and that the position taken by Great Britain is a denial of that right. But in point of fact the United States Government never advanced such a claim. Without examining step by step the history of the discussion, we need only refer to the official declaration of the American Secretary of State in 1889 which, in explicit terms, "denies that the United States ever claimed Behring Sea to be a closed sea." From the White Books containing the whole correspondence which began in October 1866 and is still going on, we learn that the United States has never disputed the time-honoured precept of international law, namely, that the limit of territorial waters extends only to a distance of one maritime league seaward. It is true that the rule offers a striking and almost laughable example of the tenacity of conservatism. Founded on a calculation of the utmost range of great guns such as the world possessed in remote centuries, it is still revered, though the security it affords against modern ordnance is absolutely *nil*. Nevertheless, we cannot find that the Washington Government ever questioned this old-fashioned law. The sole claim advanced has been that every law must have exceptions, and that special considerations indicate a part of the Behring Sea as fitly constituting an exception. What are the considerations?

In the south-eastern quarter of the Behring Sea lie two small islands, Saint Paul and Saint George. Acquired by the United States in 1867, they are and have been for long years the favourite haunt of immense quantities of fur seals. The animals live on the islands from spring to early autumn. There the cow seals come to drop and rear their young, and there the bull seals congregate for breeding purposes. The killing of seals on these islands is permitted within certain limits, namely, that no female seal nor any seal less than one year old shall be taken; that no seal must be taken in the waters adjacent; and that, during a fixed space of years, not more than seventy-five thousand shall be annually killed at Saint Paul and twenty-five thousand at Saint George. It is in consequence of the application of the second of these rules that the dispute between England and America has arisen, and the rule itself is founded upon a principle which, according to the view of the United States Government excludes the south-easterly portion of the Bering Sea from the scope of the one-league provision of international law. Stated broadly, that principle is that seals can be killed profitably on land alone and that all killing of them at sea is destructive. When hunted on land, the greatest care is exercised to kill only young bulls. These are found in groups segregated from the rookery, and being driven inland, are killed with clubs. But when hunted in the water, males cannot be distinguished from females, or pregnant females from those

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that are not so, and further, a percentage of the fatally wounded animals are lost. In order, therefore, to avert extermination of the seals—a result now said to be actually in prospect—it becomes essential to prevent their slaughter at sea. They are found at sea under well known circumstances: first, when *en route* for their breeding grounds, and secondly, when seeking for food in waters adjacent to their breeding grounds. It is not known exactly in what places the animals spend the winter, but it is known that in the spring and early summer they migrate northward to the rookeries spoken of above, and that on their way they pass through various narrow straits in the Aleutian Islands, where they can be pursued without great difficulty. The rookeries reached, the males remain constantly on or near the shore, the females alone making cruises to obtain food for their young. In either case hunting at sea is claimed to be fatal to their preservation. Accordingly, the United States Government asserts that the necessity of preserving a property valuable to the whole world constitutes a sound reason for exempting the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George from the operation of the ordinary one-league rule of international law. Precedents for such exemption are not wanting. Thus, when NAPOLEON was confined at Saint Helena, Great Britain extended the territorial waters of the island to a distance of eight marine leagues from the shore in all directions; control over parts of the ocean 600 miles wide is exercised by Australia; and for the protection of the Pearl Fisheries of Ceylon, no limit whatsoever is respected. It is, in fact, abundantly evident that the hard-and-fast application of the one-league limit has not been, and is not, admitted by Great Britain herself in practice, and, according to America's contention, its application in the south-easterly portion of Behring Sea would surely entail the ultimate extermination of the seal-fishery in that region.

These considerations were fully set forth in the correspondence that followed the original acts against which England protested; namely, the seizure of Canadian fishing schooners in the waters adjacent to the seal islands. America made the seizures on the authority of her treaty with Russia in 1867, by which she acquired Alaska together with, as she claimed, a stretch of water including a considerable portion of Behring Sea. In reply to England's protests, the Government at Washington urged the question of preserving the fisheries, and after long negotiation, Lord SALISBURY, acting in conjunction with the Russian Representative in London, agreed, in 1888, "to establish by mutual arrangement between the Governments interested a close time for fur seals between April 15th and November 1st in each year, and between 160° of longitude west, and 170° of longitude east, in the Behring Sea." The necessary provisions were to be embodied in a convention, and an Act of Parliament was to be introduced so as to give power to the British Authorities to observe the convention. Lord SALISBURY, however, made the conclusion of the convention depend on Canada's acquiescence, and Canada declined to acquiesce. Her grounds were that the views of the United States Government as to the precautions necessary for preserving the seal fisheries were greatly exaggerated; that no such drastic measures need be adopted; that no prospect of the fisheries becoming extinct was discernible; that the destruction of seals caused by pelagic sealing was insignificant in comparison with that caused by their natural enemies; that the United States possessed and could prove no right of property in seals found at a considerable distance from shore, and that the waters over which America claimed jurisdiction had not really been converted into territorial waters by her treaty with Russia. With regard to the last two points, no serious discussion was raised at this stage. The problem of America's treaty rights and rights of fishery in the disputed waters had been tacitly set aside, and it was recognised by both sides that "the sole object of the negotiations was the preservation of the fur-seal species for the benefit of mankind, and that no consideration of advantage to any particular nation, or of benefit to any private interest should enter into the question." But when the chances of a settlement looked thus hopeful, the British Government, finding that the Canadian experts differed materially from the American with regard to the resolutions on pelagic sealing necessary for the protection of the species, and that, unless the American view could be proved, the people of Canada and British Columbia would stoutly protest against being excluded from a valuable occupation, had no resource but to suspend judgment. The possible correctness of America's position was not denied, but Sir JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE was instructed, last spring, to urge that the only way to satisfy public opinion was to submit the questions of pelagic sealing and preservation to full inquiry by a commission of experts. Pending the result of such inquiry, an arrangement was proposed by England for the protection of the seals, the chief provisions being that, within limits defined but of ample width, all killing of seals was to be forbidden during nine months of the year, and that, during the remaining three months, sealing vessels were to be interdicted from approaching the islands within a range of ten miles. The report of the Commission was to be prepared and presented within two years from the time of the Commission's convention; on receipt of the report, the High Contracting Parties were to proceed to determine international regulations in respect of seal fisheries; and in the event of failure to agree about such regulations, arbitration was to be resorted to. This proposal the American Government rejected as embodying a system of protection wholly insufficient in the view of that Government. Mr. BLAINE'S words are worth quoting:—

> It is perfectly clear that if your claim for British vessels to kill seals within 10 miles of the Pribylov Islands, directly after the mothers are delivered of their young, should be granted, the Behring Sea would swarm with vessels engaged in sealing—not forty or fifty, as now, but many hundreds, through the summer months. If that privilege should be given to Canadian vessels, it must, of course, be conceded at once to American vessels. If the rookeries are to be thrown open to Canadians, they would certainly, as matter of common right, be thrown open to citizens of the United States. The seal mothers, which require an area of from 40 to 50 miles from the islands, on all sides, to secure food for their young, would be slaughtered by hundreds of thousands, and in a brief space of time there would be no seals in Behring Sea. Similar causes have uniformly produced similar effects. Seal rookeries in all parts of the world have been destroyed in that way. The present course of Great Britain will produce the same effect on the only seal rookery of any value left in the waters of the oceans and seas of the globe. The United States have leased the privilege of sealing because only in that way can the rookeries be preserved, and only in that way can this Government derive a revenue from the Pribylov Islands. Great Britain would perhaps gain something for a few years, but it would be at the expense of destroying a valuable interest belonging to a friendly nation—an interest which the civilized world desires to have preserved.

On the other hand, America asked whether," in order to promote a friendly solution of the question, "Great Britain would make for a single season the regulations which Lord SALISBURY in 1888, consented to make permanently," on condition of Canada's agreement. Lord SALISBURY replied that "it was entirely beyond the power of HER MAJESTY'S Government to exclude British or Canadian ships from any portion of the high seas even for an hour, without legislative sanction." This reply of course drew from the American Government a denial of the accuracy of the term "high seas" as applied to the waters in question, and so the discussion reverted once more to the rights possessed by America in the Behring Sea. Meanwhile, it should be added, the United States Government had refused to restrain its cruisers from seizing British sealing vessels within the disputed limits, and the refusal had led to a formal and solemn protest (June, 1890) that "HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S Government must hold the Government of the United States responsible for the consequences that might ensue from acts which were contrary to the established principles of international law." It was at this stage that Lord SALISBURY proposed arbitration, and received from the United States, not a general refusal, but a reply that the bases of arbitration must be fully considered and conferred upon by the two Governments, and could not be summarily laid down as they had been by Lord SALISBURY.

Our information as to the accurate course of the negotiations extends no farther. The four points, however, which the above *resumé* makes clear are:—that America has never sought to close Behring Sea; that an agreement satisfactory to all parties

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would undoubtedly have been concluded in 1888, had not Canada dissented; that the grounds of America's contention represent a principle endorsed by the tendency of modern civilization, namely, the principle that nations should render each other every possible assistance to preserve and develop properties valuable not to one country alone, but to the whole world; and finally that Great Britain, while fully endorsing that principle, is uncertain as to the measures necessary for putting it into practice in this particular case, and hesitates to pledge herself to a programme which, according to her own experts, errs on the side of excessive caution, and thus excludes her subjects from harmless participation in a lucrative pursuit. It is inconceivable that where so much is clear and simple, a peaceful adjustment can be delayed much longer.

Meanwhile, another tribunal has been invoked to pronounce upon the legality of the seizure and confiscation of British sealing schooners outside the one-league limit in Behring Sea. An appeal has been made by the owners of one of the confiscated vessels, from the Territorial Court in Sitka to the Supreme Court of the United States, and public interest is strongly excited by the prospect of an international discussion of five years' standing coming before a bench of Judges whose verdict the whole world would respect. We fear, however, that public expectation will be disappointed in this matter. The strong probability is that the Supreme Court will decline to assume jurisdiction within territory forming the subject of international dispute. This is not the first occasion on which the United States Supreme Court has been required to consider a case falling within such territory. Some years ago a suit, brought to recover a tract of land in a portion of Alabama concerning the title to which international discussion was in progress, came before the Supreme Court on a writ of error. The Judgment rendered by the Supreme Court was as follows:—

In a controversy between two nations concerning national boundary it is scarcely possible that the courts of either should refuse to abide by the measures adopted by its own Government. There being no common tribunal to decide between them, each determines for itself on its own rights, and if they cannot adjust their differences peaceably, the right remains with the strongest. The judiciary is not that department of the Government to which the assertion of its interests against foreign Powers is confided; and its duty commonly, is to decide upon individual rights according to those principles which the political departments of the nation have established. If the course of the nation has been a plain one, its courts would hesitate to pronounce it erroneous.

We think, then, however individual judges might construe the treaty of St. Ildefonso, it is the province of the court to conform its decisions to the will of the legislature, if that will has been clearly expressed.

After referring to the several Acts of Congress in reference to the disputed territory, the judgment continues:—

After these Acts of sovereign power over the territory in dispute, asserting the American construction of the treaty by which the Government claims, to maintain the opposite construction in its own courts would certainly be an anomaly in the history and practice of nations. If those departments which are entrusted with the foreign intercourse of the nation, which assert and maintain its interests against foreign Powers, have unequivocally asserted its rights of dominion over a country of which it is in possession, and which it claims under a treaty; if the legislature has acted on the construction thus asserted, it is not in its own courts that this construction is to be denied. A question like this respecting boundaries of nations, is, as has been truly said, more a political than a legal question; and in its discussion, the courts must respect the pronounced will of the legislature."

BEER.

WITHIN the past few days two accounts have been laid before the public by Brewing Companies. The first is the Account of the "Yebisu" Beer Company, submitted to the shareholders at the half-yearly meeting on the 8th instant. This Account showed that the beer brewed during the second half of last year amounted to 19,604 gallons, and that the beer in stock on June 30th was 59,800 gallons. The sales during the half year aggregated 36,600 gallons, so that the Company commenced operations on January 1st with a stock of 42,564 gallons. The other figures laid before the meeting were these:—

Dr.

Shares	Yen 450,000.00
Payments in advance	1,777.31
Monies owing	3,017.42
Temporary Loan	22,255.00
Written off towards preliminary expenses	1,400.00
Reserve Fund	934.00
	Yen 479,383.73

Cr.

Unpaid Shares	Yen 282,420.00
Buildings, Plant, Machinery	124,949.27
Preliminary Expenses	12,853.49
Cash on deposit	522.96
Cash lent	200.00
Cash in hand	840.22
Bills to collect	4,244.73
Beer in Stock	21,340.82
Stores, bottles, &c.	20,853.49
Loss	11,324.48
	Yen 479,549.46

In the Report the Directors say, amongst other things:—"From general appearances in June and July of 1890 there was good hope of a large sale, but owing to mercantile depression caused by the prevalence of cholera, the high price of rice, tight money and so forth, unexpectedly bad results have been produced." In consequence, a call is made on the shareholders, accompanied by the following statement:—"In commencing operations in 1890 the annual sales were estimated at about 10,000 *koku* (400,000 gallons approximately) and arrangements were made on that basis of calculation. Malt, hops and bottles had to be purchased from Europe, and to provide for any accidents that might befal shipments *en route*, and especially to have an ample supply of bottles, as well as to obtain a reduction in price by making large purchases, these various articles were ordered in considerable quantities, in accordance with the estimate of brewing 400,000 gallons of beer annually. But encountering such bad results as to sales—only 70,000 gallons were sold during the months March to December, 1890—the working expenses have begun to eat into the capital. Further, the amount paid up on shares (168,000 *yen*) was absorbed in the cost of buildings, machinery and preliminary expenses, so that a sum of only 30,000 *yen*, approximately, remained as working fund. This having proved insufficient, an advance had to be obtained from the Bank. Under such circumstances, it is plain that a call on the shareholders must be made."

The other Report is that of the Japan Brewery Company, Limited. It covers the same period, and shows a very different result, namely, a profit of 16,000 *yen*, in round numbers, out of which, after making due deductions on account of depreciation of buildings, machinery and plant, and after placing a substantial sum to the reserve fund, a dividend of 6 per cent. for the half year was declared, making the total dividend for the year 11 per cent. The contrast between the two Reports is very striking. We refer to them in detail because of the general interest which the beer question has for persons in the Yokohama Community. Last year the contest between the "Kirin" and the "Yebisu" Beers seemed likely to be very acute. Opinion was divided as to their relative superiority, and for a moment the "Yebisu" Beer found a coterie of strong supporters. But public opinion gradually pronounced a distinct verdict, as was proved in the first place by the fact that the "Kirin" Beer received not only the highest medal in its section at the Industrial Exhibition, but also the *Fiji Shimpo's* gold medal, and in the second, by the share market reports; for whereas the "Yebisu" stock went down from 50 per cent. premium to 33 per cent. discount, the "Kirin" remained steady at 30 per cent. premium. The Report just published by the "Yebisu" Directors would seem to fully confirm the share quotation for the stock of that company, and the accounts of the "Kirin" Company are even more eloquent in the other direction. The conclusion we draw from these comparative results is that no room exists in Japan for two first-class beer-breweries at present. The brewing of cheap beer is carried on too largely. The future of the "Yebisu" beer looked gloomy enough when its Report was published a week ago, and its fate seems fairly sealed now that the Report of its competitor proclaims such a signal victory for the latter. It has to be remembered that the same adverse circumstances operated to the disadvantage of both alike during the half year under review, and that they both appeal to the same clients; yet while the sales of the one returned a net profit of sixteen thousand *yen*, those of the other involved a loss of eleven thousand, a total difference of twenty-seven thousand *yen* in six months.

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THE OSAKA WATERWORKS QUESTION.

IT is impossible to help sympathising with the unfortunate people of Osaka, in the absurd position to which they have been brought by lending a too ready ear to the clamour of certain local agitators, in the matter of the projected waterworks for the city. It will be remembered that in September last, when cholera had slain several thousands of the inhabitants, and when a calamitous fire had destroyed some 630,000 dollars worth of property, the people once again cried out to their rulers for the waterworks which, if Governor TATENO'S wise counsel had been followed in 1887, would long ere this have been in full operation. Thereupon, Governor NISHIMURA started in haste for the capital, and, after an incredibly short absence, returned with the glad tidings that the Imperial Government had consented to the granting of a subsidy equal in amount to one-third of the whole estimated cost of the waterworks. It might have been supposed that this splendid and prompt success would have been followed up by vigorous action. But not a bit of it. The very next thing the public heard was that the opinions and proposed methods of the Governor and his advisers were being questioned and disputed in the council-chamber of the city government. Weeks upon weeks were wasted in wrangling about such ridiculous questions as whether earthenware or wood might be substituted for iron as the material of the water-pipes, and in futile amateur prying into other matters of detail which had been fully investigated and reported on, years before, by professional experts. The whole time up to the New Year was thus muddled away without anything being done. Now, when the question has been reapproached, it appears that the earthenware-pipe agitators are again to the front, and that their noisy representations have betrayed a large section of the public into an attitude of opposition to the very Governor who has proved himself their best friend, and whose vigorous and successful action at the outset ought to have ensured to him the lasting gratitude and confidence of the whole community. It appears that the impostors who have thus beguiled their fellow-citizens into listening to one of the stupidest proposals ever put before intelligent men rest their case upon the assertions that earthenware pipes are only about one-third as costly as iron pipes and are at least as well able to resist bursting pressures; that there is an obvious advantage in preferring home-made to imported products; that earthenware pipes are more durable than those of iron; and, lastly, that they are better for the health of the consumers. There is just enough flavour of truth about these plausible statements to catch the ear of a public wholly uninformed on such matters. But that they are in reality rotten and misleading can be made evident by a few explanations which even a schoolboy may understand.

As to the question of cost, for example, it may be true enough that, if it were practicable—which it is not—to use earthenware distributing-mains in a high-pressure town-supply, the first cost of iron pipes would be much greater than that of earthenware pipes. But this is not the way to look at the matter, seeing that the only true basis of comparison is, obviously, the cost of the pipes after being laid in their positions underground, ready for work, with full provision for the numberless connections and attachments that are necessary parts of a city supply. Thus considered, the case has a very different aspect. The precautions which, even in places where earthenware pipes *can* be used as water conduits, have to be taken, in order to protect the brittle material against shocks of all kinds, unequal settlement, surface traffic, pressure of superincumbent matter, and so on, greatly exceed in cost those which suffice where iron is used. Again, the joints are fully four times as numerous, and need to be made with extraordinary care. In short, the above and other details would, in the case of a town reticulation, eat up so much money that, even if other considerations did not forbid the substitution of earthenware for iron, it is certain that practice would prove the economical theories of the Osaka pretenders to be more imaginary than real, and the saving of cost to be but a fraction of what is claimed. The statement, secondly, that the Owari factories can turn out, at any reasonable cost, earthenware water-mains of from four to twenty-four inches diameter, of such perfect form, freedom from cracks and flaws, and high tensile strengths, as to be able to bear the tests that are necessary in a high-pressure system, hardly deserves serious notice. It is contradicted by the experience of the world and by the commonsense of every intelligent person. Even could the manufacturing difficulties be overcome, the cost, instead of being one-third that of iron, would probably equal if not exceed it, while the further expense of laying would show a clear difference in favour of iron. Thirdly, with respect to the advantage that is claimed for the use of home-made instead of imported materials, while the principle thus advocated is admirable enough, its extension to this case of earthenware versus iron would be distinctly wicked. For the reasons above given, and for others to be named presently, any such course could only end in disaster, failure, and a sinful waste of public money. The claim of durability has to be next dealt with, bearing in mind that the durability of a pipe must be measured by its power to resist conditions tending to bring about cracking or fracture, as well as by the lasting character of the material of which it is made. As far as the former quality is concerned, it almost goes without saying that earthenware is "not in it." At any of the strains and shocks to which water-mains and pumping-mains in a town are always liable, the cracks and breaks of earthenware pipes would be twentyfold the number in the case of iron, while at every little earthquake-shock the streets would be flooded with water. As to imperishability of material, the claim on behalf of earthenware might have been worth listening to some three or four decades ago. But the modern system of coating iron pipes with a pitchy varnish, scientifically applied, protects them so effectually from impairment by oxidation that pipes which have been thus coated are found to be, practically, in as good a condition as ever, both inside and outside, twenty years after being laid underground, and to be destined apparently to last for a further indefinite period. The varnish is even found to be proof against the destructive properties of peaty water. Another great protection against rust is the adoption of the "constant" system, rapidly becoming universal, under which the mains are always kept full of water, instead of being, as formerly, exposed alternately to moisture and air. Lastly, the argument that earthenware is to be preferred to iron on sanitary grounds depends for its validity on the answer to the question whether internal incrustation of a harmful kind is to be apprehended in the case of iron. But the only incrustations to be considered are those produced by oxidation, or by the deposits of carbonates and sulphates of lime and magnesia which prevail where the water of the supply is a hard water; and, although deposits of either class are in certain ways inconvenient and objectionable, it can hardly be maintained that they are actually unwholesome. Moreover, the extreme softness of the water which is to be supplied to Osaka disposes of all risk of incrustations due to earthy salts, while, as to oxidation, we have already shown that danger in that line is nowadays virtually eliminated by varnished pipes and a constant service.

To the above analysis, showing the fallacy of every claim advanced by the advocates of earthenware for the Osaka water-pipes, it is well to add two fatal objections which finally dispose of the question. One of these is the practical impossibility of making joints for earthenware pipes which will stand and remain watertight under the high pressures and other conditions that prevail in a town supply. The other is the unsuitability of earthenware pipes for the countless connections to valves, hydrants, &c., as well as for the far more numerous attachments of service-pipes to houses and premises, all of which are necessary in a system of water-distribution in a city. It is occasionally found practicable and advantageous to use earthenware for pipe-con-

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duits bringing water from a source to a town, provided there is a constant fall, without pressure. But the absurd notion of extending their employment to high-pressure town-mains had never, we believe, been seriously entertained until it was put forward last autumn by the quacks of Osaka.

It is really painful and discreditable that a great sanitary work, so closely affecting the health, lives, and properties of the inhabitants of the second city in the empire, should be obstructed by the crass ignorance and selfish motives of a few agitators whose title to be heard on the subject is about as great as would be that of a jinrikisha-coolie on vivisection or double-stars. If the advantages of decentralization and local autonomy were to be measured by the effects of the new system in the case of the Osaka Waterworks—effects which have already caused the loss of four precious months, and the creation of a ridiculous position of which all intelligent Japanese must be heartily ashamed—it would be hard indeed to say anything in favour of the change. It is difficult, however, to believe that, when the truth comes to be known, as sooner or later it must be, the good sense of the citizens will fail to assert itself. If the people of Osaka are alive to their real interests in the matter, they will lose not an hour in hooting out of the city, or at least consigning to silence and obscurity, the false prophets who, in the guise of public benefactors and economists, are seeking to make fools of the community and a fiasco of the waterworks, merely that they may satisfy their own personal greed. No condemnation can be too strong for such trickery. The great question is, are the machinations of a few impostors, setting at naught all the experience of generations, to be allowed to stave off yet longer, if not to defeat altogether, the proper carrying out of a great public work aimed at bestowing the blessing of substantial protection from pestilence and fire on some half-million of their fellow citizens? We shall be surprised if the good folks of Osaka do not soon answer that question, in a very decided way.

GENERAL BOOTH'S PHILANTHROPIC SCHEME.

TO those who have been accustomed to hear the Salvation Army referred to only in terms of disdain as a body of rather ill-behaved fanatics, it must have appeared passing strange that their leader should obtain the alliance and support, in his new scheme, of princes, dukes, bishops, and lords. But such is the news that successive mails bring out to us; that the Prince of WALES has intimated his great interest; that the Duke of FIFE has subscribed a large sum; that Cardinal MANNING is warmly sympathetic; that Canon FARRAR is active in support and help. A careful study of the scheme itself will explain much of this phenomenal success. It is drafted by a capable and clear-headed organizer, who has surveyed life from every side, and who, to ardent personal conviction, joins an openness to advice and to new light, which will help him to avoid many a quicksand. The reader rises from its perusal glowing with enthusiasm and anxious to aid, with hands or purse, the great strategist who thus outlines his proposed campaign against the forces of Sin and Despair. If the war is to be carried on successfully at all, it must be on lines such as are sketched by BOOTH in his "In Darkest England, and the Way Out." As the fraction of a tenth has long been in use to denote the uppermost ring of society, so now it is the lowest ring, the submerged tenth, who are to be dealt with. The problem is how to rescue these from the slough of despond in which they are sinking, and to give them firm footing again on solid ground. To aid them from time to time with food and clothing, so as to stave off starvation, is a useless and even harmful proceeding: something must be done to restore their self-respect, interest them in life, and get them enlisted on their own behalf in the struggle against idleness and vice. General BOOTH has devised a threefold solution of the enigma; he proposes to found a Poor Man's Métropôle, such as has been developing for many years in his slum shelters. To this would be allied a Home Colony at the mouth of the Thames; and, capping all, a Colony Beyond Seas. In this last the nineteenth century would see, what it has been accustomed to admire as a phenomenon of the remote past, a colony founded on a religious-industrial basis, with "Work and Pray" as its motto. The classes which General BOOTH seeks to educate into religious and industrial habits are (1) "those who in a month would all be dead from sheer starvation were they exclusively dependent upon the money earned by their own work, or which they receive as interest or profit upon their capital or their property, and (2) those who by their utmost exertions are unable to attain the minimum allowance of food which the law prescribes as indispensable even for the worst criminals in our gaols." In all, a multitude of three million human beings, paupers, habitual criminals, prostitutes, the homeless and the out-of-work, who are now a festering sore in the midst of our civilization. The time has come, he warns us, to lay aside the complacent indifference of an inhuman mechanical political economy, and to work ardently for the social salvation of these unfortunates exactly as the crew of a lifeboat works for the rescue of the shipwrecked.

General BOOTH mentions several essentials of any scheme that would be successful. It must change a man, if he fell by his own fault; it must change his circumstances if these proved too severe a strain upon him; it must be as big as the evil with which it has to cope; it must be immediately practicable; it must be permanent; it must not demoralize those whom it seeks to benefit; nor must it benefit one class at the expense of another. The great panacea on which he relies is the wholesome medicine of work. All these poor outcasts are to be admitted on the simple condition that they are willing to work and will conform to discipline. The meat and drink which the new scheme is to provide for all comers will not be given as charity; but will be the recompense of honest work. When a man enters one of the shelters and is provided with a warm supper, a comfortable bed, and a good breakfast, he must not leave until he has done some honest work which shall be a fair return for the food and shelter he has received. At Whitechapel, a labour factory based on these principles and now for some time in operation, has been a distinct success. Its seventy or eighty inmates, who have been received into it from the streets, have almost invariably behaved with diligence and propriety, and have shown themselves civil, willing, and satisfied. It is the purpose of the scheme to extend this organization indefinitely, until every populous centre shall have its Captain of Industry, an officer specially charged with the duty of supervising unorganised labour, and utilizing the waste human material in his district.

A corps of communication will be necessary to keep the staff fully acquainted with the needs of each district. Accordingly a Household Salvage Corps is to be created from the numbers of the unemployed, members of which, in uniform, and under strict discipline, will undertake a house-to-house visitation, with the purpose of collecting broken victuals, old clothes, and all the useless material that housekeepers are glad to get rid of. A body of two thousand men would be thus called into existence, who, besides their function as refuse-collectors, would also constitute an agency for the distribution of parcels and newspapers, and for the employment of labour. Glaziers, chimney-sweeps, carpenters, and other jobbers could be engaged from the workshops through this convenient medium, which would act in conjunction with the Labour Bureau. After a period of service in the Salvation Factory or Labour Yard, a limited number of picked workers would be sent down to the Farm Colony. Here as builders and bricklayers they would erect their own shanties, and set up for themselves just as if they were emigrants in a new country. Supplied with spades, seeds, and roots, they would grow fruit and vegetables; would raise poultry and bees, and breed rabbits and pigs. For a certain time new arrivals would receive no wages in money, only lodgings and rations; and, if they proved themselves indifferent or lazy, they would continue to be merely fed and clothed. But those

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who showed capacity and diligence would in time receive a small extra allowance, and become eligible for promotion to the rank of petty officers. The whole scheme would be a benevolent despotism; from the time a man entered he must obey or leave. Recreation would not be neglected, both indoor and outdoor. All sorts of field sports —cricket, football, quoits, and bowls— would be encouraged, and a reading-room and library would be established, with a recreation hall. No drinking saloons would be permitted within the bounds of the colony, and no Sunday work; while attendance on religious services, though encouraged, would not be compulsory.

This Farm Colony would thus be a great hive of industry for training men to work efficiently. From cobbling or "translating," as it is technically called, and refitting old clothes, up to paper-making, dairy-farming, and horse-breeding, almost every useful industry would be represented. After passing a period of probation in the Farm Colony, workers would have the option of embarking on board the Salvation Ship, and emigrating to a foreign land, possibly South Africa. Here everything being prepared for their arrival, they would have ample opportunity, in a few years, of clearing off the initial debt they had incurred in receiving, not only a free passage, but a house, stock, and land, and food for several months. Thus the hardships of a first settlement in a strange new land would be smoothed down, the emigrant would be shielded from temptation, and every chance would be given him of making a new man of himself before the world. Truly a grandly worked-out scheme, practical in details, and Utopian only in its vastness. No wonder that it has fascinated so many leading London philanthropists.

There are other subsidiary schemes to be worked in conjunction with this: Homes for discharged prisoners; City and Country Homes for the proper treatment of inebriates; Rescue Homes for women; Children's Crèches, where children whose parents are out at work may be cared for; a Seaside Health Resort; and a Poor Man's Bank to supersede the costly pawn-broker who battens upon the poor man's needs. Generally speaking, indeed, General BOOTH seeks to restore in our large cities that social organization to be seen in village communities, where every man's character and personal needs are known to his neighbours high and low. The whole grand scheme involves an initial outlay of one hundred thousand pounds sterling, and an assured annual income of thirty thousand pounds; in fact, about a million sterling of capital. It is a great venture, but, considering the promoter and all the wonders that he and his fellow-workers have wrought in the past, few will be bold enough to predict failure as the certain issue. The possibilities of a holy enthusiasm, conjoined to a faculty for organization, are illimitable.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—FEBRUARY 13TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. under the presidency of Prince Konoye. The President announced that as certain documents requisitioned from the Cabinet had not yet arrived, the debate on the Qualifications Committee's Report *re* Mayeda Kensuke must be postponed for the moment. Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs would address the House as previously notified, in answer to questions put on the 20th of December by Viscount Tani and others. The questions referred to the speech delivered by Viscount Aoki in the House of Representatives on the 17th of December, when he was understood to have said that Treaty concluded between Japan and the United States of America in 1879 had been "as fruitless as foam upon water." It was enquired by what process the Treaty had become fruitless, and whether it had ceased to have any practical existence. Viscount Aoki explained that reference to the stenographic report of his speech would show that he had alluded only to the Treaty's failure to go into operation. Unfortunately the Treaty had not been entirely satisfactory. One of its articles, the 10th, had provided that the Treaty should not become effective until Japan's Treaties with the other Western Powers were revised in a similar sense. That is to say, in order that the Treaty should have practical effect, Japan must revise her Treaties with other States, and the revision must be of the same character as that embodied in the American Treaty. It was on this account that the Treaty had borne no fruit in practice, but he had not intended to imply that it had ceased to exist. It had in fact, been duly ratified by both sides, and therefore its continued existence was a matter of course. He trusted that this explanation would be clearly understood. Viscount Tani said that his question had been dictated by considerations arising out of the motion proposed by him in the House with regard to the recovery of the Empire's Tariff Autonomy. In making that motion he had relied on the existence of the Treaty with America. Otherwise the motion would have been idle. It was very satisfactory to learn that the Treaty still existed. He had not desired to put any embarrassing question to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and he thanked Viscount Aoki for his explanation. The House then proceeded to debate the motion of Mr. Obata Yoshiine for a Representation to the Government, urging the advisability of appointing a Committee to revise the Civil and Commercial Code. Mr. Obata said that the leading merchants of Tokyo had presented a petition setting forth various points of conflict between the provisions of the Commercial Code and Japanese customs. He quoted some of the points, and argued that owing to the time assigned for revision having been insufficient, the Codes required further examination before enforcement. He therefore moved that the Government be asked to submit the Codes once more to a Revising Committee. Mr. Watari Masamoto opposed the motion. He had been a member of the Revision Committee. It was true that the work of revision had been expedited for a special purpose. But the Committee had carefully collected information as to the customs existing throughout the country, and had endeavoured as far as possible to bring the new laws into conformity with them. Owing, however, to the mutual segregation of the various fiefs in feudal times, local customs differed considerably, and no laws could be framed so as to satisfy the whole nation in this respect. The discrepancies still observable between the provisions of the Codes and the old customs of the country, were inevitable results of national progress. The operation of the Commercial Code had been postponed for three reasons: first, that to enforce it before the Civil Code would be inconvenient; secondly, that the interval between its promulgation and the proposed date of enforcement was not sufficient; and thirdly, that its phraseology was difficult to understand. Now, however, they were asked to vote a Representation claiming that the purpose of postponing the Commercial Code had been its revision. He wished to ask the mover of the proposition and its supporters whether they imagined that the work of revising the 3,000 and odd articles of the Civil and Commercial Code could be accomplished between the present time and January 1st, 1893, so as to allow a sufficient interval between the promulgation of the revised laws and their enforcement. He went on to deal at considerable length with Mr. Obata's speech and the terms of the proposed Representation. After the mid-day recess Mr. Obata Yoshiine again spoke, denying the correctness of the reasons alleged by Mr. Watari for the postponement of the Commercial Code. He himself (Mr. Obata), during the debate on the question of postponement, argued against the conflict between Japanese established customs and the provisions of the Code. As to the assertion that two years would not suffice for purposes of revision, he retorted that the Revision Committee, of which Mr. Watari was a member, had gone through 15 articles a day, and if a similar Committee were now elected, the work of revision could be completed in a few months. Mr. Murata Tomotsu supported the motion. He had always been opposed to certain provisions of the Codes, and he welcomed the opportunity to revise them. He contended that they disturbed Japanese customs, and in support of this contention he pointed out that, under these Codes, a child might sue its parent or a wife her husband. He adduced ten reasons for revision. Mr. Komatsu Fukimasa having spoken in support of the motion, the closure was voted. Mr. Obata's motion was then put and carried. The President then informed the House that the documents relating to Mr. Mayeda Kensuke having been received, it appeared that his age was 55 years, whereas Mr. Nakanishi Kozaburo —the petitioner—was only 46. Unless, therefore, an objection was raised, Mr. Mayeda, as the elder, should be considered elected. The House voted in that sense, and rose at 2.10 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. The business before the House was a memorial from Osaka Confectioners praying for a reduction of the confectionary tax. Mr. Wakao Ippei supported the memorial. He explained that Japanese confectioners, as a class, were very poor. Of the total number (207,000 approximately), about two hundred thousand conducted their business on too small a scale to have a single employé, and of the remaining seven or eight thousand very few were in a position to maintain more than two or three assistants. To impose a heavy tax on persons living thus from hand to mouth seemed a faulty policy. A discussion arose as to the advisability of postponing the debate so that members might have leisure to examine the memorial carefully, and consider the subject to which it related. Objection being raised that printed copies of the document had been distributed some time previously, it was answered that owing to the large number of the memorials thus distributed, there had not been time to investigate them all. Mr. Ozawa Takeo urged the advisability of forwarding the memorial as speedily as possible, and quoted from Count Ito's Commentary on the Constitution in support of that view. Mr. Miura Yasu objected to such a quotation, and alleged that Count Ito's commentary merely embodied the views of an individual. He thought that any precipitancy on the part of the House would have the effect of detracting from the authority that ought to attach to its endorsement of a memorial. The House was something more than a mere channel of communication between the people and the Government. Viscount Tani had not anticipated that so much discussion would arise in connection with this matter, or that any question as to the construction of the Constitution would be raised. Under the circumstances, he felt called on to say a word. The House was doubtless aware that one result of the Confectionary Tax has been to bring punishment on a number of defaulters, but surely the object of taxation was to raise money, not to produce law-breakers. When this memorial

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was sent up, its fate had become the theme of a popular song:—

Karaku tomo
Imasara nanto
Shô-yuya
Umaku tôsu ga
Koie ga okwashii.

They might gather from this the suffering caused by the tax. Marquis Hachisuka objected strongly to the notion of the House making any alterations in the memorial. He thought it should be forwarded as it was, or not at all. The House voted against postponing the debate, and decided that the memorial should be forwarded to the Government without any change in its form. The House rose at 2.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. Marquis Hachisuka, President of the Memorials Committee, made several announcements with regard to memorials of which copies had been circulated among the members. The House then proceeded to debate a motion by Baron Ozawa for a representation to the Government in connection with the subject of the national survey. Baron Ozawa explained his proposal in a long and able speech. He said that the absence of proper maps of the country was accounted for by the mutual isolation of the various fiefs in feudal times, and the care exercised by each clan to prevent other clans from obtaining a knowledge of its topography. Not until 12 years ago had any effective scheme of survey been inaugurated, and it was understood that, at the present rate of procedure, seventy years must elapse before the nation could hope to possess accurate maps. He then entered into a comparative examination of the different scales adopted by cartographists in Europe, and showed that whereas a survey on a scale of $\frac{1}{20000}$ costs 560 *yen* per square mile, a scale of $\frac{1}{50000}$ costs only 368 *yen*. He thought that the latter would suffice in Japan's case. After dwelling on the absolute necessity of an accurate and trustworthy survey, he proposed that the Government be moved to increase the present appropriation for surveying purposes from 200,000 to 300,000 *yen* annually, by which means the work might be completed in about 40 years. He was well aware that, in view of the public desire to effect economies in the expenditure of the State, his proposal might meet with opposition, but he thought that a sum of a hundred thousand *yen* might be employed for such a purpose without much difficulty, and he explained that it should be left to the Treasury to make the appropriation from whatever year seemed most convenient. Viscount Kano Hisanobu opposed the measure. He did not deny the advantages of having an accurate map of the country, but he thought that there had been too great a tendency of late years to accelerate progress at dangerous speed. There were before their eyes in Tokyo many matters which called far more loudly for immediate action than the question of a national survey. The fires which annually laid hundred of houses in ruins indicated that they needed a new style of building, and the bad water supply, which encouraged and intensified epidemics, taught them how much they wanted water works. Most desirable would it be to spend great sums at once on these urgent necessities, but they had to proceed steadily and with due regard to their resources. For his own part, nothing would please him more than to vote an ample appropriation on account of the survey, but he felt that they must accurately balance the weights of their needs, and divide their financial strength accordingly. Mr. Furuichi Kintake supported the proposal. He dwelt in detail on the advantages of having accurate maps, and on the inconveniences resulting from their absence. Several members spoke to the motion, and the House finally adopted it by 49 to 46. The House rose at 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY 18TH.

The House met at 10.45 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, and proceeded to consider a Representation founded on petitions for the reduction of the *Saké* tax. Viscount Matsudaira opposed the Representation, urging that the tax on *Saké* was a special impost of ancient standing, and that it differed radically from the tax on confectionary, a petition for the reduction of which the House had already forwarded. The debate had continued a short time when the President announced that news had just been received to the effect that Prince Sanjo was at the point of death. The House therefore rose (11.20 a.m.) at once.

FEBRUARY 19TH.

THE House met at 11.50 under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. The President announced that Prince Sanjo had died the preceding evening at 7.15 p.m. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Kaneko, read the following message of condolence, which it was proposed to send in the name of the House:—"This House deeply regrets the decease of its member, Prince Sanjo, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, First-class of First Rank, Grand Order of Merit, and reverentially offers its condolences." The House voted the message and agreed to suspend further business as a token of respect for the memory of the illustrious deceased.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—FEB. 13TH.

The House met at 10.30 a.m. Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, addressed the House in reply to questions put by Mr. Takahashi and others with reference to the subsidy to the Tea Company and the future policy of the Government in respect of aid to industry. Mr. Mutsu said that he had been for many days prevented by illness from attending. Tea and Silk were Japan's principal staples of export. The trade in both had grown rapidly during the Meiji era. Rice fields had been converted into tea-gardens, and a multitude of persons had devoted themselves to the industry. America was Japan's chief customer for tea. Unfortunately the tea-growers, obeying a short-sighted policy, had developed great carelessness in their methods of production, and in consequence the reputation of Japanese tea had suffered materially. This had led to the passing of a law by America interdicting trade in tea of inferior quality, and Japanese producers, not a little alarmed, had corrected their methods more or less. Finding, however, that individual exertions did not suffice to effect a thorough reform, the producers had petitioned the Government, the result being the issue of regulations under which guilds were formed, and inspection offices established at Yokohama, Kobe, and at the Central Guild's head-quarters. Experts had also been sent by the Guilds to China and India, and by the Government to Europe and America, to obtain information of a useful character. The immediate consequence of the improvements thus effected had been a marked increase in the volume of exported tea. Owing, however, to difficulties connected with exchange, the trade had been seriously affected in 1887, and no less than three million catties of tea had been stored up awaiting export. Great losses had been incurred by the producers, and it became evident that some active measures must be adopted. Accordingly, a general meeting of representatives from the various tea-producing districts had been held last year, when it was decided to prepare black tea and brick tea for export to America and Russia, and introduce reforms in the method of preparing green tea. In order to carry out these projects it was necessary to form a company, but owing to the heavy losses incurred in recent years, the projectors were unable to grapple with the financial part of the scheme. They had applied to the Government for three hundred thousand *yen*, and their application had been endorsed by nearly all the Prefects of the districts concerned, who urged in strong terms the advisability of lending a helping hand to the embarassed industry. The Government, fully informed by its inquiries that distress existed, and moved by these appeals, had decided to grant the new Company a sum of two hundred thousand *yen*, accompanying the grant with a charter. This charter, the petitions of the producers, and the memorials of the Prefects, had been laid before the House. Speaking briefly, the object of the Government had been on the one hand, to open a new route for the sale of Japanese tea in Russia, and on the other, to develop by direct export the routes already opened in America. With regard to the second question, namely, the future policy of the Government in respect of grants-in-aid, it was easy to lay down many principles of political economy applying to the general problem, but no hard-and-fast statement could be made as to the cases in which aid would hereafter be granted, and those in which it would be withheld. The rule of the Government would be only to devote the public money to purposes urgently calling for assistance in the interests of national prosperity. There were two methods of giving aid to industries, the direct and the indirect methods. The direct method was to make grants of money and to reduce taxes. The indirect method was to increase import duties so as to preclude the competition of foreign products. The indirect method seemed to be chiefly in vogue in Western States, but the direct was also resorted to. Japan had never employed the indirect, nor, indeed, was she in a position to do so while her present Treaties remained in force. Whether it would be to her advantage to do so, was a grave question demanding the fullest investigation. On the other hand, she had freely used the direct method. In some cases excellent results had been visibly attained; in others results were not yet apparent. Instances of the former were the maritime carrying trade and the railways. The principle of devoting the proceeds of taxes paid by the people at large to the development of industries by which individuals profited, was of such doubtful propriety that the Government desired, as far as possible, to leave trade and industry entirely independent. Its general and fixed rule would therefore be to abstain from all assistance, except in very special cases where strong reasons existed indicating the public utility of official aid. In conclusion, he reminded the House that whatever may have been the case in the days of Bureaucratic Government, grants-in-aid of industry could no longer be made in accordance with the opinion of an individual Minister or a group of Ministers. The Imperial Diet would have to be consulted and to consult about the expediency of such grants. The policy approved by the Government ceased, consequently, to be a matter of paramount importance. In answer to further questions he explained that the Company, not having yet raised the funds prescribed by its charter, had not commenced business. The two hundred thousand *yen* granted by the State was still lying untouched in the Bank of Japan, and the Government possessed supervisory power in respect of its disbursement. The company was endeavouring to obtaining subscribers from as many districts as possible, but owing to the straitened circumstances of the tea-producers and the bad times, it was difficult to achieve that object. There was not the least apprehension of the contingency suggested by Mr. Inugai, namely, that the subsidy would be divided up among the promoters before the company came into actual existence. The Government had frequently pressed the promoters to use expedition, and it was understood that the first instalment of the subscription money would be completely paid up during the present month. After various minor questions had been put and answered, the House rose for the mid-day recess, and re-assembled at 1.05, under the presidency of Mr. Tsuda. Viscount Katsura, Vice-Minister for War, and Paymaster Noda entered into an exhaustive analysis of the various items in the War Department Budget, showing that the reductions, proposed by the Budget Committee were wholly impossible in practice. During the latter part of Mr. Noda's speech more than one member of the opposition attempted to interrupt him on the ground that his explanations were superfluous. But he insisted upon leaving nothing unexplained that might save the House from pursuing the fatal policy of wholesale reduction. Mr. Hayakawa Riyosuke, as an urgency motion, proposed that a special Committee be appointed to re-

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examine the Army Section of the Budget. The House refused to grant urgency. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro then delivered a long and eloquent speech urging the House to pause before it applied crippling reductions to the Army of the Empire, His Majesty's guards, the nation's protectors, and an indispensable weapon in the fight of Treaty Revision. The speech was listened to with close attention and evident pleasure, but while admiring its eloquence and loftiness of idea, the Opposition plainly remained uninfluenced by its arguments. Mr. Shiota Okuzo followed in behalf of the Budget Committee's Report, after which the closure was moved and carried. It was then proposed, and after a short discussion agreed, that the voting should be by the usual method of standing, instead of by ballot. The amendments of Messrs. Sasada and Suge were put and lost, and the Budget Committee's Report was voted by a large majority. The House then proceeded to the Naval Department Section. Captain Honjuku, Government Delegate for that Department, spoke in opposition to the various reductions proposed, explaining that every possible *sen* had already been economised in the Naval Department, and that further reductions would be fatal to its efficiency. The debate on this section of the Budget had lasted only 25 minutes when the closure was voted, and the amendments of Messrs. Sasada and Suge having been rejected, the Budget Committee's Report was adopted. The House rose at 3.50 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14TH.

The House met at 10.45 a.m., and proceeded to debate the Judicial Department Section of the Budget. The Government Delegate, Mr. Mitsukuri, said that, judging from the previous votes given by the House, it was evident that the Report of the Budget Committee would be adopted in the case of the Judicial Department also. He would not, therefore enter into a long explanation, but merely confine himself to pointing out the necessity of not interfering with some of the appropriations which the Committee proposed to reduce. He then entered into an examination of various items, as travelling expenses, allowance to law students studying abroad, grants in aid of private law schools and so forth. Two speeches were then delivered in support of the Committee's Report, but several members whose names had been given in as desiring to speak on the other side were found to be absent, and the debate languished. Finally, the amendments of Messrs. Sasada and Suge having been put and lost, the House adopted the Budget Committee's Report, and then passed to the Educational Department Section. Mr. Tsuji, Vice-Minister of Education, asked the House to pause before adopting the Committee's Report on this section of the Budget. The reductions suggested would entail the closing of several important schools, and he did not think that they could consider the people sufficiently educated as yet to profit thoroughly by representative institutions. The Female Normal School, which they proposed to eliminate from the estimates, seemed to him an essential institution for educating the mothers of the Japanese nation. He dwelt also on the advantages of the Upper Middle Schools and the School of Music, and said that if the support of the Government were withdrawn, these schools would certainly cease to exist, and the 4,925 pupils now receiving instruction there would be suddenly deprived of the means of learning. The House took a recess at 12 o'clock, and re-assembled at 1.30 p.m. Mr. Hamano Noboru spoke in support of an amendment proposed by him that the appropriation for students travelling abroad should be increased by ten thousand *yen*, in order to defray the expenses of students specially despatched to examine and obtain instruction in the new curative methods invented by Dr. Koch of Berlin. He said that ten thousand lives were lost by phthisis every year in Japan, and that the evil effects of this terrible disease, as well as of others which Dr. Koch's methods were intended to deal with, descended from parent to child. He ridiculed the idea advanced by some that Dr. Koch was a mere theorist, and he referred to the difficulty and danger of allowing uninstructed practitioners to employ his methods. Mr. Amano Tameyuki opposed the portion of the Committee's Report relating to the schools. He severely criticised the fact that the Committee had taken no thought for the consequences of this measure while recommending it. Mr. Tachiiri Kiichi spoke in the same sense. Mr. Utsunomiya Heiichi supported the Report, and alleged that to withdraw State assistance from the schools in question would help to develop independent educational enterprise. The closure was here put and lost. Mr. Takata Sanai, though approving the Committee's Report in general, condemned it in the particular of the schools. The closure was then voted. Mr. Hamano Noboru's amendment was put and carried. The various sections of the Educational Department were then separately put to the vote, with the result that the Report of the Budget Committee was adopted in every case, except that of the Female Normal School, the Music School, and the Upper Middle Schools. With regard to these schools the House rejected both the Budget itself and the Committee's Report, and after some discussion decided to refer the question for further examination by a Special Committee. The House rose at 4.10 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16TH.

The House met 10.35 a.m. The President announced that two Bills had been sent down from the Government, embodying additional appropriations to the Naval Department and to the Finance Department. The House then proceeded to debate the section of the Budget relating to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for that Department, made a brief speech, explaining that, in view of the evident resolve of the House not to pass the Budget as submitted to it, he should refrain from any lengthy comments. He could not, however, keep silence altogether, as such a course might be construed to mean approval of reductions in contemplation, whereas, in truth, he was distinctly opposed to them. Mr. Kondo Jumpei asked the House to reject all the amendments as well as the Original Budget relating to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and to vote for the abolition of the Department as a separate institution, and its amalgamation with the Bureau of General Business in the Home Department. Mr. Makino Kozo supported the Committee's Report. Mr. Yamada Buho also supported it. He said that they found themselves in a field without an enemy, and he should therefore refrain from setting forth the merits of the Report. But he wished to say a word about the relations between the Government and the House. There could be no concealing that their relations had become very much strained—strained beyond all expectation. The House had hoped that Mr. Mutsu, being at once a member and a Cabinet Minister, would have helped to smooth matters. But this hope had been disappointed. The Government had long been in the habit of crushing parties formed by the people, and its course had begotten the present opposition Still the Government seemed to retain its old traditions. One of two plans only now seemed open to the Government, either to dissolve the Diet or to accept the Budget Committee's Report. In such a conjuncture they might well look for some assistance from Mr. Mutsu, who was their member as well as a Minister of State. The closure was then put and carried, and the House, having rejected the amendments of Messrs. Sasada and Suge, voted the Budget Committee's Report. The debate on the Communications Department then commenced. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi wished to ask the Government Delegate whether it was true that, in making purchases, the Department accepted the tenders which approximated most closely to the sums fixed by the Budget, and rejected lower tenders. Mr. Mayejima, the Delegate, said that, in respect of small articles, such was not the case, but that in respect of large and important purchases there were reasons for adopting that course. Mr. Takagi said that such a vague answer left him in perplexity as to how he should vote. Mr. Mayejima said that Mr. Takagi might have perfect confidence in what he had been told. Mr. Koma Shiku supported the Budget Committee's Report. Mr. Tanaka Shozo said that he had understood from the newspapers that Count Goto was to be present in the House, but he did not see him. Count Goto was a flagrant offender against the laws. The President called Mr. Tanaka to order, but the latter insisted that Count Goto had abused a member of the House, and that he should not be permitted to enter its precincts. Mr. Mayejima spoke a few words merely by way of showing his disapproval of the Budget Committee's Report. The House then rejected the amendments of Messrs. Sasada and Suge, and passed the Budget Committee's Report. The House took a recess at 11.25 a.m. and re-assembled at 12.50 p.m. The President announced the names of the Special Committee elected to examine the question of appropriations to the Female Normal School, the Upper Middle Schools, and the School of Music. He also stated that Count Yamagata, the Minister-President of State, desired to address the House, and further, that the remarks made by Mr. Tanaka Shozo in the forenoon as to Count Goto being a flagrant offender, had been erased from the record, Count Yamagata then spoke at some length, and was followed by Count Matsukata, Minister of State for Finance. Mr. Sugita Teiichi asserted that no evidences of the careful administration claimed by the Minister President of State could be seen. He dwelt on the imperfect state of the national defences, and on the weakness of the Navy. He complained that the public money was wasted for the sake of sending officials and favoured individuals to Europe and America, and that the only apparent aim pursued in the foreign intercourse of the State was to curry favour with Western peoples. Mr. Suzuki Shoji said that it had been impossible for those at the back of the House to hear the remarks of the Minister President. He proposed that all debate on the speech should be postponed until the next day, when members would have had an opportunity of consulting the stenographic report. Count Yamagata, in reply to Mr. Sugita, asked that questions as to the Army and Navy should be addressed according to the prescribed procedure. Mr. Iwazaki Manjuro said that the House should be grateful for the full explanations offered by the Minister President and the Minister of Finance. After some further desultory discussion, the Ministers of State were about to leave the House, when Mr. Tanaka Shozo excited much merriment by calling out loudly to the President that Count Goto was going away. The House then proceeded to debate the Extraordinary Expenditures of the various Departments, beginning with the Foreign Office. The Government Delegate having given some explanations, the Budget Committee's Report was adopted. On proceeding to debate the Home Department, Mr. Ebashi Ko moved that the subsidy to the Hokkaido Coal Railway Company be abolished. He understood that the Company had acquired for 240,000 *yen* a railway which had cost the Government 1,200,000 *yen* and for 100,000 *yen* a coal mine upon which 380,000 *yen* had been spent. A member having claimed that the silence of the Government Delegate must be taken as endorsing the truth of these statements, the Delegate said that he did not speak because the expenditure in question fell within the scope of Article 67 of the Constitution. Mr. Inugai opposed Mr. Ebashi's motion, not because he approved of the subsidy, but because it could not be abolished without injustice to the present holders of the Company's stock. After some further debate, the House voted in favour of Mr. Ebashi's amendment, and also in favour of the Budget Committee's Report for the remaining items of the Home Department. In the Department of Finance, Mr. Takatsu Nakajiro moved that the subsidy to the Japan Railway Company be reduced to 300,000 *yen*, on the ground that the interest received by the Company exceeded the present market rates. Mr. Watanabe Osamu strongly opposed any

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interference with the affairs of a company whose stock was largely held by the public on the faith of a Government guarantee. After some further debate the closure was voted, and Mr. Takatsu's amendment was negatived by 84 to 77. Mr. Kozaka Zennosuke, ascending the tribune, was about to speak in opposition to the Budget Committee's Report when Mr. Yamada Toji objected, claiming that the closure had been voted. The President said that the closure had related only to the debate on Mr. Takatsu's amendment. Mr. Koma Shiku took strong exception to this ruling, and on being desired by the President to resume his seat, refused to do so. The President thereupon ordered him to be removed, and the Sergeants were about to carry out this order when the House fell into great confusion. The President suspended the execution of his order until the House should decide the import of the vote on the closure. The House decided that the closure had related to the whole debate on the Department of Home Affairs. Votes were then taken, and the Budget Committee's Report was adopted. The House rose at 4.45 p.m.

FEBRUARY 17TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. Several members urged that the Special Committee on the question of the appropriation to the Female Normal and other Schools be directed to send in its report with all possible expedition. The House proceeded to discuss the extraordinary expenditure of the War Department. Mr. Noda, one of the Delegates for the Department, complained that the reductions applied in this section had not been explained, and seemed to have been recommended without due consideration. Mr. Ishiwara Hanyemon replied, on behalf of the Committee, that all the building operations of the Government had been deemed extravagant, and a general reduction of twenty per cent. had been applied. Hence the reduction in this section of the War Office. Mr. Noda pointed out the great inconveniences of such a method, and urged that the building designs of the Department be examined by the Committee. Mr. Okada Riyoichiro said that it was just as much the duty of the Delegates to offer explanations to the Budget Committee as it was for the Budget Committee to seek them. The Committee's debates had been public, and it was too late now for the Delegate to complain that its investigations had been incomplete. Mr. Noda said that the Government Delegates could not divine what reductions the Committee contemplated. He entered into an explanation of the buildings—chiefly forts—affected by the reduction, and showed that the works were all in progress and must be continued. He warned the House that it was voting measures calculated to check the completion of the national defences. An amendment of Mr. Kato Katsuya to increase the appropriation for the building of forts, led to some discussion, and was finally rejected. The House then voted the Budget Committee's Report relating to this section, and, proceeding to the Naval Department, voted the Budget Committee's Report in relation to its extraordinary expenditure also. The Judicial Department now came up for discussion. Mr. Mitsukuri, Delegate for the Department, spoke strongly against the reduction of appropriations for the building of Judicial officers' houses, and for the aid of the private Law Schools. Mr. Yamada Taizo opposed the reductions. He said that the chief objection raised by foreigners to coming under Japanese jurisdiction, and therefore the chief obstacle to the accomplishment of the hope of Treaty Revision entertained for so many years by forty millions of people, was incompleteness of the laws and incompetence of the Judges who administer them. He also dwelt upon the vital importance of good laws and good judges from an independent point of view. The House then voted the Committee's Report. The same was the case with the Educational Department and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. In connection with the Department of Communications, an amendment by Mr. Koma Shiku for reducing the subsidy of the Japan Mail S.S. Company from 880,000 to 500,000 *yen* annually, came up for discussion. Mr. Koma supported the motion in a long speech, the gist of which was that the fixed subsidy gave the company a much larger income than it would have received under the original agreement, which made the Treasury's payments depend on the Company's earnings. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi supported the motion on the ground that though a subsidy had been necessary at the outset, its continuance had the effect of deterring competition. Mr. Ayai Taken opposed the motion. The House voted in favour of it, and also adopted the Committee's Report on the section of extraordinary expenditures of the Communications Department. The House rose at 3.55 p.m.

FEBRUARY 18TH.

The House met at 11 a.m. and proceeded to consider the extraordinary expenditures of a section of the Home Department—namely, the construction expenses of the Yokogawa-Karuizawa Railway. The Government Delegate explained the object of the appropriation; also that the line was projected because it had now been found possible to negotiate the difficulties of the Usui Pass. The amount asked for—1½ million *yen*—added to the half million previously appropriated, would suffice for the construction. He added, in reply to questions, that the total length of lines already constructed was 1,300 miles, and that provisional charters had been granted for the construction of another thousand miles, but it was not yet possible to say exactly in what order new lines contemplated by the Government would be undertaken. The House voted the appropriation, and then passed to the grant for the Naoyetsu-Kashiwazaki line. This led to considerable debate, in the course of which Mr. Inouye Kakugoro asserted that many complaints were made about the treatment given by the Chief of the Railway Bureau to applications for railway charters. It was said that without bribery no charters could be obtained. The Government Delegate refused to discuss such a subject. The House then voted the Sasada amendment, rejecting the appropriation for the line in question. In the afternoon session the Report of the Special Committee on Schools was read. The Committee recommended a grant of 87,685 *yen* for the First Upper Middle School, and the withdrawal of all grants of public money to the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Upper Middle Schools, as well as to the Female Normal and Music Schools. It was announced that three members of the Committee had objected to this decision and submitted a written statement of their reasons. The House then passed the extraordinary expenditures of the Naval Department and the Communications Department, as well as of portions of the Departments of Education, Agriculture and Commerce, and Communications, adopting the Committee's Report in every case where it suggested reductions.

FEBRUARY 19TH.

The House met at 10.35 a.m. and proceeded to consider the Report of the Special Committee on the appropriations for the Upper Middle, Female Normal and Music Schools. Mr. Iwazaki Manjuro, on behalf of the Committee, explained that in recommending an appropriation of 80,819 *yen* (not 87,685 *yen* as erroneously announced the preceding day) for the First Upper Middle School, and cutting off the appropriations for the Upper Middle Schools in the provinces, the Committee's idea was to assemble the pupils of the latter at the former. Mr. Tsuji, Vice-Minister of Education, pointed out strong objections to the course recommended, and asked how it could possibly be expected that such a sweeping change as would be necessary in the organization of the Schools referred to could be accomplished before the beginning of the next fiscal year, a month hence. He also urged the expediency of supporting the Female Normal School and the School of Music, which certainly could not be maintained without Government support, and were of the greatest service for educational purposes. In the debate which ensued, many members claimed that the Committee had exceeded its competence in submitting such a Report, inasmuch as the object of its appointment had been to obtain a recommendation different from those already rejected by the House. Finally the President put it to the House to decide whether the Committee had exceeded its functions, when 123 "ayes" and 86 "noes" were recorded. On the motion of Mr. Inouye Kakugoro it was decided, instead of appointing a new Committee, to take the Report separately furnished by a minority of the Committee—namely, Mr. Amano and two others—as a subject of debate. The House rose for the midday recess at 12.20 p.m., and on re-assembling at 1.30 p.m., the President announced that the sad intelligence had been received of the decease of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, Prince Sanjo. The House decided to suspend its session, and authorized the President to forward, in its name, a message of condolence.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A QUESTION FOR MR. DOOMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Please allow me to ask Mr. Isaac Dooman, through your columns, to give the world *one* single instance of "Nature's laws" "being" altered by "human will." With your permission, I would also ask him to make careful choice of *this one* instance, and as I note he is bountifully supplied, to be quite sure he has a thorough knowledge of the "*law*," so altered.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kindness, I am, Sir, yours truly, TRUTH.

Tokyo, February 14th, 1891.

A VISIT TO THE TEMPORARY HOUSE OF PEERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The other day I had the privilege of visiting the Upper House in its temporary quarters. My card of admission was of a scarlet hue, about the size of a lady's visiting card. It was altogether in Japanese, and when translated read somewhat to this effect:—

Name of member who introduces visitor.
Name of visitor.
Card of Admission to listen to the Diet.
Date.
House of Peers.
Visitors to bear the following in mind:
On the front of the card of admission the introducing member's name and surname must be written, also the name and address of the visitor.
The visitor must show this card to the proper official, and sit where he is told by him.
The visitor cannot on any pretence whatever enter the member's part of the Auditory Arena.
The visitor during his visit must keep the following rules:
1st, to be dressed either in *haori* and *hakama*, or foreign clothing.
2nd, must not wear hat or overcoat.
3rd, must not carry stick or umbrella.
4th, must not eat, drink, or smoke.
5th, must not show assent or dissent to a member's speech.
6th, must not interfere with the sitting by making a noise. Perhaps visitors may not be allowed to enter after the House has been in session an hour.
If the visitor loses his card of admission he must leave the building.
This card is for this day only."

On the south-eastern side of the Imperial Hotel is a notice to the effect that this is the visitor's gate. On passing through this gate you see a wooden shed marked "Visitors' Entrance," or to speak more correctly "Auditor's Entrance," as the words *Bocho-sin*, which I have rendered "visitor," are written with the three Chinese characters, "ear," "listen," and "man." At this shed I showed my card of admission to an official dressed in a similar style to those seen at the palace gates. He asked me for my visiting card, and told me that as the regular rooms for visitors were full he would take me to the place set apart for visiting officials. This I found to be the band-room of the hotel, overlooking the ball-room. The front of this room was fitted up for visitors by placing a platform of two steps, facing the ball-room. On this were placed two rows of chairs, the front being lower than the back row. The chairs were all occupied, but three or four of us were able to see by standing on the platform, behind the back row of chairs. When I entered Viscount Aoki was speaking relative to Treaty Revision, and he was followed by Viscount Tani on the same subject. This latter gentleman, and about one third of the members were dressed in Japanese style of clothing. During my stay four members spoke, and while I was there only the President and

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speakers spoke aloud. Everything was carried on in a very decorous way, the only other sounds being coughing and the opening and shutting of doors. The ball-room of the hotel is used as the Auditory Hall, temporary verandahs having been run up to make passages and the rooms for the reporters and visitors. A dais has been built for the President, secretaries, etc., at the far end of the room. The members are seated in chairs, with green coloured desks in front of them. These desks are arranged with a slight curve, and have passage-ways at either end and down the centre. The speakers in leaving the body of the hall to go to the dais, go down this centre passage, and as it is rather narrow they have to walk slightly sideways, which, in conjunction with the steps of the tiers, makes one at first think, by their gait, that the speakers must be lame. Where I was in the band-room, it was difficult, for a foreigner at least, to make much out of the speeches, as only now and then a sentence could be caught. On going out I was told I could go out either by the front or side entrance. The attendants are very obliging and polite to visitors; one of them spoke English quite well. On entering, the card is clipped like a railway ticket, and it is given back to an official on leaving the building.

Yours truly, F. B. S.

RABBIT-HUNTING IN SENDAI.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In common with other great organisers of educational systems, Viscount Mori saw the importance of physical training on the future welfare of the nation. Very wisely he made provision in his plan of education for a course of instruction in bodily development. This course is largely supplemented in many schools by the encouragement given to spontaneous exercise on the part of the students, in the shape of football, baseball, tennis, rowing, fencing, running, and friendly athletic contests at stated seasons. Here in Sendai it is easily possible to add another interesting form of exercise to the above—rabbit hunting.

The town lies at the very base of the last tier of hills as they melt into the broad plain of Sendai, that stretches away to the Pacific some eight or ten miles distant. These elevations behind the city are sharp and steep. The hard crust of rock is thinly covered with soil. The native growth of trees was removed many years since, and now a thick growth of weeds, grass and small shrubbery in places covers all the abrupt slopes, keen ridges and pointed angles. The country is entirely unfit for agriculture, and is not used for pasturage. It is uninhabited, though bordering on the town, except in a few sheltered valleys where a little level land is found at the bottom for the cultivation of rice. It is the chosen home of rabbits, large, long-legged, and big-eared. It is a favourite amusement with the students of some of the schools in Sendai to go out with nets and snare some of these animals. Of course they could be much more easily killed with the gun, but not one-half of the exercise or one hundredth of the fun would be furnished by that method. The authorities of the school encourage the students to go out with nets, and tramp all day, as many a muscle is drawn out to its best in toiling up these sudden ascents. Very often a special holiday is given in order to induce a voluntary tramp.

A few days since, just before the last national holiday, nearly all the members of one of the largest schools here turned out for an all-day hunt after rabbits. The matter was arranged the day before, and promptly at seven the next morning we were all at school. After a few minutes in necessary preparation we were off. Some had on rubber boots and shoes, but the most went with pantaloons turned up above the knee, splashers around the calf of the leg, and straw sandals on the feet. It was snapping cold, but bright and clear. We had been having heavy snows for two weeks past, and a mean disagreeable crust had formed on top, strong enough to look inviting and weak enough to prove treacherous when we trod on it. Up we went through the main street of the place, over hard beaten snow. Just at the edge of the town we turned off, and immediately were in the country, wild, scrubby and desolate. Hills, hills, all around. Far off towards the west rose a slender conical peak above its neighbours, a kind of pet with the people around, who have fondly dubbed it little mount Fuji, as it bears a resemblance to that world-famous mountain. There was a very abrupt break from the thickly settled town to the uninhabited country. The line of houses stopped short off at the foot of the hills, and not a house was at once visible beyond. The great backbone of Japan rose up in the west with its articulated joints shrouded in white. Not a level space about us large enough for a bucket of water to rest on. Looking the other way we saw the busy homes nestling at our feet, and afar off the mild Pacific gleaming and shining under the morning sun.

We now divided into two squads of more than a hundred each, the small boys on one side of the road, the big boys on the other. About half a dozen in each party carried small square red flags at the end of a twenty foot bamboo pole. Our leaders had chosen the very comb of a long narrow ridge as the first site to plant the nets upon. The colour bearers went ahead and hoisted their standards at convenient distances along this ridge. About twenty net keepers followed, carrying some eight or ten nets, each twenty feet long and three feet wide, made of small hemp cord, with meshes about two inches square. In the years past a narrow path had, very conveniently for us, been worn along the turnings and windings of these ridges as the men and animals carried off the wood. The net man at the extreme end of the line that it was decided to ambush for the rabbits stretched out his net, the lower edge in the bottom of the path, and the upper loosely hung on the weeds and bushes along the path, thus forming a net barrier twenty feet long by three feet high; his neighbour rapidly made connection and extended the barrier, and so on until all the line was fortified. At certain points the bottom of the net was fastened down by a forked stick. Then the net keepers and flag men quietly squatted down in the grass to wait for the enemy.

The rest of us make a wide detour and string ourselves out in a long straggling line at the bottom of the valley on one side of the net. By signals from a leader at the top of the ridge we arrange in storming column, in a crescent with the points towards the ends of the net-barrier above us. There we stand waiting facing the heights, and fixing our eyes on the goal far above indicated by the flags. When all is ready a half dozen brass horns begin to toot and blare, and we all set up a mighty shout, and in all this din and noise gradually climb the steep ascent. It is very likely that many of us take "the line of least resistance" as one old veteran remarked, showing his acquaintance with Herbert Spencer. But in spite of this gentle shirking of duty it is a toilsome road up to the top. We crunch and crush through the patches of snow, and slip and roll in the bare places. Where the snow has melted the ground has thawed and is tricky. Away we go shouting and raising pandemonium generally. The boys dart into thickets, beat the bushes and tear through the densest spots of mud. Unless he is a very bold rabbit he will surely leap up and scud away when he hears the advance of this roaring, yelling army. There had been a light fall of snow the night before, and we could easily see where our foe had scampered about in search of breakfast. We were keen to bag him, though we caught no sight of him. On we charged, waking up the echoes, and plunging through a grave-yard, stumbling over the stones and tramping on a cross. Finally with a mighty rush, panting and puffing, and not a few of us considerably "blowed," we dashed up to the nets, but as one of the students of English observed, "the rabbit was absent that roll-call."

After holding a council of war it was decided to drive from the valley on the opposite side of the bridge. Again we made a wide circle in order not to alarm the unsuspecting enemy, and got to the foot of the hills; there we plunged into rice fields, but fortunately they were frozen over solid with several inches of loose snow on top. Occasionally we broke through and several of us slipped and rolled and tumbled about. The heavy ones sank through the crust of snow at every step, and were not only left, but were "winded" as well. Our line was again formed at the foot of the slope, and we charged up the hill again, but again an absence at roll call.

There was nothing left but to move to another point. We joined the small boys, but they had met with no better luck. A cutting wind blew right down from the glittering back-bone, and at times it seemed a gale. It would almost blow us over the edge of some high, precipitous peak. But we were not cold after charging up to the nets. We were hot and perspiring.

The third effort we were all together, and though we beat up the steepest ridge, with the deepest snow drifts, and the worst tangled masses of weeds and bushes, we were unsuccessful.

The fourth time we went off some distance from the highway, and crossed a deep gully with a rapid stream at the bottom, and drew up on the other side, and nerved ourselves for the race up the hill to the red flags away above. One poor wretch was enveloped in our line and driven into the snare, and was caught. He was tangled in the meshes of the net, and though in his wild fright he tore nearly all the fur from his side, yet the keepers pounced down on him and nabbed him fast.

This was great glory, and we though it best to take stock of our rations. Back we went to the highway. There the servants had built large fires right in the snow and the tea was all ready for us. Coarse matting was spread on the ground and down we sat about the fire, and our sharp appetites soon despatched the food. It was now past twelve o'clock, and we had been actively moving since half-past seven. But we did not delay very long. After a small battle with snow balls by the younger soldiers, we all advanced after our leaders. This time we slid and stumbled down a sharp hill into another contracted rice field and across that, to the bottom of a steep hill side. Up we went again, but again no fortune. At some distance farther on we met with better luck, and another prize was put into the big cage slung on a long pole between two coolies. The hunt was now declared off at three o'clock, and in a long disjointed column we made our way home, tired and hungry, many wet, and not a few bruised, all having exercised more in a day than they had done in a week before.

Sendai, February 14th, 1891. C. M.

"BURNING THE RECORDS."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—It is all very well for your correspondent to cry "*voilà*" to your "*eureka*." But there are more holes in your theories than a Texas Coroner's Jury could find in a man who had refused to take a drink with a friend. The Printer's Devil may do what you claim for him as a record destroyer; the office cat may be capable of the cussedness your correspondent attributes to him; but whence come those mischievous mistakes; those voluble vagaries; those strange conceits of your honest contemporary? Who suggested to him that "honest" meant "deceitful?" Who coined for him the word "deceitlessness?" Who put the idea into his head that Viscount Aoki's speech in the House of Peers on the 12th inst. had reference to anything more mysterious than the published American Treaty of 1878, or that any disagreeable or awkward questions could be asked the present Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning that thirteen years old compact? As man to man I put it to you. Is it within the bounds of human belief that the P.D. or the O.C. was responsible for these things? My honest conviction is that the Office Parrot has been getting in his work. For the sake of peace I will admit that the P.D. and the O.C. may be in the combine against your editorial friend, but the fine Italian hand of the O.P. is apparent.

Yours truly, MINOR POINT.

Tokyo, February 18th, 1891.

P.S.—On account of his superior digestive qualities, I would like to substitute the Office Goat in place of the Office Cat, but I will not insist. Any way, behold the harmonies of my theory:

The P.D. as the burner of the records.

The O.G. and/or the O.C. as the masticator of sentences.

The O.P. as the hypnotizer or the suggester of evil. M. P.

RECENT MARINE DISASTERS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Can you inform me if any public enquiry has been made into the loss of the steamship *Kii Maru* and the strandings of the *Harima Maru* and *Suruga Maru*, and if so, with what results? Also of what nationality were the masters?

February 18th, 1891. H.

CHRIST CHURCH.

The annual meeting of seat-holders and subscribers of Christ Church was held on the 13th inst. in the Chamber of Commerce Rooms. Mr. J. Rickett presided, and there were also present, Messrs. J. A. Fraser, E. Whittall, Jas. Walter, D. S. Brearley, A. J. Wilkin, T. H. Box, E. J. Moss, &c.

The Chairman, after expressing his regret to find so small an attendance, but remarking that as meeting in Yokohama were not usually well attended, said he supposed the minutes last of meeting would be taken as read.

On the motion of Mr. Jas. Walter, seconded by Mr. Brearley, the minutes were taken as read.

The Chairman then read the report of the committee, and the accounts for the year. The report and accounts were as follow:—

The Committee of Christ Church in placing their annual report and accounts before the subscribers and

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seat-holders have to state that for the year 1890 although there is a small debit balance, the total results are really more satisfactory than for the previous year, as several items of expenditure occurring at the close of 1889 were not payable until the succeeding year, and this fact, together with the unusually large sum spent in repairs makes the outlay for 1890 very large indeed, but the proceeds of the bazaar held in last June were sufficient to meet these expenses.

Pew-rents are in advance of last year by about $130, whilst offertories show a decrease of rather more than that sum owing no doubt to contributors to that collection not thinking a large sum necessary, and also to other causes, such as the closing of the church for several Sundays while repairs were being effected, and the diminished number of visitors.

The collection of the first Sunday in the month is employed by the chaplain to meet pressing calls from needy persons, and in this cold, inclement season greatly lessens want and suffering.

The Committee offer their hearty and emphatic thanks to the ladies who so energetically assisted them at the summer bazaar, as also to the gentlemen who bought so liberally, and are also much indebted to the organists, Miss Leach and Mr. Chope, and the late organist, Mr. Griffin; to the ladies and gentlemen who assist in the choir, and to those kind friends who annually give donations to the Church Fund.

Since the repairs the church itself is in a better condition than it has been for along time past, and it is hoped no repairs will be necessary during the current year.

The opinions that have been expressed to the Committee in regard to the alterations in the entrance and compound show that the improvements made there are generally appreciated.

The Committee earnestly solicit the continued cooperation and assistance of seat holders and the public for the maintenance of the church.

(Signed) J. RICKETT.
D. S. BREARLEY.
J. A. FRASER.
JAMES WALTER.
E. J. MOSS.

HONORARY TREASURER, CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA, IN ACCOUNT WITH TRUSTEES, 1890.

To Balance in hand	$ 3.41
To Pew Rents	2,721.00
To Offertories	412.20
To Fancy Fair, June, netted	1,037.58
To Donations to Christ Church	110.00
To Bonuses Returned	65.67
To Pew Rents and small items in January for 1890	58.49
To Balance	57.20
	$4,465.55
By Chaplain's stipend	$2,400.00
By Coal and Lighting account	80.25
By Momban's wages and account	130.80
By Ground Rent	180 19
By Fire Insurance	282.50
By Repairs to Church and Parsonage	1,114.85
By Decorations Easter and Christmas	42.59
By Interest on Loan	120.00
By Title Deeds, rearranging	50.00
By Advertising and stationery	23.00
By Sundries	231.57
	$4,465.55
Balance	$ 57.20

D. S. BREARLEY, Hon. Treasurer.

Examined by vouchers and found correct.
Yokohama, February 11th, 1891. J. RICKETT.

The CHAIRMAN explained with regard to the fancy bazaar, that the total proceeds amounted to something like $1,200, of which a certain amount went to S. Hilda's Hospital, leaving a balance of $937.58, to which there fell to be added donations from Bishop Bickersteth of $50 and from Mr. Dodds of $50, making a total of $1,037.58. Donations received towards the Church during the year were :—

Mr. Aitchison	$ 5	Mr. A. C. Read	$ 5
Mr. Anglin	5	Mr. Shand	10
Mr. Bisset	25	Mr. Whittall	10
Mr. Gibbens	10	Mr. Wyllie	10
Mr. A. J. Macpherson	30		
Mr. Noyes	10		110

The CHAIRMAN, proceeding to review the accounts, said that the repairs came to $1,114.85, which as would be seen was covered by the bazaar amount. The amount paid for changing the title deeds and the trustees' names in accordance with the resolution arrived at last meeting, was $90.

Mr. WILKIN suggested that this fee was rather heavy.

Mr. FRASER explained that a good deal of work required to be done in reference to the matter, correspondence being necessary as well as the drawing up of the new deed. In that light, the fee was not a heavy one.

Mr. BREARLEY expressed the hope that pew-renters would, in giving up their seats, communicate with the Honorary Treasurer to avoid misunderstanding.

On the motion of Mr. WILKIN, seconded by Mr. WHITTALL, the report and accounts were adopted.

The next business was the election of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said he might mention that Mr. Dodds, who was for a long time connected with the Church Committee, was on his way out, and he would strongly recommend that the meeting elect Mr. Dodds, who had by his energy materially assisted the work of the Committee.

Mr. BOX proposed and Mr. WILKIN seconded the election of the old Committee, including Mr. Dodds.

The Committee, consisting of Messrs. Dodds, J. A. Fraser, Brearley, Jas. Walter, E. J. Moss, and Rickett, were then unanimously re-elected.

On the motion of Mr. WILKIN, the thanks of the meeting were accorded to the Committee for their services, especially to the Chairman and Treasurer for their labour.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, commended in high terms the work of the Treasurer.

The meeting then terminated.

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

GENERAL EXPLANATION.

The estimated ordinary revenue for the 24th year of Meiji is set down at *yen* 79,443,864.870, and the estimated extraordinary revenue at *yen* 1,233,128.551, their total being thus *yen* 80,676,993.421. The Committee have decided to fix the ordinary revenue at *yen* 77,972,994.615, and the extraordinary revenue at *yen* 15,969,678.551, their total being *yen* 93,942,673.166, showing an increase on the Budget estimate of *yen* 13,265,679.745. The reason will be plain when taken in connection with receipts.

The estimated ordinary expenditure for the year is *yen* 70,800,311.519, and the extraordinary expenditure is *yen* 23,204,082.970, the total being *yen* 94,004,394.489. The sums decided by the Committee are, ordinary expenditure *yen* 63,512,108.864; and extraordinary expenditure *yen* 22,611,551.211, or a total of *yen* 86,123,660.075, which shows a decrease as compared with the estimate of *yen* 7,880,734.414. This decrease has been resolved on because the Committee find that there are many items of expenditure which may be reduced, and further because the Committee are desirous of encouraging and fostering the energies of the people.

In examining the financial estimates and bringing out yearly accounts in a proper manner, it is impossible to avoid considering also the organization of the Departments (*Kwansei*) and the salaries of officials. The Budget Committee have therefore minutely gone into the actual state of affairs in every Department and office, and decided on certain reductions of expenditure within such limits as will permit of official business being conducted without inconvenience. In reference, however, to the cost of works (*jigyo-hi*) generally no reduction has been effected on the items set down by the Authorities.

It is a natural course, and one which has been in existence in this country for a long time, to regulate the amount of salaries by the press of business and the responsibility attaching to the different offices. As a matter of fact the salaries of officials seem very high in proportion to the wealth of the nation. Salaries, therefore, instead of depending on the rank of officials, are made in this Report to be dependent on the nature of the offices (*shoku-kyu*); the salaries and other disbursements being examined with the object of effecting proper reductions in salaries and the number of officials.

Detailed information will be found in the annexed documents (*sanko-sho*). It may, however, be said briefly that the Accountants Bureaux in the Cabinet and in all Departments have been abolished, and offices to discharge their functions attached to Boards of General Administration; the Metropolitan Police Board is incorporated in the Tokyo City Government Office; Councillors are abolished in all the Departments; the number of Secretaries has been reduced; the staff of *hannin* officials has been reduced in each Department by one-fourth; and the average monthly salary of *hannin* officials has been fixed at *yen* 25.

Salaries to officials on the *hishoku* list are stopped, it being against the principle of paying for work done to pay those who do not perform any duties.

Travelling expenses are reduced in accordance with the table appended; the impossibility of bringing them all under one standard appearing in connection with each Department.

Reductions of from 10 to 30 per cent. have been made on cost of repairs, miscellaneous payments, and expenses according to the actual state of each office and board.

Allowances for entertaining to Vice-Ministers, Private Secretaries, Governors, Presidents of Law Courts and others have been abolished.

As no necessity existed for providing official residences, the construction of such buildings is suspended; those now existing being included as official property, for which proper rent should be paid.

Expenses for the keep of horses have been abolished in all Departments and offices.

These have been the main points that guided us in examining and deciding on the estimates so as to bring out the annual accounts properly. We do not say, however, that the Government must amend the official organization and take such other steps as are indicated in the appended documents. The Government may adopt any other scheme if it has one. The essence of our report is that the Government shall deal with the national affairs on the basis of the amounts herein recommended.

We hope the revenue balance resulting from the above scheme will be applied to the reduction of the land tax and the repayment of public loans of high interest.

It is essential, to maintain the effeciency and carry out the purpose of the Budget, that specific articles and paragraphs should not be applied to different purposes, so that, it will be seen, the arrangement, existence and abolition of articles and paragraphs are matters of considerable importance. In the present Budget, however, not a few changes in the use and application of certain articles and paragraphs have been made; and as a result comparison with the preceding Budget has been a matter of very great inconvenience. Many amendments and changes, therefore, which are now made, aim entirely at maintaining the efficiency and proper use of the Budget.

I submit the above in accordance with the decision of the Budget Committee.

Dated Dec. 27th, 1890.

OYE TAKU,
Chairman of the Budget Committee.

To Mr. Nakajima Nobuyuki,
President of the House of Representatives.

SALARIES.

YEN. OFFICIALS OF "SHINNIN" RANK.

6,000—The Minister-President of State.
5,000—Ministers of State.
4,000—President of the Supreme Court.
3,500—Chief of the Bureau for Examination of Accounts.
2,500—President of the Privy Council; President of the Decorations Board.
2,000—Vice-President of the Privy Council.
1,500—Privy Councillors.

OFFICIALS OF "CHOKUNIN" RANK.

3,500—Vice-Ministers; Chief of Hokkaido Administration Board; Governor of Tokyo.
3,000—Governors of Kyoto, Osaka, Kanagawa, and Hyogo; Chief of Railway Bureau.
2,500—Chiefs of Sections in Bureau for Examination of Accounts; *Chiji* (governors) of Prefectures; Engineers of 1st rank; Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.
2,000—Chief Secretaries of Houses of Peers and Representatives.

OFFICIALS OF "SONIN" RANK.

2,000—Chiefs (1st rank) of Bureaux; Chief of Metropolitan Police Board; Secretary of Tokyo City Government; Chief of 1st Division Hokkaido Administration Board; Engineers of 2nd rank.
1,700—Chiefs (2nd rank) of Bureaux; Secretaries of Osaka, Hyogo, Kanagawa, and Kyoto City Government; Chief of 2nd Division, Hokkaido Administration Board.
1,500—First Secretaries, Auditors (1st rank); Judges (*Shimbankan*); Engineers of 3rd rank.
1,200—Second Secretaries; Superintendents of Police; Secretaries of Prefectures; Chief of Osaka City Police; Engineers of 4th rank; Chief of 3rd Division, Hokkaido Administration Board; Examiners of 1st rank; Prison Superintendents of 1st rank.
1,000—Third Secretaries; Auditors of 2nd rank; Superintendent of Tsushima; Chief Tax Collector of Tokyo; Engineers of 5th rank; Prison Superintendents of 2nd rank; Examiners of 2nd rank; Chief Police Surgeons.
800—Fourth Secretaries; Auditors of 3rd rank; Chief Tax Collectors of Cities and Prefectures; Chiefs of Hakodate and Sapporo, Hokkaido Administration Board; Engineers of 6th rank; Prison Superintendents of 3rd rank; Chiefs of Fire Brigades; Police Superintendents of Cities and Prefectures; Superintendents of Oshima and two other islands.
700—Superintendents of Police Stations; Chiefs of rural districts.
600—Second Superintendents of Police Stations; Auditors of 4th rank; Chiefs of Hokkaido rural districts; Engineers of 7th rank; Prison Superintendents of 4th rank; Chiefs of rural districts.
500—First Probationers; Chiefs of rural districts.
400—Second Probationers.

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Officials of "Hannin" Rank.

1st class *yen* 60 per month; 2nd class *yen* 50; 3rd class *yen* 45; 4th class *yen* 40; 5th class *yen* 35; 6th class *yen* 30; 7th class *yen* 25; 8th class *yen* 20; 9th class *yen* 15; 10th class *yen* 12.

PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF BUREAUX AND DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIALS.

Cabinet.

Present Organization—Minister President; Confidential Secretaries; Councillors; Secretaries; Decorations Board; Legislative Bureau; Pensions Bureau; Bureau of Archives; Bureau of Statistics; *Official Gazette* Bureau; Bureau of Accounts; Probationers; *soku*; Engineers.

Amended Organization—Minister President; 2 Secretaries of 2nd rank in Minister's Chamber, 8 Secretaries of 1st rank and 2 of 2nd rank; 2 Secretaries of 2nd rank, and 15 Honorary Councillors in Decorations Board; the Legislative, Pensions, Archives, *Official Gazette*, and Accounts Bureaux are abolished, their functions devolving on the Minister's Chamber; the Bureau of Statistics transferred to the Home Office; 8 probationers; *soku* and Engineers reduced by one-fourth in number.

Privy Council.

Present Organization—President; Vice-President; Councillors; Chief Secretary; Secretaries, *Zoku*.

Amended Organization—25 Councillors; Chief Secretary abolished; 2 Secretaries of 2nd rank, and 1 of 4th rank; *Zoku* reduced one-fourth in number; other offices remain as before.

Board for Examination of Accounts.

Present Organization—Chief; Chiefs of Sections; Auditors; Secretaries; Assistant Auditors; Probationers; *soku*.

Amended Organization.—All offices remain as before. Auditors to be 3 Secretaries of 1st rank, 3 of second rank, and 5 of 3rd rank; Secretary, one of 3rd rank; 24 assistant auditors; 3 Chiefs of Sections; 3 probationers; *soku* reduced one fourth in number.

Educational Department.

Present Organization—Minister; Vice-Minister; Confidential Secretary; Secretaries; Councillors; School Inspectors; General Administration Bureau; Special School Affairs Bureau; General School Affairs Bureau; Accountants' Bureau; Engineers; Probationers; *Zoku*; *Gishu*; Engineer Probationers.

Amended Organization—Minister and Vice-Minister the same; 1 Secretary of 2nd rank; Secretaries attached to Bureaux; Councillors abolished; School Inspectors' duties conducted by Secretaries; 2 Secretaries of 1st rank in General Administration Bureau; 1 Secretary of 2nd rank in Special School Affairs Bureau; 3 Secretaries of 2nd rank in General School Affairs Bureau; Accountants' Bureau incorporated in Bureau of General Administration; Engineers, abolished; 2 probationers; *soku* reduced in number by one-fourth; *gishu* and Engineer Probationers abolished.

Foreign Office.

Present Organization—Minister; Vice-Minister; Confidential Secretaries; Councillors; Bureau of General Administration; Bureau of Trade; Law Examination Bureau; Translation Bureau, Accountants Bureau, Probationers; *soku*.

Amended Organization—Minister and Vice-Minister unaltered; Secretaries of Minister's Chamber (2 of 2nd rank); Councillors, abolished; Bureau of General Administration (1 Secretary of 1st rank); Trade Bureau (1 Secretary of 1st rank); Law Examination Bureau (2 Secretaries of 2nd rank); Translation (incorporated in Bureau of General Administration) and Accountants Bureaux, abolished; 4 Probationers; *Zoku* reduced in number by one-fourth.

Home Office.

Present Organization—Minister; Vice-Minister; Confidential Secretaries; Councillors; Secretaries, Bureau of General Administration; Bureau for Management of Prefectures; Police Bureau; Civil Engineering Bureau; Sanitary Bureau; Geographical Bureau; Ecclesiastical Bureau; Library Bureau; Accountants Bureau; Railway Bureau; Probationers; Engineers; Engineer Probationers; *zoku*; *gishu*.

Amended Organization—Minister and Vice-Minister unaltered; Secretaries of Minister's Chamber (2 of 2nd rank); Councillors abolished; Secretaries of 1st rank, 5 in General Administration, and 1 each in Prefectures, Police, and Civil Engineering Bureaux; Sanitary Bureau incorporated in General Administration Bureau; Geographical Bureau, functions and property handed over to Meteorological Bureau in Agricultural and Commercial Department and General Administration Bureau of Finance Department; Ecclesiastical Bureau, incorporated in Bureau for Management of Prefectures; Library and Accountants' Bureau incorporated in General Administration Bureau; Railway Bureau (2 Secretaries of 1st rank); Probationers 4, Engineers 2; Engineer Probationers 2; *gishu* 2; *soku* reduced in number by one-fourth.

Finance Department.

Present Organization—Minister; Vice-Minister; Confidential Secretaries; Councillors; Secretaries; General Administration Bureau; Accountants' Bureau; Revenue, Customs, Treasury, National Debt, Bank Superintendence, Disbursement, and Deposits Bureaux; Probationers; *soku*.

Amended Organization—Minister and Vice-Minister unaltered; Secretaries of Minister's Chamber (2 of 2nd rank); Councillors, abolished; Secretaries, 3 of 1st rank in General Administration Bureau; 2 of 1st and 2 of 2nd rank in Accountants Bureau; 2 of 1st and 3 of 2nd rank in Revenue Bureau; Customs Bureau, incorporated in Revenue Bureau; Treasury Bureau, 1 Secretary of 1st rank; National Debt Bureau, 2 Secretaries of 1st rank; Bank Superintendence Bureau, incorporated in National Debt Bureau; Disbursement Bureau, incorporated in General Administration Bureau; Deposits Bureau, 1 Secretary of 2nd rank; Probationers, 4; *soku* reduced in number by one-fourth.

Communications Department.

Present Organization—Minister; Vice-Minister; Confidential Secretaries; Telegraph Bureau; Lighthouse Bureau; Shipping Bureau; Accountants Bureau; Money Order and Savings Bureau; Probationers; Engineers; *gishu*; *soku*.

Amended Organization—Minister and Vice-Minister unaltered; Secretary of Minister's Chamber (1 of 2nd rank); of Bureau of General Administration (2 of 1st rank); of Postal Bureau (2 of 2nd rank); of Telegraph Bureau (1 of 2nd rank); of Shipping Bureau (1 of 2nd rank); Accountants Bureau, incorporated in Bureau of General Administration; Money Order and Savings Bureau (1 Secretary of 2nd rank): Probationers 2; Engineers, *gishu* and *soku*, a certain number (*jakkan*).

Judicial Department.

Present Organization—Minister; Vice-Minister; Confidential Secretaries; Councillors; Secretaries; General Administration, Civil, Criminal, and Accountants Bureaux; Probationers; *soku*.

Amended Organization—Minister and Vice-Minister unaltered; Secretaries of Minister's Chamber (2 of 2nd rank); Councillors abolished; Bureau of General Administration, 2 Secretaries of 1st rank; Civil, Criminal, Accountants (incorporated in Bureau of General Administration) Bureaux abolished; Probationers 2; *Zoku* reduced in number by one-fourth.

Agricultural and Commercial Department.

Present Organization—Minister; Vice-Minister; Bureau of General Administration; Councillors; Confidential Secretaries; Secretaries; Agricultural and Commercial Bureau; Bureau of Industries and Manufactures; Forestry, Mining, Patents, and Accountants Bureaux; Judges; Engineers; Probationers; Engineer Probationers; *soku*; *gishu*; Assistant Judges.

Amended Organization—Minister and Vice-Minister unaltered; Bureau of General Administration, 2 Secretaries of 1st rank; Councillors abolished; 1 Secretary of 2nd rank in Minister's Chamber; Agricultural and Commercial, and Industries and Manufactures Bureaux, 2 Secretaries of 1st rank each; Forestry and Mining Bureaux 1 Secretary of 2nd rank each; Patents and Accountants Bureaux incorporated in Industries and Manufactures and General Administration Bureaux respectively; Judges 3; Engineers 8; Probationers 5; Engineer Probationers 6; *soku*; *gishu* and Assistant Judges each reduced in number by one fourth.

City and Prefectural Officials.

Present Organization—Governors (46); Secretaries (46); Chiefs of Police (45); Chief Tax Collectors (46); Superintendents of Islands (5); Councillors; Chiefs of rural districts; Engineers; Prison Superintendents (47); *soku*; Clerks of Island Offices; Police Officers (*keibu*); Prison Clerks; Prison Inspectors; *soku* (Tax Collection).

Amended Organization—No alteration except that Chiefs of rural districts are fixed at a certain number (*jakkan*); the number of Engineers is unsettled, their salaries to be paid from the appropriation on account of *soku*; and in the case of *soku* and all offices following that class in the preceding list the number of officials is reduced by one-fourth—with the exception of Prison Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors.

Tokyo City Government Office.

The following additional officials are to be appointed:—Chief Superintendent of Police (1); Superintendents of Police (3); Chiefs of Police Stations, (13); Sub-Chiefs of Police Stations (7); *soku* (91); Police officers, *Keibu*, (235); Assistant Police officers (128); Chief Police Surgeon (1); Police Surgeons (12); Chief of Fire Brigade (2); sub-Chief and other officers of Fire Brigade (45).

Officials and Salaries in the Administrative Court.

2,500—President (*shinnin* rank).
2,000—Councillors (2) of 1st rank (*chokunin* rank).
1,500—Councillors (2) of 2nd rank (*sonin* rank).
—— —Clerks (3) of *hannin* rank.

Salaries of Judicial Officials.—"Chokunin" Rank.

3,500—Procurator-General of Supreme Court.
3,000—Presidents of Divisions in Supreme Court; Presidents of Appeal Courts.
2,500—Judges of 1st rank; Chief Procurators of Appeal Courts.
2,000—Judges of 2nd rank; Presidents of District Courts in Tokyo and Osaka; Presidents of Divisions in Appeal Courts of Tokyo and Osaka; Procurators of 1st rank.
1,500—Judges of 3rd rank; Chief Procurators of District Courts in Tokyo and Osaka; Presidents of District Courts of Nagasaki, Hakodate, Nagoya, Miyagi, and Hiroshima; Presidents of Divisions in Appeal Courts; Procurators of 2nd rank.
1,200—Judges of 4th rank; Chief Procurators of Nagasaki, Hakodate, Nagoya, Miyagi, and Hiroshima; Presidents of District Courts; Procurators of 3rd rank.
1,000—Judges of 5th rank; Chief Procurators of District Courts; Presidents (1st rank) of Divisions in District Courts; Procurators of 4th rank.
800—Judges of 6th rank; Presidents of Local Courts; Presidents (2nd rank) of Divisions in District Courts; Procurators of 5th rank.
600—Judges of 7th rank; Procurators of Local Courts; Procurators of 6th rank.
500—Judges of 8th rank; Procurators of 7th rank; Probationers of 1st rank.
400—Probationers of 2nd rank.

Note—The amendments in the above list are under the present Law for the Organization of Courts of Law. Any changes in the Law will of course involve alterations in the list as amended above.

Travelling Expenses.

Railway expenses per mile.—Officials of *shinnin* and *chokunin* ranks, *sen* 10; officials and probationers of *sonin* rank, salaries above *yen* 1,000, *sen* 6; above *yen* 300, *sen* 5; officials and probationers of *hannin* rank, salaries above *yen* 360, *sen* 4, under *yen* 360, *sen* 8.

Steamship expenses per nautical mile—Exactly the same allowances as in the above list per railway mile.

Allowance for travel by horse or carriage outside jurisdiction (*kangwai*) per mile.—Officials of *shinnin* and *chokunin* rank, *sen* 30; Officials and probationers of *sonin* rank, salaries above *yen* 1,000, *sen* 20, above *yen* 300, *sen* 15; officials and probationers of *hannin* rank, salaries above *yen* 360, *sen* 10; under *yen* 360, *sen* 8.

Allowance for travelling by horse or carriage, within jurisdiction (*han nai*) per mile.—Officials of *shinnin* and *chokunin* ranks, *sen* 20; officials and probationers of *sonin* rank, salaries above *yen* 1,000, *sen* 12; above *yen* 300, *sen* 10; officials and probationers of *hannin* rank, salaries above *yen* 360, *sen* 8, under *yen* 360, *sen* 6.

Daily allowance (*nitto*) inside and outside jurisdiction.—Officials of *shinnin* and *chokunin* ranks, outside, *yen* 2.50, inside, *yen* 2.00; officials and probationers of *sonin* rank (salaries above *yen* 1,000) outside, *yen* 1.50, inside, *yen* 1.00; (above *yen* 300) outside, *yen* 1.30, inside, *sen* 80; officials and probationers of *hannin* ranks (salaries above *yen* 360) outside *sen* 80, inside *sen* 60 (under *yen* 360) outside, *sen* 70, inside, *sen* 50.

For Chronic Dyspepsia use Horsford's Acid Phosphate.

Dr. Edwin Morris, F.R.C.S., and L.S.A., 8 High-street, Spalding, Lincolnshire, says: "Of all the remedial agents, I have never met with one so efficacious in chronic dyspepsia. I speak from personal experience of its excellent qualities, and as a nervine tonic I cannot too highly recommend it."

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THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A meeting of the above mentioned Society was held in the rooms of the Geographical Society, Nishikonyacho, Tokyo, on the evening of Friday, 13th inst, Mr. Edmond R. Holmes in the chair. There was a large attendance.

A paper was read by Mr. T. Ichioka on a certain developer that had fallen into his hands. This developer was sold commercially in the form of a bright red solution, needing nothing but dilution with water. It was exceedingly active, and could be used over and over again. It contained a large quantity of sulphite of soda, and some caustic soda, but Mr. Ichioka did not know what was the actual developer.

MR. C. D. WEST thought that the actual developer was probably hydrokinone. Either pyro, or eikonogen would be detected by the colour, in spite of the fact that some dye, probably an aniline colour, had evidently been added to the solution, to make it more difficult to guess what it might be made up of.

Mr. W. K. BURTON demonstrated the washing of eikonogen that had turned quite black. By the particular method of washing adopted the loss of eikonogen was a mere trifle.

Mr. B. MUNSTER showed some tubes of the new eikonogen developing powder. This powder was found to be quite white, and, when dissolved in water gave a colourless solution. Mr. Munster said that it needed no addition of any kind, and was a most active developer.

A portfolio of prints that had been sent to the Society some time ago by Dr. H. P. Emerson, as examples of "Naturalistic Photography," were handed round for criticism.

Mr. K. OGAWA said that when he was in America, he had taken every opportunity of studying reproductions of the work of the French artist Millet, whose pictures he admired greatly. It was evident that Emerson was trying to imitate his work photographically, and, although Emerson's work was far from faultless, it was, Mr. Ogawa considered, a great deal better than what was commonly turned out by photographers, who might study Emerson's work with advantage.

Mr. C. D. WEST said he thought the greater part of Emerson's work was too black and sooty to be natural.

Mr. J. MILNE recognised great artistic merit in Emerson's work but, speaking not particularly of the specimens shown just now, but of Emerson's work in general, he could not see that it was necessary for a "naturalistic" effect to select, for photography, only such phenomenally hideous figures as were generally to be seen in Emerson's photography. At least half of them would be arrested on suspicion only on account of their faces if they were seen by daylight. He proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Emerson, which was seconded by Mr. A. J. Hare, and carried unanimously.

Mr. I. ISAWA showed some excellent microphotographs, and gave a short description of the means of producing them.

Mr. KAJIMA SEBI photographed the meeting by flash light.

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

During the evening prints made from negatives exposed on the occasion of the flash-light at Kaga Yashiki, by Messrs. Kajima, West and Burton were exhibited.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN ELIZABETHAN & VICTORIAN POETRY.

An Opening Address, delivered in the University Hall, Kanda, Tokyo, on Saturday, 31st January, to the members of the National English Language Association, by Professor Dixon of the Imperial University.

It is a somewhat odd destiny that has attached a Queen's name to the three most notable epochs of English literature. The age of Elizabeth is followed after the lapse of a century by the age of Queen Anne. Another century brings us to the present era, whose jubilee was celebrated only four years ago. In comparison with the first and the last outbursts of literary fertility the so-called Augustan era of Queen Anne sinks into comparative insignificance, whether we consider its mere duration of years or the splendour and variety of genius in the men who made it famous. Queen Elizabeth, a woman of twenty-five when she ascended the throne, ruled England for nearly half a century and died a childless old woman. Anne occupied the throne for only a dozen years. Queen Victoria has already reigned for nearly ten years longer than the long reign of Queen Elizabeth. But the literary epoch known as the Elizabethan is made to cover a much longer period than the forty-five years of the Virgin Queen's reign. Commencing with Wyatt and Surrey, both of whom died while she was still a child, it embraces the first portion of Milton's literary activity, and ends with the death of Ben Johnson in 1637. The Victorian era is generally understood to cover the splendid efflorescence of English genius that began with the century, Wordsworth, Scott, and Byron being the leaders of the new romantic movement. Some one has remarked that it takes [a great deal of history to make but a little literature. The forces, then, which have operated in the production of such luxuriant literary harvests as have been garnered in England in the sixteenth and the nineteenth centuries must necessarily be powerful and far-reaching. Every literature worthy of the name is the product of a national life, that has asserted itself against destructive influences from without and from within, and longs to find expression in "winged words." One frequently hears in general conversation an utterance given to the language of a spurious cosmopolitanism. The sooner, say these philosophers, we do away with national boundaries and national peculiarities, with differences of institutions, with differences of dress, with differences of manner, nay even with differences of language, the nearer shall we arrive at an ideal state of civilization. The student of literature has a far different tale to tell. His studies disclose to him the fact that an exuberant national life, the result of many sacrifices, the outcome of a history which includes much tragedy, is necessary to the production of any stable and lasting literature. Without Marathon or Salamis Athens would not have produced her wonderful drama, and Æschylus, who was prouder of his prowess at Marathon than of his literary fame, and Sophocles, who served as an Athenian general, would never have been heard of. The triumphant spirit of Imperial Rome breathes through the sonorous pages of Virgil :—

Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento.[1]

The greatness of the republics of mediæval Italy, the centre and focus of European civilization until that wonderful country handed over the torch to fresher and more virile nations, lends its mighty spirit to the intense utterances of Dante, himself an eager politician, who fought and suffered for his city and party. An historical explanation must therefore precede any attempt to estimate the two great periods of our national literature. The high quality of the poetry of Sidney, Spenser, and Shakespeare, of Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Browning has its roots in a long past of noble deeds and chivalrous prowess, in much courageous action, endurance, and suffering on behalf of national ideas and national institutions. The men of Elizabeth's reign were themselves partakers in the national affairs. Spenser, who sustains the poetic flight more steadily than almost any other of the world's poets, was a keen politician, a zealous patriot, and a man of action. Sidney was a diplomatist, the hero of the tournament, a soldier who fell gloriously on the field of battle. Ben Jonson was also a bold and determined soldier. And Shakespeare, if fate denied him a like scope for his activities, was yet an excellent business man and a sound lawyer. The literature of the period is full of the energy of active men, and does not smell of the lamp. To use the magnificent words of Milton, it is "the utterance of a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks. . . . like an eagle muing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam." The dream of a world-republic whose annual subject of interest would be the discussion of a world-budget, is a fatuous illusion. "How is it," asks a recent contributor to one of our magazines, "how is it that in poetry and romance practical business-like England bears away the bell? In music, painting, and sculpture we have been surpassed by other nations, but this makes the matter still more inexplicable, poetry being the highest of the arts." The question has to be answered by an examination of the causes which made Elizabethan England what it was.

England was the only country whom the various troubles of the sixteenth century allowed to retain and to develop her national institutions without loss, through civil war, of the national life-blood. The sixteenth century was for Germany a period of retrogression in almost every department. She began the century with quite as fair prospects of development as her insular neighbour, whom she influenced deeply both from the religious and intellectual sides, being the mother-country of the Reformation, and the seat of literary accomplishments and civic splendour. At the close of the century England reigned supreme in literature, in foreign enterprise, in political development, even in the size and importance of her cities. Germany had become to her, instead of a bounteous mother of arts, a mere barbaric realm of sorcery and fantastic tales. France, torn in pieces by civil discord, the results of that fatal spirit of no-compromise which drove Calvin, one of its chief expounders, to Geneva, had to wait till the next century for the development of her literature. The persecutions of the Duke of Alva in the Netherlands served to enrich England with educated and high principled refugees, who were thus lost to their own native land. In Spain a cold, punctilious, and arrogant sovereign, who, however, merely reflected the spirit of an excessively exclusive and overbearing aristocracy, had repressed the exuberant new literary spirit, which had shown no little promise in the development of a romantic drama. In Italy there was no national spirit whatever, Spain having parcelled out the peninsula into dependencies; and the pettiness of the life at the various Italian courts and capitals was reflected in the literature. Besides, the great factor of morality which, after all, as a profound thinker has remarked, *is the nature of things*, was singularly absent from Italian life. As a class the Italian humanists (or expounders of the new learning), have been described as at once frivolous and pedantic, servile and vicious. Italy was regarded by the stricter peoples of the North as the home of treason, lying, poisoning, and every form of swinish debauchery. "An Italianate Englishman," it was said, "is a devil incarnate." Ascham in his *Scholemaster* advised such of his countrymen as travelled there, to behave like Ulysses when he passed the enchanted isles; he stopped his ears with wax, and bound himself fast to the mast of his vessel.

When Elizabeth in 1558 ascended the English throne, the nation, as a corporate unit, was feeble and divided; she left it powerful and united. Her mother's history made the young queen of necessity a Protestant, and the breach with Rome which had been consummated in 1540 by the excommunication of her father Henry, and was in no wise soldered up by the short four years of her elder sister's reign, was now rendered complete and final. England, therefore, which no foreign army has invaded since the days of King John, sprang now into unfettered and complete independence under a spirited, prudent, and able sovereign. All the conditions were such as to brace and exhilarate the national life. The wonderfully vigorous manhood of the era, freed from the bondage of an iron ecclesiasticism, and strengthened intellectually by the absorption of the unequalled literature of Greece and Rome—a rich feast after the meagre diet of mediæval logic and theology—found in England particularly favourable conditions for symmetrical expansion. It is difficult to account for the appearance of individual geniuses, and sometimes we seem to see in different lands at different crises of history splendid opportunities for the development of such, when nature proves sterile and refuses to provide the needed man. This much, however, must be conceded. As the soil requires long and careful attention before perfection in flower or plant is attained, so must a great poet, and especially a great dramatist, live in an age of great deeds, and be borne aloft on the crest of a mighty wave of national enthusiasm or excitement. He demands surroundings which stimulate his nascent powers, and an audience responsive to his stirring appeals. Every man is the product of his age, and an individual, however great his genius, cannot rise to the summit of greatness without the assistance of his age and of a suitable environment. One might as well expect the great gilt ball that tops the dome of St. Peter's at Rome to poise itself in the air without support.

The leading characteristic of Elizabethan literature is its wonderful drama, which remains a heritage for all time. In this respect it affords a striking contrast to Victorian literature, which, while it has given us perhaps a score of dramas that are worth studying in a quiet nook of a library, has been almost altogether barren in the field of the living drama. And yet London is perhaps more of a theatre-going place in these days of ours than it ever was; but the plays are mere wonders of upholstery with a frivolous, shallow, and almost childish dialogue. The drama in Shakespeare's time fought against serious obstacles, and gained energy in the struggle. Stage-managers found great difficulty in obtaining for their theatres convenient sites within the city walls, and had to be content with inconvenient and, in summer, roofless structures. The subject for disputation given in the year 1593 to Oxford candidates for the degree of M.A. seems to us a strange one—Are players infamous? And, stranger still, the decision was

[1] Æneid, VI, 851.

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affirmative. The drama, despised by the learned of the time, has since become the wonder and delight of scholars, and no such decision would be returned now. And yet the two eras are remarkably alike in most essential respects. Novels have superseded the drama in all its more serious and educative functions. Both periods are notable for the singular beauty and varied melody of their lyric poetry. Both periods also are remarkable for the great influence which Italian thought and art have had upon their leading spirits. Among our moderns, Byron, who chanced to die in Greece, Shelley, Landor, and the two Brownings, not to mention others, made Italy their home. Keats's grave is in the imperial city, a meet place for so appreciative a student of Italian poetry, "an Elizabethan born out of due time." Our modern literature is redolent of Italian art, is stocked with Italian themes. Ours is the third period of direct Italian influence. The first came through Chaucer. When poetry had degenerated in England from the masterly heroics of the great fourteenth century poet into the smart doggerel of Hawes and Skelton and the dull inartisticness of Berkeley's *Ship of Fools*, Wyatt and Surrey relit the lamp of artistic poetry from Italy, where they, like other Englishmen of fashion, had travelled. Most of the stories on which Shakespeare builds his dramas are taken directly from Italian sources. In matters of versification the Italians had reached a standard of high elaboration and perfection which made it necessary for the poets of other less cultured races to become, for a time at least, mere pupils and imitators. Sir Philip Sidney's first poetical efforts were in a certain sense little more than exercises in an attempt to naturalize all sorts of Italian and classic metres, hexameters, elegiacs, sapphics, terza rima, ottava rima, sestines, and madrigals. Many of these forms never took root, and have not been heard of since. Others have tried to struggle back into life in these latter days. The immense mass of new material which had to be assimilated by English scholars and readers at this epoch led to no little pedantry and affectation, which Shakespeare makes sport of in one of his early comedies.[3] But the more capacious minds were able to assimilate without intellectual harm the rich and stimulating diet, and to make use of it in the creation of a new, fresh, and vigorous literature. That prince of literary men, Erasmus, who in Henry VIII.'s reign filled two important chairs at Cambridge University, used Latin in a free fashion which caused conservative scholars to look aghast. He actually employed phrases which had not received the sanction of Cicero! Breaking away from the cramping fetters which restricted him to a vocabulary belonging to a distant age, he framed new words as he required them. In the same way Shakespeare and his brother dramatists of the romantic school, rejecting the so-called unities of time, place, and action as needless restrictions to the free development of their art, were enabled to create a drama worthy of the age and instinct with new life. And it is Spenser's unique glory that he invented a stanza the most perfect for a particular purpose ever framed by poet, intricate and elaborate, yet perfectly under his mastery. As a versifier Spenser stands supreme; in the realm of pure poetry many critics place him only second to Shakespeare. His *Faerie Queene* is a marvel of tireless poetic flight.

Let us now turn for a moment to consider the historical position of Englishmen at the beginning of the present century. The insular and independent position of the Kingdom had once more been brought into startling prominence by an intended invasion, and by a magnificent naval victory which frustrated the chances of invasion once and for all. The repulsion seven hundred years ago of the Mongol Tartars from the shores of Japan by the warriors of Kiushiu still remains a favourite subject with your artists and engravers, as being an event on whose depiction the patriotic eye may rest with pride. England has two such events in her history. The defeat of the Armada in 1588 and the victory in 1805 at Trafalgar enabled her to remain mistress inviolate within her own domains, the heiress of unravished heirlooms:

> They melt into the mass of waves, which mar
> Alike the Armada's pride or spoils of Trafalgar.

Wordsworth, who is in many respects the distinctive poet of the century, wrote sonnet after sonnet to stimulate the patriotic zeal of his countrymen in the great struggle against the modern Ghengis Khan. The complete success which crowned the British arms left the nation free to work out its own problems in its own way and in a variety of different forms. The national spirit had been neither embittered nor enfeebled by the struggle, and its literature was consequently marked by a peculiar spontaneity and freshness. The literary spirit of the time at once harked back to the period in English history with which it had most affinity.

[3] Love's Labour Lost.

Coleridge, the poet who in all his moods was always a poet, Lamb, Hazlitt, and others, began to interpret to their contemporaries the great productions of the early dramatists. The sonnet became a power again in the hands of Wordsworth, Leigh Hunt, Keats, and Rosetti. Shelley soared into a region of pure imagination that no spirit had dared to approach since Spenser died. And a body of lyric poetry was produced, unrivalled for richness and variety. In perfect abandon and native flavour, the productions of the earlier era may be allowed to be superior; there is a more immediate appeal in them, perhaps, from tongue to ear. Most of these earlier poets "sang but as the linnet sings," a description of his own poetry by Tennyson which scarcely hits the mark. His productions are the elaborate and intricate work of the deliberate and conscious artist. Mr. J. Addington Symonds, in an article contributed to the *Fortnightly Review* of December, 1888, relates how he once asked an eminent musician, the late Madame Goldschmidt, why Shelley's lyrics were ill-adapted to music. She made him read aloud to her the "Hymn of Pan," and those lovely lines, "To Night,"

> Swiftly walk o'er the western wave,
> Spirit of Night!

Then she pointed out how the verbal melody seemed intended to be self-sufficing in these lyrics, how full of complicated thoughts and changeful images the verse is, how packed with consonants the words are, how the tone of emotion alters, and how no one melodic phrase could be found to fit the daedal woof of the poetic emotion:

> Wrap thy form in a mantle grey,
> Star-in-wrought!
> Blind with thine hair the eyes of day
> Kiss her until she be wearied out. . . .

How different, she remarked, it is from the *largo* of Milton,—

> Let the bright seraphim in burning row,
> Their loud uplifted angel-trumpets blow.

It is a curious commentary on this remark, that the exquisite lyric in Browning's *A Blot in the Scutcheon*, a lyric characterized by Archdeacon Farrar as the most beautiful song to a woman in the English tongue, had to be omitted from the acted play. Instead of summing up the action in a burst of melody, as Shakespeare's lyrics do, it delayed and embarrassed the dramatic situation:

> Song to Mildred.
>
> There's a woman like a dewdrop, she's so purer than the purest;
> And her noble heart's the noblest, yes, and her sure faith's the surest;
> And her eyes are dark and humid, like the depth on depth of lustre,
> Had I the harebell, while her tresses, sunnier than the wild-grape cluster,
> Gush in golden-tinted plenty down her neck's rose-misted marble;
> Then her voice's music—call it the well's bubbling, the bird's warble!
> And this woman says, "My days were sunless and my nights were moonless,
> Parched the pleasant April herbage, and the lark's heart's outbreak tuneless,
> If you loved me not!" And I who—ah, for words of flame!—adore her,
> Who am mad to lay my spirit prostrate palpably before her—
> I may enter at her portal soon, as now her lattice takes me,
> And by noontide as by night make her mine, as hers she makes me!

The perfect freedom and wild-rose unconventionality of the Elizabethan poets, which the master spirits of the time suffered but seldom to lapse into license, proved a snare to their degenerate successors. The wave had spent itself. Law was a necessity in the department of literature as well as in society. The poet's garden had become a mass of weeds. A reign of strict conventionality now set in, repulsive and intolerable to us in many of its aspects, but distinctly beneficial. It kept poetry within due limits, and in its social aspect it deepened and strengthened the individual character. Beauty and pleasure had for the time to be subordinated to principle and duty. The chivalrous spirit which still lingered on at Elizabeth's court, and graces so much of the poetry, notably the *Faerie Queene*, died a natural death under the false Stuarts. Shakespeare touches the whole gamut of human life except one chord, the chord of religion; and it is this chord which Milton in his later work, which is distinctly un-Elizabethan, strikes with consummate mastery. The sonnet on his blindness is a striking exemplification of the change which he—and the poet was a type of the age—had undergone since he wrote his first dainty lyrics:—

> On His Blindness.
>
> When I consider how my light is spent
> Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
> And that one talent which is death to hide,
> Lodg'd with me useless, though my soul more bent
> To serve therewith my Maker, and present
> My true account, lest he returning chide;
> "Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"
> I fondly ask: But Patience, to prevent
> That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need
> Either man's work, or his own gifts; who best
> Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best; his state
> Is kingly; thousands at his bidding speed,
> And post o'er land and ocean without rest;
> They also serve who only stand and wait."

The mighty scientific movement set on foot by the discoveries of Copernicus and Sir Isaac Newton, has also given poetry a new outlook, and a fresh field. Man, no longer able to consider the universe as made for him and his, or the earth as the centre of all things,—which is the Elizabethan conception—has studied nature reverently for herself and at first hand. The divine beauty of nature, of rocks, mountains, and cataracts, has come to this age as a revelation. A race of poets has sprung up who have taught us to separate the picture in nature from the mechanical law. In this new departure Wordsworth led the way, and others have pressed on after him, till the whole mass of society is now leavened. Wordsworth, the high priest of nature, the lone pedestrian among the mountains "far from the madding crowd," would have been considered a lunatic in the times of Elizabeth. It is seldom that mountains are even named by Shakespeare and his contemporaries; to this age of ours they are specially dear. Who does not love Shelley's inimitable lines?

> And multitudes of dense white fleecy clouds
> Were wandering in thick flocks along the mountains
> Shepherded by the slow, unwilling wind.[3]

But it is in the following passage from Wordsworth that this new and important departure in poetry finds completest expression. The individual—largely a product of Puritanism, which deepened and braced and purified the national character—has discovered a personal bond between Nature and himself, and is least solitary when alone:—

> And I have felt
> A presence that disturbs me with the joy
> Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime,
> Of something far more deeply interfused,
> Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
> And the round ocean and the living air,
> And the blue sky, and in the mind of man:
> A motion and a spirit, that impels
> All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
> And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still
> A lover of the meadows and the woods
> And mountains; and of all that we behold
> From this green earth; of all the mighty world
> Of eye and ear, both what they half create
> And what perceive; well pleased to recognize
> In Nature and the language of the sense
> The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
> The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul
> Of all my moral being.[4]

While the Elizabethans lived a social life, at the court or about the taverns and playhouses, the life of the thinkers and workers of the present age is largely a solitary one. Numbers of our literary men spend most of their waking hours in the quiet of their study, or in lone walks or rides through the woodlands and on the hills. Such a life in its perfect abandon and freedom, was for several reasons an impossibility three centuries ago. The lonely colonist—the squatter, the rancher—is not seldom a man of keen literary instinct. For the quiet of the hut or the study, or of the sea-shore, the mountains and the plains, a verse is demanded that is not for singing but for crooning, varied and musical, but with a subdued music, as in the inimitable "Rugby Chapel" of Matthew Arnold:—

> See! In the rocks of the world
> Marches the host of mankind,
> A feeble, wavering line.
> Where are they tending?—A God
> Marshalled them, gave them their goal.—
> Ah, but the way is so long!
> Years they have been in the wild!
> Sore thirst plagues them, the rocks,
> Rising all round, overawe;
> Factions divide them, their host
> Threatens to break, to dissolve.—
> Ah, keep, keep them combined!
> Else of the myriads who fill
> That army not one shall arrive;
> Sole they shall stray; on the rocks
> Batter for ever in vain,
> Die one by one in the waste.

We might go on to further parallels, for the subject is an eminently rich one. Perhaps it is not fair to leave out the singularly intellectual breeding of the English ladies of the sixteenth century. Selden[5] tells us how Henry VIII.'s permission to his people to read the Scriptures in the vernacular was denied to servants and to all women, except ladies and gentleman, who had leisure and might ask somebody the meaning. Every student of English literature knows the famous passage in Ascham where he describes his interview with Lady Jane Grey, poor victim of an intriguing father-in-law's ambition. The young girl of fifteen was busily engaged in reading Plato's *Phaedo* in the original Greek, a language which she could write with ease. In the fifth year of Elizabeth's reign, we find that clever woman and able sovereign spending her afternoons in reading *Demosthenes*, and we know that she composed sonnets. These incidents indicate the high culture which was allowed to the gentlewomen of the period. Sir Philip Sidney's mother was a type of all that is brightest and best in womanhood. His sister, the Countess of Pembroke, mother of the most accomplished nobleman of his time, was not only his sister in blood, but his sister in soul, with no mean intellectual abilities, and these well-developed. She is the author

[3] *Prometheus Unbound.*
[4] Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey
[5] Table Talk.

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of a pathetic elegy on her brother, incorporated in Spenser's *Astrophel*, one verse of which we will give :—

What cruel hand of cursèd foe unknown
Hath cropped the stock which bore so fair a flower?
Untimely cropped, before it well were grown,
And clean defacèd in untimely hour!
Great loss to all that ever him did see,
Great loss to all, but greatest loss to me!

The Elizabethan age was not an impure age, though in this respect little comparable to our own, so punctilious in all such matters. There is much that is coarse and evil-smelling in the dramas of that time, which we could willingly dispense with. But it was in the main too great and noble an age to delight in mere prurience and obscenity, that "blasphemy against the divine beauty of life."[a] The distinctions of right and wrong, of holy and unholy, are not blurred. Though Elizabeth's court was not altogether free from scandal, it ranked morally far above the Southern courts. The Virgin Queen exercised a strict supervision over her servants, and, on the whole, established excellent traditions which lasted, though somewhat feebly, into the two following reigns. The moral tone of the *Faerie Queene* is high pitched; Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella*, a series of love songs addressed to a married woman, keeps always within the limits of propriety, and ends with dignified self-repression. The age was manly and the moral tone was sound; we have become more sensitive since, but not necessarily in all respects more radically healthy or more essentially pure.

We are far more self-conscious and reflective than our forefathers; life is more of a problem and an enigma to us. The circle of knowledge and the sciences has so widened itself that we can know portions of it only by name, and most of the remainder in but shallow fashion. There is an infinite variety in our life, as compared with the life of these earlier, simpler days. The grand tour for budding statesmen has extended twenty-fold, and now includes a complete circumnavigation of the globe. Negroes and Indians, besides a score of races then unknown, are visited in their own haunts, not only by the voyager but by the everyday traveller. Such is the later aspect of our era, since steam and electricity have been developed in all their mighty power. At present these influences have not had time to produce a fresh poetry of a high order, nor is a literary expansion likely to take place until a succeeding generation. Tennyson in his *Locksley Hall*,[b] a curious medley of melancholy and optimism, gives expression to the fond dreams of the men of 1851, who saw in the Exhibition of that year the pacification of the world, the commencement of a reign of plenty and prosperity :

Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.
There the common sense of most shall hold a fretful world in awe,
And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law.

But society has changed more in the last thirty years than in many a century. Never has a social revolution been more radical. Our aged poet-laureate has given up his early dreams, and almost despairs of the present state of society :

Forward, then, but still remember how the course of time will swerve,
Crook and turn up on itself in many a backward streaming curve.'

The 'still sad music of humanity' threatens to deepen into a mighty roar. But the questions of 1891 are hardly within the limits of our survey. When Lord Tennyson dies, the Victorian era will have ceased; he is the last of the heroes, and who is qualified to succeed him? [c]Even now he feels himself out of touch with his contemporaries. Eighty years have left "the dog too lame to follow with the cry."

The age of industrial optimism may be said to be over; it is that which inspired the earlier utterances of Browning and Tennyson. Their predecessors, Wordsworth and Shelley, disciples of Rousseau, were enthusiasts in the allied cause of the brotherhood of man, although the older poet turned sheer round, and became in this later days a staunch conservative. The Victorian era, already a completed book, can be regarded by us with the critical coolness of outsiders. One of its movements has not yet seen its perfect development, but is still in process,—the national movement, which has been altering the map of Europe during the century and threatens still further to alter it. This is the theme which stirred Byron's blood, and inspired him to write his finest passages, and to it we may look as a fruitful fount of inspiration in the future. Poetry, whether Elizabethan or Victorian or of any-first-class quality, is ever intensely national and patriotic in its sources and sympathies. The poet is the sociologist of his own age and country.

To sum up, then. Prodigality of genius is perhaps the outstanding characteristic of the Elizabethan writers, a careless prodigality which poured forth the treasures of imagination and expression with little or no thought of a reading public or of future generations. On almost all the work of this century the idea of value is firmly stamped, value in the market, as a money return or in the coin of fame. It is scarcely possible to conceive greater carelessness than was shown, for instance, by Shakespeare in the publication of his dramas; they came before the reading-public in the most haphazard way, leaving a legacy of interminable investigation and discussion to the race of commentators. It is doubtful whether Sir Philip Sidney meant that any of his compositions should be published, and his works are all posthumous. The noblemen and Court gentlemen of that day were were very far from pluming themselves greatly on their literary pursuits, preferring the rôle of a Macaenas to the humbler position of a bard. Spenser was the Court poet, whose hope of preferment lay in his pen, and long and weary waiting he was often subjected to before his modest hopes were realized. It was Ben Jonson who first took the bold step of giving forth to the world, early in the seventeenth century, a complete edition of his "Works,"—a step which his contemporaries did not fail to satirize. We live now under far different conditions. An indisposition to publish is is not a foible of our poets. Along with this willingness to appear in print, goes an excessive attention to the distinction of *meum* and *tuum*, which the Elizabethans did in nowise show. Authors have grown to be very careful of the fruits of their brain. When a master-poet like Tennyson is paid at the rate of a dollar a word for a lyric, it is evident that fine phrases and fine images will not be recklessly wasted. Rather will the opposite characteristic be displayed, a cloying and surfeiting of sweet things, thought beaten out to a fineness that makes the whole effect rather thin. It is not that our poets of the nineteenth century are more essentially melancholy or retrospective than their predecessors. The race is still youthful, hopeful, and vigorous, planting colonies all over the globe and ruling empires. Browning, the distinctive poet of the age, is a thorough-going optimist. Wordsworth's poetry is a solace for the solitary, a continually increasing source of delight to the thoughtful man as he advances in life. None but the minor bards affect the tone of deep melancholy and give utterance to a cry of despair. A melancholy ballad or sonnet is a piquant sauce to the every day happiness and jollity of life. For the class to which our poets address themselves is a comfortable, well-to-do, amusement-loving community, revelling in all the simpler joys of life, earning freely and spending freely, serious and moral too, and every now and then undergoing a pessimistic panic of some sort or other. We can scarcely yet be described as a generation which is 'sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,' though less boisterous, no doubt, and less high-spirited than the Elizabethans. We drink deep in pleasure and often overtax ourselves with work, but we are not a down-hearted or an unhappy race. The time is not yet come when, in the words of Christina Rossetti,

Evermore men shall go fearfully,
Bending beneath their weight of heaviness,

It is the dominant religious spirit which has saved us; without the hold which our best characters, our leading minds, have kept on the unseen, life and poetry, the criticism of life, must have turned into

Apples on the Dea Sea shore
All ashes to the taste.

But our best men have expelled fear and faint-heartedness by a brightly-burning faith and hope, which finds expression in Browning's song :—

The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his heaven,
All's right with the world.

Or to turn to the thoughtful sonnet of Matthew Arnold, written after a walk in East London, surely the least inspiriting source for a cheerful utterance :—

O human soul! as long as thou canst so
Set up a mark of everlasting light,
Above the howling senses' ebb and flow,
To cheer thee and to right thee if thou roam,
Not with lost toil thou laborest through the night,
Thou mak'st the heaven thou hop'st indeed thy home.

[a] Shelley, "Defence of Poetry."
[b] *Locksley Hall Sixty Years After.*
[c] *The Fortnightly Review* does not know, but hopes Mr. Lewis Morris will not be the national choice.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 16th.

The New York Board of Trade is opposed to the free coinage of silver.

Later.

It is again stated that President Harrison will veto the Silver Bill if passed.

General Sherman is dead.

London, February 17th.

The Right Hon. John Morley has proposed a vote of censure on the administration in Ireland. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone supported the motion, and the debate is proceeding.

London, February 19th.

Mr. John Morley's motion of censure on the administration in Ireland has been rejected by a majority of 75.

Large sales of silver have taken place in New York.

Later.

Increasing tension exists between the Emperor William and Prince Bismarck, owing to the latter's constant criticisms of the Imperial policy.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, February 2nd.

Four hundred of the garrison at Oporto revolted in favour of a Republic, and entrenched themselves in the Town Hall, where they were bombarded by the loyal portion of the troops. The revolters submitted owing to lack of ammunition. There were fifty killed on both sides. Order has since been restored.

[FROM TONKIN PAPERS.]

Paris, February 2nd.

Sardou's drama "Thermidor," which was being played at the Comedie Française, has been interdicted after the third performance in consequence of disorderly manifestations.

Henri Fonquier and Renach, deputies, questioned the Government on the subject on the 29th, asking what measures were to be taken at once to assure public order and liberty for dramatic art. A stormy debate was closed by the order of the day pure and simple voted on the demand of the Government by 315 to 192.

The Italian Cabinet has resigned in consequence of the rejection of the Bill establishing an additional tax on alcohol. The fall of Crispi is greatly commented on by the French and foreign press. Italian rentes have risen 55 centimes on the Paris Bourse.

The painter Meissonier died on Saturday.

[SHERMAN, Gen. William Tecumseh, was born at Lancaster, Ohio, Feb. 18, 1820. He graduated at the Military Academy at West Point in 1840, served in the Florida War, in the war with Mexico, and elsewhere, until 1853, when he resigned his commission. During the next four years he was a banker in San Francisco; and for the succeeding two years a lawyer at Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1859 he was appointed Superintendent of the Louisiana Military Academy, but resigned in Jan. 1861, when the State seceded from the Union. When the civil war broke out, he was commissioned as Colonel of a regiment of infantry, and commanded a brigade of volunteers at the Battle of Bull Run, and was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers. He received his commission as Brigadier-General in the regular army in July, 1863. In Oct. 1863, he succeeded General Grant as commander of the department of the Tennessee. In March, 1864, when Grant was made Lieutenant General, Sherman succeeded him as commander of the military division of the Mississippi, and organized an effective army of 100,000 men to operate against Gen. J. Johnston. On May 2, 1864, simultaneously with the advance of Gen. Grant in the East, Sherman entered on the invasion of Georgia, and after a number of battles, received the capitulation of Atlanta, Sept. 2, 1864. On Nov. 14, having sent about two-fifths of his force, under General Thomas, to repel General Hood's movement in Tennessee, he marched southward to the sea, with a force of 60,000 men, in less than a month passing over about 300 miles with his army, without any resistance, till he reached Fort McAllister, below Savannah, which he captured after a brief action, Dec. 13, Savannah surrendering Dec. 21, 1864. He fought two battles in North Carolina, March 16 and 20-21, 1865, occupied Goldsboro', March 22, captured Raleigh, April 13, and received General Johnston's surrender, April 26, 1865, upon the same terms as had been accorded to the army under General Lee. The surrender virtually included all the Confederate forces in the field, and brought the war of secession to a close. General Sherman had been made a Major-General in the United States Army, Aug. 12, 1864, for his Atlanta campaign, and after the close of the war continued in command of the Military Division of the Mississippi for more than a year. On July 25, 1866, General Grant having been promoted to be General of the Army, General Sherman was advanced to be Lieutenant-General, and assigned to the command of the Military Division of the Mississippi. In March, 1869, General Grant having been elected President, resigned the position of General of the Army, and Sherman was raised to that rank. In 1871 and 1872 he travelled in Europe and the East, and returning to America made his headquarters at Washington, but in 1874 removed them to St. Louis. He has published a full "Narrative of his Military Operations," 1876.—*Men of the Time.*]

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Feb. 27th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 21st.*
From Europe viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 22nd.†
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Wedn'day, Mar. 4th.§
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 1st.‖
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 7th.¶
From Europe via Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Monday, Mar. 2nd.

* *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on February 5th. † *Natal* left Kobe on February 21st. § *Gaelic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on February 14th. ‖ *Verona* left Hongkong on February 10th. ¶ *Parthia* left Vancouver on February 18th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Patroclus*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 24th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 24th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 1st.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wedn'day, Mar. 4th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 7th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar 7th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 14th February,—Hakodate 12th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omaha (12), U.S. flagship, Captain B. J. Cromwell, 15th February,—Kobe 14th February.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 15th February,—Kobe 14th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Swatow, German steamer, 630, Hilderbraut, 15th February,—Takao 7th February, Sugar.—Browne & Co.

Batavia, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 16th February,—Hongkong viâ ports 5th February, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 16th February,—Hakodate 13th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tellus, Norwegian steamer, 1,948, Amundsen, 16th February,—Hongkong 7th February, Coal.—Hongkong & Shanghai Bank.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 16th February,—Hongkong 6th, Nagasaki 12th, and Kobe 15th February, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Abyssinia, British steamer, 2,300, Williamson, 17th February,—Vancouver, B.C., 2nd February, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 17th February,—Kobe 16th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 856, Trent, 18th February,—Nagasaki 16th February, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Ceylon, Norwegian steamer, 1,458, H. Boe, 18th February,—Batoum 22nd December, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Pembrokeshire, British steamer, 1,716, Brown, 18th February,—Hongkong 11th February, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Wm. Branfoot, British steamer, 1,322, Brown, 18th February,—Kobe 16th February, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 18th February,—Hakodate 16th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mascotte, British steamer, 2,113, Hay, 19th February,—Shanghai 15th February, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 1,662, Gilde, 20th February,—Kobe 18th February, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 20th February,—Kobe 18th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 20th February,—Nagasaki 17th February, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 20th February,—Hachinohe 18th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 21st February,—Hongkong 15th February, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 21st February,—Hakodate 18th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 14th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,445, J. H. Clark, 15th February,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Calédonien, French steamer, 2,500, Maubeuge, 15th February,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 15th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niobe, German steamer, 1,666, Thomsen, 15th February,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Gleneagles, British steamer, 1,837, E. F. Park, 16th February,—Nagasaki, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Batavia, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 17th February,—Vancouver, B.C., General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 148, J. T. Harrison, 17th February,—Guam, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 17th February,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 17th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wordsworth, British steamer, 1,314, Phillips, 17th February,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Abyssinia, British steamer, 2,300, Williamson, 18th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Swatow, German steamer, 630, Hilderbrant, 18th February,—Takao, Ballast.—Browne & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 19th February,—Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 19th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

North American, American ship, 1,514, Crulman, 20th February,—Manila, Ballast.—Captain.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 856, Trennt, 20th February,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 20th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nautilus, British steam-schooner, 95, Schmikel, 20th February,—North Pacific, Ballast.—Eastern Whaling Co.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 21st February,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Clan Buchanan, British ship, 2,072, Geo. Harris, 21st February,—Hakodate, Sulphur and Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Batavia*, from Hongkong:—For Vancouver: Mr. W. S. Smith in cabin; and 68 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Bass, Messrs. R. B. Smith, Cryan, Sheridan, Mixou, S. Kurino, Mr. and Mrs. Brokenshire, Mr. and Mrs. Silke, Mr. and Mrs. Silke, Jun., and Mr. J. C. Peter. Disembarked at Kobe—Messrs. E. Dodge, J. J. W. Ford (2), M. M. Fukui, Densmore, Mrs. McKennau, Miss Ferguson, Miss Mott, Miss Beacher, Dr. and Mrs. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Harder, Messrs. W. S. Flack, W. Bolton, and J. Schlosser in cabin.

Per British steamer *Abyssinia*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Messrs. Munn, Johnstone, H. W. Frost, Miss L. J. Kay, Mr. F. G. Saunders, Miss M. Riggs, Miss Bee, Miss Hanzlik, Miss Collier, Miss M. Wilson, and Mr. Matsuke in cabin; 69 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Mrs. M. Chiya, Miss de Hanoveise, Mr. and Mrs. Morel, and Mr. Macondray in cabin; and 31 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Hakodate:—Miss Palmer, Mrs. Longford, Mr. R. Kobayashi, and Mr. S. Tokito in cabin; Messrs. T. Miyasaki, S. Kawashima, T. Harada, M. Nishiyama, S. Nishida, K. Soida, Mrs. S. Tokito, and Miss M. Tokito in second class, and 50 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. R. M. Scott, Miss Cushing, Mr. Carames, and Mr. S. Thompson in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from Hongkong:—Miss J. Carr, Dr. J. Dudley, R.N., Miss L. Chamberlin and servant, Mr. A. Edgar Beard, Hon. Edward Bedole, Mrs. C. R. Churchill, and Mrs. M. B. Drallard and child in cabin; 4 Europeans in steerage. For San Francisco: Captain Macdonough, R.A., and Mr. and Mrs. Molineux in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. J. Mada in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 11 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Messrs. S. Erskine, E. Oppenheimer, A. Meier, Chas. von Heydebrand, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Taylor and servant, Messrs. Alfred Buescheł, H. H. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. James Valentine, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baos, Messrs. Marty, G. Constant, Saga, K. Yamazaki, A. Okka, S. Yamazaki, Courtin, Mr. and Mrs. Guedon and 2 children, Miss J. Morinot, Messrs. Shuffry, G. Komaki, and Fennelle in cabin.

Per British steamer *Batavia*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Messrs. Wm. Smith and Frank Fellows in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Tanaka and Watanabe in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Ishigoro, Messrs. Staffa, Hidano, Okuyama, and Hashimoto in second class, and 38 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Silke, Mr. Silke, Jun., Mr. Chandos Pole, Miss Chandos Pole, Capt. Lewis, Messrs. Walter Leslie, R. Howie, Nuttall, C. W. Arnould, Ah Chew, Wong Mow, Lo Wan, and Chun Ming Wong in cabin; 5 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 608 bales; Waste Silk for France, 142 bales; Treasure for Singapore, $150,000; for Shanghai, $10,500.

Per British steamer *Batavia*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	—	—	—	502	502
Foochow	198	—	—	477	675
Shanghai	—	—	—	236	236
Calcutta	—	—	—	27	27
Hyogo	771	—	—	609	1,380
Yokohama	715	—	—	81	796
Total	1,684	—	—	1,932	3,616

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	184	—	184
Shanghai	67	—	67
Yokohama	461	—	461
Total	712	—	712

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $100,000.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 173 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Hakodate the 12th February at 4.10 a.m. Arrived at Ogimohama the 13th at 3.40 a.m. and left at 8.30 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 14th February at 10 a.m. Fine weather all the way.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 14th February at noon; had gentle to light northerly winds and fine weather; passed Oshima at 8.30 p.m., wind hauling N.W. and increasing to fresh breeze; on the 15th at 7.30 a.m. passed Omaisaki; had strong W.N.W. wind and clear weather up to Rock Island, which was passed at 10.20 a.m.; thence to port moderate to gentle N.E. winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 4.30 p.m.

The British steamer *Batavia*, Captain Hill, reports:—Left Hongkong the 5th February; had strong northerly winds and heavy sea to Nagasaki; thence to Kobe and Yokohama fine weather.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 16th February at noon; had light variable winds and fine clear weather; passed Oshima light at 8.45 p.m.; thence to Rock Island fresh N.W. breeze, then wind hauling to the N.E. light fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 17th February at 5.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Wynn, reports:—Left Hakodate the 16th February at 2 p.m.; had light westerly and north-westerly winds and smooth sea with fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th February at 6.20 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain Searle, reports:—Left Hongkong the 15th February; had moderate N.E. monsoon with fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 21st February at 2.57 a.m. Time 5 days, 18 hours, and 16 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Hakodate the 18th February at 2 p.m.; had light winds from S.E. and fine weather; passed Shiriya-saki at 6.30 p.m., wind shifting to N.W. and continuing to arrival to Ogimohama. Arrived the 19th at 2 p.m. and left the 20th at 5.30 a.m.; had light variable winds throughout the passage; passed Inuboye at 9 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 21st February at 8.30 a.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is still no sign of an improvement in the position of the Import Market. A few sales of 16/24's English Yarns and of Shirtings have been made at unaltered rates. Sales for the week amount to 450 bales English Yarns, 30 bales Bombays, 5,000 pieces Shirtings, and 750 pieces Italians.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

		PER PIECE.	
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.54½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.07	to	0.14
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	PER PIECE. 1.00	to	1.25½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30	to	34
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

		PER PICUL.	
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	28.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to	32.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to	38.00
	PER BALE.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—	

METALS.

More enquiry and some fair sales have been made at rather higher prices. Holders complain, however, that the rise is not sufficient to compensate them for the fall in silver and in exchange.

	PER PICUL.		
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$2.65	to	2.70
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.75	to	2.80
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.65	to	2.80
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.70	to	2.80
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.20	to	4.50
Tin Plates, per box	5.10	to	5.40
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to	1.35

KEROSENE.

Considerable sales reported, and prices are said to be better in Tokyo market. We leave quotations unchanged but strong, tending upwards. Fresh arrivals have again increased the stock on hand.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.67½ to 1.70
Comet	1.65 to 1.67½
Devoe	1.62½ to 1.65
Russian	1.57½ to 1.60

SUGAR.

Some business continues in White Refined as last advised. Fresh arrivals of Brown are looked for from Takao by early opportunities.

	PER PICUL.
White Refined	4.25 to 7.25
Brown Takao	$3.80 to 3.85
Brown Daitong	3.10 to 3.75
Brown Canton	4.70 to 5.70
Brown Java and Penang	4.50 to 5.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 12th inst; since that date settlements in this Market have been 1,007 piculs divided thus: *Hanks*, 24; *Filatures*, 611; *Rereels*, 288; *Kakeda*, 63; *Oshu*, 21. In addition to these figures direct shipments by Japanese are 164 bales, thus making the total export trade for the eight days equal to 1,180 piculs.

Market has continued active and strong, sellers holding off and raising quotations daily. Exchange has declined rapidly, but not so fast as dollar prices have advanced. Holders are wonderfully strong, and many of them still persist in keeping their silk off sale. Others will only consent to operate with a very small portion of their holdings at present prices, fully believing in better rates later on. Japanese producers generally are of the opinion that the exceptionally hard winter in Europe will damage the mulberry trees there, and diminish the new crop accordingly. In consequence they believe that Japan silks must be in demand before very long at much more remunerative prices than those at present ruling.

Arrivals from the interior are now small, and the stock list shows a reduction of nearly 1,000 piculs on the week. The Exchange problem is still very difficult; native holders are strongly of opinion that it will go down yet more, and are inclined to keep back their silks in consequence.

Quotations given below are in many cases nominal, and although there are considerable orders in hand both for Europe and America, buyers and sellers do not meet very frequently.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote: the *Belgic*, on the 13th, took 691 bales for the New York trade; the *Calédonien* (French Mail), on the 15th inst, had 608 bales and the Canadian steamer *Batavia*, on the 17th, took 461 bales. These departures bring the present export figures up to 19,782 piculs, against 33,342 piculs last year and 35,422 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Small business; ordinary *Shinshu Hanks* were done at the beginning of the week at $495; they are now held for an advance of four per cent. on these figures without finding buyers.

Filatures.—The principal trade has been in this class, buyers for both Europe and America operating freely whenever they can find sellers. $640 has been paid for *Shinshu* of extra quality, with $630 for No. 1; while true fine size of the best quality is held for $650. Good No. 1 *Shinshu* filatures of full size cannot be bought under $625, and in very many instances holders will not sell at all or at any price. This is especially the case with *Tokosha*, *Shunmeisha* and many others.

Re-reels.—These are held strong at quotations, and very little business has in consequence been done. Medium grades of good character are hard to find. The best chops are held very strong at over $600, and the lower qualities look very dear at present quotations. One parcel of *Katsuyama* has been done at the high figure of $640.

Kakeda.—Small business in this class, holders asking too much. *White Horsehead* was done at $570 some days ago, and is now held for $590. There being no buyers at this figure the owner is actually consigning some bales on his own account.

Oshu.—A few small sales of *Hamatsuki* at $512½.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1½	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	$520 to 530
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	510 to 520
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	500 to 505
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	490 to 495
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	480 to 485
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	470 to 475
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		610 to 620
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		560 to 570
Re-reels—Extra		640 to 650
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		620 to 630
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		610 to 615
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		590 to 600
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570 to 580
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		540 to 550
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1		600 to 610
Kakedas—No. 1½		585 to 590
Kakedas—No. 2		575 to 580
Kakedas—No. 2½		565 to 570
Kakedas—No. 3		555 to 560
Kakedas—No. 3½		545 to 550
Kakedas—No. 4		535 to 540
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		520 to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		530 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 20th Feb., 1891:—

		Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		7,743	14,129	18,915
America		11,582	18,792	16,264
Total	Bales	19,325	32,921	35,179
	Piculs	19,782	33,342	35,422
		Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		21,200	34,750	35,400
Stock, 20th February		9,900	9,400	5,800
Available supplies to date		31,100	37,150	41,200

WASTE SILK.

More business in this department, and settlements for the week are 1,050 piculs divided thus: *Noshi*, 300; *Kibiso*, 550; *Mawata*, 50; *Neri*, 150.

Demand for Europe seems to hold good. Our stock is nearly depleted of good qualities, especially in *Noshi*, and buyers are running more upon *Kibiso*. Holders think that they should obtain somewhat higher prices now that exchange is down to low figures once again. As matters stand our quotations give a good idea of present values, with the reservation that for special qualities buyers would have to pay considerably more.

The Messageries steamer *Calédonien*, on the 15th inst, carried 142 bales of various waste, and the present export figures in this department are 22,472 piculs against 21,553 last year and 25,108 to the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—These are apparently a dead letter, there being no business whatever.

Noshi.—A fair amount of daily purchases in the medium and lower grades: *Filatures* at $135; *Oshu* $130; *Joshu* $75; *Shinshu* $110.

Kibiso.—Some large lines have been booked, including *Mino* at $77½; *Joshu* at $49; *Shinshu* $55 with low curlies at $30. Very little done in Filature wastes.

Mawata.—About 50 piculs of rather poor assortment are noted at $177.

Sundries.—Considerable business has transpired in *Neri* and *Boseki*; the former in common qualities at from $9 to $12; the latter bringing $35 a picul, with some inferior quality at $21.

In other sorts no business.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135 to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130 to	145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130 to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85 to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½ to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70 to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110 to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100 to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55 to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50 to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45 to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½ to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15 to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180 to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 20th Feb., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	21,185	19,363	22,630
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	22,472	21,553	25,108
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	25,800	23,150	27,450
Stock, 20th February	5,100	9,000	5,150
Available supplies to date	30,900	32,150	32,600

Exchange has fallen in sympathy with the smart drop in the price of silver. Present quotations are:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅝; Documents, 3/3¾; New York, 30 d/s. U. S. $79½; 4 m/s. U. S. $80; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.11; 6m/s. fcs. 4.13.

Estimated Silk Stock, 20th February, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	230	Cocoons	350
Filatures	5,770	Noshi-ito	1,050
Re-reels	3,330	Kibiso	3,400
Kakeda	400	Mawata	120
Oshu	160	Sundries	180
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	9,900	Total piculs	5,100

TEA.

Very small doings in common leaf. Prices quite nominal and season finished.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has fallen during the week, but revived a point yesterday.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2⅞
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.06
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.14
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On San Francisco—Private 90 days' sight	79
Silver	45

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 1891.

DEATHS.

At No. 66, Main Street, February 23rd, at 20 minutes past 7 o'clock, in her 44th year, MARGARET RUTH, beloved wife of Edward A. Bird.

On the 15th instant, suddenly, at Foochow, aged 24, FREDERICK JAMES DIVERS, Chinese Customs Service, only son of Edward Divers, M.D., F.R.S., Imperial University, Tokyo.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

PRINCESS SANJO is at present a sufferer from influenza.

MR. OTANI, of Yokohama, has been appointed President of the Japan Tea Export Company.

THE Japanese war-vessels *Kongo Kan* and *Hiyei Kan* arrived at Port Said on the 22nd instant.

MR. KONDO MASUKI, formerly *Chargé d'Affairs* at Sôul, returned to the capital on the 24th inst.

THE Cabinet and other Government Offices were closed on the 25th instant, the day of Prince Sanjo's funeral.

HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS YAMASHINA arrived in Tokyo on the morning of the 20th instant from the western capital.

THE section between Tokagawa and Kurozaki (over 5 miles) of the Kyushu Railway Company will be opened about the 24th instant.

MARQUIS HACHISUKA SHIGEAKI and Viscount Matsudaira Tadanari have been appointed managers of the Red Cross Society of Japan.

SEVERAL merchants of Sendai have decided to establish a Chamber of Commerce in that city, and have elected Messrs Kato Hikoshiro, Ise Saisuke, and Ito Seijiro to form a Committee for the purpose of carrying out the preliminary arrangements of the Chamber.

ABOUT a hundred residents of the Yejiri, Hokkaido, presented on the 24th instant a petition to the Diet asking that a local assembly for Hokkaido should be established.

FIRE occurred on the night of the 19th instant in a house at Neribe-cho, Shitaya, Tokyo, destroying 23 buildings, 8 buildings being partly damaged before the flames could be subdued.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE KITASHIRAKAWA YOSHIHISA, who had been absent for some time in Saitama Prefecture on official business, returned to the capital on the 20th inst.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO, who had been absent for some time in Shizuoka Prefecture on official business, returned to the capital on the 24th instant to attended the funeral of Prince Sanjo.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR despatched on the 24th instant Viscount Tominokoji, a Chamberlain, with a message of condolence and a present to the family of the late Prince Sanjo.

A SPECIAL general meeting of shareholders of the Yokohama Union Electric Light Company was held on the 21st instant. The profits of the company for the last half-year were *yen* 800.845.

MR. SASAKI and several officers of the Naval Department, who were ordered some time ago to proceed to France to take charge of the *Chishima Kan*, left the capital on the 22nd instant to discharge their mission.

MR. YUZAWA TADASUKE and four other residents of Otaru, Hokkaido, have applied to the Authorities asking for permission to lay a tramway between Temiyacho and the Sumiyoshicho Station (distance about 5 miles).

IN consequence of a heavy snow-fall on the 18th instant the roof of the Nunobe Primary School, Nunobemura, Iwafunegori, Niigata Prefecture, fell in, killing three, severely injuring two, and slightly injuring three of the scholars.

A COMMERCIAL lecture meeting was held on the night of the 20th instant, at the Machigai-sho, Honchodori, Yokohama, at which over eight hundred persons were present. Messrs. Shimada Saburo and Asakusa Tomotetsu delivered speeches.

A MEETING of the Obstetric Society was held on the afternoon of the 22nd instant in the Houjo Hospital, Yokoami-cho, Honjo, Tokyo, at which Messrs. Sasaki and Kuge, of the College of Medicine in the Imperial University, delivered lectures.

ON the 24th instant Mr. N. Hayashi, Master of Services to H.I.M. the Empress Dowager, Mr. Y. Sannomiya, Master of Services to H.I.M. the Empress, and Viscount Kageyukoji, a Chamberlain, proceeded to the residence of the late Prince Sanjo bearing presents to the family.

AN extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 21st instant at the official residence of Count Yamagata, at which all the Ministers of State were present, and matters in connection with the Budget were discussed. The Vice-Ministers of various Departments also attended the meeting.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 24th instant, at which Counts Yamagata, Oyama, Yamada, Saigo, and Goto, Viscounts Aoki and Kabayama, and Messrs. Mutsu and Yoshikawa were present. The proceedings lasted from 10 in the forenoon till a little past 2 in the afternoon.

MESSRS. KAWASE HIDEHIRU, Director of the Fuji Paper Factory, Tani Keizo, Manager of the Oji Paper Factory, Nakano Seiyei, President of the Yuko Paper Factory, Komuro Nobuo, of the Senju Paper Manufacturing Company, and Nakai Saburobei, Director of the Yokkaichi Paper Manufacturing Company, have presented a petition to the Imperial Diet asking that the duty on imported paper should be increased.

DURING the month of December last the quantities of coals that arrived at Shanghai were as follows:—Cardiff coal, 1,258 tons; American anthracite coal, 256 tons; Keelung coal (lump) 1,520 tons; Takashima coal (lump), 880 tons; Takashima coal (dust), 4,868 tons; Miike coal (lump), 10,222 tons; Miike coal (dust), 325 tons; miscellaneous Kiushu coal, 9,281 tons; making a total of 28,570 tons, of which 25,576 tons were Japanese coal.

THE graduation ceremony of the Meiji Female School was held on the 21st inst. The ceremony was opened by the reading of the reports of the school for the last year by Mr. Iwamoto Yoshiharu, head-master of the institution. A number of ladies and gentlemen were present, who were addressed by Mr. Shimada Saburo. Twenty-eight students graduated, of whom 13 were graduates of the academical course, 6 were of the English elective course, and 9 of the shorthand class.

AN extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 23rd instant, at which all the Ministers of State with the exception of Count Goto and Viscount Kabayama were present. The meeting discussed the Budget, the proceedings lasting till late in the evening. Messrs. Watanabe, Vice-Minister of the Financial Department, Katsura, Vice-Minister of the War Department, and Tsuji, Vice-Minister of the Educational Department, were also present at the meeting.

ACCORDING to returns compiled by the Financial Department, the amount of Government paper currency and bank notes in circulation on the 1st instant was *yen* 58,897,599.60, of which *yen* 25,132,740.00 represented Government notes above 1 *yen* face value, and *yen* 8,065,252.10 Government notes under 40 *sen* face value, and *yen* 25,694,598.50 represented bank notes. As compared with the previous month the above shows a decrease of *yen* 74,713.50 in Government paper and *yen* 116,122.00 in bank notes.

ALTHOUGH the Import trade is quiet, there has been a further slight improvement in certain directions, notably in Yarns, the sales having amounted to 600 bales English and 200 bales Bombays, both at better rates. Shirtings to the amount of 3,500 pieces have also been sold, but not much else has transpired in Piece-goods. The Metal market is steady, buyers closely watching exchange. After considerable transactions in Kerosene, the market is quiet. Deliveries continue good, but recent arrivals have raised the stock to 700,000 piculs. Not much doing in Sugar. The Silk trade has been fairly active from day to day, the total business of the week amounting to 1,200 piculs, but prices, being ruled largely by exchange, are just as irregular as the value of the dollar. There has also been a good demand for Waste Silk at full rates. Exchange has fluctuated, and is not at all steady at the close.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UNITED.

SATURDAY'S session in the House of Representatives was remarkable in one respect. It witnessed the first absolutely unanimous adoption of a Government Bill by either House of the Japanese Legislature. Our readers will probably remember that the Budget for next year contains an item of 7,890,000 *yen*, extraordinary expenditure, of which 5¼ millions are to be spent, during the next five years, on adding to the Navy, 2½ millions during the next two years on railway construction, and the remainder on telegraph extension. The funds to meet this extraordinary expenditure are furnished by surpluses of revenue over expenditure in 1888 and 1889. These surpluses ought, according to the Financial Regulations, to be included in the ordinary revenue of next year. In order, therefore, to devote them to special purposes, a law has to be passed, and it was a draft of this law that the House was asked to consider, as a matter of urgency, on Saturday. The Minister President, in submitting the Bill, added a request that the appointment of a Special Committee to examine it might be dispensed with, and that one reading should suffice. The House, without debate, voted the Bill unanimously. This action of the Representatives is significant. It shows that they are not only willing, but even eager, to devote every available *yen* to the development of their country's military capacity. Very truculent and very wicked on the part of the Representatives. But they sin in good company. All the States of Europe adopt precisely the same programme, and though some goody-goody journalists many raise hands of horror over this squandering of the nation's scanty income, Japan will probably go on doing as the rest of the world does without feeling that she is greatly to blame. When her disinterested critics teach her some way of securing her safety other than by means of battalions and ironclads, their anti-armament homilies will acquire practical value. Meanwhile, they are as idle as verses of the Koran read to a congregation of Presbyterians.

SPLIT IN THE RADICAL PARTY.

THE result of the debate on the 20th instant when the Moderates won an unexpected victory, and the House of Representatives placed itself once more in touch with the Constitution, has been a serious split in the ranks of the Radical Party. In the afternoon of the 24th inst., at 1 o'clock twenty-nine members of the Lower House presented themselves at the office of the party, and handed in a document on which were inscribed their signatures and seals below a curt statement that as they saw no prospect of the Constitutional Radical party working in unison hereafter, they desired to give notice of their withdrawal *en masse* from its ranks. The form of speech used in making the announcement indicated that the twenty-nine seceders reverted to the state of an independent party, but as this implied that the Radical party had been originally constituted by a junction of different parties—a procedure interdicted by law—the document was handed back for amendment, and having been subsequently altered to the sense of secession by individuals, was accepted. Among these twenty-nine are to be found some of the most distinguished members of the Radical Party—as Messrs. Kataoka Kenkichi, Hayashi Yuzo, Misaki Kamenosuke, Kato Heishiro, Makino Junzo, Uyeki Yemori, Amano Saburo, Hamano Noboru, Yebashi Ko, Tateishi Ki, and so forth. These are the close followers of Count Itagaki, and after their resignation had been accepted, they repaired to his residence and had a long interview with him. It does not appear, however, that Count Itagaki had counselled their withdrawal. On the contrary, holding himself bound by the spirit of reconciliation in which he had consented, a short time previously, to reconsider his own retirement, he is said to have spared no effort to avert disunion. A split was inevitable, however. We explained, when describing the details of Count Itagaki's re-union with the party last month, that the elements of dissension, though stilled for the moment, were destined to break out soon again. The forecast has now been verified. Already the ranks of the Radicals had been weakened by the withdrawal of such men as Messrs. Inouye Kakugoro, Oye Taku, Suyehiro, and Hasegawa Tai, and this last secession will greatly impair the strength of the party. Still, it was not to be expected that an association founded on the simple principle of opposition to the Government would maintain its cohesion unimpaired in the heat of parliamentary debate, and the evolution of practical political doctrines. What has happened now was inevitable from the outset, and if it helps to consolidate the Radical Party, there will be nothing to regret. The national interests demand the existence of such a party, and what we really desire is that it should attain sufficient strength to be able to undertake the Administrative duties at any time. Count Itagaki is reported to have announced his intention of retiring from politics altogether, but every one must hope that he will reconsider that resolve.

THE BUDGET AND THE GOVERNMENT

IT will be seen from our report of the proceedings on Monday in the House of Representatives, that the method adopted by the President in pursuance of the decision recorded on the 20th instant, is to forward to the Government the whole Budget as amended by the House at the second reading, instead of forwarding only the portions requiring Governmental concurrence under the provisions of the 67th Article of the Constitution. It may be assumed, however, that the Government, at this stage of the Bill's progress though the Diet, will confine its expression of concurrence or dissent to such items as belong to the so-called "fixed expenditures." The President's course elicited some expressions of disapproval, but on the whole it seems the most natural and logical, for as the Government itself, in submitting the Budget to the House made no attempt to distinguish between the parts which the Representatives might deal with independently and those over which they had only a power of suggestion, there seems to be no reason why the House should make the division now.

PRINCE SANJO'S MORTUARY TABLET.

IT is the custom in Japan not only to erect a monument over the grave of a distinguished or wealthy person, but also to bury in the ground, above the coffin, a tablet having inscribed on it the name of the deceased and other particulars. This is usually of stone, but in consequence of the superior qualities of bronze for this particular purpose, it has been decided to employ that material in the case of Prince Sanjo's tablet. The *Kokka Shimbun* says that the tablet will be three feet by two, and that its thickness will be more than three inches.

OUT OF THINE OWN MOUTH.

MR. W. S. LISCOMB, whose letter to the New York *Nation*, on the subject of the anti-Treaty-Revision meeting, evoked such animated criticism from a portion of the local foreign press, has thought it advisable to address a long reply to his principal assailant, the *Japan Gazette*. It is an able reply, and it elicits a peculiar response. The *Gazette* fills more than two columns with a verbiose onslaught on Mr. Liscomb's defence, but instead of confining itself to what Mr. Liscomb writes, it devotes the bulk of its space to abuse of the *Japan Mail*—fierce, angry abuse, suggesting that the honest person who conducts the new anti-Revision organ has lost his temper badly and is in imminent danger of becoming as thoroughly "be-Mailed" as formerly was his less reckless though not more scrupulous rival in Herald Alley. We ought, perhaps, to regard it as a subtle compliment that the horizon of our journalistic opponents' vision becomes filled with *Japan Mail* to the exclusion of everything else, but why they should imagine that men like Mr. Liscomb must necessarily be tormented by a similar nightmare, is not quite clear. The pretty part of this particular case is that Mr. Liscomb answers each one of the *Japan Gazette's* attacks by referring it to its own columns. Indeed, one need never travel beyond the pages of that honest journal to find ample refutation of its most vehement assertions. Thus, one of the points at issue between Mr. Liscomb and the *Gazette* is whether or no the foreign residents of Japan were "a unit" in respect of the anti-Revision feeling displayed by the Yokohama meeting; in other words, whether the meeting and the manifesto that grew out of it are to be taken as absolutely representative of foreign opinion in Japan. The *Gazette* says "yes" in one breath, and in the next declares that "there were numbers of foreigners who for private reasons of their own did not sign the resolutions," and that "the *Gazette* is subscribed for by a large number of people who did not take part in the Yokohama meeting, and who do not altogether sympathise with it." Where then is the unity so justly denied by Mr. Liscomb? Unfortunate anti-Revision cause, damned by its champions and brought into ridicule by its organs, the one thing to be said in its favour is that some breath still remains in its body after so many suicides.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN YOKOHAMA.

FIRE broke out about half-past eleven o'clock on Saturday evening in a bathhouse in Motomachi, Shichome, in that part of Honmura village which is situated immediately under the Van Schaick Hall. A considerable breeze was blowing at the time, and under the influence of the eddies which prevailed close under the Bluff, the flames were rapidly communicated to the surrounding structures, mostly small shanties, spreading mainly, however, towards the Hundred Steps. Mr. Morgin and his hose-reel men were forward from the Fire Brigade Station very soon after the alarm was given, and a couple of standpipes were quickly attached to hydrants and in operation. The "Relief" steamer also proceeded to the Creek and taking up a position on the Settlement side near Nishi-no-hashi, pumped through 1,500 feet of hose to the scene of the fire. The usual attempts in addition to the use of water, were made, by pulling down houses, to check the spread of the flames, but these were only attended by partial success, the conflagration making its way across the street leading to the Shiwokumi-zaka, right up to the bluff below Mr. St. John's house. Among the places consumed was the stock of a fire wood merchant, the burning of which naturally augmented the strength of the flames. Though actual danger to foreign houses from proximity was hardly present, except in the case of Mr. St. John's residence, towards which the flames ran some distance up the bank, the clouds of sparks which were carried over the Victoria School and adjoining houses involved considerable risk. Including those of the Japanese Fire Brigades, there were in all nearly a dozen standpipes in use. About one o'clock the fire was under full control. The number of houses destroyed is estimated at two hundred.

RABBITS IN SENDAI.

OUR Sendai correspondent's account of the "rabbit" hunting engaged in there by students has provoked some criticism. He is informed that if "rabbits" exist at all in Sendai they must be Ostend rabbits, and that bunny lives in a hole in the winter, and is not to be found overground. The critics seem to be a little off the track in this instance. In the first place, Ostend rabbits do not burrow. That is their peculiarity. They are large lollopy rodents which have their habitat in "forms," and bear a close resemblance to hares. In the second place, snowy weather is just the time to shoot or catch rabbits without the aid of ferrets. Every English sportsman knows that bunny does not lie in his hole to be snowed up, but comes out and lodges for the moment in bushes and other convenient places. Many an excellent day's sport he has furnished at such a season. In the third place, our Sendai correspondent is an American, and in America the distinction between hares and rabbits is not, as a rule, recognised. The animals

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described in his letter would probably have been called "hares" by an Englishman. But even supposing them to have been veritable bunnies, the critics are quite out of it.

STATE FUNERALS IN JAPAN.

THERE have been, the *Mainichi Shimbun* recalls, but three State funerals since the Restoration: the first was that of H.E. Okubo, Second Minister of State; the second that of Prince Iwakura, Prime Minister; and the third that of Prince Shimadzu, First Minister of State. Kido, not a smaller man than any of these, would have enjoyed a similar honour had his life been prolonged a little longer. When H.E. Okubo died, the rules relating to ceremonials under the new regimen were not yet accurately drawn up, and the funeral lacked much of the display that would otherwise have been attained. Prince Shimadzu was buried in Kagoshima, a battalion of troops being sent from Kumamoto to take part in the ceremony. Thus incomparably the grandest funeral witnessed in Tokyo during the past twenty-five years was that of Prince Iwakura, but it is expected that the obsequies of Prince Sanjo will be on a still more magnificent scale.

COUNT YAMAGATA'S SPEECH.

IT is only fair to notice that the *Japan Herald*, when commenting upon Count Yamagata's speech in the Diet, has, of its own accord, taken no notice of the incorrect translation which appeared in its columns, but has adopted our translation throughout. It does not appear to us, however, that the *Herald* has put a fair construction upon Count Yamagata's remarks. The most conclusive way to demonstrate the injustice of the criticism is to place the critic's words side by side with the matter criticised:—

COUNT YAMAGATA'S REMARKS.	THE CRITIC'S REMARKS.
If we look carefully at the conditions existing in the world, we find that a country can maintain its independence and autonomy among the nations only by the prosperity of its people and the power of its armaments. Without strength sufficient to preserve and assert the national rights, there can be no hope of enjoying friendly, close, and absolutely unsubmissive intercourse with foreign States. Turning from the immense armaments of the modern Occident to the condition of the Orient, we find nothing to warrant us in neglecting the development of our Army and Navy. If again we seek to place the country on an equal footing with civilized States, we must enter their comity and join them in the mutual preservation of rights; a task which requires that, equally with them, we must undertake the duties properly devolving on us. What are those duties? To obey a fixed policy of government; to perfect all the branches of the Administration; to make ourselves worthy of the respect of other countries, and to maintain our prestige. If our policy of government is to be preserved, that these duties must be discharged is beyond dispute. Strength to maintain the country's rights must be nurtured, and sooner or later, as the opportunity presents itself, must be utilized.	One of the least satisfactory parts of Count Yamagata's address, is that portion in which he dwells upon the power of a country's armaments as essential, in addition to the prosperity of its people, to promote its well-being. Without strength, he goes on to say, to preserve and assert national rights, there can be no hope of enjoying friendly, close, and unsubmissive intercourse with foreign States. This seems to us to contain a threat, though veiled, that unless the Powers will surrender to Japanese demands for autonomy, the treaties will be denounced, and Japan will not be averse to a resort to arms, to recover and maintain her prestige. This, it must be confessed, is rather tall talk, and lacks somewhat of wisdom. That there shall be no mistakes about this, he says farther that strength to maintain the country's rights must be nurtured, and sooner or later, as the opportunity presents itself, must be utilized. No surer method could be taken to impair the friendly regard of foreign Powers than the assumption by the rulers of Japan, of a threatening attitude, and at the same time to be urging the granting of concessions of an unwarrantable character.

It cannot be supposed that Foreign Powers will commit the obvious mistake of construing the Minister President's words to signify "the assumption of a threatening attitude." The speech bears no such meaning. The whole of the portion referring to armaments is eminently pacific in tone, though the speaker recognises and emphasizes the absurdity of supposing that Japan, alone among all nations in the civilized world, is to lay down her arms and trust to the benevolence of other Powers to respect her rights and warrant her integrity. We cannot but repeat what we have often said before, that the attitude of certain local critics towards Japan is cruelly unfair. In this particular instance when Count Yamagata speaks about "nurturing strength to maintain the country's rights," and about the possible necessity of "utilizing it sooner or later" he uses language which, in the mouth of any Western statesman, would not evoke the slightest protest or be held to justify the most remote inference of bellicose menance. It is folly to pretend that Japan must lie down like a lamb and beg the world to have pity on her unprotected innocence. History enables her to guage precisely the result of such confiding behaviour in the case of an Oriental nation. Besides, she has before her eyes the example of Western States. If they consider it essential to arm to the teeth in order to be at peace with their highly civilized neighbours, surely Japan need not be blamed for following their example at a distance. We cannot pretend to understand the silly cant which chides Japan for doing what every other country does, and accuses her of "assuming a threatening attitude" because her Prime Minister tells the Diet that in order to be respected a State must be strong.

THE LAY OF THE GIDDY "GAZETTE."

Now when he assumed the Editor's chair
His projects grew rather tall,
He would do whatever was right and fair,
Would hunt with the hounds and run with the hare,
But—they didn't come off, after all!

Lo! this year's birds are in last year's nest,
The call is the cuckoo's call,
And honesty first is to be the test,
With honesty second, for that pays best,
And honesty last of all.

But, behold! when it spelt "deceitfulness,"
And Humpty had his first fall,
He cried that the word was "deceitlessness"
And pray'd to his Webster in his distress,
But the word wasn't there, after all!

And then he turned with a grunt to the Code,
And prudence went to the wall,
For he pointed out a regular load
Of grave mistakes in this shocking bad Code,
And—they weren't there, after all!

So he wandered off to the Treaty theme,
To the meeting in the fall,
No Celestial being was in that scheme,
Wrote the sapient scribe.—But now it would seem
That there *were* some, after all!

Then he straightway ratted, and cried: "Why not?
For, when in the conference hall,
His Chinese Excellency had a lot
In revising something—the deuce knows what!"
But *he* wasn't there, after all!

Oh, twinkle then, somewhat ponderous star!
Among the prophets—Saul!
Oh! show your adorers what you are,
And speed back the wit that has wandered far,
If it be there, after all!

HARRY STARCHUS.

THE LAND REVENUE OF INDIA.

AN interesting subject connected with the British administration of India is the degree and mode in which the land contributes to the general expenses of government. In India the State, or the monarch, has always enjoyed a share in the rent or profits from the land. This revenue is levied according to an assessment fixed on estates or holdings. The assessment was fixed permanently about 100 years ago on certain tracts paying about Rx. 4,311,000 a year; and it is fixed periodically, for terms of 12 to 35 years, over the rest of India. On large estates, ranging from a few hundred to many thousand acres each, the assessment is a share, generally about one-half of the rental enjoyed by the proprietors; on small estates cultivated by peasant proprietors, the assessment is levied on the cultivated area at a rate per acre fixed with reference to the productiveness of the land, and representing about one half of the estimated letting value. The permanently settled tracts, says the last report on Indian administration, comprise the greater part of Bengal, about one-fourth of Madras and certain southern districts of the North West Provinces. Of the temporarily settled tracts, the North West Provinces, the Punjab, Oudh, the Central Provinces and Orissa mainly contain estates held by proprietary brotherhoods or large proprietors; while in Bombay, Burma, Assam, and Bear, and in the greater part of Madras, the land is held and tilled by petty proprietors. In the permanently settled tracts the land revenue is about two-thirds of a rupee per acre of cultivated land, and represents on an average about one-fifth of the rental, or perhaps one-twenty-fourth of the gross value of the produce. The average advantages of soil and climate are on the whole greater, and the prevailing rates of rent are no the whole higher, in the permanently settled than in the temporarily settled tracts. In the latter tracts the land revenue averages about 1½ rupee per acre of cultivated land, representing something less than one-half of the actual estimated rental, and is probably about one-tenth of the gross value of the produce. Rates of rent and revenue vary greatly according to the productive power of the land, according to the advantages of climate and rainfall, and according to the facilities for carrying produce to markets or to the sea-board. Payment for water, supplied by State canals or reservoirs for purposes of irrigation, is made according to the area irrigated or according to the quantity of water used; but the State demand on any land is not enhanced on account of increased productiveness due to improvements made by the proprietors or occupiers themselves. The total land revenue of the year 1888-89, shows a small decrease of Rx. 173,000 as compared with the previous year; but this is unusual and due to diversities of season and other special circumstances. On the whole the tendency of the land revenue is to increase gradually and slowly, partly from periodical revisions of the assessment rates after a period of advancing prices, and partly to extensions of cultivation. The increase of the land revenue of India during the last six quinquennial terms may be thus shown:—

Period of five years from	Average yearly land revenue receipts of Rx.
1861-65	19,931,000
1866-70	19,990,000
1871-75	20,965,060
1876-80	21,114,000
1881-85	22,122,000
1886-90	23,294,000

SUDDEN CELEBRITY.

MR. AMANO JAKUYEN, the mover of the urgency proposal by which the Extremists were defeated in the House of Representatives on the 20th instant, finds that he has suddenly sprung into celebrity. A priest in former times, he did not abandon the tonsure although ceasing to occupy himself with sacerdotal duties, and it is said that he only suffered his hair to grow in order to become a candidate for election to Parliament. He disclaims the least connection with any political party, and according to the report current in the capital, he made no attempt to obtain support for his motion before introducing it. He did, however, observe certain indications which led him to think that the House would not be unwilling to escape from the difficult and unpractical position into which it had thrust itself, and on the strength of these observations he ventured to bring forward his proposition. The success that attended it was, however, quite beyond his expectation, and he is disposed to think, being, as we have said, a devout man and a true believer, that Providence, or Hotoke, had a large share in shaping the result.

THE PROLONGATION OF THE DIET'S SESSION.

THE original recommendation of the Committee appointed to investigate the subject of prolonging the session of the Diet, was that the President should ask to be received in audience so as to submit verbally to the Emperor the facts making for an extension of the session. But on consulting the Constitution and the Law of the Houses, this course was found to have no sanction. The Constitution goes no further than to prescribe that "both Houses of the Imperial Diet may respectively present addresses to the Emperor," and the Law of the Houses explicitly provides that, though the President of either House may be directed, as the representative of the House, to ask an audience of the Emperor, he must carry with him and present to His Majesty a written statement of the subject of representation. On Tuesday, therefore, the Committee amended its recommendation, and submitted a form of written representation which received the approval of the House. It was a very simple and brief document, setting forth the facts that the House, being new to its work and to the rules of procedure, had made slow progress with its business; that it had further suffered considerable interruption owing to the burning of the Diet, and that many important measures still awaited discussion. In view of these facts the Emperor was prayed to grant such a prolongation as His Majesty might deem expedient.

* * *

His Majesty the Emperor has issued a Rescript sanctioning the prolongation of the session of

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the Diet until March the 7th, that is to say, until this week. The Rescript runs thus:—"We order the prolongation of the Imperial Diets' session for an interval of nine days, from the 27th day of the second month until the 7th day of the third month." According to a cursory reckoning, the extension is for eight days only; but the 27th is evidently included in this case. The Diet's official opening took place on the last day but one (29th) of November, and its fixed session of three months should therefore extend to the last day but one (27th) of February. We do not clearly perceive, therefore, how the extension can be called "an interval of nine days." However, the main point is that His Majesty has taken count only of the time lost owing to the burning of the Houses, and has not deemed it expedient to consider the plea advanced as to the inexperience of the members in parliamentary procedure. This might have been anticipated, we imagine, for the inexperience of the members in their first session was always inevitable, and if no allowance was made for it originally when fixing the length of the session, we fail to see why any allowance should be made for it now. It is not likely that much legislation will be accomplished during the remaining eight days of the Diet's life.

DR. HOWARD AT THE CENTRAL TABERNACLE.

On Thursday, February 19th, a large and appreciative audience assembled in Dr. Eby's Central Tabernacle, Hongo, Tōkyō, to hear Professor Howard, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., lecture on "The Christ—judged by Scientific Methods." Such lectures are intended to be a feature of the work carried on at the Tabernacle, and Dr. Eby is to be congratulated on the success attending this first of a projected series. He was fortunate in securing a layman of undoubted professional eminence, while the audience attracted was just the kind that was desired. It consisted largely of students, amongst whom University men with their lettered collars were conspicuous. The hall was filled to its utmost. The lecturer was followed with unflagging attention. He was welcomed by hearty applause; and the still heartier applause at the close testified with what appreciation his words had been listened to. For the benefit of such of the audience as were unable to understand English, a Japanese translation of the lecture was given immediately after Dr. Howard had uttered his closing sentence. To judge from the numbers who then left, it was evident that nearly half of the audience had been able to follow the English intelligently. It was obvious from the outset that Dr. Howard well understood the character of the audience he was addressing. By way of introduction he said that his lecture was in effect the substance of much that he had spoken in familiar conversation with Japanese friends and acquaintances. From these conversations he had gathered that in Japan scientific men ignored all religions; that to know nothing of religion counted in favour of a man's superiority in science; and that religion was best left to women and children. This attitude he showed was essentially unscientific. The scientific man had to deal with causes and effects; and religion formed one of the most potent factors in the historic development of all races. So far as known, no nation ever did exist or does exist without its religion; and, so far as known, no nation ever lived above its religion, but every nation has lived below it. Consequently he who ignores religion may be a pedant; but he is neither a scientific man nor a philosopher. And again, he who pronounces against any religion without having investigated it, must be merely repeating the dictum of another man who may be in error, and is therefore a victim of authority, a child of superstition. If to this a man adds empty and unasked enthusiasm and championship, he will find that the dictionary terms him a fanatic. An interesting point noted by Dr. Howard was as to eminent scientific authorities referred to by his Japanese friends. There were only three; and a study of their biographies showed that, marvellously clever though they were as thinkers and writers, they had not made a single discovery, they had not added one fact to the sum of human knowledge. He then proceeded to quote from two of these; and he found that Spencer has said, "True Science is essentially religious," and that Huxley has said, "True Science and true Religion are twin sisters, and to separate the one from the other is sure to prove the death of both." With this unqualified support from the camp of the enemy, so to speak, Dr. Howard proceeded to his task of subjecting Christianity to scientific tests. It will suffice to indicate briefly his method of treatment. First, Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, and other profane writers whose accuracy had never been seriously questioned, were quoted from to prove that one Jesus did live in Judea at the time supposed, did wonderful works, and died by crucifixion. Conjoined to this coroboration of many of the facts narrated by the sacred writers is the wonderful accuracy of topographical detail contained in the New Testament. Places can be recognised to this day, so that it may safely be said that there is no other person so far back in history the accuracy of whose biography could receive corresponding corroboration. Then the Christian inscriptions in the catacombs of Rome, the growth of the Church in spite of the fiercest persecutions in the early centuries, the perfect historic continuity of the Eucharist, the great memorial of the death of Christ, and other facts, were referred to as strong evidence that the Christ was at least a man who lived and died at the time and in the manner that the sacred historians record. Dr. Howard then proceeded to appeal to these sacred writers for further information, and compared Christ as a teacher with other great teachers of men. The historic development of Christianity was then touched on; and finally the personal phenomena, subjective and objective, in evidence of the living Christ. In conclusion, he asked his audience to take the undoubted facts of Christ's life, to consider the spirit of his teaching—and, having done so patiently and conscientiously, to give some satisfactory explanation of them. The very bitterness of the anti-Christian spirit is something quite peculiar. It was predicted by Christ himself; but no explanation of it can be found apart from the *personal* Christ. The lecture was delivered in a quiet but earnest manner; it was not marred by any display of hostility or bitterness; it aimed at showing what the anti-Christian has to disprove rather than what the so-called apologist has to prove; and it indicated very clearly the lines along which a candid and truth-seeking mind should approach the study of the religion of the progressive nations of the world. In short, it seemed admirably fitted to awaken an apathetic listener to an interest in the subject; and to suggest broad lines of enquiry to the sympathetic hearer, already disposed to view Christianity favourably.

THEATRICALS IN TOKYO.

It is in contemplation, we understand, to give a theatrical performance in Tokyo for the benefit of the Girls' Orphanage in Kanda, which is under the charge of the French Sisters of Charity. Their Excellencies M. and Madame Sienkiewicz are interesting themselves actively in the matter. The best available amateur talent of Tokyo has been kindly promised, by both ladies and gentlemen, and two pieces will be put upon the stage, one French and the other English. The 21st of March is the day fixed for the performance and the place will be the Rokumeikan, but as programmes have not yet been issued we are unable to furnish accurate particulars. Those who remember the admirable acting witnessed at private theatricals in Tokyo during recent years, will understand that a great treat may be looked forward to on the present occasion.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS FOR THE STREETS OF TOKYO

The question of replacing the gas-lamps now used in the streets of Tokyo by electric lights is said (*Chōya Shimbun*) to be under discussion by the City Improvements Committee. The calculation is that a saving of some five thousand *yen* annually would be effected by the change. There are at present 471 gas lamps in the interval between Kanasugi, Uyeno, and Asakusa. It is claimed by the Electric Light Company that one electric light of 1,200 candle power is more than equal to ten gas-lamps. Consequently, it would suffice to replace the 471 gas-lamps by 48 electric lights, the Company undertaking to erect, at its own expense, special lamps in positions lying beyond the range of the ordinary lights. Each lamp would cost 17 *yen* monthly, allowing for wear and tear, so that the expense of the 48 would be only 9,792 *yen* per annum, or 5,028 *yen* less than the sum yearly paid to the Gas Company. The figures ought to be conclusive, especially when taken in conjunction with the fact that the electric system has many other points of superiority over gas. The Committee, however, is said to be hesitating, in order to give the gas folks an opportunity of making a lower tender, as they are expected to do in competition.

DOINGS IN THE DIET.

Some of the proceedings in the House of Representatives partake of a comical character. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro's objection to the dress of Mr. Saito Shuichiro, during Monday's session, belongs to this category. Mr. Saito is habitually one of the best dressed Japanese in Tokyo—we speak of foreign costume of course. His long residence in America in former years, and his subsequent sojourn in all the great capitals of Europe have thoroughly familiarized him with Western costume, and he wears about as well cut a coat and pair of unwhisperables as are to be found this side of Bond Street. The Rules of the House require Japanese dress with *haori* and *hakama*, or foreign costume with either frock or morning coat. The latter gives a wide enough margin. Mr. Saito ought not to have had any difficulty in keeping within it, and we strongly suspect that the amusement with which he received Mr. Inouye's remonstrance had its origin in a sense of the unmerited character of the rebuke.

* * *

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro himself wears an immaculately fitting frock coat, and is altogether irreproachable as to costume. Undoubtedly he is one of the men of the future. A Socratic type of face, ample in proportions, and scarred and pitted by small-pox, a large massive head, and a correspondingly stalwart frame, his appearance is conspicuously striking and conspicuously unattractive. But when he has occupied the rostrum for a few minutes his hearers forget everything but his wonderful command of language and the fire and verve of his oratory. One of the very few Japanese who employ gesticulation freely, his limbs are seldom still for a moment. He punctuates his utterances with strong physical action, now walking rapidly from side to side of the platform; anon hurling imaginary javelins at his audience; at one time battering his own bosom and at another using his manuscript like a fuller's mallet. One could scarcely conceive a greater contrast to the glacial calm generally supposed to represent the standard of correct Japanese demeanour; the calm illustrated, for example, by Paymaster Noda who, in an address lasting over an hour, and not uninterrupted by impatient members, never once altered the values of his commas and colons, and never once took his hands from his pockets except to turn over his manuscript. Yet Mr. Inouye is an immense favourite with the House. His eloquence fairly sweeps away opposition. He possesses also, in a highly developed degree, the eminently Japanese attribute of passing suddenly from the sternest and gravest earnestness to almost childish gaiety. Thus, when the House recently came to discuss the War Office Section of the Budget, Mr. Inouye, having made one of the best speeches of the session—a speech inspired by strong patriotism—might have been seen five minutes afterwards standing in his place, and gleefully proclaiming that the Budget Committee's Report had been out-voted, because the President having challenged its supporters in an almost inaudible voice, only two or three particularly quick-eared members had risen in their places. So, again, when the Committee's Report happened to propose no amendments

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whatever in a particular section, and Mr. Inouye was consequently enabled to vote for it, he emphasised the singular event by springing to his feet and crying out, with noisy exultation, that now for the first time had he cast his ballot in favour of the Committee's Report—on which occasion a witty stenographer compared his aspect to that of a demon making amiable eyes at his victims.

* * *

Mr. Inouye's punctilio about sumptuary regulations stands certainly on a higher parliamentary plane than the remonstrance addressed by another member, Mr. Noguchi Kei, to the Government Representative for the Finance Department. The latter, Mr. Soné Shizuo, has a weak voice and finds difficulty in making himself audible throughout the House—especially the present House, which is a species of canvas box. Two or three protests from members having elicited a retort from the President that it did not lie within his competence to endow a speaker with strength to project his voice to a distance, Mr. Noguchi Kei rose and undertook to prove that the Delegate was not really exerting himself to speak loudly. "When men strain their vocal chords to the limit of capacity," said Mr. Noguchi, "their faces become red and their veins swollen. Neither of these indications are observable in Mr. Soné's case. His complexion is rather pale than florid and his veins remain invisible as usual." It is true that few things are more exasperating to an anxious listener than a speaker who persistently declines to raise his voice above a feeble murmur, but Mr. Noguchi's diagnosis will scarcely be elevated to the rank of a parliamentary precedent.

MADAME PATEY AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

MADAME PATEY and the company which she has collected round her made their first appearance on Wednesday evening in the Public Hall. Despite the prediction that the tariff of prices established would make a small house, there was a very fair, almost a large, attendance. It would be idle to descant on the great contralto's merits; her praises have been so often written that that would be a work of supererogation. Her name was set down for three numbers on the programme, in the first part Gluck's aria "Che faro," and in the second Knight's "She wore a wreath of roses," and Moore's "The Minstrel Boy." Recalled as a matter of course, she sang after the first "On the banks of Allan Water," after the second, with as it seemed the perfection of expression, "My boy Tammy," and followed up the last song on the programme with "For the sake o' somebody." She was listened to in each case with the most absorbed attention; the marvellous qualities of a voice such as few are privileged to hear awakening in all present the deepest interest and pleasure. Of Miss Rossow much might be said. She is beyond doubt a vocalist of an exceedingly high order, and since she came out about a year ago in Australia has achieved a measure of popular repute and favour which augurs well for her future career. A countrywoman of Miss Amy Sherwin's, she possesses, like that lady, a most charming voice, and may with confidence anticipate at least such success as Miss Sherwin has attained. Her first song was that "Sing Sweet Bird," of Ganz's, which Miss Sherwin rendered so exquisitely, and listeners were not slow to recall the exquisite effect produced by the conjunction of voice and flute, and to make allowance for the deficiency of the latter in the present case. Not indeed that allowance was needed, for Miss Rossow fairly revelled in the birdlike variations of the song. Pinsuti's "Three wishes" was her next essay, and as an encore she gave "Coming thro' the Rye." It is impossible to exaggerate the grace and success with which both ladies rendered their Scotch songs. Miss Rossow's "Coming thro' the Rye" was a charming effort, a scarcely noticeable peculiarity of articulation adding indescribable archness to her singing. Denza's fine ballad "Call me back" was followed as an encore by "I dreamt that I dwelt in marble halls," and finally Miss Rossow appeared with Mr. Patey in the "La ci darem" duet of Mozart. Mr. Patey had his share of the programme, and certainly cannot complain of non-appreciation. His "Off to Philadelphia" took the fancy of his listeners immensely and provoked an enthusiastic recall, but the evening being yet very young Mr. Patey discreetly refrained from returning. In the comic aria of Rossini's, "Largo al factotum" he raised the popular estimate of his fine vocal powers and, having responded to an encore, confirmed it in the final duet with Miss Rossow. Probably Mr. Lemmone may be taken next as the subject, not of criticism, but of commendation—for, differing in this respect from many "stars" Madame Patey has gathered round her a company of "stars," and not foils to display her own talents—and it need only be said that the audience gave him a hearty welcome back to Yokohama, and an ample assurance that they are still able to appreciate such powers as he has shown himself to possess. In the first part of the programme Mr. Lemmone gave Terschak's "Italian Rhapsody," and subsequently a "Rustic Dance" by Roe, his only other performance being a Fantasia by Bucher on an air by Paganini. All three were gems, and regret was felt that the accomplished flautist could not be heard in accompaniment. Mr. Hermann Morris, the pianist of the company, claims more than incidental mention. His solos were masterpieces, characterised by much brilliance of execution and exceeding taste and expression, while his accompaniments were played with care and appreciation. Generally it may be said the concert was a most pronounced success. The magnificent organ of Madame Patey was listened to with infinite pleasure, her selection of songs affording the audience a good means of realising, though in a faint way, its marvellous capabilities. As a contrast to the contralto's presence and vocal quality Miss Rossow created the deepest interest by her petite appearance, the charming simplicity of her methods, and the power and sweetness of her voice. The evening's entertainment, while distinctively Scotch in character, was very largely of a popular kind, and formed a musical treat of the very highest order.

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We trust we are right in assuming that the beggarly array of empty benches on Thursday evening at the Public Hall is to be accounted for by reason of the Community's reserving itself for Saturday night. On no other hypothesis can we imagine an artiste of the calibre of Madame Patey failing to attract more than a hundred for an audience. Though the distinguished English contralto is alone worth a journey to hear, Madame Patey is well supported by a small but excellent company, and we hope to see an audience on Saturday night which shall in point of numbers be worthy of the highly gifted lady who on that occasion will make her last appearance in Yokohama. We remember Miss Whytock, and were equally surprised and delighted on Thursday to hear how well preserved is that magnificent organ we knew so well long years ago. Notwithstanding the scanty audience, several repeats were given, though the aspect of the house from the footlights might well be supposed to have had a most depressing effect upon the performers. The concert opened with a pianoforte solo, "Turkish Rondo," by Mr. Morris, which was followed by "Bel Raggio" a cavatina of Rossini's, well within the power of the fresh young voice possessed by Miss Rossow. "Rage thou angry storm" then brought on Mr. Patey, who did ample justice to this song of Benedict's; and Mr. Lemmone's appearance was greeted with applause, as was his exit after the execution of a simple but pleasing "Concert Study" by Zulow. Madame Patey then came on and delighted the audience with an arietta, "Caro mio ben" (Giordone), loud and continuous applause being kept up till the artiste's return to the stage in acknowledgement, and the first part was brought to a close by that well-known air of Bishop's "Lo, here the gentle lark," with flute obligato. Mr. Morris opened the second part with the "Funeral march of a Marionette," well played, when Madame Patey appeared and rendered "By the sad sea waves" with such effect that the audience would not be denied and clamoured till an encore was obtained. Then came Mr. Lemmone with the "Welsh Melodies"—which he gave on his previous visit to Yokohama—"Jenny Jones" and "Poor Mary Ann," the variations on the latter air being particularly effective. Cowen's well worn "It was a dream" brought on Miss Rossow, who was loudly encored, and Mr. Patey then sang "The Powder Monkey" with good effect. The gem of the programme was then given by Madame Patey—Moore's fine Irish ballad, "The meeting of the waters"—and the audience persisting in their demand for a repetition, Madame Patey kindly responded by singing "Meet me by moonlight alone," and retired amid a perfect storm of applause. A duet of Mozart's by Mr. Patey and Miss Rossow brought to a close a capital programme excellently well executed.

A PREACHER IN TROUBLE.

THE Rev. Mr. Rollins, of Kobe, says the *Kobe Herald*, has been in trouble at a place somewhere near Kishi Wada. It appears that the reverend gentleman, who has only been three months in this country, and whose knowledge of the vocabulary is therefore limited, went on a lecturing tour accompanied by his teacher, who acted also as interpreter. Things went well enough while Mr. Rollins invited his audiences to hotels or to an improvised lecture-hall in a private house; but at the place spoken of above he hired a theatre, a thing no missionary of more mature experience would have done. No sooner had he got fairly started with his address than the stage from which he was speaking was stormed by an excited and angry crowd who, but for the interposition of the police, would have done the speaker serious hurt. Mr. Rollins speaks in the highest terms of the bravery of one member of the force who "went for" the leader of his assailants "straight from the shoulder," and sent him to the ground with such force that the noise of his fall could be heard some distance. While falling he carromed against another fellow, and this state of things was continued till soon eight or nine people lay on the ground, having gone down like "ten pins" from the one single exhibition of strength and pluck of the policeman. Mr. Rollins was then conducted to his hotel guarded by his deliverer and his comrades.

THE STATE FUNERAL OF ON WEDNESDAY.

IT was estimated that the total cost of Prince Sanjo's funeral would be thirty thousand *yen*, but rumour says that the actual expenses exceeded that sum. It is not easy to conceive how this can have been, for, on the whole, the ceremonial and the paraphernalia were not of a character suggesting lavish outlay. Everything was doubtless the very best of its kind, but even on that assumption there did not appear to be much room for large expenditure.

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It is stated that a too eager correspondent of some Western newspaper, a foreigner, gave great offence during the ceremonial at the shrine of Gokoku, by advancing in his overcoat and lying down on the ground in the immediate vicinity of the Princes of the Blood and other high dignitaries assembled to pay their respects at the burial. The object of assuming an attitude so incongruous was to obtain a clear view of some particular feature of the rites, but that excuse does not seem to have been considered valid.

MR. FREDERICK DIVERS.

A TERRIBLY sad piece of news was received on Thursday in Tokyo. Mr. Frederick Divers, only son of Dr. Ed. Divers, F.R.S., died suddenly at Foochow on Sunday the 15th instant. The deceased entered the Imperial Chinese Customs Service about two years ago, and having successfully passed his period of probation and preliminary tests, took up his duties in due course, and enjoyed apparently good health until very shortly before the seizure that carried him

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off. So far as we can learn, some intermittent and seemingly unimportant suffering from headaches was the only premonitory symptom. He was not even sufficiently unwell to remain away from his office, and the end came with suddenness as shocking to his friends as it was merciful to himself. The greatest sympathy will be felt with his bereaved family both in Tokyo and Yokohama. Death, swift and wholly unexpected, on the very threshold of a fine career, is in truth a cruel misfortune, and such a death was that of Mr. Frederick Divers. The testimony of his immediate chief, the Commissioner of Customs at Foochow, is expressive:—"His genial disposition, his accomplishments and kindly ways had already made for him many pleasant friends, and his career in the Customs Service and as a valued member of the community was full of promise."

MISTAKES.

At the head of a numerical list of incidents which it describes as "somewhat strange," in connection with Prince Sanjo's funeral, the *Japan Gazette* puts the following:—

(1) Among those whom one expected to join the procession, the foreign Ministers were conspicuous by their absence. We think we are correct in saying that there was not a single foreign Ambassador present. We have little doubt that they were to be seen at the cemetery, to which we were not able to go, but it may naturally be asked why did they not follow the universally observed Japanese custom of taking part in the funeral procession?

Apparently the *Japan Gazette* labours under the strange hallucination that the Representatives of the Foreign Powers at the Court of Japan are "Ambassadors" and that the Legations in Tokyo are Embassies. This by the way, however. The main point is that our contemporary calls attention to the absence of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique from the funeral cortége as a "strange" event, and by implication suggests that some want of courtesy was thus shown either towards the deceased Prince or towards the State which had assumed charge of his funeral. Now the fact is that the Foreign Representatives were specially requested to assemble at the Gokoku Shrine in Otowa, and not at the point of the procession's departure—the residence of the deceased Prince in Ichibei-machi—since, owing to the sickness of Princess Sanjo and to the very limited space available there, it would not have been possible to appropriate any chamber for their accommodation. If, before lending its columns to the circulation of such a mischievously false impression, the *Japan Gazette* did not deem it a duty to seek direct information, it might at least have taken the trouble to consult the plan of the cortége, as published in the *Official Gazette*, where it would have seen that no place in the procession was assigned to the Foreign Corps Diplomatique. So far from failing in any iota of conventional respect to the memory of Prince Sanjo, the Foreign Representatives, on this occasion, inaugurated a graceful departure by sending handsome clusters of flowers, prepared in Japanese fashion, to be placed beside the bier in Ichibeimachi and before the grave at Gokoku-ji.

* * *

We have before remarked that a sort of clumsy instinct of perverted justice seems to direct the *Japan Gazette's* blundering. Having denied the presence of Chinese residents at the Anti-Revision Meeting of last September, though their attendance had been duly reported in its own columns, it tried to compensate this error by inserting a Chinaman among the Foreign Representatives at the Treaty Revision conferences, though every decently informed person knew that no Chinaman had ever taken part in that business. Now again it exhibits the same impartiality of compensatory hallucinations. For having blamed the Foreign Representatives because they did not put in an appearance where they were invited to be absent, it rejoices over Count Ito's presence where he did not put in an appearance at all. "We were glad to observe," says the *Gazette*, "that Count Ito's indisposition had allowed of his being present." Considering that Count Ito did not follow the funeral, being still too unwell to do so, we can only regard this statement as another example of our honest contemporary's intuitive disposition to balance one blunder by another.

A FUNERAL IN FORMER TIMES.

Tokyo has seen many a grand funeral to the magnificence of which the State lent no aid. The great dignitaries whose obsequies become a national care, are always interred according to Shinto rites, and the paraphernalia and ceremonials are therefore comparatively simple. Buddhism buries its votaries far more magnificently, strewing their path to the grave with flowers, and investing the whole business with lavish wealth of pomp and splendour. Seventeen years ago, when a representative of the great firm of Mitsui was carried to his last resting place, one feature of the funeral left a lasting impression on the citizens. The cortége crossed the river at Asakusa, and took its way towards Mukojima. From the eastern end of Azuma Bridge to the Temple, a distance of over a mile, both sides of the road were lined with men whose sole duty was to scatter copper coins among the people. Ten thousand *yen* were converted into two-*rin* pieces for the purpose, and a shower of coppers rained for hours upon the heads of innumerable mendicants who had flocked from all quarters to assist at the ceremony.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The regular general meeting of shareholders of the Bank of Japan was held on the 21st inst. at 1 p.m., at which more than thirty gentlemen were present, the chair being occupied by Mr. Kawata Koichiro, Governor of the Bank. Messrs. Matsuo, Chief Commissioner of the Treasury Bureau, Tajiri, Chief Commissioner of the Bank Superintendence Bureau in the Financial Department, and Iida, Assistant-Director of the Bureau of the Imperial Treasury in the Imperial Household Department, were also present at the meeting. The receipts during the latter half of last year were *yen* 1,754,645.983, of which *yen* 350.000.000 were set apart as a reserve, *yen* 180,000 000 as a special reserve, *yen* 90,000.000 as remuneration to officers, *yen* 100,000.000 as expenses for the construction of new buildings for the Bank, and *yen* 750,000.000 as a dividend for the half-year, to be declared at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, *yen* 284.645.983 being carried forward to the next account.—*Shogyo Shimpo*.

"DEPUTY KING" OF KOREA.

The many friends of Mr. C. R. Greathouse will rejoice to learn the news conveyed to its readers by the *Washington Post* on December 30th. We were in some measure prepared for the intelligence by observing that the Sōul correspondent of our Nagasaki contemporary—realising no doubt the disadvantages under which he must otherwise labour—had promoted Mr. Greathouse to "General." "Deputy King" sounds somewhat hollow. This is the *Post's* news:—"Clarence R. Greathouse, formerly a San Francisco newspaper man, after being appointed to a Japanese Consulate, has succeeded in winning the favour of the King of Korea, and has been made deputy king."

COUNT ITAGAKI.

Count Itagaki has retired from the Radical Party, declaring his intention of abstaining from party politics for the time being at all events. This step was taken on Thursday. It is doubtless conclusive. Briefly speaking, the reason assigned is that the Count discerns no prospect of such united action on the part of the Radicals as could alone lead to the formation of a great party sufficiently strong to undertake the responsibility of administering the affairs of the State at any moment. By no other means can the real goal of constitutional institutions, a party Cabinet, be attained. The circumstance which led directly to the Count's resolve is that the recent division in the *Jiyu* party was virtually an accomplished fact before any information reached him officially. He was ignored at a most important crisis of the Party's career, and he naturally objects to be thus converted into a mere figure-head. Genuine tests of cohesion are now being applied to political parties, and there will be a great deal of re-modelling before anything like permanent bases can be reached.

THE QUEEN'S CELLAR.

"Atlas," in the *World* of December 24th says:—The Queen has an immense cellar of wine at Windsor, and supplies are regularly sent from the Castle to Osborne and to Balmoral. Champagne and claret are the wines in most constant use, but there is a splendid collection of Cabinet Rhine wines, some extraordinary old sherry (William IV. drank no other wine), a great quantity of port, including nearly all the best vintages, and some of the finest Imperial Tokay in the world. Prince Albert always drank a bumper of Tokay after dinner, but since his death it has seldom been seen at the Queen's table. Apollinaris water is much favoured, both by her Majesty and by the Prince of Wales; and the Queen's favourite whisky comes from the well-known Lochnagar Distillery, which is on the Balmoral estate.

PAPER MANUFACTURE.

We learn from the *Official Gazette* that during the month of December last the Oji Paper Mills, the Yukosha, the Kobe Paper Mills, the Fuji Paper Mills, and the Yokkaichi Paper Mills, manufactured 1,584,456,50 *kin*, or about 2,112,608 lbs. of paper, the sales during the same period amounting to 1,611,507.50 *kin* or about 2,148,676 lbs. Classifying the different varieties, we find that of ordinary printing paper 1,319,631.00 *kin* were manufactured and 1,405,320.10 *kin* sold; of superior printing paper 12,250.50 *kin* were manufactured and 30.029.50 sold; of coloured paper, 820.00 *kin* were sold; of wrapping paper, 161,004.00 *kin* were manufactured and 61,930.00 *kin* sold; of miscellaneous kinds 91,571.00 *kin* were manufactured and 113.408.00 *kin* sold.

BISHOP NICOLAI'S CATHEDRAL.

The Cathedral of the Greek Church in Japan, on Surugadai, Tokyo, has now been completed, and the opening ceremony will be performed in a short time. Several years have been occupied in the construction, and the result well repays the delay, for the building not only on account of its own proportions but also by the aid of its well chosen site, is one of the most conspicuous edifices in the capital. The opening ceremony will be on a scale of great magnificence. We read in the *Kokumin Shimbun* that advantage will be taken of the visit to Japan of His Imperial Highness the Czarevitch, but if that be so, it is evident that the date (March 8th) fixed by our contemporary for the ceremony cannot be correct.

PRINCE SANJO'S COFFIN.

The inner and outer shells of Prince Sanjo's coffin are of pure white *hinoki* (*Thuya obtusa*), the former six feet long by two and a half wide and one foot seven inches deep; the latter proportionately larger, the thickness of each being an inch and a half. The bier is of the same wood, its metal mountings plated with gold, and its bearing poles twenty feet long. The halberds and sword carried in the procession will be of wood, the sword blade plated with silver, and its haft lacquered black. The artificial flowers will be of two kinds, plum blossoms grouped with pines, and peonies grouped with maple. There will doubtless be an enormous quantity of natural flowers in bamboo holders, after the usual *Shinto* form, for all high officials and friends of the deceased will send a tribute of this nature.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives having unbent its brows—or "opened its eyebrows" as the Japanese put it—towards the Government, the public begins to breathe more freely. The crisis is averted, and the Budget will, by mutual agreement, undergo some appreciable reduc-

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tions. Curiously enough, however, at this comparatively auspicious juncture, the resignation of the President, Mr. Nakajima Nobuyuki, begins to be talked of. People say that he will be translated to the Privy Council, but do not say why he should give up his present post.

SUICIDE ON THE RAILWAY.

THE officials in charge of a train on the Takasaki line reported on Monday at Uyeno a painful incident that occurred on the trip to the capital. After leaving Honjo, about four miles from the station, the train having then attained a high speed, the driver observed two persons standing at the side of the line, and concluded that they intended to cross after the passage of the train. But when the engine was within less than a hundred yards away, the pair, who by this time could be seen to consist of a youth and a girl, the latter exceedingly pretty, turned to each other, embraced, and then, thus clasped together, lay down on the nearest rail. Of course not a moment was lost in the endeavour to stop the train, but on this line vacuum brakes are not in use, and under the circumstances described ordinary brakes were of little value. The train stopped some twenty minutes by the poor mangled bodies, while arrangements were made for their disposal, and during the interval it was found that, being forbidden to wed, the unhappy couple had chosen to die in each other's arms.

RUDENESS!

WE learn from spectators that the unfortunate foreigner against whom a charge of rudeness was preferred by Japanese newspaper reporters in respect of his conduct during the funeral ceremony at the Gokoku Shrine on the 25th instant, did nothing more than sit on the ground in the place allotted to him instead of on his chair, his object apparently being to see under a large floral decoration which would otherwise have obstructed his view. In short, his offence consisted in assuming a lowly position instead of the loftier and more comfortable one assigned to him on the same spot. What shall we next hear described as rudeness?

* * *

Talking of overcoats, it seems that the wearing of a garment of that nature aggravated the offence of this particularly unoffending foreigner. It happens, however, that every foreigner present wore an overcoat, as did also the majority of the Japanese; a point of difference being that whereas the particular foreigner singled out for censure had a black over-coat, several Japanese showed sufficient bad taste, or ignorance, to wear coats coloured or checked.

BENEFIT FOR AN ORPHANAGE.

THE entertainment to be given at the Rokumeikan on the 21st March, for the benefit of the funds of the Girls' Orphanage in Kanda, will consist of music by the Emperor's band of string and wind instruments, and of three theatrical pieces. The first will be what the French call a *lever de rideau*, and is a dialogue entitled "L'Obstacle." The other pieces will be "The Coming Woman," and "La Grammaire," by Labiche. The French pieces are under the direction of Madame Sienkiewicz, and the English is under that of Mrs. Hugh Fraser. The performance will begin at 8 o'clock to enable visitors from Yokohama to enjoy the entertainment, and return home by the last train. It is hoped that very many will come and see what capabilities Tokyo amateurs possess. The patronesses are Countess Goto, Viscountess Aoki, Viscountess Kabayama, Madame Sannomiya, Madame Sienkiewicz, Mrs. Hugh Fraser, Mrs. Loureiro, Mrs. N. J. Hannen. Tickets can be procured from any one of these ladies in lots to suit purchasers, the patronesses reserving the right of refusing more than one hundred tickets to one applicant except in cases of vehement supplication for more.

THE SUIT OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.

YESTERDAY the suit brought by the Tokyo Electric Light Company against Mr. Soné, Chief Secretary of the House of Representatives, came up for hearing by the Tokyo Chiho Saibansho, Judge Ichiji, President of the Second Civil Section, being on the Bench, and Procurator Koga being present. The plaintiffs' counsel stated that Mr. Soné, having submitted to the Minister President of State, a report, based upon his own and others' evidence, attributing the origin of the fire by which the Diet buildings were destroyed to the electric lighting apparatus, and this Report having been published in the *Official Gazette*, the *Japan Mail*, the *Japan Gazette* and other daily papers, to the serious injury of the plaintiffs' business, the plaintiffs prayed that Mr. Soné should be directed to alter his Report, and further to procure and pay for the insertion, during a space of one week, by the above newspapers, of a contradiction dictated by the plaintiffs. For the defendant it was alleged that his Report to the Minister President had been made in the due discharge of his official duties, and that he was not answerable to any private individual, or body of individuals, for its contents. He therefore prayed that the petition be dismissed. It does not appear that any lengthy evidence was offered or asked for. The case occupied the Court during yesterday afternoon only, and the Judge promised to give judgment on the 3rd instant.

PRINCE SANJO'S FUNERAL.

THE following was the order of procession observed at the State Funeral of Prince Sanjo:—

Outriders.

Gendarme. Gendarme.

Inspector of Gendarmerie.

Gendarme. Gendarme.

Troops.

Sakaki (*Cleyera Japonica*) bearers. *Sakaki* bearers.

Red Flags. White Flags.

Red Flags. White Flags.

Red Flags. White Flags.

Red Flags. White Flags.

Chest containing offerings.

Shinto Officials. *Shinto* Officials.

Chest-stand. Chest-cover.

Shinto Officials. *Shinto* Officials.

Assistant Chief *Shinto* Priest
(In full robes on horseback).

Chief *Shinto* Priest.
(In full robes on horseback).

Shinto Officials. *Shinto* Officials.

Banner with the Deceased's Name.

Shinto Musicians. *Shinto* Musicians.

Ditto. Ditto.

Ditto. Ditto.

Sakaki-bearers. *Sakaki*-bearers.

Halberd. Halberd.

Artificial Flowers. Artificial Flowers.

Ditto. Ditto.

The Prince's Persian Decoration. The Prince's Turkish Decoration.

The Prince's Italian Decoration. The Prince's Russian Decoration.

Order of the Mirror. Grand Collar of the Rising Sun.

Grand Collar of the Paullownia. Grand Collar of the Chrysanthemum.

The Prince's body-servant. The Prince's body servant.

Ditto. Ditto.

THE PALL
borne by 50 bearers in white.

Body-servant. Body-servant.

Stand of Pall. Cover of Pall.

Page. Page.

Umbrella. Foot gear.

Chief Mourner
(On foot in white mourning robes).

Steward of the Prince's Household.

Assistant Steward. Assistant Steward.

Private Secretary of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal (on horseback).

Carriages containing Relatives of Deceased.

Chief Funeral Officials.

Funeral Officials.

Princes of the Blood.

Ministers of State.

Shinnin Officials.

Princes and Holders of the First Order of Merit.

Departmental Officials of *Sonin* rank, or ranking with *Sonin*, and upwards.

Nobles.

Members of the House of Peers.

Members of the House of Representatives.

Troops.

Outriders.

Inspector of Police.

Gendarme. Gendarme.

The Public.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

IT is reported by the *Kokumin Shimbun* that on the 21st instant, when the train from Naoyetsu had reached a point about half a mile beyond Sekiyama station, it ran into a district where the snow lay ten feet deep. The guard of the train, Ono Chisei, in attempting to open a door which had become jammed by the snow, fell out, and was so mangled by the train that he died almost immediately.

THE NEW LORD KEEPER OF THE PRIVY SEAL.

THE post of Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, rendered vacant by the death of Prince Sanjo, has been conferred on H.E. Marquis Tokudaiji, Lord High Chamberlain, who receives the new appointment in conjunction with his office of Head of the Board of Chamberlains.

COUNT ITO.

COUNT ITO's attack of influenza seems to have been exceptionally severe, but happily he is now recovering fast. Countess Ito and Mrs. Suyematsu Kencho are now laid up with the same malady.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The memorable decision of the Lower House on the 20th instant as to the proper procedure for seeking the Government's concurrence in respect of expenditures mentioned in the 67th Article of the Constitution, the split in the Constitutional Liberal party, and the complete discomfiture of the Extremists on the 26th, have been the principal topics of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the week.

* * *

As to the vote of the 20th instant, we have already written at some length, and it is not here necessary to recount the chain of circumstances that led to the victory of the Moderates on that occasion. The tone of the different papers on this question may easily be guessed by any one who has paid attention to current politics. The Constitutional Liberal and the Progressionist organs bitterly complain of the alleged inconsistency and faint-heartedness of the section of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* that voted with the Moderates. Fear of dissolution, say these papers, terrified the politicians of the seceding section so much as to induce them to desert their comrades of the Constitutional Liberal party. The other vernacular papers, on the contrary, congratulate the House of Representatives on its opportune emergence from an embarrassing situation that threatened to produce a disastrous collision between the Legislature and the Executive. These journals express special satisfaction that the Representatives, by their decision of the 20th, have secured the great constitutional power which they ought to possess over the Peers on financial questions. The organs of the Extremists cling to the forlorn hope that the politicians, whose recent disaffection is so bitterly upraided, may stand true to the Budget Committee's report. On the other hand, the papers in favour of the Moderates, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Kokwai*, the *Tokyo Shimpo* and others—hope, that, the House of Representatives having seen its way to remove the gravest soucer of conflict between it and the Government, the latter will do all in its power to approve the reductions proposed by the Representatives. The *Kokkwai*, which supports the Moderates and at the same time seeks to be impartial, expresses itself in this strain:—"The Extremists, who wield immense power in the House of Representatives, are opposed to the Government, and seem to be determined to employ the dissolution of the Diet, should that step be actually taken, as an instrument for shaking the credit of the Government. As to the Moderates, they must not be considered partisans of the present Government; they simply object, on the ground of unconstitutionality, to the radical measures recommended by the Extremists. Their object is to accomplish great political reforms by a method more rational and orderly. The Government has taken up a position strongly opposed to the Extremists, but should it continue to think so exclusively of its convenience as to reject even sensible demands, nothing can be more evident than that the Moderates will at once turn upon it in vehement opposition. Could any Government continue to maintain its position against the united opposition of the Moderates and Extremists? These things call for careful consideration by those in power."

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The old *Aikokuko-to* elements of the Constitutional Liberal party, who, as already stated,

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voted with the Moderates in the memorable debate of the 20th instant, formally severed their connection with their party on the 24th instant. The seceders at first numbered twenty-nine, but their example was soon followed by Count Itagaki and his lieutenants of the *Jiyu Shimbun*. The thirty odd politicians have decided to keep together by organizing a political club called the *Jiyu* Club. Count Itagaki and the writers on the staff of the liberal organ will hold aloof from all political bodies. According to a manifesto issued by the twenty-nine seceders, they appear to have left the *Rikken Jiyu-to* for three reasons, namely, (1) that the members of that party, instead of being united by bonds of mutual regard and respect, are influenced by sentiments of jealousy and enmity towards each other; (2) that the party tries to go so far in the control of the conscience of its members, as to virtually deprive them of individual freedom as members of the Diet; and (3) that the practical tendency of the opinions and action of the majority of the members of the party, has become too destructive to win the support of the sober section of the public. Count Itagaki denies the truth of the rumour, that he had previously approved, if not instigated, the course taken by the twenty-nine seceders. The reason why he followed their example and thereby lent some colour to the above mentioned rumour, is, according to his own words, that having been unable to maintain the unity of the party, he no longer thinks himself justified in continuing his connection with it. He will remain independent from all political parties; in fact he intends to take no part in practical politics for the immediate future at least, confining his attention to the editing of his paper, the *Jiyu Shimbun*.

* * *

The 29 seceders are generally known by the name of the Tosa faction, because the principal politicians among them, as Messrs. Kataoka Kenkichi, Hayashi Yuzo, and Uyeki Yemori, are natives of that Province. Constancy is usually considered to be among the virtues possessed by the men of Tosa, and the papers devoted to the Extremists allude to this circumstance, and call the twenty-nine seceders by various ugly names. The *Kokumin Shimbun* remarks that they are the Parnellites of Japan, and that their future rôle will be to hold the balance of power between the two great political parties. The *Hochi Shimbun* condemns the inconsistency of their conduct, and asks them if they are not ashamed of themselves. Most of the Extremist organs, however, hope that the desertion of this section of the Constitutional Liberal party will help the amalgamation of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* into one progressive party.

* * *

The Government's refusal to give concurrence to the reductions proposed by the Budget Committee's report, is considered by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and the rest of the Moderate organs to be rational and proper under the circumstances. But the *Kokkwai* takes exception to the second paragraph of the answer of the Government, wherein it is declared *ultra vires* to attempt to change by the Budget what has been fixed by the provisions of law. The Constitution, according to the *Kokkwai*, plainly gives the Diet power to effect such alterations with the concurrence of the Government, and consequently there is no impropriety in the Diet's seeking the Government's concurrence with the contemplated changes. The Government ought not, therefore, in the *Kokkwai's* opinion, to refuse its concurrence on the ground of illegality or excess of power. The papers which sympathize with the Extremists protest in general and ambiguous language against the answer of the Government.

* * *

The complete and final victory of the Moderates on the 26th instant has evidently cowed the Extremist organs. The latter now only hope that the special Committee will regard themselves as the representatives, not of the Moderates, but of the whole House, and that, viewing themselves in that light, they will do their utmost to obtain the Government's concurrence to as large reductions as possible. These papers complain of the partiality of Mr. Nakajima, President of the Lower House, for the Moderates, as he did not grant the recess which the Extremists deemed it necessary to take before proceeding to elect the Special Committee for conference with the Government. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, one of the most fervent supporters of the Extremists, protests against the unconstitutionality of the election of the Committee. By what provision of the Constitution or of the Law of the Houses, it asks, was the Committee brought into existence? All communications with the Government ought, according to the 10th article of the Constitution, to be conducted by the President of the House. And if a Committee were required the Budget Committee would have sufficed. Thus our contemporary is opposed, "from the head to the tail," as the Japanese saying goes, to the decision of the 26th instant. The *Kokumin Shimbun* cannot think, as the Cabinet thinks, that the reductions proposed by the Extremists would interfere with the working of the Administrative machinery. It fears, on the contrary, that the alienation of the hearts of the people will discredit the Government in the eyes of foreign Powers.

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It is stated that a compromise will be effected between the Diet and the Ministry at somewhere about 5 million *yen*. There is a rumour that the Minister of Finance is prepared to consent to reductions aggregating 6 million *yen*, but this rumour lacks confirmation.

* * *

The question of agricultural reform is engaging the attention of a considerable section of the public. A writer in the *Choya Shimbun*, after noticing the importance of agricultural improvements, proceeds to ridicule politicians who try to ingratiate themselves with the rural population by loud clamour for the reduction of the land tax. Such a step, while depriving the State of a large amount of income, cannot better the condition of the peasantry. The writer recommends, by preference, the adoption of some positive scheme of improvement. As an example, he advises farmers to form guilds with centres in Tokyo. Such guilds are now seen among other classes of the people, merchants as well as those engaged in industries.

* * *

Some people in Tokyo believe that the recent change in the Japanese representative at Söul is connected with a change in the policy which the Japanese Government intends to pursue hereafter towards Korea. Mr. Kawakita, the new representative, left his family in Tokyo when he started for his post, and this circumstance is alluded to in certain quarters as a sign that he did not think it safe to take women and children with him, since he purposed to inaugurate a new and strong course of policy towards the peninsular kingdom. The *Nippon* evidently puts faith in these reports, for, in a series of three long articles, said to embody the opinions of a certain individual, it dwells on the unwisdom of pursuing a strong and aggressive policy towards Korea. Japan ought to adopt a neutral policy in regard to that country. Russia and China are desirous of possessing the peninsula, but Japan wishes only to see Korea independent and progressive. Our contemporary believes that the Koreans have a future before them. They are naturally quite capable of enlightened progress, as may seen from the assiduity with which many a Korean youth has already prosecuted his studies in Japan. Moreover the past history of the nation reveals, says the Tokyo journal, the fact that the Koreans have been a patriotic race, always eager to maintain their national independence.

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimpo* writes on this subject in a more exhaustive manner. It is equally opposed to the reduction of the land tax. The result of the latter would be to lighten the burdens of the farming class by 1 *yen* 33 *sen* per family on the average; and those who would be actually benefited even to that extent are only twenty-five per cent. of the whole agricultural population. Moreover, so long as the present system of tenant farming remains unaltered, a reduction of the land tax would not confer the slightest advantage on the actual tillers of the soil. Instead of reducing the land tax, our contemporary, like the *Choya*, recommends the adoption of active measures of progress. First among such measures it places improvement of the courses of rivers, and the construction of durable embankments. In the second place it puts encouragement of the exportation of rice. It thinks that, so long as rice remains below 7 *yen* per *koku*, export ought to be profitable. The quantity annually exportable is estimated at 3,000,000 *koku*, and the result of exporting that quantity would be to raise the home price of the grain by 50 *sen* per *koku*. In other words farmers would receive so much additional income; whereas the proposed reduction of the land tax could only benefit them by a few *sen*. The third measure recommended is the enactment of tenant laws and the organization of agricultural associations. The fourth is the development of sources of taxation other than agricultural; and the last is the establishment of some method for supplying farmers with capital.

* * *

Captain Taylor's lecture before the Japan Geographical Society on the proposed Nicaraguan inter-oceanic canal, has awakened widespread interest in the sucess of that undertaking. Mr. Shiga's articles on the subject in the columns of the *Kokkwai* also did much to draw public attention to the enterprise. During the present week, the *Jiji Shimpo* has devoted to this subject a series of several long editorials. Having referred to the history of the unsuccessful Panama scheme, and recounted the preliminary stages of the new American enterprise, the *Jiji* observes that, although usually far from credulous, it is inclined to believe in the Nicaraguan canal, that the undertaking is destined to be a success, and in the strength of this faith it cannot but invite the attention of its countrymen to the great importance of the canal to Japan from commercial, political, and strategical points of view. It recommends the adoption of some practical measures in anticipation of the completion of the great undertaking. These measure are, first the despatch of Japanese labour to Nicaragua. There is a law in force in that country prohibiting the emigration of "Asiatics." But our contemporary thinks that the term Asiatics was originally meant to cover the Chinese alone, and that the Government of Nicargua would not be opposed to the introduction of Japanese labour. Secondly, capitalists are advised to subscribe for the shares of the company. There is plenty of money in Japan, but its owners are at present extremely conservative in using it. The *Jiji* recommends them to turn their attention to foreign enterprises as investments. The possession of shares in the Nicaraguan Scheme by Japanese capitalists, is also declared important from a strategical point of view, for in proportion to the amount of shares possessed by her subjects Japan will have influence in the control of the canal. Thirdly, the *Jiji* suggests the extension of the Poronai-Otaru railway in Hokkaido to the port of Hakodate along the western coast of the island, for on the completion of the Nicaraguan canal Hakodate will become anextremely important coaling station for vessels coming from America and Europe. The present plan is to carry Poronai coal to the ports of Otaru and Muroran, but the former is inconveniently situated for a coaling station, while the latter is too small for the purpose. Fourthly, our contemporary advocates some enlargement of the schemes of harbour construction and dockyards at Yokohama, so as to accommodate the vast amount of shipping which the port will draw after the completion of the Nicaraguan canal. The *Jiji Shimpo* hopes that in carrying out the measures thus suggested, the Government will give all necessary protection and aid.

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRIVILEGES OF FOREIGNERS IN JAPAN.

THE following Representation has been handed in by Mr. KOZUKI JOKEI and other members of the House of Representatives for debate by the House and, if approved, to be forwarded to the Government :—

REPRESENTATION RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF FOREIGNERS.

The conduct of trade and the owning of houses and lands outside the Settlements by foreigners, under any name whatsoever, is not permitted by the Treaties now in force. Nevertheless, of late years the control exercised in these matters has become lax, and the national rights are impaired to no small extent. Therefore, it is the desire of this House that the Government will take steps to establish strict control.

A memorandum setting forth the reasons for the course suggested in the Representation, runs as follows :—

The Minister of Foreign Affairs not having explained clearly how far the work of Treaty Revision has been carried, nothing accurate is known on the subject. So long as the present Treaties remain in force, it is obviously essential that their provisions should be strictly observed. But in consequence of the lax nature of the control exercised of late years, foreigners have begun to carry on trade under various names outside the Settlements and have almost usurped the commerce at important places on the sea-coast, with results decidedly injurious to Japanese merchants. Further, foreigners have rented houses and lands outside the Settlements, some for a long term of years, some in perpetuity, and these houses and lands though nominally rented, have really become the property of foreigners. No question is raised about the residences of Foreign Representatives, missionaries, foreigners in Japanese employ, or about churches, but with regard to the rest accurate investigations should be undertaken. This is the cardinal point advocated by the Representation.

We have here another measure not unlikely to be endorsed by the House and sent up to the Government backed by the authority of the people's Representatives. As to the principle involved, it is useless to say much. We have always argued against the wisdom of drawing the reins tightly in respect of the privileges openly or tacitly granted to foreigners by the liberality of the Japanese Authorities. Japan must win her battle for independence by conciliatory methods, and every step she takes in an illiberal or restrictive sense will only awaken prejudice against her. Nobody thinks of denying that she would be within her rights if she strictly enforced the provisions confining foreigners within Treaty limits, and forbidding them to carry on trade or to own real property outside the Settlements. Neither does anybody think of denying that real property is owned and that trade is carried on by a few foreigners outside the Settlements at present. Neither, again, does anyone think of denying that the desire to put a stop to the enjoyment of these privileges by people who, on their side, confine Japan within the stern letter of her convenants, nay, even attach to their text, in some cases, a harsh and arbitrary reading, is quite natural. Like begets like. As men treat others, they must expect to be themselves treated. The unvarying lesson taught to Japan by her intercourse with Foreign States is that, unless a country is too weak to insist upon its rights, it takes jealous care that its foreign treaties shall be construed with the maximum of strictness, so far as the advantages guaranteed by them to the other contracting parties are concerned, and with the maximum of liberality in respect of the advantages secured to itself. We are well aware that to condone the adoption of a similar rule by Japan is denounced by some foreign residents as disloyal and unpatriotic. But that is mere childishness. Facts cannot be altered by a petulant and selfish objection to their statement. It must be admitted that a few foreigners do enjoy privileges not granted by the Treaties, and it must also be admitted that a wish on Japan's part to withhold such privileges is a mood quite natural under the circumstances of her relations with foreign nations. But there are two points to be considered by the House of Representatives when it comes to debate this question. The first is—how are foreigners to be restrained from carrying on trade and owning real property outside the Settlements, so long as they are willing, in the one case, to work through Japanese agents, and so long as they are satisfied, in the other, with a vicarious title to their property? Practical folks, before embarking upon any course, are wont to consider what steps shall be taken in pursuing it. We presume that the members of the Japanese Lower House count themselves pratical folks, and that they will not be content with merely asking the Government to put a stop to certain things: they will, in the first place, think how prohibition is to be enforced. A foreigner enters into a private arrangement with a Japanese to the effect that, for certain considerations, direct or cöoperative, the Japanese shall, in his own name, open a branch of the foreigner's business at some place outside the Settlements. The result is that a handsome store makes its appearance in Tokyo or Kyoto, duly licensed by Japanese authority and carrying on business under the name of the "Handa-shokai," or some other Japanese appellation. It may be strongly suspected that the affair is purely an outcome of foreign enterprise; that the goods sold there are the property of a foreigner, and that the whole risk is borne by a foreigner. But what then? How is an inquisition to be undertaken into the private affairs of the Handa-shokai? The Diet has been called into existence under the provisions of a Constitution guaranteeing, for the first time in Japanese history, full liberty of the subject. Will the Diet be the first to suggest that an official scrutiny should be instituted into the books and dealings of every Japanese firm suspected of being allied with a foreigner? Consider, again, the case of a house or a piece of land outside the Settlements. The title stands in the name of a Japanese. The entry in the Great Ledger is registered in the name of a Japanese. A foreigner may have paid the purchase-money, and may be the practical owner, but, so far as the law is concerned, a Japanese and a Japanese only is concerned. How are cases of this sort to be distinguished? What article of the Constitution or what provision of law entitles the Authorities to undertake an investigation into the circumstances under which a Japanese subject came to be registered as the owner of a certain house or a certain plot of land outside the foreign Settlements? It will be well for the Diet, before voting Mr. KOZUKI'S Representation, to reflect seriously upon the above aspects of the case.

The second point to be considered is whether any advantage could be gained by the proposed course. And here it should be noted that the foreigners against whom the Representation suggests restrictive measures, are precisely the persons whom Japan ought to treat with liberality and consideration. For they are men who not only trust Japanese sufficiently to have valuable property registered in their names, but are also desirous of carrying on trade outside the Settlements. It is not from such foreigners that any real opposition to Treaty Revision comes. Apart from this special consideration, however, there is the general fact that any attempt to limit the privileges now enjoyed, whether legally or illegally, by the foreign residents would assuredly be construed to Japan's disadvantage. People would not stop to reason. They would conclude at once that anti-foreign feeling was at work, and would consequently become more reluctant than ever to entrust themselves to Japanese jurisdiction. We do not say that the inference would be just. We only say that it would be the inference generally drawn and accepted, and that Japan would lose far more by thus ministering to foreign distrust than she could possibly gain by demonstrating the irksomeness of the strict letter of the Treaties. A nation seeking to win the confidence of the world cannot afford to take a backward step of any kind. It may seem harsh to write thus in the context of the admirable spirit shown by that clause of the Representation which excepts missionaries and churches from the scope of the proposed restriction. But those who are most ready to appreciate the great significance of such an exception, will also be the first to admit that the considerations advanced here should commend themselves to Japan in her own best interests.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.
Beware of Imitations.

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CALMER COUNSELS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE House of Representatives has retreated in good time from the extreme position hitherto taken by it. This step probably averts a political crisis and consequently deserves attention. The Budget, as submitted to the House of Representatives, contains two classes of expenditure. With all the items in the first class the House is entitled to deal just as it would deal with the provisions of a law laid before it by the Government for deliberation: that is to say, it may reduce or reject any of these items according to its own views. Further, if such rejections or reductions, made by the Lower House, obtain the endorsement of the Upper, they become practically binding upon the Government. The second class of expenditures belongs to the category defined in the 67th Article of the Constitution; namely, expenditures required for exercising the Imperial Prerogatives, as set forth in the Constitution, and expenditures involved in carrying out laws already in force, or in discharging obligations legally incurred by the Government. The items of this second class of expenditures must not be reduced or rejected by the Diet without the concurrence of the Government. Now when the House of Representatives came, for the first time, to determine its procedure in respect of the Budget, it had to consider what method should be adopted in order to seek the concurrence of the Government in the matter of this second class of expenditures. Viewed by the light of the simple propositions here stated, the question ought not to have presented much difficulty. The House of Representatives possesses only one means of expressing its opinion, namely, by vote. So soon as it has voted certain alterations in the Budget, its functions with regard to the latter are ended. In other words, the moment the Budget passes its third reading in the House, any changes it has undergone become final so far as the House is concerned. But the Constitution provides that, in respect of the second class of expenditures, no such final parliamentary action shall be taken without the concurrence of the Government. Therefore it follows that before committing itself to a conclusive vote for the reduction or rejection of any item in the second class of expenditures, the House must approach the Government and seek the latter's concurrence.

All this would be perfectly simple were the case comprised within the limits here stated. But there is another factor in the problem. We have been speaking of the procedure of the House only, whereas the Diet consists of two Houses, and the words of the Constitution are that such and such expenditures shall not be rejected or reduced "by the Diet without the concurrence of the Government." In view of this language several members of the Lower House—before which the Budget is laid first—contended that the veto must be held to refer to the action of the two Houses. "The Diet," they averred, signified the two Houses. Consequently it was not competent for one House alone to seek the concurrence of the Government. Such concurrence could only be sought in respect of reductions or rejections which had been voted by both Houses in due order. And by that view the House, after a long and animated debate, resolved to be guided.

The Government, on the other hand, emphatically asserted that the House's interpretation was wrong, and told it, almost in so many words, that if it treated the Budget in the sense of such an interpretation, it would be distinctly violating the Constitution.

This view of the Government's rested on three bases. First, if both Houses deal with the Budget as with an ordinary project of law, and having altered it in respect of the special class of expenditures, send it forward to the Government, then the latter's function is reduced simply to exercising a power of sanction or veto. The Constitution, however, speaks of the "concurrence" of the Government, not of the mere exercise of a power of veto or sanction. Secondly, the proviso in the Constitution plainly refers to the procedure of the Houses. The words, such and such expenditures "shall be neither rejected nor reduced by the Diet without the concurrence of the Government," cannot be interpreted to signify that rejections or reductions made by the Diet are inoperative without the concurrence of the Government, because that being true of all measures passed by the Diet, need not have been embodied in a special provision. Thirdly, the reference being to procedure, and the procedure of each House being independent, it follows that whichever House desires to reduce or reject any of the special expenditures must seek the concurrence of the Government by way of preliminary. In fact, the purpose of the 67th Article of the Constitution is to guarantee a certain class of expenditures against being touched by Parliament without the concurrence of the Government.

The House, however, as we have said, resolved to treat these specially reserved expenditures precisely in the same way as it treated the ordinary expenditures falling legally within its competence. It resolved to reduce or reject them by definite process of voting, and then to leave to the Peers the duty of seeking the Government's concurrence. The immediate consequence of this resolve was to bring about a state of extreme friction between the Government and the Representatives. The ultimate consequence would probably have been either the dissolution of the Diet, or a most serious collision between the Upper and the Lower Houses. Happily, however, the motion passed yesterday saves the situation. Having voted certain changes in the expenditures of the various Departments, one by one, the House now finds itself on the eve of voting the second reading of the Budget thus amended. The latter vote would, of course, finally commit the Representatives to the proposed changes; would place them in the position of having deliberately done independently what the Constitution forbids them to do without Government concurrence. But they have now decided that, before proceeding to vote the second reading, they will seek the Government's concurrence, and have thus returned once more to a constitutional route.

There is no denying, of course, that by this last vote the House has distinctly revoked its previous decision. On the 5th instant, after a hot debate, it decided that to seek the Government's concurrence before the Budget had passed the Upper House would be unconstitutional. It has now decided in precisely the opposite sense. The *volte-face* will probably provoke some ridicule, but we think it decidedly to the credit of the House that it has not shrunk from rescinding a resolution which was obviously unconstitutional, and which, if adhered to obstinately, must have involved grave consequences.

THE BATTLE OF THE 20TH.

IT may well be supposed that the result of the fight in the House of Representatives on Friday week caused much excitement in political circles. Up to the evening of the 19th inst., indeed up to the moment when Mr. AMANO JAKUYEN'S motion was submitted to the House, the public imagined that victory rested absolutely and finally with the Extremists. The Moderates had struggled time after time to stem the current. Their ingenuity was quite remarkably displayed in framing proposals which, while differing sufficiently in form to justify independent debate, aimed nevertheless at one and the same result, namely, to prevent the House from definitely adopting the Report of the Budget Committee. At the outset, when these proposals came up for discussion, the Moderates, though left in a minority, were always able to make a brave showing. They suffered no crushing defeat, and it never seemed a foregone conclusion that victory would rest with their opponents. Little by little, however, the Extremists developed strength. They had one great advantage, superior organization. Every forenoon the attitude to be taken in the House was considered and decided by a caucus, and the party remained, on the whole, faithful to these decisions. For a moment there was a split. Count ITAGAKI threatened to withdraw from the association, and during the days preceding his return to the fold, the divisions in the

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House gave palpable evidence of this dissension. But the breach having been temporarily healed, the united strength of the Radicals and the Progressionists overbore all opposition. It is not publicly known by what machinery the coalition between these parties, always hitherto bitterly antagonistic, was maintained and directed. The Progressionists (*Kaishin-to*) are crafty, long-headed folks. Gifted with the admirable quality of keeping their own counsel, they manage their affairs quietly. Of the routes taken by them in order to come into line with the demonstrative, notoriety-courting Radicals, nothing is generally understood.

That they had evidently made up their minds either to try and thrust the Government out of power, or to contrive the dissolution of the Diet, by means of the Budget, and that, in pursuance of this resolve, they were to be found steadily but unostentatiously voting with the Radicals—these facts represented virtually the sum of what men could discern in connection with their doings. The coalition constituted a solid phalanx, much too powerful for the Moderates, who, to numerical weakness, added the drawback of having no recognized political organization. The debate on the 13th instant practically ended the campaign. Defeated in every attempt to challenge the nature of the sweeping reductions advocated by the Budget Committee, the Moderates on that day took their final stand on the question of procedure. They appealed to the Constitution, only to find the Extremists bent upon interpreting the Constitution according to the dictates of their own convenience. Thenceforth the divisions in the House were a mere farce. The Extremists had the field to themselves. Only a mere handful of Moderates attended the debates, and the voting seemed to indicate that opposition was hopelessly crushed. Suddenly, out of this clear sky of victory fell the thunderbolt of the 20th instant. The Moderates brought in a motion distinctly reversing the memorable decision of the 13th instant, and, in a full House, carried their point by a majority of twenty-nine. To what causes must this strange occurrence be attributed? To two, apparently: first, and chiefly, to a secession of a portion of the Radical Party; secondly, and in a very trifling degree, to a growing conviction that if the House persisted in its course, dissolution was inevitable. The seceders were the members of the *Aikoku-koto*, Count ITAGAKI'S special followers. Whether or no the Constitution would be violated if the House of Representatives passed a final vote altering the "fixed expenditures" without the Government's concurrence, it could not but be evident to thoughtful persons that such a method of procedure would transfer to the Upper House a great part of the power exercisable by the Lower. The Representatives, instead of sending to the Peers a Budget amended with the consent of the Government, would send up a Budget possessing no *cachet* of finality, and liable to be radically altered by the Peers in constitutional concert with the Government. In short, the fate of the Budget would be entrusted to the Peers, instead of practically resting with the Representatives. Count ITAGAKI seems to have apprehended this, as did also several important members of his party. It is not much to their credit that they failed to perceive it earlier, or that, perceiving it, they failed to give effect to their perception. But they grasped the fact in the end, and, passing over to the Moderates, saved the situation. With them are said to have voted the National Radicals (*Kokumin Jiyu-to*), a party still in an embryonic condition, which had previously cast in its lot with the Extremists. The motive of this latter change of front is not clear, but we shall probably be correct in ascribing it to the same conviction, slowly acquired but well founded, as that which swayed the members of the other receding section. We find it different to concede much influence to the second cause mentioned above, namely, apprehension of dissolution. It is claimed that the Government, knowing how seriously many members must feel the inconvenience of a second election, sedulously encouraged the belief that dissolution would be the certain fate of the Diet if the Lower House persisted in its unconstitutional course. But in truth dissolution never entered the field of practical probabilities. There were so many arguments against it that few, if any, of the Representatives can have regarded it as a genuine contingency. The factors really active in bringing about the victory of the Moderates were, we think, a perception that the Extremists were about to transfer to the Upper House a large part of the power vested in the Lower, and that no appreciable reduction of expenditure could be accomplished if the Representatives persisted in defying the Government. Concerning the latter point, not the slighest doubt could any longer be entertained as to the attitude of the Cabinet. By repeated declarations, culminating in the announcement of the 16th instant, when the Minister President spoke from the rostrum in the presence of all his colleagues, the Government had pledged itself to reject the amendments of the Lower House if presented in the form contemplated by the Extremists. The choice therefore lay between adopting the official interpretation of the Constitution, and deliberately inviting a fiasco. It does not follow, indeed, that any very sweeping result will be accomplished by the House's change of attitude. The Government has declared itself against, not the form merely, but also the amount, of the proposed reductions. A compromise, however, may be looked for. Instead of surrendering their functions to the Upper House, provoking a grave conflict with of the Government, incurring the reproach of unconstitutional procedure, and finally accomplishing nothing tangible in respect of public expenditure, the Representatives, by a timely concession, have avoided all these unpleasant contingencies, and will probably be able to show their constituents a solid economy of administrative outlay.

NATURAL CHILDREN IN JAPAN.

IN the debate in the House of Peers on the Registration Bill, an interesting point came up for discussion, with reference to the registration of natural children. The 32nd Article in the original Bill read as follows:—"In the notice about the birth of a natural child, no mention shall be made of the father, unless he has recognised the child." This article was rejected by the Special Committee appointed to report on the Bill, and the question of rejection or retention led to much discussion in the House. According to the new Civil Code, which is to come into operation in 1893, a natural child may at any time be legitimatized by recognition on the part of its father and mother, the act of recognition being performed, whether by the parents in person or by their duly authorized representatives, before the civil officer designated for the purpose, or before a notary public. Reading the above article of the proposed Registration Law in conjunction with these provisions of the Civil Code, the Special Committee appointed to examine the draft of the Law, thought that they detected a conflict of terms, inasmuch as the "natural child" of the Civil Code is essentially a child not recognised by its father, and consequently if the name of the father be duly registered, the child can no longer be called illegitimate. They therefore recommended that the article be struck out. But when the House came to consider this recommendation, difficulties were raised at once. The Government Delegate, who had charge of the Bill, being asked by a member to explain the object contemplated by the framers of the clause, said that the interdict was designed to prevent women from making false declarations as to the paternity of a child. The Committee appeared to think that record of the father's name was virtually rendered impossible if the child were registered as illegitimate, and that, consequently, the clause was superfluous; whereas the drafters of the Bill thought that unprincipled women, if not restrained by law, might cause scandal and annoyance by registering names of men upon whom they wished to father their offspring. But this inconvenient contingency did not seem to possess terrors for all the members. On the contrary, Marquis DAIGO was of opinion that every opportunity should be given to a woman to register the name of the man

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whom she believed to be the father of her child, because, in that way, greater facilities would be furnished for subsequent legitimatization, and his view of the matter found so many supporters that the House agreed to omit the clause. This, however, did not end the discussion. The next article (33rd) of the Law ran as follows:—"The report of a birth shall be made by the father. When, in the case of a legitimate child, the father is absent, or when the child is illegitimate, the report shall be made by the mother, or by any relative living in the family, or by the physician or *sage-femme* engaged at the *accouchement*, or by any one who has nursed the mother during the delivery." It was proposed to amend this article so that its second clause should read, "when in the case of a legitimate or legitimatized child, the father is absent" &c. The mover of the amendment explained that, whereas the Civil Code enabled a father to legitimatize his child even before it was born by making due declaration, the above article of the Registration Law made it necessary that every child born out of wedlock should be registered after the manner of an illegitimate child, even though it had been previously legitimatized. Thus there was a conflict between the Code and the Law. Moreover, there was a further conflict between the provisions of the Law itself. For the 31st Article provided that the points to be recorded when registering a child were its name; the fact whether it was legitimate, legitimatized or illegitimate; the year, month, day, hour, and place of birth; and the name, occupation, and domicile of the father and mother. But the 33rd article omitted all mention of a legitimatized child. These natural objections received much support at first, but the Delegate in charge of the Bill, being asked to explain why no mention of a legitimatized child had been made in the 33rd article, advanced an argument similar to that on which the Committee had relied when recommending the excision of the 32nd article; namely, that if the recording of the father's name by the mother or her relatives at the time of registration were permitted in the case of a child not born in lawful wedlock, a door would be opened to grave abuses. Mr. KURODA TSUNAHIKO, the Delegate, expatiating upon this point, drew a vivid picture of the scandals that might ensue if unprincipled women were free to register their offspring as legitimatized in the name of some person of high social or official standing, without the latter's cognisance. To this very practical hypothesis he added the suggestion that, in the rare instances of a child legitimatized before its birth, the father, if prevented by any cause from being present to register it himself, could always provide a legal substitute, and thus the provision that, in the father's absence, a legitimatized child could not be registered as such, entailed no real hardship whatever. The House accepted these views, and declined to sanction the insertion of the proposed words.

This discussion conveys a pretty clear idea of the principles followed by the new Civil Code and Registration Law in respect of children born out of lawful wedlock. The cruelly unjust doctrine adhered to in so many Western countries, by which the sin of the parents is visited on the unfortunate and innocent children, finds no sympathy in Japan. A natural child can at any moment be legitimatized by a simple act of recognition on the part of its futher, and this act is irrevocable unless it has been made by testament. Farther, a child born out of lawful wedlock becomes *ispso facto* legitimatized by the marriage of its father and mother. This rule applies even to the case of a deceased child. On the other hand, a natural child is interdicted from attempting to establish its paternity, except in certain cases, namely, when its mother was seduced under promise of marriage, or was the victim of an act of abduction or rape to which the conception of the child can be reasonably referred. It is also forbidden to introduce a legitimatized child into the conjugal home of its father, unless the latter's wife consents. In this provision we find evidence of a custom long prevalent in Japan, namely, the custom of taking natural children into their fathers' domestic circle. The Japanese wife has always, except in very rare cases, been disposed to insist on this step. If she discovers that her husband is the father of an illegitimate child, she deems it a matter at once of duty and of expediency to assume the charge of the child as soon as possible, and to bring it up with her own children. It would be difficult to adduce a more striking illustration of the difference between Japanese and Western customs. Which system is the better, we leave others to decide. In this context, however, we cannot withhold applause from the provision of Japanese law, as embodied in the new Code, which distinctly imposes on relatives, in their order of kinship, the duty of supporting and educating, or assisting to support and educate, a child left destitute by the death or poverty of its parents. There is embodied in that law a fine principle of mutual help; a principle that may be traced through nearly the whole national life of Japan.

THE FUNERAL OF PRINCE SANJO.

THE funeral of Prince SANJO was conducted in strict accordance with the rites of pure Shintoism: simplicity constituted its principal characteristic. Minus large bodies of troops marching before and behind the bier, and an interminable string of carriages containing almost every Japanese of note in Tokyo, the cortége consisted of nothing more than a bier carried and escorted by a crowd of men in white, a few red and white banners, and four clusters of artificial flowers. An immense quantity of natural flowers, arranged in the prescribed fashion—that is to say, grouped in bamboo cylinders with stands to support them at the shrine—had been sent by friends, but as no place is assigned for such adjuncts in the set ceremonial of the Shinto cult, they were excluded from the procession, and carried by a separate route to the Shrine. The result of this rigid adherence to rule was to deprive the cortége of one of its most striking features, and to render it considerably less picturesque than the procession which followed the remains of the late Prince IWAKURA to the grave. Enormous crowds of sightseers were perhaps the most noteworthy element in the affair. The whole population of Tokyo seemed to be in attendance, drawn up a dozen deep along the line of march. They assembled quietly and dispersed quietly, the great majority doubtless convinced as they went home that a State funeral is not such an imposing spectacle after all. At the head of the cortége were six mounted gendarmes, riding alternately singly and in pairs, and after them came a battalion of troops, with a battery of artillery and a squadron of cavalry. A similar force, disposed inversely—that is to say, the soldiers in front and the gendarmes behind—brought up the rear of the procession, and between these two bodies came the bier, with its prescribed entourage and an immense line of carriages. Branches of *Sakaki (cleyera japonica)*; eight streamers, alternately red and white, carried in double rank; a simple unpretending deal box in which were enclosed the offerings to be made at the Shrine; a number of inferior Shinto officials, in pure white robes, preceding two Imperial carriages in which rode the Principal and Assistant Shinto dignitaries; a banner with the name of the deceased Prince; four silver-bladed halberds; four large bouquets of metal flowers; the insignia of the Prince's eight Orders carried on cushions; then the dead man's body servants, and then the bier of milk-white pine relieved by massive gold mountings, with its cloud of white-clad bearers, followed by the Chief Mourner, and the Funeral Officials—these constituted the cortége proper, and behind it were hundreds of carriages containing Princes of the Blood, Ministers of State, Members of the two Houses of Parliament, and a host of officials and private persons. The chief mourner, Prince SANJO'S son, a youth of about sixteen, was dressed in flowing white robes and black *hakama*, his feet shod with straw sandals, and on his head the black *kammuri* of old-time official costume. He was on foot, but the other relatives, apparently very numerous, rode in closed carriages. There was no music, a march played by the bugles of the rear guard, excepted; nor did the navy send a contingent. Foreigners, too, were conspicuous

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by their absence from the procession, some having preferred to go direct to the shrine, and a few having been deterred by finding that, whether intentionally or accidentally, they were segregated from the Japanese in a manner suggestive of racial distinction. On the whole, this part of the ceremony was neither interesting nor impressive. The arrangements at the Shrine, however, call for more minute description.

There are few spots of greater natural beauty in the immediate vicinity of the capital than the Gokokuji grounds, in the north-west quarter of the Koishikawa suburb. But for the shrines and other buildings dotted about, the visitor might imagine himself in a Japanese garden of exceptional size and perfectness. Trees old and young —gaunt pines, comely cedars, and a large variety of lesser growth—with rocks and fountains, crags, ponds, and running water, are disposed in picturesque disarray over the slope of the hill that rises above Aoyagi-cho. On the day of the funeral, though wintry tints were still upon the foliage, the place was warmed and gladdened by a bright spring sun, while the fine outlines and deep, rich colours of the main edifice, its gates, and lesser shrines lent the scene a charm of their own. It would, indeed, be hard to imagine a fitter spot than these lonely and lovely grounds for the resting place of a nation's honoured dead.

At about half-past eleven, the head of the procession reached Gokokuji, its arrival being announced by the firing of minute-guns. The troops did not enter. But the rest, passing in on foot at the main gate, ascended the hill, with its long flights of stone steps, that leads up to the Hondo, advancing between deep, compact ranks of officials, ecclesiastics, diplomats, and other privileged spectators who had assembled earlier in the forenoon. In succession, and to the melancholy strains of Shinto music, came the *sakaki* bearers and flag bearers; men carrying the chest of offerings; many white and purple clad priests; bearers of the titular banner, more *sakaki* boughs, the halberds, and the dead noble's Orders, and his servants. Then the bier itself, at the passage of which all heads were bowed. Next, the young Prince and Princess SANJO, and the four younger daughters. Of the Prince's costume we have already spoken. The Princess wore a long black cloak over a white robe and brown *hakama;* while the junior ladies were clad from head to foot in soft white crape, with their hair pendent and tied by a single white binding. After these followed the relatives, among whom were many ladies in Japanese garments of sober hues. All these mourners passed forward behind the bier, which was now deposited on a stand beneath a spacious temporary porch, draped with curtains of black and white, and erected immediately before the entrance of the Hondo. The Prince's Orders were disposed on stands of white *hinoki* about the bier; and the flowers and banners were planted on either side of a wide aisle of immediate approach which had been formed by two large pavilions erected for the accommodation of all present. In their appointed places in one of these pavilions the principal mourners seated themselves. But the Imperial Princes, members of the Cabinet, and other dignitaries, after following in the procession as far as the entrance of the aisle, turned aside to rest in a neighbouring shrine while preparations were being completed for the coming ceremony. At half-past twelve a move was made to the two pavilions, and in ten minutes—so good were the arrangements—the whole concourse of perhaps 2,000 spectators were seated in their allotted places. The two high officiating priests, and six of minor degree, now did homage before the bier, with much bowing, hand-clapping, and recitation. Other sacerdotal ceremonies followed, with accompaniment of Shinto music. Next, the Chief Priest, standing reverently before the bier, received offerings of fish, fruit, rice, and other edibles which were passed devoutly from hand to hand of the ministering priests, and disposed them on white wood stands placed to receive them. This done, he read aloud, facing the bier, two valedictory orations, the whole assembly standing uncovered the while, except the Imperial Princes. "May your soul have eternal rest and peace in heaven," were the words with which, after a recital of the dead statesman's deeds and virtues, each of these addresses ended. The last ceremony of respect was now begun. Receiving each from the priests a sprig of *sakaki*, the young Prince, and the Envoys of the EMPEROR, EMPRESS, CROWN PRINCE, and DOWAGER EMPRESS, successively advanced to the bier, and, bowing lowly, laid before it the sacred boughs. They were followed in like manner by the young Princess and her sisters, and other chief family mourners, the Princess representing her sick mother and therefore performing the ceremony twice. The Imperial Princes ARISUGAWA, KOMATSU, and KITASHIRAKAWA next made offering. Up to this point the whole procedure had been remarkably solemn and impressive. But, as the members of the Cabinet and the Diplomatic body now advanced by groups to perform the similar rite, and were followed, *en masse*, by the rest of the pavilion occupants, eager to pay their last tribute of respect to the remains of the distinguished Prince, the simple dignity of all that had gone before was abruptly and completely changed.

For most of those present the ceremony, which had lasted about fifty minutes, was now ended. Only a few remained to see the body carried to its last home. A little to the right and back of the Hondo, a masonry-lined vault, about eight feet by ten feet, and fifteen feet deep, had been built, and over it an exquisite canopy of white *hinoki*, in the purest and simplest Shinto style. Prepared and adorned as it was on the 25th inst., the wide matted approach to the sepulchre of the great *Kuge* was in a high degree attractive. It also well illustrated the rare taste of the Japanese in preferring brightness to gloom for the externals of even death itself. For some sixty yards on either side, the approach was decked, many ranks deep, with a lovely display of great floral and other tributes from the late Prince's countless friends—among the contributors being the Foreign Representatives—which presented a mass of brilliant colour, in happy contrast to the wooded scene around. Beyond these was a small white-railed enclosure, containing pavilions for the few who were to be present at the burial ceremony. And beyond this again were two goodly cryptomeria trees, between which, as a fine natural portal, were seen, immediately behind, the graceful outlines of the canopy above the tomb. It was close upon two o'clock when the sound of music proclaimed the commencement of the last act of the funeral. The offerings and the piles of *sakaki* sprigs were removed by the priests, and the bearers, approaching, once more shouldered the great ark-like bier, and bore it, headed by the titular banner and other emblems, along the bright and beautiful approach to the grave, whither none but the chief mourners and a highly favoured few were permitted to accompany it.

THE ANSWER OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE following is the answer sent by the Government to the application for its concurrence, made by the House of Representatives in connection with the rejections and reductions of expenditure set forth in the Budget Committee's Report:—

Before voting finally upon the Budget for the 24th year of Meiji, the House of Representatives, in pursuance of the procedure laid down in the Constitution, has asked for the Government's concurrence. The Government, on coming to examine the draft of amendments, finds that the contemplated changes of Administrative organization are in excess of the deliberative functions exercisable in connection with the Budget, and further, that it is *ultra vires* to attempt to change, by means of the Budget, not only expenditures that have arisen by the effect of law and that appertain to the legal obligations of the Government, but also rights fixed in accordance with the provisions of law. The Government should not neglect to adopt, as far as possible, an attitude of deference towards the decisions of the House, but such changes in the Budget would render it impossible to discharge the responsibilities of practical administration. It is requested that the House will re-consider the question.

Up to the moment when this reply was placed in the hands of the President of the Lower House, it had been confidently expected that the Minister of State for Finance would himself appear in the House and give a categorical explanation of the Government's objections. But for the rest, the answer astonished nobody. Its

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nature had been accurately forecast from previous speeches delivered by Ministers of State in the House. The first sentiment evoked by its receipt was one of disappointment that Count MATSUKATA had not come down personally to deliver the message—a sentiment probably due to a vague idea that the presence of the Minister might contribute to the evolution of some scheme of compromise. A member accordingly moved that the Minister of Finance be invited to attend, but the practical and disagreeably blunt Mr. INOUYE KAKUGORO reminded the House of its previous experiences; how it had failed to procure the attendance of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, and how it "cried itself to sleep" (*naki neiri*) over the incident instead of taking any steps to assert its authority. The law did not impose on Ministers of State any obligation to respond to a summons from the House, and even supposing that Count MATSUKATA should come, the result would be, as it had always been, a fruitless bandying of frivolous questions and inconclusive answers. It was at this stage that what we may call the last act of the Budget drama was played. Mr. MISAKI KAMENOSUKE had the honour of figuring as the *deus ex machinâ*. He proposed that a Select Committee be appointed to confer with the Government and to amend the proposed alterations so as to bring them within practicable limits. This proposition was adopted by a majority of 34 in a House of 268, and Messrs. MISAKI, KATAOKA, and KOBAYASHI, three of the members who, two days previously, had formally severed their connection with the Radical Party, were chosen at the head of the nine Select Committee-men. Of course this means a compromise. The Government will agree to some reductions; the Special Committee will consent to eliminate the rest, and the House will vote the new report with very little debate. No other step was possible except the one proposed by Mr. MISAKI. Thus and thus only can the House hope to find itself face to face with a practical financial issue before the *nunc demittis* is spoken. But the chances of the Budget's being brought into existence do not appear to us to be better than they ever were. Even supposing—an exceedingly sanguine hypothesis—that the Budget reaches the Upper House on the 3rd instant, there will only remain four days for its examination and discussion by the Peers. If the Upper House consents to play an absolutely self-effacing part, and to endorse, without deliberation or inquiry, not only the amendments concerning which the Government and the Representatives have come to an agreement, but also the changes voted by the Lower House in the items of expenditure falling within its independent competence, then indeed the Budget may have passed through both Houses by this day week. But we see no chance whatever of the Peers adopting such a course. They are already discussing, on the motion of Viscount TANI, a tolerably long list of rules of procedure to be followed in treating the Budget when it reaches them, and we may therefore infer that they mean to make themselves real factors in the control of its final fate. The strong probability is that when the Budget comes up to them, and when they find that only three or four days are available to discuss it, they will decline to undertake the task at all, choosing rather to apply themselves to something capable of achievement.

THE CONDITION OF KOREA.

POLITICAL complications in the East have of late been gradually assuming a phase which points towards Korea as a possible important factor in their settlement. And it is even now thought by some that the maintenance of her independence and neutrality is a political necessity to be secured at any cost. The questions concerning her standing and future relations to the neighbouring Governments have more than a local interest, for in them may be bound up the issues of the future.

The interest in this nation's affairs thus excited is increased by the fact that so little is known of her internal condition, politically, socially, and economically. The public has been compelled to rely to a great extent upon the reports of those of whom little more can be said than that they have touched the shores of the Peninsular Kingdom on business or pleasure. There has been a certain unanimity about the reports thus circulated, but despite this feature they have been so unqualifiedly unfavourable, that instead of producing conviction they have only awakened incredulity. It must be confessed, however, in extenuation of these reports, that the first impressions liable to be produced upon travellers visiting Korea from either Japan or China cannot but be unfavourable and unpleasant. The contrast is marked in a superlative degree. In the two larger countries the evidences of wealth, energy, and ambition are visible everywhere. Manufactures and works of art not only tempt the visitor to purchase, but also give him an idea of the skill and genius of the natives. In Japan, for instance, should he penetrate inland, he finds continual evidences of unremitting and widespread industry, and monuments of former affluence and power worthy his notice and consideration. In the open ports of China he is continually confronted by that vast trade, which, embodying the commercial interests of the Middle Kingdom, has given her no mean place among the nations of the world.

None of these features, however, nor commensurate ones of a different nature, challenge the transient observer's attention in Korea. No curio store of the neat and artistic Japanese style catches the foreign eye, nor do displays of silks, porcelain, fans, or any articles for use or decoration hint the possession of manufacturing capabilities by the people. About the open ports wretchedness and filth characterize the native towns; while inland, aside from the beauties of nature, the roads lie through one unending vista of graves, dirt, dogs, and poverty. The derogatory reports of visitors and globe-trotters are therefore easily explained; for fishing hovels are not in the least calculated to give one an impression of affluence and wealth; market places, in which only the barest necessities of a simple life may be found, speak not of industrial skill and energy; while mountains, rich in minerals but only used as grave mounds, are undeviating testimony to sloth and culpable indifference. So much at least is conceded the "reporters" on the condition of Korea.

Two things however, are patent to all. First, a hasty visit to one or two open ports, or a flying trip across the country, is not sufficient to qualify one to speak authoritatively on the condition of a nation or the resources of its territory.

Secondly, residence, temporary or permanent, and thorough investigation will alone enable the observer to form a just estimate of the difference between the surface appearance and the actual status of affairs among a people. In the case of Korea, to correctly judge of its present condition, and its possible relation to the future, the distinction between the actual condition of the people and the resources of the territory they occupy must be constantly kept in mind, for the former speaks only of stagnation and sterility, while the latter are pregnant with great possibilities.

As regards the Korean people themselves, a continuance of the present condition of affairs augurs ill for their future. Commercially it is true that a threefold increase has occurred in the customs receipts for the past year; but this significant fact, far from being due to the enterprise and commercial energy of the natives, is traceable entirely to the efforts of foreign merchants, among whom the Japanese occupy a most important position. Were the business relations of Korea left to the people to develop, the probabilities are that the sum total would be *nil*.

As a nation the Koreans are poverty-stricken; and while it is not a poverty of actual want, or wide-spread famine or distress, it is a poverty which paralyses every sense of enterprise, and reduces life within the narrowest limits. More so than in any other country we are acquainted with, the soil is the one and only source of national wealth. And as the development of this wealth is relegated to the inferior classes, it is not surprising that its main bulk is so small, compared with the

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population. The labouring classes, ground down under the deadening weight of an unthrifty and unproductive gentle class, and their horizon circumscribed by ignorance, poverty, and tradition, give as little thought to things outside their own animal wants as possible. The results of their labour, instead of insuring them a competence, pass into the hands of their lords. No degree of independence can secure them the possession of wealth; unjust taxation, infamous persecution, and violence are the ordinary methods of wresting their surplus earnings from them.

Resting upon such a rotten foundation as this is the great class called Yang Bans, or the aristocracy, whose relation to the welfare of the country is parasitical in the last degree. Supported by the labour of serfs and the products of inherited lands, their life is spent in religious abstention from labour. Their chief occupation is gathering, by fair means sometimes, by foul means often, the money of those beneath them. Their chief recreation is the dissipation of the funds thus gathered, in useless and evil extravagance. And to make the matter worse, the pernicious effect of these aristocrats' lives teaches the people that the better existence, which might be attained by wisdom, industry and frugality, is simply a life of absolute idleness and indulgence. The one ambition of the upper classes, the one and only thing that possesses any resemblance to employment among them, is office bearing. For this they study, scheme, and pray. And while we would not speak ill of the honest Korean noble, (if such there be), who accepts office as a public trust, and endeavours to conserve the interests of his country and people, it is a sad truth that the vast mass of officials rule the people simply to enrich their personal coffers, an object they accomplish by glaring and atrocious pilfering.

The result is that the people are dispirited and ambitionless. No motive exists for that commercial enterprise which would place Korea in her proper place. Hope is dead so far as the present is concerned, and things are left to take their own course. In the capital venality vies with venality, corruption and trickery match corruption and trickery; and chief among the articles of commerce there are rank and female flesh. In the country no public spirit gives the villages an appearance of life or enterprise. The traveller rides into them by execrable roads and out of them by worse. Manual labour on the farms is done largely by the women, who are worked like slaves and used like beasts; while their proud lords, the majority of them serfs, and the rest little better, imitate their gentlemanly masters in the arts of idling, gossip, and dissipation.

An evil genius seems brooding over the life of the Korean people, paralysing every nerve and muscle and spreading disaster and ruin. It appears to touch their life in its widest circumference, blighting and blasting everything. And to its malevolent influence the present generation seems to have resigned itself completely. But the power of reproduction has tided more than one people over disastrous crises. The hopeless abandon of one generation to a miserable condition has often been speedily rectified when the next generation, fresh in vigour and dauntless in courage, has put its young shoulders to the wheel. It was so in Japan; it is Korea's hope.

In great contrast to the condition of affairs which exists among the people is the natural wealth of the territory occupied by the Koreans. Its area is far too small to lead any one to argue that its products will ever take a prominent place in the markets of the world. But the Peninsula has been stored by nature with riches which in the hands of industrial folks would put them on a footing with other nations. Most favourable conditions exist for agriculture. With the ameliorating influences of the Yellow Sea on one side, and the Japan Sea on the other, neither the cold of winter is severe, nor the heat of summer excessive. There are three different soils; a limestone along the east coast, a granite in the central and southern portions, and a basalt to the north. The Koreans spend little labour in cultivation, and yet the fertility is such that a rich return, both in quality and quantity, is obtained. And to this fertility must be attributed the fact that the condition of the lower classes is undoubtedly better as regards the supply of actual wants, than that of the same classes in China, or even Europe. The territorial area is not much over eighty-five thousand square miles, and vast portions of this are mountainous and uncultivated. In such portions bears, deer, tigers, leopards, wild boars, and wolves hold undisputed possession. The agricultural area is confined to the well watered valleys and plains, and yet so rich is the soil that not only is sufficient grain to support life raised by a small outlay of muscle and money, but also there is surplus enough in a prosperous year to create a brisk trade with neighbouring nations. Rice, beans, barley, millet, and cotton are raised in great quantities, and the present bulk of these crops might, under proper conditions, be increased a hundred fold.

Concerning minerals, the natives themselves are just awakening to the wealth stored away in their mountains. Gold deposits are worked by the people in various portions of the country, and that they are not valueless is shown by the report that about three million dollars yearly in crude "dust" is exported in one way or another. Silver, used throughout the country for the manufacture of dishes and ornaments, all comes from native mines. But leaving aside the so-called precious minerals, much more is promised in the metals of industry. Rich mines of anthracite of a superior quality exist in the north, and if developed would yield ample return. Iron, copper, and lead are right at hand inviting industry and manufacture; and could the development of these begin now it might solve many difficulties of the present. But this does not exhaust the list of her resources. Throughout the long coast line embracing the three sides of the peninsula, the sea brings untold wealth to Korean doors. Already the Japanese, awake to the possibilities of Korean waters, have begun a trade in fish, seaweed, etc., which is growing in proportions yearly. In the south also are pearl fisheries, and while we do not know how extensive they may prove to be, yet they have already produced some beautiful specimens, and might under proper control became an additional source of income to the country. In the hands of a people energetic and enterprising, the natural resources of Korea would soon place her on a sound footing in the business world, and remove completely the present financial disabilities of which so much is said. Such a position might have been reached long ago had the conditions among the people been favourable. We believe it is easy to find the guilty party responsible for the present state of affairs. Some have traced it to long and unwise seclusion; others have looked upon it as the legitimate outcome of the attitude towards labour. These and other reasons have all had their part in moulding present conditions, yet by far the more potent for evil has been and is a corrupt and conscienceless official class. Drawing no salary from the Government, or simply an allowance of grain which bears no resemblance to salary, the officials batten on the people's blood like vampires. Every office in the land is auctioned off to the highest bidder, and these officials, corrupted by the very means through which they have obtained preferment, use their power in the most unprincipled extortion and robbery. The high officials in Söul "squeeze" the golden drops out of the governors and higher officials in the country; they in their turn make requisition on the magistrates, who draw to the last penny their indemnity from the people. No one who possesses money is safe from their ravenous clutches. So complete is the system of extortion that sooner or later every one becomes grist for some mill. Among Korean officials big fish eat little fish, little fish eat shrimps, and shrimps eat mud. A man's only protection from such beasts of prey is poverty.

Until this condition is changed there is little hope for the country. So long as its resources are sapped, and so long as every attempt at improvement is made a pretext by the ruling classes for a thievish descent on the Treasury, the country will be kept in a humiliated condition. So long as this dead incubus of a corrupt and criminal official class weighs it down, the nation will continue to lie prostrate and pitiable in

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its misery and impotence. But should the time come when new ideas of the purpose of office shall prevail among the official classes, and the shameless system by which they obtain advancement be entirely eradicated, a brighter day will dawn for Korea. The people, free from the oppression which now throttles all hope of the future, and under the leadership, possibly of the very classes which now burden them, will develop the country and inaugurate a régime of commercial prosperity and integrity that will put Korea in her proper place.

GUY PALMERSTON.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—FEB. 20TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, and proceeded to consider a petition for the reduction of the Tax on *saké* brewing. Mr. Hayashi Soyemon supported the petition. The tax on *saké* brewing had been enormously increased of late years. It was now twenty times greater than at the beginning of the *Meiji* era, and petitions for its reduction had been perpetually presented to the Senate and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. He also urged that official examination of the brewing business should be conducted only once *per annum*, instead of three times as at present. With regard to the objection that if the tax on *saké* were lightened, similar steps must be taken in respect of tobacco and other articles, he failed to see its force. The point was that *saké* paid too great an impost in comparison with other luxuries. A long debate ensued, involving discussion not only of the merits of this petition in particular, but also of the functions which the House ought to discharge in respect of petitions generally. It was finally decided that the petition should not be forwarded to the Government. The House then proceeded to discuss a petition for a reduction of the land tax in Wakayama Prefecture. Mr. Miura Yasu urged the impropriety of discussing in connection with one part of the empire only a question really of general application, and moved that the petition be laid aside for the present. Mr. Shimauchi opposed this proposal. On putting it to the vote, the House divided equally, 41 "ayes" and 41 "noes." The President gave a casting vote in favour of Mr. Miura's proposal, and the petition was laid aside. The House then proceeded to consider a petition relating to the manner of dividing Urban and Rural Districts, and after a short debate, rejected it. The House rose at 3.15 p.m.

FEBRUARY 21ST.

The House met at 10.55 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. Marquis Hachisuka moved for permission to change the Orders of the Day, in order to introduce a proposition for determining the objects to be kept in view in examining and debating Petitions. He argued that the duty of conducting a careful inquiry into the merits of a Petition devolved upon the Government, not upon the House. Several members supported this view, but Mr. Miura Yasu argued strongly against it, on the ground that it would render the function of the House purely mechanical in respect of Petitions. Mr. Shimauchi urged the practical impossibility of the House's undertaking to investigate accurately and decide upon the merits of the hundreds of Petitions sent up by the people. Viscount Tani supported the proposal of Marquis Hachisuka, as did Mr. Murata. Professor Toyama opposed Mr. Miura's view, and pointed out the utter futility of attempting to deal thoroughly with the matter of innumerable Petitions. After some further debate the motion was put and carried. The House rose at 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23RD.

The House assembled at 10.50 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. It was decided, at the suggestion of the President, that, in order that the members might attend Prince Sanjo's funeral, no session should take place on the 25th instant. A petition relating to a reduction of the tax on confectionary was adopted for submission to the Government, as was also, after some discussion, one relating to changing the jurisdiction of Kitagishi-mura, on the Tonegawa. The House rose at 12.30 p.m., and did not meet in the afternoon, the rest of the day being devoted to Committee work.

FEBRUARY 24TH.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, and proceeded to the first reading of a Bill relating to the manufacture of men-of-war, torpedo-boats, and naval weapons. It was decided, at the request of the Government, that the third reading of the Bill should be dispensed with. The purpose of the Bill was to sanction the application, to Naval purposes, of the surpluses of revenue remaining from 1888 and 1889. Captain Honjuku, Government Delegate, in answer to a question by Marquis Hachisuka, explained that unfortunately it was not yet possible to build large ironclads in Japan. The House voted the Bill without discussion. The next business was to consider a petition urging that the cultivation of Hokkaido should be hastened by convict settlements. Mr. Obata Yoshiine contended that the petition should not be forwarded, since it referred to national affairs, whereas the scope of petitions addressed to the House was limited by law to affairs directly concerning the petitioners. Baron Senge opposed the petition on the ground that, if its suggestion were adopted, Hokkaido would become a land of criminals. Viscount Tani condemned the petition, not because he supported Mr. Obata's view, but because the petition contained a clause charging the Government with neglect in respect of Hokkaido, whereas in truth the Government had been most earnest in its efforts to colonize the island. Viscount Matsudaira denied the justice of Baron Senge's remarks. He said that some six hundred criminals were already sent every year to Hokkaido, and it was only a question of increasing the number to twenty thousand. Convicts might reform and become good subjects. Marquis Hachisuka denied that petitions must necessarily be limited to matters of direct interest to the petitioner. He showed that no such construction could properly be put on the Constitution and the Law of the Houses. Mr. Miura Yasu contended that since the House, by a previous vote, had decided not to consider the merits of petitions but only their legality, the present discussion was unnecessary. The petition ought to be forwarded for the Government to deal with. As to the claim that Hokkaido would be populated by criminals, he reminded the House of the proverb "earnest in evil, earnest in good also" (*aku ni tsuyoku wa zen ni mo*). After the midday recess, Mr. Shimauchi supported the petition. He admitted that the Government had been very diligent in its efforts to colonize Hokkaido, but the persons who went there were not equally diligent. They thought only of making a little money and coming back to their native place. This fatal defect would be remedied by the proposed plan, and he therefore advocated it, for he regarded Hokkaido as a mine of wealth waiting to be worked. After some further debate, the petition was rejected. The House then proceeded to consider a petition praying for the abolition of Law No. 25 of 1889, by which a special system of local government was enacted for Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto. Marquis Hachisuka explained that the Committee, while appreciating the difficult questions involved in this petition, had deemed it right that it should be submitted. His own name appeared among the petitioners, but he begged the House to consider that he had signed in his municipal capacity, not as a member of the House. Baron Nagaoka supported the petition, claiming that the special system of local government had been introduced for purposes of temporary convenience, and could not possess any permanence. Several members spoke in support of the petition, and the House finally decided that it should be forwarded. A similar petition from Kyoto was also approved. The House rose at 2.20 p.m., the President having announced that there would be no session on the 25th instant.

FEBRUARY 26TH.

The House met at 10.45 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. Marquis Hachisuka announced that the Petitions Committee offered, for the discussed of the House, a petition from Gifu Prefecture relating to local administrative divisions. The House proceeded to consider a Bill introduced by Viscount Tani for regulating minor points of procedure with regard to the Budget. Viscount Tani explained that the object of the Bill was simply to expedite procedure. In the course of replying to various questions, he said that the Governmental concurrence prescribed in Article 67 of the Constitution was to be sought by each House independently. A long discussion took place with regard to the 13th Article, which required that the House should seek the concurrence of the Government before voting the reduction or rejection of any item of expenditure falling within the scope of the 67th Article of the Constitution. Mr. Murata Tamotsu moved that the 13th Article be struck out, and Mr. Ito Miyoji, in an able speech, demonstrated the unsoundness of Mr. Murata's views. The closure was ultimately put and carried by 79 to 46, after which the House adopted the disputed article, an open ballot giving 69 "ayes" and 57 "noes." The House rose at 4.45 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—FEB. 20TH.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. The President announced that he had himself proceeded to the residence of the late Prince Sanjo and transmitted a message of condolence on behalf of the House. The message was read. The House then proceeded to debate the Minority Report on the Upper Middle, Female Normal, and Music Schools, namely that the appropriations to these schools be continued, the amounts only being reduced. Mr. Hasegawa Tai spoke at length in opposition. He urged that the education given at the Upper Middle Schools had two objects, first preparation for the University, and secondly, to equip specialists. The two purposes were incongruous, and involved the adoption of a curriculum such as no Occidental educationalists would approve. It was more than doubtful whether efficient experts even, were educated at these schools. Medical instruction, especially, did not appear to be any better than that afforded at ordinary Prefectural and City Schools. The Medical Schools in Nagoya, Kyoto, and Osaka were incomparably better, and the students at the Upper Middle Schools might be sent thither with advantage. They might even be admitted to the Medical College of the Imperial University without increasing the staff of the latter. He also argued that the appropriation to these schools was quite disproportionate to the revenue of the State. The House rose for the mid-day recess at 11.50 a.m., and re-assembled at 1.50 p.m. The President announced that an amendment had been proposed by Mr. Yokobori Sanshi, abolishing the appropriations to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Upper Middle Schools, and giving 22,625 *yen*, 82,034 *yen*, and 10,589 *yen* respectively to the Female Normal School, the First Upper Middle School, and the Music School. After some debate the closure was voted, and the House rejected the amendments of Mr. Hasegawa (for the abolition of appropriations to all the Schools in question) and of Mr. Yokobori, and adopted the Minority Report. Mr. Amano Jakuyen brought in an urgency motion that, before passing the second reading of the Budget, the concurrence of the Government should be sought. He urged that by adopting the course now contemplated, the House would be acting unconstitutionally, and would also divest itself of a large portion of its power in favour of the House of Peers. The House voted that the motion might be debated without changing the Orders of the Day. Mr. Iwasa Jiro opposed the motion on the ground that no occasion existed to change the procedure hither-

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to contemplated. Mr. Hayashi Yuzo supported the motion, urging that the Lower House would be surrendering an important part of its competence If it divided with the Upper the duty of taking all steps relative to the Budget. Mr. Suzuki Shoji opposed the motion. He urged that the House had already settled the question, and further, that the "fixed expenditures" referred to in the 67th Article of the Constitution did not appear in the present Budget. Mr. Nii Go supported the motion. He had opposed the motion of Mr. Suyematsu Kencho because it suggested a temporary decision, which seemed an impossible mode of procedure; and he had opposed the motion of Mr. Tsubota because it proposed application to the Government with respect to each portion of the Budget separately, a procedure that would involve much loss of time. But there could be no doubt that the House was not competent to decide upon the rejection or reduction of the fixed expenditures without the concurrence of the Government. Mr. Hayashi Heitaro said that if the House passed this motion it would be revoking its previous decision. The only difference between the two was a few ideographs. It seemed to him that the House had been alarmed by the speech of the Minister President of State. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo supported the motion because, by persisting in its previously contemplated course, the House would compel the Government to reject all the reductions except a paltry sum of less than ■ million *yen*. To effect a practical reduction, they must come to some agreement with the Government. The closure was here moved and carried. The motion was voted upon by open ballot, and and the numbers were "ayes" 137 and "noes" 108. The House rose at 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY 21ST.

The House met at 10 48 a.m. The President announced that a Bill had been submitted by Mr. Mori Toichiro for the reform of Local Administration; also a Bill (urgency) by Mr. Itakura Naka for the appointment of ■ Special Committee with the object of memorializing for an extension of the House's Session; finally, a Bill by Mr. Sato Satoji for appointing a Committee to inquire into railway affairs. The House proceeded to discuss the Revenue side of the Budget. Before commencing the debate the movers of urgency proposals, namely, Messrs. Itakura, Suzuki, and Suyehiro, sought to have their motions brought on. The House decided that the Orders of the Day must be changed before proceeding to discuss Mr. Itakura's motion. A recess was taken for this purpose, and on re-assembling, Mr. Minoura opposed the idea of a memorial from the House, his ground being that the Minister President of State could not fail of his own accord, to approach the Emperor on the subject. Mr. Noguchi Kei also opposed the motion, claiming that the House might well leave the Emperor to take the desired step. Mr. Orita asked the President to rule members out of order who sought to make the Emperor responsible in this matter. The House adopted the motion, and the President asked the Sections to choose a Committee. After the mid-day recess. Mr. Soné, Government Delegate, in answer to a question, said that the original law as to a five-yearly revision of the land tax had been subsequently revoked. A number of queries were then put by members as to details of land survey, assessment, money advanced to Prefectures, and so forth. Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu moved that the debate on the Revenue be postponed until that on the Expenditure had been concluded, but the House rejected the motion. Mr. Nakamura Yaroku opposed the Committee's Report on Revenue, and maintained that a reduction of the land tax by one half per cent. would bring no relief whatever to the poorer class of agriculturists. While he was speaking several members rose to order, asserting that his remarks had no reference to the matter under discussion. The President ruled in the same sense. The House then voted the Revenue side of the Budget from the 1st to the 20th clause of Section I., without alteration: adopted the Budget Committee's Report in respect of the 1st and 2nd clauses of Section II.; voted the original Budget from clause 1 to clause 13 of Section III., also from clause 1 to clause 6 of Section IV., and then passing to the Extraordinary Revenue, voted Sections I. and II. On coming to Section III., Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro moved that the subsidy of 200,000 *yen* to the Tea Company be revoked. Mr. Takanashi, in support of the motion, dwelt chiefly on the fact that the company was not yet actually in existence, and that the granting of a subsidy to an enterprise in such an embryonic conditions was beyond all reason. Mr. Nishio Denzo opposed the motion. He alleged that the Company was actually in existence, having been legally recognised on the 27th of February, 1890. It had already sent Mr. Hirao, a native of Tosa Prefecture, to Russia, and on his return the promoters had put up 130,000 *yen*, and had fixed the Company's capital at half a million. There could be no doubt that the Company had complied with all the provisions of law as to its organization, and that it was in veritable existence. He strongly denounced the impropriety of revoking a grant duly made to persons engaged in promoting the sale of Japan's second great staple of export. Such a course would be, on the part of the House, quite *ultra vires*, and would be gravely unjust to the promoters of the company, as well as injurious to the nation's belief in the credit of the Executive. Mr. Yamanaka Riunosuke disapproved of subsidies in general, and thought that in this particular case the revocation might be legally effected, as the Company was not yet a going concern. Had it been actually called into existence, he should oppose the motion. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho said that, though the grant of a subsidy to the Tea Company was a questionable proceeding, the motion now before the House could not accomplish anything, being taken in connection with the Revenue side of the Budget. To include the recovered subsidy in the revenues, they must first recover it, and that could only be effected by a Representation to the Government. He moved that a Representation be made. The House adopted this amendment. The House then voted Sections III., IV., V., and VI. of the Budget, adopting the Committee's amendments in respect of the last two Sections. The President then announced that, no objection having been raised, the following should be taken as decided in the Expenditure side; namely, that the Budget be applied in respect of the appropriations for the Upper Middle School of Yamaguchi Prefecture, the Zoshikan of Kagoshima Prefecture, and the Female Upper Normal School; and the recommendations of the Committee's Report be accepted in respect of the Imperial University, the Upper Normal School, the Upper Commercial School (*Koto Shogyo Gakko*), the Tokyo Industrial School (*Kogyo Gakko*), the School of Arts, the Deaf and Dumb School, and the Public Library. The House then proceeded to consider a Bill submitted by the Government with respect to carrying over funds for the construction of vessels of war, torpedo boats, and weapons of war. These funds had accumulated as surplus of revenue over expenditure since 1888, and, under ordinary circumstances, should have been absorbed into last year's revenue. But for special reasons of military equipment, they had been set apart, and the House was now asked to enact a law sanctioning their being carried over to next year's Revenue. The House voted the Bill unanimously, without debate, and rose at 4.20 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23RD.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. After some announcements by the President, Mr. Inouye Kakugoro rose to inquire in what capacity Mr. Saito Shuichiro appeared in the House. If as a Government Delegate, was it permitted that a Delegate should wear ■ less formal costume than that provided for a member? A member had to appear either in Japanese dress with *haori* and *hakama*, or in foreign costume with a frock coat or morning coat. The President said that Mr. Saito was in foreign costume. Mr. Inouye insisted that it was not proper foreign costume. Other members supported Mr. Inouye, and Mr. Miura expressed surprise that the President should show amusement about a violation of the rules. The President finally requested Mr. Saito to withdraw, and the latter did so, returning shortly afterwards in a frock coat. Mr. Tanigawa Tai, referring to the motions of which notice had been given as announced by the President, said that, as he understood, the various schools specially licensed by the Government in different localities, the Keiogijiku University, and the schools of law and political economy were no longer to receive State aid. In that case the whole duty of educating barristers and economists would devolve on the State, and ■ grant of only some eight thousand *yen* had been made for the purpose. Was it possible to discharge such functions with such an appropriation. The reason supposed to be assigned for withdrawing official recognition of these schools was that they were regarded as places for educating *soshi*. Was not that a mere pretext? Again, with reference to the provision that men who had not graduted at one of the local Government Schools were not eligible for examination as barristers, was not that veto really aimed at injuring private schools? If it was proposed to settle the matter of funds by Imperial Ordinance after the session of the Diet had come to an end, he could only compare such a procedure to the methods adopted by the First Napoleon. He therefore desired to receive information from the Government on these points. Mr. Nakamura Yaroku inquired whether the member had been giving them a lecture. Mr. Tanigawa replied in a loud voice that it was no lecture, and that Mr. Nakamura had better hold his peace. Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, on behalf of the Special Committee appointed to inquire into the advisability of petitioning for a prolongation of the session, reported that the Committee had decided to recommend that the President seek the honour of being admitted to audience by the Emperor, for the purpose of submitting for His Majesty's consideration the actual state of affairs, and soliciting such a prolongation as His Majesty might deem fit. The House, being new to Parliamentary procedure, had necessarily made little progress, and had moreover been interrupted and greatly impeded by the destruction of the Diet's buildings. There were more than 20 important Bills awaiting discussion, and to separate leaving them untouched would be a reproach to the House. The President announced that a message had been received from the Minister President of State, asking the House to discuss and vote upon the Supplementary Estimates for next year without submitting them for examination by a Committee. The President further announced that, in the absence of objection, he should consider the Committee's Report adopted as to the prolongation of the session. The House then proceeded to the first reading of the Weights and Measures Bill, as sent down from the Peers. Mr. Ishida, Government Delegate, explained the objects of the Bill. He pointed out the great inaccuracies of the weights and measures now in use, and laid stress upon the fact that the purpose of the Bill was in no sense to change the Japanese system, but only to fix the standards in accordance with scientific methods, and to bring the system into mathematical relation with the systems of the West. Various questions were put by members, and answered by Mr. Saito Shuichiro, Chief of the Commercial Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The President said that as the number of important Bills awaiting first reading was large, it seemed desirable to conduct the preliminary inquiries and hear the explanations as to several Bills in succession, and then to elect, by one operation, the Committees for examining them. The reading aloud of the Bills would also be dispensed with, as printed copies were in the hands of all the members. The House then proceeded to the Registration Bill. Mr. Shirane, Delegate for the Home Office, briefly explained the need for such a Bill. Only one question was asked, and the House then proceeded to the amended Criminal Code. Mr. Mitsukuri, Government Delegate for the Department of Justice, said

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that the Code contained over 400 articles, and that full explanations were appended. There had been four bodies of criminal law promulgated since the 1st year of the Meiji era, but a perfect system had not yet been attained. He referred briefly to some of the defects of the code now in force; as its failure to define clearly the offence of seeking to bring officials into contempt (*Kanri bujyoku*); its want of distinction between treason towards the State and towards the Government; its deficiency in respect of provisions relating to local officials and registrars; and so forth. Mr. Okada Ryoichiro said that the immediate consequence of each previous revision of the Criminal Law had been an increase of criminals. Did the Government expect that this new revision would lead to a reduction? This question elicited loud laughter. After some further questions, Mr. Kondo Jumpei inquired whether this revision of the Code had been dictated by the exigencies of the country's foreign relations, and if so, what articles had been thus affected. The Government Delegate said that the revised Criminal Laws were for use in Japan, and that their compilation had not been undertaken in the smallest degree for the purpose of producing a good effect upon foreigners. Besides, they did not apply to foreigners, since the latter are at present exempt from the operation of Japanese laws. In answer to another question, he said that one great object of the revision had been to obtain thorough equilibrium of penalties. In some cases penalties might have been increased, but on the whole the alterations were on the side of leniency. Immediately after the operation of the present Criminal Code, directions had been given to the various courts that note should be taken and information furnished of all faults in the working of the Code. In accordance with the facts thus obtained the work of revision had been commenced five years ago. After some further questions, a discussion arose as to the manner of electing Committees to examine the above three Bills, but it was finally decided to follow the usual method. The President having announced that he proposed to forward to the Government the whole Budget as amended by the House at the second reading, Mr. Orita Kenshi opposed that method, urging that only the portions falling within the scope of Article 67 of the Constitution should be forwarded, as there was no occasion to seek the Government's concurrence in respect of the remaining items, with which the House had power to deal independently. This objection found no supporters. Three Committees were then elected, and the House took a recess at 3.15 p.m. On reassembling, Mr. Kawamada Tokujiro moved that the Bill for amending the land assessment be considered at once as a matter of urgency, since that course would greatly facilitate subsequent discussion of the question of land tax reduction. The proposal was rejected by 127 to 111. The House then proceeded to the first reading of a Bill for amending the Land Tax Regulations. Mr. Shiota Okuzo, the introducer of the Bill, attempted to explain it, but met with much interruption, the House appearing to think itself quite sufficiently informed on the subject. The House rose at 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 24TH.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. The President said that a Representation had been handed in by Mr. Hayakawa Riyosuke, asking for the appointment of a commission to inquire into a disease of the mulberry tree (*Kuwa-no-ha ishuku-byo*); also a Bill by Mr. Iwasa Jiro for amending the Land Assessment in certain localities. The House then proceeded to consider a supplementary Budget for the next fiscal year. Mr. Shirane, Government Delegate, explained that the sum asked for, namely 240,000 *yen*, was for the re-building of the Diet. The Government thought that the best plan was to re-construct it of wood, so as to have it ready by the session at the close of this year. Mr. Mori Toichiro observed that a sum was included for the pay of a foreign expert, and inquired whether Japanese architects and scientific men would not suffice. Mr. Shirane said that there was no intention of procuring a foreigner from abroad. There was already a foreigner engaged in the Temporary Building Bureau of the Home Department who had had experience in the building of houses of parliament, and as his present agreement expired in March, the Government had thought it better to re-engage him for the period of the Diet's reconstruction. Consequently no special examination had been made as to the competence of Japanese experts. He presumed that if a choice were made with great care, a competent Japanese expert might be found, but the work was one of considerable magnitude. Mr. Sakurai Tokutaro said that the chief point of dissatisfaction connected with the former building had been the absence of a Throne in the Lower House. Would this be remedied in the re-constructed Diet? The Delegate replied in the negative. In answer to a question by Mr. Hamano Noboru, he said that the lighting would be by electricity, as before, but that ample precautions against fire would be adopted. Mr. Suyehiro thought that this question required careful consideration. He asked whether the building now used for the House of Representatives could not be hired for three or four years longer; whether there would be any difficulty in similarly renting the Imperial Hotel; what would be the cost per annum of adopting this plan; about how long the building of the permanent Diet would take; and finally whether some trifling changes would not render the new Patents Office suitable for the purposes of the Diet. The Delegate replied that the idea of using the Patents Office had not been considered, but that great inconvenience would result from any attempt to employ buildings now serving other official purposes. A rough estimate of the cost of the permanent Diet was 2½ million *yen*. He could not answer the other questions. Mr. Yamanaka Riunosuke said that from actual observation, he believed an outlay of 100,000 *yen* would render the Patents Office fit for temporary use by the Diet. He urged that a Special Committee be appointed to consider the whole question. Mr. Shirane said that the building now occupied by the House was required for the Museum of Antiquities of the Household Department. To prepare it for the purposes of the Diet, an outlay of 120,000 *yen* would be required. The rent of the rooms used in the Imperial Hotel was 5,000 *yen* monthly. He denied that the Patents Office could be adapted for the Diet at a cost of only 100,000 *yen*. Mr. Takaoka Kiukei proposed that the Bill be submitted to the Permanent Committee on Finance for examination, despite the Government's request that a Committee should be dispensed with. After some debate, the House rejected this proposal by 102 to 101. Mr. Suyehiro then proposed that the Bill be submitted to a Special Committee. On re-assembling after the midday recess, Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, representing the Committee appointed to consider the question of prolonging the session of the Diet, asked permission to explain that the previous recommendation of the Committee with regard to a verbal communication by the President to the Emperor, seemed to be opposed to the Constitution. The Committee therefore desired to amend their Report, so as to recommend a written memorial. Mr. Suyehiro's motion was then put and lost. A desultory discussion ensued. Mr. Horiuchi Chiuji urged the expediency of having a Throne in the House of Representatives as well as in the House of Peers. He wished to know whether the Delegate's statement as to the intention of dispensing with a Throne had been made advisedly. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro advised the Delegate not to give himself the trouble of replying to such a person, and Mr. Suzuki Manjuro endorsed the counsel, to the great indignation of Mr. Horiuchi, who pressed for a reply. The Delegate said that the plan of the former building had been adopted, and that he could give no further information. Mr. Naito Rihachi pressed his amendment for cutting off the appropriation on account of a foreign architect. The reasons given by the Delegate for employing a foreigner simply amounted to saying that, as one was on the spot, he had been engaged. Japanese architects should be well able to do the work, especially since it was simply one of re-construction. Report said that the employment of foreign architects had sometimes been the cause of serious errors of construction. The closure was moved and Mr. Naito's amendment being put, was lost by 119 to 116. Mr. Suzuki Manjuro told the House that, most regrettably, they had decided to employ a foreigner whose services might have been dispensed with, and was proceeding to dilate on the theme when he was called to order. The Bill was then voted, and the House proceeded to consider a Bill for the amendment of the Land Tax Regulations. Mr. Nakamura Yaroku made a powerful speech in opposition. The document accompanying the Bill spoke of the land tax as ancient. Undoubtedly it was so: it had existed in Japan from time immemorial. Within recent years immense social changes had taken place, and corresponding public outlay was required. Did they think they could purchase civilization for nothing? If a section of the nation were over-taxed, doubless its burden should be lightened; but when they proposed to reduce a tax paid by the whole nation, how was the public expenditure to be met? People talked of "land tax reduction" as a question approved by public opinion, but the *Sonno Joi* (honour the sovereign and expel foreigners) cry of pre-Restoration days had been a more unanimous expression of public opinion, and who entertained it now? Did they forget what the Minister of State for the Navy had told them? He had said that the Navy of Japan was not yet sufficient to protect the country. They had also been told that not until the year 1929 would the fortifications of the bay that washed the streets of the City where their Emperor lived be completed. It was impossible under such circumstances to vote for a large reduction of the land tax. Did they not know that the foreign trade of their country amounted to over 130 million *yen* annually? How much of that trade was carried on directly by Japanese? They had voted, with apparent pride, to reduce the subsidy of the Japan Mail S.S. Company. Let them go to Hongkong, and, travelling thence westward, see how often they would meet a ship flying the Japanese flag. They ought rather to recognise the necessity of increasing the subsidies to shipping companies so as to develop the mercantile marine of the empire. They imagined that by reducing the land tax they would relieve the farming class and encourage production; but in truth the effects of the proposed reduction would scarcely be felt by individuals. Again, they all talked of Treaty Revision as an object of universal desire, but would the consummation of that hope be hastened by cutting down the revenue to a sum less than the reasonable expenditure of the State? He yielded to no one in his desire to reduce useless expenditure, but he held that the money thus economized should be devoted to productive works, as irrigation, road-making, and so forth. The average sum spent every year upon works of irrigation, road-making, riverine repairs, and so forth, from 1875 to 1886, had been 1,498,000 *yen* approximately, and the average yearly loss by floods 3,866,000 *yen*. They might regard this great sum as money lent in perpetuity and without interest to the Princess Otohime of the Dragon's Palace. Such a system of finance was not to be approved by any reasoning man. Instead of reducing the land tax they should reduce useless expenditure, and employ the money thus saved to carry out works the products of which would help to reduce the national debt. Mr. Asanaga Shinzo moved, as a point of urgency, that the amendments proposed by Messrs. Suzuki Shigeta, Amakasu Fumiye, and Iwasa Jiro be examined fully, and separately discussed and voted upon. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro moved that a Special Committee be appointed to examine the Bill. Mr. Nakamura had denied that the reduction of the land tax was a subject of public desire, but for his part he thought there were very few persons in the whole nation who did not desire it. Mr. Yamaguchi Chiyosaku denounced the proposal of Mr. Asanaga as a mere device for throwing dust in the eyes of the House. The

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supporters of the Bill probably foresaw that they were about to be beaten, and were therefore resorting to strategy. He exhorted them to stand up like men and face the issue stoutly. Never mind who lost or won. The question was, what was best for the country. Mr. Asanaga's motion was then put and apparently lost. The decision being challenged, the President (Mr. Tsuda) called for an open ballot. Meanwhile the House had been falling into more and more confusion. Members were speaking without leave, others shuffled with their feet, and some hammered their desks with the uprights on which their numbers were written. The President's cries of order were disregarded. Mr. Kudo Kokan insisted on speaking, though forbidden to do so, and Mr. Inouye Kakugoro shouted that he ought to be removed from the House. The President then declared that the result of the ballot was 92 "ayes" and "142" noes. The President was then about to put Mr. Inouye Kakugoro's motion, but objection was raised on the ground that the motion was virtually the same as that of Mr. Asanaga. Mr. Inouye himself called out that his motion had been "handsomely beaten." Mr. Hayashi Koichiro said that, during the past three years, the total sum annually paid by the nation in the shape of land tax and local taxes was 58 million *yen*, and further burdens would have to be borne on account of the new system of Local Government. Some relief must be given. In seeking to reduce the land tax they were only carring out the expressed wishes of the empire. Such a plan would materially help to develop the national resources. The opponents of the Bill claimed that the proposed reduction was not supported by public opinion, but the numerous petitions presented to the Diet proved the error of such a contention. The President here asked the House whether it had no objection to the course recommended by the Committee on the prolongation of the Session. No objection was raised. The closure was then put and voted. The House then decided to proceed to the second reading of the Bill, by 225 to 17. The House rose at 4.30 p.m.,

FEBRUARY 26TH.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. The President announced that Mr. Takanashi had presented a motion for a Representation asking the Government to revoke the subsidy to the Tea Company. Also that a reply had been received from the Government to the House's application for its concurrence in respect of the reductions recommended by the Budget Committee's Report. The reply was read out. It intimated that the Government though anxious to give effect to the wishes of the House, was unable to make such economies as those proposed, and it asked the House to reconsider the question. Mr. Uyeki Yemori proposed that application be made for a Cabinet Minister to attend and explain the matter. Mr Inouye Kakugoro asked under what authority it was proposed to ask for the attendance of a Minister. Supposing that the request were made and refused, would the House drop the matter as it had done in the case of applying for the attendance of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce? Mr. Uyeki replied that no law or provision of the Constitution distinctly empowered the House to take such a course, but it seemed to be a course consistent with the spirit of parliamentary procedure, especially when they were considering a matter of such importance as the Budget. Mr. Otsu Junichiro thought that the House should be in a position by this time to appreciate the unsympathetic treatment it was likely to receive at the Government's hands. The Delegates of the Government had the same status in the House as Ministers. He suggested that explanations should be sought from them first, and that afterwards, if necessary, the Government should be approached. Mr. Misaki was of opinion that nothing could be gained by entering into any verbal discussion with a Minister of State. He recommended the appointment of a carefully selected Committee to re-examine the scheme of reduction and enter into consultation with the Government. He saw no other way of reaching a practical result, in view of the proximity of the close of the session. If the House did not mind separating without effecting anything in respect of the Budget, then he had nothing more to say. But they devoted some ninety days to this subject and it would redound little to their credit if they went back to their constituents with nothing whatever to show. He proposed that the Committee should consist of nine, and that it be chosen, not by Sections, but by the whole House. Mr. Uyeki's motion was then put and lost. Mr. Misaki's motion was then discussed. Mr. Kikuchi Kanji opposed the motion, and was beginning to enter into an examination of items of the Budget when several members rose to order. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro declared that Mr. Kikuchi's speech sounded like the rough draft a rustic discourse. Mr. Tanaka Shozo shouted out "silence." Mr. Kikuchi, after further interruptions, failed to obtain a hearing and descended from the rostrum. Mr. Otsu Junichiro thought that the House should come to some decision to guide a committee before appointing one. He combatted the reasons advanced in the Government's reply, and said that if the reductions proposed by the House were opposed to the laws, amendments of the laws in the desired sense should be undertaken. The closure was here put and voted. A closed ballot was then taken on Mr. Misaki's motion, the result being 151 "ayes" and 117 "noes." The President announced that the House would now proceed to elect the Select Committee, but several members said that, being uncertain as to the functions of the Committee, they desired to hear the stenographic record of Mr. Misaki's speech. Other members asked that the usual midday recess be taken, the hour being past noon. Mr. Kudo Kokan called out to the President to be so good as to leave the House. Mr. Nakamura Yaroku said that Mr. Kudo should be handed over to the Committee for Disciplinary Punishment. Repeated calls for a recess ensued. The President ordered the stenographic record to be read. Mr. Tanaka Shozo asked whether the President had power to prevent the members from eating when they were hungry. Mr. Endo, who sat immediately beside him, bade him be silent, and rising, clenched his fist. Mr. Tanaka shouted back an angry reply, and a personal encounter seemed imminent when the President called the two members to order. The balloting proceeded, with the following results:—

Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke	150 votes.
Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi	148 votes.
Mr. Kobayashi Kusuo	135 votes.
Mr. Tanaka Gentaro	133 votes.
Mr. Furushio Yoshikado	131 votes.
Mr. Awai Takeo	128 votes.
Mr. Abei Iwane	127 votes.
Mr. Kammuchi Tomotsune	127 votes.
Mr. Maki Bokushin	123 votes.

The House took a recess at 3 p.m., and reassembled at 3.45 p.m. The President announced that a Message had been received from the Emperor sanctioning the prolongation of the session until the 7th proximo. Mr. Koma Shiku urged the advisability of arriving at a clear understanding as to scope of the functions to be performed by the Committee appointed in the forenoon. After some discussion the President said that, according to his view of what had passed and his reading of the stenographic records, the function of the Committee was this:—To consult with the Government, and then either to make whatever amendments seemed necessary, or, if such a course appeared expedient, to take the sense of the House, and be guided by it; then to report to the House, after which the House would finally decide. This explanation was received with applause. The House rose at 4 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THREE QUERIES TO MR. ISAAC DOOMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Mr. Issac Dooman, in your issue of the 12th instant, is again successful in showing that whatever else Christianity may do for its adherents, it has little influence in teaching them manners. Yet the existence of such a controversialist as this gentleman, who thinks it good taste to refer to Mrs. Humphry Ward as "the greatest literary Jezebel of the 19th century," may be found useful, if only as an example of the sort of language possible to what one may call the "natural" Christian, uninfluenced by the better manners of his time.

Mrs. Ward has not much to fear, however, from a writer who can talk of a "luminary" "harping" upon views, and who shows in almost every line that however much he knows about the fluctuations of creeds, he has but little acquaintance with the rules of grammar. Still, as Mr. Isaac Dooman would no doubt like an opportunity of giving the public some insight into the vast stores of learning which he has accumulated in the course of his extensive reading, perhaps he will be good enough to answer one or two queries arising out of his letter.

Firstly, then, he objects to Mrs. Ward's religious ideas as expounded in "Robert Elsmere" on the ground that they are not original. Now, as this want of originality seems to be in Mr. Dooman's eyes the unpardonable sin, which damns irretrievably any creed or body of teaching, will that gentleman kindly point out in your columns how much of the ethical teaching of Jesus Christ is original and not to be found in teachings and writings anterior to the assumed date of the Gospels?

Secondly, will Mr. Isaac Dooman give a few out of the "infinite number of instances" in which every day he sees divinely-made "cosmic laws" "altered, suspended, and deranged by human will," defining at the same time what he means by "cosmic laws"?

Thirdly, does he seriously mean to assert, what his words imply, that Christians are only kept from fully satiating their "animal lusts and desires" simply by belief in "God," "soul," and "future retribution?" Surely his fellow-believers, who can see the drift of an argument a little more readily than Mr. Isaac Dooman, must utter that bitter cry "Save us from our friends!" when they read such arguments as this.

Yours, &c.,
SECULARIAN.

February 21st, 1891.

THE JINRIKISHA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Observing in the *Mail* a reference to *jinrikisha*-travel and a proposition to abolish that mode of conveyance, something within my mind made such ready response to the idea that I thought I might be permitted to "second the motion."

The unadulterated truth is that the *jinrikisha*, pulled by a human being—tautalogy admissible?—is a blot on civilization, and no Japanese who loves his country in its individuality should be content to have his fraternity represented by such a slavish occupation, or such a degrading method of earning the *gosen*.

While I was in San Francisco, some speculative gentlemen, abetted by a few Japanese youths, proposed introducing the *kuruma* in that cosmopolitan metropolis. The fact was mentioned to my son, who, entertaining for this fair land something of the enthusiastic friendship that Sir Edwin Arnold so eloquently expresses, hastened to the Japanese Consulate and urged the most stringent opposition to any such movement, as it would degrade the standing of the whole Japanese nation if they should allow any of their countrymen to engage in such an enterprise.

Now there is nothing more luxurious than to be seated in a springy, lacquered, elegantly finished *kuruma*, with runner outrivalling all competitors in speed. One loses all sense of the humanity of the "pull-man" and intuitively, half unconsciously, takes pride in the full, sinewy calves of his swift nether limbs, the fit of his livery, the effect of the *mon* or crest, and the curves of the little vehicle that whirls him so comfortably to his destination. I like the *jinrikisha*; but it is an evil nevertheless. It is an inhuman, degrading, killing occupation. Under my special observation within two years, three or four splendid specimens of physique have utterly broken down. Constitutions ruined. To keep up the show of strength and force into continuous service these human steeds, the drinking of *sake* is resorted to; a short lived remedy, and still more fatal the collapse which is sure to follow. To open Japan to foreigners with its men as horses, is more humiliating than to share legal rights with foreign judges. Labour is honourable and elevating save when it degrades man among men; and although the 'riksha coolie of Yokohama may lord it over the intoxicated sailor, he must bend like a beast of burden to carry the man of obliterated reason to dens of infamy, that he may win for himself a pittance more of percentage. The seven reasons

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preferred in the proposition for discontinuance of this form of industry, by the editor of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, have more or less of forcible truth, therefore. Although appreciating the luxury and convenience, I think the system should be disclaimed by all well-wishers of Japan and the Japanese.

Tokyo, Feb. 23rd, 1891. A.V.R.E.

A JAPANESE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—My attention has recently been called to an article which appeared in the *Japan Mail* on January 24th. Even at this late day, please allow me to correct certain statements contained in it.

The article is entitled "A Japanese Confession of Faith." It represents me as the principal author of the Confession, and as "assuring my numerous questioners that not until half an hour before the meeting had any foreigner suspected its existence." When the Confession was presented to the Synod, a simple question was asked me bearing upon its authorship; but my answer was quite different from that indicated in the article. It is true that my part in the matter proved to be nearly "an all-night work;" but it was the work of assisting in rendering the original draft into Japanese.

The article also represents the Synod as dominated by an anti-foreign spirit. It is true that the Synod did not favour the importation of any Confession of Faith prepared by a foreign Church to meet its own special requirements. It desired one suited to the needs of the Church in Japan; and the Confession adopted was adopted because it seemed to do that. But it is a mistake to suppose that the Synod was "hostile to any draft savouring in any degree of foreign inspiration." There was no division whatever of the body into foreign members and Japanese members. To show that this is not merely my own conviction, allow me to conclude with an extract from the official records of the Synod.

"From the beginning of the negotiations for the union of this Church and the Congregational Churches, Dr. Imbrie has laboured in no ordinary manner upon the Constitution and Confession of Faith, and no less for the peace and welfare of the Church. Thus at length we have been enabled to adopt the Confession of Faith of the Church of Christ in Japan; and therefore this Synod, as a slight return for his labours, expresses its gratitude to him in a vote of thanks."

SAJURO ISHIMOTO.

Meiji Gaku-in, Tokyo.

February 24th, 1891.

[It appears to be scarcely correct to state that the article represented the Synod as dominated by an anti-foreign spirit. Stress was laid, it is true, on the evident desire for an original and essentially national confession. The fruit of an anti-foreign spirit pure and simple would hardly have been referred to as "specially reassuring . . . to those who have laboured for the firm lodgement of orthodox Christianity in Japan." Whilst thanking Professor Ishimoto for pointing out that his own reply was incorrectly reported, we may state that our information was based upon impressions gathered by gentlemen present on the occasion, and upon published reports. —Ed. *J.M.*]

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

The last fortnightly meeting of the Literary Society, held at Van Schaick Hall on the 14th instant, was rendered more than ordinarily interesting by what was modestly termed a "Talk upon Railways." Mr. Page, of the Imperial Government Railways, was the author of the paper. Railways, or as our American cousins very properly choose to designate them, Railroads, Mr. Page remarked, admit of a variety of treatment and of a very great deal being said about them, but the limited time allowed him would be thought prevent him from saying much more than many persons were already familiar with. He would, however, briefly glance at two or three of the most striking features of the subject of railways and railway development since their inception at the beginning of the present century. All would admit how largely railways enter into the sum of our everyday happiness, though few probably have considered the subject sufficiently to really estimate the loss a withdrawal of the facilities of rapid transit would entail. After recalling the days of the old stage coaches and post chaises and some of the difficulties and discomforts and dangers of land travel 60 or 70 years ago; and of the deep misgiving and fearfulness with which even journeys of short distances were entered upon, Mr. Page went on to speak of the origin of railways. More than 200 years ago, in fact as early as the year 1676, the first dawn of the present mighty and elaborate system was heralded, when some inventive genius whose name has not come down to posterity conceived the idea of laying down balks of timber equally straight and parallel to form a tramroad for the passage of carts loaded with coal from mines to the river-side in the vicinity of Newcastle-on-Tyne. One hundred years later the Coalbrookdale Iron Works are said to have constructed the first iron rails. These rails were only 5 feet long, and were secured to oak timbers laid upon ties. Ten years later the Sheffield Colliery Society introduced cast iron rails, and tramroads constructed in this manner are being worked for colliery purposes to this day in some districts of England. Very little change was made in the rail afterwards until the year 1820, when J. Birkinshaw took out a patent for the first malleable iron rail. A rail so made, 28lbs. to the lineal yard, and laid on blocks of stone formed the permanent way of the first railway ever constructed and worked by steam traction power. The same description of permanent way, but with a rail 35lb. per yard, was adopted by Geo. Stevenson for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Since then many different types of rails have been devised to meet certain ideas and needs, and they have been greatly increased in length and depth and sectional area, but the great improvement perhaps has been effected in the material of which they are composed; from malleable iron to Bessemer steel. Steel is not only found to be more homogeneous, ensuring evener wear than iron, but its strength is half as great again and rails made of steel may thus be reduced in weight by corrosion and abrasion to an extent that would be unsafe in an iron rail. Until quite recently the action of the weather and natural wear and tear were thought to be the only two elements detrimental to the life of steel rails, but it has been discovered that they are liable to be eaten by a thin, thread-like worm which feeds and actually thrives upon steel rails. Mr. Page remarked that it used to be said that the ostrich fed on ten penny nails, bits of flint glass, and the like, but the worm spoken of can give the ostrich or any other bird or beast points in the matter of solid diet. After giving all the known particulars of this marvellous worm, for the discovery of which the world stands indebted to the Germans, the lecturer proceeded. Steel rails are used on many of the best railways of the standard gauge 4′ 8½″ of a length of 30 ft. and 90lbs. per lineal yard, a very great advance since metal rails were first introduced, some rails for laying upon bridges and for other special purposes have been made 60 ft. long and 90 lbs. to the yard, but the Chiquecto Ship Railway it was generally understood would have a rail 110 lbs. to the yard. The railways in Japan, as all possibly were aware, are of the narrow gauge type, and the rails are 60 lbs. and in lengths up to 30 ft., a very excellent and solid road for a 3½ ft. gauge. The cost of steel rails had been immensely reduced, the earliest of these costing £30 sterling per ton, whereas steel rails of better quality could now be purchased at from £3.15.0 to £4.0.0 per ton. The yearly out-turn of steel rails in Europe and America is now of vast proportions, and as an illustration it was mentioned that Scranton's Mills, Scranton, U.S., by no means the largest manufactory in the world, produced 350,000 tons annually beginning with cold pig-iron, which is melted, converted into steel, sent through the various rolls, sawn into proper lengths, punched, and delivered fit for use, all in one continuous operation. And it is asserted that one finished steel rail 30 ft. long and 60 to 70 lbs. per yard is turned out every sixteen seconds. The stone blocks on which the rails of the early railways were laid made the running of the trains so rough and unpleasant that wooden sleepers or ties were substituted, and these continue to be used, though iron and steel sleepers are being experimented with. The cheapness of wood and the ease with which it can be procured in most countries will most likely prevent any other material being substituted for it, for some time to come at least. Hand in hand with improvements in the permanent way, corresponding advance, Mr. Page stated, had been made in the locomotive. All were aware that James Watt first conceived the idea of utilizing steam for locomotion, but all were not aware that the merit of inventing the first locomotive and showing its practical working as a carrying and transporting agent is due to Richard Trevithick, whose two grandsons are now occupying positions as Locomotive Superintendents of the Government Railways here in Japan. Richard Trevithick was born in Cornwall in 1771, and was consequently a contemporary of Watt, with whom, at the age of 24, he stood forward as a competitor. Trevithick was perhaps the greatest mechanical genius England, or the world, has ever known, and amongst his numerous inventions the most important probably was the making practicable the use of high pressure steam, that is, he conceived the idea of working engines by the pressure of steam instead of by vacuum. Working with high pressure, which Watt condemned unreservedly as dangerous, even going the length of saying that Trevithick ought to have been hung for advocating and producing high pressure engines, it would not have been possible to have locomotives, and, as a consequence, railways as they are at the present time. Trevithick's first working model of a locomotive which is now preserved in the South Kensington museum, was made as early as 1797, and shortly afterwards he constructed a road locomotive, which carried the first load of passengers ever conveyed by this means on Christmas Day, 1801. At a subsequent trial some portion of the machinery failed and the engine, left by the roadside, took fire and was partially destroyed. The following year a patent was granted to Trevithick and Andrew Vivian for a high pressure steam-engine for propelling carriages. In 1803 Trevithick's second locomotive was built, sent from Cornwall to London, where it ran through the streets daily for some time, travelling sometimes at a rate of 8 or 9 miles an hour. This locomotive had 3 wheels, 2 driving wheels about 8 inches in diameter with a small steering wheel in front. In 1804 Trevithick built an engine for working on a tramroad in South Wales, and this was the first engine to run upon a railway. It drew a gross load of 25 tons a distance of 9¾ miles at a speed of 4 miles an hour, and without any load it ran at a speed of 16 miles. At the end of the same year one of Trevithick's engines was built at Newcastle. It differed from its predecessors in having flange wheels. The next effort was not undertaken until 1808, when Trevithick at his own cost constructed not only a locomotive but a railroad, which was laid down on what is now Euston Square, London. This railway, which was circular and upon which a speed of 12 miles an hour was maintained, may be considered to have been a complete demonstration of the present railway system. The engine ran for some weeks, when, a rail breaking, it left the road, and turned over—the first recorded railway accident. The venture not only resulted in pecuniary loss, but for lack of patronage and appreciation Trevithick ceased his efforts entirely in this branch of mechanics, and there is nothing to show that he ever resumed them. Some years after this he went out to South America, and when after 10 years' absence he returned enfeebled in health and without resources, Stevenson had entered the field which he had left open and had successfully established with the public what he had failed to do. Stevenson ran his first locomotive on the Stockton and Darlington Railway—the railway which may be considered the germ of the railway system of the world—on the 27th of September, 1825. It was named the "Locomotion," and is preserved to this day in the locomotive works of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. After speaking of the earlier locomotives, the "Rocket" and the "Samson," Mr. Page turned to modern improvements, citing as the most important the improvement introduced 10 years ago by Mr. Webb, of the London and North-Western Railway, in his compound locomotive. It is claimed that at least 50 per cent. is saved in full by the compound engine, and when it is considered that some of the large railways in England consume 3,000 tons every day or upwards of a million tons annually it is evident that the saving is a very considerable item. Railway companies are proverbially conservative, however, and although so much has been proved in favour of the compound type of locomotive, its general adoption can scarcely be said to have commenced. All must have observed the massiveness and evidence of immense power a locomotive of the modern type presents when under steam and hauling a train at a rapid speed, and yet such a wonderful machine is now-a-days turned out of the huge locomotive establishments in different parts of the world with the ease and apparent rapidity almost of a sewing machine or a watch, for it is asserted that the Baldwin Works at Philadelphia manufacture an average of two complete locomotives daily. And at the Crewe Works, England, which are said to be the largest railway works in the world, an engine was on one occasion for the purpose of an experiment wholly built, from the time the iron plates were selected and laid down to the completion of the engine in every detail, boilers tested and steam up ready and capable of hauling a train in the short space of 25½ working hours. There are computed to be 105,000 locomotives in use throughout the world, and the United States possess between 29,000 and 30,000 of them. Some interesting particulars were given of the speed of trains, in support of which the views of eminent English and American engineers and experts were quoted. Eighty miles an hour is apparently the maximum speed which is possible for locomotives of the present type, at which speed the resistance of the air, the back pressure in the cylinders, and the friction altogether become so great that they absorb the whole power of the engine, while the pressure on the wrong side of the piston becomes

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greatly increased by the fact that the exhaust steam cannot be got out of the cylinders fast enough. In connection with the matter of safety of travel on railways, such high authorities as Sir Edward Watkin and Mr. Findlay, the general manager of the London and North Western Railway declare, Mr. Page stated, that it is the safest mode of progression known to mankind, and Mr. Findlay is of opinion that there is more actual danger in crossing the street of a large town than in riding in an express train. After adducing a few statistics relating to this phase of the subject, reference was made to some of the different descriptions of railways, submarine bridges, tunnels, etc., and to the salient features of the projected Trans-Siberian Railway. At the conclusion of the lecture, the railways of this country were briefly alluded to. There are, Mr. Page said, some 1,250 miles in operation, not including the Hokkaido lines. Excepting two or three short sections which have double tracks the whole system is single and of a 3 ft. 6 in. gauge. The safety of trains working upon this single line is secured by what is known is the Train Staff and Ticket system, a plan invented 40 years or so ago by Mr. Woodhouse, an engineer of the London and North Western Railway for working a long tunnel called the Stonedge tunnel. It has its disadvantages, but there can be little doubt no better plan has yet been devised for securing the safety of a single line worked under conditions such as those existing in Japan. A few illustrations of the humorous side of the railway question were given at the close.

The following is the account of the wonderful worm :—

The German Government has been inquiring into the life history of one of the most remarkable worms in the known world. The gluttonous appetite of this peculiar and wonderful creature is only satisfied by feeding on common steel. For some time preceding the publication of the facts of the case the greatest consternation existed among the engineers employed on the railway at Hagen, on account of the accidents which always occurred at the same place, proving that some terrible defect must exist either in the material or the construction of the rails. The Government became interested and sent a Commission to the spot for the purpose of maintaining a constant watch at the spot where the accidents—one of them attended with loss of life—had occurred. It was not, however, until after six months had elapsed that the surface of the rails appeared to be corroded, as if by acid, to the extent of over one hundred yards. The rail was taken up and broken, whereupon it was found to be literally honey-combed by a thin, thread-like gray worm. The worm is said to be of about the bigness of a common knitting needle. It is of a light gray colour, and on the head it carries two little sacs or glands, filled with a most powerful corrosive secretion, which is ejected every ten minutes when the little demon is lying undisturbed. The liquid when squirted upon iron renders that metal soft and spongy, and of the colour of rust, when it is easily and greedily devoured by the little insect. "There is no exaggeration," says the official report, "in the assertion that this creature is one of the most voracious, for it has devoured thirty-six kilograms of rails in a fortnight."

JAPAN BREWERY COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Japan Brewery Company (Limited) was held on Wednesday afternoon at the offices of the Company. Mr. C. Rohde occupied the chair, and among those present were Messrs. T. B. Glover, A. B. Walford, E. Blanc, C. J. Strome, D. Fraser, P. de C. Morriss, F. Abegg, Imai Sozaburo, Hakaru Isono, R. Masujima, Yeend Duer, and Wilson Walker (Secretary).

At the request of the CHAIRMAN,

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN then said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts for last year have been circulated among the shareholders, and I propose that they be taken as read. The report gives all details, and it will hardly be necessary for me to make any remarks in addition. It is certainly very satisfactory that we have been able to increase the sales notwithstanding that business in Japan generally cannot be considered as having been favourable during last year. The increase referred to shows that the quality of Kirin Beer has found approval everywhere, and it must be our endeavour now to further increase the sales; our brewery is in first rate condition and complete, and is in a position now to meet any larger demand. It is impossible of course to suit everybody's taste. One consumer would like to have the beer somewhat heavier or bitterer, another prefers it lighter, but our principle is to use nothing but pure malt and hops so that consumers may under any circumstances be convinced and sure that they obtain a pure and healthy beer, and I think that this will be the best means of securing a continued sale among our customers and the public generally. That our beer has not deteriorated from its former good quality will be seen by a new report from Dr. Divers, which I shall call on Mr. Walker to read to you.

Mr. WALKER read the report which, under date February 24th, 1891, stated that two samples of the company's beer had just been analysed which were designated in the report as No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1 was in bottles direct from the brewery, through Mr. Glover's agency, and analysed by his request. No. 2 was in bottles purchased about the same date, February 16th, 1891, for home consumption from Kameya's in Tokyo, and was analysed without the knowledge of Mr. Glover or anyone else. The report went on :—"These results prove the beer sent out from the brewery at different times to have been uniform in quality, varying only to the slight extent unavoidable in products of separate brewings even under the best management. They also show that any selection for the purpose of analysis that may have been made at the brewery has been of no effect, since the company's beer on sale in Tokyo has proved to be fully as good as that analysed at the brewery. The latter, however, was very bright, while the former was rather turbid when shaken.

"The beer is pure and perfect in composition, and evidently made from malt, hops, yeast, and water and nothing else. Its taste and aroma are considered to be excellent by the undersigned, who is, however, not necessarily better able to speak on these two points than any one else, and who only includes in this report any statement concerning them in case silence might be construed unfavourably.

"No beer can well claim to be more wholesome or of higher dietetic value than the samples here reported upon."

The CHAIRMAN said he supposed the meeting would find that report very satisfactory. With regard to the annual report he might mention that the annual expenses had been somewhat greater than usual during last year. This was especially due to the propoganda entered upon in connection with the Exhibition in Tokyo. The directors considered it best for the interests of the company that such a course should be adopted, and they hoped good effects would follow from it. If any further information was desired in connection with the annual report he should be very glad to answer any questions that might be asked.

No questions being asked,

The CHAIRMAN presumed that adoption of the report would carry with it the appropriation of profits as recommended by the directors. He therefore proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented by the directors.

Mr. MASUJIMA seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Following is the report :—

REPORT.

The last Ordinary Meeting was held on the 17th March, 1890, and the last Extraordinary Meeting on the 7th April, 1890.

In accordance with the authority conferred upon the Shareholders at such Extraordinary Meeting, the Directors decided to increase the Capital by an issue of New Shares to the amount of $75,000, on the terms and conditions laid down in their Circular of the 12th June, 1890. The Directors are glad to say that these New Shares having been readily taken up, the Capital of the Company now stands at $150,000, fully paid up.

The result of the Company's business during the past year must be considered satisfactory; the sales show an increase in comparison with those of 1889, in spite of various exceptional circumstances that operated adversely to the consumption of beer generally: in particular the high price of rice, the unusually wet summer, interrupted communications owing to floods, and the dull state of the export trade. Beer is still regarded as a luxury in this country, and the demand for it must greatly be influenced by any causes that affect the prosperity of the people at large.

The fact of such increase in the sales conclusively proves the popularity of Kirin Beer and its superiority to any other beer; in this connection the Directors have pleasure in mentioning that the highest medal awarded to beer at the Japanese National Exhibition of 1890 was gained by Kirin, as well as the *Yiji Shimpo* Gold Medal for the best beer brewed in Japan.

The balance at the Company's credit on profit and loss account, after deducting the interim dividend paid in July, 1890, is $15,836.19.

And the Directors suggest that this sum should be disposed of as follows :—

A dividend of 6 % making 11 % for the year, 1890	$4,500.00
Depreciation (a) :—	
Buildings 3 %	$1,380.98
Machinery 5 %	1,959.73
Plant 7½ %	1,498.12
	4,838.83
Reserve Fund increased to $10,345.85 (b)	4,295 85
Carried forward to Profit and Loss Account, 1891	2,201.51
	$15,836.19

The Directors most sincerely regret the death of Mr. Abbott, which deprived them of the assistance of one of their oldest members and one to whose energy the early success of the Company was largely due. Mr. C. J. Strome joined the Board of Directors during the year, which now consists of Messrs. C. Rohde, T. B. Glover, E. Blanc, Shibusawa Yeiichi, and C. J. Strome. The Directors retiring are Messrs. Shibusawa Yeiichi and E. Blanc, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The Auditors, Messrs. R. S. Schwabe and Donald Fraser, retire, but being eligible, the Directors propose them for re-election.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

WILSON WALKER, Secretary.

Yokohama, 13th February, 1891.

(a) The following has been written off for depreciation and wear and tear.

Depreciation written off, 1889	$6,213.83
Wear and Tear written off, 1889	814.65
Depreciation written off, 1890	4,838.83
Wear and Tear written off, 1890	526.50
	$12,393.81

(b) This Reserve Fund has been made up as follows :—

In the year 1888 (first year)	$1,082.00
In the year 1889	3,318.00
In the year 1890	5,345.85
	$10,345.85

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1890.

LIABILITIES.—DR.

To Capital, 1,500 shares of $100 each fully paid up		$150,000.00
To Reserve Fund, including $1,050 premium on New Shares Sold		6,050.00
To New Oriental Bank Corporation, Limited		18,328.13
To Bills Payable		5,469.71
To Sundry Creditors		578.08
To Working Account Balance	$19,586.19	
To Less ½ year Dividend paid in July	$ 3,750.00	
		15,836.19
		$196,262.11

ASSETS.—CR.

By Landed Property, Six Lots of Ground	$ 4,671.00	
By Buildings thereon	46,032.74	
		$ 50,703.74
By Machinery in Operation		32,194.58
By Plant, Bottling, Corking, and other Machines, Tools, Utensil, Vats, Casks, &c.		19,976.00
By Working Stores, Corks, Capsules, Instruments, &c.		2,731.57
By Malt and Hops		2,995 59
By Coal		248 50
By Fire Policies Current		673.20
By House and Office Furniture		364.00
By Stock of Beer		39,334.40
By Bottles		12,276.34
By Debtors on Current Account	$12,726.38	
By Due from Consignments	10,061.23	
		22,787.61
By Petty Cash		177.58
		$196,262.11

WORKING ACCOUNT.—DR.

To Depreciation written off for 1889	$ 7,028.48
To Reserve for 1889	3,318.00
To Brewer's Bonus for 1889	660.00
To Directors' Fees for 1889	1,000.00
To Auditors' Fees for 1889	200.00
To 5% Dividend ½ year ended 31st December, 1889	3,750.00
To Interest	5,587.94
To Ground Rent	324.24
To Samples	352.50
To Charges	1,559.54
To Insurance	1,393.31
To Salaries and Wages	13,523.78
To Charges and Consignments	1,201.15
To Commissions to Agents	17,368.32
To Coal Consumed	6,891.83
To Wear and Tear	526.50
To Advertising	2,170.03
To Balance	19,588.19
	$85,441.80

CR.

By Brought forward from 1889	$15,857.92
By Exchange Adjustment	910.93
By Waste Grains	512 75
By Profit on Brewing Account	68,960.20
	$85,441.80

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.—DR.

To Interim Dividend paid in July, 1890	$ 3,750.00
To Balance	15,836 19
	$19,586.19

CR.

By Balance	$19,586.19
	$19,586.19

WILSON WALKER, Secretary.

We have examined the forgoing accounts and compared them with the Books, Vouchers, and Securities in the possession of the Company, and find them to be correct.

R. S. SCHWABE, D. FRASER, } Auditors.

Mr. WALFORD proposed that as the directors, as was evident from the accounts, had worked very hard in the interest of the shareholders, before appropriating the profits in the manner they had so generously suggested, the meeting should vote to the directors remuneration to the amount of $1,000

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for last year, and further, if in order, he said he would propose that the remuneration be fixed at $1,000 per annum until the company should otherwise determine.

Mr. D. FRASER seconded the proposal, which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure the directors were very glad to see that the shareholders appreciated the labours of the board, and they would be happy to continue their efforts in behalf of the company's interests.—(Hear hear.)

Mr. GLOVER proposed that the remuneration of the auditors be fixed at $300 instead of $200. The auditors had had a great deal of trouble, and he did not think $200 properly remunerated them.

Mr. ISONO seconded Mr. Glover's motion, which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of two directors, Messrs. Blanc and Shibusawa retiring in accordance with Article 81 of the Articles of Association, and the confirmation of Mr. Strome's election last year.

Mr. MASUJIMA proposed the re-election of Messrs. Blanc and Shibusawa and the confirmation of Mr. Strome's election.

Mr. ABEGG seconded, and the motion was adopted.

At this stage, on the suggestion of Messrs. WALFORD and FRASER,

The CHAIRMAN again put the report and accounts to the meeting, with the result that they were adopted.

The next business was the election of auditors, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN it was decided to re-appoint Messrs. Fraser and Schwabe.

Coming now to the resolutions, of which notice had been given,

The CHAIRMAN read the first as follows:—"To add to Article 116 of the Articles of Association of the Japan Brewery Company, Limited: 'They may, however, at the end of the first six months working in any year declare and pay without such sanction an interim dividend not exceeding 5 per cent. if they consider the business of the Company to justify them so doing.'" It would be remembered that in July the directors decided to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. According to the articles, however, there was no provision authorising them to do so, but they did, it on their own responsibility because they thought it a great convenience for the shareholders to receive dividends twice a year. On the other hand, they thought the directors should not have any responsibility, unless it were a moral one, and therefore this resolution was put forward.

Mr. FRASER said he thought it a pity that the directors had not acted somewhat differently. According to the report before them, the company was going to pay a dividend at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum. It might be, and he hoped it would be so soon, 12 per cent., perhaps more. Yet the directors confined themselves here to a half-yearly dividend of not more than 5 per cent. If they should find their purses large enough to justify them in declaring a dividend of 12 per cent. it would be a little awkward for investors and others to have a dividend for one half year of 5 and for the other of 7 per cent. He thought it a pity the directors did not leave the percentage out altogether. He supposed the alteration could not be made now, and therefore he would second the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN said it was very difficult to decide on the exact amount of the dividend. They considered this 5 per cent. as a kind of interest which the shareholders got on the money invested.

Mr. FRASER thought it would constitute an inducement to gamble in the shares.

The CHAIRMAN said of course the resolution must be taken as it was. They could not under the Articles of Association alter it. Under any circumstances he thought it was rather convenient for the shareholders to have 5 per cent.

Mr. FRASER said yes, it was better than nothing, but he would have preferred that they had left out the amount so that they could pay 6 per cent. However, he thought they could trust the directors with the extra one per cent.

Mr. GLOVER thought Mr. Walford would be able to tell them whether Mr. Fraser's suggestion would be in order as an amendment.

Mr. WALFORD thought it would be, but of course as the Chairman ruled otherwise he deferred to that view.

Mr. GLOVER thought that as the business of the company was likely to increase very much, and as next year they might be able to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. it would be to the interest of the company that the shareholders should have a dividend of 6 per cent. He proposed therefore that the resolution should read "— pay without such sanction any interim dividend which they may consider the business of the company justifies them in doing," or alternatively that "5 per cent." be left out.

The SECRETARY said no change could be made in the resolution. It had to be published in the Hongkong papers, and the resolution must now be considered on its merits.

Mr. GLOVER thought it better that the matter should be brought to the notice of the next meeting.

Mr. FRASER remarked that he had seconded the motion, and thought the point as to the percentage should be brought forward at another meeting. Must not these resolutions be confirmed at another meeting?

The SECRETARY said yes.

The resolution as it stood was then put and carried.

The CHAIRMAN now read the second resolution as follows:—"That Article 118 be altered to read as follows:—'The Directors may before recommending any dividend set aside out of the profits of the Company, such sum as they think proper for depreciation and reserve.'" You will observe, he said, that there was written off for depreciation in 1889 $7,028.48, in 1890 $4,838.86, and besides this the sum of $10,345.85 has been placed to reserve fund. If we continued to do this, provided of course the business continues favourable as heretofore, we would gradually build up a strong reserve, but at the same time write off the value of our buildings, machinery, &c., to a much lower figure than is necessary and than their actual value. You will find that we are forced to place one-third of our profits to reserve, but the Articles do not say anything about depreciation, and our opinion is that this Article which forces us to place one-third to reserve fund is intended to meet depreciation also. Should the business continue favourable for say 10 or 20 years we should have a strong reserve fund of perhaps $100,000, and, on the other hand, through writing off on buildings and machinery, have nothing left on that account. Of course it is always right to guard against reverses, but the directors do not think they should be forced to do it. It should be left to the directors to make their proposals at the end of the year, and it would be for the shareholders to alter or adopt the report.

Mr. ABEGG seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

This concluded the business.

Mr. GLOVER proposed a vote of thanks to the auditors.

Mr. WALFORD seconded, and the compliment was duly paid.

Mr. FRASER said they were all agreed that the company was flourishing and doing well, a state of affairs that was in a great measure due to the care and management of the directors and secretary, to whom he proposed a cordial vote of thanks.

The CHAIRMAN briefly acknowledged the honour, and the meeting then separated.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual general meeting of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce was held on Thursday afternoon in the Chamber's rooms at No. 61. Mr. A. O. Gay, Chairman, presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. Lindsley, J. P. Mollison, A. Winstanley, C. J. Strome, J. R. Merian, C. Giussani, F. Biagioni, E. Reiffinger, H. Spoerry, C. B. G. Dunlop, J. A. Fraser, W. B. Walter, A. H. Groom, E. B. Watson, A. Brent, J. D. Hutchison, E. Whittall, J. Rickett, J. Walter, Geo. Sale, W. Sutter, F. Grosser, M. Kaufmann, J. Holm, J. T. Griffin, Ed. Fribourg, A. Mottu, and W. J. S. Shand.

The notice calling the meeting having been read by the SECRETARY (Mr. O. Keil),

The CHAIRMAN said the minutes of the last regular meeting, held on the 28th February, 1890, had been distributed to all the members, and he would ask the meeting to accept those minutes without being read. If they were in order, it only remained for some one to move a resolution approving of them.

On the motion of Mr. MOLLISON, seconded by Mr. LINDSLEY, the minutes of last meeting were approved.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to receive the statement of accounts for last year. The result did not differ very much from the previous year; they had about the same balance at their credit as they had then. Had any one any questions to ask about the accounts?

No questions were asked, and on the motion of Mr. LINDSLEY, seconded by Mr. WINSTANLEY, they were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to consider the report for last year, a portion of which he read, omitting, however, the paragraphs relating to trade which, he said, were put in the report more for purposes of record than for anything else.

The report and accounts were as follow:—

REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FOR THE YEAR 1890.

At the last annual meeting of the Chamber the subject of the inadequate accommodation at the Custom House for the business of the port was again taken up, and after some discussion it was recommended to the attention of the incoming Committee.

In accordance with that resolution, a communication was addressed to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, enclosing a transcript of the correspondence which had passed between the Chamber and the Superintendent of Customs, and requesting that the matter be brought to the notice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Identical letters were addressed to the other Foreign Ministers, and the replies received promised attention to the subject. But no later communications have been received, although your Chairman has been informed that the matter was laid before the Minister of Foreign Affairs, without result, however, so far as any improvement at the Custom House is concerned. In fact, a worse state of things has existed than before, as, during periods of activity, business has been temporarily suspended for want of landing accommodation, and merchandize has sometimes been left on the Hatoba without shelter, or in open boats, while great confusion has existed under the sheds and frequent damage to cargo has been the consequence.

It remains now for the Chamber to determine what further steps, if any, shall be taken in this very important matter.

With reference to the matter of titles to Real Estate in the foreign settlements, concerning which the Chamber addressed the Foreign Ministers in March, 1889, as the subject was taken up by the foreign Community at a meeting held on the 11th September last, nothing further seems necessary to be done on the part of the Chamber at present.

It may not be out of place here to record the important political event which occurred last November in the opening of the Diet under the new Constitution. This body, with its Lower House, coming from the people, cannot fail eventually to have an important influence upon the councils of the Government.

Several causes have injuriously affected the trade of the port during the past year, amongst which may be mentioned the short crop of rice—the great staple product of the Islands—in 1889, followed by a diminished yield of barley last season, with consequent high prices for food throughout the country; the smaller yield of silk than for the previous two years, and the poorer markets abroad, and the unusual fluctuations in exchange caused by the changing value of silver in New York and London, thus rendering the cost of merchandize, both exports and imports, very uncertain.

A table of the highest and lowest rates of sterling exchange for each month during the past year, is appended to this report, showing the extremes to have been 25 per cent.

To show the effect of the short crop of rice just referred to, which required an import of grain instead of the export as in normal years, the net import for all Japan was valued at $10,881,373, for 1890, against a net export of $7,298,186 in 1889, making a difference against the last year of $18,179,559.

The trade of Yokohama shows an increase in Imports of $6,324,845, and a decrease in Exports of $9,530,139. The first is owing to the import of rice and the last to the diminished export of silk. This latter article is $12,050,000 less, while silk fabrics and copper together are $4,147,150 more than for the previous year.

Deliveries of merchandize have decreased considerably, and stocks of yarns and piece goods have visibly increased.

Yarn, the largest article on the list of imports, has fallen off 22,500 bales, as compared with the previous year. This is partly to be attributed to the deranged state of trade, and partly to the product of native mills with foreign machinery. A list of the mills, with 313,040 spindles, is appended to this report. They are largely dependant upon cotton imported principally from China. The total production is not accurately known.

Looking at the total foreign trade of the country, it will be seen from the tables that the imports have increased $15,624,815; this is explained by the large receipts of rice and increased quantity of sugar, while the exports have diminished by $13,457,200 owing to the smaller quantities of silk sent abroad, aggregating $18,638,000, the difference of $5,186,000 being made up by larger shipments of copper, tea, and some other articles.

Further and more particular details of the business for the past year will be found in the tables appended to this report.

The annual accounts of the Chamber are submitted, showing about the same balance at credit as the last.

Thanks are due to Messrs. D. Fraser and J. R. Parsons for their services in auditing the accounts.

In closing, it may not be inappropriate to mention that this year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Chamber. There are now here but two individuals who took part in its formation, and who were on its first Committee. The list of

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members has also greatly changed, but there are still a number whose names were on the original list.

Some of the early records were destroyed by fire several years ago, but what remains may be of interest to those who care to enquire into what took place in the early days, and some portions of them may, hereafter, be of value in the history of the foreign trade of Japan.

ARTHUR O. GAY, Chairman.

Value of Imports and Exports for all Japan during the years 1890 and 1889, as furnished by the Imperial Customs.

TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS.

	1890.	1889.	Increase.
Yokohama	$40,645,762	$34,320,917	$ 6,324,845
Kobe and Osaka	35,391,523	28,166,773	7,224,750
Nagasaki, Hakodate, and other ports	5,691,296	3,616,076	2,075,220
	$81,728,581	$66,103,766	$15,624,815

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS.

	1890.	1889.	Decrease.
Yokohama	$32,331,990	$41,862,129	$ 9,530,139
Kobe and Osaka	17,406,593	20,592,566	3,185,973
Nagasaki, Hakodate, and other ports	6,864,923	7,606,011	741,088
	$56,603,506	$70,060,706	$13,457,200

Total Exports and Imports 1890 ..... $138,332,087
Total Exports and Imports 1889 ..... $136,164,472
Total increase of the trade of 1890 ..... $ 2,167,615

Comparative Table of Deliveries and Stocks of Imports and of Exports from Yokohama during the years 1890 and 1889.

IMPORTS.

	Deliveries. 1890.	Deliveries. 1889.	Increase and Decrease of Deliveries in 1890.	Stocks. 1890.	Stocks. 1889.	Increase and Decrease of Stocks 1890.
Cotton Yarns—						
English ...pls.	104,307	225,058	† 20,751	52,305	40,800	*11,505
Bombays ...pls.	42,546	44,310	† 1,764	14,757	13,500	* 1,257
Grey Shirtings ...pcs.	399,303	490,975	† 21,675	115,500	101,000	*14,500
T.-Cloths ...pcs.	85,650	116,170	† 30,520	15,000	30,000	†15,000
Indigo Shirtings, &c. ...pcs.	123,500	142,875	† 19,375	75,000	60,000	*15,000
Prints ...pcs.	155,750	140,000	* 15,650	70,000	43,000	*27,000
Cotton Italians pcs.	30,600	25,030	* 5,570	8,000	6,700	* 1,300
Turkey Reds pcs.	151,200	200,450	† 49,250	84,200	50,000	*34,200
Velvets ...pcs.	39,450	40,450	† 1,000	14,850	9,000	* 5,850
Victoria Lawns pcs.	82,050	70,450	* 11,600	7,000	35,000	†28,000
Silk-faced Satins ...pcs.	14,500	13,900	* 600	7,260	5,000	* 2,260
Italian Cloth pcs.	133,500	113,750	* 19,750	70,000	50,000	*20,000
Mousselines pcs.	330,794	318,300	* 12,494	82,000	50,000	*32,000
Cloth ...pcs.	4,350	6,200	† 1,850	5,500	4,000	* 1,500
Blankets...prs.	251,140	230,500	* 20,640	75,000	90,000	†15,000
Iron, all denominations ...pls.	289,889	290,842	† 953	37,740	40,420	† 2,680
Wire Nails...pls.	82,787	68,488	* 14,299	20,000	21,000	† 1,000
Kerosene...cs.	1,721,086	1,844,820	†123,734	569,301	476,596	*92,705
Sugar ... ... pls.	1,073,456	882,770	*190,686	74,670	95,300	*49,370

* Increase. † Decrease of Deliveries and Stocks.

EXPORTS.

	1890.	1889.	Increase. Quantity.	Increase. Value.	Decrease. Quantity.	Decrease. Value.
Silk...bales	20,463	40,164	—	—	19,701	$1,225,000
Waste Silk ...pls.	29,642	25,504	4,138	16,400	—	—
Pierced Cocoons pls.	1,255	2,410	—	—	1,755	121,500
Tea...lbs.	27,233,026	23,689,142	3,543,884	21,600	—	—
Tobacco...pls.	8,935	10,739	—	—	1,804	36,550
Rice ...pls.	462	15,407	—	—	10,945	34,450
Wheat ...pls.	1,198	10,335	—	—	8,937	15,000
Fish Oil...pls.	10,856	11,721	—	—	865	4,250
Copper ...pls.	191,660	72,907	118,753	1,854,700	—	—
Silk Handkerchiefs...doz.	816,209	699,592	186,617	420,700	—	—
Silk Piece goods ...pcs.	59,419	33,893	25,526	359,800	—	—
				Total $2,673,200		Total $12,461,750

Table showing value of articles imported in Yokohama during the year 1890, not enumerated in the Chamber's Circular.

Textile fabrics—Cotton	$1,534,292	
Woollen	1,693,250	
Silk, flax, &c.	1,049,656	
		$4,277,198
Metals and manufactures of same		1,673,763
Drugs, medicines, dyes, paints, and oils		2,205,261
Arms, vessels, instruments, clocks, watches, and machinery		3,634,905
Provisions, wines, beer, and cigars		2,129,156
Clothing and apparel		506,842
Books and paper		667,254
Sundry miscellaneous articles		1,815,965
Grain and seeds		4,865,539
Total		$20,665,883

Table showing value of articles exported from Yokohama during the year 1890, not enumerated in the Chamber's Circular.

Textile fabrics	$ 292,645
Drugs, dyes, and paints	459,562
Books and paper	195,094
Grain and provisions	2,313,592
Porcelains and curios	2,531,500
Sundry miscellaneous articles	2,162,047
Total	$5,954,440

Table showing the values of the principal articles of Import into Japan in 1890.

Textile fabrics	$29,261,751
Grain and seeds	14,312,955
Sugar	8,489,068
Arms, Instruments, clocks, watches, machinery, and vessels	7,375,534
Metals, and manufactures of same	6,729,559
Oils (kerosene and other)	5,247,757
Drugs, medicines, dyes, and paints	3,216,332
Provisions, wines, beer, and cigars	2,523,665
Books, paper, and stationery	967,174
Clothing and apparel	826,036
Glass and glass ware	394,378
Sundry miscellaneous articles	3,384,332
Total	$81,728,581

Table showing the values of the principal articles of Export from Japan in 1890.

Raw silk		$13,693,339
Waste silk and cocoons		3,044,038
Tea		7,120,820
Metals—Copper	$5,356,525	
Other	623,093	5,979,618
Camphor and camphor oil		1,979,614
Rice		1,323,511
Dried fish		2,158,455
Grain, beverages, and provisions		2,501,832
Textile fabrics		4,272,123
Drugs, medicines, and dyes		861,764
Oil and wax		358,277
Books and paper		276,124
Skins, hair, shells, &c.		227,003
Tobacco		134,587
Curios		3,329,947
Matches		1,489,020
Coal		4,756,089
Sundry miscellaneous articles		3,066,289
Total		$56,603,506

COTTON SPINNING MILLS IN JAPAN:

As reported at a meeting of Cotton Spinners held at Osaka in April, 1890.

Place.	Mills.	Spindles.	Place.	Mills.	Spindles.
Osaka	7	121,712	Yoshiya	1	4,000
Tokyo	2	40,240	Kuruma	1	4,000
Sakai	1	20,000	Kojima	1	3,608
Yokkaichi	1	16,272	Kagoshima	1	3,064
Atsuta	1	15,280	Ivo	1	2,064
Yamashima	1	14,092	Yawatasho	1	2,000
Nagoya	1	10,304	Nukada	1	2,000
Miiki	1	10,000	Shimada	1	2,000
Hiroshima	1	7,000	Toyoda	1	2,000
Wakayama	1	5,524	Yamanashi	1	2,000
Kurashiki	1	5,000	Miyogi	1	2,000
Okayama	1	4,992	Yamato	1	2,000
Himeji	1	4,752	Saitama	1	2,000
Nagasaki	1	4,000	Kyoto	1	1,136

Total number of Mills 35
Total number of Spindles 313,040

Table showing the fluctuations in the rates for Sterling Bills on London during the year, 1890.

	Bank Sight. Highest.	Bank Sight. Lowest.	Credits 4 m/s. Highest.	Credits 4 m/s. Lowest.
January	3/2⅜	3/2	3/3⅛	3/2⅜
February	3/2⅜	3/2	3/2⅜	3/1⅞
March	3/1⅞	3/0⅜	3/2⅛	3/1⅝
April	3/3⅛	3/2⅛	3/6	3/2⅛
May	3/4⅛	3/3⅜	3/5⅛	3/4⅛
June	3/6⅛	3/3⅜	3/7	3/4⅛
July	3/7⅛	3/4⅛	3/8	3/5⅛
August	3/10⅛	3/7⅛	3/11	3/8
September	3/10⅛	3/6	3/11	3/6⅛
October	3/7⅛	3/3⅛	3/8⅛	3/5⅛
November	3/5⅛	3/3	3/6⅛	3/4
December	3/6⅛	3/4⅛	3/7⅛	3/5⅛

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1890.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance from 1889		$1,006.08
Members' subscriptions		1,600.00
Circulars sold—		
To Members ...	15,729 for $2,620.08	
To Non-members (with postage)	1,210 for 303.70	
		2,923.78
Half-yearly statistics sold	669 for	226.64
Sundry publications sold		149.50
Interest allowed by Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on current account		13.40
Fire insurance bonus, Sun Fire Office		2.40
Rent of meeting room		10.00
Sale of old material		8.00
		$5,839.80
Balance—Cash in hand		$1,021.92

EXPENDITURE.

Rent	$ 400.00
Salary of Secretary and Staff	2,678.00
Printing circulars, statistics, reports, &c.	967.00
Advertising, and subscriptions to local newspapers	47.50
Returns of imports and exports, &c.	107.00
Furniture and stationery	227.48
Books of reference	47.92
Petty disbursements, fuel, lighting, postages, and sundries	328.26
Fire insurance, $1,000	13.42
	$4,817.88
Balance, carried to new account	$1,021.92
E. & O. E.	$5,839.80

Yokohama, 31st December, 1890.

O. KEIL, Secretary.

Examined and found correct, 19th February, 1891.

D. FRASER
J. R. PARSONS } Auditors.

THE CHAIRMAN said he should not omit to refer to the new accommodation they now had, which was much better than they had ever had, and for which they had to thank their energetic Secretary, who had placed these rooms at their disposal at a very moderate rent. They would observe that one matter in the report was referred particularly to their consideration, and that was as to whether anything further should be done in regard to the difficulties at the Custom-house. The correspondence relating to the matter had been published in the annual report of the Chamber.

No remarks being made,

The CHAIRMAN said he would conclude from the silence of the meeting that they had nothing to offer in reference to the subject he had just referred to. If there was any other portion of the report that they wished to discuss, now was the opportunity. (No member of the meeting having anything to say the Chairman continued.) They would now proceed with the other business of the meeting, the first of which was to elect a Chairman for the ensuing year. In reference to that he begged them to consider that he was not a candidate, that he did not offer himself for re-election. His two years' service, he thought, ought to be sufficient; and there were plenty of good men who ought to take his place.

A ballot was then taken, with the result that the highest number of votes, eleven, was given for Mr. J. A. Fraser.

Mr. FRASER said he was very much flattered by the choice of the members in fixing upon him as Chairman for the coming year, but he regretted extremely that it was not in his power to accept the position. He felt quite unable to undertake the duties of the office. He had already on a previous occasion filled the chair and endeavoured to discharge the duties of the post to the best of his ability. He was, however, a member of no less than four Committees in Yokohama, and Chairman of two. Under the circumstances he thought he might justly claim to be excused, especially in view of the fact that the membership of the Chamber was by no means a small one, and there was a considerable field from which to choose.—(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said the next on the list was Mr. Lindsley.—(Applause.)

Mr. LINDSLEY said he must decline the honour of serving as Chairman, for the same reason as that which influenced Mr. Fraser. He thought also that as they had had an American in the chair for the past year, it would be better to have some one of another nationality.—(Applause and "No, no.")

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Lindsley if that decision was final.

Mr. LINDSLEY said it was. He must decline for the same reason that Mr. Fraser gave; he had not time to attend to the duties of the office.

Though urged to change his mind, Mr. Lindsley adhered to his decision, and the meeting therefore proceeded to another ballot the result of which was to place Mr. Hutchison at the head of the list. The Chairman's announcement of this fact was received with applause.

M. HUTCHISON also declined the office. There were several reasons, he said, why he could not accept the honour.

Mr. W. B. WALTER now rose and said he was afraid they had got into such a state that they could not elect a Chairman. He would therefore propose that the election of a Chairman be left to a general ballot of the members of the Chamber, to be taken at the discretion of the incoming committee.

Mr. BRENT proposed as an amendment that the present Chairman be asked to retain the position for another year.—(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN did not know whether either of those proposals was in order. Certainly the ballot had to be taken here. Under the circumstances it seemed to him that the better plan would be to hold an adjourned meeting for the special purpose. The rules provided that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Committee should be elected annually at the general meeting to be held in January or February in each year. That had to be done now therefore.

Mr. WINSTANLEY thought that about four years ago they came to a dead-lock such as this, and perhaps what was done on that occasion might form a precedent now.

Mr. W. B. WALTER asked whether it would be in order at the present meeting to propose an alteration of the rule to the effect that the Committee should elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN read the rules bearing on the subject, and pointed out that the rules could only be altered at a meeting called on requisition for the purpose.

Mr. RICKETT seconded Mr. Brent's amendment, remarking that the Chairman's assent was all that was required. There would be no doubt then about the election of a Chairman, and it would help the meeting out of the present difficulty.—(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said he was very much obliged to the proposer and seconder of the motion, which, however, was quite contrary to the determination that he had arrived at. After serving two years now, and two years long ago, he considered he had done his share.—("No, no.") There were many gentlemen who were well fitted to occupy the post, and if they would decide on one of them it would suit him much better. Under any circumstances, election by a resolution was scarcely in order. At any rate it was not in conformity with the practice from the beginning. It had always

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been done by ballot, and he would ask the meeting therefore to ballot again.—(Laughter.)

On a ballot being taken, Mr. Gay was elected Chairman.

In acknowledging the compliment,

Mr. Gay said that under the circumstances it seemed to him that he could not decline the office. —(Applause.)

The ballot for Vice-Chairman resulted in the election of Mr. Winstanley, who, in returning thanks, hoped it was understood that Mr. Gay was not, as Mr. Fraser did, going home for another year.—(Laughter.)

The Chairman replied that he had not made up his mind to do so at present.

Mr. W. B. Walter gave notice of the following amendment to rule 10—"The business and funds of the Chamber to be managed by a committee of nine members to be elected annually at the General Meeting of the Chamber during January and February in each year, such Committee to choose its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman." Mr. Walter went to remark that he concluded from the general silence of the members on the subject of the report that perhaps most of those present thought the less that was said as to the results of the trade of Yokohama during the past year the better; and in truth he feared that the general results of that trade must have been disappointing to the members of this Chamber. The increase which the report noted in imports of $6,324,000 was, he felt afraid, nothing but a delusion and a snare as regarded the foreign merchants of Japan. It simply meant that their godowns had been crammed during the past year with goods which they had been unable to sell, and which would in great part have to be held over and would only give their results during this coming year. Tea, which at one moment offered a fair prospect, had not towards the end of the season given such good results as were expected. As to silk, they had to realise during 1891, a great part of the crop of 1890, which was usually sold and shipped during the autumn months. Let them hope that during the coming year they might see a much improved condition of things in Japan, and that at next meeting of the Chamber, the Chairman might be able to report a much more satisfactory condition of affairs than had been seen during the past year.—(Applause.)

The ballot for the Committee resulted in the election of Messrs. Merian, Mollison, Lindsley, W. B. Walter, Brent, Hutchison, and Dunlop.

On the suggestion of the Chairman,

Mr. Mollison proposed, and Mr. Lindsley seconded a vote of thanks to Messrs. D. Fraser and J. R. Parsons for auditing the accounts.

Mr. Fraser said before they separated he would like to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the Committee.—(applause)—not only for his services during the past year, but for again putting himself in the breach and going forward at a time when other members of the Chamber—the speaker himself, he regretted to say, among the number—had not the same amount of public spirit as he had shown in the matter.—(Applause.) In moving this vote of thanks he would like to go a little farther than was ordinarily done on such occasions, and it might be of interest to the meeting if he were to point out that this day twenty-four years ago Mr. Gay filled the office of Chairman.—(Applause.) Attention was drawn in the report to the fact that this year was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Chamber, and that there are now here but two individuals who were on its first Committee. Well, their worthy Chairman was one of those two individuals.—(Applause.) He filled the chair twenty-four years ago, in 1867. In that year Mr. Gay was Chairman, Mr. A. J. Wilkin Vice-Chairman, and if it would interest the meeting to know the names of those composing the Committee, they were Messrs. Marshall, Lindau, Bruyn, Van der Tak, Lejeune, Walsh, and Wheatley. Some of those gentlemen were still alive, but no longer in this country; many of the others had already joined the majority. But it must be a satisfaction to the present members of the Chamber, and he was sure it must be a satisfaction to the Chairman, that he had been so long connected with the Chamber; that during those twenty-four years he had been a witness of the great changes that had taken place in this country, of the unexampled progress that had been made by it; and it must also be a source of satisfaction to him to know that this Chamber, over which he presided twenty-four years ago, had had its life prolonged during these years, had made progress, had its membership increased, and had been, he thought, of some service to the mercantile community. He trusted Mr. Gay might be spared to preside over its counsels as he had kindly consented to do for another year, and that the Chamber might long flourish as it had done in the past.—(Loud applause.)

Mr. Gay said he was very much obliged to Mr. Fraser for the flattering way in which that gentleman made reference to him. He could very easily go back in memory to those early days, and latterly he had refreshed his memory by referring to the minutes of the Chamber, which fortunately were preserved from two conflagrations that destroyed a good many of the records. It was unnecessary to say more. He had always taken a great interest in the Chamber from the very first, except during the brief period that he spent in Kobe. He still felt that interest in it as he did at first. He was glad that there were now so many members in the Chamber who also took an interest in it, and lent their valuable aid to further its prosperity. He should depend on them again as he had done heretofore to aid and assist him in the work.—(Applause.)

This brought the meeting to a close.

THE WOOING OF WEBSTER.

By A. M.

Told under the Jogashima Lighthouse, Misaki, July, 1888.

"I yah! Here we are! Down among the wind-whisked tussocks there is good!

> Brother, let us take together
> An easeful period.
> There is worse than to be as we are—
> Cast out, not of men but of God!

Although it's petticoats that's the matter with us," Webster muttered as he threw himself down upon the seaward slope of the gorse.

"Now then, you crack-brained descendant of a line of lunatics, what are you after, and what infernal doggrel is that?" I asked, as I accepted his suggestion and planted the breadth of my back among the bracken.

"It's peace and quiet, and relief from the sight of flounces and petticoats, and of female ankles, slim, beefy, and intermediate that I'm after, and as for the poetry, your imputation is a dirty libel, for which I've a mind to punch your head!"

"Don't for goodness sake! Once in a life-time is ample. I shall never forget the way you got in that jaw-smasher. Confound you! It sets my teeth all on edge and my head humming like telegraph wires when the wind is screaming across the Plains of Heaven to think of it now, and it's the best part of twenty years that lies on this side of that blow."

"Well, and didn't you deserve it, my son? I had come up, a raw Scotchey—first time south of the Grampians—and you and your eye-glasses and your rings, and your scarf-pins and your watch-chains and your seals and your other fal-derals must needs poke clumsy jokes at Sandy's Glengarry and the architecture of his clothes generally, with a few rasps at the matter of his 'awkcent' in the passing. Well, Sandy turns on his heel and comes right up to you and tells you that if these were Oxford manners he don't think much of them. Then you all sniggered, and made audible side remarks—talking *at* a man and not *to* him,—which after all is only a dirty woman's or parson's trick,—and as your nose seemed to support the most aggressive and discomposing eye-glass in the whole crowd I just brought the back of my left hand across it as forcibly as I could without irretrievably ruining its frailty. Remember what happened next?"

"Ra-ther." I answered ruefully—"Or at least part of it.

"Was it two rounds, or three now?" he went on meditatively. "Perhaps it was three. Anyhow, I recollect I had just knocked you over and was taking down my sleeves when a scout rushed up with the news that the lists were out and that the Scotchey had got the first scholarship."

"A promising beginning for a Damon and Pythias friendship wasn't it?"

"With an Englishman, yes! You see you are queer folks south of the Tweed. If a man is to get on with you he must do one of two things; he must either give you a thorough, jolly good hammering straightaway to begin with, or he must conclusively show that he can do it if you give him any occasion to. After you've broken the ice in that way, and shown John Bull that you've grit in you, he is one of the finest fellows to get along with in the world. Sticks to you like a leech when you get into a tight fix, and gives himself all manner of trouble to get you out of it, and won't let you say even so much as thank you for his pains! Oh! You've got your good points you Southrons, but a man has to begin by fighting you to find them out. If he licks you, so much the better; though if he makes a good stand-up set-to of it it's enough. Yes, my son, we got on very well afterwards, although we Balliol Scotchies used to get called 'hard-headed brutes' by way of a compliment."

He relapsed into silence and puffed vigorously at his dearly-beloved meerschaum.

That meerschaum was a joy to look at, and, as Webster said, a still intenser joy to smoke. But that last averment had to be taken on trust, inasmuch as Frankie took very good care to let no one put the thing to the practical proof. That cutty was for Webster's own cheek, and for it alone; and any one with the temerity to defile the stem of its sheeny sanctity with an unchaste and adulterous kiss, would in all likelihood have come in for something a good deal more lurid and lambent than the curse of Reuben itself. You might flirt with any or all of the odd 20,000,000 petticoats in Japan without Frank ever so much as hinting that you were either a thief or a poacher; but just touch that precious pipe, and you might mistake the hole he usually kept it in for the front entrance to Tophet! Swear! Swear do you say? Sakes alive! a sailorman's parrot was nothing to him! He would blaspheme in thirteen different languages, not counting dialects, among which latter Bullockdrivery and Aberdeenshire Scotch had the most pronounced and pungent flavour of raciness and profanity.

For the best part of ten minutes he lay still and said nothing, and I was equally eloquent. It was at Misaki, two summers ago,—or was it three? Right in front of the mill-pond they misname the harbour lies a great ill-conditioned hobbledehoy sort of a lump of an island, called Jogashima. Folks are not quite agreed what purpose Providence had at the root of its wisdom teeth when it dumped it there. Professor East says its circuit must have been meant as a short distance sailing course. But then on a matter of this sort East's opinion is not worth half the price of a second-hand pair of braces. He is a crank on yachting, and so far gone on it is he too, that he not only makes it an unholy engine of systematic Sabbath-breaking, but he seems in imminent danger of losing his immortal soul into the bargain. He has been heard to assert that if he croaks and goes aloft and finds that there's no provision for periodic sailing races among the Saints, he means to petition the authorities to let him have a passport to navigate an asbestos 27ft. rater on the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.

We—that is one-half of a detachment that afterwards become martyrs to science—were camped in the single house on the landward shore of this island, just at the mouth of the mill-pond. There were two Daigakko Professrs besides East, with a consignment of nitro-glycerine and infernal machines sufficient to dismember the whole Royal Family of Russia, and to leave something over for fireworks to celebrate the joyful event. Then there was Webster, sub-editor of the *Yokohama Snorter*, who had come down to write up the expedition for his rag. I had come along, partly out of a mild curiosity, and partly to kill time.

This afternoon about five o'clock a steam-launch had run in with a cargo of petticoats from the Treaty Port. Webster looked at them getting into the punt to land with holy horror writ large on every wrinkle of his ugly phiz, and then he rapped me on the shoulder and asked me if I shouldn't like to sniff the evening breeze up under the Lighthouse. I don't dislike female society at all,—there are lots of good points about it,—but Webster did, and I didn't like to be thought unneighbourly. So I said I didn't mind; and here we were.

It was very beautiful and very picturesque and very romantic, but more than ten minutes doing nothing beyond watching the dip of the sun over the shoulder of Fuji gets beastly and abominably slow. So I gave Webster a kick in the ribs, and inquired the why and wherefore of his misguided misogyny.

"Don't punctuate your impertinent remarks on tender parts of my person with your dirty-shoe leather in that way, please, and I may see fit to gratify your curiosity!" he said catching me by the foot, and almost wrenching my leg off.

He sat up, and, taking out his tobacco pouch, began to refill his pipe with more than the care of a mother administering the feeding-bottle to her four months old first-born.

"Well, it is this way, you see. In the matter of women my virtue has been deficient from the start."

I couldn't help roaring at this compendious statement, made as it was was with such grave and portentous solemnity.

"Well, you're a shallower fool than I took you to be, and that's saying a good deal," he expostulated, evidently considerably ruffled. "I don't mean to say I have been an immoral man in the usual sense of the word,—'cause I haven't, or at least only so in moderation. But Socrates says—rake the cinders of your classical recollections for

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the precise Dialogues—that virtue and knowledge are the same thing, and I'm inclined to believe he's on the spot when he says so. Now I'm speaking in the Socratic sense. I didn't know any women when I was a kid. I had no sisters. I never ran across any females, except cows and cats and hens when I was a youngster, and consequently when I tackled them as a grown-up I came an immortal howler! Hey! Ho! But I did come the blooming idiot with them!"

He clasped his hands over his drawn-up knees with the stem of his dearly-beloved between his two forefingers and the middle one and looked dreamily and weariedly toward the smoke-wreaths heavily oozing from Oshima.

"What sort of a howler did you come?" I asked at last.

"What sort? He placed the pipe in his mouth and struck a match. "Oh," he said slowly and nonchalantly as he threw the flickering vesta over his shoulder. "Oh! I only took them seriously!"

"How?" I queried. "Spin us the yarn. Out with the autobiography!"

"No, that's altogether too big an order. But say; you knew me in Oxford. Well, a woman sent me there and that wasn't so bad. You knew me ten years later in Australia."

"Yes. Shan't forget the fine morning I pinked that 'gater for you in the Fitzroy. That was a near thing, my boy!"

"It was. It was an odd meeting. I fancied it was a cedar log and I was much discomposed when it snapped at me. That was a fine shot of yours. But never mind that. I say a woman sent me to Australia. That was bad. And it was a woman that drove me from Australia, which was worse. Now the latter two episodes are not for publication—at least just at present, because they're other folks' secrets as well as mine. But the first piece of foolery will help to pass the time of day till these minxes think it time to retire for a fresh coat of paint. So here's how it came to pass that you got that first-class licking in Balliol quad.

It was in the kirk that the mischief had its commencement. There was a gallery round three sweeps of the circle and the pulpit occupied the fourth. I sat down below to the left of the rostrum where the Holy Man of God ranted and banged the Bible, and raised the stoor from the cushions in aureole-like clouds. *She* sat in a plush cushioned seat in the front of the gallery to the right side of the Laird's Pew which was just *vis-à-vis* to the Devil-dodger in action. My seat had no cushions; they weren't fashionable in our quarter of the kirk, you see. The benches we sat upon might have been built for stools of repentance; they were hard enough and uneasy enough anyhow. Yet I wouldn't have swapped positions with any soul in the building. Because, you understand, I could feed my e'en on *her* all the time, during the Prayer even, through the slits, twixt my outspread fingers.

"Of course, I was below her,—in some ways. My folks had been swinkers and hedgers and hinds and drudges on the lands of a master off and on for generations. That is my father's forbears. But, notwithstanding that, we have our coat-of-arms and can trace ourselves right away back to the day of Bannockburn when we got them. My mother—she died when I was a brat in the cradle—was a Macdonald of Glencoe. And if we didn't have the dollars to maintain our dignity, we had pride enough any way to say nothing about it. My governor in spite of his drudging was the most outspoken wight in the country side, and made Minister and Laird alike sit up and listen when he had a mind to. When the innovation in the posture of prayer came about in the kirk, he stood up like the valiant man he was and led a forlorn hope of one against the embattled authorities. God rest his soul—he had spunk and smeddum for a barnful."

"But he had also a plentiful lack of bawbees, because he was too honest to get rich by over-reaching his neighbours. Therefore his son had to work. I was thirteen when I was introduced to the dignity of labour and the blessings of industry, and twelve hours a day was the tale of my toil and fourteen on Saturday which was pay-day,—it being highly proper that apprentices should be duly prepared to appreciate the holy calm of the Sabbath. I didn't put on much flesh at that business. You can't get into anything like decent condition on half-a-crown a week, which was the sum total of my income. Four hungry years of this soul-eating treadmill, during which my only joy was stolen snatches at books I kept hid in holes all over the shop, and then one day I met *her*. She was on her pony; and in that hat and tight-fitting riding habit you might guess she was a picture, and you would be right. She dropped her whip and I picked it up and gave it to her."

Here Webster put his left palm on the crown of his head and brought it slowly down the side of his face, finishing the motion with a quick outward sweep of the opened fingers.

"Whoo-osh!" he said. "She gave me a flashing smile, and her e'en went though me and thrilled me like a battle-song. I stood still in my traces with my blood tingling and my heart thumping and a commotion among the molecules of my soul such as I had never felt before and never will again! Even all the gloriousness of the best Glenlivat is powerless to produce it.

Ah, me! I was drunk, drunk, reeling drunk with love! That was on a Saturday; I didn't sleep all that night, yet on Sunday I was as fit as a fiddle. I didn't pay much heed to the Rev. John MacFadyen's homilies on Original sin and Hell-fire and Damnation For Ever that day. But I was thinking; and by the end of the sermon I had made up my mind, and then when it came to the Psalm, although I can't sing worth a cent I got up and joined in "I to the hills will left mine eyes" with all the stern determination of a death-doomed Covenanter before Drumclog or Bothwell Brig. That swelling outburst of the weird old wailing battle-tune that erst while sounded by the lonely tarn and on the bleak hill-side put the sword of the Lord and of Gideon in every one of my three and thirty vertebræ and I determined to do it."

"*It* meant wooing and winning and wearing her, and it was to be done in the way that Scotchmen climb usually,—through the University. I had heard something about Bursaries at Aberdeen and I found out more, and I meant to get one. Just then, as luck would have, a new Dominie had taken to wielding the trawse in the Parish School, and he had been fourth bursar in his time, which was no small beer for a schoolmaster. I went and saw him, and told him what I wanted, and he said if I meant business he would give me a trial. He gave me a fortnight's show and then he asked me to help him in the school. Those were the times I worked! Sixteen hours a day and sometimes two and twenty, and two meals to keep the machinery in motion. I had a fireless closet to sit in, where the rats played hide and seek beneath the door in summer, and the snow came drifting through in wreaths in winter. Hardship! Pouf! It was none! In a case of that sort you haven't time to feel it! Every Sunday I saw *her*, and that was meat and drink and fire enough for me in those days.

"Well, I contrived to pack away in a little more than one year, the work that takes most folks six. At last the competition came. It was a tussle. My heart sank a bit when I looked round on a sea of two hundred and forty faces all on the same errand as myself, and all meaning business. But I thought of the plush cushioned pew in the front gallery of the Auld Kirk and I screwed my courage up to the sticking point, and I went in with all my heart and with all my strength, and with all my soul, and with all my mind.

"We finished on a Wednesday; on a Saturday the result was to be announced.

On the afternoon of that day the quad of King's College was seething with a roaring sea of student life. At last the Senatus room door swings open, and the Janitor with a mace as big as himself steps out. We have just time to catch a glimpse of the long file of Professorial robes that flutter solemnly behind him when we are carried on the crest of the crush right into the hall, which looks like a cross 'twixt Pandemonium and Donnybrook Fair. Meanwhile the Faculty has filed on to the platform by a side door, and the Principal sits him down in his chair of state, in all the dignity of robes of office and (wonder of wonders) for once in his life, of clean linen. Gradually the uproar subsides, and the Principal slowly upends himself, clears his throat and begins.

"Gentlemen (tremendous cheers) you will now, learn (a voice, "the hundred and nineteenth Psalm") the result of the competition for Bursaries just held. And I hope you will behave yourselves, for this uproar is perfectly disgraceful!"

The Secretary of the Senatus opens a roll of papers, coughs, and then in mellifluous accents takes up his parable.

"The first Bursary to be disposed of is a Simpson Bursary of £35 in annual value, and has been awarded to the first in the order of merit, Mr. Francis Webster."

"That was a moment, my son! A moment worth two years, six years, ten years of an ordinary life! I have never heard, and never shall ever hear music like that cheer. You see I had just as good as breasted the tape first from fifty yards back of scratch in the quarter, and they knew it and shouted like wild things! No! No!" he sighed. "that comes but once in a lifetime."

I said something about the ovation that greeted him when he spread-eagled seven Victorian wickets for 46 in the Intercolonial on the Sydney Association Ground.

"Pouf," he said, flipping his fingers. "That was nought! That was only for honour and glory; *this* time I was fighting for *her*. And it was only *her* that was in my mind when the desks were jumping and the room was ringing with the cheering. Ow! The best game is but poor fun when you're only playing a lone hand for your filthy dirty self!

"Of course I was the talk of the parish, and next Sunday I got far more attention from the congregation than the minister himself. She came right up to me at the door at the skailing of the kirk and she shook me by the hand and said, 'Oh! I am so glad, Mr. Webster!'

"Heavens! man, that touch sent the blood swirling through my veins like the rush of the Dee in spate. I walked home with her, in Elysium, but worshipping humbly.

"Then I went to college and sat down to the stroke. The previous pace now told heavily on me and I could bucket no longer. Then I broke up physically and could do no work, and folks thought I was done for. I wasn't though. In the midst of it all my head was as clear as a Queensland sky when an eighteen months drought is banging there, and just sixty degrees cooler. I didn't work much, but I worked with a purpose and never threw away a single shot. In those times there was a pith, a verve, and a spin in my stuff that was not of myself at all. It was inspiration. I was a poet in those days!" he said softly and absently; "a real, live poet!

"Man, you needn't laugh!" he protested. "It was true! No! I didn't pour out my immortal soul in agonies in the Poet's Corner of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, or spoil good ink and paper by scribbling halting doggrel. But a 'maker' I was for all that, and a right powerful 'maker' too. The music of energy was humming in my head when I went to sleep, and singing in my heart when I awoke.

"I lived on the hill-tops and trod on rolling clouds, and although my fleshly knees tottered and my breath came hard in pants, I felt in my soul the mighty tread of a charging Highland battalion. I was strong, strong, strong in those days!

"Well the exams came round and I was right on the spot, and I knew it. You know that springy sensation through all your frame when it's your day out with the leather, and you *feel* that the batsman is not born of woman that can keep you out of the wicket? Well that was me, that time! There were five events, and I ran clear first in four of them, and first equal in the fifth. And that, my son, is a record in the old shop even unto this day! And to this day I marvel how it was done. There were smarter men than I in the race, but *they weren't in love*, you see, and that perhaps made all the odds.

"Of course this brought me nearer her, but still I veiled my eyes and adored from afar off. What was in my mind I kept to myself hard and fast under lock and key in the innermost recesses of my heart.

"Next year came, and I braced me again for the tussle. And well had I need to, for half a dozen better men than I had sworn to press me hard and lower my colours between them. I was to be pounded front, flank, and rank with horse, foot and artillery simultaneously. But I didn't fear or flinch.

"At Christmas I go, home, and went, of course, you know where. Some times I would meet her on the road; she once remarked that it was wonderful the number of times accident brought us across each other.

One afternoon I met her in company with a local squireen, Kinnaird by name. He was a man that held his head high when he went among poor folks, and generally rated himself at an outrageous social valuation, all because his father had been a laird and he hadn't to work for his living. Once, three years before, he had thrown the bridle of his horse to me at the Town-Hall door as if I had been his flunkey, and I hadn't quite forgotten the favour. I just lashed the brute across the quarters, and Kinnaird had to trudge home through the mud on shank's mare swearing many an ugly curse by the way. Well this afternoon, of course when I met her, my bonnet went off like a shot and I got a flash of her eyes that was as meat and drink to my soul for a week of Sundays. But my lord of a lairdie would have it, an't please you, that my salute was an obeisance to his squireenship, as if forsooth I'd ever stoop to unbonnet to a cuif like him. So he stared at me with an insolent puckering of his eyelids, and honoured my insignificance with the curtest of impudent nods by way of acknowledging my kow-tow. That was too much for the first-born son of my mother to stomach, so I wheeled round on my heel with the red bluid i'my veins hottering like water bubbling in a pot when the fire

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is lowing beneath it Miss Murray just then went into Lyons the draper's shop and my fairdling gets strutting up and down and swinging his cane waiting for the end of her marketing. So I step right up to him, and remark very quietly:

"Mr. Kinnaird, my head is as good as yours and perhaps a trifle better, and when I lift my bonnet your hat has to come off too!"

"He looked dumfoundered and then blurted out something about insolence and impudence with adjectives prefixed.

"I said nothing more but just swept his tile into the gutter by way of teaching it manners. He tried to cut me across the face with his cane, and he did. But next second it flew into flinders and then it was fists on both sides. He was a man,—four years older and thirty pounds heavier than I; but he was heavy and lubberly and whiskey-sodden, and I was lithe and limber as the best in those days. We hit out and then I feinted and dodged and caught him a right-hander under the chin just on the apple of the throat. It lifted him off his legs and landed him frock-coat and all atop of his tile in the slush. I didn't wait for *her* to come out, but next time she met me she smiled in a way that told me she had heard all about it and that I hadn't been crossed out of her good books in consequence thereof. Yes, my son, when a woman's involved, never put up with sauce. Hit out, clean and straight, and if there is to be any mercy shown to the other fellow, leave that part of the business to the Lord!

"Well the second session came to an end, and I was in it again right up to the neck, with four firsts and a third, the latter of which was a slight miscarriage by reason of a raging toothache I had on the day of the exam. Folks told me I was as good as made (which I was half-inclined to believe) and that I was a genius, which I knew perfectly well was so much arrant rot. But I wasn't fool enough to proclaim the source of my strength from the house-tops. Strength, did I say? I'd better have said weakness."

He paused and his face darkled as if he had just raked up an evil memory.

"Yes!" he went on. "Weakness,—worse than womanly weakness! I was as good as made; therefore I was entitled to speak. And I did. Twelve pages of closely written note paper was the extent of the statement,—twelve pages of the hottest and intensest copy I ever threw off. I told her all—the whole thing from the beginning, simply enough without either beating round the bush or rodomontade. At least I didn't think it was rodomontade. It was all so unaffectedly genuine. I meant every word of it right up to the hilt. Now when I come to consider the matter, as a piece of composition, it *may* have been a trifle over-florid.

"In a week I got an answer. 'Very much honoured, and highly flattered,' and all the rest of the formulæ that some months afterwards I discovered in the 'Lady's Complete Letter-writer.' But she didn't promise 'to be a sister to me' in so many words, and so I didn't lose hope. Of course she didn't say "yes," but then according to all I had read about women folks in story-books that wasn't quite their way under the circumstances. So I carried her letter about with me in an inside pocket on the left of my waistcoat and read it twenty times a day with thrills running all through me when no one was near to see me playing the blooming idiot.

"In the vacation I was in the country and saw her once or twice a month or two afterwards. She was wonderfully kind, although there was something in her manner now and then I couldn't quite understand. Sometimes I even got an uneasy suspicion that she was quizzing me; and once I was as sure as death that she was laughing at a matter that I thought very grave indeed. And a worshipper doesn't like to be made a mock of by the flashing-eyed goddess Athena, when he is so serious and devout in his adoration as I was. And day by by this uneasy feeling waxed apace.

"At last the crisis came, and its happening was on this wise. I used to go pulling with a mate round by the old Castle on the cliffs. A devil he was to sit behind when he was in fettle, for he had the style of a Hanlan and the stay of a Beach. I used to cook him by taking the stroke thwart, but that has nothing to do with the story. One evening we went out for a spin, and not far from the Castle-scaur we passed close in shore, just clearing the rocks with our feather. I saw some shells on the face of the cliffs I wanted to get, so I stepped out, and Daulton—that was my chum—sculled out into the open and left me. I saw a few other specimens on a ledge about thirty yards away and I wanted to get them. Swim was the only way to reach it, so I stripped at once. I had just climbed up by the dulse and tangles when I heard the crunching of footsteps on the shingly beach round the ledge, and the murmur of voices—one of them a woman's. I crouched down where I was, waiting for them to pass, for folks there are more particular in the matter of clothes than they are in Japan, and I was arrayed in what was full dress in the Garden of Eden before the fall of sinful man. But pass they didn't. I heard a shuffling among the shingle and recognised with holy horror that they had sat them down on a boulder. As I caught the tones of the lady's voice, my heart jumped up into my mouth, and I felt my person blushing all over, worse than if I had been caught eating pease with a knife. I heard her laugh a little mocking laugh and an answer came to it in tones that made my ears tingle with anger. They belonged to Kinnaird. He was sacrilegeously familiar too, and called her "Marian." I wanted to knock him down, but although it is usual to strip for the ring it doesn't do to be too much stripped in the presence of ladies, and I just dug my nails into my palms by way of keeping my hands out of mischief. Then my ear caught a cheep there was no mistaking. A cold sweat came out all over me. I was as furious as the Jews when the king of Syria sacrificed swine in the Temple: my idol was being smashed. It was a bitter moment. Then my own name was mentioned as the subject of a sentence where the predicate was most decidedly and pronouncedly uncomplimentary."

'Frank Webster' she said in the dulcet tones that used to thrill me like a war-trump. 'George dear,'—I felt as if I had been pithed—'you can't be so silly as to think that any girl could care a rush for that high-flown young fool. Only it's such fun, you know, to draw him on. It's as good as a play to listen to him mouthing and ranting about honour and duty and all that nonsense. He'll not be able to support a wife for years, and if he were he would drive nine out of ten ladies crazy with his moonshine before the end of the honeymoon.'

"And again the soft silvery laugh came floating round the crag, mockingly bitter.

"At last they rose, and I loosed my hold and dropped into the water. The current ran strong with an undersuction and I felt much inclined to let it carry me down in its rush. But I didn't.

"When Daulton came to pick me up, he asked me if I had seen a ghost or a mermaid.

"'Yes, a mermaid; I said. '*Ut turpiter atrum Desinat in piscem mulier formosa superne.*'"

"I don't know how I got back, or what happened for the next few months. And then ——"

Here there was a long pause; Webster's face was as lifeless and lustreless as a hunk of stale damper, or a heap of calcined chips that had once been *billets-doux*.

"Well, and then?" I at length queried, giving him a poke in the ribs by way of flapping his thoughts off the banks of the Acheron where they had seemingly roosted.

"Oh, then!" he said with a start and a quiet bitter laugh. "I just went to the Devil. Not rampageously, and with a racket, you know, but decently and in order. I meant to quit the country and everything therein at the end of the next session, and I just set to work to kill time meanwhile. I was what Homer calls *analkis*, utterly and thoroughly *analkis*. There was a powerful loosening of my moral and intellectual knees, and I just drove quietly onwards towards immortal smash. Drink? No! I wasn't built that way then you see. I hadn't cut half my wisdom teeth at that age and didn't know a tithe of the things that are good for sinful man. I hadn't learned to appreciate whiskey then, and hated the very smell of it. No, it wasn't the other thing either. I just did nothing, or rather I allowed higher mathematics and physics to go to the devil, instead of wrestling with them like a man, as I ought to have done that session. I read snatches of Philosophy and became a mild sort of Cyrenaic. And novels and romances, and all the literary pastry and jam and sponge-cakes and the rubbish generally that gives you incurable mental dyspepsia, I devoured till I was surfeited and scunnered. I sometimes looked back at the work that lay behind me, and wondered how the mischief I did it. Towards examination time I did try to pull up a bit and make up the leeway, but the stuff I did was as pithless and worthless as moist muck. I was no better than one of the gibbering, bloodless, fusionless shades in Hades. I felt that I had become a *thing*, a mere intellectual eunuch, and when a man feels that way the best he can do is to take a bucketful of prussic acid and invite his friends to the funeral. Well, the smash came, and it *was* a smash! A miserable last prize in one class, gulfed in another, and ploughed in the third. Ploughed, man, actually ploughed! Only think of it! Ploughed, man, ploughed! The First Bursar, and First Prizeman utterly ploughed! The whole place rang with the deed of shame, I had just wrought in Israel. Ow, man, but it was Marah-bitter to meet the pitying looks of mockery that shot me through and through, turn me whichever way I would. And the cackling sneers of triumphant noodles rang in my ears like the crackling of thorns under a pot."

He stopped again and I noticed his fingers twitching nervously over the pipe-stem.

"Aye," he went on. "I mind it all as if it had happened yesterday. I was standing at the inner entrance of the Quad, with my shoulder against the wall and my bonnet plucked down over my brows. It wasn't to keep off the dazzle of the sun cause I was standing in the shade, it was to——. On every side in the sea of seething humanity I heard nothing but 'Webster, Webster, Webster' and Webster's disgrace. One of the Profs that had talked of me as the 'coming man' and a 'star' passed through and he lowered upon me with anger and contempt. Man! that look irked me sore, and I felt as if salt had been rubbed into the raw.

"I was standing under the cage where the notices were pinned. For nothing better to do I looked up at them and began to read them mechanically. I went over them all with the letters all blurred and run together in my head and never a notion of what they meant. There was one small square of paper in the centre of the lot, and somehow I ever came back to that. After I had looked at it six times I began to have an idea of what it said. And then, my soul began to work, and light came into my head, and a purpose began to form itself. As it grew and came from darkness into life, I felt my strength returning in full force, and I clenched my teeth and my hands in my pockets, and I straightened myself where I stood, and my back-bone again became stiff and I swore I would do it or die. And of a sudden life leapt into my head once more, and I lifted it up and looked the best of them in the face unabashed and began to bandy words with the bitterest of the mockers. And soon they saw that my tongue had again got its edge, and one by one they shifted out of reach of its rasp. I felt the blood tingling with lusty strength in all my veins, because I knew 'that the hair of my head had begun to grow after that it had been shaven.' It was the announcement of the Balliol scholarship election that I had read, and I had purposed to be the man that was to be elected or to burst myself like a shower of sky-flaring fire-works.

"The tussle was ten weeks off, and if I ever did a man's work it was that time. I went through my books as a sea of fire leaps through a stretch of six-foot grass with a roaring autumn buster astern of it to give it a hoist ahead. A pretty face is all very well to dream about but revenge is stronger fuel to keep the furnace aglow. Of course I don't mean the knife-in-the-back revenge of the coward. That's a sort of thing I know nothing about and I don't want to make its acquaintance. But I had been down, and had been kicked—and foully kicked too when I was down, and oh! it was luscious to think of what would be toward when I got on my pins again! But at the same time I kept quiet and pretended to moon and to fool and to drivel and to spend my days and my substance in doing what was worse than riotous sin, viz., in doing nix.

"Her? Oh! Yes! I met her, and she also had her peck at me. She tried to rub it in after the fashion of her sex. But I took it all mildly, as weak as a pitiful sheep. Then the next time she saw me coming she passed by on the other side, and one day when I called she was 'not at home.' But you see that did me good; I was already case-hardened and steeled and that made me steelier still.

"One morning I disappeared, and neither man nor woman knew whither I had departed. It was then you honourable nose became acquainted with the backside of my sinister fist, and of course you know the rest of it.

"Yes! It was a goodish bit of work, though I say it myself that shouldn't. But those were the days that were!

"Of course I came back splashed and spattered all over with glory and kudos. The Prof that had glowered upon me as the archangels frown upon the damned, wrote me a five-page letter of compliments and good advice. I took the compliments with a wink and filed the good advice for future reference. You bet I made some of my quondam friends smell more than the scent of cayenne-pepper seasoned with their own assafoetida. I don't think they ever tried that trick again. When I went back I discovered my undoing had been the making of me. I had got a lesson, a dour and bitter lesson; but I gave as good as I got, with possibly an allowance for unearned increment chucked in as boot to the bargain. No! no! my son, it doesn't do to turn the slapped cheek overmuch among ordinary folks. If you're hit give the smiter room for repentance, and the biggest thrashing you can administer to help to furnish the chamber. Anyhow I had got on the line once

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more, and I told myself quite cock-a-whoop-like that a petticoat would never derail me again."

"You ran pretty well as long as I knew you I'm bound to say." I remarked.

"Ay, may be. When you knew me I was a fairish man, I don't deny. But whishper! I could keep the length, I could keep the pace, I could put in work both from the leg and the off, *but all the same a lot of the devil had gone out of the bowling*. Iyah! There's nothing like a pair of eyes that you might light your pipe at for putting spin into a man's work! That I avow."

"And what did *she* say to you when you came back?" I asked.

"Say? Well, now, that's just where the odd thing came in. Three weeks before I went to Oxford there had been a regular financial crash in the country and Kinnaird was in it up to his neck! Of course she helped him out with her sympathy! Not much! She just left him to flounder and welter and lair in the mire, and wrote him with ink compounded of indifference and 30° of frost. When I came back she wrote me too; such a sweet little note of congratulation scented and with sympathetic affection rustling in every fold of the dainty toned letter paper. But I didn't wear my head under my arm any longer."

"Of course, you answered?" I ventured.

"In common politeness, I did. And I took the answer myself;" he replied grimly. "Aye, I recall the last time I met her as clearly as if I saw the whole piece played down there now for the benefit of us twain."

He pointed to the swell below now ruffled by the darkling wind and being kissed good-night by the sun's upper rim dropping behind the shoulder of Fuji. "It was about the tail end of afternoon tea when I lifted the knocker, and had the door opened for me by the hussy herself. And faith, it was well that there was nothing about the casings of my sowl, 'cept cinders and chunks of scoriæ, and Dead Sea fruity ashes, and dour and lifeless lumps and streaks of what had once been an erotic lava-torrent running and seething and raging, scorching Ætna-hot. If there had been anything in the shape of spiritual tinder about me, that look of hers would at once have licked it into a lowe. But there wasn't. My heart was icy and stony and steely, as void of sentiment as the scarred scalp of Shirane San is of verdure. The love that had dirled and thirled in every fibre of my being from the top of my head to the tendon Achilles, turning my emotion into one huge volume of poetry, and my brain into an intellectual dynamo, was as dead as a ring-barked gum tree or a blood-wood smitten by the levin bolt. I saw her now as she was in the very flesh, with all the ideality washed out. For me she was no longer a Goddess, or an Altruna Maiden at whose knee one might reverently bend one's head and draw in wisdom and inspiration and strength to strike the blows that only men can deal. She was now a woman, and nothing but a woman; what would make a gouty old leering lecherous Major Pendennis put up his eye-glass and tap out between a dozen mess-room expletives 'a d—d fine woman!' All that she was, and just that. There was the same firm litheness in her well-poised figure and her sculpturesque limbs, and the same fine scent in her Annie Laurie like-neck and bosom so coyly hidden beneath her lacy kerchief. But now to me she was but flesh, flesh, flesh, which God Almighty meant only to be kissed. And I had come sworn to kiss it and then go my way. And I did."

"Was that square do you think now, in cold blood?" I asked.

"Square! of course I do! It's but few folks that have done me scaith and yet come off so easily as she did. That evening I had within me the courage that laughs. What's that, you ask? Well there are several kinds of pluck you see. First there's the

> Courage of the 'Dorian mood
> Such as raised
> To heighth of noblest temper heroes old
> Arming to battle and instead of rage
> Deliberate valour breathed, firm, and unmoved,
> With dread of death to flight or foul retreat.

That's the sort of stuff that made Thermopylae immortal, and the swads of the *Birkenhead* undying when they drew up on the quarter deck for their funeral in the sharks' bellies. It's first. You know the chances are every jack one of them, agin' you, and you've simply got to die with your company manners on, and a heavenly smile playing all over your ugly phiz. Then there's the dare-devil dash, when you throw yourself with a cheer upon odds twenty to one and count upon coming out all right at the other side of the scrimmage, but yet are not *quite* cocksure of doing the trick. That's number two. Then there's the case where you've all the trumps in your hand; the case where you've collared the bowling and have nothing to do but to wade in and slate, as cool as a cucumber and a ha! ha! of triumph struggling to escape from the down-ward side of your diaphram, and only kept back by a Christian consideration for the feelings of your enemies. That's the courage that laughs, my son. I've had it before I've got to the second round in the ring; I've had it before I've rowed a hundred strokes in the race. I've had it on the back of a buck-jumper, and I had it that evening, and, ah me, it *was* sweet; sweet as the forbidden fruit in Eden!

"And possibly enough like it, it turned to the dead-sea fruit of ashes in your mouth," I remarked.

"Maybe it did, and maybe it didn't. Well, I could see that this trip I was taken seriously, or in other words, like a man. I never cared much for the insipid shallowness of afternoon drawing-room chat, but that time I splashed about in its tiny wavelets and ripples with the gusto of a brat in its bath trying to catch a chunk of Pear's soap. My lady—we were alone of course—did make one or two breaks towards the sentimental, but I gave her no show. She opened her glorious eyes with mild astonishment as she seemed to realize the fact that by taking thought I had added more than a cubit to my stature since the last time we met. Then I was but lowly—I had knelt at her knee. Now I had risen higher. I would throw my arm about her waist, and kiss her on the mouth! I saw that she read me as clearly as she could read print, and I don't think she was *very* much enraged, although she did seem a sort of trembling all over and generally looked tense and tight, like the strings of a *koto* all ready for the thrumming of the player. Ah! ha, my fine lady,' think I to myself, "there's been a sort of *ō jishin* in the relationships between us twain. It's not me, but you, that are the instrument now, and it's not you but me that am the performer, and by the Lord above I've a mind to play a tune upon the fibres of your soul that will make up for some of those disquieting discords you were kind enough to set a-jangling among the molecules of my mental and moral make-up! But I didn't. It's mean to wreak a masculine revenge on silly and misguided females, and I let her down easy. So when she looked at me like a startled deer, and I saw she read me, I just laughed as a batsman laughs when he slogs the bowler to the chains for four and makes the winning hit, and I put my left arm round her waist—by this time I had risen and we were standing opposite to each other—and with my right hand I drew her face down, down, down, towards my own, till her breath played fast and quick upon my cheeks, and her eyes grew soft, and her lips met mine in a long and clinging kiss, such as women-folks don't mean for mere make-believe, and her head sunk forward and rested on my shoulder as if the Lord Almighty had built it expressly for its permanent support. Then she looked up into my face and started. She saw it all—they're quick, women are, in things like that, and she flushed all over red as the dying-rays darting from behind Fuji's flanks there, and she covered her face with her hands, for by this time mine was set and hard.

"'Yes!' I said! 'There is no use for words to this piece of music. You *made* me,—or rather you caused me to make myself, between which two things there's not perhaps any very great gulf fixed, and for doing so I'm your debtor. But at the same time you did your best to send me straight to hell and you've ruined my belief in women right to the beyond of forever. So we'll call the thing quits. Only you might have made an Excalibur of me, instead of the conscienceless curse of a Muramasa blade as which I'm bound to go forth into the world all along of the distemper you infused into the steel when it was a-forging.'

"'Stuff!" I remarked. "You never said anything of the kind to her! Why what could she know of Muramasas? You might as well have rated her in Greek Iambics."

"Well," he corrected; "it was words to that effect. You've no imagination. Anyhow she understood my drift and curstesied me out and said good-bye with a throaty sob that made me feel worse than a beast. The wind was sighing and moaning in the tree tops as I went out through the old kirk-yard, and altogether I felt that life was a valley and existence a curse, and that there were some triumphs that ought to put your tail further down atween your hind legs than any drubbing you ever got."

"I'm glad to see there's that much grace left in you, old man," I said by way of endorsing the sentiment.

He threw himself back flat on the gorse and clasped his hands behind his head, evidently rummaging in the dusty pigeon-holes of his memory. For three minutes nothing was heard but the mechanical puff, puff, puff of the dry smoke he was now enjoying, and the moanful soughing of the night breeze in the long waving grass around us. At last he sprang up and knocking out the ashes from his cutty preparatory to stowing it away in its case, he meditatively observed.

'Tis queer how old scars will show even when you fancy time has closed them up for ever. It was at the Cape in '83 that I met Alec Wilson, a townie of mine. Of course we went over all our friends. It was with a quaver that I asked after Marian Murray?"

"'Diana ye ken, mon?" he asked incredulously. "She married Rogers of the Town and County Bank four years ago and has three fine bairns already. She 's a captain of the Gourdonshire Volunteers, for her man's entirely under her thoomb, an' it's her that gies the orders. Lord, man, what's the matter wi ye.'

"I answered it was only a stitch in the side; and that I was subject to stitches. He recommended whiskey, and I took it. I felt my hand shaking as I raised the glass to my lips."

"Only imagine,—the mother of three children, and Captain of a company of volunteers! Now why the Devil did my heart go off that way, I'd like to ask? Why! man it was in my very mouth!

But come along, the launch is screeching for a start and the petticoats are getting into the punt. Look out, my dear, your ancle's very shapely, truly, but there is no real occasion to show so much of your silk stockings to the Professor!"

Webster jogged off down the hill and I followed. Poor devil! I little fancied that was about the last yarn I was to have with him. A fortnight afterwards we laid him in Yokohama Cemetery. It was his heart that gave way.

THE BIRTHDAY OF JAPAN'S FIRST PARLIAMENT.

The following letter from the Tokyo Correspondent of *The Times* appeared in that journal on the 6th of January :—

Tokio, November 30th.

Twenty-two years ago the Emperor Mutsuhito promised his people a representative form of government. Twenty-two months ago he fulfilled that promise by granting and proclaiming a Parliamentary Constitution and a system of fundamental laws. Yesterday, with the ceremonial opening by his Majesty of the first Japanese Diet, the Constitution became an accomplished fact. As a result of the peculiar circumstances of her modern career, as well as of her extraordinary earnestness, Japan has from time to time during the last thirty years presented to the astonished gaze of the Western world a series of advances and reforms so swift and so tremendous that history may be searched in vain to find its like. The ease and success with which these drastic changes have been brought about are hardly less remarkable than their magnitude. Men have at last almost ceased to wonder at anything Japan may do, or to tremble for the possible consequences. But of all the bold experiments on which she has hitherto ventured, this plunge into Parliamentary institutions is perhaps the boldest. With yesterday's ceremony, when the Emperor delivered the first Imperial Message ever addressed by a Japanese Sovereign to a Constitutional Assembly, began an order of things so organically new that its probable issue cannot be argued from anything that has gone before, and fraught with such possibilities of good or evil to the country that its first fruits will be watched with the keenest interest by all who know Japan, and even by many who do not.

As I explained in *The Times* of the 22nd of March, 1889, the Japanese Diet consists of a House of Peers and a House of Representatives—the former composed of members sitting for life by virtue of their rank, of nobles elected by their respective orders, of Imperial nominees, and of a few elected wealthy taxpayers; the latter consisting only of elected members. The elections to the Lower House took place in July last, and passed off in a quiet and orderly manner, though the contests in most places on behalf of rival candidates were very spirited and keen. Without figures as a guide, which are not yet forthcoming, it is impossible to give the exact ratio between the whole electoral body and the number of voters. As far as is known, however, the percentage of the latter indicates high political activity rather than inertness on the part of the electorate. Two or three cases of bribery have since been brought into court, but not established; and, on the whole, there seems to have been a happy freedom from jobbery and corruption. In the House of Peers now sitting there are 252 members, of whom ten belong to the Imperial family, and 139 to the various orders of the

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nobility, while 59 commoners have been nominated by the Emperor for meritorious services to the State, or for erudition, and the remaining 44, also commoners, have been chosen by their fellows from among the 15 highest national taxpayers in the several electoral areas. Of the nobility, 34 are former *Kuge*, or nobles of the Court, 64 are former *Daimyo*, or territorial lords, and 41 are of those who have been created nobles since the Restoration. Thirty-one are princes and marquises, holding their seats by the provisions of the law; and of the lower ranks 100 have been elected by the members of their respective orders, while two are the Emperor's nominees, and one has been elected by the taxpayers as above. The Imperial nominees are largely composed of members of the lately defunct Genro-In, or Senate, and the elected commoners chiefly represent the landed interest. With a few exceptions, the political faiths of the members and their probable attitude towards the present Cabinet are unknown. As a rule, they have not allied themselves openly with any political parties. It is the general belief of the Japanese, however, that the House of Peers will prove to be a spirited, independent, and powerful body, exercising at least its due share of influence in the Parliamentary fabric. Though mostly rather of the old school than of the new, and not proficient in modern learning, they are of maturer average age and greater political experience than the members of the Lower House, and we may certainly expect from them a reflexion of the dignity of language and manner, and temperance in debate, which were marked characteristics of the aristocracy of Old Japan.

In the House of Representatives there are 300 members, most of them between the ages of 35 and 55, and recruited mainly from the following classes :—landowners, merchants, lawyers, journalists, and ex-officials. Of *shisoku*, the former *samurai*, there are 180, the rest being of the *heimin* or lower middle grade. Men of the old school, with some admixtures of modern ideas, predominate; the rest are of the new school, a few of them graduates of colleges and Universities at home and abroad. Without doubt there are some unquiet spirits in the mass, from whom lively things may be expected. But well-informed Japanese anticipate with confidence that the proceedings of the House will be conducted, on the whole, with dignity and order; and, generally, the country seems to be satisfied with the elections, and to regard its new representatives as suitable and worthy men. The body most numerously represented in the House is the Rikken Jiyu-to, or Constitutional Liberal party, a recent amalgamation of three sections holding somewhat similar views. Broadly, Liberalism, aimed at maintaining the dignity and prosperity of the Crown, extending the popular rights and happiness, reforming the systems of finance and taxation, and securing equal treaties with foreign Powers, is the platform of this party—a party understood to be generally opposed to the policy of the present Government, though not inclined to factious opposition, or likely to advocate rash measures. Of the whole 300 members, 130 belong to this body. Next in number come the "Independent" members, of whom there are 115, not committed to anything in particular, except a resolve to justify their appellation by standing aloof from existing parties, and to observe moderation in political matters. Including in their ranks, however, many highly-educated and powerful men of the modern school, they are likely to prove a very influential factor in the Assembly, and are expected to give their warm support to all reasonable measures of the Government. The Rikken Kaishin-to or Constitutional Progressive party, of which Count Okuma, not a member of the Diet, is the leader, comes next, with 50 representatives in the House. In most respects the principles of this party and its attitude towards the Cabinet resemble those of the Rikken Jiyu-to, though the former are certainly less Radical in degree. Lastly, the Hoshin Chusei-ha, or Moderate Conservative party, sends five members, whose ideas, to judge from the recent utterances of their reputed leader, Viscount Torio, are likely to be rather Utopian than practical, and wholly out of tone with the rest.

Such, very briefly, are the constituents of Japan's first Diet, convoked by the Emperor on the 23rd ult., and occupied till the 28th with matters of organization preliminary to serious work. For the Presidency of the Upper House, the Emperor's choice has fallen on the well known statesman Count Ito. For the Lower House the President elected by the members and approved by the Sovereign is a Mr. Nakajima, of the Rikken Jiyu-to party, an ex-Senator and ex-Prefect, and a staunch follower, by the way, of the Christian faith. Externally, the temporary Parliament House, where yesterday's ceremony took place, is simplicity itself, the Government having made the prudent resolve to defer the construction of permanent buildings till full experience of the Diet's needs should be acquired, and to be content meanwhile with a cheap, unpretentious wooden edifice. A sum of about £40,000 represents the whole expenditure on the present establishment. Its internal arrangements and accessories are, however, most admirable, and it could not be Japanese if it were not surrounded by beautifully laid-out grounds. The Session Chambers for the Peers and Representatives, each measuring about 85 feet by 53 feet, are lofty, well-ventilated, and well-lighted rooms, decorated and fitted up in excellent taste, and illumined at night by electricity. At the centre of one side rises a lofty podium, with the table of the President and Vice-President, before which, a little lower down, is the rostrum for speakers, set immediately above the space occupied by the table of the House and the seats for stenographers. Round these rise, amphitheatre-wise, the benches of the members—each with a table before it—ranged in concentric semi-circles, which are cut by radial passages giving access to the several tiers. In the strangers' gallery of each House there is room for fully 400 spectators, besides a large compartment reserved for Royalty. And in the Peers' House provision for great occasions of State has been made by a handsomely designed Imperial alcove, giving on to the centre of the podium and ordinarily closed by curtains. In the gallery of this Chamber was gathered together by 10 o'clock yesterday morning a concourse of some 400 Japanese notables of all degrees, who were privileged to witness the coming spectacle—most of them in civil, naval, or military uniforms, of dark blue and gold. With these were about a score of lucky foreigners, of high grade in the Japanese service or otherwise entitled to special recognition. Below, at the time of my arrival, the body of the House was still empty. The President's table had been removed from the podium already mentioned, and at the back, beneath the raised curtains of the alcove, was seen the throne from before which the Emperor was soon to address the whole Diet. At length there was heard the sound of trumpets without, heralding the Emperor's approch. His Majesty had come in great State from the Palace, attended by the Imperial Princes and the Court, as well by the Cabinet and other members of the Government, and escorted by squadrons of mounted troops. Great enthusiasm after its kind greeted his progress past the densely-packed masses of Japan's loyal populace. Japanese throngs, however, have not yet learned to cheer as we do. Moreover, in the case of their Sacred Ruler especially, they probably have misgivings as to the politeness or propriety of a very noisy welcome; and the Emperor himself preserves much of the stately frigidity of Japan's old-time etiquette. Partly awed then, and partly doubtful, the crowd subdued their cheering. But their whole demeanour and their intense eagerness to see the procession were proof enough, if proof were needed, that love and reverence towards the Throne are rooted as deeply and firmly as ever in the hearts of the Japanese people.

Alighting at the Parliament building, his Majesty was received by all the members and functionaries of both Houses, and conducted to the Imperial waiting-room. Then the Peers began to file slowly into the Upper Chamber, and to take their allotted places in the right-hand half of the concentric semi-circles of seats facing the alcove. They were of three classes —hereditary peers, who wore the rich robes of their orders; those appointed from official life, who wore the uniforms of their respective ranks; and those nominated from among the highest taxpayers, who were in evening dress. With them came the President, Count Ito, to whom, it will be remembered, is due the chief share of credit in the long task of preparing Japan's Constitution. He took his stand in front of his fellow members, immediately below the balustrade of the podium. A few minutes later, the Peers having all entered, the members of the House of Representatives flocked in from the opposite quarter, and massed themselves in the left-hand quadrant. There was more hurry and excitement in the movements of this half of the Legislature, and it was not a little interesting to find here, in this very first gathering together of Japan's first Diet, the same contrast between the eagerness of the Commons and the dignity and leisurely ease of the Peers that has been characteristic of such assemblies elsewhere since dual Parliaments began. Next came the Diplomatic Body, filling the boxes reserved for them in the gallery. After them, the Cabinet and other dignitaries of Ministerial rank, headed by Count Yamagata, the Minister-President of State. These entered from the right of the podium, and grouped themselves thereon at that side of the throne. Every one was now standing, and the whole assemblage remained wonderfully silent and still. Lastly, as the cannon began to salute and loud cheering was heard from without, the Emperor, preceded by the Chamberlains and high functionaries bearing the Imperial regalia, and attended by the Imperial Princes and the Court, came in slowly and with great state from the left of the podium. Every head was bowed in homage, to which the Sovereign responded as he turned to take his stand before the throne. The Minister-President of State, Count Yamagata, now advancing and making obeisance, handed to the Emperor a scroll, from which his Majesty read in dignified tones, and in a voice that was well heard throughout the whole Chamber, the following speech to the assembled Diet :—

We announce to the members of the House of Peers and to those of the House of Representatives—

That all institutions relating to internal administration, established during the period of 20 years since our accession to the throne, have been brought to a state approaching completedness and regular arrangement. By the efficacy of the virtues of our ancestors, and in concert with yourselves, we hope to continue and extend those measures, to reap good fruits from the working of the Constitution, and thereby to manifest, both at home and abroad, the glory of our country and the loyal and enterprising character of our people.

We have always cherished a resolve to maintain friendly relations with other countries, to develop commerce, and to extend the prestige of our land. Happily our relations with all the treaty Powers are on a footing of constantly growing amity and intimacy.

In order to preserve tranquillity at home and security from abroad, it is essential that the completion of our naval and military defences should be made an object of gradual attainment.

We shall direct our Ministers of State to submit to the Diet the Budget for the twenty-fourth year of Meiji, and certain projects of laws. We expect that you will deliberate and advise upon them with impartiality and discretion, and we trust that you will establish such precedents as may serve for future guidance.

The Speech from the Throne finished, Count Ito advanced, received the scroll from the Emperor, made obeisance, and withdrew; whereupon the Sovereign, Court, and Cabinet immediately left the Chamber, the rest of the audience remaining a few minutes, till the strains of the National Anthem, played outside, told of his Majesty's departure for the Palace. Brief though it naturally was, the ceremonial was nevertheless dignified and impressive in a high degree. In every respect, in arrangement, execution, and accessories—it was undoubtedly a success, and worthy of the occasion of one of the weightiest episodes in Japan's modern history. The Emperor, who wore a military uniform, looked in excellent health, and discharged his high functions, as his Majesty always does, with kingly dignity and ease. Not even the sagest student of the national thought and character could venture to forecast with any confidence, at this epoch, the issue of the momentous plunge that Japan has now taken, after more than two decades of preparation. For the present her friends can only hope the best of her. To judge from the past, there certainly seems to be ground for hope. Nothing has so puzzled even the men who best know Japan as the way in which, despite the worst fears and prognostications, she has conquered, one after another, by some qualities wholly inscrutable to Western minds, difficulties that might well have brought an ordinary country to grief. Most of the rulers and counsellors who have led her up to her present stage are still to the fore in the fabric of the Government, and their influence and experience can hardly fail, for some time to come, to have an effect on the conduct of the national affairs.

It is unfortunate for Japan that any part of a ceremony so memorable in her modern annals, and so happily conducted in all other ways, should have been disfigured by the violent acts of some reckless students, said to belong to the *soshi* class. Mixed up with the struggling crowd at a point already passed by the Imperial procession, a band of these fanatics, doubtless thirsting for a row, descried sundry Japanese grooms perched on the roof of a stable inside the wall of the Russian Legation grounds, and, close by, a party of foreigners, chiefly ladies, occupying a pavilion within the same inclosure, where they had assembled to see the procession. Unfortunately, both of these points of view overlooked the road, and it is a fact that all classes of Japanese hold it to be an inexcusable breach of etiquette to look down upon the Sovereign as he passes by. Enraged at the sight of the grooms and foreigners thus posted, the hot-headed students below set to work at stone-throwing, which was instantly responded to by the stable-men with a shower of tiles. A general *mêlée* ensued, in which the pavilion, despite the sex of its occupants, was not spared, though happily none of these were injured before the assailants themselves had been seized by the police. The student-rioters had had time enough, however, to disgrace their nation, seeing that, whatever cause of umbrage they had, against their own countrymen in particular, nothing

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could warrant the hurling of missiles at defenceless women and girls. It is to be regretted that the easy-going, kindly disposition of the Japanese people seems to make them unpardonably tolerant of the acts of roughs of this genus, whether directed against themselves or against strangers within their gates. The *soshi*, as I have explained in former letters, are the curse of modern Japan, and it is high time that they were extinguished, with a swift and strong hand.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JAPAN.

Before Judge NISHIOKA YUMEI, President of the First Criminal Bureau, and Judges H. YAMANE S. KAWAGUCHI, S. SHOYA, and S. OKUYAMA.

CONCEALMENT OF STOLEN GOODS.

THE PUBLIC PROCURATOR OF THE MATSUYE CORRECTIONAL COURT V. FUJIMOTO SEIZABURO.

Principles deduced from the following case:—The offence described in Art. 399, Penal Code, shall be constructed as soon as stolen goods are concealed by a person who knows the same to have been stolen, whether the thief has been punished or not.

If for some reason or other punishment is remitted, such remission, arising only from the personal unfitness of the offender to undergo punishment, shall not change the character of the act.

Reference—"An offence committed by a person who is under the age of 12 years shall not be punishable, but offenders over the age of 8 years may, according to circumstances, be detained in a reformatory until they attain the age of 16 years."

"Any person who receives, conceals, purchases or acts as agent for goods, knowing the same to be stolen, shall be punished with major imprisonment for not less than one month and not more than three years, and a fine of not less than *yen* 3 and not more than *yen* 30."—Art. 399, Penal Code.

The accused was tried in the Matsuye Correctional Court for having concealed stolen goods, but was acquitted under Art. 2 of the Penal Code, the act being found not to constitute an offence.

The Procurator of the Court appealed. The circumstances under which the offence was alleged to have been committed were these. The son of the accused, Juichiro, aged 8½ years, stole on June 9th, 1889, from the forecastle of the steamer *Kotobuki Maru*, then lying at anchor in the harbour of Anrai, Nomi, Shimane Prefecture, a silver watch belonging to a man named Mori Shimpei. The accused knew of the theft, and, as was alleged, intended to dispose of the watch for his own private interest. He became aware, however, of the fact that the theft and his concealment of the property were known to the Anrai Police authorities and that a detective had been ordered to make investigations, and at once, therefore, reported at the Police Station that he had picked up the watch. The lower Court acquitted him on the ground that as the principal or first offender was exempted by his youth from punishment, the offence, in the second degree, of concealing stolen property could not be constructed. The Procurator pointed out that larceny and the concealment of stolen property were two separate and independent offences bearing no relation to each other as set forth in the Penal Code. Though in this case, therefore, the thief would escape punishment on account of his youth, the offence of concealing the property that he had stolen was none the less constructed, and the accused must be punished under Arts. 399 and 400 of the Penal Code, the judgment of the lower Court being *ultra vires*.

The bench held that the offence of concealing stolen goods is constituted as soon as a person conceals such property knowing it to be stolen, irrespective altogether of whether the thief is exempted from punishment or not. According to the original judgment, the accused found a silver watch belonging to Mori Shimpei, which his (accused's) son Juichiro, who lived with him, had stolen from the *Kotobuki Maru*, then lying in the harbour of Anrai, and had afterwards concealed in the house. The accused, after questioning his son, took the watch and concealed it, an act which undoubtedly constitutes the offence of concealing stolen property. The judgment of the lower court was therefore a misapplication of law, because the boy's exemption from punishment could not extinguish the man's offence and therefore the goods were plainly stolen. In accordance with Art. 429 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the original judgment must be cancelled and a new judgment pronounced by this court, dealing with the act of the accused as described in the decision of the lower court. The sentence was that the accused be punished with major imprisonment for one month, with a fine of *yen* 3, and be subject to police surveillance for six months, according to Art. 399 of the Penal Code.

Before Judge HARADA TANENARI, Acting-President of the Second Criminal Division, and Judges KAKEHI MOTOTADA, HIDISHI KEITEN, and SHIMADA SEISHO.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE STAMP REGULATIONS.

THE PROCURATOR OF THE FUKUSHIMA CORRECTIONAL COURT V. HONDA KUMAKICHI.

Principle deduced from the following case:—A stamp shall not be valid if any part of it is missing.

The Fukushima Correctional Court tried this case, and discharged the accused in accordance with Art. 2 of the Penal Code, holding that in giving a receipt on November 2nd, 1889, to Watanabe Gihachi, on which was affixed an incomplete stamp, accused could not be held to have used an invalid stamp.

The Procurator appealed and pointed out that though the Regulations as to Stamps on Receipts (*Shoken inzei kisoku*) contained no reference to the use of a torn stamp, the present case must be taken as one in which a receipt had been given without any stamp. That being so, the person giving such receipt was liable to a penalty equal to twenty times the amount of the stamp that should have been affixed under Art. 19 of the Regulations. A torn stamp had lost its validity, and to use such a stamp pasting together its severed portions, was nothing different from the use of no stamp at all. He therefore urged that the judgment of the lower Court should be revoked.

The bench held that no stamp could have validity if it were torn, being imperfect and deficient. In the first part of the judgment the lower Court stated that the accused had given to Watanabe Gihachi, Kuwaorimachi, Date-gori, on November 2nd, 1889, a receipt bearing a torn stamp. According to this finding, the stamp was a torn one and consequently had no validity. But further on the judgment stated that as the torn stamp did not seem to have lost its validity, therefore so and so was the case. Why did not the Court find that the stamp had lost its validity? There was no reason given for it. The two facts were inconsistent. It was therefore impossible for this Court to decide whether the law had been properly applied or not in the finding of the lower court; such finding being based on a view not in accordance with law, and must be reversed. The case was consequently transferred to the Sendai Correctional Court for a proper decision, in accordance with Art. 428 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.—*Saiban Suishi*, Dec. 6th, 1890.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 23rd.

The Coinage Committee of the House of Representatives recommend the rejection of the Free Coinage of Silver Bill.

General Sir Lothian Nicholson, K.C.B., has been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar, vice General Sir Leicester Smith, deceased.

The Egyptian troops have occupied Tokar.

[Sir LOTHIAN NICHOLSON, who entered the Royal Engineers August 6th, 1846, served at the siege and fall of Sebastopol from August, 1855, commanding the 4th Company R.E. at Kinburn, and was in immediate direction of the works for the destruction of Sebastopol Dockyard (Medal with Clasp, Brevet of Major, 5th Class of the Medjidie, and Turkish Medal). Served in the Indian campaign from 12th December, 1857, to 23rd December, 1858, and was present at the capture of Lucknow (Brevet of Lieut.-Colonel, C.B., Medal with Clasp); has been frequently mentioned in despatches. Became Major-General, October 1st, 1877, Lieut.-General, October 19th, 1881; General, May 5th, 1888. Sir Lothian Nicholson's last employment was Inspector-General of Fortifications.—ED. *J. M.*]

London, February 24th.

The Report of the Coinage Committee puts an end to all prospect of silver legislation during the present Congress.

Mr. Foster succeeds the late Mr. Windom, and is said to be opposed to the free coinage of silver.

Later.

Osman Digna made a stubborn resistance to the Egyptian troops before the latter effected the capture of Tokar, and in the desperate hand-to-hand fighting which took place Captain Barrow was killed and Captain Beach wounded. Four Egyptian officers were also severely wounded, and fifty-four men were killed and wounded. Osman Digna and his followers ultimately fled.

London, February 25th.

Mr. Goschen has announced that the amount of silver held is believed to be sufficient to cover the ten shilling notes (? one pound ten shilling notes), but should it not exceed the amount required to pay the notes in silver the remainder will be secured partly by gold and partly by silver. The notes will be a legal tender only to the same amount as coin.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Kobe, February 27th.

The body of Mr. Nankivell, who left Kobe in a boat on a rowing excursion a few weeks ago, and was never after heard of, has been found at Sumoto, on the island of Awaji. The body was in an advanced state of decomposition, but was fully identified by the clothing.

[FROM MANILA PAPERS.]

Madrid, January 23rd.

Receptions at the Palace have been suspended on account of the delicate state of health of the Queen Regent.

Madrid, January 30th.

The Queen continues in delicate health.

The United States have proposed the negotiation of a treaty with Spain having for its basis the free admission of sugar, coffee, and hides.

All the commercial treaties have been denounced by Spain.

Madrid, February 1st.

The probable Presidents of the Senate and the Congress are General Martinez Campos and the Marquis de Pidal.

The election of deputies for Madrid has resulted in a victory for the Government.

Madrid, February 3rd.

The execution of Eyraud, the French murderer, has taken place.

Madrid, February 6th.

The following is the result of the general election:—Ministerialists, 290; Sagastinos, 94; Radicals, 30; Romerists, 13; Martistas, 8; Carlists, 8.

The Queen is better and the reception will take place at the Palace to-morrow.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHINBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8 58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between Kozu and YUMOTO (distance 4 ri.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ ri)

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6 and 9.55 a.m., and 1.15 and 5 30 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 7.50, and 11.48 a.m., and 3.08 and 7.23 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 5.45 and 9.40 a.m., and 1 and 4.25 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 6.47 and 10.42 a.m., and 2 02 and 5.26 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1 98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3 30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 6th.
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	To-day, Feb. 28th.*
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'day, Mar. 4th.†
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 1st.‡
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 7th.§
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Saturday, Feb. 28th.‖
From Hongkong.	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'day, Mar. 4th.¶
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 8th.**

* *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on February 5th. † *Garlic* left San Francisco via Honolulu on February 14th. ‡ *Verona* left Hongkong on February 20th. § *Parthia* left Vancouver on February 18th. ‖ *General Werder* left Hongkong on February 23rd. ¶ *Oceanic* (with French mail) left Hongkong on February 26th. ** *Salazie* left Hongkong on February 26th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 3rd.
For Europe, via Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 1st.
For Europe, via Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wed'day, Mar. 4th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 7th.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 7th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 19th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Friday, April 10th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Matsumoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 478, ———, 21st February,—Yokkaichi 20th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuga, 21st February,—Yokkaichi 20th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,240, Pender, 22nd February,—Shimonoseki 18th February, Coal.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Natal, French steamer, 4,038, Bretel, 22nd February,—Hongkong 13th, Shanghai 17th, and Kobe 21st February, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 22nd February,—Kobe 21st February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 22nd February,—Yokkaichi 21st February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alderley, British steamer, 1,961, Davis, 23rd February,—Kobe 21st February, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Harrow, British steamer, 1,701, Brooker, 23rd February,—Kobe 21st February, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 23rd February,—Hakodate 21st February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsumoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 478, ———, 23rd February,—Yokkaichi 22nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsukuba Kan (8), Japanese corvette, Captain Y. Shibayama, 23rd February,—Yokosuka 23rd February.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 23rd February,—Hiroshima 22nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, Brotherton, 24th February,—Otaru 20th February, Coal.—Japanese.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 24th February,—Yokkaichi 23rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Umasono, 24th February,—Handa 23rd Febuary, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, John Wynn, 24th February,—Kobe 23rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Patroclus, British steamer, 1,386, Pulford, 25th February,—Hongkong 17th February, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 25th February,—Hakodate 23rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1034, Speigalthal, 25th February,—Hakodate 22nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 25th February,—Yokkaichi 24th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Miyagi, 25th February,—Bonin Islands 20th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, Watanabe, 26th February,—Hachinohe 24th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsumaye Maru, Japanese steamer, 478, Wanaka, 26th February,—Yokkaichi 25th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 876, Trent, 26th February,—Nagasaki 24th February, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 26th February,—Kobe 25th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Keemun, British steamer, 1,985, Dardin, 27th February,—Kobe 25th February, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 27th February,—Yokosuka Dock 27th February, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 21st February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Umasono, 21st February,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ceylon, Norwegian steamer, 1,458, H. Boe, 22nd February,—Kobe, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 1,662, Gidye, 22nd February,—London, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 22nd February,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuga, 22nd February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 22nd February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wm. Branfoot, British steamer, 1,322, Brown, 22nd February,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 23rd February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mascotte, British steamer, 2,113, Ross, 23rd February,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,129, R. R. Searle, 24th February,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,182, Walter, 24th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 24th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsumoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 478, ———, 24th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Umasono, 25th February,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Kosuge, 25th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pembrokeshire, British steamer, 1,716, Brown, 26th February,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Harrow, British steamer, 1,701, Brooker, 26th February,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Miree, 26th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 26th February,—Yokosuka Dock.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Suru, 26th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tellus, Norwegian steamer, 1,948, Amundsen, 27th February,—Kobe, Coal.—China & Japan Trading Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Natal*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Moyochi, Mr. L. Von Ehren, Monseigneur Midon, Mr. and Mrs. Patey, Miss Rossow, Messrs. Lemmone, Morris, Poole, Messrs. A. Behrman, Louis Dunphy, Broehnie, and Thorliven in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, from Hakodate:—1 Japanese in cabin; 12 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. R. Kikuchi in cabin; 22 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Hiroshima:—His Excellency the Hawaiian Minister and Mr. Paul Newman in cabin; and 1,100 emigrants.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. R. Sato and C. Shinowara in second class, and 36 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. K. Yamada and K. Tsobe in cabin; 86 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Captain Macdonough, R.A., Mr. and Mrs. Molineaux, Mons. and Madame E. Morel, Miss Deshameaux, Messrs. Edward Chavannes, E. J. Sheridan, A. J. Nixon, R. W. Cryan, Miss Bonnett, Mrs. S. J. Nichols and native servant, Messrs. J. Bilbings, J. Mills, and J. Guthrie in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Kobe:—Messrs. Takenouchi, J. O. Johnston, Uyehara, R. M. Scott, and Muroyama in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Emori, Messrs. Ashiba and Takkawa in second class, and 26 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	—	52	52
Yokohama.....	686	—	696	1,382
Hongkong.....	2	11,091	—	11,093
Total	688	11,091	748	12,527

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	254	—	254
Hongkong	—	60	—	60
Yokohama.....	—	383	—	383
Total	—	697	—	697

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Walter, reports:—Left Kobe the 21st February at noon; had light variable winds to Oshima; thence to port moderate N.W. winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd February at 7 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 21st February at 4 a.m.; had light to moderate northerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 22nd at 1 a.m. and left at 8 a.m.; passed Inuboye at 9 p.m.; had moderate northerly winds and fine weather up to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 23rd February at 6.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Hiroshima the 22nd February at 6.30 a.m.; passed through Akashi Straits at 7.50 p.m.; had light winds and fine weather; rounded Oshima the 23rd at 3.50 a.m.; Rock Island at 7 p.m., wind fresh northerly and overcast. Arrived at Yokohama the 24th February at 1 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Wynn, reports:—Left Kobe the 23rd February at noon; had moderate N.W. winds to Oshima; thence to port strong N. to N.E. winds with head sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 24th February at 6.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate the 23rd February at 2 p.m., had moderate southerly winds and overcast sky; after passing Shiriya-saki wind hauled to the northward with rain, clearing at 8 a.m. on the 24th, when wind hauled to N.W. fresh breeze and cloudy. On the 25th at 6 a.m. wind light and variable and fine clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 10 30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 25th February at 4.30 p.m.; had light winds from the south and fine weather; passed Oshima the 26th at 2.15 a.m. moderate easterly winds and dull cloudy weather; passed Rock Island at 6.30 p.m.; Cape Sagami at 11.20 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 27th February at 2 a.m., moderate easterly winds and dull cloudy weather throughout the passage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is at last a slight improvement to report in this Market. Yarns 16/14 counts have met with some demand, and prices have improved from 75 cents to $1.00 per picul on previous rates, but exchange has continued dropping at the same time, thereby keeping the relative difference between cost and price unchanged. This difference being very considerable it seems as if a further rise must take place, as holders cannot go on at present rates; 28/32's are still without any demand. Bombay Yarns have shared in the improvement both in demand and price. Other imports are still lifeless. Shirtings have also improved in price, but there is very little doing. Sales for the week amount to about 600 bales English Yarns, 200 bales Bombays, and 3,500 pieces Shirtings.

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COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.		
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.35	to	1.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.60	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.15	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.00
	PER YARD.		
Cotton—Italians and Sattoens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.14
	PER PIECE.		
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.00	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to	1.40
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to	2.05
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.13½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.38

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$27.00	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	29.00	to	30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.50	to	29.50
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to	32.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	38.50
	PER BALE.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—	

METALS.

Market steady; buyers, however, appear inclined to hold off a bit (now that exchange is turning upwards) in the hope that holders will accept some reduction in prices. Quotations unchanged.

	PER PICUL.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.65	to	2.70
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.75	to	2.80
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.65	to	2.80
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.70	to	2.80
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.80	to	6.00
Wire Nails, assorted	4.20	to	4.50
Tin Plates, per box	5.10	to	5.40
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to	1.35

KEROSENE.

Market quiet after the large sales of the middle of this month. Tokyo market is said to be weaker, buyers being apparently well supplied for the present. Deliveries continue on a fair scale; but arrivals of late have been large, and the stock is once more up to 700,000 cases.

QUOTATIONS.			
Chester	$1.67½	to	1.70
Comet	1.65	to	1.67½
Devoe	1.62½	to	1.65
Russian	1.57½	to	1.60

SUGAR.

Very little doing in Sugar.

	PER PICUL.		
White Refined	$4.25	to	7.25
Brown Takao	3.80	to	3.85
Brown Daitong	3.10	to	3.75
Brown Canton	4.70	to	5.70
Brown Java and Penang	4.50	to	5.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 20th inst., since that date settlements in this Market have been 1,113 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks*, 145; *Filatures*, 544; *Re-reels*, 302; *Kakeda*, 18; *Oshu*, 104. In addition to these figures Japanese direct shipments are 82 bales, making the total export trade of the week equal to 1,200 piculs.

Market has continued firm with plenty of business doing from day to day. A further decline in Exchange assisted exporters to fill all their orders and at the same time enabled Japanese to command full prices. Those of them who were sensible did not fail to sell currently and thus get rid of some considerable portion of their holdings.

The good business doing has attracted a few supplies from the interior, but in spite of these arrivals stock is down to about 9,000 piculs and shows a very great reduction on the figures of a month ago.

The active Market here has brought in from the interior several wealthy owners who have come to see for themselves how things are. They have quitted some of their good silks and could have sold more had they been a little more current in their ideas. As it is, with exchange turning upwards again, buyers are a little more coy and there is less business doing at the close. We think holders would do well not to be too conservative just now, for the state of trade in consuming markets is not of the best, and clients abroad will be soon thinking and talking of New Crop prospects.

Quotations given below are in many instances unchanged from last week with the exception of *Hanks* and *Kakedas*. For the first named class prices have distinctly advanced, buyers paying freely the prices noted; while for *Kakedas*, which have been held abnormally high and have, in consequence, been neglected, holders are now willing to accept some reduction from the top figures of a week ago.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the English and American mails both taking silk. The *Ancona* (21st instant), had 173 bales for Europe, while the *City of Peking*, on the 24th instant, carried 369 bales for the States. These departures bring the export figures to 20,349 piculs, against 33,916 last year and 35,912 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Considerable business in these, about half the stock having been settled at high prices. *Shinshu Shiban* has been purchased at $555; while *Shimare* has brought $535. *Joshu* (*Agatsuma*) have been done at $525. The available stock is very small and in strong hands.

Filatures.—About half the business of the week has been done in this class. Some good chop silks of excellent quality passing the scales; *Shinshu* filatures being done at $635; $625; $620, according to mark. In fine sizes for Europe some little business has been done at $640 for fine quality. The stock in this department is rapidly working down, not being more than half what it was three months ago.

Re-reels.—Trade in these has been difficult; there are still some parcels of best chops on hand but holders ask very full prices and the consequence is that very little business has been done. One parcel of *Five Girl* Chop was settled at $595; *Turtle* Chop $590 and *Shorusha* $585. Good medium silk grading 1½/2 are very scarce and hard to find, buyers having run upon these nearly all the season leaving in stock now chiefly best and common qualities.

Kakeda.—Very small business indeed, and the absence of transactions has caused holders to climb down. They are now willing to sell at our quotations and possibly better could be done.

Oshu.—At the beginning of the week several parcels were weighed up at $540, $525, and $510, according to quality and grade.

QUOTATIONS.			
Hanks—No. 1½	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	$550	to	555
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	530	to	535
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	525	to	530
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3	Nom.	510	to 520
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	500	to 505
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	480	to 490
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers			650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	640	to	645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	630	to	640
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	620	to	630
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	610	to	615
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	610	to	620
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	590	to	600
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	560	to	570
Re-reels—Extra	640	to	650
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1	620	to	630
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	610	to	615
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	590	to	600
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	570	to	580
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	560	to	565
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	540	to	550
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.		—
Kakedas—No. 1	590	to	600
Kakedas—No. 1½	580	to	585
Kakedas—No. 2	570	to	575
Kakedas—No. 2½	560	to	565
Kakedas—No. 3	550	to	555
Kakedas—No. 3½	540	to	545
Kakedas—No. 4	530	to	535
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	520	to	530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	530	to	540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	510	to	520
Sodai—No. 2½		—	

Export Raw Silk Tables to 27th Feb., 1891:—

		Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		7,916	14,367	19,138
America		11,965	19,130	16,517
Total	Bales	19,881	33,497	35,655
	Piculs	20,349	33,916	35,912
		Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		22,400	34,600	36,150
Stock, 27th February		9,200	2,700	5,000
Available supplies to date		31,600	37,300	41,150

WASTE SILK.

Business continues on a good scale, settlements for the week being 1,338 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 334; *Kibiso*, 820; *Neri*, 184.

Prices are strong and well maintained, especially for anything approaching decent quality. Not finding any quantity of good *Noshi*, buyers have turned their attention to *Kibiso* and are taking *Low Curlies* freely at prices ranging from $28 to $33 per picul.

There have been two shipping opportunities, English and American Mails both taking something. The *Ancona* had 294 bales for Europe and the *City of Peking*, 17 bales *Mawata* for the States. These departures bring the present export figures up to 23,366 piculs against 22,233 last year and 26,047 to the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—Nothing doing and holders must either accept lower prices for the present stock or send it back to the interior for home consumption.

Noshi.—Some little business at quotations, buyers complain that "best" is no longer obtainable. The stock is down to 850 piculs, mostly *Joshu*, which has not this year been so much favoured by shippers as usual.

Kibiso.—Considerable business in this department chiefly in medium and common grades, filatures being neglected. *Shinshu* has again been done at $55 and $50; *Oshu* at $70 while *Joshu* and *Bushu* of common quality have been taken at from $28 to $35.

Mawata.—No business in this and the stock is small and badly assorted.

Sundries.—Large purchases of *Neri* at prices ranging from $12 to $15 for the uncleaned stock. Two parcels of *Tama-ito* have also found buyers at $245 and $212½ respectively.

QUOTATIONS.			
Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 27th Feb., 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	22,079	20,043	23,569
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	23,366	22,233	26,047
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	27,100	24,500	27,950
Stock, 27th February	4,100	7,900	4,750
Available supplies to date	31,200	32,400	32,700

Exchange has, after a further decline, recovered to the following rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3½; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78⅛; 4 m/s. U.S. $79½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.09; 6m/s. fcs. 4.11.

Estimated Silk Stock, 27th February, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	120	Cocoons	375
Filatures	5,335	Noshi-ito	850
Re-reels	3,100	Kibiso	2,650
Kakeda	455	Mawata	125
Oshu	125	Sundries	100
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	9,200	Total piculs	4,100

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has again fluctuated, the latest being a slight upward movement.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/1⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2½
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/2⅝
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3
On Paris—Bank sight	3.98
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.09
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	76½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	76½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78
Silver	44½

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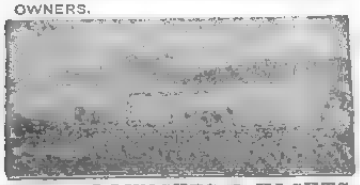

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1891.

BIRTH.

On the 2nd March, at 154, Bluff, the wife of H. J. CHOPE of a Daughter.

DEATH.

At No. 187, Yokohama, Japan, March 4th, 1891, JOSEPH FREEMAN GORHAM (of the P. M. S. S. Co.'s, service), a native of Yarmouth, Mass., U.S.A., in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE House of Peers has passed the Budget as amended by the Lower House and accepted by the Government.

COUNT ITO returned to the capital on the 1st instant from Odawara.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO returned to Tokyo on the 2nd instant from Numazu.

THE graduation ceremony of the Tokyo Postal and Telegraph School will take place on the 5th instant.

CAPTAIN JOHN INGLES, R.N., Adviser to the Naval Department, returned to Japan on the 1st instant from England.

THE closing ceremony of the Imperial Diet will take place on the 8th instant in the Main Hall of the Imperial Palace.

THE regular general meeting of the shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank will take place on the 10th instant at 2.30 p.m.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU, Commander of the Imperial Body-guards, left the capital on the morning of the 28th ult. for Numazu.

THE total number of persons who have policies with the Japan Life Insurance Company is at present 5,926, the sums insured amounting to *yen* 2,001,100.

H.I.H. PRINCE KITASHIRAKAWA YOSHIHISA left the capital on the 2nd instant for Saitama and Kanagawa Prefectures on official business.

THE *Yamashiro Maru* started from this port on the 27th ultimo for the Hawaiian Islands with one thousand and ninety Japanese emigrants.

THE first anniversary of the establishment of the Uyeno Mission, at Hirokoji, Uyeno, was to be celebrated on the 1st instant at the Central Cathedral, Harukicho, Hongo.

THE election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Mori Tokinosuke, a member of the House of Representatives for the tenth district of Tokyo, will take place on the 18th instant.

ON the night of the 20th ultimo fire broke out in the house of Sate Takichi, Toyousamura, Nishitamagori, Yamagata Prefecture, destroying 34 dwellings, 22 godowns, and 22 sheds before the flames could be subdued.

ANOTHER batch of emigrants to the Hawaiian Islands will leave Yokohama about the middle of the present month. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Omi Maru* lefr on the 5th instant for Shinminato, Boshu, and Ujina, Geishu, to bring them to Yokohama.

THE members of the Japan Educational Society have in preparation the holding of a series of meetings of representatives of Educational Societies from various parts of the Empire in the capital, extending over 5 days, and commencing on the 26th of the next month.

COUNT ITO, who returned to the capital on the 1st instant from Odawara, proceeded on the 3rd instant at 2.30 p.m. to the Palace, where he was received in audience by the Emperor. He then visited to the Cabinet Office and held a conference with the Ministers of State.

THE Prince Imperial, who had been staying for some time at Atami, arrived at the Shimbashi Station on the 1st instant at 5.35 p.m., where he was received by Count Saigo, several officials of the War Department, and a number of students of the Nobles' Schools for Boys and Girls.

AN earthquake was experienced in the capital on the 1st instant at 4h. 17m. 43s. p.m. The duration was 2 minutes and 20 seconds, and the direction was from S.W. to N.E., the maximum horizontal motion being 0.5 milimetre in 0.3 second. The shock was a sharp one.

MR. N. NABESHIMA, a son of Marquis Nabeshima, started from Yokohama on the morning of the 1st instant by the steamer *Natal* to pursue his studies in Germany. Viscount Sano, Mr. Motono Seikyo, several members of his family, and a number of friends accompanied him on board.

THE ceremony of presenting certificates to graduates of the Marine Products School, which was to take place on the 25th ultimo, was postponed to the 3rd instant in consequence of the funeral of His Excellency the late Prince Sanjo. H.I.H. Prince Komatsu, President of the Marine Products Society, will, it is expected, attend the ceremony.

AN action for damages amounting to *yen* 116,260.123, raised by Messrs. Iwasa Masahiro and Minamigawa Masao, owners of a coal mine at Ongagori, Fukuoka Prefecture, against Mr. Takahashi Shinkichi, Director of the Kyushu Railway Company, will be commenced in the Fukuoka District Court about the end of the present month.

THE section between Kurume and Takase (distance over 40 miles) of the Kyushu Railway Company having been completed, a trial run was made on the 25th ultimo. Mr. Yasuba, Prefect of Fukuoka, Mr. Tomioka, Prefect of Kumamoto, and several higher officials of the Kumamoto and Fukuoka Prefectural Governments were present on the occasion.

THE total amounts of money deposited in and withdrawn from postal savings banks throughout the Empire during the month of January last were *yen* 695,932 and *yen* 1,122,781 respectively, showing a decrease of *yen* 106,455 in the amount of deposits, and *yen* 330,078 in the amount of withdrawals as compared with the previous month.

DURING last year the quantity of tea that was sent from Kyoto to various parts of the Empire, was 3,243,825 *kin* (one *kin* is 1⅓ lb. avoird), of which 2,814,025 *kin* were for Kobe, 50,000 *kin* for Yokohama, 75,000 *kin* for Tokyo, 21,800 *kin* for Niigata Prefecture, 20,000 *kin* for Ishikawa Prefecture, 15,000 *kin* for Nagasaki Prefecture, 15,800 *kin* for Osaka, 20,000 *kin* for Hakodate, and 700 *kin* for other Prefectures.

REPRESENTATIVES of Osaka City and of sixteen Prefectures, numbering about one hundred and seventy in all, met on the 26th ultimo at the Nakamura-ro, Ryogoku, Tokyo, and decided to organize a society to be named the Kisei Domei-kai, with the object of equalising land-values. They afterwards held a social entertainment, at which Messrs. Sakamoto Kantaro, Yamada Ginosuke, Kimura Seitaro, and a few other gentlemen delivered addresses.

THE opening ceremony of the Yoshu Gakkan, an industrial school erected by Mr. Tsunoda Shimpei at Kanda, Tokyo, was held on the 1st instant in the Lecture Hall of the Imperial University at Kanda. About eight hundred persons were invited. Messrs. Izawa, Director of the Bureau of Compilation in the Educational Department; Naruse, Instructor of the Higher Commercial School; Taguchi Ukichi, of the *Keizai Zasshi*, and other gentlemen, delivered addresses in the course of the proceedings.

THE Import trade continues to mend, though ever so slightly, and over 1,000 bales of Yarn were sold and better rates realised. This business was done early in the week, and during the last few days holders have asked a further advance, which has checked inquiry. Piece-goods are firmly held as cost increases, and little has been done, but the market is healthy. There is not much doing in Metals, but dealers have paid better prices for the small quantities taken, and inquiry is made. Kerosene is quiet, and fresh arrivals are reported. In Sugar there has been a steady business in both White and Brown, and prospects are fair. There has been a small daily trade in Silk, but the trade is largely ruled by exchange, the fluctuations in which induce a see-saw policy on the part of holders. Shipments to date are nearly 13,000 piculs less than at same time last year, and more than 5,000 piculs have yet to come in to bring the season's outturn up to that of last year's supply. Waste Silk remains quiet. Exchange has been unsteady, and presents no appearance of firmness at the close.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

COUNT ITAGAKI.

COUNT ITAGAKI'S statement of the reasons that have induced him to sever his connection with the Radical Party is as follows:—"The object of the labours of our Party, continued through many years, is to propagate the principles of liberalism in the country, and to establish constitutional government. A party Cabinet is the true form of constitutional government. In order to establish this true form there is need of a great party holding the same principles. It was for this reason that, lamenting our condition of division into sections, I took steps, at an early date, to effect a union of fellow-thinkers. At first I was unsuccessful in the attempt made at Osaka to unite the two branches of the Party; I then organised the *Aikokuko-to*, and subsequently, by renewed efforts, accomplished my purpose of union in the formation of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. No sooner, however, had our Party made its appearance in the Imperial Diet than it failed to work together, lost sight of the true object of party organization in internal disputes, divided into two sections in respect of the Budget question, and almost reached the stage of actual dismemberment. I could not sit quietly watching this conjuncture, and I therefore spared no effort to effect a reconciliation, but under existing circumstances that aim has proved unattainable. For a time, indeed, the Party seemed to be working harmoniously, but new troubles have arisen, and we are again brought face to face with the misfortune of disruption. For a long time I clung to the desire of loyal union, and in the cause of our Party's interests employed every effort and every device, but all has proved vain. Some critics asserted that if no attempt were made to effect union at the outset, and if the different sections were left to work in their own way, a party would be evolved by natural processes. Others affirmed that unless efforts were made to maintain harmony, the views of the two sections would develop independently and a suitable compromise could not be effected. As for the motives that induced me to labour in the cause, they have been ascribed to mere partiality for the *Aikokuko-to*, and I have become the object of unexpected condemnation. Yet I venture to boast that I have sought neither wealth nor fame, and that my sole and perpetual hope has been to plant our purpose in the breasts of the rising generation, and to make our principles of liberty an active reality. But when I find, as I do now, that no information was conveyed to me until after the decision to divide had been taken, and that I was left in ignorance of what was going on, I can neither complain of fate or blame my fellows, but have only to lament the inefficacy of my own understanding, and the insufficiency of my merits. It is for this reason that I now leave the Party, and desire to stand for a time beyond the pale of party politics. Even though others share my wish to abstain from party politics, I do not wish that they should assemble in numbers and form an association. My only aim is, with the cōoperation of a few others and by means of the *Jiyu Shimbun*, to become a protector of the policy of liberalism and to work independently. Such are my reasons for leaving the Party. I trust that my motives will be appreciated and my request complied with."

* * *

The only point likely to perplex our readers in the above manifesto is Count Itagaki's statement, made in a tone of reproach, that he was kept in ignorance of the intention to divide the Party until division had been actually decided upon. It will be remembered that, when analysing the causes which led to the defeat of the Extremists on the 20th ultimo, we said that the secession of the *Aikokuko-to* section was chiefly responsible. We also explained that one of the principal motives influencing the seceders was supposed to be the conviction, which they shared with Count Itagaki, that the Lower House, by persisting in the course advocated by the Extremists, would deprive itself of a large part of its competence in respect of the Budget. At first sight Count Itagaki's complaint seems to suggest that no community of understanding existed between himself and the seceding members on this subject, but there can be little doubt that his reproach is addressed not to the men who retire with him, but to the men who remain. The latter, not the former, are accused by him of carrying things with a high hand, and of so far ignoring his own previous labours in the cause of harmony as to decide upon disruption without even referring to him. The simple fact evidently is that the Extremists had pushed matters beyond the point whither any reasonable self-respecting men could consent to follow them. They wanted to plunge the House of Representatives into a conflict with the Administration, on an issue where the position taken by the House was distinctly unconstitutional. By reading the 67th Article of the Constitution in the sense attributed to it by the Government, that is to say, by the Emperor himself, the House retained in its own hands a larger measure of financial control, and avoided the perpetual reproach of perverting its first exercise of legislative power into an exhibition of lawlessness. Of course giddy agitators, to whom the fact of opposition is everything, and the fashion nothing, will applaud the Extremists, and apply such adjectives as loyal, stable, earnest, and so forth to their ill-considered obstinacy. Fortunately tastes differ.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

THE resignation of their positions by public men in this country seems to throw the *Japan Gazette* into a state of more than wonted mental confusion. The "honest old warrior," Count Yamada, underwent some most puzzling metamorphoses when, heavy hearted, he turned his back upon his colleagues, and now Count Itagaki's retirement from the *Jiyu-to* is wrapped in similar mystery by our lucid contemporary. "The earnest and faithful members of the Party," says the *Japan Gazette*, "naturally resented the ignominious course pursued by the members who voted for Amano's motion on the 20th. This resentment has led to the resignation of the said members, and, as a consequence, to Itagaki's throwing up the leadership of the Radical party in disgust." The sequence of ideas is very pretty. Some members behaved ignominiously. Their earnest and faithful fellow-members showed resentment. The bad members resigned. Therefore Count Itagaki, in disgust, severed his connection with the earnest and faithful members. It is evident that some of these words must be "capable of being understood in two ways."

GOODS REMAINING FROM THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

SINCE the curious announcement that legal proceedings had been issued by a person of particularly strict morals against the distinguished noblemen and gentlemen who are interesting themselves in the philanthropic work of disposing of the goods left unsold from the Industrial Exhibition, the subscribers to the lottery scheme have been asking anxiously how it will fare with their money. Of course under no circumstances is there any cause for anxiety on that score, nor indeed do we imagine that the holding of the lottery will be interfered with, for, unless we greatly mistake, lotteries in which every one draws a prize are not illegal in Japan. However, it is now stated confidently that the articles to be disposed of will be all in their places to-morrow or next day, that the public will be invited to inspect them on the 4th, 5th, and 6th, and that the business of the lottery will commence on the 7th. The total value of the articles shown at the Exhibition in the sections to be thus dealt with was 679,762 *yen*, and the sales aggregated only 127,139 *yen*. As to the value of the remaining articles to be distributed by lottery, details have already been published.

THE LATE MR. NANKIVELL.

WE published a telegram on Saturday, stating that the body of Mr. Nankivell had been found on the island of Awaji, in reference to which the *Hyogo News* of that day gives the following particulars:—"The body of a foreigner has been picked up on the beach at Sumoto, on the island of Awaji, having been washed ashore, and the police identify it as that of Mr. Nankivell, as the clothes correspond exactly with those that gentleman wore on the morning of his ill-fated boating excursion. The body is greatly decomposed, and it is estimated that it must have been in the water at least forty days. Identification is only possible by the clothes. The police report is as follows:—Age from 35 to 40 years; height 5 ft. 9½ in.; body well nourished; clothes, singlet, drawers, white shirt and grey woollen pants, and black stockings with purple and red stripe. This description on inquiry answers exactly to the clothes worn by Mr. Nankivell on leaving the boat-house. The exact place of the discovery is Miya-saki, of Kamaguchi-mura, Tsunagori, Awaji, just opposite Suma. Messrs. Sim and Grimble have gone to Awaji to try and identify the body."

* * *

The *Kobe Herald* of the same date has the following:—Messrs. Sim and Grimble returned this morning from Kamaguchi, Island of Awaji, bringing with them the body of the late Mr. G. Nankivell, and they speak in grateful terms of the care and reverence that it had received at the hands of the Mayor. It was not difficult of identification, although it had been upwards of seven weeks in the water. The place at which it was found is on the east side of the Island, about 6 miles from Akashi Straits. Mr. George Nankivell received his professional training at the Stratford Locomotive Works—passing through the shops and drawing office—in which latter place he showed much more than ordinary capability. He was selected to fill the position of draughtsman at the works of the Japanese Imperial Railways about sixteen years ago and so satisfactory was his knowledge and service that in 1887, when Mr. Smith was Locomotive Superintendent, he was placed in charge of the blacksmiths and boiler making department. By the death of Mr. Nankivell the Imperial Government Railway Department loses a clever man, and Kobe also loses one who has been well liked and respected socially, and who has taken a prominent part in rowing and other athletics.

* * *

The inquest held at Kobe on the body of Mr. Nankivell was concluded on the 3rd inst. before the British Consul. Very little evidence was forthcoming. The Jury, having retired for consultation, returned after some fifteen minutes, when the foreman, Mr. Woolley, stated that they had come to the decision that death was due to accidental drowning; they also desired to record their hearty appreciation of the care and respect bestowed on the body by the head man of the village near which it was found, and they asked the Coroner to take suitable steps, by letter or otherwise, to make these sentiments known to the official in question. Mr. Enslie said he agreed with all that the jury had said, both as to the verdict and the care shown by the Japanese, and he would take the proper steps for communicating their rider to the authorities.

POLITICAL INFORMATION.

THE organ established in Yokohama by an association of residents for the purpose, as was generally supposed, of rendering all possible journalistic assistance towards the postponement of Treaty Revision, has unexpectedly become conspicuous in two other rôles; namely, as a blunderer, and as a second-hand exponent of anti-Governmental slanders. It is rumoured that the performances of the new organ in the latter rôle are considered in some degree compensatory for its accidents in the former. "We can at any rate congratulate ourselves," say the uneasy shareholders in the Printing and Publishing Company, "on having an organ which gives us a view of the opposition side of Japanese public opinion. Granted that it blunders lamentably and even ingeniously, since it discovers opportunities to go wrong

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where no one other newspaper could have detected their existence—still it shows us the black side of Japanese politics, and that is always a gain." It is well to be satisfied with small mercies. We should have imagined, for our own part, that instead of hiring an expensive editor and organizing a costly journalistic machine in order to obtain access to the scraps of political vilification floating through the columns of the vernacular press, the Printing and Publishing Company might have attained its object much more cheaply and effectually by engaging a couple of competent Japanese translators, and instructing them to extract from the pages of the Tokyo journals every item calculated to discredit the Japanese Administration, or to suggest the existence of corruption and dissension in official circles. However, the machine having been constructed and set in motion, grinds out with cumbrous effort its daily dole of second-hand canards and aspersions, extolling at the same time its own honesty and independence. A very funny spectacle the performance is in its way, especially when, as is not infrequently the case, it combines the two rôles of original blundering and plagiarized back-biting. An example of this dual exhibition has just been furnished. In an article intended to demonstrate "the fickleness of Japanese politicians" and the general instability of everything Japanese, the "honest" organ, alluding to the remarkable division in the House of Representatives on the 20th instant, says:—"The defeat of the extreme party was caused by intrigues which effected a combination of the *Rikken Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to*." This is truly one of the most marvellous bits of bathos ever published. The Extremists in the House of Representatives consisted of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to*. It was owing to the unlooked for combination of these two previously antagonistic parties that the Budget Committee's Report was adopted. Every child over seven years of age in Tokyo knows this. And now, behold, the sapient and honest organ tells us that the two parties were ultimately defeated because they combined! It is exactly as though one should write of English politics:—"The Parnellites and Liberals combining, were able to defeat the Conservatives, but were afterwards themselves defeated owing to intrigues which led to their combination." The *Rikken Jiyu-to* are the Radicals. The *Rikken Kaishin-to* are the Progessionists. Probably every newspaper reader in Japan, whether foreign or Japanese, except the editor of the organ, is aware and has been aware for more than two months, that the Radicals and Progressionists joined forces for the purpose of overthrowing the Cabinet in connection with the Budget, and that the representatives of the two parties in the Lower House received the name of "Extremists," owing to the sweeping reductions which they advocated. On the 20th instant these Extremists ceased to have a majority, and were defeated owing to the secession of several important members who passed over into the camp of the Moderates. But the Printing and Publishing Company's exponent of Japanese politics informs the public that the Extremists were defeated owing to "intrigues which effected a combination" of the two Extremist parties. If the thing is intended for fooling it is painfully clumsy: if for serious writing, it is inexpressibly ludicrous.

THE "HOKKAI JI-RON."

We welcome the appearance of a new periodical named the *Hokkai Ji-ron* (Current Topics of the North) the first number of which was issued in Tokyo on the 11th instant, under the editorship of Mr. Yamaguchi Ginoshin, a graduate of the Sapporo Agricultural College. It is to be published on the 1st, the 11th, and the 21st day of every month. Its object is, as the editor tells us in the opening article, to rouse public opinion to the paramount importance of colonizing the island of Hokkaido. In an article entitled "How to Construct New Japan," Mr. Yamaguchi dwells, in lucid and spirited language, upon the favourable position Japan occupies in reference to the growing trade between the countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean. He calls attention to the ever increasing influence of the Occidental races in the East; warns his countrymen of the gravity and importance of the obligations they are under as the creators of New Japan, and urges the vital necessity of colonizing and developing the northern island, which, despite vast sums of money already spent on it by the State during the past twenty years, still remains virtually unreclaimed from its primeval wildness. The area of the island is nearly equal to one-fourth of the area of the whole empire, and exceeds that of the two islands of Kyushu and Shikoku together. But the present population is only 370,576, whereas the place could easily maintain 10 millions. Schemes of emigration to foreign countries are now contemplated by a section of the people, but the writer reminds his fellow patriots that a country of almost incalculable resources lies close at hand within the bounds of their own native land. To this fair country every Japanese who cares for the future greatness of the empire should turn his attention.

* * *

Thus far Mr. Yamaguchi. Among the numerous contributed articles, we may notice two: one by Professor Sato, of the Sapporo Agricultural College and the other by Mizushina Shichisaburo, of the Hokkaido Administration Board. Professor Sato writes at some length on the importance of sober working men emigrating to Hokkaido. In the days of the former Kaitakushi, encouragement was given to immigrants in the shape of direct aid. But under the administration of the present local Government, that policy has been discarded and more attention is paid to the development of industries specially adapted to the island. Professor Sato does not find fault with the latter policy, but he suggests that the feeble and somewhat incongruous working of the various factories called into existence under the influence of the present system, might be remedied by the advent of a thriving class of farmers and working men. Hokkaido wants, not poor and abandoned wretches, but honest and independent immigrants, willing to make the island their home. There are already signs, says the writer, that people of this desirable kind are beginning to turn their attention to the north. Such a sign is the recent emigration of a group of families from the Prefecture of Kumamoto. The professor in conclusion recommends the establishment of emigration societies such as are found in the United States of America.

* * *

Mr. Mizushima writes on the colonizable land of Hokkaido. His article contains some interesting figures. The Hokkaido Administration Board has surveyed the whole island with the view of determining the area of arable land in each Province. As the result of these surveys, we have the following table, showing the area of land of various kinds:—

Province.	Land that can be cultivated at once. Tsubo.	Land that can be cultivated after drainage. Tsubo.	Land adapted for Pasturage. Tsubo.	Land requiring great improvements. Tsubo.
Ishikari	319,827,598	190,362,300	8,188,000	231,727,463
Ihuri	26,561,000	—	8,908,500	—
Shiribeshi	14,538,263	4,152,050	1,374,140	—
Teshiro	144,575,775	6,311,300	21,320,050	55,315,750
Takachi	176,804,227	100,868,300	595,000,980	18,100,630
Kushiro	137,330,165	86,862,121	181,696,000	64,390,736
Nemuro	90,148,850	34,929,263	282,975,450	22,221,350
Kitami	82,972,125	24,093,250	133,115,432	38,897,400
Total	986,757,557	276,142,274	1,173,065,452	430,643,339

Province.	Total Tsubo.
Ishikari	578,768,835
Ihuri	29,469,500
Shiribeshi	20,065,353
Teshiro	217,309,775
Takachi	891,374,087
Kushiro	470,279,002
Nemuro	380,374,013
Kitami	270,067,197
Total	2,866,668,662

As to Chishima and the Province of Hidaka, the survey has not yet been completed, while in the Province of Tashima there remains little that can be further reclaimed. For that reason all figures relating to these three districts are wanting in the above table. Besides these articles there are a number of useful queries and answers as to the necessary equipment of intending emigrants, as to methods of farming in Hokkaido, and with regard to other topics having interest for the settlers. We trust that the *Hokkai Ji-ron* will receive from the public the attention it certainly deserves.

"SWEPT AND GARNISHED."

Most unfortunate are the attempts of the *Japan Gazette* to escape the consequences of its blunders. Its ill-starred columns remind us of the house in the parable. The seven devils of blundering keep the edifice in tolerably bad order, but when they take unto themselves the seven devils of explanation, the last state of the building becomes pitiable. On Thursday the *Gazette* declared that "the defeat of the extreme party in the House of Representatives was caused by intrigues which effected a combination of the *Rikken Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to*." On Friday it corrected this singular blunder by informing its readers that the words "effected a combination" should read "effected a disruption." But the correction only makes matters worse, for there has been no disruption, nor any hint of a disruption, between the Radicals and the Progressionists. A newspaper editor, at certain moments, may commit the slight mistake of saying precisely the opposite of what he intends to say, but when what he intended to say proves to be absolutely untrue, his last state is worse than the first.

THE PROPOSED REDUCTION OF THE LAND TAX.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* awaits with some interest the result of the discussion in the Lower House on the Reduction of the Land Tax Bill. Whether justly or not, it is a fact that the chief excuse urged by those on whom the tax falls, when they are asked to contribute more liberally to the maintenance of persons in their employment, or holding land from them, is that they find the burden of the tax too heavy. If as is anticipated, the Diet resolves to reduce the tax, this action will place an effective weapon in the hands of small tenants for securing from their landlords some improvement of their condition. Moreover, the reduction of a landlord's burdens must have a general tendency to promote the circulation of money, and to benefit those around or under him. In view, therefore, of the indirect advantages which the reduction of the tax will bring within the reach of the poorer tenants, our contemporary expresses the sincere hope that the Diet will decide in favour of reducing the tax.

MADAME PATEY'S FAREWELL CONCERT.

Madame Patey and her concert company gave their last entertainment on Saturday evening in the Public Hall before an audience which, though still far from proportionate to the merits of our accomplished visitors, proved that the poor attendance on Thursday evening should not be taken as indicative of a poverty of musical interest in the community. The house was about half filled, and the empty seats were almost atoned for by the enthusiastic applause accorded to most of the numbers. We can add little to what we have already said of the nature of Madame Patey's concerts; that she is a great artiste and that she brought with her a company each of whom might be classified as first-rate without exaggerating her or his powers, are propositions that must be taken without argument. Saturday's entertainment was in no respect inferior to those that preceded it; classical and popular music equally found a place in the programme, and Madame Patey may rest assured, however imperfectly the obligation may have been repaid, that she has afforded by her visit to us at this end of the world the most unalloyed pleasure. It is probable that Madame Patey fully realised and appreciated the sincere admiration which her wonderful powers have aroused in those who heard her in Yokohama. That, indeed, may be taken as a matter of course. But it seems likely, too, that like the true artiste that she is, she wished in her own way to acknowledge the warmth of the plaud its that her appearance has invariably provoked. If that be so then she could not have adopted a method better calculated to complete her conquest. For, after responding

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to the ordinary recalls in the course of the programme, and towards its close singing seven verses of "Auld Robin Gray" she returned in compliance with an enthusiastic demand and stepping smilingly forward to the footlights rendered the "Laird o'Cockpen"—every one of seven verses, from "The Laird o'Cockpen, he's proud and he's great" to "She's daft tae refuse the Laird o' Cockpen." It is impossible to adequately describe the effect which her appearance, and the singing in good, plain Doric of the droll old ballad which it preceded, produced upon the audience, to whom the charming grace of the act appealed with irresistible force. For the reasons already indicated we need venture upon little more than a bare enumeration of the numbers on the programme. Madame Patey's contributions in the first part consisted of the Recitative and Aria "Quando a te" (Gounod), and Giordani's "Caro mia ben" (given as an encore). In the second half she appeared immediately after Mr. Morris's introductory solo to sing Knight's "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," and coming on again supplemented this magnificent effort (in the *finale* singing down to E flat) by rendering with infinite feeling that inexpressibly touching song, "The Land the Leal." With "Auld Robin Gray" she again thrilled and delighted her listeners, and finally she drew the current of their feelings into a new and more lively channel by recounting to them the wooing of the "Laird o' Cockpen." Miss Rossow came on twice in the first part of the concert, in the Recitative and Aria "Qui la voce" (Bellini); in Schubert's "Ave Maria," and as an encore of the latter in an air from "Un Ballo in Maschera" of Verdi. After the interval she gave a fine rendering of Balfe's "Killarney" and being recalled repeated one verse; her last apperance being in conjunction with Mr. Patey in Mozart's "Crudel perche" which was given with much taste and power. Mr. Lemmone played with great brilliance that charming "Hungarian Rhapsody" of Doppler, and with Mr. Morris the beautiful "Romance" (Gallico) duett for flute and piano. His only performance in the second part was a solo consisting of an "Air de Ballet" (Garibaldi) and the sprightly "Polka de Concert" of Reichart, which he repeated in response to a call. Mr. Patey's fine voice was heard to advantage in "I am a Friar of orders grey," and in Mendelssohn's "I am a Roamer." Mr. Morris in addition to rendering Schubert's charming "Impromptu in A flat" and Heller's "The Hunter's Rest," the latter with very fine expression, played the accompaniments with his accustomed skill, and bore a worthy share in the flute and piano duett. Too much praise cannot be given to this clever and talented young artist, whether in respect of his brilliance and power when playing in solo, or of his grace and sympathy of touch in accompaniment.

AN AGRICULTURAL IDEA OF THE DOINGS IN THE DIET.

It must have been rather a shock to the Extremists to receive the document which has just reached them from 153 farmers of Kasugamura, in Niigata Prefecture. The Niigata folks consider themselves entitled to be specially interested in the Budget question, because one of the representatives of the Prefecture, Mr. Suzuki Shoji, is a leading Extremist. The farmers have addressed to their member, and to the 107 members who voted with him in the minority on the 20th ultimo, an exceedingly plain-spoken epistle, charging them with having brought disrepute on Japanese representative institutions by adopting a course distinctly opposed to the Constitution. One of two things, say the hard-headed rustics, most be true of the Extremists: either, in consequence of a secret understanding with the Government, they sought to betray the House into appplying to the Budget amendments that could not possibly be accepted on account of their palpable unconstitutionality, so that the Budget might not come into existence and the Cabinet might thus be enabled to carry out the Budget of the preceding year; or else, without any due regard for the gravity of Parliament's functions in respect of the national finance, they deliberately plotted to pervert the Budget into a lever for ousting the Government, and putting themselves into its place. On either hypothesis they are not worthy of the people's confidence, and the farmers call upon them to resign their seats and make way for better men. It is a leading principle of parliamentary government, add these country people, that if Ministers of State have forfeited the confidence of the nation, they should resign their portfolios. The same principle applies with equal force to members of Parliament. It is undoubtedly a curious feature of Japanese contemporary history that a difficult question like that which recently agitated the House of Representatives, should be keenly watched by a number of farmers in a remote district, and that a document such as we have described should have been the outcome of the scrutiny.

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA."

A Home paper of 19th Jan. says:—The new steamer of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the *Empress of India*, twin-screw, for the Vancouver Pacific service, has just arrived in Liverpool from the builders in Barrow. Her arrival excited immense interest in shipping circles. She leaves on a trial trip to Glasgow, and will return on Wednesday next, 22nd Jan., starting on Saturday, January 31, for a "round-the-world tour," via Suez, India, and China to Vancouver, whence she will commence the new Pacific service. The *Empress of Japan* and the *Empress of China* will follow in subsequent months. They carry 170 saloon passengers each. All the berths for the round-the-world tour have been snatched up. The new vessels are beautiful ships, 485 ft. long, painted white with cream coloured funnels. They present quite a man-of-war appearance.

BUDDHISTIC PRIESTS AND PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The *Koku-Hon*, referring to the movement among Buddist priests to obtain the franchise, is glad to notice that, their course having met with the unqualified condemnation of the public, they have come to appreciate the absurdity of their demands. To do them justice, observes the Tokyo periodical, these Buddhists were originally impelled to prefer such a request by zeal to increase the influence of their religion. They thought that their cause would gain materially by the presence in the Diet of a powerful contingent of men devoted to their creed. That they thought thus was quite natural, seeing into how deplorable a condition of ruin the whole fabric of Buddhist power has fallen in these latter days. Nevertheless, Buddhism is a force having deep foundations in the history, customs, and art of the country, and it can yet, thinks the *Koku-Hon*, be made an influential factor of the new civilization, if only the work of its regeneration be carried out in a judicious and practical manner. Certainly it was not either judicious or practical to seek to re-construct Buddhism with political materials. But now that the priests are beginning to see the absurdity of their position as political demagogues, our contemporary advises them to turn their attention to the sphere of primary education. There are a number of seminaries of high standing, supported and conducted by Buddhist priests. But most of these institutions, however liberally endowed, do not draw a sufficient number of students. There seems to be something wrong with the system of education adopted. The *Koku-Hon*, without stopping to examine exactly in what respect the system is imperfect, declares it a mistake for Buddhist priests to devote the best portion of their attention to higher education. The field in which they are specially qualified to be of service to the country as well as to themselves is that of primary education. Not that they have not paid attention to this department: they have indeed the credit of maintaining some well conducted establishments for the education of boys and girls. But the point urged by the *Koku-Hon* is that they should devote themselves chiefly to primary education. By following this advice they will kill two birds with one stone. In the first place, they will discharge their highest duty as desciples of their great teacher by supplying a want keenly felt in villages and hamlets too poor and too small to maintain a school, and in the second place they will thus be able to maintain and develop their hold upon the mass of the people. The *Koku-Hon* further recommends them to compile Reading Books which will impart to children, in simple and graceful language, the beautiful precepts of morality taught by Buddha and exemplified by the conduct of himself and of the immortal founders of the different Buddhistic sects. Boys and girls receiving the benefits of such instruction will not become unfavourably disposed to Buddhism.

THE LAST DAY OF THE BUDGET IN THE LOWER HOUSE.

The Select Committee presented its Report on the Budget to the House of Representatives on Monday. The figures correspond with those given in our last issue, with one exception, namely, that the Committee added a further recommendation in the form of a reduction of two hundred thousand *yen* in the item of Extraordinary Railway Construction. Thus the total reduction was brought up to 6½ million *yen*, a sum obviously determined by the Committee's resolve—which the Government seems to have endorsed—to effect such a diminution on the expenditure side as should meet the loss of revenue resulting from lightening the Land Tax by 0.5 per cent. It is plain from the Committee's Report that this compromise was not effected without difficulty. Naturally the Committee shrank from the least semblance of lightly departing from the amendments voted by the House after such long and exhaustive debate. On the other hand, the Government understood fully, as everybody understood, that the decision taken by the House on the 26th instant to appoint a Select Committee for purposes of consultation and revision, meant a compromise. While, therefore, carrying compliance to the limits of expediency, the Government stood firm in its resolve not to yield more than a certain amount, and the Committee, on its side, maintained a stubborn attitude at least long enough to prove its fidelity to the House's wishes. Count Matsukata spoke of the agreement finally evolved as a matter of national congratulation and the great bulk of the Japanese people will doubtless agree with him; for it is now everywhere admitted that the Extremists nearly betrayed the House into a course of action as unconstitutional as it was unpractical.

* * *

The tactics of the Extremists in the House yesterday were the tactics of men who knew that defeat stared them in the face. They attempted to prove that the Select Committee had exceeded its powers, on the one hand, and failed to discharge an important part of its duty on the other. Our report of the debate shows how these contentions were supported, and shows also that, while professing to be so desirous of effecting economies and lightening the people burdens, the Extremists would have preferred to see the Budget of last year carried out to seeing the House and the Government part on good terms. They aimed simply at getting the Report sent back for amendment, which would have assuredly entailed the non-existence of the Budget. With this object they mustered all their forces. Not since the earliest days of the Diet's session has such a large attendance been present. Out of a possible total of about 290—some ten members being accounted for by sickness or resignation—282 were present, and the Committee's Report was voted by a majority of 32. Nothing seems to have influenced the Moderates so much as the conviction, repeated again and again, that unless they accepted the proposed compromise, they must resign themselves to go without anything. The Japanese are very practical folks. They know how to give and take, and the Moderates have the satisfaction of knowing

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that they have saved the whole session from ending in a fiasco, have rescued the House from an anomalous position, and have accomplished a solid work of economy.

* * *

The one really regrettable feature of the affair is that no less a sum that twelve hundred thousand *yen* should be deducted from the fund set apart for railway construction during the next financial year. We are entirely opposed to the policy of sinking Japanese floating capital in railways; but that is inevitable until the revision of the Treaties places the country in a position to borrow money abroad. To arrest the construction of railways as a prime step towards reducing expenditure seems, however, a distinctly retrogressive policy, and we are sorry that the first Japanese Parliament should be associated with such a measure.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS AND THE BUDGET.

THE Budget was transmitted on Tuesday to the Peers, so that five days remained for its discussion and approval by the Upper House. The question whether or no so brief a period can possibly suffice for such an important debate, would be answered in the negative by anyone referring to the Rules of Procedure in relation to the Budget, adopted recently by the Peers on the motion of Viscount Tani. The provisions of the Rules are briefly as follow:—On receiving the Budget from the Lower House, the President causes it to be printed and distributes copies among the members; the House then commits it to the Budget Committee, fixing a limit of time within which the latter's Report must be submitted; the Committee, having divided itself into Sections, proceeds to examine the Budget according to a system accurately laid down in the Rules; the examination being concluded, the Committee submits its report to the President of the House, who causes it to be printed and distributes copies among the members; the House then undertakes the examination of the Report and of the Budget in accordance with the same system, in respect of textual division, as that previously pursued by the Committee; votes are taken as to seeking the Government's concurrence to changes in the "fixed expenditures," and on obtaining concurrence the changes are voted; having finished the work of discussing and amending, the House directs the Committee to prepare a complete statement, and if the latter includes any alterations of the Budget as sent up from the Representatives, a conference of the two Houses is opened. It is difficult to imagine that all these steps can be completed in the very brief interval remaining before the close of the Session. Evidently if the Peers amend any of the items that have already passed the Representatives, the chances of "existence" become almost infinitesimally small. But even supposing that no changes are made requiring a conference of the two Houses and re-submission of the Budget to the Representatives, it is plain that unless the Peers bring to bear on the work a very large measure of zeal and good-will, they cannot carry it through. In other countries the function discharged by the Upper House in respect of the Budget is of a purely formal character, merely a perfunctory kind of endorsement. But the Japanese Upper House includes an exceptional element, namely, elected representatives of the highest tax-payers in all the Cities and Prefectures. It would not be natural that these men should submit to be treated as mere dummies in relation to national finance. They have a better right than any members of the Commons to make their voices heard in the matter of imposing taxes, and applying the proceeds of taxation, and their right ought to receive practical recognition. But the circumstances of the present Budget are exceptional, and the Upper House appears disposed to treat it in an exceptional manner. It has been entrusted to the Committee with an instruction that the latter's Report must be furnished in two days. From the questions addressed by Viscount Tani to the Minister of State for Finance, it was evident that the Viscount contemplated some recalcitrant action, and such proved to be the case, for after the Budget had been handed over to the Committee, he and several other sympathizing members withdrew their names from the Committee on the plea that the instruction as to time rendered it impossible to undertake any efficient examination. This proceeding has not disturbed the arrangements. The Committee is at work, and will submit its Report within the prescribed period. Whether Viscount Tani will muster a sufficient following to obstruct the subsequent debate, remains to be seen. We do not think so, however. A majority of the members will, it is confidently asserted, make every possible endeavour to save the labour of the Lower House from becoming abortive. If they accomplish their purpose there will be a striking contrast between the five days of the Peers and the ninety days of the Commons.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE "SOSHI."

WE are unable to understand the motives that guide the procedure of the House of Representatives. Last month, when a *soshi* made his way into the House and attacked Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, the latter gave a statement of the fact an hour afterwards from his place in the House, and the President, having afforded information as to the name of the rioter, announced that nothing appeared necessary further than to leave the matter in the hands of the police. Some days afterwards another *soshi* repeated the operation, Mr. Misaki being this time the victim, and the assault again taking place within the precincts of the House. But on this second occasion the Representatives showed even greater indifference than before. The occurrence was not even alluded to by either the President or a member, and the incident was treated as though such things fell within the ordinary routine of daily work. Then followed the performance of the 3rd instant, when a youth threw a quantity of filth wrapped in a newspaper at Mr. Inouye Kakugoro. The mal-odorous parcel, discharged from the Strangers' Gallery, failed happily to strike any one. Of course the thrower was immediately arrested, but he turned out to be as unlike a politician as could be conceived. The sixteen-year old son of a *shizoku* in greatly reduced circumstances, who resides in the Shiba district of Tokyo, and is much too concerned about earning his bread to meddle with politics, the youth obtains a few *sen* daily by hawking newspapers. His story of the occurrence is that a stranger in the gallery gave him the parcel and offered him 20 *sen* on condition that he would throw it at an indicated member, Mr. Inouye Kakugoro. The stranger explained, as an additional inducement, that the proceeding would serve as a splendid advertisement for the newspaper. Whether the silly lad believed this, or whether he really acted at such a bidding, it is at all events certain that the sum of his offence was to throw a newspaper parcel of horse droppings from the gallery of the House on the seat of an absent member. Yet the President announced, the following day, that as the act had constituted an insult to the House, it seemed proper that the House should prosecute, and this view was adopted without question. But if the throwing of dirt from the gallery is an insult demanding legal proceedings in the name of the House, what shall be said of the assaults committed on Messrs. Inouye Kakugoro and Misaki Kamenosuke within the precincts of the House? A member thought it advisable to inquire who had introduced the dirt-thrower, but not one question has ever been put in the House as to wielders of fists and bludgeons who assaulted Messrs. Inouye and Misaki. Neither did the House consider itself bound to move in these latter incomparably graver cases. It is all incomprehensible.

RAPID LEGISLATION.

THE House of Representatives seems determined to show that if it dallied an immense time over the Budget, it can legislate very rapidly when it pleases. It has disposed of several important measures with remarkable celerity since the Budget left its hands. The Weights and Measures Bill was a conspicuous example. One forenoon may be said to have represented the total time given to it by the House. A Special Committee had, of course, fully considered the measure and reported favourably on it, recommending, however, one slight amendment, which would have necessitated conference with the Upper House, and probably the return of the Bill to the latter. The Representatives never even discussed the amendment. They rejected it incontinently, and voted the Bill by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Takanashi's extraordinary speech in opposition will remain a feature of the session. It found one applauder in the House, Mr. Tanaka Shozo, and if Mr. Takanashi is proud of the association, he certainly need not be proud of the blindly conservative sentiments of his speech, elegant as was the language in which they were expressed. It will be a source of sincere satisfaction to Professor Kikuchi, who engineered the Bill through the Upper House and had so much to say to its drafting, that his labours have borne practical fruit, and it is emphatically creditable to the Representatives that they took such a liberal and enlightened view of the measure. Mr. Saito Shiuichiro, who had charge of it in the Lower House, showed excellent judgment in not wearying the members or occupying their precious time with explanations which his quick perception of the situation showed to be unnecessary.

HYDROPHOBIA.

SINGAPORE has been considerably excited recently by several deaths in quick succession from hydrophobia. A commission has sat and an influential deputation has waited upon Sir Cecil Smith in connection with the matter, and meetings have also been held. If ever the fell disease should break out in Japan the consequences would be likely to be terrible in Yokohama, on account of the number of mangy ownerless curs and cayotes that swarm in the Settlement and in the surrounding villages. The *Singapore Free Press* says:—A largely attended private meeting was held in the Exchange Rooms, on the afternoon of the 13th inst., to consider the hydrophobia question, and the following resolution was adopted:—"That this meeting is opinion that, owing to the increased number of deaths from hydrophobia in Singapore, some strong measures should be at once taken to stamp out the disease in the island, and subject to provision for quarantine, to be afterwards considered, all dogs should be killed; and that a deputation wait on His Excellency the Governor to urge these views."

JAPAN AND GERMANY'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

UNDER the above heading the *National Zeitung* has published in its commercial supplement a few thoughts that may be of some interest to our readers. We translate them is follows:—The has just closed has not been a very prosperous one for Germany's textile industry. In America, a reckless legislature has passed the notorious McKinley Act, and has thus dealt a severe blow to German exports to the Union. In South America, political and financial embarrassments have seriously hindered Germany's commercial activity. In view of the injurious effects of the McKinley Act especially, Germany would do well to seek for its imminent losses compensation elsewhere, as the most favourable political constellations in the United States cannot easily undo what has been done. Besides the extension of her colonial activity, Germany must also make it her duty successfully to resist foreign competition in other and longer civilized lands, in order to gain additional ground in the markets she has already entered but is not yet supplying to the full extent of her capacities. Such a market, among others, is Japan. If we consult the commercial statistics of that country, we find that Japan has made the most steady economical progress, and that Germany plays an important *rôle* in her markets, but that England still predominates. and maintains the first rank, especially in textile fabrics. Here then

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—and we would call general attention to this point—a favourable and fair field is offered to German industry and enterprise, a field whose cultivation may easily secure compensation for the losses in America. We will give a review of Japan's trade during the last years. (Here follow statistics covering the time from 1884 to 1889, well known to the readers of the *Mail*.) From these facts it will be apparent that Japan's imports, since 1884, rose by 133 per cent., her exports by 112 per cent. How far did Germany participate in this trade? Unfortunately we are not in possession of sufficient data to come to definite conclusions. We have only the statistics of 1888. (These are then given.) Among the European powers Germany, it is true, occupies the second place, so far as the import trade is concerned; but England is still her superior, and that by a wide margin: while among non-European powers she has stronger rivals in the Chinese, the Indians, and the Americans. England's superior position rests, as we gather from various other statistics, especially on her exports of textile fabrics that have secured the lion's share of Japan's consumption of foreign manufactures. By far the largest share of what the country needs in cotton and woollen fabrics is supplied by England, and goods of this description constitute about 40 per cent. of Japan's total import. We are of opinion that in this line Germany may by greater vigilance and industry secure a larger field for her imports. Only very recently the *German Commercial Archives* have given valuable hints in this respect, with reference also to features that require caution. We there read that merchants in Japan, find themselves face to face with a growing change in the mode of payment, inasmuch as buying on credit has become more and more customary, a change natural enough in view of the fact that the native merchant, the intermediary of the commerce with the interior, himself sells on credit, while the facilities offered by Japanese banks are at present merely nominal and liable to be withdrawn in critical moments. The credit system, however, not only increases the risks of the foreign importer, but also occasionally favours an import altogether out of proportion to the needs of the situation, a fact which would again first of all react upon the foreign trader. Finally, it may also be mentioned that a number of Japanese aim at gradually displacing all European manufactures, an object that, according to competent observers, it will take a good while yet to realise. Especially fears as to woollen fabrics are quite infounded. Woollen manufactures, whose present perfection in Europe is the result of long and tedious processes, could not possibly be produced in equal quality and cheapness in a country that does not itself possess the raw material, and whose demand for wool is not yet sufficiently developed to create a regular and cheap supply from the great wool-growing districts of the world.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR.

MR. TAKANASHI TETSUSHIRO has acquired a high reputation for eloquence in the House of Representatives, but his name has not yet been associated, in a leading position, with any measure of genuine utility. His time will come, however. He is already a prominent figure in Parliament. But we cannot see that he will enhance his reputation by the motion he has introduced in relation to the Yokohama Harbour. He has asked to have a Committee appointed to inquire into the expenditure hitherto incurred in connection with the work, and into the progress made, and further to give advice as to the course that ought hereafter to be adopted. In an explanatory document accompanying this proposal, he dwells on the important influence likely to be exercised on the trade of the country by the construction of a harbour at Yokohama, and declares that the probable results of the undertaking ought to be carefully studied. Ostensibly the motion is referred to the fact that whereas an appropriation of 200,000 *yen* appears in this year's Budget on account of the Harbour, the Diet is given no information as to the expenditure to be entailed in prosecuting the work subsequently, but it is plain that this plea possesses little value, inasmuch as all information of such a nature might have been obtained by addressing a few questions to the Government Delegate for the Home Office, when the Budget was under discussion. If Mr. Takanashi's proposition has any vertebra—and we presume that it has, since he gives an emphatic proof of earnestness by recommending that the Committee should sit without remuneration after the closing of the Diet—he must contemplate the arrest of the work of construction. Every one knows that a considerable feeling of jealousy exists in Tokyo with respect to the Yokohama Harbour. The citizens of the capital very naturally want to have a port for themselves, which may gradually attract all the maritime trade from Yokohama. They do not like the idea of Yokohama becoming a sort of Gravesend to Tokyo. Therefore, if they could put a stop to the Yokohama Works on any reasonable pretext, they would doubtless be glad to do so. But they have lost their opportunity, if, indeed, it ever existed. Before the Diet reassembles the construction of Yokohama Harbour will be carried to such a point that its abandonment would make a laughing-stock of Japan. We do not suppose for a moment that the Diet would consent to anything of the kind, and such being the case, the utility of Mr. Takanashi's Committee is difficult to appreciate. The members can get a lesson in the art of harbour construction, it is true, but that is scarcely a sufficient reason for parliamentary action of the nature proposed.

JOURNALISTIC CURIOSITIES.

Japan Mail.—Feb. 23rd. (Concerning the defeat of the Extremists).

To what causes must this strange occurrence be attributed? To two, apparently: first, and chiefly, to a secession of a portion of the Radical Party; secondly, and in a very trifling degree, to a growing conviction that if the House persisted in its course, dissolution was inevitable. The seceders were the members of the *Aikoku-kyoto*, Count Itagaki's special followers. * * * With them are said to have voted the National Radicals (*Kokumin Jiyu-to*), a party still in an embryonic condition, which had previously cast in its lot with the Extremists.

Japan Gazette.—March 2nd. (on the same subject).

"Twenty members, belonging to the Tosa faction of the *Jiyu-to*, who hitherto had voted for the Budget Committee's Report, betrayed their cause by joining the opposite party. This it was that decided the contest."

It is no doubt not a little annoying to our contemporary to find the "ill-starred" journal publishing a credible explanation of a somewhat complicated political event, which, relying on the credulity of its readers, it attributed to the eloquence of a non-influential member of the Diet, Amano Jakuyen.

The marvel of the *Gazette's* assertion, evident at once by reference to the above extract from our own columns, will be better appreciated when we say that not the remotest allusion has ever been made by us, directly or indirectly to Mr. Amano Jakuyen's "eloquence," nor have we ever hinted that the defeat of the Extremists on the 20th inst. was due to any cause other than the one distinctly stated by us originally, namely, "the secession of a portion of the Radical Party." Eight days after our statement of that cause, the *Japan Gazette* re-states precisely the same cause; six days after our publication of the names of the seceders, the *Japan Gazette* publishes the names of the same seceders. And then this "honest" newspaper turns round and deliberately accuses us of attributing the defeat of the Extremists to Mr. Amano Jakuyen's eloquence, though not one word about that gentleman's eloquence had ever appeared in our columns.

* * *

Regarding the new *Japan Gazette* as a species of journalistic phenomenon, endued with some mischievous capacities on account of its connections, we think there is interest in analysing its methods. Here, then, is another curious example. On the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 24th, the *Japan Mail* published a translation of the order to be observed in marshalling the funeral cortége of Prince Sanjo. On the evening of the same day the *Japan Gazette* published a translation of the same thing. The two translations were absolutely identical, except that a group of eight flags carried in the procession were arranged by us with the red flags on one side and the white on the other, whereas the *Japan Gazette* arranged them alternately as to colours. There were, of course, some trifling variations of phraseology, and one of Prince Sanjo's decorations appeared in our list as "Persian" instead of "Belgian." But for the rest, there was not the most infinitesmal difference between the two translations. Nevertheless, the *Japan Gazette*, three days later, had the extraordinary temerity to write thus:—"It is somewhat amusing to be referred to the *Kwampō* notification of the ceremony, when the *Gazette* was the only paper that, prior to its celebration, published a correct translation of that notification. The translation published in the *Mail* was *a perfect jumble, the parties and articles mixed up in hopeless confusion, the flags all wrong*, and the deceased endowed with a new order, the *Persian*, instead of the Belgian." (The italics are ours). We have never, in the course of ten years' journalistic experience, encountered such reckless indifference to truth as the *Japan Gazette* displays. How to treat such a newspaper is a novel problem. Must we hold it non-accountable, or must we accept the far less welcome hypothesis that it does not attach the smallest importance to veracity?

THE IMPS AGAIN.

So it was "avoid tautology" that the *Japan Gazette* spoke of the Foreign Representatives in Tokyo as "Ambassadors!" What malicious villains they are, these seven devils of explanation! They found a house swept of information, and they garnished it with the funniest evasions and delusions conceivable. We begin to think that they will end by starting the unfortunate editor down the steep place of that other parable. He has rushed off now in pursuit of the will-o-the-wisp that the title of "Excellency" should not be applied to the wives of the Foreign Ministers in Tokyo. Certainly not, if strict rule be followed. But neither ought the title of "Excellency" to be applied to the Ministers. It is applied, however. Such is the social usage of the capital, and what is certain is that if the Ministers' names are to have the prefix "Excellency," the same courtesy must be extended to their wives. The wife of an Excellency is an Excellency. Society stretches many points in these matters, and long usage has imparted the value of rules to her politenesses. She permits the title of "Esquire" to be employed in cases that do not fall within the list of persons qualified to receive it, and we suspect that the editor of the *Japan Gazette* would be greatly chagrined if he ceased to find that familiar suffix in the superscriptions of his epistles. It seems a somewhat futile task to speak of social usages to a journalist who has allowed himself to show such indifference to the ordinary canons of politeness in his manner of alluding to the wife of the French Representative, but the particular point at issue is so simple that the *Gazette* will perhaps be able to grasp it.

THE LATE MR. DIVERS.

THE *Foochow Echo* says:—"The sudden death of Mr. Frederick James Divers, of the Customs, on Sunday, 15th February, at noon, was a great shock to the community. Perfectly well and happy to within a few minutes of his death, he was carried off in the prime of youth, without warning, and without the possibility of help, in less time than it takes to write this brief tribute to his memory. In the few months that Mr. Divers had been with us he had won for himself a firm place in the esteem of the community, and was universally liked for his genial ways, musical accomplishments, and sunny disposition. In this sudden bereavement the afflicted family has the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community, in which each member feels a personal loss at the taking away of one so young and justly popular, and for whom the future, with its many possibilities, held out so much of promise." Mr. Divers was recently transferred

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from Canton to Foochow. He was, we believe, the writer of some very graceful and spirited sketches that appeared lately in the *Echo* over the signature of "Madeleine."

THE STORY OF THE BUDGET.

IT is not easy to see whence some of the local foreign journals in Japan derive their ideas of the settlement effected by the Committee of the Lower House in the matter of the Budget. The *Japan Herald* says that the Government "virtually censures itself, by thus admitting that its scheme of expenditure was in excess of the needs of the nation" and "in thus widely departing from its own estimates to please the House;" while the *Kobe Herald* concludes that all the sweeping reductions of salaries proposed by the Budget Committee had to be accepted by the Government. The latter journal probably wrote before full details had reached it, and the former seems to have adopted a conclusion which, though natural enough if mere totals are considered, is not supported by an accurate examination of the items. In order to make the matter plain, we reproduce here a table showing the amounts asked for by the original Budget under the heading of "Ordinary Expenditures," the amounts proposed by the Budget Committee, and the amounts finally settled by conference between the Select Committee and the Government:—

ORDINARY EXPENDITURES.

	Amounts asked for by the Government.	Amounts proposed by Budget Committee.	Amounts agreed upon after Conference.
	yen.	*yen.*	*yen.*
Imperial Purse	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Foreign Office	814,936	628,552	741,097
Home Office	8,551,808	6,841,645	7,951,570
Finance Department	29,721,067	27,350,937	27,796,067
War Office	12,713,161	12,127,078	12,507,161
Admiralty	6,100,691	5,749,533	5,713,470
Department of Justice	4,216,350	3,270,262	3,692,537
Department of Education	1,075,583	781,794	956,583
Department of Agriculture and Commerce	955,034	698,389	830,834
Department of Communications	4,991,347	4,803,849	4,684,204
Totals	72,171,177	65,152,332	67,785,429

It appears from the above that whereas the Budget Committee proposed to reduce the Ordinary Expenditures by 7,018,845 *yen*, the total reduction agreed upon was only 4,385,748 *yen*; or, if one million taken from the Reserves be omitted in each case, the Budget Committee proposed a total reduction of 6 millions and the Select Committee cut this down to 3¼ millions. The other sums conceded by the Government were deducted from the Extraordinary Expenditure, and from the appropriations for railway construction. In short, while the House succeeded in effecting a sufficient reduction of Expenditure to meet the deficiency caused by cutting down the Land Tax, it really accomplished none of the Administrative reforms which it had pronounced necessary, and which, on the other hand, the Government had declared incapable of immediate enforcement without throwing the machine of State seriously out of gear. This year sees no reduction in either the salaries or numbers of officials, so far as the Budget is concerned.

JAPAN IN THE "PALL MALL BUDGET."

THE *Pall Mall Budget* devotes a column to "Japan's First Parliament." The text is accompanied by a view of the now defunct buildings of the Diet, and by two portraits, the one of Count Ito, the other of Mr. Nakashima Nobuyuki. Count Ito's likeness is not successful. The forehead alone is correct. But Mr. Nakashima is very well re-produced, only that he is made a dozen years younger than he really looks. It is very fortunate for these two gentlemen and also for the Diet buildings that a certain youthful artist who lately visited Japan did not happen to be here on the memorable 29th of November:—

By this time a great deal of the excitement which attended the opening of Japan's first Parliament has sobered down into calm appreciation of the privileges of the franchise. A correspondent from the Mikado's realm sends us some particulars. In the House of Peers, as already published, are some 170 members, and in the House of Representatives, about 300. Political thought is naturally at this initial stage crude, yet its tendency was clearly manifested during the election of Commoners. Out of the 300 Representatives, 140 are Radicals, 40 Liberals, 80 Independents, and the remaining 30 Conservatives, or Government allies. This classification is likely to lead to confusion if it is thought that it has any literal correspondence with that with which the Englishman in the street is acquainted. The opening ceremony took place on the 29th of November, in the presence of a gathering rendered intensely spectacular by the pompous habiliment of vernacular officialdom, and the assertive accoutrements of diplomacy. The Emperor Mutsuhito delivered his message in person, declaring—

That the leading features of the various systems of domestic Government We have promoted during the twenty years since Our ascension to the Throne are now almost completed. We earnestly pray that We, aided by the virtue inherited from the Imperial Founder of Our House and from Our other Imperial Ancestors, and with your co-operation, will unite the past, brighten the future, garner the excellent fruits to be yielded by the Constitution, and thereby continue to augment the glory of Our Empire, and to display the admirable, loyal, and brave character of Our subjects both at home and abroad.

The ceremony was not less impressive than brief. Within five minutes from the time of the Emperor's ascension of the dais in gold and red, from which he delivered his address, cannon were belching forth to the outer world of Tokyo that the promise so solemnly uttered more than a score of years back had at last been fully fulfilled.

Our illustrations show the temporary building in Tokyo, in which the Imperial Diet is now meeting. Count Ito, whose portrait is given, drafted the Constitution, and is a statesman who would compare favourably with those of whom Englishmen are so proud. As a master of high politics, he is a giant among Oriental pigmies. Count Ito guides the destinies of the Upper Chamber; while Mr. Nakashima, whose portrait is also here presented, and who has been closely associated with Christian movements, leads the Emperor's "faithful Commons."

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY'S CASE.

JUDGMENT was delivered at one o'clock on Tuesday afternoon in the suit of the Tokyo Electric Light Company against Mr. Soné, Chief Secretary of the Lower House. The judgment was as follows:—"It is beyond question that if an official of the Executive, in the discharge of his duty, acts unlawfully so as to interfere with the rights of an individual, and cause him to suffer loss, the official cannot escape the responsibility of his act. But in the case before the Court, where the defendant reported to the Cabinet the observations actually made by himself as to the origin of a conflagration, no illegal act was involved, and consequently, though the result may have been injurious to the plaintiff's business interests, there is no sufficient reason why this Court should order the defendant to alter his report, or direct him to cause any corrections of the report to be published in the *Official Gazette* or other journals. The case is therefore dismissed with costs." This issue, having been universally expected, will surprise nobody. The Electric Light Company should have sought redress by some other route.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. J. F. GORHAM.

THE remains of Mr. J. F. Gorham were interred on Thursday in the General Cemetery with the honours accorded on such occasions by Free Masonry and Oddfellowship, of which orders the deceased was an attached and valued member. The coffin, having been conveyed from the residence at No. 187, was deposited in the lodge room of the Star in the East Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons, surrounded by many wreaths of great beauty, the tributes of sorrow from friends. Shortly before 4 o'clock a Lodge of Sorrow was opened. No less than sixty brethren were present. The ceremonies peculiar to the occasion were performed under the presidency of R.W.P. Bro. Keil, Mr. Griffin assisting at the organ. The coffin was thence conveyed to the hearse, and a procession formed, the pall-bearers being Messrs. Crane, A. T. Watson, Geo. Hodges, H. Moss, Geo. Booth, F. Reiz, and G. Charlesworth, Mr. J. J. Efford, W.M., and Messrs. Keil and Tripler, P. M. of the Star in the East Lodge, walking behind the hearse. The general body of Free-Masons, who wore crape rosettes, followed. The members of the Far East Lodge of Oddfellows, who had assembled in another room of the building came next, wearing ribbons and crape rosettes in their button-holes, and marching in partial regalia. They consisted of Mr. J. J. Pearson (Noble Grand), and Messrs. E. Thorn, E. A. Sargent, C. R. T. Dross, and T. W. Kennaway, Paymaster McDonald, U.S.N; and Dr. Hall, Messrs. L. Ph. Von Hemert, W. G. Cameron, L. Stornebrink, Rev. G. Booth; Messrs. F. H. Bugbird, G. H. Scidmore, J. Maclean, Ivison, McShane, &c. No. 4 was represented by Mr. A. Center, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Tilden, and among the general public were Rev. E. C. Irwine, Messrs. J. Martin, J. L. O. Eyton, C. H. Hinton, B. H. Pratt, H. J. Gorman, &c. The procession proceeded by Camp-hill to the Cemetery where, led by Mr. Keil, the Free Masons present united in performing the closing rites and rendering the last honours to their deceased brother. After casting sprays of evergreen into the grave, the Masonic brethren made way for the Oddfellows who also, at greater length recited round the grave the beautiful ritual of their order, Mr. Pearson and Rev. Mr. Booth leading the service. This brought the ceremonies to a close. The late Mr. Gorham had, we believe twice passed the chair in the Hyogo and Osaka Lodge at Kobe; he was one of the charter members of Star in the East Lodge, and his name is on the charter of Far East Lodge of Oddfellows in a similar honourable capacity. The large attendance yesterday of both orders, and of the general public was a striking proof of the esteem in which the deceased was held in this community.

HONGKONG RACES.

FROM the opening day's running at Wong-nei-cheong, it looked very much as if Mr. John Peel would take at least half the races at the meeting, as the "blue and silver" landed no less than six events of the first day's programme, and that too with five different ponies. The balance of the results to hand, however, show that there was a more equal division of the spoil on the second and third days, though the "Ewo" stable has no less than ten races to its credit, and these include the Hongkong Derby on the first day, the German Cup on the second, and the Ladies' Purse on the third. Mr. Buxey was second on the list with six wins, and Mr. Sassoon next with four. The crack Zephyr won the Lusitano Cup on the first day, and the Challenge Cup and the Champion Stakes on the third, in the latter race owner up.

AN OCEAN RACE.

WE have just learned the result of an ocean race which possesses a certain amount of local interest. Two fine ships, the *Milverton* (Capt. Hansford) 2,112 tons, and the *Pythomene* (Capt. Dexter) 1,896 tons, left Yokohama in December last bound for Tacoma in ballast. Previous to their departure a wager was laid between the captains (other money being put on by shore believers in the merits of the respective vessels) as to the result of the passage, each commander backing his own vessel to make the speedier trip. The *Milverton* left Yokosuka (whither she had gone to be cleaned) on December 13th, and arrived at Townsend on January 6th (24 days) thus, according to a Tacoma contemporary, breaking the record. The *Pythomene* left on December 22nd and arrived at Townsend on January 23rd (32 days) losing the wager by 8 days. We learn from a private letter that Captain Hansford's first night out from port was a dirty one, for, under lower main-topsail, he was kept wearing every three hours between Mela Ledge and Vries Island in a nasty S.E. gale, with thick heavy rain. The wind shifted to S.W. about 10 a.m. the following day (Sunday) and he squared away, his only other detention being off Cape Flattery, where he stuck for three days.

MR. GUBBINS' DICTIONARY.

THE Second Part of Mr. J. H. Gubbins' "Dictionary of Chinese-Japanese Words" has now been published. The first thought that occurs to us in connection with it is that few men would have had the courage to set about such a work, while the materials of which it is composed are in a state of constant change. Many years must elapse—certainly ten, probably twenty—before the enormous additions now almost daily made to the vocabulary of modern Japanese will have crystallized into a form inviting the task of exhaustive lexicography. Anyone attempting, in the meanwhile, to fix in the pages of a dictionary the perpetually shifting medium employed by new Japan to communicate ideas, resembles a man treading on a quicksand; every step brings to the surface depths hitherto unsuspected. And yet this difficulty makes it all the more essential that some helping hand

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should be held out to the student who daily feels disposed to fold his arms in despair as the vista before him expands in unlooked-for directions. If he takes up a newspaper, or opens the pages of a new work, expressions wholly unfamiliar greet him continually. Should he be deeply versed in ideographs, he can generally grasp the sense of these strange words, since they are nothing more than compounds of two or more Chinese roots. But even granting the possession of such exceptional scholarship, there remains the difficulty of determining exact English equivalents—a difficulty only to be appreciated by those who know how completely an Englishman must divest himself of his wonted modes of thought and expression in order to come into close touch with the Japanese tongue. It is not necessary that one's own language should be sent to coventry when one seeks to make the acquaintance of German, French, or some other European tongue, but it is absolutely necessary in the case of Japanese. Japanese is a thorough despot. It must have the field wholly to itself. Scholars really *en rapport* with its spirit affirm that when they read Japanese or hear it spoken, any attempt to render its meaning into English involves a painful mental wrench, and the more fully they comprehend it, the greater is the distance from which they have to recall their thoughts in order to play the part of interpretation or translation. To the most erudite of these, as well as to their less gifted brethren, Mr. Gubbins' Dictionary will be an immense boon. He has done all the thinking for them. An apt and exact English equivalent is to be found in his pages for the vast majority of the classical expressions now in literary and linguistic use. Of course some words are wanting. That is inevitable, for however rapidly such a book may be compiled the increments of the language always distance it. Thus we find that the very title of the dictionary already looks antiquated. The words it treats of are indeed "Chinese-Japanese" in respect of their origin, but within the past two years a vast number of them have become as thoroughly Japanese for all practical purposes as any familiar colloquialism of the pure *Yamato-kotoba*. Parliament has done much towards bridging over the interval that separates the written from the spoken language of Japan. Many a term never encountered outside an erudite document when Mr. Gubbins began to compile his dictionary, has now been included in the nation's domestic vocabulary. There could be no better evidence of the strength and soundness of his scholarship than the fact that, despite this spontaneous and incessant piling up of materials, his work still remains on the summit of the mountain. His deep insight into the capacities of Sinico-Japanese has enabled him, if not to forecast all its actual developments, at any rate to indicate them so clearly that the student can scarcely ever find himself in a difficulty. We shall no doubt be thought to have failed in our task as reviewers unless we indicate some faults or correct some inaccuracies. But we have not a scintilla of sympathy with reviewers who admit any such obligation. No English sinologue has ever devoted the same toil and thought as Mr. Gubbins to this branch of the language, and though every sinologue, following the thread of his own particular researches, might discover some *lacunæ* in the work, its general scope would still be quite beyond the range of his reasonable criticism. A Japanese, possessing an exceptionally minute knowledge of English, concludes a strong eulogy of the book with the remarks:—"A few improvements suggest themselves. For instance, the initial ideographs of the sections might be printed in the upper margin of each page, and accents might be used to distinguish the pronunciation of such words as *kwa-han* (過半) and *kwa-han* (過般), which, though phonetically rendered alike, are pronounced with accents on different syllables (the former on the second, the latter on the first, syllable.)" The former suggestion is certainly worth consideration, for the use of the dictionary would be facilitated could one see at a glance the fundamental ideographs in each page. But what we look for most earnestly is the publication of the third volume, and of a supplement containing English-Japanese. This Second Part carries the dictionary from *K* to *R* inclusive, the former letter alone occupying no less than 246 pages. When a lexicographer of Japanese has conquered *K* the back of his work is fairly broken, and *S* alone remains for serious negotiation. An idea of what is involved in dealing with *K* may be gathered from the fact that there are no less than 19 different ideographs all pronounced *Kwa*, and that the compounds under one of them (花) number 107. The Third Part of the dictionary will, therefore, be less formidable than the Second, and we may fairly congratulate Mr. Gubbins on having carried his great task within sight of completion. The book is absolutely indispensable to every one engaged in translating modern Japanese into English, and indeed to all earnest students of what may fairly be called the most difficult language in the world. Happy students and translators to be furnished with such aids! Very different are the obstacles lying in their path from those that impeded the progress of their predecessors. The acquisition of Japanese is immeasurably easier now than it was in the times when Mr. Gubbins laid the foundations of the knowledge that has borne such excellent fruit to-day.

THE KOREAN SEMI-MILLENIUM.

A CORRESPONDENT writes as follows from Korea:—"We have entered upon the five hundredth year of the present dynasty of Korea. It is an important and interesting period, at least in the eyes of the Koreans, for they consider these periods of five hundred years to be crises in national life. It may be interesting to your readers to glance at the different dynasties that have swayed the sceptre in the peninsula. First we have the fabulous age when a sacred personage called the Langoon reigned over the country. He is supposed to have come into power about 3000 B.C. and reigned until 1122 B.C. when Ki Ja, the founder of Chosen, came from China. The origin of the Langoon is an interesting myth, and as it is not to be found in either the Chinese or Japanese annals of the country I will give a short sketch of it here:—

LEGEND OF THE LANGOON.

Thousands of years ago, while the peninsula of Korea was as yet inhabited only by savage beasts and still more savage men, a wonder appeared in heaven. The son of the great Buddha, afflicted with Divine ennui, stood before his father's throne and asked permission to take upon himself an earthly form and rule over an earthly kingdom. Permission was granted and the fiat went forth. Meanwhile another wonder was seen on earth. In the heart of the primeval forests of northern Korea on the slopes of the Pak Tou (white head) mountains, in a gloomy cave, a bear and a tiger met and held a colloquy. "Would that we might become men" they said, and even as they spoke they heard the voice of the great Buddha, and it said, "Here are twenty bunches of garlic for each of you. Eat them and keep yourselves from the light of the sun for twenty-one days and you will become men." They ate them and went far back into the recesses of the cave to spend the allotted time in darkness; but the tiger, by reason of the fierceness and impatience of his nature, could not endure the long restraint and wandered forth with his beastly nature intensified so that he is the deadliest enemy of man. The bear, however, with greater faith and patience, waited the allotted time and then stepped forth into the sunlight a perfect woman. As she sat under an ancient cedar by the stream her only thought was that of maternity, and the only words that came from her lips were, "Would that I had a son!" As she sat thus lovely but melancholy, there passed her on the wind the spirit of Buddha's son seeking earthly form. It beheld her then, lone-sitting by the stream. It stopped in mid career. It approached and circled round her, breathed upon her, won her, and her cry was answered. She cradled her babe in moss beneath that same ancient tree, and when he attained manhood the wild people found him sitting in deep and holy contemplation beneath its shade, and they made him their king. This was the Langoon, the man half divine half earthly. He reigned two thousand years, a divine day, and then went back to his father."

Such, according to native accounts is the origin of the Langoon. In 1122 the semi-historical period begins. Ki Ja came with his 5,000 followers from the Court of China and founded the civilization of Korea. It must be remembered that neither of these kingdoms extended south of the Han river, near whose banks the present capital is situated. Ki Ja and his descendants reigned in the ancient city of Pyeng Yang nearly a thousand years, until overthrown by the treachery of Eniman, a Chinese refugee. Then the remnants of the Ki Ja family fled south, and discovered to their great surprise that the south part of the peninsula was inhabited by a host of little clans along the coast. They were kindly received and soon Ki Jun, the last of the ancient chosen dynasty was made king. Meanwhile, the petty tribes in the south east had coalesced and formed a Kingdom called *Silla* or rather *Sinla*, given in Japanese annals as Sin-lo. Soon after the Chinese power in the north, which had shattered the power of Eniman, went down before the conquering Chu-mong, the son of the King of Puya (Chinese Fuyu), and the Kingdom of Kokoria was formed, not among the mountains of Pak Fou, as is stated by Ross and Griffis and others, but with its capital at Eniju. In other words, ancient Chosen and Kokoria were never contemporaneous. Soon after the founding of Kokoria in the north, the refugees who had fled from Pyeng Yang after the fall of Chosen, and had settled in the south-west, gained control of the whole south-west, and set up the kingdom of *Pak Jay*, called in Japanese *Hiak-sai*. The kingdom of Pak Jay fell before the power of Silla after an existence of 680 years, and Kokoria also was annexed to Silla after an existence of 705 years. Then Silla was mistress of the whole land, and remained so for 268 years, making her total 992 years. At that point the powerful General Wang Geun stepped in, and, without attempting any violence to the King of Silla or its capital, formed another kingdom with its capital at Song Do. The King of Silla shortly after handed over his little remnant in the south, and accepted office under the new king. The new kingdom was called Korea, and was the first of that name. When Kokoria was founded it is said by some to have been called Korai, which is quite wide of the mark. There never was a kingdom of Korai or Korea on the peninsula anterior to the Wang dynasty, which Waug Geun founded about 960 years ago. There may have been a Korai in early times far north of Korea on the banks of the Amoor, but there was none south of that. There is some discrepancy in dates as regards the duration of the Waug dynasty, the kingdom of Korea. We must remember that the Chinese records of that time are not nearly so reliable as the Korean, for the great struggle against the wild Mongols was going on much of the time, and the condition of the civilization of China at that epoch, and the fact that for many decades the only relations the Koreans had with China were in connection with these half savage Mongols, make it highly probable that the Koreans, who were vastly in advance of the Mongols in civilization, were more accurate historians, especially of Korean matters, than the Chinese could possibly be. The question is: How long did the Kingdom of Korea exist. Those who write from Japanese and Chinese standpoints say about 458 years, while Korean historians give it fifteen or twenty years more. During the whole of that period of four centuries and a half the land was priest-ridden, and for a time Mongol-ridden as well, although of course the Mongols were in power only a century or so during the latter part of the dominion of the Wang dynasty. This was the period during which the coasts of Korea were being continually ravaged by Japanese pirates, which was the cause of the desertion of the coast on the part of the people, and the present bareness and bleakness of the land as seen from the deck of the steamer. When priestcraft had done all it could, and had brought the land to the furthest edge and circumference of patience and endurance, the great general Ta Jo, or Yi Ta Jo, assumed the royal function, not as a usurper, for the sceptre was forced into his hand. He re-

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moved the seat of government southward fifty miles, to the present place; whose name is Han Yang, not Sōul, for when the capital was at Song Do that was Sōul as well. The latter word means simply "Capital." Less is known of the first two centuries of this dynasty than of the centuries that preceded it. There are many reasons for this. In the first place the relations between Korea and China, as well as between Korea and Japan, were far less intimate than they were before or after, and so we learn less from Chinese and Japanese sources. In the second place we have to depend on the Government annals which are always to a certain extent euphemistic in this as in all countries, and deal more with the doings and sayings of kings than with the development and growth of the people. They partake, in short of the character of a court calendar. There are doubtless "people's histories" of this period, but for manifest reasons they are difficult to procure. Then comes the terrible Japanese invasion, the fruitful theme of song and story, the effect of which is stamped upon the people's minds and burned into their memories, though only through tradition, in a way that will never be entirely erased. After it followed the age of the repression of Catholicism, and the strengthening of the exclusive spirit and the sudden breaking down of the barriers. To-day Korea presents a striking contrast to what she was a couple of decades ago, and she has entered upon the last year of a semi-millenium. The fifteen day festival is closing. The common people have to-day performed their curious exorcism of demons for the year by stuffing coins into straw manikins and throwing them into the street for the small boys to tear open, signifying the destruction of the evil spirits. The kites have been pulled in, and small boys are counting up how many kites they have captured to how many yards of string. The people, at least the superstitious among them, are out in their good clothes walking the bridges of the city under the impression that if they walk over all the bridges of Sōul to-night it will insure immunity from disease for the coming year. At midnight a crowd of men, good-natured happily, will be massed at Chonglio, the open square in the centre of the city, and will participate in the most peculiar and objectless species of amusement ever devised: rushing in a solid mass up the street a distance of fifty yards sweeping everything before them, and then back again, and woe to the unlucky wright that falls. He will be walked over by several hundred pairs of hob-nailed shoes, to the detriment of his apparel if not of his constitution. The only fun in this all seems to be simply the excitement of the rush, accompanied as it is by a loud simultaneous yell from every pair of lungs. To-day marks the beginning of the spring stone fights, in which are exhibited the maximum of bravado and the minimum of bravery, but an occasional broken head, together with the possibility of more, serve to keep up the excitement. It is a jolly good time all round, and represents to the Korean as much hearty good cheer and healthy optimism as our own Christmas represents to us. And indeed Korea has a right to feel optimistic. A land flowing with milk and honey, by which I mean a constant agricultural surplus. A larger arable area in proportion to her population than either Japan or China. Free from the climatic disasters of Japan on the one hand, and the "Sorrow of China" on the other. An inflated currency to be sure, but the certain prospect of a speedy equilibrium between the wages of the labouring man, and the cost of his daily bread. And politically described by no better words than those wise ones: "Happy is that country whose annals are tiresome."

THE UPPER HOUSE AND THE BUDGET.

THE Report of the Budget Committee in the Upper House was presented on Thursday forenoon. The Committee had sat up the whole of the previous night to prepare it. The Report accepts the reductions made by the Lower House *en bloc*, and declares that, after careful inquiry from the Government Delegates, it has been ascertained that the efficiency of the Administration will be in no wise impaired by carrying out these reductions. But a section of the Peers, led by Viscounts Tani and Kiooka, Mr. Kato Hiroyuki, President of the University, and Mr. Miura Yasu, are doing everything in their power to prevent the passing of the measure. It is impossible not to sympathise with the motives of these objectors. They feel that the Upper House is consenting to be reduced to a mere nonentity in a matter of great importance, and they resolutely seek to avert such a conjuncture. But the vote on the closure, yesterday evening at 8 o'clock, shows that the majority of the House is determined to pass the Budget. Viscount Tani and his followers sought to prevent the closure from being applied, but only 59 voted with them against 104. The acting President—unhappily neither Count Ito nor Prince Konoye was available—showed considerable want of decision at this juncture. He announced that the Budget should be taken in detail, and finding his decision challenged, deemed it expedient to order a recess. The House re-assembled at 8.35 p.m., but no reports were issued after that hour. No decision had been arrived at, however, by 11 o'clock, when the House rose.

MR. MAYEJIMA.

THE rumour of Mr. Mayejima's resignation grows more and more general. Several reasons are assigned. It is stated that his relations with Count Goto, Minister of the Department of Communications, are somewhat strained, and that he has been much disturbed by the circulation of a story that when the affairs of a certain company were before the House of Representatives, he disclosed to a member some points about the company that should not have been revealed. But it is impossible to attach any importance to such assertions. If Mr. Mayejima resigns, we can at least be sure that he has excellent reasons for doing so.

MODERN GEOGRAPHY.

HERE'S a sample of *London and China Express*' geography, though it is not the first time an English paper has placed Tokyo in China. Captain Bougoüin, too, from Peking! "The M.M. steamer *Melbourne*, which brought the present mail, had amongst her passengers the Master of Napier, Secretary to H.M. Legation at Tokio, and Lady Napier, who are bound from China to Suez. Another distinguished traveller was General Bichot, who has been engaged in Tong-King on active service, and travelling with him is Commandant Belin. Another passenger of note is Captain Bougouin, military attaché of the French Legation at Peking."

THE "TOKYO MARU."

WE publish in another column the finding of the Court of Enquiry held in connection with the stranding of the *Tokyo Maru*. As will be seen, the Court have dealt only with the certificate of Mr. Browning, the chief officer, suspending it for twelve months. Mr. Browning, we understand, has left Japan, no doubt anticipating the result of the enquiry, but Captain Drummond was present to hear his complete exoneration from blame by the Court, and to receive back his certificate.

EXCELLENT SIGHT.

IT would be a matter of considerable interest to know the names of the exceedingly long-sighted persons four or five of whom, according to the *Japan Gazette*, saw Count Ito pass down Reinan-zaka on the 25th ultimo, in Prince Sanjo's funeral procession. For Count Ito was not in Tokyo at all that day. The *Gazette* has christened itself "honest." It is rapidly qualifying to be christened "truthful" by others.

WE are informed by the Secretary of the Japan Brewery Co., Limited that the "Kirin Beer" challenge cups, which have been presented by the Directors and officers of the Japan Brewery Company, Limited, to the Kioda Keiba Kaisha and the Nippon Race Club, have arrived, and will be on view in the Fine Art Gallery, No. 12, Water Street, for a few days.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of the annual issue from the Lighthouse Bureau of the Department of Communications of the "List of Japanese Lighthouses, Lightships, Buoys, and Beacons" for the 24th year of Meiji. This list should be in the possession of every shipmaster on the coast or frequenting Japan waters. It only costs 15 *sen*.

A CONCERT was announced for Monday night at Kobe by the Patey party, but when it was discovered that only a small number of seats had been taken up to the afternoon of the day the performance, Madame Patey declined to sing to a number of empty benches and the concert was declared "off."

DR. MEACHAM will preach to-morrow morning in the Union Church, on "Christ, the Word of God."

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Budget question still continues to engross the attention of the journalistic world. The conferences between the Special Committee of the Lower House and the Ministry over the question of the reduction of expenditures, resulted, as already noticed, in the Government's agreeing to a reduction of 6½ million *yen* in round members. The Committee having laid its report before the House of Representatives on the 2nd instant, the report was passed by the House without much difficulty, and the decision at once communicated to the House of Peers. The Peers promptly decided to instruct their Budget Committee to prepare and submit its report by the 5th. This decision gave rise to serious complaints on the part of a section of the Peers, headed by Viscount Tani. That nobleman and eleven others communicated to the President their desire to be released from membership of the Committee. The President, Count Ito, persuaded them to reconsider their step, and a few were said to be inclined to follow his advice, but the majority persisted in their demand. The President, however, not perceiving sufficient ground for resignation, is said to be determined not to grant it. The Committee, despite the falling off of these disaffected members, went to work and reported on the appointed day, the 5th, that in its opinion the decision of the Lower House on the Budget was quite proper. At the time of writing this (evening of the 6th), the Peers have passed the greater part of the Budget, and there is now very little doubt that it will be brought into existence.

* * *

The passage of the Special Committee's report in the House of Representatives on the 2nd instant has been received with no good grace by the *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* organs. They express a doubt whether the reduction of 6½ million *yen* will be sufficient to give satisfaction to the people. Upon the whole, the tone of these papers show them to be smarting under a severe defeat, and at the same time conscious of the absurdity of the cause they advocated. On the other hand, the exultation of the organs of the Moderates knows no bounds. They observe, with a great show of justice, that, but for their disinterested efforts, the present session of the Diet would have ended without achieving anything in the way of fiscal reform, and might possibly have resulted in dissolution. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, in the height of its exultation over the victory of the Moderates, cries *Ban-sai* ("ten thousand years") to the Diet, to the country, and above all to the Moderates. The *Kokkwai*, while exceedingly elated, endeavours to do justice to its opponents, the Extremists, and observes that if the Moderates are entitled to the credit of averting the non-existence of the Budget, the Extremists are equally justified in claiming that the Govern-

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ment's concurrence to the reduction of 6½ million *yen* was owing to their advocacy of much larger economies. On the whole, the public, as reflected by the press, seems to be very well satisfied with the Budget as finally voted by the Lower House.

* * *

The scene of warfare having been shifted to the Upper House, papers of all descriptions join in advising and even entreating the Peers to give a speedy and favourable decision on the reductions voted by the Representatives with the full concurrence of the Government. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* even goes so far as to declare in a threatening manner that, should the Peers allow themselves to be betrayed into a course leading to the non-existence of the Budget, it will not hesitate to write their names in large and glaring characters, to be handed down to all posterity for eternal condemnation. A section of the Extremists—especially the members of the *Kaishin-to*—is reported to have spared nothing to persuade the members of the Upper House to reject the amendments of the Lower House, the object of these schemers being to cause embarrassment to the Executive, and also perhaps to bring about the dissolution of the Diet. But the papers reflect little, if any, of the sentiments attributed to this coterie of agitators.

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The resignation of Viscount Tani and eleven other members of the Budget Committee of the Upper House, has called forth diverse comments from the Metropolitan papers. The majority of the papers unite in condemning the conduct of these disaffected members of the Committee. They admit that the time allowed to the Committee for the purpose of reporting on the Budget was very limited, but the present case is altogether exceptional, and consequently they argue that the plain duty of the Committee was to do all it could to finish the work within the allotted period of time. Further, the members of the Committee must have keenly watched each successive stage of the progress of the Budget in the House of Representatives, and their views must by this time have become fully settled as to the desirability or undesirability of particular measures of financial reform. The journals, therefore, consider it quite possible for the Committee to complete their investigations within the stated length of time. A small minority—including the *Jiji Shimpo* and a few others—seem to take the same side as the resigning members. These papers are of opinion that it is impossible to expect the Committee to accomplish in two short days a task which occupied the Representatives for 13 weeks. The *Jiji Shimpo's* idea is that, the reductions voted by the Representatives being far from satisfactory, the Peers are expected by the people to carefully examine the Budget over again and introduce such amendments as they may think necessary. Otherwise the House of Peers, concludes our contemporary, will be open to the charge of trifling with grave matters of State.

* * *

The question of the Land Tax was debated a few days ago in the House of Representatives, when it was decided by a large majority that the rate, which is at present 2½ per cent., should be reduced to 2 per cent. for wet and dry fields. The Bill awaits the concurrence of the Upper House, but it is believed that the Peers are not favourably disposed to the decision of the Representatives. At all events, it is extremely unlikely that, under present circumstances, the Bill will be even got so far as to be included in the orders of the day in the Upper House. As we lately pointed out, public opinion—that is, in circles unfettered by pledges made to electors—is against the measure, and it is believed that the Government will not approve the proposed reduction, even though it receives the concurrence of the Peers. Among daily papers, the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Choya Shimbun*, the *Kokkwai*, the *Toyo Shimpo*, the *Tokyo Shimpo*, and the *Nippon*, that is to say, all those having no connection with political parties, are opposed to any reduction of the Land Tax; whereas the measure is enthusiastically advocated by all the party organs, as the *Jiyu Shimbun*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, and *Yomiuri Shimbun*. The *Hochi Shimbun* also belongs to the latter category. It professes to be independent, but the public, while conceding its intention, doubts its ability to remain strictly neutral so long as its editorial staff is almost exclusively composed of members of the *Kaishin-to*. Among magazines, the only influential ones in favour of reducing the Land Tax are the *Nippon Hyoron* and the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*. Periodicals like the *Keizai Zasshi*, the *Koku-Hon*, and the *Nippon-jin* do not see that reduction is either wise or necessary.

* * *

During the present week, the question has been specially discussed by the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Toyo Shimpo*, and the *Hochi Shimbun*. The *Jiji Shimpo*, as usual, is very outspoken. It regrets that the majority of the members of the Lower House allowed themselves to be so far enslaved by their desire to conciliate "vulgar opinion" (*sokuron*), as to vote for a measure which, in their heart of hearts, they must know to be prejudicial to the interest of the nation as a whole. The *Jiji* lays special stress on the importance of maintaining the prestige of the country abroad, and nothing, it argues, can be more unwise than to decrease the most important and facile source of public revenue. The reduction will confer no benefit on the classes for whose sake it is ostensibly effected. Our contemporary believes that the decision of the Representatives will not be favourably received in the House of Peers, and further that, even if approved by the latter, it will be rejected by the Government.

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The *Toyo Shimpo's* articles on this question need not be noticed at any length, for the arguments they contain have already been set forth in these columns. Suffice it to say that the *Toyo* is one of the most enthusiastic opponents of reduction.

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The *Hochi Shimbun*, as stated above, supports the decision of the Lower House. It seems to be persuaded that the measure will receive the concurrence of the Peers, and that it will further be approved by the Government. On the strength of this conviction, the Tokyo paper hastens to discuss the changes that will be necessitated in the *personnel* of the Governors of *Fu* and *Ken* when the proposed reform is carried out. It thinks that the nature of the uses to which farmers will apply their improved finances, must depend upon the guidance given them by Local Authorities. Among the present Governors of *Fu* and *Ken*, many are highly educated after the modern fashion, and well qualified to guide the people in new industrial and commercial careers. But many others hold their positions owing to military exploits achieved more than twenty years ago. These persons are not at all fitted to discharge the important functions of their office. The *Hochi* consequently urges the necessity of replacing the men of the old school by younger and more capable functionaries.

* * *

The proposed transformation of the *Taisei Kwai* into a political party attracts much attention. In the way of consummating such an object, stands the firm opposition of a section of the association led by Mr. Koretsune. But under the dexterous management of Mr. Suematsu Kencho and others, a middle course has been proposed, and at present it is reported that not only the *Taisei Kwai* but the National Liberals and the 29 seceders of the Constitutional Liberal party, will be amalgamated into a club for the purpose of preserving the ties that united them together on the question of the Budget. There being signs that the *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* are forming a more and more intimate alliance, it may be expected that the above mentioned agglomeration of Moderates, despite its obvious incongruity, will last for some time. Possibly it will eventually lead to the formation of a great political party.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, writing on the importance of the amalgamation of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, observes that there is no essential difference in the platforms of the two parties. That they can work together with perfect unanimity, is proved by the intimate relation in which they have stood to each other on the question of the Budget. Attempts to amalgamate them failed last year, because they were then held asunder by certain strong prejudices. But these feelings have since been entirely dispelled, and the two parties are at present one in spirit. Our contemporary thinks it quite possible that they may become one in name also.

* * *

Of late there is a tendency in certain quarters to pay more and more attention to the relations between this country and Russia. Some days ago, the *Toyo Shimpo* published an extraordinary article, containing the strange news that three Japanese are regularly furnishing the Russian Government with information about State secrets. One of these spies is stated to be an official in a certain Department of State; the second, a retired functionary on the *hishoku* list, and the third, an ex-official now engaged in business. This secret was said to have been found out by some Japanese at the Imperial Legation in St. Petersburg. We (*Japan Mail*) think that there is no ground to credit such extraordinary intelligence, but it is to be feared that any news, however incredible, about the great Northern Power will find a section of the public ready to believe it.

* * *

The *Kokkwai*, which pays special attention to international questions, urges the importance of encouraging the study of the Russian language. While tens of thousands can read and write English, there are scarcely twenty who understand Russian. The rapid development taking place on the Russian shores of the Sea of Japan, and the construction of the great Siberian railway, ought to show any ordinary observer—says the *Kokkwai*—that the relations between Japan and Russia are about to enter upon a new phase, from political, military, and commercial points of view. Our contemporary deems it highly important that the Russian language should attract wider attention among Japanese students.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* severely criticises the answer given by the Government to the House of Representatives, as to the Budget Committee's report. In another article, the same paper strongly condemns the memorable decision of the Lower House as to the method of seeking the Goverment's concurrence in respect of changes of expenditures mentioned in the 67th article of the Constitution. That decision it declares was made in compliance with the Government's interpretation, whereas the proper authorities to decide doubtful points in the Constitution are the Privy Council, not the Executive. The *Hochi Shimbun* alludes to a rumour that the shares of leading railway companies are being purchased by the Crown through the agency of the Mitsui Ginko, and strongly disapproves such a measure. The *Toyo Shimpo* discusses the World's Fair at Chicago, and urges its countrymen to avail themselves, as far as possible, of the unique opportunity thus offered for the introduction of Japanese goods into Western markets. The *Kokumin Shimbun* reviews the present condition of the economic world, paying special attention to the rise of syndicates and to strikes. The *Jiji Shimpo* supplements its recent articles on the Nicaraguan canal, by giving a more minute history of the various attempts hitherto made to dig a canal across Central America. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* expresses heartfelt sympathy with the unfortunate situation in which Count Itagaki now finds himself, separated from the men with whom he toiled in the cause of liberal principles for fifteen years.

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THE SOSHI AGAIN.

ON the 27th ult., at a few minutes past twelve o'clock, Mr. MISAKI KAMENOSUKE was standing at the door of the Special Committee Room in the House of Representatives, talking with Mr. ARAI SHOZO, when a youth came up, and without an instant's hesitation struck Mr. MISAKI a violent blow on the shoulder. Mr. MISAKI attempted to close with the ruffian, and seize the stick, but before he could do so he received another heavy blow on the left arm. The intruder was at once arrested, and found to be a young man, by name TASAKI KIHEI, a native of Ibaraki Prefecture. He had been residing for ome time with one OCHIAI, in No. 6, Omotes Jimbo-cho, Kanda, and when questioned by the police, he confessed very frankly that his motive in making the assault was political. He had not come to the House, however, for the purpose of attacking Mr. MISAKI. The real object of his resentment, he declared, was Mr. SUYEMATSU KENCHO, to whose organizing capacities the *Soshi* attribute the gradual growth of moderate opinions in the House and the consequent defeat of the Budget Committee's Report at the eleventh hour. Failing to meet Mr. SUYEMATSU, he had utilized the opportunity to attack Mr. MISAKI, and he put so much *vim* into his blow that his victim's arm is likely to be disabled for several days. It may well be that this story is only true in part, for Mr. MISAKI, as the mover of the resolution by which the Extremists received their *coup de grâce* on the 26th instant, has become a more prominent figure in the political arena than Mr. SUYEMATSU KENCHO.

This is the second occasion of an assault committed by *Soshi* within the precincts of the Diet. Mr. INOUYE KAKUGORO was the victim of the first, and on that occasion a strong impression prevailed among the public that these ruffianly disturbers of the peace must be acting with the countenance, if not under the direction, of members of the House of Representatives. The impression now becomes almost a certainty. It is true that the approaches to the present temporary House cannot be guarded as securely as could the approaches to the original building. The chamber of debate is on the ground floor, as are all the rooms in use by the members, and their doors open upon a wide stone corridor, access to which is obstructed by nothing more than a low wooden railing. Still there are guards always present in the corridor, and we find it extremely difficult to believe that any one could pass without showing a ticket of admission to the strangers' gallery. To procure a ticket, however, a visitor must be introduced by a member, and only very credulous people will be able to imagine that no member was responsible for the presence of either of the young ruffians who insulted the House by their performances on the 9th and 27th instant. In all countries political roughs are to be found. Their activity in Japan, though disgraceful enough, is a mere bagatelle in comparison with the humiliation inflicted on the country by the mere supposition that among the people's representatives are to be found men capable of countenancing, nay of inspiring, acts of violence within the very precincts of the Diet. After the Imperial Palace itself, the most sacred spot in all the Empire is that enclosed by the walls of the Diet. Within that space even the laws of the realm lose their power. Neither the Judiciary nor the Executive can lay a finger upon a member inside the Diet. Everything he says is privileged, and his person is secure against arrest except by the orders, or with the sanction, of his fellow-members. Nevertheless, twice within the short space of three weeks, men have been able to make their way into the Diet and to commit acts of violence against members. Whether they were or were not introduced by members, they have placed the House of Representatives in this position that unless it takes earnest, active, and speedy steps to sift the matter to the bottom, it will rest under an implication most injurious to Japan's fair fame.

Some days ago the *Choya Shimbun* had the admirable courage and patriotism to publish an accurate list showing the number of *Soshi* residing in Tokyo, the districts whence they came, the parties to which they belonged, and the politicians by whom they were supported. We perused this list with unbounded astonishment. Was it possible, we asked ourselves, that such statistics should be submitted to public inspection by a newspaper of high repute, without either evoking immediate contradiction or bringing instant disgrace on the persons implicated? To this moment neither result appears to have ensued. We must therefore accept the *Choya's* assertions as facts. The total number of *Soshi* in Tokyo was put by our contemporary at one hundred and fifty-one, of whom seven only belonged to the capital, the rest having assembled there from various localities. One hundred and three of these *soshi* were assigned to the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, forty-two to the *Kokumin Jiyu-to*, and six to the *Rikken Kaishin-to*. Then followed the extraordinary piece of intelligence that fifty were supported and employed by Mr. OI KENTARO; thirty by Mr. HOSHI TORU; twenty-eight by Mr. YENDO HIDEKAGE: fourteen by Messrs. FURUSHO YOSHIKADO, YAMAGIWA SHICHI-JI, and INAGAKI SHIMESU; while the remaining thirty-three occupied the position of free-lances under Mr. HOSHI TORU and other leading members of the *Rikken Jiyu* party. Now it cannot be supposed that these figures and assertions escaped the attention of all the members of the House of Representatives, two of whom—Messrs. FURUSHO and YAMAGIWA—were directly charged with supporting *soshi*. Of course, it is not a crime to maintain a youth with a proclivity for politics and a belief in the efficacy of physical force. Many of the so-called *Soshi* have never committed any offence against the public peace, and do not necessarily intend to commit any. But when a leading newspaper boldly affirms that *Soshi* are supported by two members of the House of Representatives, and that more than one third of the total number of *Soshi* in the capital belong to a political party some ninety associates of which sit in the House; and when, twice within the space of three weeks, *Soshi*, finding their way into the precincts of the House where they can procure admittance only by the introduction of members, prepetrate violent assaults upon the persons of members, then we say that unless the Representatives take some active steps to purge themselves of the suspicion thus fixed upon them, and to vindicate the sanctity of their place of debate, they will have done much towards bringing Japanese parliamentary institutions into disrepute. Every one of the four attacks made upon members of the House of Representatives since it came into session have been undertaken, so far as the public can judge, in the interests of the Extremists, and in consequence of legitimate acts performed by members in the due discharge of their Parliamentary functions. The responsibility no longer rests on the shoulders of the Executive. It rests with the House itself.

THE PEERS AND THE COMMONS.

THE debate in the House of Peers on the 26th ult. may be said to have finally disposed of the question which so nearly involved a serious conflict between the Administration and the House of Representatives. As this affair undoubtedly marks a crisis in Japan's political history, and since, further, it helps us to form an idea of the attitude assumed by the Extremists toward the Constitution, our readers will doubtless be interested in the details of its sequel. By way of preliminary, let us restate the case. The Constitution forbids that certain items of the Budget shall undergo parliamentary reduction or rejection without the concurrence of the Government. Now Parliament has only one means of altering an item in the Budget, namely, by voting that it shall be altered. Consequently, if Parliament votes in that sense without previously obtaining the concurrence of the Government, it distinctly violates the Constitution. Parliament, however, consists of two Houses, and this dual organization puzzled the Representatives for a time. They imagined that they themselves were not entitled to discharge independently the duty of seeking the Government's concurrence, but that the Upper House's functions in respect of the Budget must be discharged

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prior to any application for such concurrence. Obeying this conception, they resolved to pass final votes, reducing or rejecting the special items, and to leave to the Peers the task of approaching the Government. In other words, the Representatives decided that the veto contained in the 67th Article of the Constitution did not apply to their own procedure, and that they might treat the Budget just as though the 67th Article did not exist at all: might reduce or reject any and every part of it absolutely and finally, so far as their own procedure was concerned, without making any attempt to obtain the Government's concurrence. Fortunately the Moderates succeeded in inducing the House to beat a timely retreat from this unconstitutional position, but the Extremists still occupy the same ground, and though outvoted, are not convinced.

When it became apparent that the Lower House, led by the Extremists, was about to treat the Budget in this manner, the public turned with much curiosity and excitement to the Upper House. There were too distinct questions to be decided by the Peers: first, whether they would endorse the method of the Lower House; secondly, whether they would confirm the amount of its sweeping reductions. We need not consider the latter point here: it is beside our purpose. With regard to the former, it must of course be premised that the Upper House was not expected to pronounce any direct decision in relation to the procedure of the Representatives. Its verdict would evidently be indirect. If it adopted the same procedure, then it must be considered to accept the interpretation put on the Constitution by the Extremists in the Lower House. If it adopted a different procedure, then its reading of the Constitution would be opposed to that of the Extremists. To put the matter more plainly: if the Peers, before seeking the Government's concurrence, passed final votes rejecting or reducing items of "fixed expenditure," then they would be at one with the Extremists as to the sense of the Constitution; if, on the contrary, they sought the Government's concurrence before passing final votes of that nature, then their position would be diametrically opposite to that assumed by the Extremists.

The Lower House, as we have said, changed its attitude at the eleventh hour, and thus the part to be played by the Upper House lost something of its immediate interest. But for those who wish to forecast the working of constitutional institutions in Japan, it is just as important now as it was a fortnight ago to know whether the Peers endorse or reject the Government's rendering of the Constitution. Fortunately we are able to acquire distinct knowledge. The subject of debate in the Upper House on the 26th and 27th ultimo was a set of Regulations proposed by Viscount TANI to determine the procedure of the House in relation to the Budget. The Regulations numbered sixteen, and four of them were devoted to the treatment of items falling within the scope of the 67th Article of the Constitution. These four Regulations run as follow:—

X.—When the House proposes to reject or reduce any items of the expenditures referred to in the 67th Article of the Constitution, it shall decide to seek the Government's concurrence.

XI.—When the House has decided to seek the Government's concurrence, the President shall communicate the fact to the Government in writing.

NOTE.—In seeking the Government's concurrence as above provided, the House shall determine whether all the items of the Budget, in respect of which concurrence is sought, shall be grouped togethe , or whether they shall be treated separately, for that purpose

XII.—When the Government's concurrence has been obtained as provided in the last article, the House shall proceed to decide upon the various items of reduction or rejection.

XIII.—In dealing with the expenditures designated in the 67th Article of the Constitution, items which it is not proposed to reduce or reject, and items concerning which the Government's concurrence, though sought, has not been obtained, shall not fall within the scope of the House's decision.

The first three of these Regulations were passed almost without discussion and virtually without dissent. The last led to some debate for reasons which we shall explain presently, but which have no direct bearing on the point of immediate examination.

It will be seen, therefore, that the House of Peers, by a practically unaminous vote, has proclaimed its belief in the unconstitutionality of the course advocated by the Extremists in the Lower House. Instead of proceeding, as the Extremists did, to vote rejections or reductions of the "fixed expenditures," the Peers vote, in the first place, to seek the Government's concurrence, and having obtained that concurrence through the President, they then proceed to vote the rejections or reductions thus sanctioned. In short, the Upper House has emphatically declared its dissent from the methods to which the Extremists would have fatally committed the Lower House but for the fortunate prevalence of sounder views at the eleventh hour. There cannot be two radically different methods of procedure for the Upper and Lower Houses of the same Legislature under the same article of the same Constitution. If the Peers are right in their interpretation of the Constitution—an interpretation endorsed by the Government and plainly confirmed by the language of the Constitution—then the Extremists in the House of Representatives are wrong.

To complete this analysis of the debate in the Peers, a brief reference is necessary to the discussion provoked by the Thirteenth Article. That Article pledges the House to dispense with pronouncing any decision in respect of such items of the "fixed expenditures' as it does not desire, or is not permitted, to reduce or reject. To the principle here involved Mr. MURATA TAMOTSU took exception. He based his objection on the 64th Article of the Constitution, which provides that "the expenditure and revenue of the State require the consent of the Imperial Diet by means of an annual Budget." That Article, he maintained, permits no exceptions. Each and every item in the Buget must obtain the consent of the Diet, whereas the proposed Regulation exempts certain items. Mr. ITO MIYOJI tore this argument to fragments by methods which any careful reader of the Constitution can at once divine, and the House voted the Resolution as it stood.

The question naturally presents itself:—Why did the Extremists in the Lower House seek to enforce a mode of procedure by which, in the abstract, the House could gain nothing and would lose a great deal? There was no liberal principle involved. On the contrary, every disciple of government by the people must have opposed the method of the Extremists, since it deprived the people's representatives of their constitutional right to take all vital steps in respect of the national expenditure. There seems to be only one explanation: the Extremists wished to place the Lower House in a position of violent antagonism to the Government, and, if need be, to the Peers also. They have failed, happily, and their methods are now as fully discredited as the result of their manœuvres would have been unfortunate.

THE "GOVERNMENT."

WHEN the Constitution was promulgated people found that, as might have been expected, the exact meaning of its provisions generally depended in no small degree on the view of the person interpreting them. Viscount TANI voiced the popular notion on this subject when he said, a few days ago in the Peers, that the Constitution had been not inaptly compared to a piece of gum, so readily did it lend itself to expansion and contraction at the will of manipulators. One term especially perplexed searchers after facts, namely the word "Government." What does "Government" signify? Everywhere the word occurs, sometimes in the simple sense of "Administration, but frequently also with an evidently larger significance, as in the celebrated 67th Article, where a final power of sanction or veto is reserved to "the Government" in respect of certain classes of public expenditure. This latter use of the term requires, for its proper understanding, reference to the organization of the Executive machinery, over which organization the Sovereign, according to the Constitution, exercises supreme control. How then is the Japanese polity organized, and what part of it is called the "Government?" There appears to us to be no difficulty in answering these questions. Theoretically, and according to the letter of

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published laws, the EMPEROR not only rules but governs. He presides at the deliberations of the Cabinet, and with the Cabinet constitutes the "Government" spoken of in the Constitution. The Sovereign and the Ministers of State appointed by him are the Government, and when men speak of the "Cabinet" (*Naikaku*) they constitutionally include the EMPEROR, its President. We refer to the point now because of its interest in connection with the vote of censure to which the leaders of the Progresssionist Party are said to be seeking to commit the House of Representatives. In countries where the Cabinet, though nominated by the Sovereign, receives its mandate from Parliament and holds office entirely at Parliament's good pleasure, it is distinctly within the competence of the people's representatives to declare whether or no the Cabinet enjoys their confidence. But the case is very different in Japan. Party government is still a thing of the future in this empire—a thing of the near future, perhaps, but certainly not yet a realized fact. Here, then, a vote of want of confidence would possess a peculiar signification. It would be equivalent to a declaration that the House pronounces unfavourable judgment upon the Ministers chosen and appointed by the EMPEROR, and upon the competence of the Cabinet presided over by the EMPEROR himself. Of course it is well understood that in practice the EMPEROR of Japan does not select his Ministers with anything like autocratic liberty of choice. In reality the sphere within which HIS MAJESTY'S volition has been exercisable in such matters since the Restoration is just as narrow as though it were limited by the principles of party government. But this consideration has no conclusive value. The theory of the Japanese polity is that the EMPEROR chooses and appoints his Ministers; that they are removable by his will only, and that they are absolutely independent of any decision pronounced by the Diet. It is plain that under such circumstances a vote of want of confidence passed by the House of Representatives would be as completely as possible subversive of the principle supposed to be enunciated by the Constitution; would, in fact, amount to a declaration that the Cabinet holds office by the mandate of the people, not by the fiat of the Sovereign. We shall be greatly surprised if the leaders of the *Kaishinto*, or any other politicians, succeed in persuading the House to adopt such a resolution. On the whole the attitude of the Diet towards the Throne has been essentially loyal and deferential. A rare indication of some disposition to mention the Sovereign casually in debate or to speak lightly of the Constitution, HIS MAJESTY'S gift to the nation, has been sternly suppressed. The old atmosphere of sanctity still circulates about Imperialism. The House of Peers, indeed, contrary to all expectation, has in one instance departed from this conservatism. Its action with regard to the new Civil Code was certainly not what we should have anticipated. The Code had been issued only a few months previously over the EMPEROR'S signature, yet the House addressed to the Government a Representation asking that a Committee be appointed to revise it. With this exception, however, the Diet has given no evidence of faithlessness to the time-honoured traditions of the country's polity. If the motion now said to be contemplated by the Progressionist Party obtains the approval of the Lower House, a distinctly novel character will be imparted to the relation between the Sovereign and the people.

A MISSIONARY NUT TO CRACK.

WE hear on good authority that many of the Missionary community in Tokyo find themselves in a difficulty. It is an educational difficulty of a very personal character, being neither more nor less than "How shall we educate our children?" At first hearing it may seem strange that a community so largely educational in its aims should find itself in such a strait. The fact can only be regarded as a flaw in the working of the Protestant Missions in Japan. It betokens either carelessness in a very important matter, or lack of forethought. In the much earlier days when, generally speaking, missionaries' children were in the majority of cases hardly beyond the infant age, the lack of a good school did not practically declare itself. And for the last few years the gap has been sufficiently well filled by a purely private venture on the part of an energetic American lady. Now, however, this lady is retiring from the field; and like a thunder-clap the stern reality comes upon the good people of Tsukiji, "there is no school for our boys and girls."

The statement of course, is true only in a certain sense. For there are in Tokyo two very good schools, one for boys and one for girls. The former we described recently in these columns. It is virtually under the control of the Roman Catholic Church; and this is a sufficient objection in the eyes of Protestants to throw it quite out of the reckoning. No Church or Sect of Christendom has ever worked for the intellectual welfare of youth in a wholly disinterested way. The *raison d'être* of the Protestant Mission Schools of Japan is, by educating the many, to convert at least the few. The same is true of the finely equipped Christian Colleges of India. It is in short an admitted principle in all Mission bodies to grant a recognised good in the hope of awakening a desire for the unrecognised best. More than that, this Best is to be pushed prudently but determinedly. In the carrying out of this principle in all directions no Church has shown greater zeal or greater ability than the Church of Rome. It is not to be expected, then, that Protestant missionaries will hasten to send their sons to *L'École de l'Etoile du Matin*, however high the educational merits of that institution.

On the other hand, as regards the Ladies' Institute, with its staff of five qualified English teachers, there is the objection that it is under direct control of a Japanese Association. There has been no difficulty, so far, in foreign girls obtaining admittance into this school; but it is doubtful if the Council of Management would care to see the majority of the pupils foreign, as would almost certainly be the case if the applications for admittance became general. Moreover, there might be a difficulty in carrying the classes and the curricula of studies so as to suit both Japanese and English-speaking children. This, however, would surely not prove an insurmountable difficulty. Why then, it may be asked, cannot the Protestant Mission Schools themselves make some arrangements for taking in the children of their own Missionaries? To the unenlightened this would seem to be a most natural way out of the wood; but unfortunately a mighty barrier of principle blocks the path.

We have here in fact a very good illustration of what a lady resident of Tokyo has called "The Theory of the *O-kuroi*." To the Mission eye, and indeed to many a missionary eye, there is a grand charm in the figure of a noble pagan awaiting conversion. The pale-faced Missionaries of the West, the *O-shiroi* in fact, have spread east and south wherever a duskier brother dwells, and are trying to rescue him from the pit of heathendom. It is a noble object; but it leads in many cases to an undue over-rating of the necessities of the inhabitants of non-Christian lands. A Japanese youth of some fair ability is taken by the hand and sent to be educated in a Christian land, where he is pampered and spoiled. A Western youth comes perchance to Japan and, free from the gentle constraints of home, drifts first slowly then rapidly into pure heathendom; but in him the average missionary takes no interest. He may be black enough; but he doesn't belong to the *O-kuroi;* so he is left to take care of himself. That of course is an extreme case; but it illustrates the meaning of the theory, whose influence in this question of a school for the children, can be traced all too surely. The teachers in the Mission Schools cannot take in foreign children, because they are sent to teach the Japanese. They are paid to teach the Japanese; and it would be a breach of contract to expend their energies on the poor Foreign Missionary child. It is a melancholy revelation; and it is time the Mission Boards at home were awakened to the enormity of

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their sin in making no provision for the education of these children. It is not enough, apparently, that Missionaries, at considerable self-sacrifice, should break with the closest ties of home; but their children must suffer the penalty of being half-educated. In many Foreign Mission Fields the climate is not suitable for the prolonged stay of young children, and the missionaries going there know from the beginning that they must part with their family after some years. But it is not so in Japan. Here children could stay until they were ready to enter the University or an office, provided only they got a thorough school education. It is reasonable to suppose that many, so brought up, would follow their parents' footsteps. And what a power such a second generation of Missionaries would have, with their innate knowledge of the colloquial, and their natural sympathy with the people! It is indeed a singular lack of forethought on the part of the Protestant Missions —this policy of *laissez faire*. They might well take a lesson from their rivals of the Church of Rome, who with characteristic wisdom, planted a fully equipped school in Tokyo just at the time it was needed.

Perhaps some exception might be taken to the manner in which we have expressed our views. But there cannot be two opinions as to the necessity for reform. We believe that a forcible representation of the facts to the Mission Boards at home would have a good effect. But it should be really forcible—a regular "Round Robin" in fact from *all* the Committees here to *all* the Boards there. It would be a comparatively easy matter, we doubt not, for these Boards to devote a certain percentage of their funds for the education of their own missionaries' children. The accumulated funds, together with small fees from those directly profiting, would suffice to organise a good school and support an efficient staff of qualified teachers. Missionaries resident in the provinces would preferably send their children as boarders to such a school than be compelled to part with them, to the distant home lands. And if no such school should be established, the only choice left to the missionaries would be to ship their children back to America or Europe. There can be no question as to the more economical course to be pursued; and there can be even less doubt as to which would prove more satisfactory alike to the parent and the child.

It seems to us in fact that, alike from an educational, a moral, a missionary, and a Christian point of view, a thoroughly non-denominational school for foreign boys and girls is a desideratum in Tokyo. From the greater interests at stake, the organizing of such a school naturally falls to the Protestant Missions in Japan, and chiefly those of Canada and the United States. We have offered a suggestion as to how the project might be practically carried into effect. We have virtually constituted ourselves pleaders for those poor missionary children, who are to some extent unfortunate in not belonging to the family *O-kuroi*. Was its ever before known that a Church neglected its own children for sake of some one else's? In the eyes of the true Church there should be no respect of the persons.

THE LAND TAX.

THE following is a translation of the very short Bill which the House of Representatives has just adopted in regard to the Land Tax:—"The Land Tax on wet and dry fields shall be 2 per cent. of the assessed value of the land. The Land Tax on rural and urban house-lands, on salt fields, on mineral spring lands, on marsh lands, on forests, on pasture lands, on moors, and on variously cropped lands, shall be 2½ per cent. of the assessed value of the land." The consequence of thus changing the tax on wet and dry fields from 2.5 to 2 per cent., will be a loss of revenue aggregating about six million *yen* annually. The measure, if approved by the Government, cannot come into force before April 1st, and would therefore mean a lightening of taxation to the extent of 4 million *yen* during the present year. In addition to this measure, another, relating to re-assessment for the purposes of the Land Tax, passed its first reading, and was handed to a Special Committee, but the House yesterday decided not to proceed with it this session. It consists of six articles, of which the following is a translation:—

Art. 1.—The assessment of wet and dry fields shall be amended on the basis of the average price of the *koku* during the five year period, ending 1888, less 25 per cent.

Art. 2.—The price of the *koku* in each Urban and Prefectural district shall be assessed according to the new scheme of Land Tax, but the principle of determining produce and of calculating returns shall be as of old. Provided that in cases when the limits of the price of the *koku* cannot be determined according to the old methods, the Minister of State for Finance shall determine them on receipt of an application from the Prefect or Governor of the district concerned.

Art. 3.—In cases where the taxable valuation of land is increased by the provisions of this law, such increase shall not exceed twenty-five per cent. of the old valuation.

Art. 4.—The tax on wet and dry fields shall be levied according to the new system from the first taxation Term of 1891. Provided that, in the case of lands where the whole of the Tax shall have been paid up before the work of re-assessment is completed, a final account shall be made on the conclusion of the assessment.

Art. 5.—In the case of lands, wherever situated, where manifest impropriеties exist in respect of the nominal produce and the method of calculating returns, it shall be competent for the Government to order a special re-assessment within a term of three years from the promulgation of this law. Provided that, in cases where the taxable valuation is increased by the working of this law, the limitation of Article 3 shall be applied.

Art. 6.—The duty of issuing regulations for the purpose of putting this law into force shall devolve upon the Minister of State for Finance.

It has not been accurately calculated how much diminution in the proceeds of the Land Tax would be caused by the application of this latter law, but, speaking roughly, the loss to the Treasury is put at nearly two million *yen* annually. Avowedly the idea of the proposers and supporters of the measure is to equalize the incidence of the Land Tax. At the beginning of the *Meiji* era, when the assessment now in force was made, means of communication were not nearly so well developed as they are to-day, and in consequence the differences in the market values of rice and other grain in different localities were much more marked than they are at present. This state of affairs operated in both directions, appreciating prices in one district and depreciating them in another. We should have imagined that a general re-assessment, based on the less divergent prices of the five years preceding 1888, would result in a substantial addition to the total yield from this kind of taxation. But the framers of the new law guard against anything of that kind by limiting the increase of assessment in any case to twenty-five per cent. of the former valuation, and thus the net result is stated to be a reduction of some two million *yen* in the proceeds of the Land Tax. Of course the effects of the law would be variously felt. In some cases the measure would be welcomed; in others bitterly opposed. The northern districts would suffer signally. Owing to their inaccessibility in former times, the rice produced there found no market in the great centres of population. Its price was therefore determined by local demand. But all this has been greatly changed by the introduction of railways and steamers, the building of roads and the improvement of harbours. The Oshiu folks have consequently done everything in their power to impede the passage of the Bill. An influential deputation from the six O-u Prefectures came to Tokyo some time ago, and its members have left no stone unturned to effect their purpose. They are said to have incurred expenses aggregating a hundred and thirty thousand *yen*, and they will doubtless be proportionately pleased by the failure of the Bill to become law during this session at all events. The two great objects which the Radicals and Progressionists undertook to accomplish when the Diet came into session, were the cutting down of administrative expenses and the reduction of the Land Tax. They have not achieved much in the former direction, so far as concerns this year, for though the Budget is to be reduced by 6½ million *yen*, a great part of the total is due to the abandonment of works of public utility and to other financial changes which cannot be considered permament. But the first of the above two measures in relation to the Land Tax effects a solid and lasting reduction in the revenue of the State, and, if passed by the Upper House, will necessitate a corresponding re-organization of the Administration. That such a re-organization is possible we entertain little doubt. It has been talked of for the last three years, and would pro-

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bably have been carried out had not other measures of an equally pressing and more congenial character called for settlement. When Count OKUMA was Minister of Foreign Affairs he accepted the additional appointment of President of a financial Committee, the chief object of which was understood to be retrenchment of public expenditure. The Committee did not complete its labours, but it carried them to the point of elaborating a scheme of re-organization which would have accomplished considerable economies without in any way impairing administrative efficiency. It is a significant fact that the amendments proposed by the Budget Committee were based, in great part, on the leading features of the OKUMA Committee's recommendations. The insuperable difficulty was that the acceptance of the Budget Committee's Report, and its endorsement by the Government would have necessitated the immediate application of the proposed changes, whereas their gradual carrying out is obviously the only possible way of keeping the executive machinery in gear. It may be presumed, however, that the Government, faithful to the pledge which Counts YAMAGATA and MATSUKATA are said to have given, will lose no time in completing and giving effect to these reforms. If the new Land Tax Bill serves to spur the Cabinet to fresh exertions in so useful a direction, it will possess one redeeming feature. But, for the rest, we hold that the Bill is entirely to be condemned. The reduction of the Land Tax by 0.5 per cent. will bring no relief to the class of agriculturists who need assistance, and will only increase the advantages already enjoyed by land-owners over other tax-payers. The abandonment, even for a time, of productive works in order to carry out an economical phantasy so little justified, is a result that history will not place to the credit of the first Japanese Legislative Assembly. The Representatives have indeed shown that they appreciate the details of the situation, for they have taken practical cognisance of the comparative immunity hitherto enjoyed by urban house lands. If they had limited themselves to that, they would merit only praise. But their general attitude towards the chief and most legitimate source of State revenue, does not, in our opinion, display great discrimination.

JAPANESE WOMEN ABROAD.

THE House of Peers included in its Orders of the Day for the 3rd inst., the discussion of a Bill entitled "Project of a Law for the Protection of Japanese Females in Foreign Countries." The Project contains five clauses, of which the following is a translation:—

Art. 1.—Persons in Foreign countries, who entice Japanese females for purposes of prostitution or who procure them, or who hire rooms for the uses of prostitution, or who wittingly suffer prostitution to be carried on in their own houses, shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for not less than one month and not more than six months, and to a fine of from 2 to 20 *yen*.

Art. 2.—Females who proceed, or are about to proceed, to Foreign countries for purposes of prostitution, shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for from 11 days to 2 months, together with a fine of from 2 to 20 *yen*.

Art. 3.—Persons who wittingly assist females to proceed to foreign countries for purposes of prostitution, shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for from two months to one year, and to a fine of from 5 to 50 *yen*.

Art. 4.—Persons who entice females and send them, or are about to send them, to Foreign countries for purposes of prostitution, shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for from six months to three years, and to a fine of from 10 to 100 *yen*.

Art. 5.—Persons punished under the provisions of this Law, shall be placed under police supervision for from one month to one year.

The House of Peers debated this Bill in secret session on the 3rd instant, and having passed the first reading, handed the Bill to a Special Committee, as provided by law. There can be no doubt that the measure will pass both Houses without difficulty. Every respectable Japanese feels keenly the disgrace inflicted on the country by the constantly increasing stream of girls who are persuaded to go to foreign countries for purposes of prostitution. The temptations to engage in this kind of traffic are enormous. A Japanese female's gains in the most miserable of all pursuits are utterly paltry, as compared with the gains of her Western sisters, whereas the charms she has to sell are scarcely, if at all, inferior. She is therefore a splendid object of speculation to unprincipled persons. They can afford to offer her sums of dazzling magnitude in her eyes, and there yet remains to them a wide margin of profit. The consequence of these peculiar conditions is that, in nearly all the principal places where Westerns live or resort in neighbouring States to Japan, numbers of Japanese girls are to be found plying a disgraceful trade, and helping materially to spread a false impression of their country's moral circumstances. Great suffering, too, has often been inflicted on the unfortunate girls, and from every point of view the wretched business calls for authoritative interference. The only question is whether the law can step in with any practical effect. When the terrible case of suffocation occurred on board a steamer travelling from Nagasaki to Hongkong, we pointed out the fallacy of the popular idea that Japanese are not at liberty to leave their country without passports. No such law exists. A Japanese is just as free as a foreigner to come and go at will, except that, without a passport, he cannot obtain the assistance and protection of his own Consuls abroad. How then can steps be taken to investigate the objects of females leaving the country, or of persons assisting them to leave? We presume that these points have received full consideration at the hands of the framers of the new law, but intention is a very difficult thing to establish in any court of justice, and the magistrates will have to be guided largely by circumstantial evidence and by collateral considerations in deciding whether or no the purpose of a woman's departure from her country is immoral. On the other hand, so soon as a Japanese female reaches a foreign country, she becomes justiciable by its tribunals, and the same is true of all Japanese subjects within territories of other States, China excepted. It is evident, therefore, that the provisions of the first Article of the proposed law cannot become operative until the offenders referred to in it return to Japan. On the whole, we find great difficulty in foreseeing any really useful results. In flagrant cases the police may be able to obtain information justifying the arrest of a woman before she leaves the country, and of those connected with her departure. But the existence of this new law will entail increased caution on the part of intending wrong-doers. It seems to us that to apply a radical remedy the new law must be supplemented by a regulation conferring on the Authorities supervisory competence in respect of every female leaving the country. If it were distinctly illegal for any woman to go beyond the shores of Japan without a passport, the purpose of her departure could generally be ascertained with sufficient accuracy to prevent, in great part at any rate, the serious abuses now complained of. In the abstract, passports and all other restrictions upon the liberty of the subject are emphatically objectionable. But we are here confronted by conditions of a grave and exceptional nature. It is Japan's bounden duty to employ every possible means of putting an end to a disgraceful traffic in the virtue and happiness of her women. She will find sympathy rather than censure if she applies herself to the task with earnestness even more drastic than is generally approved by legislators. Besides, the number of Japanese women proceeding abroad for legitimate purposes is exceedingly small, and their social positions and connections would enable them to obtain passports without submitting to any inconvenient scrutiny. The only persons at all likely to be embarrassed by the necessity of furnishing themselves with passports are precisely the kind of females for whose protection or restraint the new law is intended. Supplemented by a strict regulation making it incumbent on every Japanese female to procure a passport before leaving Japan, the measure now before the Diet may have wholesome and desirable effects, but without the addition of such a regulation, it does not seem likely to accomplish much.

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—FEB. 27TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m., under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. Marquis Hachisuka, President of the Memorials Committee, presented four petitions for the House's consideration:—(1) a petition from Okayama Prefecture, for a reduction of the tax on *Saké* brewing; (2) a petition from Aomori Prefecture, of the same import; (3) a petition from Tochigi Prefecture, relating to local boundaries; and (4) A petition from Shizuoka Prefecture, asking that the cost of repairing the banks of the rivers Tenryu, Oi, Abe, and Fuji should be borne by the Central Government. The House then resumed the consideration of Viscount Tani's rules of procedure for the discussion of the Budget. The 14th article was expunged, and the remainder adopted with slight modifications. The next business was to consider a Bill for the amendment of the First Section of the Rules of the House's Procedure. Mr. Miura Yasu, the introducer of the Bill, explained that the Rules hitherto used were, in effect, a draft prepared by the Government, and adopted by the House without discussion. Experience was needed to show their faults or advantages, and the House now possessed that experience. Therefore it seemed advisable to make the necessary amendments by way of provision for next session. He attached much importance to an amendment which provided that the seats of the members—Princes of the Blood excepted—should be arranged by lot, and that no distinctions of rank should be recognised. Mr. Kioka strongly opposed the principle involved in this change of seats, and his opposition was supported by Viscount Tani and others. Mr. Watari Masamoto traversed Mr. Kioka's arguments, and claimed that the social customs of Japan could not be affected by equalizing the rights of all the members as to order of sitting. Professor Toyama denied the propriety of taking this one article of the Bill as a reason for rejecting it *in toto*. They could alter or expunge the article at the second reading. He himself was against it. Twenty years ago they would not have thought of sitting on equal terms with nobles, and probably some of those listening to him would have had to go on their knees when a noble passed by. That social system had ceased, in great part, to exist, but the day had not yet come for its total abolition. He was in favour of preserving social distinctions. He had heard of a case in this country where a certain private gentleman having been invited to a meeting of a learned society, had declined to attend on account of the order of sitting. He did not himself approve of the old principle of honouring officials and despising the people, and to the extent of overthrowing that principle he was ready to proceed at once, by making the *Samurai* and the *Heimin* sit side by side. But he placed Princes and Nobles in a different category at present, and thought that the levelling down method of the proposed article should not extend beyond the untitled members of the House. The closure was moved and carried. The House then voted Mr. Kioka's amendment—namely, that the Bill be rejected, and that the existing rules of organization of the House become the first chapter of the Rules of Procedure. The third of the petitions mentioned above was then adopted for forwarding to the Government, and the House rose at 3.40 p.m.

FEBRUARY 28TH.

The House met at 11 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, a quorum not being present before that hour. A petition for the amendment of the 21st Article of the *Saké* Brewing Regulations was adopted for transmission, but a petition relating to license fees for the sale of *saké* was rejected. On coming to a petition from Gifu Prefecture as to a change of boundaries, some members urged that as a Bill on the subject of local boundaries in general had been already submitted by the Government to the House of Representatives, this petition need not be forwarded. Mr. Miura Yasu recommended that the petition be kept by the House for purposes of reference when considering the Local Boundaries Bill as sent up by the Representatives. After some debate the petition was adopted for transmission. The President begged members to be more punctual in their attendance, and the House rose at 12.30 p.m.

MARCH 2ND

The House met at 10.25 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, and proceeded to consider petitions relating to the tax on *saké* brewing, to changes of local boundaries, and to the expenses of riparian repairs in Shizuoka Prefecture. The first petition was rejected; the second accepted for transmission, and the third accepted after some debate. The House rose at 11.10 a.m., the afternoon being devoted to Committee meetings.

MARCH 3RD.

The House met at 10.20 a.m., under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. The President announced that, the Budget having been received from the Lower House, the House should determine the time to be allowed to the Committee for preparing its Report. Marquis Hachisuka pointed out that the Budget had been submitted to the Representatives at the beginning of the session, and had been in their hands for the unexpectedly long period of over ninety days. Now, at length, it had reached the Upper House, when only five days remained for its discussion. The task was exceedingly difficult, but he strongly deprecated the idea of abstaining from effort because of the apparent impossibility of achievement. Whether the House had five days or five hours before it, its plain duty was to exhaust all industry in order to bring the Budget into existence. He therefore proposed that the Committee be required to submit its Report during the forenoon of the 5th inst. He was well aware of the extreme hardship of such an undertaking, but the Committee would doubtless work night and day. The House must not shrink from its manifest duty. The Minister of State for Finance said that the Budget for the 24th year of Meiji, having passed the Representatives, had now been submitted to the Peers, and he begged permission to say a word in support of it. They were aware of the long period during which the Budget had been under discussion by the Lower House, and how, on the 23rd ultimo, the Government's concurrence had been sought with regard to the expenditures included in the scope of the 67th Article of the Constitution. The Government had been unable to give its assent to the proposed amendments, as some of them conflicted with the provisions of law. On the other hand, this being the first session of the first Japanese Diet, there was naturally a strong wish that the Budget should be brought into existence. The Government had therefore asked the Lower House to reconsider its amendments. This request, conveyed on the 26th ultimo, had happily met with the approval of the House, which had appointed a Select Committee to consult with the Government and prepare a new Report. The Committee, in discharge of these functions, had conferred with the Government Delegates, and after some difficulty an agreement was arrived at on the 1st instant. Yesterday, the 2nd instant, the Lower House had adopted the revised Report. Thus, in the short interval of five days, from the 26th of last month to the 2nd of this month, the Committee, by exceptional diligence, had succeeded in accomplishing a good result. The Government fully appreciated the difficult position in which the Upper House was placed by having the Budget submitted to it to-day with only an interval of five days remaining before the end of the session. The Lower House, having to deal with the Budget for the first time, had not unnaturally debated it with exceptional minuteness, but the Government trusted that the Upper House would see the advisability of bringing the Budget into existence, although only five days remained for the purpose. It would be a matter of the gravest national regret if, on the very morrow of the birth of parliamentary institutions in Japan, the Budget, a measure of such great importance, could not be brought into existence. As the House was well aware, there had seemed at first no hope of the Budget being brought into existence, in view of the difficulties that arose between the Government and the Representatives, and the fact that these difficulties had been overcome, inspired the strongest satisfaction. It was to be earnestly hoped that the Upper House would contrive to save from fruitlessness the result of so much labour and discussion. Full particulars would be given to the Committee, but so far as concerned the House itself, he most earnestly begged the members to take into due consideration the events that had preceded the submission of the Budget to the Peers. Mr. Takiguchi Kichiro spoke at some length in support of Marquis Hachisuka. He argued that, though the fact of passing the Budget in five days might imply that the functions of the Peers in respect of it were of no consequence, the present case should be regarded as exceptional, and not as furnishing a precedent. He adduced several instances from Western Parliamentary history to justify the course proposed to the House, and concluded by summing up reasons that ought to induce the members to agree to the passing of the Budget within the remaining days of the session. Viscount Tani inquired whether he was right in concluding that the Minister of Finance had asked the House to pass the Bill without amendment, and without discussion. Count Matsukata replied that the Bill had been revised by the Lower House in consultation with the Government, and he trusted that it would receive the approval of the Peers, in view of the short time remaining at the disposal of the Diet. "Then," said Viscount Tani, "may we understand that you desire us to pass the amendments of the Lower House at once?" "Yes," answered Count Matsukata, "and my reason is that as the time available is too brief for full discussion, we can only hope for the bringing of the Budget into existence. The Government, in view of the fact that this is the first session of the Diet, and being anxious to show its respect for parliamentary institutions, made large concessions to the Lower House. If the Budget can be brought into existence in accordance with the Constitution, His Majesty's satisfaction will be great, and moreover, the reputation of the country abroad will be preserved. It would be most regrettable if a measure concerning which an agreement has been with difficulty reached between the Government and the Representatives, were rendered inoperative. The Emperor undoubtedly gave his consent to a prolongation of the session in order that the Budget might be brought into existence." Mr. Ozaki Saburo objected to the mention made of the Emperor's views. Mr. Miura Yasu supported the objection, and urged that even a Minister of State ought not to make conjectures as to the Sovereign's sentiments. He suggested that Count Matsukata should withdraw his statement. Count Matsukata emphatically declined to do so. "Who granted the Constitution?" he asked. "The Emperor and the Emperor only." Mr. Miura Yasu admitted that the Emperor had granted the Constitution. Every one knew that. But different people interpreted the Constitution differently. If men were to be free to divine the Emperor's opinion, and to adduce their conception of it as an argument in the House, they would be wanting in respect towards His Majesty. The Constitution provided a resource in the event of the Budget not being brought into existence, and the Constitution would not be in any way violated though the House failed to complete its discussion and examination within the fixed period of the session. Mr. Okada Shigetoshi said that in interpreting the Constitution it was perfectly correct to refer to the Emperor's views. The Minister President had done so in the Lower House. There was no occasion whatever for the Minister of Finance to withdraw what he had said. Viscount Tani contended that any reference to the Emperor's opinion, merely for the purpose of passing the Budget was most improper. Count Matsukata said that his conception of the Emperor's view had been expressed in connection with the carrying out of the Constitution, not at all with

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reference to its interpretation. He considered himself perfectly justified in doing as he had done. At this stage, when the discussion threatened to assume an acute character, Mr. Shimauchi Takeshige asked permission to speak, and ascending the rostrum, delivered a speech of some length in support of Marquis Hachisuka's motion, thus giving time for the disputants to reflect. Marquis Nakayama Takamaro attempted to raise the question again, but, being called to order by the President, went on to support Marquis Hachisuka's motion, at the some time protesting against the Minister's suggestion that the House should accept the amendments of the Representatives without discussion. Count Matsuketa denied that he had intended to convery any such meaning. He had merely expressed the hope that the House would agree, if possible. The closure was put and voted. The House them voted Marquis Hachisuka's motion, and rose for the midday recess at 11.55 a.m. On re-assembling at 1.30 p.m. Marquis Hachisuka announced that the Petitions Committee had selected for submission to the House petitions for the better examination of silk-worms' eggs, for changes of local government boundaries, and for amendments of the Stamp Regulations. The House then held a secret session to consider a Bill for the protection of Japanese Females in Foreign Countries. A committee was appointed to examine the Bill. The House rose at 3.20 p.m.

MARCH 4TH.

The House met at 10.40 a.m., under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, and proceeded to consider a Bill—sent up from the Representatives—for the amendment of the dates for paying the Land Tax. On the motion of Baron Watanabe, the Bill was handed over to a Special Committee, and the President announced the names of the Committee. The next business was the first reading of the Bill relating to political speeches and parties, as sent up from the Lower House. Mr. Kiura, Government Delegate, spoke strongly against the amendments proposed by the Lower House. He thought that their proposers had not given due thought to existing conditions. It was absolutely necessary still to exercise some control over political meetings and speeches. Many instances had occurred of so-called scientific or even religious lectures being used as a cloak for delivering political orations, sometimes of an international character. As for the decision of the Representatives that teachers and pupils of Primary Schools and persons not yet of age should be permitted to attend political meetings, he denounced it in unmeasured terms. He also contended that natural functions as well as Japanese social customs forbade women to take part in politics, and that the carrying of arms or other lethal weapons at political gatherings was contrary to law, whereas the Lower House had permitted both of these things. The state of political parties in Japan did not yet sanction such a sweeping away of restrictions as the Lower House contemplated. The Representatives had also expunged the veto upon out-door political gatherings during the session of the Diet, whereas such gatherings had no *raison d'être* when the people's representatives were assembled in their places to legislate for the nation. Further, the amendments of the Lower House did away with imprisonment for offences against the law of political parties, and limited the punishment to fines only—a course distinctly opposed to the view of the leading jurists of the day. If these amendments were adopted, it would inevitably be necessary to re-amend them at no distant date. On the motion of Mr. Obata, the House, without further debate, handed the Bill to a Special Committee, and the President announced the names of the Committee. The next business was a Representation for the establishment of an Agricultural and Industrial Bank to assist local enterprise. Viscount Yuri, the mover of the Representation, spoke in support of it. His arguments were chiefly directed to proving that increased pecuniary facilities were essential to the development of agriculture and industry, and that Japan was much less fully equipped in this respect than other countries. He urged that it was unfair to allow the citizens of Tokyo to contract a loan for water-works, without extending similar competence to other cities and districts. On the motion of Mr. Okauchi, the Representation was handed to a Special Committee nominated by the President. There being no further business, the House rose at 2.30 p.m.

MARCH 5TH.

The House met at 10.30 a.m., under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze and held a secret session to consider the Bill for the Protection of Japanese Females in Foreign Countries, which occupied until noon. After the mid-day recess, the Report of the Budget Committee was read. Mr. Hosokawa Junjiro, on behalf of the Committee, said that the procedure laid down by the recently adopted Detailed Rules had been followed, the Committee dividing into sections and devoting itself to the examination of the various parts of the Budget. On the 4th instant the Budget as a whole had been considered and the Committee had decided to recommend its adoption in the form received from the Lower House. They greatly regretted that want of time had prevented them from conducting as accurate an inquiry as they could have desired, and they hoped that the House of Representatives would dispose of the Budget in better time next session. They had, however, assured themselves by minute questioning of the Delegates that the proposed reductions would not impair Administrative efficiency. Viscount Kiooka inquired whether the statement contained in the Report, to the effect that the proposed reduction would not impair Administrative efficiency, was made simply on the Committee's faith in the Government's statements, and whether the Committee thought that it was not entitled to satisfy itself on that point by actual investigation. Mr. Hosokawa said that the Committee advanced no opinion as to the limits of their powers in the matter. Not being themselves officials, however, they had been content to accept the assurances of the Government Delegates in regard to a point which officials only could determine. Mr. Ozaki Saburo asked how the surplus of revenue over expenditure—namely 6½ million *yen*—was to be disposed of. Did the Committee contemplate letting it lie in the Treasury? Count Matsukata replied that it would be kept in the Treasury. Mr. Yamagawa Ko opposed the Report. He failed to comprehend why the Government had given its concurrence. If, merely to curry favour with the Lower House, the Administration blindly set its seal to the reductions of the Representatives, its action could not escape subsequent condemnation. He strongly condemned the idea of passing the Budget without full consideration, and he moved that the House go immediately into Committee. He also expressed a hope that members would refrain from moving the closure at an early period of the debate. Mr. Kato Hiroyuki said that he had been utterly astounded by two events. When it was proposed to hand the Budget to the Committee for examination and report within the space of two days, he had protested that, not being gods, the Committee-men could not undertake such a task. They had undertaken it, however, and he had consequently resigned. And now these wonderful members had actually completed their task within the prescribed period. That was the first shock his nervous system had received. The second was when he learned that the Committee had accepted all the amendments of the Lower House *en bloc*. He sincerely congratulated them. But his satisfaction was not unmixed. The Lower House had spent ninety days elaborating its amendments. The Upper House was about to pass them in almost as many hours. Was this because the Peers were so much quicker than the Commons, or was it for the sake of preserving good relations between the Government and the Lower House? He thought the latter. If the House passed the Bill without proper deliberation merely because it had faith in the Government and in the Representatives, it would be throwing away the power vested in it by the Constitution. Which was better, to despise their Constitutional powers or to let the Budget stand over? Mr. Yamagawa's motion was then put and lost. Mr. Shimauchi supported the Committee's Report. He said it was a great mistake to suppose that the Committee had only spent two days over the Budget. They had in reality been considering it for many days, though not officially. He urged that it would be most regrettable if the long labour of the Representatives were rendered null and void. Such a result could not conduce to the good relations between the Houses. The delay in the Lower House had been due not to any want of diligence, but to quite exceptional causes, and the Upper House might well adopt an exceptional course. Mr. Obata Tokujiro opposed the Report. Like every one else he wanted to see the Budget brought into existence, but he disapproved not only of the reductions applied in the Lower House but of the manner of accomplishing them. He denounced in very strong terms the conduct of the Government, which seemed to have had no fixed policy, but to have bargained and cut down the Budget in an undignified manner. The Government stood outside political parties and was under no obligation to please the Lower House. Mr. Watanabe supported the Report. He contended that this being the first meeting of the Diet, it was natural to expect difficulties in procedure, and the course now adopted by the Upper House need not be regarded as a precedent. Viscount Kioka spoke at considerable length in opposition. His principal argument was based on the impossibility of the House's discharging its proper functions in respect of the Budget in the brief space of five days. He related the history of the Budget in the Lower House, and deduced from it the conclusion that the Government had departed from the strong position originally taken by it with regard to the reductions proposed by the Representatives, and had shown great want of firmness. He thought that the precipitate passing of the Bill by the Upper House would bring the Diet into discredit both at home and abroad. Mr. Okauchi supported the Report. He ridiculed the idea of pretending that the Government had been wrong in agreeing to reductions. For what purpose was the Budget submitted to the Diet except that it might be reduced if necessary? As to the argument that the House would cut an absurd figure did it pass the Budget in five days, they had examples of much greater celerity in foreign Parliaments. Mr. Miura Yasu and Viscount Tani said they had questions to put to the Minister President and the Minister of Finance, and begged that the Ministers might be called if they were in the waiting rooms. Mr. Okauchi pointed out that Government Delegates were present to ask questions if needed. Mr. Ozaki Saburo said that he wished to question the Minister of Finance with regard to his reference to the Emperor's views. The Minister of Finance returned to the House at this moment and Mr. Miura asked him on what reading of the Constitution he had informed the Lower House, in his speech of February 24th, that their procedure in respect of the Budget exceeded their powers. Count Matsukata replied that the remark referred to had been made in the Lower House and he could not answer any question relating to it here. The House took a short recess and reassembled at 6.35 p.m. The President announced that the closing ceremony of the Diet would take place in the principal hall of the Palace on the 8th instant. Mr. Miura Yasu asked the Government Delegates whether the Budget had not been prepared originally so as to allow of subsequent reductions. Mr. Watanabe, Vice-Minister of Finance, replied that such had not been the case. Referring to remarks of this nature, he pointed out that it was absurd to argue any excess in the Government's original appropriations merely because consent was given to reductions proposed in the House. If such reductions had not been contemplated by the Constitution, why should any provision have been made for submitting the Budget to the Diet? Mr. Miura then proceeded to attack the Budget, contending that if it could be reduced by six millions, it might also be reduced by eight, or perhaps even by ten. Such a Budget could not

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be lightly passed. Its not coming into existence was a matter of one year, whereas the course they were asked to pursue with regard to it would be a lasting discredit to them. He insisted that the appropriations asked for by the Government had been purposely put at figures larger than necessary. If the total reduction had only been three million *yen* or thereabouts he could have consented. Mr. Watanabe, Government Delegate, pointed out the unreasonable character of this argument. There was no sense in fixing on one figure more than another if both were mere matters of conjecture. Besides, the reductions on account of railways and the Reserve Fund were subtracted, only four millions remained. Would Mr. Miura agree to three millions but object to four? Viscount Tani said that he had felt compelled to resign his position on the Budget Committee. He argued strongly against passing the Budget, chiefly on the ground that the House would be making light of the power vested in it. He also urged that the unconstitutional and illegal course pursued by the Lower House made it all the more necessary that the Upper House should examine the matter leisurely and carefully. The Government Delegate said that Viscount Tani appeared to have fallen into the same mistake as other members, in supposing that the reductions finally voted by the Lower House involved changes in the organization of the Administration. Such was not the case at all. Professor Toyama supported the Report. He pointed out that it was out of the question to expect perfection in the first session of the first Diet opened in Japan. They must be content to do the best they could. The closure was moved and voted by 104 to 59, after much obstruction on the part of Viscount Tani, Mr. Miura, and Mr. Ozaki Saburo. The President then announced that the House would proceed to consider the Budget in detail. This led to much discussion and interruption, and finally a recess was taken at 8.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—FEB. 27TH.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. The President announced that Mr. Arai Shogo and 39 other members of the Budget Committee had sent in their resignations; also that a written reply had been received from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in relation to the Antimony Mine at Ichi-no-Kawa in Yehime Prefecture; also that Messrs. Mori Tokinosuke, Soma Nagatane and Nakaye Tokusuke had resigned their seats. A Secretary read a reply sent by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce with regard to the disposal of the Osarugawa Copper Mine, in Rikuchiu. The document said that the term of the original lease having expired, and no application for a renewal having been received from the lessees, the mine had been leased to the owner of a neighbouring mine, Mr. Iwasaki, in consequence of his tendering for it. The operation had been strictly in accord with the law, and no favour whatever had been shown. One of the former lessees, Mr. Koizumi Katsusaburo, had brought an action against the Government, but the Tokyo Court of Appeal had given judgment against him. As for the Antimony Mine at Ichi-no-kawa, it had been worked by a number of independent lessees until the 17th year of *Meiji*. Owing to frequent cessations of the working, and violations of the Mining Laws, the mine had been taken over by the Government and worked by the Ehime Prefectural Authorities. But in the 20th year of *Meiji*, the system of official control had been abandoned, and the mine was transferred to a company consisting in part of the former lessees. The House then proceeded to consider the resignations of three members. The plea advanced by all alike was sickness. No difficulty was raised in the cases of Messrs. Mori and Soma, but Mr. Nakaye's application provoked some discussion. The reason assigned was poisoning by alcohol. A member said that when a man gave such a reason, nothing was less likely than its truth. Another declared that such a superlatively good member as Mr. Nakaye was not needed in an elementary House of Representatives. Finally an open ballot gave 97 "ayes" and 93 "noes," so Mr. Nakaye's resignation was accepted. Mr. Arai Shogo explained the motives of the Budget Committee's resignation. It was evident that, the House having appointed a Select Committee with power to alter the Budget Committee's Report, the latter Committee had ceased to possess the confidence of the House. Under such circumstances resignation was the only course consistent with the spirit of representative institutions. Just as Ministers of State ought to resign if it appeared that they had ceased to enjoy the confidence of the nation, so the Budget Committee now resigned, and begged that another Committee be chosen in its place. Mr. Satake Gikwa opposed the acceptance of the Committee's resignation. The Budget Committee was a Permanent Committee. Further, if another Committee were now appointed in its place, the new Committee would have to examine the Budget again, a task for the due performance of which no time remained. The Select Committee had not been chosen because of the Budget Committee's having lost the confidence of the House, but because special circumstances had arisen requiring the House to place itself in communication with the Government. The President asked the House whether, in voting upon this question, the members of the resigning Committee should be allowed to vote. The House decided in the affirmative. An open ballot gave 82 "ayes" and 114 "noes" on the question of accepting the Committee's resignation. The House then proceeded to the first reading of a Bill for Amending Special Assessments of Land Values. The object of the Bill was explained by its introducer, Mr. Amakasu Fumiye, who said that great inequalities in the incidence of the land tax existed in different localities. According to the original scheme of land taxation, a re-assessment should be made every five years. This had not been done, however, and to do it properly would involve great expenditure of time and money. The present Bill proposed to apply a partial remedy by re-assessing taxable values in localities where the prices of rice and other articles exhibited marked differences, such differences alone being considered for purposes of re-assessment. Differences in annual yield did not exercise any influence comparable with that exercised by difference in the price of the produce yielded. Mr. Iwasa Jiro said that the Bill introduced by himself was virtually the same as that now before the House, and hoped that both would be approved. Mr. Koma Shiku proposed that the Bill be handed to a Special Committee of inquiry. Mr. Kusumoto Masataka opposed the Bill. He said that nothing could be more unreasonable than to think of employing a uniform standard of values throughout the empire without regard to the local conditions to which differences of value were due. Mr. Okada Rioichiro supported the Bill. Mr. Yamaguchi Chiosaku opposed it, pointing out numerous reasons which rendered it impossible to adopt a uniform rate of taxation everywhere. The debate continued for some time longer, when the closure was moved and carried. A closed ballot was then taken on Mr. Koma's motion for a Special Committee, the result being 127 "ayes" and 111 "noes." The President directed that each Section choose a member of Committee, and the House then (4.20 p.m.) proceeded to the Second reading of the Land Tax Regulations Amendment Bill. Mr. Waki Yeitaro moved as an amendment of the first article, that the land tax be reduced from 2.5 to 2.2 per cent. His principal argument was that the proposed reduction of 0.5 per cent. could not be put into practice under existing financial circumstances, and considering the certain fate of the Budget Committee's Report. Some verbal amendments proposed by Mr. Kurata Jumpu were adopted by the House, but Mr. Waki's amendment did not obtain sufficient support to become a subject of debate. There being no further objection raised, the President said that the House should proceed at once to the 3rd reading. The House voted to dispense with the third reading by 129 to 40, being more than the prescribed two-thirds vote. The House rose at 5.50 p.m.

FEBRUARY 28TH

The House met at 10.45 a.m. On the motion of Mr. Shimizu Sanzo it was decided that, in view of the near approach of the end of the session, the House should sit on Sunday, the 1st proximo. A Report having been received from the Qualifications Committee to the effect that it did not fall within the Committee's province to inquire into accusations of bribery against a member—as in the case of a petition against the validity of Mr. Nita's election—such matters being judiciable by the Law Courts, a long debate ensued, the House taking up the general question of its competence to consider the validity of a member's election. The closure was put and lost, and the debate lasted until late in the afternoon, the Committee's Report being finally adopted by 128 to 64. The President then announced the names of the Special Committee chosen to examine the Bill for Special Amendments of Land Tax Assessment. The Qualifications Committee's Report in the case of Mr. Akamatsu Shinyemon was then adopted. The House proceeded to the first reading of a Bill to amend the periods of paying the land tax, and after a short discussion, voted it. The second and final reading was then commenced, the House having voted to dispense with the third reading. The Bill was passed with the amendments recommended by the Committee of Examination. Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu moved, as a point of urgency, that the Order of the Day be changed so as to allow the House to proceed at once to consider the Bill relating to political lecture meetings and political parties. This proposal obtained a majority of votes. Mr. Kato Heishiro supported the amendments proposed by the Committee of Examination, with the exception of the clauses forbiding teachers or pupils of Primary Schools to attend political lecture meetings. The House was counted out at 4.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. The President announced that Mr. Ozaki Saburo, of the Legislative Bureau, had been appointed Government Delegate for a Bill for the protection of Japanese women in foreign countries. Also that a proposal had been handed in by Mr. Takagi Masatoshi for the appointment of a Committee of 27 members to transact the business of the House between the sessions. Also that certain questions had been received from Mr. Shimada Saburo relating to the Government's reply to the House's request for concurrence in respect of the Budget. Mr. Kato Heishiro, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, explained that, owing to the nature of the business before the House, the sickness of members and other causes, it had not been possible to examine and report upon the numerous petitions which had been submitted. Mr. Makino urged that some portion of the petitions ought, if possible, to be dealt with before the session ended. The House then resumed the discussion of the Bill relating to political lecture meetings and political parties. Mr. Kiyoura Keizo, Chief of the Criminal Laws Bureau in the Home Department, as Government Delegate, explained that, in the present state of Japanese society, the amount of liberty contemplated by the Committee's amendments to the Bill could not be granted without imperilling the preservation of public peace and good order. The Bill had been drafted at the close of last year with due regard to the conditions then existing. The Committee's amendments would have the effect of closing the front door to license and opening the back door. They would render it impossible even to control meetings of farmers assembled for the express purpose of intimidation. He further explained at length and minutely the practical difficulties of carrying out the amendments of the Committee. Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu expressed great satisfaction with the clearness and fullness of the Delegate's explanations, and trusted that his example would be adopted by Delegates generally in future. He fully agreed that the relaxation of restrictions on the right of free speech and public meetings should be gradual, and he admitted that the Bill now before the House

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was a great improvement on the Regulations actually in force. But he objected to the clause forbidding women to attend political lecture meetings. Granting that women should not concern themselves actively with politics, it nevertheless seemed an undue severity to apply an interdict which would exclude them even from the Diet, where their presence was now permitted. He traversed some other arguments advanced by the Delegate. Several members said that, as no opposition was raised to the Committee's amendments, they should refrain from delivering the speeches announced by them to the President. The closure was here put and lost. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho argued that no hope existed of fully discussing and passing the amended Bill during the present session. He recommended that the Regulations now in force be retained for the purposes of the current year, with alterations only of the 28th Article, and of the provisions forbidding intercourse between political parties, and requiring that 48 hours' notice must be given before holding a political lecture meeting. He moved that the Regulations be handed to the Committee for the purpose of being amended in these respects. The motion was put and lost. The House then voted to proceed to the second reading of the Bill. After the mid-day recess the President announced that a proposal had been handed in by Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, to amend the time (48 hours) mentioned in Articles 2, 7 and 24, so as to read 24 hours, and, to excise Articles 28 and 32. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho explained that the purpose of his motion was to enable the House to take some practical action within the short time at its disposal. If they proceeded to discuss the Bill and the amendments clause by clause, they could not hope to attain any practical result, whereas if they voted his amendment at once, the Bill might be immediately disposed of. After some debate the House refused to allow the motion to be accepted, several members arguing that it was out of order. The Committee's amendments were subsequently put and carried in respect of the first three articles, but rejected in respect of the 4th and 5th (the latter article in the original Bill permits teachers in Primary Schools, scholars, and persons not yet of age to take part in political meetings). The 6th, 7th, and 8th articles were voted with an amendment forbidding the carrying of arms at any public meeting whatever. Mr. Uyeki Yemori strongly opposed the Committee's amendment forbidding women to take part in political meetings. The House, however, adopted the amendment. The remainder of the Bill was voted with trifling amendments, and on the motion of Mr. Tateichi it was agreed that the provisions of the Bill should become operative from April 1st, 1891. The third reading was voted without discussion. The next business was a Bill for amending the Newspaper Regulations, introduced by Mr. Suyehiro. A second Bill of a similar character had been introduced by Mr. Minoura, and Mr. Seki Naohiko moved that a Special Committee be appointed to examine both Bills and combine them into a single measure. Mr. Suyehiro thought that Mr. Minoura's Bill should be treated as an amendment, but the House voted Mr. Seki's proposition. Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro said that during the whole session Mr. Mutsu Munemitsu had attended in his place only for three or four days at the beginning of the session. The Rules of the House were very clear on this point. Mr. Mutsu had violated them, and ought to be handed over to the Committee for Disciplinary Punishments. Several members objected to the proposal on the ground that Mr. Mutsu had doubtless applied for leave, week by week, in due form. The President, on being questioned, said that the Attendance Book and Leave Book were before him, and that they showed that Mr. Mutsu had sent in applications for leave week by week. Mr. Horikoshi pointed out that others had failed to attend as well as Mr. Mutsu, and protested against the latter being singled out for censure. Mr. Ozaki Yukio accused the President of acting as Mr. Mutsu's advocate. The House voted Mr. Takanashi's proposition. The President then demanded an explanation of the charge brought against him by Mr. Ozaki Yukio. Mr. Ozaki said that he had merely expressed his opinion. The President warmly inquired why he held such an opinion. Mr. Ozaki retorted that if the President pressed him, he was prepared to defend his statement. Much confusion ensued. Several members urged Mr. Ozaki to withdraw his statement, and others begged the President to let the matter drop. The President ultimately consented to take no further notice of the incident, and the House rose at 4.20 p.m.

MARCH 2ND.

The House met at 11.15 a.m. The President announced the receipt of several Bills from members, and also the names of the Committee chosen to inquire into the Bill for amending the Newspaper Regulations. Mr. Abei Hankon, President of the Select Committee on the Budget, reported the result of the Committee's proceedings. He said that he himself having been elected President, and Mr. Misaki chosen Manager (*Riji*), the Committee had applied for the attendance of Government Delegates. The Minister and Vice-Minister of State for Finance, and Mr. Soné, Chief of the Accountants Bureau in the Finance Department, had attended. Various questions had been put and explanations given, with only the general result that the Delegates had remained firm in their declaration of inability to accept the Budget Committee's Report. The details of this part of the inquiry were given in the stenographic record. The Committee had then proceeded to consider amounts. Knowing that the Budget Committee's Report represented the leading ideas of the House, the Select Committee had made it the basis of their calculations. The Government Delegates had not been able on the 26th instant to make any concessions which the Committeee deemed satisfactory, and the sitting had been resumed on the 27th inst. at an early hour. No immediately favourable result had at first been attained, in spite of long conferences and careful investigations. The Committee had then asked for the attendance of the Minister President of State and the Minister of Finance, and renewing the negotiations, had declared that they could not consent to a smaller reduction than 7½ million *yen*. This sum had been fixed upon as representing the wishes of the majority of the House, as being an amount sufficiently large to afford substantial relief to tax-payers, and as indicating a considerable measure of administrative reform. The two Ministers of State had evinced much sympathy with the Committee's objects, but no definite result had been reached on the 27th inst. The following day, the Minister and Vice-Minister of Finance, as well as Mr. Soné, had attended, and explained that, while not differing in general from the Committee's views, it was wholly out of the question for the Government to agree to a reduction of 7½ millions. The utmost possible concession, they said, was a total of 6,312,001.77 *yen*, made up as follows, namely, Ordinary Expenditure 3,385,748.82 *yen*; Reserves 1,000,000 *yen*; Extraordinary Expenditure 926,252.91 *yen*; and Railway Construction Fund, 1,000,000 *yen*. Beyond this the Committee had not been able to obtain anything, and they had then to consider whether they would refrain from making any Report to the House in consequence of their failure to reach the desired result; or whether, seeing that the Government was determined to yield no more, they should simply report the facts and leave the House to decide. They had adopted the latter course, with the added recommendation that a further reduction should be made by cutting down the appropriation for Extraordinary Railway Construction from 250,000 *yen* to 50,000 *yen*, thus bringing the total reductions to 6,512,001 *yen*. The President announced that as the session was drawing to a close, the House should proceed to consider the Committee's Report that same day, after the noon recess. Mr. Shimada Saburo said that, as they had only just received the stenographic records, it would be well to extend the time of the midday recess in order to give the members an opportunity of studying the subject. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro spoke against this. He said that Mr. Shimada Saburo had been able to present a proposal in opposition to the Committee's Report before seeing the latter, and ought not therefore to be inconvenienced by such a trifle as want of time to read it. Mr. Kudo Kokan wanted to know whether Mr. Inouye himself had not approved the Report before its delivery to the House. Mr. Inouye replied that he had approved it after the printed copy had been placed in his hands. The President said that the House would take a recess from 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. On re-assembling, Count Matsukata addressed the House as follows:—"Gentlemen, having unfortunately been unable to accede to your application for its concurrence in respect of the amendments proposed by the Budget Committee in the Budget for the 24th year of *Meiji*, the Government put you to the trouble of reconsidering the question, and happily you appointed a Special Committee for the purpose of full consultation. That this consultation has resulted in an agreement, is a matter of national congratulation. The Government, being from the outset desirous of meeting the wishes of the House, has sought to make every possible reduction, and has accordingly given its concurrence to amendments proposed by your select Committee in items falling within the scope of the 67th Article of the Constitution. As for the reduction of superfluous expenditure, that is a duty which the Government is already endeavouring to discharge, and which it has no intention of neglecting in the future also. I trust, therefore, that you will be able at once to approve your Select Committee's Amended Report." Mr. Takagi Masatoshi asked for an explanation of the Committee's principle of procedure. He understood their President to say that they had set out by taking 7½ million *yen* as the total of reduction. Had they not exceeded their power in doing so? Further, he was unable to discover that any uniform system had been observed in applying reductions to the office expenses and travelling allowances in the various Departments. Mr. Tanaka Gentaro replied that the Committee had not exceeded their functions in any way. They had endeavoured, in the first place, to obtain the Government's consent to the Budget Committee's Report, but finding that quite hopeless, had then sought to accomplish a reduction of 7½ millions. The Government, after much conference, had agreed to 6½ millions, and the Committee had thought it wise to except that compromise as the best that could be done for the present year. The alternative was that the Budget would not come into existence, and that no reduction at all would be effected. The Government had expressed its earnest desire to meet the wishes of the people as conveyed through their representatives, but had explained that the brief interval remaining before the commencement of the next financial year could not possibly suffice to adapt administrative affairs to any sweeping fiscal changes. During the 24th year, however, preparations would gradually be made, and it was fully hoped that the object of the House would be ultimately achieved. The Government had pledged itself to adopt the spirit of the House's retrenchments, but could not, in the course of this year, effect more than the Report indicated. Mr. Kono Hironaka, while thanking the Committee, and applauding the trouble it had taken as shown by the stenographic records, thought that it should be asked to re-open conference with the Government. The chief function entrusted to the Committee had been to obtain the Government's concurrence in respect of items falling within the scope of Article 67 of the Constitution, but in that sphere very little had been accomplished. The original Budget contemplated a considerable increase in the *personnel* of the Administration. The Budget Committee's Report had proposed a considerable decrease. The House had hoped that the Select Committee would succeed in bringing the number down at least to the present establishment, but on the contrary, they found that an increase of 700 or 800 officials was still contemplated. He

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thought that the question of procuring for the long labours of the House partial success at the cost of considerable concessions should be kept quite apart from the purely financial issue, and that, whatever might be the fate of the Budget, the Select Committee ought to be asked to re-open conference with the Government. Mr. Sasaki Zenyemon opposed this proposition. It was quite plain that whatever steps the Committee might take, no result more substantial could be attained than they had now before them, whereas, on the other hand, they were threatened with the misfortune of the Budget's not being brought into existence, and consequently with failure to carry out their cherished reforms, Land Tax reduction and Land Assessment adjustment. Mr. Shimada Saburo expressed great disappointment that the committee had confined itself to mere figures, and had given no attention to the vital point of the House's debating competence. The Government's reply stated that in seeking to amend the Administrative organization and to alter the laws by means of the Budget, the House had transgressed the proper limits of its functions and powers. Was this so? Why had the Committee abstained from considering this phase of the matter? The figures in the Budget, however important they might be economically, only affected the finances of one year. But the rights of the House were matters of perpetual importance. If the House voted to reduce or reject certain of the fixed expenditures subject to the Government's concurrence, and if the Government concurred, then what was to prevent the Government from taking whatever steps might be necessary in the sequel of its concurrence, whether as to re-organization of the Administration or revision of laws? How did the House overstep its competence by applying for concurrence which it was distinctly entitled to apply for, no matter what consequences the granting of such concurrence might entail? He was astounded to find a disposition on the part of the House to pass over this grave question. Turning to the nature of the proposed reductions, he condemned them because they depended in great part on the abandonment of works of public utility which it might be necessary to undertake next year. Consequently the reductions were not permanent, whereas the desired diminution of the Land Tax would make a permanent deficit on the revenue side. He asked the Government Delegates to give a clear statement in respect of the charge that the House had exceeded its proper functions, and he utterly condemned the notion of departing from the position taken by the majority of the House merely because a Committee of nine members judged differently. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro said that Mr. Shimada's objection had been formulated three or four days before the publication of the Report to which it related. The House had better postpone the consideration of so wide a subject as the question of its deliberative competence, until time to examine it fully was available. He then pointed out that of the total reduction proposed by the Budget Committee the House had only power to vote, independently, a sum of less than three millions. If they did not accept the new Report, the certain alternative was that the Budget would not come into existence, and last year's Budget would be carried out. But the expenditure under last year's Budget was only 2,998,000 *yen* less than the expenditure under this year's Budget, whereas by endorsing the Select Committee's Report they would secure an economy of 6½ millions, which would enable them to carry out the reduction of the Land Tax and the revision of the Land Assessment. Better half a loaf than no bread. Mr. Arai Shogo contended that the Committee had exceeded its functions. It had been commissioned to treat only the expenditures under Article 67 of the Constitution, and it had treated the whole of the reductions made by the House. He thought that the Report should be returned for re-compilation. Mr. Oyagi Biichiro denied the truth of the last speaker's statement. The duty entrusted to the Committee had been to amend the Report. No limits whatever had been fixed, nor had one part been indicated to the exclusion of the remainder. Mr. Ozaki Yukio said that the duty of amending the Budget devolved upon the Budget Committee, and could not be entrusted to a Special Committee. The Special Committee had been appointed to discharge special and limited functions. He maintained that the Committee had no manner of business to meddle with the decisions recorded by the House in respect of items over which the House possessed independent control, and he denounced the want of spirit shown by the Committee in yielding simply because the Government stood firm. He was going on to condemn the procedure of the Government when Mr. Hamano Noboru called out:—"Does not Mr. Ozaki receive pay from Count Okuma?" This remark threw the House into some confusion, but Mr. Ozaki merely smiled and went on with his speech. The Government he said, bade them be content with 6½ millions this year, and promised great things for next year, but what reliance could be placed on such promises? If they had a Cabinet established by law, the case would be different, but the present Cabinet might be snuffed out of existence like a candle at any moment. Mr. Tanaka Shozo asked leave to bring in an urgency motion showing that the Committee's Report violated the 64th Article of the Constitution. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo ridiculed Mr. Ozaki Yukio's contention that the Committee had no business to meddle with items decided by a majority of the House. The Committee had been elected by a majority and commissioned by a majority: it represented the whole House for the purposes of its functions. Moreover, the Budget Committee had dealt with items falling within the independent competence of the House. The Select Committee was equally entitled to deal with such items. Mr. Ishida Kannosuke opposed the Report. He repeated the arguments of Mr. Shimada Saburo. The closure was put and carried. A closed ballot was then taken on the question of adopting the Select Committee's Report, the result being 157 "ayes" and 125 "noes." The Revenue side of the Budget was then voted, and the President was about to put the third reading of the whole Budget as amended, when Mr. Misaki urged that the Government's concurrence had not yet been publicly given. The Vice-Minister of Finance ascended the rostrum and formally announced the Government's concurrence. The third reading was then passed without question, and the House rose at 4.45 p.m.

MARCH 3RD.

The House met at 10.40 a.m. The President announced the receipt of various draft Bills from members, of a reply from the Minister of State for Education with reference to the withdrawal of the subsidy to the Keiogijuku University and the specially licensed Schools, and of various replies to other questions. Mr. Minoura Kanaye explained his Bill for the amendment of the Registration Law. He said that his object was to put an end to abuses that had arisen since the introduction of the Great Ledger. After some debate the Bill was thrown out. Another Bill for amending the same Law was introduced by Mr. Okada Riyoichiro and discussed at considerable length, but ultimately rejected. Mr. Ooka Ikuzo then received permission to change the Orders of the Day in order to bring forward a Bill for excising the 11th Article of the Rules for the Reorganization of the Law Courts. The Bill was thrown out. Mr. Amano Saburo, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, gave an account of the work of the Committee in respect of numerous petitions relating to alterations of local boundaries. Mr. Kikuchi Kanji, on behalf of the Special Committee on the Weights and Measures Bill, reported that the Committee had found the Bill a good measure. As for the employment of the metre standard, it was a question of purely scientific character, not inviting any objection. There had been some discussion in the Committee as to whether it might not be better to confine the manufacture of weights and measures to official hands, but ultimately the Committee had decided to recommend no change in this respect. The only amendment proposed was to retain the clause at the end of the 13th Article of the Bill, providing that the catty should be 160 *me*. The Upper House had altered this, and it would consequently be necessary to hold a conference if the Lower House adopted the Committee's suggestion. Expedition was therefore important, and the Committee asked that the Orders of the Day might be changed so as to permit of their Report being debated at once. At this point a stranger, said to present the appearance of a *soshi*, threw from the gallery at Mr. Inouye Kakugoro a quality of horse-dung wrapped in a newspaper. The parcel missed its aim and descended upon the seat of No. 77, who fortunately happened to be absent at the moment. Several members objected to the introduction of the Weights and Measures Bill, as they had not brought copies of the Bill or other documents connected with it, not having anticipated that it would come up for discussion. The third reading of the Copyright Bill was passed, and the House proceeded to the first reading of a Bill for postponing the operation of the new Local Government system for Cities, Prefectures, and Districts. After a short debate and a detailed speech in opposition by the Government Delegate, the second reading of the Bill was passed by 82 votes to 59. The House rose at 4.05 p.m.

MARCH 4TH.

The House met at 11 a.m. The President announced that Mr. Takagi Masatoshi had submitted a Bill for amending the new Commercial Code; also that the person who had thrown a newspaper containing horse-dung in the House the previous day was a youth aged 16, by name Matsumoto Kiuichi, the eldest son of a *shizoku* living at No. 10, Izumi-cho, Sakurada, in the Shiba District. As the act had been an insult to the House, the President thought that the House should institute a prosecution. Mr. Imai Isoichiro asked who had introduced the youth. The President said that it was not yet known. No objection was raised to the course suggested by the President. The House proceeded with the first reading of the Weights and Measures Bill. Mr. Saito Shinichiro, Government Delegate, said a few words as to the great importance of the Bill, the admirable combination of despatch and accuracy shown by the Committee in reporting on it, and the desirability of its being passed during the present session. Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro opposed the Bill. He claimed that the so-called reforms included in it were purely nominal. Such a measure as that of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who changed the Nara *masu* of 15 *go* into the fixed *masu* ever since employed, was a genuine reform. But for all this new talk about thousandths of an inch and a combination of metals compensating one another's alterations, the only result would be a beautiful piece of accurate mechanism lying in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and the same old bamboo measures and rough weights in use among the people. He went on to say that the change of weights and measures necessitated by the Bill would only give opportunity to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to show favour to special merchants, who would receive the job of making the new instruments. He also ridiculed the course followed by Professor Kikuchi in the Upper House, who had exhibited to the members certain weights and measures now in use by way of illustrating their conspicuous divergence from the standards. That simply amounted to saying that because there were abuses, the system itself must be wrong. He concluded by declaring that the present weights and measures sufficed very well for all practical purposes, and by denouncing the Bill as another example of official interference with the people's business. It would merely be a means of increasing the burdens already borne by the lower classes. Mr. Tanaka Shozo supported the last speaker. Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu denounced Mr. Takanashi's arguments as becoming only in the mouth of a person opposed to all the principles of civilized progress. Mr. Suzuki Manjuro followed in the same strain, and pointed out the absurdity of claiming that

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the present system of weights and measures was sufficient. He said that Mr. Takanashi's argument, if pushed to its logical issue, meant that in savage times when men measured a foot by the length of their own and a *ken* by extending their arms, there was no need of any change. Mr. Takanashi had intended to oppose the Bill, but in reality he had furnished arguments to its supporters. The closure was put and carried, and the House proceeded at once to the second reading. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi proposed an amendment to the effect that the manufacture of all weights and measures should be officially undertaken, and that the Bill should be returned to the Committee for inquiry in that sense. Asked whether such a step was consistent with the hope of passing the Bill during the present session, he said that to defer an imperfect measure would be a gain, not a loss. The closure was moved and carried, and Mr. Takagi's amendment lost. The House then passed the second and third readings. On re-assembling after the mid-day recess, Mr. Matsunami Koga moved that a Special Committee be appointed to determine what Bills should be submitted to the Committee provided for in Article 25 of the Law of the Houses (namely, the Committee for continuing the examination of Bills during the interval when the Diet is not sitting). The House voted urgency for the motion, and passed it without debate. Mr. Koma Shiku, on behalf of the Committee appointed to examine the Bill for the Special Amendment of Land Assessment, reported that there had been considerable difference of opinion in the Committee, and that a Minority Report would be presented. The majority, however, had agreed to recommend the Bill with slight amendments. The Minority Report was made by Mr. Koritsune. It condemned the Bill altogether, on the ground that to determine the assessment by the price of rice alone, would be an insufficient and unjust measure. The Minority held that re-assessment was not a matter to be lightly undertaken by mere arithmetical calculations, and recommended that the question be postponed until next session. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, on behalf of the Newspaper Regulations Bill Committee, then made a Report. Mr. Higashio moved that precedence be given to the Land Assessment Bill, and the House endorsed the motion. After considerable debate the House voted against the second reading by 125 to 107, many members being avowedly influenced by the feeling that to attempt the consideration of so important a measure at this late stage of the session would be a fruitless task. The President announced 25 Bills and Representations for consideration the following day, and the House rose at 5.15 p.m.

MARCH 5TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. The President announced the receipt of various Bills, and that the Minister of Foreign Affairs had signified his intention of answering the questions addressed to the Government some time ago by Mr. Misaki and Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, the former reply to be given at 11 o'clock, the latter at 1 o'clock. Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, on behalf of the Committee appointed to determine what Bills should be submitted for examination by the Continuing Committee between the Sessions of the House, reported that 81 Bills and other measures had been submitted to the House since the beginning of the Session, and 15 or 16 might be said to have been disposed of. A list of those which the Committee proposed to submit had been circulated among the members. It was recommended that the Continuing Committee should consist of 27 members, and that it should sit for 100 days, at most. There had been much discussion as to the remuneration of the Committee, but the majority had finally voted for 3 *yen* per diem. The Minister for Foreign Affairs then spoke as follows:—"Gentlemen—I propose to answer briefly the questions addressed to the Government on the 24th of December by Mr. Misaki and others. I had hoped to give you the required explanations at an early date, but various business, coupled with my desire to be in a position to tell you as much as possible of what has been under discussion, must plead my excuse for delay. Now, however, since you are on the eve of returning to your homes, I feel it to be my duty to afford you whatever information is permissible. The gist of Mr. Misaki's inquiry is whether the Government, in negotiating the Revision of Treaties, looks to recover the Empire's Judicial Autonomy and Tariff Autonomy together and in their entirety, or whether it looks to recover them in part only. To such a brief inquiry, I purpose giving a brief answer. With regard to the first query, whether we look to recover Judicial Autonomy and Tariff Autonomy together and in their entirety, I can only answer, I need scarcely say that the full recovery of both together is our wish and that we should gladly accomplish it, but in carrying out an affair of of such magnitude, proper steps of procedure must be followed. If, in traversing a plain, one comes to a river, a bridge must be built to cross it. The Government, in carrying out this work, is equally compelled to build a bridge, and the only question is, what shall the length of the bridge be. It is the Government's earnest wish to make the bridge as short as possible. With regard to the second question, whether we look to recover a portion now and to complete the recovery at a later date, I may say that, practically, our idea is to complete the recovery at a future date. Only, as I have already said, we shall of course spare no effort to curtail as much as may be the interval preceding completion. You will perhaps ask for further information on the subject of recovering a portion of our autonomy. Such a course applies especially to the case of the Tariff. Foreigners have acquired certain Tariff privileges under the Treaties and are in actual enjoyment of them. To revoke those privileges at once would be difficult, and not only the Government, but I also, hold that view." The Minister was about to decend from the rostrum when Mr. Tanaka Shozo said he had a question to put, and Viscount Aoki remained in the rostrum. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro:—"Speak from the rostrum, please, Mr. Tanaka." Mr. Tanaka:—"Don't make rude suggestions. The rostrum is already occupied." Mr. Inouye:—"Why do you call it rude to suggest that you should speak from the rostrum?" Mr. Tanaka:—"There is an *okiyakusama* (guest) there already." Viscount Aoki laughingly vacated the rostrum and Mr. Tanaka occupying it, said that he was much obliged to Mr. Inouye for enabling him to reach the rostrum. When the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs addressed the House on a previous occasion, he had said that the foreign affairs of the country were not limited to Treaty Revision: there were other things to be dealt with. In view of that somewhat confident assertion, they had hoped to hear to-day that the Government proposed to recover Tariff Autonomy and Judicial Autonomy completely and to conclude Treaties with Foreign Powers on equal terms. But judging by what the Minister had just told them, it appeared that the policy contemplated did not differ over much from the programme of Count Inouye. He did not seek to pry into matters that ought to be kept secret, but he wished to know in what respects the programme of the present Cabinet differed from the programme of its predecessors. Viscount Aoki said:—"Mr. Tanaka has propounded a question difficult to answer. But if you read carefully what I said when I last had the honour to address you on this subject, I think you will perceive, that while admitting the existence of defective features in the programmes of Counts Inouye and Okuma, I did not undertake to make a signal display of superiority (literally, to overthrow them finely by a display of wrestling). As for my statement that other matters than Treaty Revision called for attention, it was merely intended to account for the impossibility of devoting exclusive attention to this matter. By way of example, I referred to the opportunities afforded by our country's coal resources, and I pointed out to you that, geographically speaking, America's back is turned to us. That, of course, was purely from a geographical aspect and had no relation whatever to the close relations consisting between the two countries. Of course, I did not mean to imply that, either morally or politically, the two countries occupy such a position towards each other. But it is not possible for me to explain exactly in what respect the proposals of Counts Inouye and Okuma differ from mine, for though their projects are now things of the past, mine forms the subject of actual negotiation." Mr. Yoshino Seikei, on behalf of the Special Committee for the Registration Bill, then reported that the Committee found, on examination, that the Registration Law now in force was founded on Notifications issued in 1871 and 1886, and was unsuited to existing conditions. The Law now proposed seemed a very suitable measure, and the Committee had not found any points sufficiently calling for amendment to require the return of the Bill to the Peers. The House then proceeded with the first reading of the Bill. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo, while approving the general principle of the Bill, opposed its adoption because he thought that the means provided by it for determining personal status were too trivial. Mr. Kuroda Tsunahiko, Government Delegate, combatted this objection, explaining that the system proposed had great advantages in respect of convenience and economy. Mr. Minobe Teiriyo objected to three points in the amendments adopted by the Peers, and urged that, in view of the importance of the measure, and of the fact that it was not to come into operation till 1893, it should be handed over to the Continuing Committee and discussed at length hereafter. Mr. Shirane, Government Delegate, urged that the Bill should be passed this session, for though its operation was to be deferred until 1893, the interval remaining was barely sufficient to make the necessary preparations. The House then voted the second reading. On reassembling after the mid-day recess, the President announced that a notification had been received intimating that the closing ceremony of the Diet would take place on the 8th instant in the chief hall (*Hometden*) of the Imperial Palace. The Minister of Foreign Affairs then addressed the House as follows:—"Gentlemen, I propose to reply to certain questions addressed by Mr. Inouye Kakugoro and 33 other members to the Government on the 9th of February. With regard to the first question, namely, whether the Korean Government borrowed money from the Specie Bank of Yokohama, Count Inouye Kaoru endorsing the transaction, I have to say that the Japanese Government has no official cognisance of such a transaction, and the statement that the customs dues of Fusan and two other ports were hypothecated as security is incorrect. The document relating to the loan did indeed contain a clause that in the event of the Korean Government failing to discharge the debt, the customs dues at Fusan and elsewhere should be appropriated for the purpose. But on enquiring from the Specie Bank—the Foreign Office having no knowledge of the affair— it turns out that the instalments of the debt have been duly paid, except that for last year, application for which is now being made. The instalment for 1889 was only paid in April, 1890, and there is therefore no reason to suppose that the instatement for 1890 will not come to hand in due course. Under these circumstances no action on the part of the Government has seemed necessary. With regard to the second question, the facts stated are not correct. Inquiries made by the Government show that the Chinese serving in the Korean Customs are actually Korean employés, and the Korean Government represents them as its own officials. The point relating to ginsing in the same question is one of great difficulty. In the 6th article of the Trande Regulations between China and Korea, it is provided that Koreans exporting ginsing across the Chinese frontier must pay a duty of 15 per cent., while if Chinese attempt to export it, the punishment is confiscation. It many seem from the sixth article that any other nationals would be free to export the drug on paying a duty of 15 per cent., but the Korean Government exercises such close supervision over the staple from the time of its production till the moment of export that no one seems to have attempted the business. Moreover, the use of ginsing in Japan is very small, having been virtually confined to the period

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when Dutch physicians practised here. There could be no profit in importing it. As to the third question, something of the kind is said to have occurred, but there is no information more certain than that furnished by a newspaper report. Above all, there has been no complaint from the parties concerned, and consequently the Government has not been called on to take action. Of course if a complaint were received through the proper channels, the Government would not fail to adopt whatever measures might be necessary." Mr. Inouye Kakugoro acknowledged the minuteness with which the Foreign Minister had answered his inquiries, and said that he should raise no question now as to the correctness of the Minister's information. Should it turn out that the information was not correct, the responsibility would rest with the Minister, and for his part he was content to let the matter stand over. As for the statement that Count Inouye had not gone security, the fact was not now capable of concealment. He also believed that the Korean Government had not made any payment for 1885, but that the fact had been glossed over. It seemed to him, further, that for all practical purposes the customs dues of the three ports had been hypothecated for the debt, while as to the question of whether the Korean Customs Service was independent or not, they had only to look to the locality of the head customs office. He also claimed that the permission to export ginsing into China on payment of a duty of 15 per cent. must be extended to Japanese, or else most-favoured-nation treatment was not enjoyed. The claim that little of the drug was used in Japan meant nothing, since the profit looked for lay in exporting it from Nagasaki to Hongkong and Shanghai, where a quantity costing only a *yen* originally fetched 15 *yen*. Finally, the affair of Hashimoto Gentaro was publicly known, and he thought that the Government ought to take cognisance of it. If the failure of the sufferers to complain was a reason for leaving them unaided, he failed to see the use of sending Japanese Ministers and Consuls abroad. He must leave the House to judge between the Minister's statement and his own. In conclusion he begged to say that five years travel in Korea, from 1881 to 1886, China, and Russia, had not impressed him with a favourable idea of Japan's policy towards those countries, and he earnestly hoped that a more decided line would be adopted in future. Viscount Aoki said that it might seem as though nothing had been done in the affair of Hashimoto Gentaro, but in truth the facts already stated by him had been ascertained before the receipt of Mr. Inouye's question. He was pleased that Mr. Inouye had spoken about the country's policy towards China and Korea. The incident of 1884 and other matters had, perhaps, caused a change in that policy. He himself had been in Europe at the time, and could not speak with accuracy, but the present intention was to pursue, as far as possible, a uniform and unchanging policy. Foreign relations sometimes demanded an expenditure of blood and treasure, and were not to be treated lightly, but the Government hoped to raise Japan's prestige as high as possible in the Orient. Mr. Inouye expressed himself quite satisfied. Mr. Takanashi complained that the questions put by him as to the Osaruzawa Copper Mine had only elicited a brief written reply. He thought that such a course was contrary to the Law of the Houses, and he had accordingly presented an urgency motion to that effect, but it had not as yet come up for hearing. He then entered into some particulars as to the history of the mine—particulars already published—and asserted that nothing could be more unsatisfactory than the information afforded by the Government. Mr. Awatane Shinazo observed that Mr. Takanashi had moved for the committal of Mr. Mutsu, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, to the Disciplinary Committee, and was now pressing enquiries so presistently in respect to that Department, that it really seemed as if the House were having another edition of Mr. Tanaka Shozo and Count Goto. Had Mr. Takanashi any private grudge against Mr. Mutsu? Mr. Takanashi replied that of all the Departments of the Government, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce called for most criticism, and Mr. Mutsu, as its head, had to bear the attack. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho said that he also desired to make an urgency motion in the same sense as that of Mr. Takanashi, namely, with regard to the general question whether a written reply could properly be given to questions preferred under the provisions of Article 48 of the Law of the Houses. The motion of Mr. Takanashi was then put and carried. An urgency motion was then introduced by Mr. Nakamura Yaroku for a supplementary estimate appropriating five hundred thousand *yen* to purposes of preparing for the Chicago International Exhibition of 1893. Mr. Nakamura spoke in support of the motion, dwelling upon the importance of making Japanese products known in foreign markets, and speaking in very strong terms of the close relations of friendship existing between the United States and Japan. The House agreed to allow urgency for the motion, and also for a motion by Mr. Suzuki Shoji that the Bill already handed in with regard to Local Government Divisions should be taken after the Bill relating to the postponement of the date of putting the new Local Government system for Cities and Prefectures into operation. Leave having been obtained to change the Orders of the Day, Mr. Nakamura's motion was taken. After a brief debate the motion was carried, and the House proceeded to the second reading of the Bill for postponing the date of operation of the Local Government System for Cities and Prefectures. After a short debate, the House voted the second reading by 116 to 69 and the third reading by 102 to 52. The House then took the Bill on Local Government Divisions, which was rejected. The House rose at 4.42 p.m., the President having announced 48 Bills and other matters for debate the next day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

KARUIZAWA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I was at Karuizawa a few days ago. The two days I spent there were bright, and without wind. Out of doors in the daytime it was warm and pleasant. At night, however, it was quite cold; about two inches of water in a tumbler, in my bed-room, had frozen to solid ice in the morning. There was no snow on the plain, except in shaded spots. Even Asama's coat seemed quite thin.

I was told there would be no troops there this year; but that there was some talk of moving the barracks from Takasaki there, in a year or two.

A man informed me that there had been no influenza cases at Karuizawa. I was told that the lowest reading in the village of the thermometer, this year, was 16, but that on the *toge* it had been as low as 6. At 8 a.m., on the morning I was there, the thermometer in the village hotel showed 26.

On the road between Yokogawa and Karuizawa, I passed a number of railway surveyors at work. I hear the line is to be finished in two years, have seven tunnels, and in some places be graded one in twelve. The locomotive to be used in this climb, will have gearing working on a centre toothed rail. The station is to be at New Karuizawa; and already land has gone up in its neighborhood considerably in value.

In a shop at Yokogawa I saw the carcasses of several deer and hares.

In the neighbourhood of Takasaki a fellow-passenger pointed out to me a number of mounds. He told me that this was the site of an old battle field, and that these mounds were where the dead had been gathered in heaps, and covered with earth. He said that in making the railway, a great number of bones and pieces of armour had been unearthed.

I remain, Sir, yours truly, E. F.
February 27th, 1891.

WAS IT A FREAK OF MEMORY?

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—To psychologists certain phenomena of the memory are among the most puzzling of their science. I refer to the ease with which some minds forget that which they labour hard to retain, and the persistence with which others remember and repeat what has, apparently only shadow like, touched them. The well known fact published by Coleridge, of the German girl, who, in sickness repeats long passages from classical and rabbinical writings, which, it was learned, she, without conscious attention had heard her master read aloud years before, is a standard illustration of this mysterious mental operation. Many other illustrations might be given. Has the *Mail* just brought to light an addition to this catalogue of inexplicables? Two bits of writing which have lately been republished in the *Mail's* columns raise the question. With the exception of a very few words, Sir Edwin Arnold's sentences are an exact repetition of those of Mr. Wigmore. I say repetition, since Mr. Wigmore's words were written in June, 1890, and Sir Edwin's five months later. Memory's oddities sometimes put one face to face with embarrassing though interesting questions.

J. H. Wigmore, in New York *Nation*, dated Tokyo, June, 1890.

"Kwaigi (sometimes called *Gi-ln*) met in July, 1875, at the *Hongwanji* (a temple), and was hailed as a decisive token that the promise of 1868 was in process of fulfilment. It consisted, of course, of appointed officials only, but the Government treated it as the mouth-piece of the people, and undoubtedly regarded the method of selection of its members as only temporary. An imperial speech opened the session, and the able Kido (the "brain and pen" of the Restoration) was appointed *Gi-cho* (President). There were seventy delegates, who were either governors or their deputies. Rules of procedure had already been drawn up by the Government. The results of this first session were not at all promising. The Assembly occupied most of its time in discussing a system of roads and bridges laid before it by the Government. The meetings were not opened to the public or to the press, and the publication of the debates by the Government did not mitigate the general dissatisfaction which this caused. The Assembly itself showed a conservatism which did not tend to commend it to the people. In a discussion on the proposition to establish a national representative assembly, the vote was to constitute it of *ku-cho* and *ko-cho* (county and town mayors, appointed by the Government). At the same time its influence was weakened by contrast with the action of some of the citizens of local prominence, who had been brought up to Tokyo by the governors to assist with their advice. These met and drew up a memorial asking for an assembly founded on popular election. . . . Finally on October 12th, 1881, came the well-known decree establishing a parliament in 1890."

Sir Edwin Arnold, in *Daily Telegraph*, dated Tokyo, November, 29th, 1890.

"The Kwaiji met in July, 1875, at the Hongwanji-fa temple), and was hailed as a decisive token that the promise of 1868 was in process of fulfilment. It consisted, of course, of appointed officials only, but the Government treated it as the mouthpiece of the people, and undoubtedly regarded the method of selection of its members as only temporary. An imperial speech opened the session, and the able Kido (the "brain and pen" of the Restoration) was appointed *Gi-cho* (President). There were seventy delegates, who were either governors or their deputies. Yet the results of this first session were not at all promising. The Assembly occupied most of its time in discussing a system of roads and bridges laid before it by the Government. The meetings were not opened to the public or to the press, and the publication of the debates by the Government did not mitigate the general disatisfaction which this caused. The Assembly itself showed a conservatism which did not tend to commend it to the people. At the same time its influence was weakened by contrast with the action of some of the citizens of local prominence, who had been brought up to Tokyo by the governors to assist with their advice. These met, and drew up a memorial asking for an Assembly founded on popular election. Finally, on Oct. 12, 1881, came the well-known decree establishing a Parliament in 1890."

Very truly yours, PSYCHOLOGIST.
Tokyo, February 28th, 1891.

EDUCATION FOR SONS OF MISSIONARIES AND OTHER TOKYO BOYS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your leader of to-day you remark that owing to the closing of a school in Tsukiji the Missionaries in Tokyo find themselves without a school to which to send their sons.

Surely the distance between Yokohama and Tokyo is not sufficient to raise any serious or insuperable barrier to these boys being sent to the Victoria Public School? They would receive there a first-rate education, and would materially assist in supporting an institution, working under a Committee enjoying the fullest public confidence and having Bishop Bickersteth as Chairman.

With such a school available, and in need of pupils, a new school for boys would seem superfluous.

Yours faithfully, A PROFESSOR.
Tokyo, March 4th, 1891.

For Prostration use Horsford's Acid Phosphate.

Dr. N. I. Butler, L.K.Q.C.P., 52, Longstone-road, Eastbourn, says: "I have used it in convalescence from acute diseases (fever, etc.), where there was profound prostration, with complete loss of appetite. Its effects were very quickly manifested and most satisfactory. I have also used it in cases of general debility with the good results. I regard as a most valuable addition to our materia medica."

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YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club was held on the 27th ult. Mr. N. J. Hannen presided, and among those present were Messrs. W. L. Merriman, W. B. Walford, J. Rickett, F. Walkinshaw, E. O. Kenyon, G. B. Watson, G. Hood, E. Abbey, W. D. S. Edwards, E. B. S. Edwards, J. P. Mollison, C. Gibbens, F. H. Hooper, H. C. Litchfield, A. Hearne, A. H. Stewart, T. Brewer, W. W. Till, G. W. Barton, C. S. Averill, Archer, Geo. Philip, E. Morriss, C. H. Balfour, R. Abenheim, H. V. Henson, K. F. Crawford (Hon. Sec.).

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure he might congratulate everybody on the success of the Club during the past year. Their accounts were just to the good a little better than they were last year, and he believed there was still a subscription going on, so that the members might consider themselves a little better off than the statement of accounts made them out to be. Throughout the various paragraphs of the report they would see that in every one of the departments except athletics they had been most successful during the course of the year. If was somewhat to be regretted that the athletic meeting did not come off last autumn, but it had always been found throughout the time that he had been here that there were periods during which one particular sport was neglected, but it was also found that that sport always revived after a little while, so that no one need despair about athletics, and the chances were that next autumn they would be able to bring off as successful an athletic meeting as ever before. As he had already said, they were successful throughout in their contests with Kobe, and generally in their other contests, and, what was exceedingly pleasant to him and would no doubt be so to the whole of the Club, was that for the first time during the existence of the Club they had succeeded in beating somebody at baseball.—(Applause.) Hitherto when they played against other teams they had been ignominiously defeated, but during the past year, and for that they had to thank Mr. Merriman, they had succeeded in retrieving their laurels. The members would see that though the report was very pleasant, it really suggested a beautiful insect with a great big sting in its tail.—(Laughter.) For when they came to look at the pavilion they found they had to spend a lot of money on it. At the end of the year—he was speaking of the repairs to the pavilion only, and not of the water—they would be if they undertook those repairs probably something like $180 to the bad, and if they succeeded in the following year in wiping that off it was as much as they could expect, and he did not think the Club should regret if during the coming year they should prove a little bit to the bad in their accounts. He proposed that they should take the report as read, and that any one who had any general remarks to make on the report, except in regard to the question of the pavilion, should make them, and the Committee, and himself to the best of his ability, would answer any questions that might be put. The question of the pavilion would, he thought, probably necessitate considerable discussion, and for the convenience of the members that discussion should take place while they were electing the committee. He therefore proposed the adoption of the report. It did not commit them to anything, because the Committee had only mentioned what the repairs to the pavilion were, but had not recommended that they should be done. He proposed that the report and accounts be approved, leaving to a later period the discussion as to the paragraphs with regard to the pavilion. Before he sat down he could not help remarking on this, possibly the last occasion on which he would preside there, that during the course of the present year they had lost one who was really the originator of the Club, Mr. E. Abbott. It was owing to his energy and to the amount of work he did that a lot of scattered clubs were gathered into one, and made the Cricket and Athletic Club the Club it now is. He devoted so much time to it that he succeeded in doing what had for many years been wanted, but could not be accomplished, and he (Mr. Hannen) could not help at this time calling to the minds of the members the fact that he had passed away. How much he was regretted only those who were intimately associated with him would know.—(Applause.)

Mr. WALKINSHAW seconded Mr. Hannen's proposal.

The CHAIRMAN invited questions, but none being asked, put the report and accounts to the meeting and they were approved of.

The following were the report and accounts :—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Y.C. & A.C. SEASON 1890-1891.

In submitting the Report for the past year, the Committee have much pleasure in congratulating the members on another successful season.

ACCOUNTS.—The Committee beg to lay before the members a statement of accounts for the past financial year showing a balance of $5.56, after having paid the ground-rent up to the 1st of January, 1892, besides which there is a good stock of gear carried over for the coming season, only a small further outlay being necessary.

CRICKET.—The season of 1890 may be considered a very satisfactory one. The number of matches played, eleven, is the same as in 1889. Three were against the Fleet, and two against the Kobe Cricket Club, all of which were won easily by the Club, though time nearly deprived us of victory in the return match with the latter. The other matches played were the Eleven v. The Next Twenty Two, Bluff v. Settlement, and four scratch matches. Larger, and more frequent, individual scores have been made than heretofore, due probably to the excellent pitch which the Club now possesses. The Interport Matches were watched with great interest, and some of the best batting seen here for sometime was shown on both sides. The highest average falls to Mr W. D. S. Edwards with 122.1 for 8 innings, in 6 of which he was not out, which materially helps. Mr. Walkinshaw comes second with 53.2 for 10 innings, once not out, and is also credited with the highest individual score of 117, against Kobe. Mr. Crawford is again third with 49.6 for 12 innings, twice not out. These averages are far and away higher than any recorded for some years. In bowling Mr. W. D. S. Edwards also takes first honours, with the good average of 4.7 runs per wicket, Mr. Walford being a good second with 6.7 runs per wicket, though the latter took 35 wickets to the former's 31. In Messrs E. B. S. Edwards and G. Watson, the Club have acquired two good cricketers who strengthen the Eleven very materially, both in batting and bowling, and it is hoped they will be able to play as often during next season as is possible.

ATHLETICS.—Owing to the small number of entries for the usual Autumn Athletic Meeting, it was decided not to hold one, which is to be regretted as it shows a lack of interest in this branch of sport.

FOOTBALL.—The revival of interest which commenced last season has more than been maintained during the present one. In addition to the many interesting games played amongst members, assisted by players from the Navy, we have had the pleasure of receiving a second visit from our Kobe friends, and after a very fast and exciting game proved victorious by 4 goals to nil. The Match was won mainly through the strong combination of our team doing their utmost to play an unselfish passing game. The team has been strengthened by several new members, notably Messrs. E. B. S. Edwards, Barton, and MacNeil, who played up well in the Interport Match, and did more than their share towards winning it. The selection of the team proved an extremely difficult task owing to so many members playing alike, and after much consideration the one which played was decided on, and more than upheld the honours of the Club. Mr. G. Watson would have played, had he not been disabled at the last moment, and would no doubt have proved another useful addition to our football strength.

BASEBALL.—During the past year there has been quite a revival of interest in this game. Several matches were played against nines from the U.S.S. *Omaha*, in all of which the Club was victorious. New balls and a good selection of bats were got over from America, the gear, etc., for the game now being in better condition than ever before. It is hoped that new blood may be introduced during the coming season and the interest in the game not allowed to flag.

LAWN TENNIS.—The courts have been in good order throughout. A handicap played in the Spring attracted a large number of competitors, and after being well contested was won by Mr. W. F. Page, for whom a suitable prize was provided. In the autumn it was impossible to arrange anything of the kind on account of the increased interest in Cricket, and the playing of the annual tournaments on the Ladies Lawn Tennis ground. Two new nets have been provided, but some further expenditure in the same direction will be necessary in the coming year. There are 6 dozen new balls in hand.

PAVILION.—The Committee find that it will be necessary to spend a considerable amount of money on the Pavilion, and now place the matter before the members for consideration. The staircases and floors are quite rotten, the roof is very much out of order, and the majority of the pillars require renewing. Besides it is proposed to make the dressing room more comfortable generally. Five Estimates, including painting, &c., have been obtained, running from $537.40 to $424.90. Another question for consideration is the advisability of laying on the water supply. Two Estimates have been obtained from the Water Works office, the first amounting to $129.50, and the second to $110.84 provided the owner of the house adjoining the pavilion will allow of the pipe being taken through his garden. The reason of this large estimate is mainly due to the long length of piping required to bring the water from the street main into the building.

The present Committee beg to tender their resignations with every good wish for the continued prosperity and success of the Club.

THE HONORARY TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

1891.—January 31. Dr.		
To Gear account		
Cricket and Lawn Tennis	$214.59	
Baseball	29.44	
4 Garden Seats	27.25	
Looking Glasses and Lamps	6.50	
Football	14.00	$291.78
Working Expenses		
Momban's Wages and Present	$125.00	
2nd and 3rd Momban's Wages for 7½ months each	97.50	
Coolies, Tennis Boys, &c., Cutting Grass, Rolling, Weeding, &c.	403.43	625.93
Repairs to Fence and Painting same		62.38
Repairs to Pavilion		10.75
Printing, Advertising and Stationery		18.58
Collecting Subscriptions		10.20
Fire Insurance $1,200—1 year to 1st September, 1891		24.50
Match Expenses		58.22
Athletic Sports—6 Tsubo of ashes		15.00
Mourning wreath for the late Mr. E. Morriss		12.00
Ground Rent to January 1st, 1892		328.12
Balance carried forward to next Season's account		5.56
		$1,471.62

1890.—January 31. Cr.		
By Balance brought forward from Season 1889/1890		$ 3.69
1891.—January 31. Subscriptions,		
2nd Half Season 1889/1890	$ 5.00	
1st Half Season 1890/1892	565.00	
2nd Half Season 1890/1891	580.00	
Tokyo Members	55.00	1,185.00
Entrance Fees,		
25 New Members		125.00
Subscriptions from H.M. Ships		120.00
Bonus on Insurance for 1888		3.00
Gear account,		
Hire of Tent	15.00	
Cricket bats sold to members	18.00	33.00
Interest on account with Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, Limited		1.93
		$1,471 62

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, 31st January, 1891.

W. D. S. EDWARDS, Act. Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

J. A. JEFFREY, C. H. BALFOUR, } Auditors.

The CHAIRMAN explained that under the rules the election of a President came first, then that of a Vice-President and Captain of Cricket, and lastly that of seven members of Committee to whom it was left to distribute the work amongst themselves.

It was announced amid applause that the ballot for President had resulted in the election of Mr. Hannen.

Mr. WALKINSHAW's election as Vice-President and Captain of Cricket was received also with applause.

While the ballot for the Committee was proceeding,

Mr. WALKINSHAW said before any member made any remarks he would like to point out one matter in reference to the laying on of the water. Besides the estimate given here of $424.90, which was the lowest obtained, there was a further expenditure to be incurred amounting to $27, and there was also $110.84 for the cost of laying on the water. During the past few days he had received a communication from Mr. Walford, who intimated that he was willing to pay half the amount of those two items, $137.84, if the other half could be raised by subscription.—(Applause.) He had to thank Mr. Walford for his kind offer on behalf of the members of the Club, and he hoped they could see their way to do as suggested without burdening the Club more than they could help. They had to expend $400, which included repairs to the pavilion, putting it in good order, painting it, and making everything as comfortable as possible. The idea of the $27 was to extend the present rooms and take in the bath rooms, so as, the water being laid on, to provide shower baths.

The CHAIRMAN thought the best way to raise discussion was for some one to propose that it be a recommendation to the Committee to carry out to the best of their ability the repairs mentioned in the paragraph with reference to the pavilion.

Mr. MOLLISON thought the Committee, before taking upon themselves the expenditures of such a large sum, should have authority for doing so from the general body of the members. He proposed that a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Walford; that his kind offer be accepted; and that the other half of the amount of $137 be raised by subscription as suggested. As to the expenses in connection with the pavilion, he proposed that the members authorise the Committee to spend whatever they thought was necessary in that direction.

Mr. GIBBENS seconded.

Mr. MOLLISON said it was a large sum but he did not think the incoming Committee should be required to spend it on their own responsibility.

Mr. WALKINSHAW intimated that he had already received $20 towards the other half of the total of $137 from Mr. Hannen.—(Applause.)

The motion of Mr. MOLLISON was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The scrutineers (Messrs. RICKETT and HENSON) not yet having finished their work,

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that the amount still required was $48.92, and invited subscriptions.

Mr. WALKINSHAW said as the members had done him the honour of reelecting him Vice-President and Captain of Cricket he would like to say a few words on the subject of cricket. It was remarked the other day to him that the second eleven did not get as much cricket as they ought to, and the suggestion he had now to offer for the consideration of the incoming Committee to work on was that if some gentlemen would be willing to get up matches among the younger members of the Club and those who were not able to play in what he might be allowed to call the better Cricket Matches, he would be quite willing to lend what aid he could. But he could not undertake to get up both a first and a second cricket

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eleven. If any one therefore would offer some suggestion as to the best way of getting it done, he would be most happy to assist in carrying it out, so as to give everybody a chance of playing cricket as much as possible. The cricket season, as would be seen, had been most successful, and what they wanted now was to try to get some of the younger members to come forward, and help the other cricketers who now represented Yokohama. If the matter could be worked properly there was no reason why they should not greatly improve their cricket, and so be able to give a good account of themselves wherever they went. For they must remember that they always played best on their own ground, and that though they had beaten Kobe here they must look forward to going down to Kobe as the Kobe team had come up here. They could not always hope to have the best team, and for that reason they ought to try and improve their cricket.—(Applause.)

Mr. WALFORD said as regarded the extension of the pavilion and the laying on of the water, of which Mr. Walkinshaw had spoken, he must in the first place express his gratitude for the vote of thanks they had been kind enough to pass in reference to him. He had been much impressed by the fact that for the last two years this question of water had been before them. They had had great demands on the funds of the Club during that period, and the Committee had thought it undesirable to burden the Club with the expense of laying on the water at this time. As the members knew they had to spend a large sum in repairs, and it seemed to him that while they were at the pavilion they might go a little further and do a little more. He went down to the pavilion and looked at it, and Mr. Walkinshaw kindly came down a little later, and together they made out that they could extend the room very much by knocking down the partitions between the pavilion and the bathrooms and also by putting seats along the window side, of the pavilion, taking down the present boxes and replacing them with seats provided with lockers underneath and hinges on the top. In addition to that they would have pegs along the wall so that the space for hanging clothes would be really greater than before. They would thus have seats and lockers where now they had only a few odd chairs. It must be conceded that they had not enough room in the pavilion at present, and in addition they had no proper place to wash in. He was sure they would all appreciate an extension which would give them the means of making themselves cleaner than before. It seemed to him, especially at this time, that the Club funds were not in a condition to meet this extra demand, seeing that they had repairs to carry out, and it also seemed to him a good time to get in the water for if they did not do so now it might be two or three years before they could. He felt further that instead of depending on the Club funds they should depend on voluntary subscriptions.—(Applause.)

It was announced that the ballot for the Committee had resulted in the election of Messrs W.D.S. Edwards, K. F. Crawford, A .B. Walford, W. L. Merriman, H. C. Litchfield, E. B. S. Edwards, and J. P. Mollison.—(Applause.)

Mr. W. D. S. EDWARDS proposed that voluntary subscription lists should be sent round, so that all the members should have a chance of contributing to these repairs, and that thus the Club should not be burdened by debt at the end of the year. If they did so he thought $200 would be raised without any difficulty, even if members only gave $1 or $2. He therefore proposed that the secretary be instructed to send round a voluntary subscription list towards the expense of altering the pavilion and also to meet the other expense of laying on the water. In connection with the accounts, they had another item to take into consideration, namely the cost of the water, and it was therefore all the more necessary that such a list as he had mentioned should be sent round. Moreover, there was the expense of keeping up the ground, especially the new piece in the centre which required a great deal of rolling, cutting, and weeding, that each year during which he had been on the committee seemed to increase rather than decrease. Taking everything into consideration, he thought the idea he suggested would not only be acceptable to the members but would also be the means of bringing the Club out right at the end of the year. —(Applause.)

Mr. MOLLISON seconded.

The CHAIRMAN said it was to be observed that if Mr. Mollison's first proposition were carried out there would be an estimated amount beyond which they would not require subscriptions. Then would come the difficulty as to what they were to do with the extra subscriptions. They would have to be rejected altogether, or there would have to be returned to all the subscribers an amount *pro rata* of their subscriptions. Mr. Edwards' motion would carry them out of that difficulty by appropriating any surplus of subscriptions towards the expense the Club might have to incur. In that view he thought it might be advantageous to pass it.

The motion being put was agreed to, and the proceedings, after a vote of thanks to the President on the motion of Mr. BALFOUR, were brought to a close.

RURAL LIFE IN EAST ABERDEENSHIRE.—V.

Although the corn is cut, much has yet to be done before the farmer is prepared for winter. The corn, after standing in *stacks* for ten days, more or less, according to the weather, has to be *led* or carried. If the weather is favourable, this operation is conducted with all speed: often indeed, *leading* is continued all through a moonlight night, for it will not do to risk an autumn storm and deluge of rain upon the unprotected sheaves.

While one party is in the field loading the carts and bringing them in, another is stationed in the corn-yard, building the sheaves in huge ricks, which, before all is done, have to be thickly thatched with coarse grass, rushes or straw, which is securely tied down with a cunning network of straw rope, the manufacture of which has employed the servants on rainy days during the harvest.

Digging up the potatoes, and storing them in pits is the last work of the harvest hands. When that has been done, and the corn-yard made neat and tidy as a new pin, that farm is said to have "*got winter*." Sometimes the *meal and ale* supper is postponed until this time; sometimes a second feast takes place. Now it is winter indeed; although, after violent October storms, November occasionally sets in mild and damp, or gives us a few brief, bright days of St. Martin's summer. In the garden may yet be found some late annuals and the hardy Michaelmas daisy. Only a day or two ago forgotten gooseberries were hanging on the leafless bushes, and a diligent search might have been rewarded by a handful of belated strawberries. But now it is time to be thinking of Halloween. The celebrations of this time-honoured festival are so well and widely known that it is not necessary to say much about them here. The gathering of sticks for the *Hallow fire* was begun days and weeks before the longed for night arrived. The bigger the bonfire could be made the better. As soon as it was dusk the impatience of children could no longer be restrained, and out we went. There was a delicious feeling of doing something out of the way and almost wicked, when wrapped up warmly, we took our way in the darkness over ploughed fields and stubble to the pile of brushwood which loomed large and mysterious in the gloom. A panful of burned peat soon set the wood in a blaze; then what clapping of hands and shouting; what rushing through the flames by adventurous spirits; what roasting of potatoes and onions in the ashes! It must be confessed that one's face got roasted too, while one's back was shivering.

Leaving the embers still all aglow, the garden was next visited in order that the *custocs* might be pulled. *Custocs* are the cabbage or kail stalks and roots still left in the ground after the heads have been cut for domestic use, but stocks or plants of growing kail may also be taken. To the cabbage bed then we all stumble through the darkness, possibly encountering on our way the fate of the man of Thessaly who fell into a gooseberry bush and scratched out both his eyes. Each one pulls up a *custoc* at random and bears it to the house in triumph. If the stem is long and straight and handsome, so will your future husband or wife be, if poor, short and crooked, then no such prize awaits you in the matrimonial market. If much earth clings to the roots it is the sign of wealth, if the reverse, then poverty will be your portion.

Once more in the house dipping for apples, burning nuts, winding the blue clue, sowing hempseed, each and all of the old customs were remembered and practised. One, in particular used to make my blood run cold even to think of. A girl, if any could be found brave enough, must go alone to a stream where three lairds' lands met, dip her sleeve in the running water, and, on her return, hang the garment to dry before the fire. She must then retire for the night, and at midnight, when all was still, she would see the form of her lover, who was to be, come and turn the sleeve. It so happened that at the end of one of our fields, a little stream did, in effect, separate the lands of three different lairds, but though such a rare opportunity was ready to hand, nobody, so far as I remember, was ever found with strong enough nerves to put the spell to the test.

It may be thought that I have been guilty of an anachronism in talking of Halloween as coming in November: but it must be remembered that old style was, and still is kept in most remote country places.

This is Hallow even,
The mown hallowday;
Nine nichts to Martinmas
Will soon wear away.

is the rhyme sung by discontented servants, longing for the term, which may bring them a change of place; although *flitting* at Martinmas is not so common as at Whitsunday. Martinmas was the time when a good fat bullock was killed and salted for winter use. Although the practice is almost given up at the present day, the memory of the custom is preserved in the word *mort*, which means a fine beast, ready for the butcher's knife. Boiling, roasting, salting, sausage-making was the order of the day. Meat puddings were sausages stuffed with oat meal and finely chopped suet, seasoned with pepper, salt, and onions. The puddings were all made at one time, and boiled in a huge pot, care being taken to prevent the skin from bursting, as the contents swelled, by judicious pricking with a long darning-needle. Hence the proverb applied to a procrastinating fellow, "Ye never prick till the pudding runs out!" The sausages or meal puddings once cooked and cold were place in the meal *girnal*, or huge bin, containing the oatmeal for daily use. There they were ready at a moment's notice, only requiring to be reboiled for a few minutes, or broiled over a clear fire, to form a most excellent and savoury dish. These were sometimes called *white puddings*, to distinguish them from others, which were called *black puddings*, and of which bullocks' blood was a principal ingredient. But these were never made, much less eaten in our house.

It fell about a Mart'mas time,
And a gay time it was then, O!
When our gudewife had puddings to mak,'
And she boiled them in the pan, O!
* * * * *
And first they ate the white puddings
And then they ate the black, O!
Tho' muckle thought the gude wife to herself',
Yet ne'er a word she spak' O!

So runs a funny old song which I often heard as a child.

Close upon Martinmas follows the Christmas season, but New Christmas as they call the twenty-fifth of December is little noticed, no religious service being observed on that day except among the Episcopalians, and social festivities being, for the most part, postponed until the New Year, or *Auld Yule*, that is our Twelfth Day, the sixth of January.

To be sure, from the lairds' houses came presents of mince pies and bothouse grapes; and to the lairds' houses one was invited to Christmas dinner, where the traditional roast beef and plum pudding appeared, and where there were snapdragon, and games and dancing. But such things were only for the few. The general way of keeping Yule at the cottages and farm houses was by sitting up all night on the sixth of January, and playing "Catch the Ten" a modified kind of whist, in which the ten plays an important part. This varied by "Old maid" or the more boisterous game of "Keep" would go on the livelong night. At one or two o'clock in the morning *sowens* and cheese and ale were partaken of.

Drinking *sowens* is a kind of gruel made from the starchy sediment obtained by steeping the inner husks of the oats in water for several days, until it becames slightly sour. This sweetened with sugar or treacle and softened with a bit of butter, makes a pleasant and very wholesome drink. Boiled *sowens* is compounded of the same ingredients, but boiled until it becomes of the consistency of *blanc mange*. It is highly recommended by the faculty as a light nourishing diet for invalids and children, and is a favourite supper dish in every Scotch farm house, but of course one would never expect an Englishman to like it.

The last merry-making of the winter season is *Fosterns E'en* or Shrove Tuesday. Curious that its observance should still be preserved among the Presbyterians where neither fasting in Lent, nor feasting at Easter ever held a place. Beef "brose" is served at the mid day meal, and pancakes of course appear on every table. The making of the pancakes, or "sauty bannock" as they are called, is the great fun of the evening. They are made of oatmeal, milk, and eggs, a handful of snow, which can generally be found but too easily, and a good pinch of salt, from which the name "sauty" bannocks. I must confess they seem to me to bear more resemblance to Lenten than to Carnival fare. The last bannock is made extra thick and large, and a ring is hidden in the mess before it is poured on the hot iron plate or *gridle*, which hangs by a hook and iron chain over the peat fire.

The member of the household chosen to "fire"

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the last bannock must perform her task in silence, or the spell is broken, and I know not what dire consequence may follow. All sorts of tricks and teasings are resorted to in order to irritate or surprise her into speech, but she is generally equal to the occasion. The merry-making finishes up with a game of cards or a dance.

I might tell of weddings, christenings, funerals, each with its own special customs; of the parish school; of the well-known and ever welcome fish-wife; of the better-known but not so welcome beggar-man and beggar-wife; of the national dress and national music, and many another link in the chain of old memories. Let it suffice to set down a few recollections of the fish-wife, and the "caird," or beggar. Before the opening of railways in our district the fish-wives would tramp from fourteen to sixteen miles in the early morning, and arrive at the village by breakfast time. From Cairnbulg and Inverallochy they mostly came, five or six in a company, all dressed alike in short blue cloth skirts, white "mutches" and plaids of a small blue and black check. The heavy "Creels" on their backs contained many pairs of fresh and fellow or smoked haddocks, red and grey cod, turbot, soles, skate and other kinds of fish. It was marvellous to see the speed with which the women got over the ground with quick short steps, known as "the fishers trot." Arrived at the village, the band would separate, each one having favourite customers, and houses where they were well known, and received almost as friends. The price of a pair of haddocks might be threepence, or a "pickle" meal. At the farm houses, indeed, money seldom appeared in the bargain, meal or potatoes, butter, or a bottle of milk did duty instead of coin, so that the poor fish-wife often went home more heavily laden than she set out.

These fisher folks of the east coast are a distinct race, differing in appearance, manners, and speech from their inland neighbours. They marry among themselves, and indeed, the variety of names seems as limited as in the case of *Dandy Dinmont's* celebrated terriers. I can remember an *auld* Annie Buchan, and a *young* Annie Buchan; a *muckle* Annie Buchan, and a *little* Annie Buchan; a *bonnie* Annie Buchan, and an *ill-faured* Annie Buchan.

In the herring season, July and August, the fish-wives never appeared: they were too busy at home mending and drying nets, even if they were not engaged by curers as "gutters" and "packers."

For herring we had to depend on the "cadger," a stranger in the district, and of the town tramp order. He passed every day with his little green cart, and wretched looking white pony. Half a mile off one could hear his cry of *Herrin'! Herrin'!* Then every wife rushed out with her dish in her hand, and a silver fourpence between her teeth, both hands were needed to "wale" or choose the fourteen fine fish which formed the cadger's dozen.

Hardly a day passed that two or three beggars did not come to the door. As a rule, money was not given, but if bread or meal would be accepted, the "puir folk" were never sent empty away. Most of them carried bags or "pokss" wherein to store the meal thus obtained, some of which they would use as brose or porridge, but most of which would be sold in the towns as food for poultry, and whiskey bought with the proceeds.

There was Nairn "Fimmie," the terror of our childhood, in his patched "muckle" coat and battered broad bonnet. He had a hideously protruding under lip, and a voice that might have suited the Giant *Blunderboro*. Whisky, and whisky alone was his object in life, but, as he never got any at our house he used to depart grumbling with his "pickle" meal, which he required some persuasion to take. He might have succeeded better if he had possessed the insinuating manners of another Highlandman who appeared one day, and after many compliments, whispered his request for a "tumblefull" of spirits, he having lately partaken of "an icatious drink o'could wather" from the effects of which unaccustomed tipple he was suffering.

Then there was "Thumll Ra" or the "Bearby man," whose real name was McKenzie, a splendid looking old man, with a snow-white beard falling over his breast. He was no beggar, however, but a licensed hawker. The contents of his boxes were chiefly cheap trinkets, eagerly bought by the servant girls, or by the men as presents for their sweethearts. But now and then a really quaint and handsome silver ornament might be picked up from him for a trifle. He too, had an enormous great coat, patched with every colour under the sun. He would lay it down on the kitchen floor while the bargaining went on, and there it was guarded faithfully by his little terrier, which rejoiced in the lengthy and inappropriate name of Jennie Mill Davidson. Jennie growled and showed her teeth in such an alarming manner if anyone but her master came near, that a widely spread belief prevailed that the "muckle" coat was heavy with treasure, quilted in between the patches.

"Peter the Sweep," with his two scampish grandsons and elfish daughter "Johan" formed a most undesirable family; still they were never refused quarters in the barn, or a bowl of porridge for their supper.

"Tipperary" was a dwarf with an unlimited capacity for whisky, and with such a wicked tongue that the children were banished from the kitchen on her approach. These are but two or three among the best remembered. Poor old folks! Their place knows them no more.

On a recent visit to Aberdeenshire one was met by strange faces at every turn; the children were middle-aged men and women, the old people were gone. Change had been busy in many ways; the open hearth was replaced by a brand-new American kitchener: the old well was gone, filled up, and the surrounding common ploughed and enclosed as part of the new Cemetery. The orchis, hairbell, and forget-me-not, the thousand wild flowers that delighted our childhood, where are they? Yes, the dear old well was gone, and there was a pump in the back-kitchen.

(THE END.)

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

San Francisco, February 5th.

In my last, I chronicled the death of a King. I have now to report the death of a Cabinet officer, William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury. The papers are full of biographies of the late Secretary, in which the various public offices he filled are duly chronicled, and the usual eulogies on his character pronounced. The fact is that Mr. Windom was a type of what is known as a smart man. He was good tempered, genial, affable with every body; could see the point in a discussion as quick as the next man; and was adroit in the manipulation of politicians. But among those who knew him personally he passed for a shrewd and unscrupulous speculator, who was never without a few shares of stock in some wild scheme which he was willing to part with to a friend just to oblige him, and who thoroughly appreciated the large part which boodle plays in the modern world.

It is given out at Washington that no further attempt will be made to pass the Force Bill. Its parent, Senator Hoar, has delivered its obituary, and has informed the world that several senators who voted against the bill had given him their written promise to support it. That is quite likely; people often change their minds when they see that it would be dangerous to adhere to their original intentions. However this may be, the attempt to introduce federal bayonets at state elections, and its failure, will not rehabilitate the Republicans in public esteam.

No progress is being made with other party measures. An effort will be made to pass the bill granting subsidies to ocean steamers, with what result cannot now be predicted. The Apportionment Bill will be passed; its details have not been published; but it will not be a partisan measure, and will probably be fair. Under it a member of congress will represent more individuals than a member of any other legislative body in the world.

In view of the transfer of power next month from the Republican to the Democratic party, your readers may not object to read the following statement of the dividing line between the two parties, as given by Hon. Roger Q. Mills of Texas:—

The Democratic party has always been the strongest and retained the strongest hold on the confidence of the country when it was strictly Democratic. It has always been weakest when by time-serving politicians it has been led off after political heresies.

The country sustained the Democratic party when it was Democratic, because it enjoyed the highest prosperity under the laws enacted and administered in accordance with its principles, and it has been ready at all times and is now ready to give its support to all measures which are in harmony with these principles. The creed of the Democrat is self-government of the person, self-government of the subordinate locality, country, city or town, self-government of State and self-government of the United States. In all matters of doubt the constitutions and the laws of the nation and State should be construed in favour of the liberty of the citizen and against the surrender of power to the Government.

Every Democrat, if he is one from conviction, believes that the country will attain its highest prosperity and the people their highest possible liberty of thought and action from the smallest possible interference by the Government which is consistent with the preservation of order in the State. Guided by these principles, Democrats will always oppose all Federal legislation which proposes to usurp power rightfully belonging to State and local jurisdictions and all State or local interference with the individual right of a citizen.

The Federal party in its day held and the Republican party now holds precisely the opposite of these views. The Republican does not believe the people capable of self-government. He would probably not say it in so many words, but his party measures are in accord with that faith. He believes that the capacity to govern belongs to a class, and while the masses have the ballot, they may be governed in the interest of classes by discipline. A Republican believes in special privileges; a Democrat in equal rights.

The Prime Minister of Canada has dissolved Parliament in order to give the Canadian people an opportunity of electing a new Parliament which shall be fresh from the people, and shall be possessed of their views on commercial relations with the United States. A portion of the people of Canada are openly in favour of annexation; another portion seek reciprocity with the United States, and a third party opposes all legislation which might have the effect of drawing the two countries together. The Prime Minister, Sir John A. McDonald, who is a very old man, imbued with the prejudices of the past, should be classed with the last, though he would probably resent the imputation. But his following is not large. Nor is the annexation party strong enough to warrant a belief that it will attain its objects, at any rate in our time. Reciprocity would suit the bulk of the Canadians very well, and it would meet the views of most of the Democrats in this country; but it will probably have to wait until Mr. Harrison makes way for a Democratic President.

Preparations for the World's Fair at Chicago are progressing vigorously. The Directors have discovered that the buildings, &c., will cost not ten millions, which was the original estimate, but fifteen, and they are busily engaged in trying to raise the money. Any number of ingenious people are suggesting new features for the Fair. A Mr. Pennington has got a dirigeable balloon already on the ground, and proposes to give a series of ascents, on which the aëronauts will travel where they will. From the descriptions of his airship and his plans, it does not appear that Mr. Pennington has improved upon the aërostats with which M.M. Renard and Krebs made their ascents in 1884. Mr. William Steinway, of New York, the pianoforte manufacturer, proposes that there shall be a continuous musical festival during the Fair. He wants to collect all the eminent musicians in the world, and supply them with a trained orchestra, so that they shall discourse the finest music from morning till night. Each musician would give the music of his own country. Thus for a week there would be an English musical fête, then for a week an Italian fête, then a German fête, then a French, Spanish, and so on. Subscriptions are being taken for the purpose, and it is possible that the idea may be carried out. People are already beginning to believe that the Fair will be a success. It is observed that the Paris exposition, which cost 41,500,000 francs, realised a profit of 8,000,000 francs, and it is said that we ought to do as well.

A queer old woman named Catherine McKnight hanged herself in Chicago last week. She was the wife of a Union soldier during the war, and when he was made prisoner, she became a Union spy. Disguised in man's clothes, she made her way to the prison where her husband was confined, changed clothes with him, and enabled him to escape—but he was unfortunately shot in the act. She was caught, and sentenced to death, but being remarkably good looking, she contrived to get away without being shot. Her adventure engendered in her an extraordinary fondness for lawless adventurers. After the war, she married a notorious convict named Daley; him she lost owing to his being caught in the act of burglarizing a house. Then she married another convict named Matthews, and again she lost him, owing to his sentence to prison for life. Faithful to the breed, she took a fourth husband in the shape of a forger, who was shot dead by a policeman in New Orleans. Her fifth and last husband is not known to have been a convict. But she could not get along with him, and she divorced him after two years of matrimony. For eight years she lived unmarried; but she probably found single life tedious, for after putting her papers in order, she hanged herself in her own house, and has gone to that world where we may assume that there are neither divorces nor convicts.

Some time next month, a "committee of two hundred," representing the Spanish-American nations and the United States will meet in Washington to confer on common interests. Simultaneously a delegation from Canada will repair to the same city to consult with Mr. Blaine on commercial relations. Thus, for the first time in history, representatives of the two Americas from the Arctic Ocean to the Straits of Magellan will meet in council. The Committee of two hundred is to organize as a real Parliament, or Con-

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gress, with two houses, and a set of Parliamentary rules framed on Cushing's manual. It will consider all questions which concern the material development of the continent, and likewise all questions which have ■ bearing on the spread of free institutions. The power of the body will be limited; it will not be clothed with authority to enforce its views; but as an advisory commission, its recommendations are likely to be received with respect throughout the continent. The value of those recommendations will depend on the quality of the men who take the lead in the conduct of its business.

The medical faculty is engaged in testing Dr. Koch's lymph at the hospitals. Thus far ■o instance of cure has been reported; but it is perhaps premature to form an opinion on the efficiency of the German remedy. Meanwhile, devout folks have placed their faith not on lymph, but on the intercession of St. Blaise, who, as everybody knows, was entrusted by the Almighty, 1,600 years ago, with power to cure diseases of the respiratory system. His festival was kept last week, and the church of St. Ignatius, where prayers could be addressed to him with a reasonable certainty of reaching their destination, was crowded from dawn to dusk with sufferers from bronchitis and consumption. There were swarms of children, who seemed to intend to cough their heads off; large numbers of emaciated men and women; and many grey-haired members of both sexes, who had crawled to the sacred edifice to beseech the saint to relieve their sufferings. The steps at the rails of the altar were thronged all day long. At intervals, a bell rang, and ■ priest in white surplice and red stole came forward to slow music, stood in front of a cross made of flickering candles, and muttered to each kneeling supplicant "May God deliver thee from all evils of the throat, through the intercession of St. Blaise." The invocation over, the invalids struggled to their feet, and went home in high hope. St. Blaise's famous operation on the throat of a boy in which a fish bone had stuck is of course familiar to your readers. The saint dissolved the bone with a short but vigorous prayer, and the boy was cured. He (the saint) had shown in his own case his short and easy way of dealing with bodily ailments. He was put on the rack, and his flesh torn from his bones with iron pincers; but when the tortures were over, he went about his business as if nothing had happened. Then the heathen persecutors threw him into a lake to drown, but he walked the water as if it had been an asphalt pavement. At last they cut his head off, and hid it, where he could not find it. And this finished him. To such a personage, the cure of a case of bronchitis must be child's play.

LETTER FROM DENVER.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Denver, Colo., January 21st.

Distress has grown acute upon the eastern edges of Colorado. Farmers were attracted thither by lying prophets who told of an annually advancing rain belt. Man could conquer nature by faith. All he had to do was to plant his seed, watch for rain and build a house. Claims were taken up, townships formed, banks established, land courts opened, mills erected. But the rain did not come, means of irrigation there were almost none, and the history of the whole undertaking has been sorrowful enough. All over these western plains and prairies, for several years, farming has been conducted at a loss for lack of rain. There might have been no Indian trouble if Dakota had but given them crops for their tilling and seed-sowing. The "untutored mind" could find but faint traces of God in barren harvest fields; for broken treaties with their white brother were too manifestly the efficient cause of their dependence on Dakota's bounty. They were starving. General Miles became a veritable Messiah, clearing away swindling agents and offering a feast of fat things to hungry bucks and squaws. In the future let us hope that so much of civil service reform as is needed to keep faith with these remnants of great nations will be effected. One would naturally suppose that this country too, is large enough for both pale face and redskin, and that our Government is rich enough to keep faith with such men as Red Cloud and Sitting Bull. Certainly if the conscience of the American people had its way in the Indian difficulty there would be no difficulty. The Indians would be paid well and honourably in the best land the continent affords, and would soon need no "rations." All these broad Western lands would bring forth bountifully if they could but have water. To depend on a mythical "rain belt" is impossible. Up the canons and in the "parks" each summer gives a fair amount of wet, but even there close to the foothills, farmers do not depend upon the rainfall. Irrigation is the one essential. But when irrigation is possible the results are astonishing. Land that a few years ago produced nothing but buffalo grass, brown for eleven months in every year, patches of cactus and the uninteresting sage-brush, now bears huge potatoes, oats, corn, and wheat, far above the average in quality and quantity. The prices of this produce are always good. Potatoes are now selling at $2 per hundred pounds, and a vegetable infinitely inferior to the once despised *Satsuma-imo*, a cadaverous looking root, long and scraggy, is sold to the consumer at the modest price of ■ nickel ■ pound. These are the average prices. A man from Tennessee says "Down in my country they feed them to the pigs, sir!"—speaking not of prices but of sweet-potatoes.

In a letter last November I mentioned that a split had taken place in local political ranks. The Republican majority was rent in twain. A natural sequel was considerable Democratic rejoicing and a good deal of Democratic success in the elections. Now the contest has been transferred to the legislative chambers, the speaker of the House of Representatives has been ejected from office, blood has been boiling on both sides, notorious "toughs" from the saloons and slums have been in the pay of "the gang" or the "anti-gang" factions, nominally as deputy sheriffs, really to overawe the other side, and at last two policemen have been shot down by "deputy sheriffs," and one of them has had the misfortune to die before he saw his assailant wriggle out of the clutches of the law. The wriggling is an expensive process, so that a man guilty of the crime of poverty as well as of murder is now and then sacrificed at the altar of abstract justice.

But it is not only here that the sweets of office tempt men to the resolute policy of the revolver. Only a short time ago Oklahoma was torn asunder by the rival claims of Guthrie and Kingfisher for the privilege of capital. Oklahoma was to be a paradise. That semi-nomadic population that dwells upon the borders of civilization, was being poured into the new territory. It is now being poured back again, and some of it will be happy if it can get to Illinois. Hardly anywhere else in the world can there be found such classes of frontier agriculturalists as in this West. They seem perennially dissatisfied. There is always an El Dorado in front awaiting their arrival. The sun shines more helpfully anywhere else than where they are now located. Like poor Jo, they are bound to move on. They do not seem to desire wealth so much as new surroundings. They will lay hold of the most unpromising claim, make it their own by a few years' residence and scratching, then get away to fresh fields and pastures new. Those on the plains are now "down on the hard-pan," "right on bed rock, sure." Denver is sending a few of them some food, seed, and clothes.

We await with eagerness the issue of the present silver muddle. The West will be content with nothing less than free coinage. If we had power to take our bars of silver to the local mint and bring away white dollars in exchange, less only cost of minting, we would soon be leading the waters of the Rockies to every bit of available farm land in the State, storing the winter waste for the summer want, loaning money to farmers at easy rates, and building up the West on the broadest basis. Free coinage will have to come. If no one else will give it, all Western parties will be focussed on a single man, pledged to the cause of silver. Senator Stanford seems head and shoulders above other honest politicians, and would command the endorsement of an overwhelming majority. He will champion that people against the money lenders, wire pulling statesmen and party shams. Hardly any other man could now arouse the enthusiasm that the name of Stanford awakes. Such a man entering the lists at once as silver knight and farmers' champion would dazzle every eye.

In speaking of Oklahoma I omitted to mention a curious fact. Where white men cannot live negroes from Carolina are settling in considerable numbers. Several hundred families are now on their way, held by an organization of their own, to this western home. No one doubts that, if they can make a living of it, this is a healthy movement. Especially helpful will be the fact that the younger generation of coloured people will forget or never learn the word "slavery."

We are having a particularly cold and snowy winter. Last year was bad enough in this respect, but this goes beyond the record yet made in snowfall.

It is curious to watch the statements made in the papers concerning Irish affairs. Parnellism and anti-Parnellism have each a few followers, but no one seems able to decide the rival claims. The newspaper toadies are in a quandary. They are afraid to utter anti-Parnell blasts lest they should be followed to-morrow by Parnellite victories; and McCarthy is a name for pressmen to tremble at. And so, since the *deus ex machinâ*, the populace, is paralysed, waiting to know what to think, the papers are content to publish telegrams without note or comment.

We live to learn! I found the other day at a meeting of good people, where a letter from Japan was read, that the curious fetish in Asakusa temple, a type of Jizo Sama I believe, is the Goddess of Mercy, and that it is the fruitful cause of sore eyes among the Japanese people. By rubbing this stone image and then passing their hand over their own face they convey virus which induces ophthalmia! Henceforth we have visions of forty million people making periodical pilgrimages to Asakusa and rubbing what Miss Bird or some other author called Bimzuru Sama.

IN THE U.S. CONSULAR-GENERAL COURT.

Before G. H. Scidmore, Esq., Vice-Consul General, and Messrs. J. K. Goodrich and Geo. E. Rice, Associates.—Monday, March 2nd, 1891.

Doering v. Price.

An action, brought by J. G. Doering against Mrs. Bonnie Price, No. 88, Yokohama, was heard to-day.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant appeared in person.

The Associates having been sworn,

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu asked whether the defendant had complied with the requirement of his notice of Friday to produce a certain agreement and any other documents bearing on the case.

The agreement and other papers were produced.

Mr. Uchiyama went on to say that the plaintiff had sold to the defendant the houses and outhouses at No. 88, with the residue of the lease of six years still to run. Before the actual agreement was made there were a great many interviews about the price at which the house was to be sold, Mr. Doering in the beginning asking $2,500 which, however, the defendant was not prepared to give. After a great deal of haggling and bargaining, it was finally agreed that in consideration of the defendant paying $1,500 in cash; further in consideration of her giving a promissory note for $500, making a total of $2,000; and further in consideration of the defendant allowing plaintiff the free use of part of the godown valued at about $15, during the period of non-payment of the promissory note, the sale should be made. Further, if the defendant chose to pay the amount of the promissory note before the expiry of six months, then the plaintiff would be obliged to pay godown rent or give up the godown. Mr. Uchiyama here read the petition and answer. In the petition the plaintiff set forth that on or about the 31st day of May, 1890, he sold to the defendant the dwelling house and buildings situated on Lot No. 88B Yokohama, and transferred the same to her together with the lease of the lot of land. In paragraph 3 it was stated that the larger portion of the purchase money for the premises was then and there paid to the plaintiff by the defendant, that a balance of $500 remained due and owing by the defendant. As security for the payment of the balance of $500 the defendant gave plaintiff her promissory note in the following terms:—

"I promise to pay to J. G. Doering, Yokohama, *on* or before and *not later than Nov. 31st, 1890*, the sum of mex. $500 (mex. dollars five hundred) and interest thereon at rate of 10 per cent. per annum for value received (being balance due him on property No. 88B Creekside.)

"(Sd.) B. Price,
"Witness Uchiyama Rossetsu,
" No. 32 Yokohama.

"Yokohama, May 31st, 1890."

The petition went on to say that the sum of $500 and interest still remains due and owing to the plaintiff and all his efforts to induce the defendant to pay it or any part of it have been fruitless.

In her answer the defendant admitted the first four paragraphs of the petition and as to paragraph 5 she said—I have always been and am now willing to pay plaintiff the sum of $500 mexican and the sum of $25 mexican due on promissory note due for six months interest from 1st June till 30th November 1890, as per promissory note making a total sum of $525 less the sum of $232.50 mexican due to me from the above plaintiff for rent of a godown on Lot No. 88, Yokohama, from the 1st of June till the 31st December, 1890,

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and a further sum of $40 mexican, being one month's rent of dwelling house and out houses on Lot No. 88, collected from Miss Grant by the plaintiff on my account, making a total sum of $242.50 mex. due to me by the aforesaid plaintiff." On this calculation the answer showed the defendant to be indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of $282.50 (the promissory note, principal and interest being set at $525) which sum the defendant deposited with the Court.

Mr. Uchiyama proceeded to say that the point at issue was therefore to prove or disprove the correctness of the counter claim. First he pointed out that the defendant had calculated her interest up to the end of November, instead of reckoning it to date. She had had the use of the money; the plaintiff had been kept out of it till now. As to the counter claim, he repeated the conditions under which the sale was effected, remarking that the tenancy of a part of the godown was one of those conditions, Mr. Doering desiring to sell the premises, which were not desirable for a gentleman doing business in Yokohama. Had the defendant paid the promissory note on the date (30th November) stipulated the total amount that Mr. Doering would have received (including $15 per month as value of godown tenancy) was $2,090.

J. G. Doering, sworn, deponed—I am a German subject living at No. 109. I am a piano manufacturer. In May, 1890, I was the owner of the house No. 88B, Creekside. Previous to 30th May, 1890, the defendant made overtures to me to purchase the premises. I was naturally desirous to sell the premises, but the offer came from the other side. Early in the morning of May 31st I received a letter from Mr. Litchfield in which he informed me that Miss Everdale declined to purchase the lease of the lot No. 88, on the terms proposed, as there were only 6 years to run. She was willing to take over the lease at a reduced price or to negotiate for an early tenancy of the house if we could arrange on suitable terms. I replied that on the terms stated in that letter there was no chance whatever of coming to terms in regard to the matter. During that day the agreement was finally come to; cash $1,500, $500 to be paid afterwards, and the free use of the godown until the promissory note for $500 was paid. You were present when this agreement was handed to the defendant: It was ready, and had only to be copied before handing it over. You then read over and explained to the defendant every clause in the agreement. You pointed out to her that she was agreeing to give me free use of part of her godown during non-payment of the promissory note. The provision as to the keeping of the insurance papers, which gave to me the insurance policy in security for payment of the balance of the rent was excised at the defendant's request. I then at once received the amount of $1,500, and defendant's promissory note. I also handed her all the papers, including the insurance policy. Later on the same day, the defendant asked a proper indenture of the sale with a view to its registry. I think about the 4th or 5th of June a deed of sale was made out and signed. I have never had any payment in part or whole of this promissory note. I have received from Mr. Litchfield on behalf of Mrs. Price communications as to payment of godown rent. The letter of agreement that was handed to the defendant was as follows:—

May 31st, 1890.

Mrs. Bonnie Price (Ellendale),
Club Hotel, Yokohama.

Dear Madam,—I take great pleasure in stating, as verbally arranged, the terms under which the buildings on Lot No. 88, Creekside, Foreign Concession, Yokohama, as per lease of ground, consisting of a two-storied dwelling house, complete outhouses and godown, as it stands, will be sold and delivered to you.

The price including all gas fixtures and chandeliers as well as water service and taps is agreed upon $2,000 (Mex. dollars two thousand only) of which I am to receive a part payment in cash of $1,500 (fifteen hundred) the *balance* of $500 to be paid to me *on* or before and *not later* than the 31st of November, charging thereon interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

[For better securing to me the balance due you agree to leave in my hands and care the policy of insurance of said buildings, which will be transferred unto you by entry of agent the day the balance due me plus interest has been duly and truly paid me.]

The rent of premises for June will be collected by myself as due me, in consideration whereof I pay ground or lease rent due until June 30th; all other payments for water, gas supply, etc., will naturally fall to you.

You further agree to leave me the use of godown as hitherto without charge until balance due me has been settled, from then at a monthly rent to be agreed upon, the power of giving notice of leaving being on my side exclusively.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed.) J. G. Doering.

I had already paid $45 for three months' ground rent to the Kencho, and in consideration of that I stipulated to have the collection of the June rent. I received the following letter from Mr. Litchfield on 3rd July:—

"I shall be glad to hear from you if you are willing to continue the occupation of the portion of the godown on Lot No. 88, which has hitherto been occupied by you, and at what rent. It is desirable that this matter should be speedily placed on a settled basis so as to avoid further disputes." In reply to the above letter, I went myself to explain matters to Mr. Litchfield. I next received the following letter, dated August 11th:—

"Miss Price, the owner of the buildings on lot No. 88B, instructs me to request you to send me rent for the godown on part of that lot now occupied by you as per memo. below, viz—

To rent of godown 1st June to 15th July at $40 per mo.	$60.00
To rent of part of same godown from 15th July to 31st July, 1890, at $25	12.50
	$72.50

I wrote in reply to the above on August 12th to Mr. Litchfeld:—

"Your note of yesterday to hand. I am sorry to say you are under quite a wrong impression in regard to me occupying a part of godown on Lot No. 88, Creekside; at least you must have been wrongly informed.

"My letter of May 31st to present owner says:—'You further agree to leave me use of godown as hitherto without charge until balance due me has been settled, from then at a monthly rent to be agreed upon, the power of giving notice of leaving being on my side exclusively.'

"It would strike a stranger as being unfair to have the right reserved me of occupying godown free of charge for six months and likewise charging 10 per cent. interest on balance due me as stated in promissory note, but this was done because I lowered my price considerably, and also by agreeing to wait six months for said balance, whereas cash would have been far more preferable to me.

"Regarding charges stated in yours of yesterday, I can only refer you or the owner to above extract from my letter, which was delivered to her before the purchase was concluded and transfer effected.

"It was further verbally agreed that if Miss Price wished to settle the balance of $500 before being due as stated in promissory note, she would only be charged interest to date at same rate, and that I from the last day of the month during which such payment was effected should naturally pay rent for the use of godown, provided such payment in full was made not later than the 20th day of the month, otherwise to enjoy the privilege of free use for another month.

"This will show you that I am not one cent indebted to the owner at present, and that your statements in yours of yesterday based upon her information are not only incorrect but also absurd.

"I trust this will serve you as a guidance, as I remember having called on you in answer to your note sent me on July 3rd, when I imparted to you all information needed in regard to future renting of godown from the present owner."

Ultimately I demanded payment of the promissory note on December 2nd, sending at the same time the other letter bearing the same date:—

"I beg to advise you herewith that the promissory note of $500 (dollars five hundred) handed me by you on purchase of the property No. 88, Creekside, was due on November 30th together with interest thereon for six months, in full $550 local currency, and unless I have received from you the above named sum by to-morrow, the 3rd inst. at noon I shall have recourse to cashing same through Consular assistance."

The second letter was:—

"According to our agreement handed to you (in presence of Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu) on and dated May 31st I am entitled to enjoy the privilege of free use of godown on Lot No. 88, Creekside, until your promissory note on balance due me of same date and due November 30th has been duly settled.

"As this term has expired I shall be glad of your informing me how much monthly rental you ask for said godown."

In reply to these letters the defendant wrote on December 3rd:—

"In reply to your two notes of yesterday I have to inform you that I an ready to pay to you the sum of $500 as due on promissory note less the sum of $152.50 due by yourself to me, for rent of godown due up till 31st October as per bills presented to you by Mr. Woodruff, and the sum of $40, one month's rent of house on Lot 88, Creekside collected by you from Miss Grant, and the further sum of $50 as payment of rent on part of godown on Lot 88 for the months of November and December, 1890, making the total sum of $242.50 owing by you to myself; and I have further to state that your assertion as to an agreement allowing you to occupy the godown rent free is an attempt of *sharp practice on your part*, and I have further to refer you to my registered letter of date November 19th, 1890, notifying you to vacate the godown on the 31st December, 1890."

I subsequently received the following, dated December 17th, 1890:—"I beg to inform you that I am ready and willing to pay you the sum of $257.50 as payment of the sum of $500 owing to you by promissory note, less $242.50 owing by you to me for rent."

Finally the defendant wrote to me as follows on January 20th:—

"I beg to inform you that I have sold and transferred the lease and buildings on lot 88B, Foreign Settlement, Yokohama, to Mr. Alexander Clark of No. 88A, Yokohama, and that the aforesaid Mr. Alexander Clark will collect all rent due from the first day of January, 1891, from you for part of a godown rented and occupied by you on the said lot No. 88, Yokohama, at the rental of $25 per month."

I have not paid Mr. Clark anything since I received that notice. I left the premises about the 21st of last month. Mr. Clark claimed $25 a month from me, and I paid him more than that for leaving without proper notice:

To Mr. Scidmore—The ground-rent that I paid was $45 for three months, and I collected $40 for one month, June. I paid Mr. Clark $50 to settle the matter. He claimed $75 for rent up to the end of March, and took the claim to the German Consulate. Mr. Clark made me an offer that I should pay $50 in full and I accepted it. Mr. Woodruff presented to me the bills now shown me.

Cross-examination resumed—It was a mistake for me to claim $50 as interest on the promissory note; it should only have been 10 per cent. I received $40 rent from Miss Grant. I did not receive from Mr. Litchfield a notice about that.

The defendant deponed—I never knew anything about the agreement until I received my papers from Mr. Litchfield. He told me that Mr. Uchiyama had agreed to it. He told me he was very sorry about it. I knew nothing about, and had never seen, the agreement till I paid my bill to Mr. Litchfield on June 7th. I had an interview with Doering on 31st May. He never offered to let me have the property for $2,500. He told me the then tenant, Miss Grant, had no lease, but that he would let me have a lease. He said—"Why do you not buy the property?" and said the price was $2,000. I called to see Mr. Litchfield and found Mr. Uchiyama, who accompanied me to Mr. Doering's. Nothing was said as to who was to collect the rent for June. Not a word was said as to Mr. Doering occupying the godown till the promissory note was paid. On the way I specially asked that he should not mention the godown. I was shown the lease and asked Mr. Uchiyama to see that my interests were looked after, as I was going to Kobe. I asked some questions about the interest on the promissory note, and afterwards I went to the bank and got the money, $1,500, and went back and paid it, Mr. Doering and Mr. Uchiyama having everything ready. When I came to the Consulate Mr. Greathouse told me I must have a deed. I produce a regular deed signed and presented at the Consulate for record on 4th June. Mr. Litchfield and Mr. Uchiyama told me the first agreement was not of any value. I did not agree to permit plaintiff to occupy the godown free till the promissory note was paid. I only saw the agreement on the 7th June, when it was handed to me among others by Mr. Litchfield.

Cross-examined—It was not at my request that the clause as to the insurance policy was struck out. I did not see the agreement on 31st May. I swear that I got it from Mr. Litchfield with the other papers. Nothing was said at the interview about the godown. Mr. Greathouse's reason for saying when I came here that a deed was necessary was that I had nothing but the lease of the ground.

Mr. Doering, recalled by the Court, deponed—Previous to my occupancy I do not know what rent was charged for the godown. Mr. Clark's first demand was for $75, and I compromised for $50 because I wished to have nothing to do with him. I calculated that if I had been paid the promissory note at the proper time I should have had to pay rent for the godown for December, January, and February; sooner than have anything to do with Mr. Clark further I compro-

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mised the matter. I handed the money to him through the German Consulate.

Mr. Scidmore at this stage, in consideration that the defendant was undefended, decided to allow Mr. Clark, who was in Court, to cross-examine Mr. Doering on her behalf.

Plaintiff, to Mr. Clark—I paid you $50 rent for the godown, through the German Consulate. As far as I understand you claimed $75 for three months' rent. Afterwards you offered to take $50 and take over the godown and I accepted it. I first offered you the keys of the godown about 23rd February; and you finally accepted them on February 28th. The receipt that I got through the German Consulate was as follows, dated February 25th:—Received from J. G. Doering $50 as payment in full for my claim against him for rent of part of godown on No. 88, and I taking over the keys of godown."

Mr. Clark then entered the box to give evidence for the defendant.

Mr. Uchiyama objected to his evidence on the ground that Mr. Clark had stirred up all the strife, all the letters to the plaintiff from the defendant being in his writing. He had a spite against the plaintiff, and was known to have a spite against him, and if Counsel had known the question would arise he would have had witnesses to prove it. He objected to Mr. Clark's evidence being accepted as that of an expert as to the value of the godown.

Mr. Scidmore said he was not called as an expert.

Mr. Clark deponed that part of the godown was unoccupied, but two-thirds had been occupied since Saturday when witness received the keys from Mr. Doering. Witness knew nothing about the rent prior to his purchase of the property. He had not leased the godown out.

After hearing Mr. Uchiyama the Court reserved judgment.

THURSDAY March 5th 1891.

Judgment was given to day in the above action. Mr. Scidmore read the judgment as follows: —

"Having heard and considered the pleadings, testimony, and arguments of the parties herein, it is hereby ordered and adjudged that said plaintiff have and recover from said defendant the sum of three hundred and ninety mexican dollars.

"It is further ordered and adjudged that each party to this action shall pay one half of the costs.

"G. H. SCIDMORE,
"Vice-Consul-General of the United States,
acting judicially.

We concur:

GEO. E. RICE, } Associates.
J. K. GOODRICH, }

THE STRANDING OF THE "TOKYO MARU."

COURT OF ENQUIRY.

A court of enquiry was held at the Marine Bureau of the Communications Department in Tokyo on the 27th ult., with regard to the stranding of the *Tokio Maru* on 6th Dec. last.

Captain Yebiko presided, and the other members of the Court were Commander Squire, R.N., and Captain Allen of the *Meiji Maru*. Captain Tomioka and Captain Morimoto were present as Nautical Assessors, and Mr. Torii as Engineer Assessor.

The regulations under which the Court was held were read over by Captain Squire, being paragraph 2 of section 10.

Captain Drummond, cautioned, deponed—I joined the *Tokio Maru* about the 17th of November, 1889. I produce my certificate. The ship grounded on the morning of December 6th a few minutes to six o'clock, on the voyage from Oginohama to Yokohama. I left Oginohama about 5.40 on the morning of the 5th, with a full cargo and passengers—I do not remember how many. I sighted Inuboye Light about 7.15 p.m. the same day, one point on the starboard bow. When abeam it was bearing W. by N.¼ N., and by 4-point bearing distant 4¼ miles. I altered the course when the light was abeam to S. 37° W., the weather being then fine and clear, very little wind, with a heavy swell from the south. We had a slight current against us. The ship's speed was about 11½ knots. We sighted Noshima light at 3 in the morning of the 6th, it then bearing west, and passed it at 5.10. I was not on deck when we passed, having gone below at 4.10, when the light was bearing W.N.W., leaving the chief officer on deck. I gave him orders to steer W. by N. and to call me when Noshima light was abeam, my course being shaped to pass the light 2 miles distant. I show on the chart the ship's position at 5.10. I did not go on the bridge from 4.10 till two minutes before she struck the beach. There was no deviation, and my course was magnetic, the compass being true. I expected to be abeam of Noshima about 5 o'clock. Having altered the course and gone below, my reason for remaining below was that the chief officer did not call me as I had ordered him to do. I fell asleep. When I left the deck at 4.10 I left orders to be called off Noshima. I do not know what course was steered afterwards until I was awakened two minutes before the accident by the cries of fishermen. I at once went on deck, thinking we had run a fishing boat down, and, going on the bridge I asked the chief officer what was the matter. He replied "Nothing." I asked—"Where is Noshima light?" He said—"We have passed it." I then asked "How are you steering?" He replied, "N. by E. ½ E." At that moment I saw breakers ahead and ordered the helm to be put hard a starboard, and, finding the ship did not answer her helm, ordered the engines to be put full speed astern. Before half of her way could be taken off by turning the engines astern she struck, and in five or ten minutes she slewed broadside on to the beach, the sea then taking her on the beam. When I went on deck I saw nothing but a line of breakers across the bow; there was a slight mist or fog hanging over the land. The stars were clear overhead, and it was just break of day. No land could be seen. I had not told the officer on watch to alter the course. The statement I have just made about ordering the chief officer to call me off Noshima is entered in the ship's log; he altered the course on his own account. The log was written up immediately after the stranding of the ship by the chief officer, who was, as I have said, also officer of the watch. I considered that the chief officer was of sufficient experience as a chief officer. I did not think him qualified by sufficient experience of the coast to navigate the ship himself. I never allowed him to do so. I had not previous to this had any fault to find with him. After the ship stranded the passengers were landed in the ship's boats, that is all that were on the starboard, or shore side. No lives were lost. The port boats could not be lowered.

To Captain Squire—I have been in command on the coast of Japan for 21 years on the 1st of next June. During that time I have never had any accident to a ship under my command. This is the first time the chief officer has ever disobeyed orders. When I came on deck and the chief officer told me he had passed Noshima, the light was not in sight.

The evidence was then read over to the witness. The following amended question was put—Why, knowing that Noshima Light was so close at hand, did you leave the deck and remain below?—I left the chief officer on deck with orders to call me, but he neglected to do so.

Henry E. Browning, cautioned, deponed—I joined the *Tokio Maru* in June last year. I hand in my certificate. We left Oginohama on December 5th. I do not know how many passengers we had. I do not know when we sighted Inuboye Light; it was not during my watch. I wish to correct that statement. I was on watch. We sighted the light about seven o'clock. I cannot recollect the bearing. (The log, it was pointed out, stated the light to be sighted at 7.15 p.m.) I do not recollect the bearing, but that given in the log is correct. When Noshima Light was sighted it was the second officer's watch and I was below. My watch was from 4 to 8. Noshima Light was passed during my watch, and it then bore N., distant 2¼ miles. The captain was not then on deck, having gone below about 4.10 or 4.15. The captain left orders with me to call him when we were up to or coming up to Noshima Light. I did not obey that order. I cannot give any reason for that. I am not able to give any reason. The captain gave me no order to alter the course. After we passed Noshima I did alter the course on my own account, at 5.30, the time in the log. I do not remember it myself. I altered the course because I found what I took then to be Susaki bearing N. by E. That was what guided me. It was about my fourth or fifth voyage between Oginohama and Yokohama. Off Noshima Light the weather was bright and clear, perhaps a slight haze over the land. After altering the course at 5.30 a thick fog came down, the wind being light about N.W., perhaps about 2 to 3 force. At 5.30 I altered the course to N.N.W. The fog shut out all objects except Melasaki, which I had taken for Susaki, and which was in sight all the time. I kept on until what I had taken for Susaki (Melasaki) was abeam, when I altered the course to N. by E. If the log says N. by E. ½ E. that is the course that I altered to. My attention was then taken up by the fishing boats. The captain then came up, awakened by their cries, and he saw a light line ahead which I took for a break in the fog, but which proved to be breakers. I had not noticed it before the captain did. He pointed it out me. The helm was then put hard a starboard, and the engines put astern, but it was too late and the ship took the ground shortly afterwards. I altered the course without referring to the chart. I know how far the ship had gone after passing Noshima before I altered the course. I know how far I should have gone before altering. I went, however, entirely on the bearing of what I took to be Susaki. After she went ashore the engines were kept going astern till the ship got broadside on to the beach, there being a heavy south-west surf. We then got the boats out and landed the the passengers. Shortly after the ship went ashore she began to make water; I do not know from where. It was only in the after-hold and engine-room. There are five bulkheads in the ship. The engine-room pumps were set to work as far as I know, until the engine-room was flooded. I did not know then to what extent the bottom was damaged, nor can I say now.

To Captain Allen—I ascertained the distance off Noshima Light by a 4-point bearing. I considered that the ship had run about 4 miles from the time Noshima bore N. till I altered the course. That point was not considered then at all. I never thought at all about the distance, when I altered the course. I think now that was the distance run. I had no chart on the bridge to refer to. I had intended to call the captain when the weather came down foggy, but I was so engaged steering clear of the fishermen, that I had no time to do so. A quartermaster was on the look-out on the bridge along with me.

Captain Squire suggested that it would not be necessary to examine any more witnesses. It seemed to him the case was perfectly clear.

Captain Allen expressed a similar view.

The President thought it would be advisable to call the quartermaster who was on the bridge.

This course was ultimately resolved upon, and the Court them adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming.

Ikeda Sotaro, cautioned, deponed—I was quarter-master of the *Tokyo Maru* on the 4 to 8 watch in the morning. I was at the wheel; the other quartermaster is under arrest in connection with the murder of a Chinaman.

Mr. Browning stated that the man now in prison was on the bridge with him.

Examination continued—I was at the wheel when passing Noshima, when the course was altered to W. by S. After fifteen minutes the course was altered by order of the chief mate to N.W. ½ W., I think the captain was then below. Again some 15 minutes later the course was altered to N.W. by N. ½ N. At about 5.45 it was again altered to N. ½ E. The weather was foggy when the last alteration was made. I could not, being inside the wheel house, see anything. The last course was kept till the ship struck.

To Captain Allen—There were many fishing boats about, and three or four times starboard helm was given the vessel to clear them.

To the President—The captain was aroused by the cries of the fishermen.

To Captain Squire—Every time the helm was starboarded to clear the fishing boats the ship was afterwards put again on her course.

To the President—Just before the ship grounded the helm was put hard a starboard and the engines reversed. No soundings were taken; there was no time to take them.

Captain Squire here read the report transmitted to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha by Captain Drummond with regard to the casualty.

In reply to Captain Squire,

Captain Drummond stated that the orders on the first page of the order-book were his and were to the effect that the captain should be called every time the course was changed; whenever the officer of the watch was in doubt; and in foggy weather he was to be called at once and the engines put at half speed.

The Court here adjourned.

Judgment was given yesterday at the Mercantile Marine Bureau of the Communications Department, by the Court of Enquiry into the circumstances attending the recent stranding of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Tokyo Maru*. Capt Yebiko presided.

Commander Squire, R.N., one of the assessors, read the following translation of the finding of the Court:—

The *Tokyo Maru* is an iron screw steamer belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha of Tokyo. Her registered tonnage is 1,360 and nominal horse-power 211. The master was James Drum-

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mond and the chief officer Henry E. Browning, both British subjects. From the evidence given before the Court it appears that the vessel sailed on a voyage from Oginohama to Yokohama, leaving Oginohama at 5.40 a.m. on the 5th December, 1890. Inuboye Light was sighted at 7.15 p.m. and passed at a distance of 4.25 miles when the master altered course to S. 37 W. Noshima Light was sighted at 3 a.m. and the master, having shaped a course in order to pass the light at a distance of two miles, went to his room giving the chief officer, whose watch it was, orders to call him when the light was abeam. It appears that the master while waiting in his room fell asleep. Noshima Light was passed at 5.10 at a distance of 2.25 miles, but the master was not called. At 5.30 the chief officer altered course to N.N.W. stating that he mistook Merasaki for Sunosaki, without taking into consideration the time or distance run since passing the light. At 5.50 he again altered course to N. by E. 25 E., and shortly after, the weather becoming foggy over the land, the ship ran among a number of fishing boats, the cries from which aroused the master, who immediately went on deck and after asking the chief officer a few pertinent questions observed a line of breakers across the bow, ordered the helm to be put hard a starboard and the engines to be reversed full speed, but this was too late to be of much use for the ship took the ground almost directly and within about ten minutes was carried broadside on to the beach by the heavy swell that was running. All available means were successfully used to get the passengers and crew on shore, no lives being lost.

JUDGMENT.

The Court is of opinion that no blame is attributable to the master, James Drummond, for this casualty, and therefore exonerates him, recommending that his certificate be returned to him. The casualty was caused by the chief officer, Henry E. Browning, who not only disobeyed the master's distinct and admitted orders given to him that morning, but also two of the orders in the master's night order-book which he had signed, viz., to call the master whenever the course was altered, and also, should the weather become foggy. The Court therefore recommends that his certificate be suspended for a period of twelve months.

President, EBIKO SUYEJIRO.

Assessors { MOUNTJOY SQUIRE. J. F. ALLEN. TOMIOKA SHUNJIRO. TORII SEIJI.

I hereby approve of this decision and direct that it be carried out accordingly.

(Signed) GOTO SHOJIRO, Count,
Minister of State for the Department of Communications.

Tokyo, 6th March, 1891.

The certificate of Captain Drummond was then handed back to him, and the Court was closed.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 28th.

The Times publishes a draft agreement between Great Britain and Portugal, which places the boundary of the Portuguese territory at the 33rd degree of longitude, Portugal also obtaining an extension of territory northward as far as Tete, on the Zambesi River.

London, March 2nd.

The Times publishes a paragraph stating that the adoption of the boundary at Manica as a settlement (? of the Portuguese question in South East Africa) is premature.

[There is evidently a message missing. Manica was not referred to in the previous telegram on this subject, although it is in the neighbourhood of the disputed territory, being bounded on the north by Mocaranga, on the east by Sofala and Sabia, and the south and west by regions not so well known.—ED. *J.M.*]

London, March 3rd.

The *North German Gazette* publishes an article which declares that all Germans from the Alps to the sea will unite in case of danger.

London, March 4th.

In the House of Commons, Sir John Pope Hennessy gave notice that he would introduce a motion to place the coaling stations under the control of the Naval instead of the Military Authorities.

Later.

A leading London firm is said to be entangled in Argentine credit and requires a million sterling to satisfy the claims.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Shanghai, March 4th.

The Foreign Ministers to Peking were yesterday received in audience for the first time under the new arrangement.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, February 14th.

There has been another murder of the Ripper class in Whitechapel.

The Anti-Parnellites are organizing a National Federation with separate National League.

London, February 16th.

The insurgents have signally defeated the Chilean troops at Tarapaca.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10 45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8 58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 ri.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MITANOBHITA (distance 1⅛ ri)

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6 and 9.55 a.m., and 1.15 and 5.30 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 7.50, and 11.48 a.m., and 3.08 and 7.23 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 5.45 and 9.40 a.m., and 1 and 4.25 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 6.47 and 10.42 a.m., and 2 02 and 5.26 p m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29 second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66.

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a m., and 12,21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8 02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3 26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TOKYO-SHIOGAMA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UENO (down) at 6, 6.35, 8 50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 9.57 a.m. and 3.04 and 6.11 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (down) at 8 a.m. and 12.34 and 5.42 p.m.; KORIYAMA (down) at 9.24 a.m. and 1.53 and 7.01 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (down) at 7.30 and 11.35 a.m. and 3.48 p.m.; and SENDAI (down) at 6.15 and 10.25 a.m. and 2.35 and 6.45 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE SHIOGAMA (up) at 6.50 and 11 a.m., and 3.10 and 7.20 p.m.; SENDAI (up) at 7.30 and 11.40 a.m., and 3.50 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (up) at 6.40 and 10.23 a.m. and 2.36 p.m.; KORIYAMA (up) at 8.28 a.m., and 12.15 and 4.26 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (up) at 6.30 and 9.45 a.m., and 1.35 p.m.; and UTSUNOMIYA (up) at 6.15 and 9.3 a.m., and 12.20, 4.18 and 6.30 p.m.

FARES.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6.45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.03, 4 42, and 6.09 p.m., and 12.08 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.05, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1.10, 4.35, 7.10, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.35, and 8.55 p m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11 55 a.m., and 2.44 6, and 9 20 p.m , and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3 48, 7 08, and 10.26 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OFU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11 55 p m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, and 6.03 p.m., and 12.33 and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, and 7 p.m., and 1.25 and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, and 7.29 p.m., and 1.54 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 3.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 8.43 a.m., and 3.59, 7.01, 8.57, and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.40, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.50 a.m., and 2.40 p m.; KYOTO at 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.30, and 11.08 p.m., and 5.36 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 12.36, 8.18, and 11.12 p.m., and 7 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, and 9.30 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, and 10.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 4.34 p.m., and 12.15 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, and 5.19 p.m., and 1.10 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, and 6.59 p.m., and 2.41 a m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3 05 a.m.; OGAKI at 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4 46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OFU at 9.01 and 11.53 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 5.57, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 50 a.m., and 6.02 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.08, 7.17, and 9 43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7 17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.50 and 9.25 a.m., and 2.20 and 5.15 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.25 and 10.10 a.m., and 2.05 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Uyeno.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen* third-class, 25 *sen*.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3 30 p.m.—FARE. *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe..... ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 13th.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	To-day, Mar. 7th.*
From Canada,&c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 7th.†
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 8th.§
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 15th ‖
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 15th.

* *Gaelic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on February 14th. † *Parthia* left Vancouver on February 18th. § *Salazie* left Hongkong on February 26th. ‖ *China* left San Francisco on February 26th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Colonist*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y K.	Tuesday, Mar. 10th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 15th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 19th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong... ...	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wedn'day, April 1st.
For Canada, &c.	per C. M. P. Co.	Friday, April 10th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 28th February,—Hongkong 23rd February, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 28th February,—Hakodate 25th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inishowen Head, British steamer, 1,988, Thompsen, 1st March,—Singapore 15th February, Steel Rails.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 1st March,—Kobe 28th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 2nd March,—San Francisco 5th February, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 2nd March,—Nagasaki 26th February, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 2nd March,—Hongkong 20th, Nagasaki 25th, and Kobe 28th February, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Hyacinth (8), screw cruiser, 1,420, Captain Robt. W. Cragie, 3rd March,—Target Practice.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 3rd March,—Kobe 2nd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oberon, British ship, 1,194, Fulton, 3rd March,—Cardiff 2nd October, Coal.—Langfeldt & Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 3rd March,—Hongkong 27th February, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Queen Elizabeth, British steamer, 1,628, Wilson, 4th March,—Kobe 2nd March, General.—Cornes & Co.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,294, C. K. W. Zitarb, 5th March,—Rangoon 17th February, Rice.—Cornes & Co.

Elwell, American ship, 1,388, Barstow, 5th March,—New York 10th October, Oil and General.—China ■ Japan Trading Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 6th March,—Kobe 4th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigelthal, 7th March,—Hakodate 4th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 28th February,—Hongkong 23rd February, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 27th February,—Honolulu, Emigrants and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alderley, British steamer, 1,961, Davis, 28th February,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Matsumaye Maru, Japanese steamer, 478, Wanaka, 28th February,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Spiegalthal, 28th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Natal, French steamer, 4,038, Bretel, 1st March,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 1st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 856, Trennt, 2nd March,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Keemun, British steamer, 1,985, Durdin, 2nd March,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Patroclus, British steamer, 1,386, Pulford, 2nd March,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 3rd March.—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Walter, 3rd March,—Nagasaki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 3rd March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 3rd March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 4th March,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 4th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,240, Pender, 5th March,—Nagasaki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 5th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 5th March,—Hiroshima, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommer, 6th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 7th March,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,107, W. M. Smith, 7th March,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Morizo Seki, O. Terahara, M. Miyazaki, Loo Chung Yow, Ah Lum, and Chang San Chee in cabin; 13 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Hakodate:—1 passenger in second class, and 16 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. Werner, R. Beekman, N. S. Johnson, Miss Mary Nelson, Misses E. Pettersen, Lina Amunson, F. Carlson, F. Anderson, Messrs. W. Fujita, C. J. Anderson, A. Witzell, C. Madson, A. W. Gustavson, A. E. Johnson, Misses C. Pettersen, E. Gustavson, and C. Anderson in cabin. For Hongkong: Lord Wolverton and servant, Messrs. R. H. Reid, U.S. Vice-Consul, Len Foo Chen, John Mason, and W. Liebes in cabin.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Captain McIngles, 2 daughters and child, Mr. and Mrs. Jewett, Mr. H. W. Perry, Captain G. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Jaek, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Yow, mother and 3 children, Mr. Gardner, Master Donald, Messrs. Ford, Mori, and Arnould in cabin; 7 passengers and 4 children in second class, and 3 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Newsom, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Takakawa, and Mr. Takaki in cabin; 27 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. W. Doberentz, C. S. Moore, Lieut. Hodges, R.N., Staff Surgeon Williams, R.N., Messrs. G. Voltattorni, B. Mitsans, and E. L. Whittall in cabin. For San Francisco: Hon. F. Fleming, Mr. A. G. Morris, Com. Hon. R. Bingham, R.N., and Captain Herbing, Imperial German Navy, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Hakodate:—5 passengers in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 55 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Kobe:—1 European in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 21 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Natal*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. F. Fortmann and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Rowband, Messrs. M. Nabeshima, H. Mauld and 3 boys, L. C. Freeland, J. D. Thorburn, Mr. and Mrs. Patey and maid, Miss Rossow, Messrs. Lemmone, Morris, Poole, K. Noda, S. Ito, F. H. Hooper, J. Kawamura, Miss Lee, Messrs. A. Lanes Deuply, Noistin, Miss Okiki, and Mr. and Mrs. Hong in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, for Kobe:—Mrs. M. C. Greathouse, Messrs. Rickerby, Sharp, Toms, Imai, Sekino, and Ito in cabin; Misses Peterson, Nelson, Garlson, E. Peterson, Gustafson, Amson, F. Anderson, C. Anderson, Messrs. Anderson, Madson, Beekman, Gustafson, Wetzell, Johnson, and W. S. Johnson in second class, and 54 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Dr. and Mrs. Cox, children, and European nurse, Mr. and Mrs. Pownall and child, Mr. Pownall, Mr. Mahieu, Captain Soedesberg, Messrs. H. Spitza, H. Schnetz, Young Chong, Young Hein, and two Chinese ladies and children in cabin; 12 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Lord Wolverton and servant, Captain Stevens, Messrs. H. W. Perry, Nicholas, Morriss, John Hay, Mrs. Ah Ling, Mrs. Ah Chew, Mrs. Pow Wai, Mrs. Chee San, and Mrs. King Yue in cabin; 14 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Commander Hon. R. Bingham, R.N., Captain Herbing, I.G.N., Hon. F. Fleming, Mr. A. G. Morris, Captain and Mrs. W. Hoehn and daughter, Messrs. L. Boehmer, E. Learned, W. Boyle, A. L. Robinson, J. J. Pearson, Dr. and Mrs. de Potter, Hon. and Mrs. F. P. Harder, Miss E. Ferguson, Mrs. W. McKenna, Miss A. C. Mott, Miss M. W. Beecher, Messrs. D. J. Densmore, J. J. Ford, H. J. Ford, J. Newsom, K. Y. Kogakushi, R. S. Harger, and Mrs. C. H. Geffeney in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Natal*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 753 bales; Waste Silk for France, 434 bales; Treasure for Shanghai, $5,100.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 407 bales.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	447	—	509	956
Hongkong	156	—	—	156
Total	603	—	509	1,112

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	357	—	357
Hongkong	—	140	—	140
Yokohama	—	498	—	498
Total	—	995	—	995

REPORTS.

The German steamer *General Werder*, Captain Eichel, reports:—Left Hongkong the 23rd February at 9 a.m.; had in Formosa Channel heavy fog and thick weather with light wind and calms; thence to port variable winds and weather with moderate sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 28th February at 8.50 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Hakodate the 25th February at 2 p.m.; had light variable winds with heavy north east swell. Arrived at Ogimohama the 26th at 2.30 p.m. and left the 27th at 4.20 a.m.; had light variable winds with rain, fog from Oshima to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 28th February at 8.28 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 28th February at noon; had fresh to moderate N.W. winds; passed Oshima at 8.20 p.m. with fresh wind and confused sea; passed Omaisaki the 1st March at 7.20 a.m., had strong N.E. winds up to Rock Island, which was passed at 10.10 a.m.; had moderate to light northerly winds and passing rain showers up to port. Time of arrival, 4 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain Wm. Ward, reports:—Left San Francisco February 5th at 6.32 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 2nd March at 1.04 a.m. Passage 23 days, 13 hours, and 4 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 2nd March at noon; had light variable winds and overcast sky; passed Oshima Light at 8.40 p.m., wind hauling to N.E., fresh breeze, with overcast sky, moderate head sea, and remaining so till arrival at Yokohama the 3rd March at 7.15 p.m.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong the 26th February at 4.12 p.m.; 8 hours later ran into a dense fog which continued till past Turnabout; thence clear weather, moderate head wind, and smooth sea; passed Rock Island the 3rd March at 1.50 p.m.; thence strong N.E. winds and showery weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 7.13 p.m. same day. Time 5 days, 1 hour, and 19 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, Captain Allen, reports:—Left Hakodate the 2nd February at 2 p.m.; had light northerly breeze and fine weather to past Kinkasan and light to moderate S.S.E. breeze to past Inuboye; high easterly swell throughout the passage; thence to port fresh and strong S.S.E. and N.N.E. breeze with thick rainy weather.

The American ship *Elwell*, Captain Barstow, reports:—Left New York the 11th October; crossed the equator in the Atlantic November 16th in long. 32.08 West; off Cape of Good Hope December 11th; January 15th entered Allas Straits, West Australia; thence by Salagoo Straits, Bolton Passage, Pitt Passage, Gau Straits, Gillolo Passage, into the Pacific January 31st lat. 1.15 North and long. 131.00 East. For 15 days had a continuation of calms and light winds from North to N.N.E. and current 1½ knots setting to the south. February 16th lat. 7.54 N., long. 135.00 E. took the N.E. trades and lost them on February 23rd lat. 23.00, long. 130.00 E. February 27th lat. 32.00 N., long. 134.00 E., heavy gale commencing at W. and ending at N.W. lasting 20 hours. March 1st at 10 p.m. off Rock Island at 6 a.m. received pilot; thence strong N.E. winds; anchored in Kaneda Bay 3rd March in thick showery weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 5th March at 1.45 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Kobe the 4th March at 4 p.m.; had light variable wind and sea to Oshima; thence strong westerly gale and heavy following sea to Rock Island; thence fresh northerly winds and sea to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 6th March at 3.15 a.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A further improvement took place in Yarns at the beginning of the week, and a few sales were made at better prices, but during the last few days no transactions have been reported; holders are firm and want a further advance to do business; this seems to have checked the inquiry, which was evidently of a speculative character. Other imports, although dull, are more or less firm in sympathy with their enhanced cost. Sales for the week amount to 550 bales English Yarns and 500 bales Bombays.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb. 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb. 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb. 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 43 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—2½ to 2¾lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.07½	to	1 15½
Turkey Reds—2¾ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.15	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 42 yards, 32 inches	$4 00	to	5 50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.12½	to	0 15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb.	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$27.00	to	28 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	28.00	to	29 00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	29 00	to	30 00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.50	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.50	to	32 75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	37 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34 50	to	36 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	38.50
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	79 50
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

Not much business doing; but dealers are paying rather better prices, and quotations may be advanced all round about 5 cents per picul.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.70	to	2.75
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.80	to	2.85
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.75	to	2.85
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted	2.75	to	2.85
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.90	to	6.10
Wire Nails, assorted	4.30	to	4.60
Tin Plates, per box	5.20	to	5.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.35	to	1.40

KEROSENE.

Quiet market, no fresh sales to advise. The *Elwell* has just arrived with a full cargo from New York; and 50,000 cases Russian *ex Ceylon* have been forwarded on to Kobe. Quotations unchanged.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.67½	to	1.70
Comet	1.65	to	1.67½
Devoe	1 62½	to	1.65
Russian	1.57½	to	1 60

SUGAR.

A current business doing in Browns at quotations, and deliveries are good. White refined is also in some request, and the general aspect is fairly good.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$3.80	to	3.85
Brown Daitong	3.20	to	3.80
Brown Canton	5.20	to	6.20
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	4.75	to	7.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 27th ult. since which date settlements in this Market amount to 692 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 132; *Filatures*, 349; *Re-reels*, 7; *Kakeda*, 168; *Oshu*, 36. There have been no direct shipments by Japanese this week, consequently the total export trade of the week is represented by the above figures.

There has been a fair amount of buying from day to day, both for Europe and America. Exchange has been fairly low and holders have sold currently, so that shippers have succeeded in filling several of their orders. A temporary rise in Exchange, however, checked the daily trade, but at closing a fresh decline in silver allows buyers to operate more freely.

Arrivals are coming in a little more freely but the stock of prime silk is slowly and surely diminishing; this especially noticeable in *Hanks*.

Holders are willing to be moving, but at the same time they will not give way in price to any great extent at present. They are, however, inclined to consider matters from a reasonable point of view, and the near approach of Spring weather, with the consequent talk about New Crop prospects, will no doubt assist them to make up their minds to do business. Quotations given below will give a fair idea of values here. Some holders are strong, while others might sell at a slight fractional reduction from quotation.

There has been only one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the French mail steamer *Natal*, which left port on the 1st inst, carried 753 bales for Europe. Her departure brings the present export figures up to 21,110 piculs, against 33,930 last year and 36,702 piculs at the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—There has been again some business in these at high rates consisting of *Shinshu*, 2½, at $535; *Boshu*, No. 2, at $545; with *Hachoji* at from $480 to $490.

Filatures.—These have been freely bought both for Europe and America, some good silks being taken at our quotations. In fine sizes good *Oshu* has been done at $630; *Mino*, $620; with *Koshu* at $610. In full sizes best *Shinshu*, like *Choshinsha*, has brought $625 and a line of *Tokosha* $610. One small parcel *Meijusha* noted at $620. This class of silks appears to be the cheapest in the market. *Re-reels* being held abnormally high, while *Kakedas* and *Hanks* are in very small supply.

Re-reels.—No business, holders maintain their strong attitude and demand prices which shippers are unable to pay.

Kakeda.—More doing in these, sellers having met buyers in the matter of price. Stock is once more reduced and some qualities of medium grades are now very hard to find.

Oshu.—Small business, there being no stock to select from. The trade done was in *Sendai* at $540 and $545 per picul.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	$550	to	555
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	545	to	550
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	535	to	540
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	530	to	535
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3	Nom.	510	to 520
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	500	to 505
Hanks—No. 3½		480	to 490
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		640	to 650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		625	to 635
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		620	to 630
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		610	to 620
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		590	to 600
Filatures—No. 2, 10/13 deniers		580	to 590
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570	to 580
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		540	to 550
Re-reels—Extra		620	to 630
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		600	to 610
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		590	to 600
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		580	to 585
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560	to 565
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		550	to 555
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520	to 540
Kakedas—Extra	Nom		—
Kakedas—No. 1		580	to 585
Kakedas—No. 1½		570	to 575
Kakedas—No. 2		550	to 560
Kakedas—No. 2½		530	to 540
Kakedas—No. 3		520	to 525
Kakedas—No. 3½		510	to 515
Kakedas—No. 4		500	to 505
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		520	to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		530	to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510	to 520
Sodai—No. 2½			—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 6th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	8,669	14,380	19,223
America	11,965	19,130	17,192
Total ... ... Bales	20,634	33,510	36,415
Total ... ... Piculs	21,110	33,930	36,702
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	23,150	34,700	36,600
Stock, 6th March	9,000	2,650	4,600
Available supplies to date	32,150	37,350	41,200

WASTE SILK.

Settlements in this branch are 312 piculs, divided thus: *Cocoons*, 68; *Noshi*, 46; *Kakeda*, 193; *Neri*, 5.

Business this week has been very small, not for lack of buyers but for lack of stock to operate upon. Quotations all round are firm and shippers would gladly pay some advance of present quotations if they could obtain superior quality.

There have been two shipping opportunities: the *Natal*, on the 1st inst., had 474 bales, and the *General Werder*, which left port on the 4th inst., took also a fair quantity. Present export is, therefore, 25,024 piculs, against 22,895 last year, and 26,430 at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Coccons.—Nothing done, the only parcel which has passed the scales being *Waste Cocoons* of very poor quality, at $14 per picul.

Noshi.—Very small business for lack of the requisite quality. Some arrivals have come in from the interior, but these do not supply the Market with what is most in demand.

Kibiso.—The bulk of the trade has been in this class and consists of medium *Joshu* kinds at about $32 per picul.

Mawata.—No business, stock is small and undesirable.

Sundries.—A small transaction in *Neri* at $14 completes the list.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	—
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 6th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	23,737	20,705	23,952
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	25,024	22,895	26,430
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	27,400	25,500	28,600
Stock, 6th March	4,100	7,000	4,350
Available supplies to date	31,500	32,500	32,950

Exchange has fluctuated slightly during the week closing at about the following rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3½; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅝; Documents, 3/3⅝; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78⅞; 4 m/s. U.S. $79½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.09; 6m/s. fcs. 4.11.

Estimated Silk Stock, 6th March, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	130	Cocoons	300
Filatures	5,200	Noshi-ito	1,000
Re-reels	3,200	Kibiso	2,550
Kakeda	380	Mawata	125
Oshu	85	Sundries	125
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	9,000	Total piculs	4,100

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has fluctuated, and closes without firmness.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2½
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3 3½
On Paris—Bank sight	4.00
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.12
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	½ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78½
Silver	44½

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1891.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd February, 1891, at Ulm, Germany, HERMANN GRAUERT, of Yokohama, to ANNA MATHILDE HELENE HÄUSSLER.

On 12th March, at Christ Church, Yokohama, FREDERICK HERBERT SHEPHERD to BLANCHE SOPHIE DESPRÉS.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE closing ceremony of the Imperial Diet took place on the 8th instant in the Imperial Palace.

THE United States Representative died suddenly at his Legation in Tokyo on the 10th instant.

H.I.H. PRINCESS KAGEKO left the capital on the 7th instant, for Oiso.

COUNT KATSU, a Privy Councillor, is at present suffering from influenza.

THE Japanese man-of-war *Chiyoda Kan* arrived at Colombo on the 5th instant.

THE Prince Imperial proceeded on the 8th inst. at 10 a.m. to the Shiba Detached Palace.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA left Yokosuka on the 5th instant for Saseho to inspect the Naval Station there.

THE quantity of kerosene now in stock in the godowns at Nakamura, Ishikawa, Yokohama, is 727,225 cases.

MR. HANABUSA, formerly Minister in Korea, has been appointed Vice-Minister of the Household Department.

ANOTHER batch of Japanese emigrants to the Hawaiian Islands, numbering in all about one thousand and fifty, will start from this port on the 17th instant by the *Omi Maru*.

VISCOUNT TANAKA has resigned the office of Chief of the Metropolitan Police, and been appointed a Privy Court Councillor.

A FINE ART Exhibition will be held on and after the 21st instant at the rooms of the Fine Art Society at Uyeno.

CAPTAIN W. HORHN, formerly an employé of the Metropolitan Police Office, sailed from this port on the 7th instant on board the *Oceanic*.

THEIR Imperial Highnessess Princesses Tsune and Kane, who had spent some time at Oiso, returned to the capital on the 7th instant.

COUNT ITO sent in on the 7th instant his resignation of his offices of President of the House of Peers and member of the Privy Court Council.

THE line of the Sanyo Railway between Hyogo and Okayama, which was completed recently, will be opened for traffic about the 20th instant.

MR. ASADA, Governor of Kanagawa, left Yokohama on the 7th inst. to make a tour of inspection through Minamitamagori and Kitatamagori.

MR. TAKAGI SABURO, of the Yokohama Doshin Kaisha, who had been abroad for some time, returned to Japan on the 7th instant by the *Gaelic*.

FIRE broke out on the 10th instant, at 2 a.m., in the buildings of the Parliamentary Club, and destroyed the whole edifice.

MR. E. KNIPPING, an employé of the Geographical Bureau of the Home Department, will leave this country about the 15th instant, his engagement in Japan having terminated.

THE Tokyo Electric Light Company received on the 5th instant an order from the Imperial Household Department to fit up a system of electric lighting in the Hama Detached Palace.

AT a meeting of the Yokohama Educational Society, held on the 8th instant at the Machigaisho, Honchodori, Messrs. Kimura Riyemon and Kurusu Sobei were elected President and Vice-President respectively.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL proceeded on the afternoon of the 6th instant to the Imperial Palace, where he was received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, retiring from the Palace about 4 p.m.

THE Home Department has granted a charter to Mr. Adachi Tamiharu, a resident of Sapporo, Hokkaido, and two others to lay a tramway between Kita-rokuje, in the city of Sapporo, and Hatsutarobetsu and Ananosawa.

THE buildings of the Tokyo Postal and Telegraph Office near Yedobashi, and the premises of the Patent Bureau at Kobiki-cho, the contracts for which have been obtained by the Nippon Doboku Kaisha, will be completed in June next.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ISONO MISAO, of the Fifth Division (Hiroshima), stabbed himself fatally with a sword on the night of the 3rd instant at his residence at No. 58, Hatsuchobori, Hiroshima. No reason for the suicide has yet been ascertained.

DURING last month gold, silver, and nickel coins were struck at the Osaka Mint in the following amounts:—Gold 5-*yen* pieces, *yen* 76,250.00; silver 1-*yen* pieces, *yen* 195,155.00; silver 20-*sen* pieces, *yen* 500,276.80; silver 10-*sen* pieces, *yen* 131,000.00, and nickel 5-*sen* pieces, *yen* 7,937.35.

THE election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Nakaye, a member of the Lower House for the fourth district of Osaka, will take place on the 17th instant. Messrs. Kitamura Sakichi, Mi-ichi Noriyasu, and Shinogawa Riyu are candidates for the seat.

ON the night of the 3rd instant a thief entered the house of Mr. Nakashima, Director of the Yuzawa branch office of the 1st National Bank, at Yuzawa-machi, Okatsugori, Akita Prefecture, and stole the sum of about 100 *yen*, killing Mr. Nakashima and five other members of his family.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 10th instant, at which all the Ministers of State, with the exception of Counts Yamagata and Oyama, Viscount Kabayama, and Mr. Yoshikawa were present. The proceedings lasted from 11 in the forenoon till a little past 5 in the afternoon.

DURING the month of January last the number of shares that changed hands in the Kyoto Stock Exchange was 31,834, of which 12,032 were Kansai Railway Company, 488 Sanyo Railway Company, 19,302 Kyushu Railway Company, 11 Kyoto Weaving Company, and 2 Kyoto Stock Exchange shares.

THE section between Miishi and Okayama (distance about 29 miles) on the Sanyo Railway Company having been completed, a trial run was made on the 8th instant. The section between Okayama and Kuroshiki (distance about 12 miles) on the same railway will be completed about the middle of next month.

AT the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Kyushu Railway Company, held on the 9th instant, it was decided that the work of constructing the railway of the company, with the exception of the works on the line between Monji, Kokura, Kumamoto, Kurume, and Saga, which are now in course of being carried out, should be stopped for a time.

THE graduation ceremony of the Tokyo Postal and Telegraph School was held on the 7th instant, the meeting being opened by the reading of the reports of the school for the last year by Mr. Tanaka, manager of the school. Mr. Kurino Shinichiro, President of the institution, presented certificates to the graduates. Several officials of the Communications Department and principals of Government schools in the capital were present on the occasion.

THE Import trade remains much in the same condition as last reported, and though business in Yarns and Shirtings remains rather slack, holders are not pushing sales, as they are in hope of obtaining better rates when the expected demand sets in. Woollens and Fancy goods receive little attention at present, but few purchases being made, though enquiries are heard. The Metal trade continues dull, small parcels of Iron being the principal business reported. Kerosene is without demand, and quotations are nominally unaltered. Sugar is quiet so far as Whites are concerned, but large arrivals of new Formosa are being landed, a fair amount of settlements being daily effected. Small musters of new Tea have been shown, but these are of forced growth, and the trade is fully a month from its commencement. Exchange has been steadily hardening, and is firm at the close.

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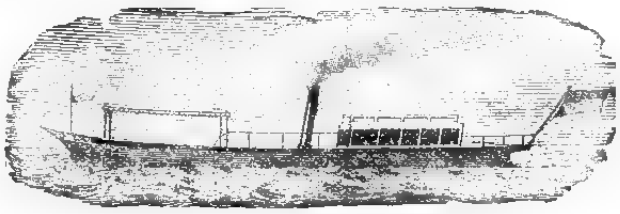

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1891.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd February, 1891, at Ulm, Germany, HERMANN GRAUERT, of Yokohama, to ANNA MATHILDE HELENE HÄUSSLER.

On 12th March, at Christ Church, Yokohama, FREDERICK HERBERT SHEPHERD to BLANCHE SOPHIE DESPRÉS.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE closing ceremony of the Imperial Diet took place on the 8th instant in the Imperial Palace.

THE United States Representative died suddenly at his Legation in Tokyo on the 10th instant.

H.I.H. PRINCESS KAGEKO left the capital on the 7th instant, for Oiso.

COUNT KATSU, a Privy Councillor, is at present suffering from influenza.

THE Japanese man-of-war *Chiyoda Kan* arrived at Colombo on the 5th instant.

THE Prince Imperial proceeded on the 8th inst. at 10 a.m. to the Shiba Detached Palace.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA left Yokosuka on the 5th instant for Saseho to inspect the Naval Station there.

THE quantity of kerosene now in stock in the godowns at Nakamura, Ishikawa, Yokohama, is 727,225 cases.

MR. HANABUSA, formerly Minister in Korea, has been appointed Vice-Minister of the Household Department.

ANOTHER batch of Japanese emigrants to the Hawaiian Islands, numbering in all about one thousand and fifty, will start from this port on the 17th instant by the *Omi Maru*.

VISCOUNT TANAKA has resigned the office of Chief of the Metropolitan Police, and been appointed a Privy Court Councillor.

A FINE ART Exhibition will be held on and after the 21st instant at the rooms of the Fine Art Society at Uyeno.

CAPTAIN W. HOEHN, formerly an employé of the Metropolitan Police Office, sailed from this port on the 7th instant on board the *Oceanic*.

THEIR Imperial Highnessess Princesses Tsune and Kane, who had spent some time at Oiso, returned to the capital on the 7th instant.

COUNT ITO sent in on the 7th instant his resignation of his offices of President of the House of Peers and member of the Privy Court Council.

THE line of the Sanyo Railway between Hyogo and Okayama, which was completed recently, will be opened for traffic about the 20th instant.

MR. ASADA, Governor of Kanagawa, left Yokohama on the 7th inst. to make a tour of inspection through Minamitamagori and Kitatamagori.

MR. TAKAGI SABURO, of the Yokohama Doshin Kaisha, who had been abroad for some time, returned to Japan on the 7th instant by the *Gaelic*.

FIRE broke out on the 10th instant, at 2 a.m., in the buildings of the Parliamentary Club, and destroyed the whole edifice.

MR. E. KNIPPING, an employé of the Geographical Bureau of the Home Department, will leave this country about the 15th instant, his engagement in Japan having terminated.

THE Tokyo Electric Light Company received on the 5th instant an order from the Imperial Household Department to fit up a system of electric lighting in the Hama Detached Palace.

AT a meeting of the Yokohama Educational Society, held on the 8th instant at the Machigaisho, Honchodori, Messrs. Kimura Riyemon and Kurusu Sobei were elected President and Vice-President respectively.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL proceeded on the afternoon of the 6th instant to the Imperial Palace, where he was received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, retiring from the Palace about 4 p.m.

THE Home Department has granted a charter to Mr. Adachi Tamiharu, a resident of Sapporo, Hokkaido, and two others to lay a tramway between Kita-rokuje, in the city of Sapporo, and Hatsutarobetsu and Ananosawa.

THE buildings of the Tokyo Postal and Telegraph Office near Yedobashi, and the premises of the Patent Bureau at Kobiki-cho, the contracts for which have been obtained by the Nippon Doboku Kaisha, will be completed in June next.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ISONO MISAO, of the Fifth Division (Hiroshima), stabbed himself fatally with a sword on the night of the 3rd instant at his residence at No. 58, Hatsuchobori, Hiroshima. No reason for the suicide has yet been ascertained.

DURING last month gold, silver, and nickel coins were struck at the Osaka Mint in the following amounts:—Gold 5-*yen* pieces, *yen* 76,250.00; silver 1-*yen* pieces, *yen* 195,155.00; silver 20-*sen* pieces, *yen* 500,276.80; silver 10-*sen* pieces, *yen* 131,000.00, and nickel 5-*sen* pieces, *yen* 7,937.35.

THE election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Nakaye, a member of the Lower House for the fourth district of Osaka, will take place on the 17th instant. Messrs. Kitamura Sakichi, Mi-ichi Noriyasu, and Shinogawa Riyu are candidates for the seat.

ON the night of the 3rd instant a thief entered the house of Mr. Nakashima, Director of the Yuzawa branch office of the 1st National Bank, at Yuzawa-machi, Okatsugori, Akita Prefecture, and stole the sum of about 100 *yen*, killing Mr. Nakashima and five other members of his family.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 10th instant, at which all the Ministers of State, with the exception of Counts Yamagata and Oyama, Viscount Kabayama, and Mr. Yoshikawa were present. The proceedings lasted from 11 in the forenoon till a little past 5 in the afternoon.

DURING the month of January last the number of shares that changed hands in the Kyoto Stock Exchange was 31,834, of which 12,032 were Kansai Railway Company, 488 Sanyo Railway Company, 19,302 Kyushu Railway Company, 11 Kyoto Weaving Company, and 2 Kyoto Stock Exchange shares.

THE section between Miishi and Okayama (distance about 29 miles) on the Sanyo Railway Company having been completed, a trial run was made on the 8th instant. The section between Okayama and Kuroshiki (distance about 12 miles) on the same railway will be completed about the middle of next month.

AT the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Kyushu Railway Company, held on the 9th instant, it was decided that the work of constructing the railway of the company, with the exception of the works on the line between Monji, Kokura, Kumamoto, Kurume, and Saga, which are now in course of being carried out, should be stopped for a time.

THE graduation ceremony of the Tokyo Postal and Telegraph School was held on the 7th instant, the meeting being opened by the reading of the reports of the school for the last year by Mr. Tanaka, manager of the school. Mr. Kurino Shinichiro, President of the institution, presented certificates to the graduates. Several officials of the Communications Department and principals of Government schools in the capital were present on the occasion.

THE Import trade remains much in the same condition as last reported, and though business in Yarns and Shirtings remains rather slack, holders are not pushing sales, as they are in hope of obtaining better rates when the expected demand sets in. Woollens and Fancy goods receive little attention at present, but few purchases being made, though enquiries are heard. The Metal trade continues dull, small parcels of Iron being the principal business reported. Kerosene is without demand, and quotations are nominally unaltered. Sugar is quiet so far as Whites are concerned, but large arrivals of new Formosa are being landed, a fair amount of settlements being daily effected. Small musters of new Tea have been shown, but these are of forced growth, and the trade is fully a month from its commencement. Exchange has been steadily hardening, and is firm at the close.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE CLOSING OF THE DIET.

THE ceremony of closing the Diet was performed on Sunday in the Throne Room (*Homeiden*) of the Imperial Palace. From an early hour in the morning large bodies of troops, gendarmerie and police were posted along all the avenues of approach, but no other preparations could be discerned. At ten o'clock the members of the Diet began to arrive. Passing under the Great Vestibule, and thence through the main entrance, they were received by ushers, and conducted to the Eastern and Western antechambers, the Representatives assembling in the former and the Peers in the latter. After an hour's interval, the President of the Lower House, in obedience to a summons conveyed by a chamberlain, conducted the Representatives, of whom over two hundred and seventy were present, to the *Homeiden*, where they took their places on the right of the Throne. Shortly afterwards the Peers followed, led by the Acting President, Count Higashi-Kuze—both Count Ito and Prince Konoye being too ill to attend—and ranged themselves on the left of the Throne. All this took place amid absolute silence, though it had been observed that during the interval of waiting in the Eastern Ante-chamber the members of the Lower House, having to all appearances completely forgotten the strong political animosities so recently displayed in debate and division, laughed and jested with as little concern for their surroundings as recollection of their past differences. Drawn up on either side of the Throne Room, the two Houses displayed the same marked contrast palpable on the occasion of the opening ceremony last November—the Commons a mass of black coats unrelieved by any point of colour or gleam of lace, the Peers a galaxy of brilliant uniforms and glittering orders. After a few moments of waiting, the Ministers of State came in by another entrance, and took their places on either side of the Throne, standing. The Minister President, who is suffering from a severe attack of influenza, was unable to be present, and his functions were performed by Count Saigo, Minister of State for Home Affairs. At 11.25 Count Saigo advanced and read from a scroll the Imperial Message, prefacing the reading by saying:—"In accordance with His Imperial Majesty's gracious commands, I gratefully proceed to read aloud the Imperial Message:—

My Lords and Gentlemen of the Houses of Peers and Representatives; We this day declare the Imperial Diet prorogued, acknowledging with satisfaction the zeal and diligence with which, during several months, you have discharged your labours.

At the conclusion of this brief message the assemblage bowed again, and Count Saigo handed the scroll to the Acting President of the House of Peers. Receiving it, Count Higashi-Kuze, after the usual reverential obeisance, called for three cheers for the Emperor, which were given with the utmost heartiness, the Palace ringing with the unwonted sounds of "*Tenno Heikwa Banzai*," uttered by five hundred voices. A little more than two years ago the Emperor, amid rejoicings not free from doubts, bestowed upon his people the Constitution whose first practical working His Majesty has now the satisfaction of seeing successfully concluded.

VISCOUNT AOKI IN THE UPPER HOUSE.

ON Friday week, after the Budget had been passed by the Peers, Count Ito resumed his seat as President, and announced that the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs would answer certain questions previously put, on the subject of Treaty Revision. Viscount Aoki said:—

My Lords and Gentlemen, I shall have the honour to reply this evening to questions addressed to the Government on the 23rd of February by Mr. Nishimura Shigeki. The gist of the first question was whether it is proposed to give to foreigners the privilege of mixed residence. The question is a large one and affords much room for doubt. In order, therefore, to reply clearly, it becomes necessary to refer to the objects by which the empire's foreign policy has hitherto been directed. Since the Restoration, the guiding aims of the Administration have been to follow a liberal policy, to push forward towards the van of civilization, to effect reforms in all domestic affairs, holding to the good and rejecting the bad, to neglect nothing, however small, but by diligence to convert even stones into jewels, as the proverb says. At home the principles of liberty have been developed; abroad, the national bases have been strengthened, and the prestige of the country has been enhanced. Happily, domestic affairs having been brought into good order, we have been able to turn our attention to foreign intercourse, and by taking measures for protecting the lives and properties of Japanese merchants in foreign countries, the reputation of the empire has been enhanced. In carrying on this work, we are called upon to discharge the duties properly devolving on us, namely, to cement and strengthen our relations with foreign nations. Unfortunately, in following this route we come to a bridge, namely, the existing Treaties. Unless we cross the bridge, we cannot reach the opposite bank. That is the reason why the present treaties must be revised. If they be left unrevised, grave inconvenience must ensue. It is necessary that revision be achieved so as to recover the country's independence and vindicate its three sovereign rights. If this aim be achieved, the privilege of mixed residence will be granted to foreigners. With regard to the second question, whether the privilege of owning real estate will be extended to foreigners, the answer is that the Government does not approve of such a concession. The third question relates to the recovery of Tariff Autonomy and the revision of customs dues. To achieve the recovery of Tariff Autonomy the Government considers that a certain interval of years will be necessary. Meanwhile, our policy is to increase customs dues, by due proceess, so as to augment the revenue of the State. As to the fourth point, namely, whether foreigners will be permitted to take part in the cabotage, I answer emphatically that the Government will not grant such permission. The fifth question—whether a law for the naturalization of foreigners is to be soon enacted—I am not able to answer, since that point falls within the province the Legislature."

POLITENESS.

WE did not imagine that the *Japan Gazette* would appreciate the discourtesy of its *mode of discussing* the applicability of the term "Excellency" in the case of a lady in Tokyo. Ignorance was the one and only excuse for its language, and the same ignorance prevents it from appreciating the rudeness, even when indicated. It claims now that its "remarks on the proper use of the term Excellency were interpreted as a breach of the canons of politeness!" We cannot emulate our naïve contemporary's polished ways by re-publishing and dissecting its *bevue*. But we may tell it, since it invites the information, that a thousand articles on the applicability of the title "Excellency" to the wives of Ministers Plenipotentiary in general would not constitute any breach of the canons of politeness, whereas one brief sentence in a note on the same subject might fatally offend against the commonest rules of courtesy. These are matters of training and instinct. If the latter is absent, the former is apt to fail.

THE SPECIE BANK.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank was held on the 10th instant. The total receipts during the past half-year were *yen* 800,798.357, of which *yen* 432,202.167 was deducted for expenses, leaving a profit of *yen* 368,596.160, to which *yen* 4,422.418 brought over from the last account were added, making the total of *yen* 373,018.578. Of this amount *yen* 25,000 were set apart as a special reserve, *yen* 34,350 for remuneration to officers, and *yen* 34,400 as a reserve, *yen* 268.578 being carried forward to next account. A dividend was declared at the rate of 16 per cent per annum.

THE MODERATES AS A POLITICAL PARTY.

WE have stated more than once that the question of converting the *Taiseikai*, or so-called "Moderates," into a political party, has been under discussion, and that the advocates of the step were deterred from pushing matters openly in view of the evident reluctance of several members to depart from the neutral attitude assumed when they entered Parliament. The expediency of some definite organization seems to have presented itself with renewed force after the success which attended the action of the Moderates in the last stages of the Budget's career, and talk of the birth of a new and powerful political party began to be heard once more in the capital. But apparently the time has not yet come for any open step of that nature. It has been deemed more prudent to be content for the present with a club out of which the machinery for amalgamation will doubtless grow spontaneously. A meeting with that object was held on Saturday night. About fifty members of the Lower House attended. The *Taisei-kai*, the *Kokumin-to*, the *Jiyu-to*, the *Jichi-to*, and the *Kokken-to* (of Kumamoto) were all represented, and there were also present Messrs. Oye Taku, Sugehiro, and Inouye Kakugoro, who are now known as *Mushozoku-gi-in*, or members without any association. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, who has become a recognised leader of the *Taiseikai*, was voted to the chair, and the following rules were adopted:—

1. The club shall be called the "*Kyodo Club*."
2. The club shall be composed of members of the Imperial Diet, and its objects shall be to take measures for the nation's progress and to promote intercourse between the members.
3. The office shall be in Tokyo.
4. There shall be five Managers, who will transact the general business of the club. They shall serve for one year, and shall be elected annually at the time of the Diet's opening.
5. There shall be two Secretaries chosen and appointed by the Managers.
6. There shall be one general meeting each month.
7. The expenses of the club shall be defrayed by the members.

It will be seen that every hint of political purpose is carefully banished from these rules. Nevertheless, there is considerable likelihood that the club may become the nucleus of one of the most important political parties hitherto organised in Japan.

GEORGE DANDIN.

THE *Japan Gazette* is determined to draw attention to its blunders. It might save itself humiliation had it the sense to understand that some errors are secured against criticism by the pity they provoke. It asserts, and persists in asserting, that there has been a disruption of the Progressionist and the Radical Parties, and it charges us with shifting our ground because we refrain from further discussion of a statement so contrary to truth But our reason for refraining is because we perceive that the *Gazette's* difficulty is ignorance of the common meaning of terms. Just as the continuity of a correspondence is apt to be interrupted if one of the parties posts his letters in a disused pump, so a controversy is likely to come to a dead-lock if one of the controversialists does not understand the language he employs. The disruption of two parties means that the parties have separated; that they are no longer working in union. Nothing of the kind has happened in the case of the Progressionists and Radicals. They still stand shoulder to shoulder in the Diet, just as they did two months ago, when the fact of their unexpected combination caused so much surmise and comment. The *Gazette* affirms that there has been disruption, and in proof of its statement gives the names of a coterie of politicians who have receded from the ranks of the Radicals. Yet this same *Gazette* expects to be taken seriously. An object lesson may perhaps help its perception:—Suppose that a company of British soldiers had deserted during the Crimean compaign, could the event have been properly described as a disruption of the English and French armies? If the *Gazette* is incapable of appreciating this distinction, we begin to understand the origin of many of its curious mistakes. But an extraordinarily crude and inaccurate perception of current events is not the only trouble with our contemporary. The same confusion apparently extends to its ideas of right and wrong. It loves to charge others with shifting their ground and with general evasiveness, but the difficulty of

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facing a plain issue is evidently insuperable for itself. What has become of its assertion that "the *Japan Mail*, relying on the credulity of its readers, attributed the defeat of the Extremists to the eloquence of a non-influential member of the Diet, Amano Jakuyen?" What has become of this assertion in the face of the facts, proved by verbatim extracts from our columns, that on the morrow of the defeat we assigned two causes for it, "first, and chiefly, the secession of a portion of the Radical Party; secondly, and in a very trifling degree, a growing conviction that if the House persisted in its course, dissolution was inevitable?" Is there anything here about Mr. Amano Jakuyen? In a note published several days after the causes of the discomfiture of the Extremists had been accurately explained in our leading columns and after their names had been given by us, we alluded to Mr. Amano Jakuyen's sudden celebrity, and gave his own account of the event, which, he said, "Providence or Hotoke had a large share in shaping." The note did not contain a single expression of our own opinion; a single statement of facts for which we vouched. What does the *Gazette* mean by pretending to twist such a note into an assertion that Mr. Amano's eloquence brought about the defeat of the Extremists? What does it mean by steadily ignoring the distinct statement of causes inserted several days previously in out leading columns? The necessity of dealing with such ingenuousness does not often present itself, and we frankly admit that we are perplexed how to treat it without recourse to terms equally uncommon. There appears to be on the part of the *Gazette* an absolute incapacity to grasp the most ordinary issue. Thus, it complains that its "casual statement" about Count Ito's presence in Prince Sanjo's funeral cortége is unfairly criticised as dishonest. What could be more evasive than such a demurrer? The *Gazette*, in the first place, expressed the pleasure it had derived from seeing that Count Ito had recovered sufficiently to be present. Being told that Count Ito was not present, it affirmed that it could bring "four or five persons who distinctly affirmed that they saw him pass down Reinanzaka." Then finally, having discovered that Count Ito was not in Tokyo at all that day, it described the whole thing as "a casual statement," and was indignant because others viewed it differently. What has become of the four or five eye witnesses? Were they also "a casual statement?" These things are trifles. We should not have alluded to them again, if the *Gazette* had been prudent enough to refrain from charging us with "shifting our ground," and from repeating its silly persiflage that "defence of the Japanese Government involves close adherence to such methods of controversy." If our unfortunate contemporary is determined to rush down the steep place, it must take the consequences.

THE CHIEF OF METROPOLITAN POLICE.

THE resignation of Viscount Tanaka, Chief of the Metropolitan Police, attracts much attention in the capital. No occupant of the important post of *Keishi Sokan* has a better record than the Viscount. Under his superintendence the police force has been carried to a point of high efficiency, and the severest critic has not found a word to say against his manner of discharging his duties. His resignation is, of course, variously interpreted, but the most reasonable explanation appears to be that he declines to endorse the reductions made by the Diet in the appropriation for his Bureau. He claims, and with perfect justice it is said, that the strictest economy has not only been exercised in all matters relating to the police while under his direction, but has also been the guiding principle of his official career throughout. It was he who, in conjunction with General (now Count) Yamagata, carried out the economical reforms which, in 1878, led to the trouble known as the *Takebashi Sodo*, and he has never failed to make the reduction of official expenditure his object. So earnest was his desire of reform in this respect, that when he became Chief of Police one of his first steps was to cut down the establishment provided for his own convenience, his carriage being dispensed with among other things. He declares that the appropriation asked for in the Budget on account of his Bureau included no margin whatever, and represented the smallest sum compatible with efficiency of the police force. Nevertheless, this minimum has been cut down by ninety thousand *yen*, and the Viscount is reported to say that he is resolved not to attempt the fruitless task of adjusting expenditures to an inadequate allowance. We can entirely sympathise with him if this account of his motives be correct. A zealous officer takes a pride in the efficiency of the force under his charge, and if Viscount Tanaka is resolved not to attempt the task of policing the capital without sufficient resources, his retirement will not be the least creditable page of his record.

MESSRS. MAWE AND COMPANY V. YEBIZUKA SHIROBEI.

AN appeal in this case has just been heard in Tokyo. The facts are of some interest. About the month of October, 1888, Messrs. Mawe & Company, of Kobe, received from Mr. Yebizuka a quantity of straw-braid for sale abroad, and a percentage of the estimated value of the braid was paid to the owner by the foreign firm. An agreement between the parties provided for the customary charges and commissions, and contained a condition that the goods should be sold within four months from the date of their transfer to Messrs. Mawe and Company, the selling price to be calculated on the basis of the estimated value *plus* the charges; and in case such an amount could not be realized, the best terms obtainable were to be taken. It was further agreed that should the sum realized be insufficient to cover the advances made by Messrs. Mawe & Company, the deficiency should be made good by Mr. Yebizuka, either in cash or in marketable securities. At dates subsequent to the above-named term of months, portions of the braid were sold in London, but the prices obtained were below the estimated values. Correspondence then ensued as to the actual state of the market and so forth. Messrs. Mawe and Company suggested the advisability of disposing of the braid at once, so as to avoid further loss, but for some reason the owner wished to have the goods held over until January, 1890. At the latter date, however, the market was found to be more unfavourable than ever, and Messrs. Mawe and Company, having waited until June, sold the braid, fearing that it might become altogether unsaleable, and seeing that no payment or deposit of securities was made to ensure them against loss. The proceeds of the sale did little more than suffice to cover the various charges on the goods, and account sales were duly rendered, but Mr. Yebizuka continued to negotiate for some reduction of his liabilities. Legal action was finally taken. Last September Messrs. Mawe and Company instructed Mr. Masujima to institute proceedings with the view of recovering the sums due. The case came up for hearing in the Yokohama Court. The defence set up was that Messrs. Mawe and Company had sold the braid at a date subsequent to that stipulated for, namely, January, 1890, without due care and for a price considerably below the limits originally fixed by the owner, thus disregarding the latter's interests. It was further urged that the goods had been disposed of by auction, an inference drawn from certain items which appeared in the account sales as auction expenses. Messrs. Mawe and Company replied in the first place, that auction was the usual mode of sale for all kinds of goods in London, market reports being almost always made out from the results of such sales; and in the second, that the goods in this particular case were not disposed of by auction, no auctioneer's commission having been charged. Moreover, the reasonableness of the sale was proved by reference to the reports of London brokers, and it was urged that carelessness of the owner's interest was most improbable on the part of Messrs. Mawe and Company, inasmuch as their profit depended solely on commission. The Court gave judgment in favour of the plaintiffs, on the ground that the latter had acted in compliance with the terms of the contract, and were justified in selling as they did at prices the propriety of which was proved by comparison with the London market reports. The defendant appealed, however, and the appeal was heard last week, the Upper Court sustaining the original judgment. An order was also granted, on the application of the plaintiff's counsel and in accordance with the provisions of the new Code of Civil Procedure, which came into operation on the 1st of January, that the defendant should pay into Court the amount of the claim against him. An appeal to the Supreme Court is still open, but must be lodged within thirty days, and can only be taken on the ground that the judgment of the last Court is defective on some point of law. It will be seen that the time occupied in the disposal of this suit, up to the present, is not at all excessive. The chief point of interest, however, is that the case is the first in which the provisions of the new Code of Civil Procedure have been taken advantage of by a foreign suitor. The constant complaint hitherto urged by foreigners against Japanese Courts is that, owing to the latter's faulty procedure, a judgment obtained against a debtor possesses no practical value, inasmuch as pending the hearing of an appeal, the debtor can place all his property beyond the creditor's reach. The Code of Civil Procedure, which came into force at the beginning of the year, obviates this effectually by providing that a debtor, appealing from the judgment of a lower court, may be ordered to pay into court the amount for which judgment has been given against him, or, failing compliance, may have his property attached. No cause of complaint exists any longer on this score. Foreign suitors can count on obtaining justice, so far, at any rate, as the written law is concerned.

SPURIOUS SOSHI.

THE *soshi* get the discredit of many things for which they are in no sense responsible. In the *Kokumin Shimbun* the other day we find the following:—"At five o'clock in the evening of the 7th instant, a *soshi* took hold of the wife of a Foreign Minister—the United States Representative, it is said—and used most abusive language to her. On being arrested he was found to be a native of Nagano Prefecture, by name Kumagaye. The lady very charitably intimated that she did not wish to have him punished, and he was accordingly released with a warning, after having tendered an apology." The facts of this case are that as Mrs. Swift was driving home on Saturday evening, a youth who had formerly been employed at the Legation, jumped up behind the carriage and having addressed to its inmates a few words of broken and unintelligible English in a rapid and somewhat violent manner, took his departure. Naturally this proceeding caused some alarm, and as the carriage passed a police station shortly afterwards, information was given to the guardians of the law, who quickly arrested the agile individual. He showed much contrition for his conduct and was accordingly released. With what object he selected this peculiar fashion of address we have not learned. He had left the service of the American Legation by his own desire to seek special employment elsewhere, and it may be that failure to accomplish his purpose involved him in difficulties which threw him temporarily off his balance. While in service he had been fairly attentive to his duties, and there was no reason to suppose that his freak of last Saturday possessed any particular significance.

THE LATE MR. COSMO INNES BURTON.

A RECENT China mail, says *Industries* of Jan. 23, has brought news of the death of Mr. Cosmo Innes Burton, who was appointed last year to the Professorship of Chemistry at the new Technical Institute of Shanghai. His death at the age of twenty-eight has excited feelings of regret among fellow workers in this country, who regarded him as one of the most original of the younger generation of chemists. Mr. Burton's father was Mr. John Hill Burton, the well-known Scottish historian. That his intellectual inheritance, however, was sci-

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entific, not literary, was early apparent, for as a boy he worked in the chemical laboratory which he and his elder brother—now Professor of Sanitary Engineering in the University of Tokyo—fitted up for themselves. After graduating in Edinburgh, Mr. Burton became assistant to Dr. Japp, now Professor of Chemistry at Aberdeen, and, in conjunction with him, contributed four memoirs to the Journal of the Chemical Society, embodying the results of extensive researches in the department of organic chemistry. His interests in chemistry, however, were essentially of a practical nature. He was interested in social reforms of every kind, and eagerly embraced the opportunity offered to him by the Town Council of Edinburgh of examining the air of public buildings in that city. He made a careful chemical and biological investigation of the air of the chief schools and theatres of the city, and drew up an exhaustive report on the subject. He was profoundly interested in both the technical and philosophic aspects of chemical science. One of his investigations, the subject of which was the heat produced by the compression of pure solid and liquid substances, was pretty far advanced before he left for China. His friend, Mr. W. Marshall, in conjuction with whom a large part of the work was carried out, will shortly publish the results of the research. Mr. Burton received last spring his appointment in China, and proceeded to Shanghai, where he arrived in the end of July. A letter written by him in the beginning of October was full of hope and enthusiasm about his work. Within a month of the date of the letter he was cut down by an attack of malignant small-pox, after two or three days' illness.

THE SANYO RAILWAY.

It was expected that the section of the Sanyo Railway between Mitsuishi and Okayama would have been finished by the end of last month, and opened for traffic during the first ten days of this month. But considerable delay occurred in connection with three tunnels at Inaba, in Bingo, and the consequence is that a trial trip could not be made over the whole line until the 8th instant. It is stated that the regular inspection by experts of the Railway Department has been concluded, and sanction to run trains duly given. The opening to public traffic will probably take place on or about the 20th inst. The distance from Hyogo to Okayama is 90 miles, and in the section from Mitsuishi to Okayama there are six stations. We need scarcely tell our readers that the Sanyo Railway is the part of the main trunk line of Japan to the south of Hyogo. Its construction is in the hands of a private company. Mitsuishi, from which the line has now been carried forward, is an unimportant town of only three thousand inhabitants in Bizen, but Okayama in the same province has a population of over thirty-three thousand, and is one of the principal places between Himeji and Hagi.

IRON MINING IN JAPAN.

It is curious that reports of large enterprise in the direction of iron mining should be associated at the present epoch with the name of Mr. Iwasaki Yanosuke. Statements of this nature made a few months ago would have been intelligible. Steps were then actually being taken to determine what if any deposits of iron might be worked with advantage, but a survey of various places, made, we believe, by Mr. J. M. Stoddart, led to an abandonment of the project for a time at all events, and to speak of its being on the *tapis* at present, or of large sums being devoted to it, is altogether a misconception. Kamaishi, in Iwate Prefecture, the mine upon which so much money was spent by the Treasury in former years, still enjoys the reputation of possessing the finest deposits of iron ore in Japan. Kamaishi labours under the fatal disadvantage of being far away from any supply of fuel, and whether to bring coal there for smelting purposes, or to carry the crude ore to the coal, is a problem that has not yet been solved so as to warrant any prudent capitalist in putting his money into the enterprise. Iron mining is therefore at a standstill in Japan, and no prospect exists of its being taken up in the immediate future.

AN ENGLISH OPINION ON TREATY REVISION.

The question of treaty revision in Japan, to which we (*Industries*) have frequently referred, has become complicated by considerations of party politics and sectional opinions, and these will add immensely to the difficulty of settlement. As we have on a previous occasion pointed out, the question might have been settled some years ago with comparative ease, in a manner which would have prevented it being raised for a considerable time, for then the foreign Powers had only to deal with a comparatively despotic Government. Now it has to deal with a representative Government, which is criticised by a public press, and which is thus doubly bound to respect public opinion. It is stated by the foreign press in Japan that the recent proposals of the Government are for the purpose of conciliating the patriotic party in the country, and evoking the opinion of the foreign residents, which, in the open ports at least, is unanimously and decidedly against the proposals. It is not within our province to enter into the consideration of either the personal or political questions involved, but we have no hesitation in saying, after considerable personal knowledge of the country and the people, that the present state of affairs is a grave injustice to Japan and an injury to the foreign trade of the country. During the past twenty years the Japanese have made so much progress in every way that it is only right that they should expect a considerable relaxation of arrangements which were made under a totally different state of affairs. We trust that some method will soon be found to bring a change about.

THE CAMP OF THE "KAISHIN TO."

We should not have supposed that Mr. Tanaka Shozo was likely to cause any friction in the ranks of the Progressionists. It always struck us that the House of Representatives did not take him very seriously, and there was reason to doubt even whether he took himself quite seriously. His action towards Count Goto was conspicuously silly. He had not sufficient artistic instinct to understand that all his grievances against that statesman were amply avenged by the clever speech which he made in connection with the appropriation for the Communications Department. If he had terminated his crusade there the public would have applauded, but he carried it on with a kind of clumsy vindictiveness that ultimately converted the whole affair into a burlesque. Assuredly if, as foreign observers, we were asked to point out the members whose conduct contributed least to impart dignity to the proceedings of the House of Representatives, we should put Mr. Tanaka Shozo at the head of the list, and certainly it would never have occurred to us to imagine that any portion of the *Kaishin-to* would be found supporting his claims to consideration at present. It is stated, however, that the reproaches levelled at Mr. Tanaka by some of his Progressionist associates have been resented by the others, and that trouble is not unlikely to arise in the party from this cause. The rumour appears to us wholly incredible.

THE TWO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

On the 9th instant a garden party was given by the Cabinet at the Akasaka Detached Palace to the members of the two Houses of the Diet, and the chief parliamentary officials. More than five hundred persons were present, and after having walked round the beautiful garden and enjoyed the view from the various pavilions—the Pavilion of the Pure Heart, the Pavilion of Winter Perfumes, the Pavilion of the Lespedeza, and the Pavilion of the Lotus Lake—they were conducted by the Ministers of State to the great banquetting hall, where a sumptuous collation in foreign style was provided, Ministers, members of Parliament, farmers, merchants, noblemen, all enjoyed one another's society without any distinction of person. After the repast Mr. Inouye Kakugoro urged Viscount Aoki to speak, and the Viscount, standing in the verandah, addressed the assemblage as follows (we translate from the *Choya Shimbun*) :—

Gentlemen,—At the request of Mr. Inouye Kakugoro I will speak a few words. But it is understood that to-day no interrogations will be put to me.—(Hear, hear.) The Minister President, Count Yamagata, should be your chief host to-day, but since the day before yesterday he has been suffering from inflammation of the lungs and is unable to attend, to his and our great regret.—(Cries of "Very sorry.") As we are without a President I hope we shall not fall into disorder.—(Hear, hear.) I can assure you, gentlemen, that it affords my colleagues of the Cabinet and myself the greatest satisfaction to meet you all here to-day. Let me say one word to you as we are on the eve of separating for a time. I told you the other day, when speaking in the House of Representatives, that to extend the power of the country blood and iron are needed. That may have seemed a strong statement, but the practical reality is that money is needed. —(Hear, hear.) According to circumstances, too, we must be prepared to see blood shed.—(Hear, hear.) Such being the case, it is a little painful that you, gentlemen, in this year's Diet, reduced our supplies of money.—("Certainly, certainly.") But we must seek to introduce large reforms in the Administration and to extend the country's power.—(Applause.) Of course our reforms must be carried out by due and deliberate processes. There must be no attempt to undertake heroic measures.—(Applause). As for Treaty Revision, it is a task that I cannot accomplish of my own strength. Nor have I any idea of trying to accomplish it in that way. Only by your united strength, gentlemen; only with the concurrence of you all, can the Treaties be revised and the national power extended.—(Applause and cries of "Treaty Revision for ever.")

After Viscount Aoki had ceased speaking several of the members called loudly for Count Goto, who, after a time, spoke as follows :—

Gentlemen,—I have nothing special to speak to you about. Viscount Aoki has told you everything that I would have said. But as you wish me to speak, I will do so. Until to-day I have not had a chance.—(Laughter.) I have been terribly bullied in the Diet by Mr. Tanaka.—(Loud laughter.) But that is purely a personal affair. Speaking seriously, the Government hopes to discharge all its responsibilities and to meet you next session with a good record. For my own part, I shall then be prepared to support an attack at the hands of you all, not at those of Mr. Tanaka alone. That is my resolution, gentlemen.—(Loud applause.)

Professor Toyama also made a speech in his usual humorous style, and after addresses from Mr. Iwasaki Manjuro and others, the party broke up.

AN UNSETTLED QUESTION.

The correspondence which recently took place in this Settlement with reference to the Treaty Revision meeting of last autumn, appears to have been dropped just at the point where it began to have some interest. The journal in whose columns it appeared wrote a great deal of silly persiflage, evidently actuated by a desire to fix upon the *Japan Mail* a charge of having attacked the meeting in an unwarrantable manner, but inasmuch as it was quite apparent that the "honest" formulator of these charges had never read the *Japan Mail's* comments, or was incapable of understanding them, or had wilfully set out to misrepresent them, we did not taken the trouble to contradict him. The notion of pretending that the *Mail* had described the meeting as of "an ignominious type" was too absurd to be serious. In point of fact the meeting included nearly all the leading residents of Yokohama, and as to its thoroughly representative character there could not be the smallest doubt. It has been written of as a packed meeting, and some have said that the resolutions were rushed through by previous arrangement and without due consideration. Such criticisms are beside the mark, we think. A certain amount of preparation is necessary in the case of every meeting, if the projectors expect to pass any measure. Due public notice was given of the Yokohama meeting. Every one had the right to come, and discussion might have been raised had such a course appeared advisable. We do not think, indeed, that the resolutions were circulated with all the publicity claimed by their framers. No copy of them was sent to the newspapers, a significant omission, nor have we ever been able to discover that residents who would have been likely to take an opposite view

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were furnished with any information whatsoever as to the nature of the proposals to be submitted to the meeting. However, that is not a point of great importance. As a representative gathering of foreign residents the meeting does not invite criticism, and, speaking roughly, the anti-Revision verdict recorded by it must be taken as the view of the majority of Yokohama residents. There were, indeed, many features open to strong criticism, as we showed at the time, but with one exception, the points discussed in the recent correspondence do not appear worthy of grave consideration. The exception, however, is interesting. Mr. Liscomb asked for a copy of the heading under which the Resolutions were sent to New York, or of the letter that accompanied them. It is wholly incredible that they can have been sent without a heading or covering letter. Why then, is information upon this point withheld? One of the chief objections to the methods adopted at the meeting was that no reasons whatever were given for the Resolutions. Has this omission been left unremedied to the present day? Surely not. On the contrary, it is generally rumoured that when the London Chamber of Commerce received the Resolutions, it asked for a statement of reasons, and that such a statement was prepared and forwarded. Where is it? Why should it be kept secret? It was doubtless written with every desire to be fair and accurate, and its compilers must have employed information which they believed to be entirely trustworthy. We fail to see why a document so important should remain private. If its arguments are convincing, let them be laid before the public.

A STRANGE CHARGE.

A VERY singular incident has just occurred in Tokyo. On the 8th instant the *Nippon* newspaper published a document purporting to be a copy of a secret communication made by a Japanese to the former Chinese Representative in Japan. The date of the communication is February last, and with regard to the manner of its coming into the hands of the *Nippon*, it was given to the paper by one "Untosei," obviously a false name. The literary style bespoke a person deeply versed in Chinese. In fact the document was written so as to be intelligible to a Chinese reader. A highly educated Japanese can always write so as to attain that end, but this particular composition showed more than the knowledge of an ordinary Japanese classical scholar. Its contents were of a most startling nature. The Chinese Minister was informed that Japan had lost all her old spirit; that her people were no longer capable of fighting; that her administration was honeycombed with corruption; that her ships were decayed and her guns unserviceable; that her subjects were mere monkeys, and that the nation, if attacked by China, would simply put up its hands, and become a supplicant for mercy. No direct invitation to attempt the conquest of the country was given, but its condition was represented as encouraging attack, and there could not be the smallest doubt that the intentions of the writer were traitorous. It is scarcely necessary to say that the *Nippon* criticised the document in the strongest possible terms. It heaped epithets of scorn and wrath upon the writer, and gibbeted him as an object of universal execration. Of course this alone would have caused much excitement, but the great majority of the *Nippon's* readers would probably have concluded ere long that no Japanese could have been guilty of such a base act as to compose a document of the kind for the purpose of communicating it to a Chinese Minister, and that either the *Nippon*, or the original recipient of the memorandum had been hoaxed. Any such denouement was, however, effectually obviated by the course which the *Nippon* pursued, for it not only tore the document to pieces, figuratively speaking, but actually undertook to name the writer, calling him Mr. Tei. Now Mr. Tei is a well known Japanese who formerly occupied the position of Japanese Secretary of Legation and *Chargé d'Affaires* in Peking, and whose reputation as a Chinese scholar stands very high. By him certainly such a letter could have been written—speaking merely from a literary point of view—but whether he did write it, or would ever dream of writing it, is altogether a different question. The Tei family is of Chinese extraction. Its present representative, of whom we have just been writing, traces his descent direct from a celebrated Chinese General of former times. That a couple of centuries of residence in Japan and intermarriage with Japanese could have left any traces of Chinese patriotism in the family, it is hard to believe, but when evidence is diligently sought against a man, the limits of credulity are often stretched pretty freely. The *Nippon* asserted that from the description given of himself by the writer of the document—a description relating to the various offices held by him—his identity with Mr. Tei was fully established, and on the strength of this internal testimony an avalanche of opprobrium was heaped upon the unfortunate gentleman's head. But there are several Messrs. Tei. There is Mr. Tei Yeinei, the head of the family; there is Mr. Tei Yeisei, now an *attaché* of the Legation in Peking; there is Mr. Tei Yeibo, and there is Mr. Tei Yeikei, one of the two latter being an official in the Foreign Office in Tokyo. Which of all these was indicated by the *Nippon's* article? And not by the *Nippon* alone, but almost by the whole Japanese press. With exceptions so rare as to prove the rule, the entire journalistic fraternity of the capital took up the matter, and made the name of "Tei" stink in the nostrils of Tokyo. If there is one thing more than another execrated by a Japanese, that thing is disloyalty. The fealty that made the *Samurai* of old Japan hold his life at the absolute bidding of his lord, has developed into the patriotism of to-day, and when those folks who cheer to the echo every whisper of shedding blood or wielding iron in Japan's cause, are told that a man who held high office as a Japanese official has turned round, abused his country to a Chinaman, and encouraged China to attempt Japan's subjection, there is no moral thermometer capable of registering the heat of their indignation. One after another the phials of newspaper fury were poured upon the head of Mr. Tei, and in order, apparently, to place beyond all doubt the identity of the particular Tei referred to, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* raked up a story to the effect that Count Ito had sought to employ him as an interpreter at the Tientsin Conference, but found him too servile to the Chinese. On the 8th instant, as we have said, this thunder began to mutter, and very soon two of the Messrs. Tei Junior denounced the whole thing as a baseless falsehood. But this did not satisfy the newspapers. They drew attention to the fact that Mr. Tei Senior remained silent, and they thus fixed the libel beyond all doubt. Legal proceedings are now pending, it is said, and if there ever was a case calling for appeal to the Law Courts, this is one. If the *Nippon*, which set the thunder growling, has erred, a very severe penalty should be inflicted on it. For our own part, our knowledge of Mr. Tei Senior makes it quite impossible for us to credit the charge preferred against him. Moreover, we cannot conceive how such a document could have come into a newspaper's possession. The affair is on every body's lips in Tokyo at present, and its elucidation cannot take place too soon.

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The above is the outline of the Tei affair, which is causing so much agitation in Tokyo at present. Our readers will doubtless be interested in a more detailed account of the document published by the *Nippon*. Dated last February, it was sent to the *Nippon* by a man signing himself *Untosei*, who did not comply with the ordinary journalistic condition by enclosing his real name and address. Nevertheless, the *Nippon* inserted the document. The writer of the latter introduces himself as a descendant of the famous champion of the *Ming* Dynasty, Tei Sei-kô (鄭成功) who, after making a gallant stand against the advancing troops of the present Manchurian Court, took refuge in the island of Formosa, and subsequently crossed to this country and settled down at Nagasaki, where his descendants served the Tokugawa Government as official interpreters. After holding office in various capacities under the Department of Foreign Affairs, the writer resigned his official post, and has since remained in obscurity, because his recommendations were disregarded by the Government. He then passes on to record his views on Japanese affairs, and in mysterious language urges the Chinese Minister to pay due attention to the old saying "a good general will, before all things, cause his enemies to fight among themselves." It is not easy to see the purport of this strange counsel, but the *Nippon* seems to think that the object of the memorialist is to persuade the Chinese Minister that the Japanese people are, or may be, divided among themselves. He then reviews the political history of the country, and narrates how the institutions of the *Tang* Dynasty were apishly copied by Japan; how the feudal rulers of Japan called themselves vassals of the Emperors of the *Ming* Dynasty; how, after a torpor of several centuries, the country awoke to find itself encompassed by the vessels of Europe and America, and how a band of desperate adventurers succeeded in pulling down feudalism and setting up Imperialism in its place. He argues that such a history proves the fickleness and levity of the people, and, again dealing in mystery, quotes the old saying that "a fickle people should be kept in a state of disorder." A disparaging picture is drawn of the mutability of Japan in adopting the civilization of the West, and it is stated that the wealth of the country is being gradually absorbed by the "bearded men" of Europe and America. In his endeavour to speak ill of Japan, the writer is not scrupulous as to facts. He even says that the war vessels and arms procured by her from abroad were old and unfit for use. "The people," he declares, "are so many sheep clad in tiger's skins; they are delighted at the sight of grass, but they shudder when they see a wolf." Speaking of the Government of the present era, he describes its principal members as entirely unfit for their posts, and alleges that their chief business has been to quarrel between themselves for the honey of office, and to enrich themselves at the expense of the starving nation. "It is their practice to shirk the responsibility of their office, and take refuge under the name of the Emperor, maintaining, as they do, that Imperial Ordinances are sacred and inviolable." The consequence is that the Government is distrusted and hated by the people. He then passes on to write about the Diet, and applies carping abusive terms to its members, calling them political adventurers who obtained votes by bribery, and men of low principles who are easily bought by the Government. The Diet, he continues, has thus forfeited the confidence of the nation. The Japanese laugh at the ignorance and cowardice of the Chinese, but Japan is in no condition to defend herself against an invading enemy. "Let those whom the Japanese regard as cowards come boldly with their fleets of war vessels; the Japanese will be at once cowed and only too glad to obey the commands of the invading forces." Such in effect is the general drift of the document. No wonder that great indignation has been roused against its alleged writer.

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As to the authenticity of the document, there is room for doubt. It seems to us that the *Nippon* behaved rashly in publishing such a communication without even ascertaining the real name of the sender. Messrs. Tei Eibo and Tei Eikei, sons of Mr. Tei Einei, the alleged writer of the document, at once demanded that the article be retracted, but the *Nippon* declined, and published its reasons for believing in the authenticity of the paper. It says (issue of the 11th instant) that, although its practice is to take no notice of anonymous correspondence, it felt itself compelled to stretch a point in the case of this document. The sender, though declining to reveal his name, gave in his covering letter a circumstantial description of the manner in which the document had been ob-

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tained, and there was, in the *Nippon's* opinion, an air of honesty about the account that precluded any suspicion of his being actuated by malicious motives. The *Nippon* offers three other reasons for its belief in the honesty of the informant. First, Mr. Tei is not a man of sufficient eminence in society to invite envy or hatred; neither is he rich enough to make enemies. Secondly, supposing that the purpose of the informant were to injure the reputation of Mr. Tei, the *Nippon* thinks it inconceivable that he should have taken the trouble to write such a long essay, whereas a mere report that Mr. Tei was a traitor would have answered the purpose. Thirdly, the memorial is written in such exceedingly good Chinese, and reveals such an insight into the affairs of the country, that it must have been composed by a scholar of high standing, and it is inconceivable that a man of finished education would debase himself to injure an obscure individual like Mr. Tei. Further the *Nippon* states that it is in possession of several facts about the doings of Mr. Tei, and will publish them when a proper occasion presents itself.

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Our readers will probably agree with us that if these are all the reasons which the *Nippon* had for publishing the document, there never was a more reckless and less justifiable proceeding. It is impossible to read such explanations without astonishment. They amount simply to saying, first, that any charge, however heinous, brought against a man is to be credited if unfortunately he is not sufficiently conspicuous to warrant the idea of malicious attack; and secondly, that a person capable of writing in classical language must not be suspected of villainy or scheming. One thing is quite certain, that unless the *Nippon's* informant chooses to come forward, the paper cannot possibly prove that Mr. Tei wrote the memorandum, and its inability in that one respect will put it out of court.

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Since the above was written a new character has been given to the affair by the publication, in yesterday's *Nippon*, of the following letter:—

SIR,—With reference to the statement made in your journal of the 8th instant that a certain Mr. Tei had addressed a document to our Minister I.i, I have the honour to say, after examination, that nothing of the kind has occurred. I therefore beg that you will withdraw the statement.

(Signed) Lu,
Councillor, Chinese Legation.

The *Nippon* is now in a pleasant position.

THE LATE MR. SWIFT.

According to present arrangements the body of the late Mr. Swift will be transported to the Episcopal Church in Tsukiji on Thursday night, and will remain there under military guard until the hour fixed for the funeral, namely ten o'clock of Friday forenoon. At that hour the funeral service will be performed, and the bier will then be carried to the railway terminus at Shimbashi, where the rites will end so far as Tokyo is concerned. On arriving in Yokohama the remains will be received by the Prefectural officials, and carried to the Cemetery, to be there temporarily interred pending transportation to the United States.

* * *

It appears that indications of heart trouble had been apparent for some time before the final attack. From the time of his influenza seizure at the commencement of the year, Mr. Swift complained frequently of a feeling of tightness across the chest, occasionally amounting to actual pain. If was supposed, however, that this trouble had its origin in muscular rheumatism. On the 8th instant, after having stood for more than two hours during the consecration service of the Church of the Resurrection, Mr. Swift returned home without partaking of the luncheon prepared in the mission buildings, his reason being that he felt faint and weary. Doubtless the strain of remaining so long on his feet, combined with the close atmosphere of the Cathedral—where over three thousand people were assembled, the windows not being opened until a late stage of the proceedings, and the fumes of incense and heat of the numerous candles helping to taint the air—over-taxed his strength and was highly imprudent under the circumstances. Mr. Swift had just entered his 63rd year at the time of his death. Born in Missouri in 1829, he went to California when about twenty-five years of age, and engaged in mercantile pursuits. Afterwards he took up the law as a profession, and before long his abilities and winning manners won for him a prominent place in the State. He became President of the Board of Trustees of the California State University, and about that time wrote two books which attained considerable popularity. Politics engaged a large share of his attention. He was elected a member of the Senate of California, and in 1889, he had the honour of being nominated for the Governorship of the State as Republican Candidate. Before this, he had spent some years travelling in Europe, and while in Paris, he had met, and contracted relations of a very friendly character with, Mr. Harrison, and when the latter became President of the United States, it was generally expected that Mr. Swift would become a member of the Cabinet, not alone because of his qualifications for the post, but also because the expediency of giving a portfolio, for the first time, to a representative of the Pacific slope was understood to have been recognised. This forecast was not realized, however, the President finding himself embarrassed by rival claims, but the nomination of Minister to Japan, a favourite post, was given to Mr. Swift at once. Independent in means, his political ambition does not seem to have been of a very absorbing nature, though his exceptional gifts as a speaker might have prompted such a career. As a barrister, too, he would undoubtedly have attained great eminence, but he always showed much fastidiousness in his choice of cases, and never placed himself at the beck and call of litigants. The recent death of Mr. Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, again brought Mr. Swift's name before the public as a probable addition to the United States Cabinet, but his untimely decease terminates these high hopes. Mr. Swift had no children. His widow happily has the consolation of her sister, Mrs. Norris', presence in this time of affliction.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The amounts of convertible notes and reserves in the Bank of Japan for the week ended the 7th instant were as follows:—

Convertible Notes.	Yen.	Reserves and Securities.	Yen.
Notes issued	102,036,583	Gold coin and bullion.	34,093,710
		Silver coin and bullion.	18,617,607
		Public Loan Bonds	13,476,450
		Treasury Bills	—
		Government Bills	22,000,000
		Other securities	8,848,095
		Commercial Bills	58,485,726
	102,036,583		102,036,583

Of the above total issue of notes, the sum of *yen* 7,600,276 is in the treasury of the Bank, 22,000,000 has been transferred on loan to the Government, and *yen* 72,436,307 is in actual circulation, the latter showing an increase of *yen* 673,903 as compared with *yen* 71,762,404 at the end of the previous week.

THE INDEPENDENTS.

The Independents, or Moderates, by whichever name they be called, are showing great activity. We gave in a recent issue an account of their new Club and its rules—the Kyodo Club. They have now elected their five Managers (*Kanji*), and have decided to hold a general meeting next June in Osaka. Meanwhile every possible step will be taken to secure associates. Mr. Suyematsu Kencho is going to stump the Tokaido districts; Mr. Aikawa Ryosuke will do Aomori, and Mr. Inouye Kakugoro will take the Sanyo and Sanin provinces. It would appear, therefore, that Mr. Inouye has fairly thrown in his lot with the *Taisei-kai*. He is a powerful addition to any party. More than 80 members of the House of Representatives are said to have inscribed their names in the Club's books, and it has been agreed that every associate shall pay 1 *yen* per month towards the expenses. Such a contribution will only pay for the dog that turns the spit, as the saying goes, but there are men of great wealth at the back of the *Taisei-kai*, and we presume that the Kyodo Club and the *Taisei-kai* may now be considered identical. A rumour is also circulated to the effect that an influential member of the Club—a certain Viscount—contemplates starting a big newspaper to be published in three languages, English, German, and French, which shall serve as the Empire's foreign organ. It is said that from two to three hundred thousand *yen* have been subscribed to a capital fund, but we confess that this journalistic part of the programme seems to us very apocryphal.

* * *

Meanwhile the Radicals (*Rikken Jiyu-to*) are by no means idle. On the 8th instant they held a meeting at the Tokyo office of the Party. A hundred and twenty members were present, and Mr. Kono Hironaka acted as President. The following resolutions were adopted:—"(1) A great meeting shall be held on the 20th of March in Osaka, and the representative members from all the districts shall be invited to attend in that city by the 18th instant (2) On the conclusion of the meeting the members shall distribute themselves throughout the provinces in order to spread the influence of the Party. The expenses of this campaign shall be borne by each district. (3) On the 15th instant a great lecture meeting shall be held in Tokyo, for the purpose of clearly defining the parliamentary policy of the Party. (4) The members of the Party in the various districts shall also organise lecture meetings to publish the aims and policy of the Party. (5) The members of the Party having seats in the Diet shall choose a certain number from among themselves to form a committee for conducting investigations into Administrative affairs, with a view to the uses of the next session of the Diet." So Japan is now fairly in the clutches of political agitators.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

The resignation of Viscount Tanaka, Chief of the Metropolitan Police, has been accepted. He is gazetted a Court Councillor. Rumour is still uncertain as to the precise cause of this change, but the general opinion is that, as explained by us in a previous issue, the Viscount could not reconcile himself to the reductions made by the Diet in the appropriation for his Bureau. If the Diet had been allowed to follow its own courses, the Metropolitan Police Bureau would have ceased to be a separate Department, and become a portion of the municipal organization. We do not know whether that would have driven Viscount Tanaka out, but since he may justly claim that no section of the Executive has done its work better than his, he would probably have resented any radical change. At any rate, if the general impression be correct, he denies the possibility of carrying out such an economy as seventy thousand *yen* without impairing the efficiency of the force, and if he cannot be at the head of a thoroughly efficient Bureau, he prefers to stand aside altogether. There are different estimates of efficiency, and apparently the estimate of the Government is not the estimate of Viscount Tanaka. A commanding officer who brings his regiment to a high state of discipline and capacity, is often utterly intolerant of interference. It may, perhaps, be reasonable to hope that a lower standard than Viscount Tanaka's will suffice to preserve good order in the capital. But under any circumstances we cannot help regretting sincerely that the first consequence of the reduced Budget should be the resignation of so able an official. His successor is not yet appointed.

* * *

Another change of some importance is the appointment of Mr. Hanabusa Yoshitada to be Vice-Minister of the Imperial Household, the former incumbent of that post, Count Yoshii Tomozane, becoming an Officer of Service (*Goyogakari*) in the same Department. Mr.

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Hanabusa was Japanese Representative in Korea at the time of the affair of 1884, when, the Legation being attacked, its inmates, with the Minister at their head, were obliged to force their way through the city and march to the sea-coast. The incident caused considerable excitement, and gained great credit for Mr. Hanabusa.

ADJOURNMENT OF ASIATIC SOCIETY MEETING.

A MEETING of the Asiatic Society was held on Wednesday afternoon in Tokyo. There were only half a dozen persons present. Mr. N. J. Hannen, president, took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been taken as read, Mr. Hannen said—I regret to inform you that owing to the deeply lamented death of the Minister for the United States of America, Mr. Van de Polder is unable to read his paper. Under the circumstances, out of respect to the memory of the late Minister, we have thought it better to adjourn this meeting until Tuesday next at the same hour. We feel that we are only doing what is right in showing the deepest respect to one who has been amongst us so great a friend and so much esteemed. At the same time the Council wish to express their regret that it has not been in their power to inform the members of the society before, so that those who have come should have been saved the trouble of attending. Under the circumstances, then, the paper will be read, we hope, and the coins will be exhibited, on Tuesday next at the same hour, 4 o'clock. Mr. Chamberlain announced the election as a member of Mr. G. J. Schurr. The meeting then adjourned.

THE TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED.

THE following Report was presented to the Shareholders at the First Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday, the 12th day of February last in London:—The directors have pleasure in presenting to the shareholders the first annual report, with accounts duly audited. The accounts are made up for only ten months in the East, viz., to 31st October, 1890, but for London they embrace the period from the formation of the company on 6th December, 1889, to 31st December, 1890. As stated at the statutory meeting, the preliminary expenses incurred in the formation of the company were paid out of the premium received on the issue of the share capital, and the balance, amounting to £45,000, has been carried to reserve. The net profit, after deducting all expenses at head office, branches and agencies, including the remuneration of directors and the members of committees, agents' commission, and after allowing also for payment of interest on fixed deposits and income tax on profits, amounts to £87,099 5s. 2d. The directors propose to declare a dividend of 16 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and of £8 per share on founders' shares, and to place £55,000 to reserve, thus increasing it to £100,000, leaving a balance of £2,111 15s. 2d. to be carried to new account. In view of the large extension of the company's business, the directors consider it advisable to propose a further issue of 100,000 ordinary shares of £10 each, on which they propose to call up 25s. per share, and to give the existing holders of ordinary shares the option of taking up the new shares at such premium as may be resolved upon. It is considered by the directors desirable to change the name of the Company into "The Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited," as a more appropriate designation, although the business of the company will continue on the lines which have hitherto been followed. Resolutions to this effect will be submitted to the extraordinary meeting convened in the notice. The period during which the company has been working is regarded by the board as indicating very satisfactorily the important character of the field of its operations, and they are of opinion the prospects before the company are most promising.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. THORNICRAFT.

THE Committee representing the Kobe community in this matter, waited on Dr. Thornicraft by appointment this afternoon (10th instant) at 2 p.m. After briefly explaining the object of the interview, Mr. Enslie, as Chairman, said:—

Dr. Thornicraft.—We wait on you to-day, with mixed feelings of pain and pleasure, for while being gratified at appearing as the spokesmen of this cosmopolitan Committee on the present occasion, we, in common with those we represent, much regret that this is caused by the prospect of your early departure.

During your long residence in this part of the Empire of Japan you have endeared yourself to all who have had the good fortune of knowing you, and the residents of Kobe desire to avail themselves of your approaching departure to give expression to the sentiments of respect and esteem entertained toward you as a friend and as a physician.

In the zealous and indefatigable discharge of your professional duties, the obligations incurred by us are too great for words to express, while our social intercourse with you has been such that your departure creates a void in the hearts of all, which it will be hard to fill.

A movement has been started to present you with some slight token of our sincere regard, but as devotion to your profession in connection with the requirements of this community has, until quite recently, made your arrangements very uncertain, it is impossible to carry out this intention before your departure, and we shall therefore take an early opportunity of communicating with you in writing.

Hoping that the relaxation you are about to take will be both pleasant and beneficial, we shall be greatly pleased if circumstances allow you to to return to us.—*Kobe Herald.*

PETITIONS.

THE total number of Petitions presented to the House of Peers during the session just ended was 1,053, of which only a fraction received attention. As our readers are probably aware, there is a Memorials Committee in the House, and all such documents are examined by it in the first place. Four hundred and twenty-nine were thus examined, and from among them the Committee selected 63 for presentation to the House, rejected 350 as not complying with the prescribed conditions, and decided that 16 should not be submitted. Of the fortunate 63, only 41 were actually reported to the House. Four hundred and sixty-seven, though handed to the Committee, could not be examined for lack of time, and 157 did not reach the Committee at all. That only 79 Petitions out of 429 should have been prepared in such a manner as to comply with the rules, is even more remarkable than the fact that scarcely four per cent. of the total number of Petitions sent in should have reached the House. The Representatives were kinder to petitioners, for, finding that no time was available for considering the Petitions which had undergone examination at the Committee's hands, they sent them on to the Government by scores and fifties.

A STORY OF CROWN JEWELS.

WE take this from a home journal:—A very curious action has just been concluded in the court of the Recorder of Rangoon. The plaintiff was one of the wives of Mindoon Min, King of Burmah, Thebaw's father and predecessor, and is known as the Limban Queen, and she claimed as sole heiress of her daughter, the Sawlin Princess, to be entitled to a large amount of jewellery deposited with the defendants in 1878 under unusual circumstances. The Princess, it seems, was a great favourite with her father, King Mindoon Min, who made her large and frequent presents of gems and jewellery of all kinds. In 1878 Mindoon Min was on the point of death, and it was known that confusion in the palace would follow on that event. It was apparently foreseen that his successor, Thebaw, would, as in fact he did, murder most of his relatives at once, and while the King lay dying special measures for guarding the palace were taken. The Limban Queen and her daughter, the Sawlin Princess, dreading what the near future had in store for them, concerted measures to get the jewels of the latter out of the palace to a place of safety, where they would be accessible in case of need later on. For this purpose they took into their confidence certain bazaar dealers who had access to the ladies' quarters to sell their wares, and by their aid succeeded in getting out all the jewels, packed to look like sweetmeats. These dealers and one Aga Khorasani, a Mahommedan merchant, were the defendants. They absolutely denied any deposit of the kind, but the Recorder found against them on the facts, and decided that about 3,000 precious stones, which were specified by weight and value in a list made at the time in the palace, and retained ever since by the Queen, had in fact, been placed in their charge immediately prior to Mindoon Min's death, and in anticipation of that event. The Princess died a few months after. The Queen, her mother, remained in prison until the British troops occupied Mandalay in 1885, when she was, of course, released. All this time she heard nothing of the jewels, for she had no opportunity of doing so, and obviously did not desire to have them returned. The dealers with whom they were deposited left Mandalay soon after Thebaw began to reign; but on her release the Queen inquired after them and found them in Rangoon, when, as already stated, she was met by a blank denial that such jewels had ever been deposited with them. But here the Judge found against them, largely on the evidence that nine years ago, and three years after the deposit, one of the defendants had in his possession a large ruby, cut in the shape of a wild duck, which was described in the Queen's list as having been handed over to the defendants in the sweetmeat-boxes in 1878. A decree of restitution was therefore made against all the defendants except one, in regard to whom the action was held barred by the Statute of Limitations. Subsequent to her release from imprisonment the Queen was prevented from suing for five years in consequence of her poverty.

A WONDERFUL STORY.

AMONG the items of news gravely published by the *London and China Express* is a story that one Professor Frederick Stein, who died on the 28th of January in the Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island, had married the sister of the Emperor of Japan in 1878. When he contracted this wonderful alliance he was a Professor of Foreign Languages in the University of Tokyo. His marvellous career did not end there. "Not long afterwards he became engaged in a love affair with a lady of honour at the Japanese Court, and was expelled from the country." The same highly trustworthy authority informs us that the marriage with the Emperor's sister "created a great sensation at the time." There have been a great many ridiculous fables published about Japan, but assuredly this takes the palm. What strikes us as supremely funny is that a newspaper which solemnly undertakes, from time to time, to discuss Japanese politics and Japanese affairs with the authority of an expert, should show, by inserting such crazy absurdities, that it knows as much about Japan as it does about the other side of the moon.

THE SUDBURY NICKEL MINES.

A REPORT on the Sudbury Nickel Mines has been drawn up by commissioners, who were appointed by the United States naval authorities for that purpose. The report states that from the surface indications and the shafts already sunk, there appears to be an amount of mineral which cannot be exhausted by the present generation, and estimates the tons of ore above the surface of the ground as 650,000,000. With reference to facilities for treating the ores, which do not require the admixture of fluxing substances, it is stated that "the dead pine timber found in great abundance in the neighbourhood, and which can be delivered at the furnace at $1 80c. a cord, is a good fuel for roasting, though hardwood would be better, but owing to the fusible qualities of the ores and the intermixed rock, the pine answers the purpose. Coke is hence the only material that has to be brought from abroad. This is procured from Pittsburgh, and can be delivered at the works at $7 a ton.' The amount of ore taken from the mines up to the 1st October last is about 175,000 tons. The daily crushing capacity of the machinery at work on the ground is about 1,750 tons, and the daily furnace capacity is about 100 tons.

THE "FAREWELL CUP" SAILING RACE.

A DECISION has now been given in reference to the race for the Farewell Cup, sailed on the 4th and 18th of October last. The delay has probably arisen in consequence of the point raised having been referred to home authorities. It

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may be recalled that the incident which gave rise to the question occurred on the 18th, when the boats were racing over the Club's longer course, round the North Mark Lightship, and home. The North Mark, a sampan, was riding with a considerable length of rope out, the effect of which, of course, in the strong tide-way, was that for some distance from the boat's bow the mooring line was near the surface of the water. When, therefore, *Maid Marion*, passing well clear of the mark and at such a distance as would have enabled her also to clear a mooring line under ordinary conditions, caught the rope with her centreboard, and hung there until the people in the sampan slackened it, a foul was established and the officer of the day, Mr. Beart, proceeding on the strict reading of the rules, declared her disqualified, thus anticipating a protest lodged by *La Belle* for the same reason. But it was admitted pretty generally, and by none more readily than by Mr. Beart, that the disqualification bore very hardly on the *Maid*, and that a good deal could be said on the other side. The point, being an exceptional one, was, we believe, referred home. At any rate Mr. Averill has just written to Mr. Owston (Hon. Secy. of the Sailing Club) intimating, as the joint decision of Messrs. Beart, Campbell, and himself, that *Maid Marion* is entitled to first place and therefore to the cup. This verdict will, no doubt, be endorsed by most members of the Club.

THE AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF TOKYO AND THE LATE MR. SWIFT.

The demise of the Minister of the United States was made the subject of a meeting of American citizens in Tokyo, held yesterday in the Union Church, Tsukiji. Dr. D. B. McCartee, was called to the chair, and Messrs. M. S. Vail and J. H. Wigmore were appointed a Committee to draw up resolutions appropriate to the object of the meeting. The resolutions reported by the Committee and adopted by the meeting were as follows :—

At a meeting of the citizens of the United States of America held in the Union Church, Tsukiji, on March 12th, 1891, the following minute was adopted :—

Resolved, that we desire to give expression to the feelings of deep and unfeigned sorrow called forth by the heavy bereavement which has so suddenly befallen us in the death of our distinguished and highly accomplished Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan, the Honourable John Frank lin Swift.

He has been taken from us in the fullness of his powers and in the midst of his usefulness. We feel moved to pay our tribute of admiration and respect for the eminent and patriotic services which he has rendered our country both at home and abroad. He has displayed abilities and has accomplished results which have secured him a lasting remembrance among his own countrymen, and have justly earned the highest encomiums from eminent diplomatists and statesmen of other lands.

Resolved also, that we desire to put on record our heartfelt appreciation of the genial disposition he has uniformly manifested, and the prompt and sincere efforts which he has always shown himself ready to make in the interests of his countrymen. We shall hold him always in warm but sorrowful remembrance. We desire also to assure his bereaved wife and sorrowing household of our deepfelt sympathy in their great affliction.

Resolved, also, that a copy of this minute be transmitted to his family.

(Signed) D. B. McCartee, Chairman.
M. S. Vail, } Secretaries.
J. H. Wigmore, }

It was further decided by the meeting that the Church in which the funeral services were to be held should be appropriately decorated, and that the American citizens residing in Tokyo should be invited to contribute to the expense.

THE BUDGET.

It will be seen from our report that the House of Peers has passed the Budget as amended by the Representatives and approved by the Government. The opposition, headed by Viscount Tani, Mr. Miura Yasu, and Viscount Kiooka, made a tolerably resolute fight, but were outnumbered by more than two to one. The great majority of the Peers were evidently resolved to bring the Budget into existence. They were obliged to depart very considerably from their usually short hours of session, but they showed themselves well equal to the occasion. Count Ito's presence on Friday in the President's chair materially facilitated the progress of business, but he was still too unwell to risk any extraordinary exertion, and when the House re-assembled in the evening, it came once more under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze. We have no doubt that the self-sacrificing course adopted by the Peers in this matter will receive the universal approval of the nation.

RESIGNATIONS.

The *Tokyo Shimpo* draws attention to the exceptional number of resignations now under discussion. It gives the following list, which includes, as our readers will see, some resignations that have been already accepted :—

Count Ito resigns the Presidency of the Upper House and the post of Privy Court Councillor.
Mr. Nakajima resigns the Presidency of the Lower House.
Mr. Inouye Ki resigns the Chiefship of the Law Compilation Bureau.
Mr. Uyemura resigns the Presidency of the Administrative Court.
Mr. Ozaki Saburo resigns the Chiefship of a Section of the Law Compilation Bureau.
Viscount Tanaka resigns the Chiefship of the Metropolitan Police.
Mr. Mayejima resigns the Vice-Ministership of the Department of Communications.

THE ARTICLES REMAINING FROM THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

To-day is the last day for viewing the articles remaining unsold from the Industrial Exhibition of last year. They are to be seen at the *Kogyokan* (Industrial Hall), at Uyeno. The number of these exhibits is over thirty-five thousand, and they consist, for the most part, of porcelain, lacquer, and bronze. Several of the specimens are valued at three or four hundred *yen*, and some go as high as a thousand *yen*. The drawing of the lottery commences to-morrow (11th) and will probably be concluded by the 15th or 16th instant. Nothing more has been heard of the suit said to have been instituted against the promoters of the lottery, so we presume that it did not come up for hearing. We have always understood that lotteries in Japan are illegal only when there is a possibility of drawing a blank, whereas in the case of the Exhibition Lottery, every subscriber receives something for each ticket.

THE VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The Victoria Public School is, we learn, about to lose the services of Mr. Hinton. It was on Mr. Hinton's fortunate presence in Japan that the founders of the School built their first hopes of success. The School Committee could not have reasonably expected that the services of such an able man would have been available had it been necessary to seek a head-master through ordinary channels. But Mr. Hinton happened to be on the spot, and consented to take charge of the School for an exceptionally small remuneration. His loss will be proportionately severe. A man of high attainments, who possesses the knack of winning the affection as well as the respect of his pupils, is as rare as he is valuable. Mr. Hinton has accepted service, we understand, at one of the Japanese Upper Middle Schools, and we sincerely trust that his career in his new sphere will be not less successful that he deserves.

COUNT YAMAGATA.

The inability of the Minister President of State to take part in any of the functions connected with the closing of the Diet, has given rise to a rumour that his indisposition is of a serious character. We are happy to be able to say that such is not the fact. The Minister's attack of influenza has been severe, but no grave complications have supervened, and it is now only a question of recruiting strength after a long bout of fever. The behaviour of the influenza has been remarkably uniform in the case of men over forty-five years of age. Instead of developing high but brief fever, they have suffered for days from fever of medium acuteness and more or less typhoidal affinities, great prostration naturally resulting. It was so with Viscount Kabayama, and it has also been so with Count Yamagata.

NEWSPAPERS IN CHINA.

Japanese intelligence from China is to the effect that the Chinese are growing tired of leaving foreigners to control the only Chinese newspapers published in China, and that a movement is on foot to start two journals under native ownership and direction. One of the projected newspapers is to be called the *Kwayo Nippo* (*Hwayang Chihpao*), and its owner's name is Hitsu Gyokuyen (Pih Yu-yuen); the other is to be the *Geirin Shimpo* ('*Ilin Sinpao*), its owner being Ko Daichi (Kao Dach'). The story does not extend to details as to place of publication, but we gather that Shanghai is contemplated. Imagine Tientsin with its seven hundred thousand inhabitants, and one Chinese newspaper, the *Shi-pao*, owned and directed by foreigners.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report presented to the shareholders at the twenty-fourth ordinary meeting, was as follows :—The Directors have now the pleasure to lay before the shareholders a statement of the Company's Accounts for the year ended April 30th last. The net premium earned amounts to $653,507.45, and the working account shows a balance at credit of $404,929.49, which sum the directors recommend be appropriated in the following manner :—A dividend of 18 per cent. to shareholders, $108,000.00 ; a dividend of 15 per cent. on contributions, payable to all contributors of business, whether shareholders or not, $92,000.00 ; to be carried to new account, $204,929.49.

THE BOMB OF OCTOBER 18TH, 1889.

When Kurushima cut his throat after throwing the bomb that shattered Count Okuma's leg, all sorts of surmises found expression as to the instigators of the crime, and the source whence the missile had been obtained. By and by suspicion feel upon one man after another, but finally two, Umehara Kenzo and Watanabe Issaku, were arrested and held in custody as implicated in the affair. More than a year has now elapsed, but it appears that these men have not yet been finally placed on their trial. Brought up time after time before a magistrate, they have been remanded on each occasion at the request of the police. A case has, however, been at last made out against them. They are to be tried within a few days in the Third Criminal Division, Tokyo, before Judge Yamagawa.

TO SHIPMASTERS AND OTHERS.

We are requested to make the following announcement :—Gun-practice at any of the forts in Miura-gori, Kanagawa Ken, will in future be carried on as follows :—

1.—A warning gun will be fired from the fort, on the day when gun-practice is to take place there.

2.—A red-flag will be hoisted in a position to be plainly visible during the practice.

3.—Should guns be discharged towards the sea, buoys carrying red flags will be placed at several points, in order to show the direction of the shots and the limit of the range.

4.—Should the target be placed on shore, a red-flag will be hoisted in the vicinity of the same.

DEATH OF THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE IN KOREA.

On the 10th instant news was received in Tokyo of the death of Mr. Kawakita, Japanese Representative at the Korean Court. Mr. Kawakita had only been appointed a very short time previously. He had scarcely taken up the duties of his post when lung trouble, from which he had long suffered, developed dangerous symptoms, and carried him off on the 8th instant. He served formerly in the Army, and held the rank of Major.

THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE PATENTS BUREAU.

Some surprise may have been occasioned by the suggestion recently made in the Diet as to the

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sittings of that body taking place in the new buildings of the Patent Office. The marvel, however, will cease to exist in the mind of anyone who sees the imposing pile now rising to completion on the lately vacant ground opposite the Seiyoken Hotel, in Tsukiji, where in future the Patent Office will be situated. The work is being carried out by the Tokyo Doboku Kaisha, and, so far as a cursory view justifies a conclusion, it will reflect high credit on all concerned.

THE HALF-BRED GRIFFINS.

A curious paragraph appears in Tuesday night's *Herald* in reference to the half-bred griffins, which have arrived in Tokyo. They are stated to be "nothing like what they have been represented"—that they . . "looked anything but like race ponies." Who ever saw a mob of griffins that did look like race ponies? Then "most of them appeared to be only half-bred and some even quarter-bred." The Argus-eyed gentlemen who have the temerity to venture into fractions on the amount of blood to be seen through a winter coat like unto a Leicester fleece, may doubtless believe in their own judgment, but judges of horseflesh do not display quite so much assurance. Then they are "not only rough looking," but "small in stature." Perhaps they were expected from the bleak north with coats of satin; at all events they will look smaller when they are clipped. But the curious statement follows, that—"several of the subscribers and two of the Committee of the N.R.C. were present, and at first emphatically refused to take them." This was rather an extraordinary proceeding, seeing that a contract had been entered into, and that the majority of the subscribers were not present. At any rate, although the reason is not stated, the *emphatic refusal* collapsed, and the ponies were drawn, two being rejected and put up at auction. As an instance of judgment in the case of youngsters, under similar circumstances, one of the best ponies that ever looked through a bridle in this country was "rejected" as a griffin, and subsequently trained. "The result of the subscription," the paragraph goes on, "has been very unsatisfactory, and is likely to deter foreigners from again entering into such a speculation." One would imagine that to enter into a contract and then "emphatically refuse" to carry it out would be about the best way to be deprived in future of the chance of "entering into such a speculation;" in which case the members of the N.R.C. would have to revert to the "unlovely packhorse," or to the importation of Mongolians that have been "added to the list," as Rule No. 2 has it, to "improve the breed of horses." After all these complaints, the paragraph winds up:—"On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that the ponies from the Hokkaido have had a long tramp through the snow, not to mention the voyage over, which would naturally make them appear more ungainly than they really are. Probably after a few days' rest and good food they will look very different animals." It is quite true that these ponies were referred to last year as a "very superior lot." This is nothing new. "'Twas ever thus." What appears probable is that the judgment of those who described the animals as a "very superior lot" is as wide of the mark in one direction as is the more recent verdict in the other. There may not be a Dublin, a Nikko, or a Starlight in this lot, but how many of the like have there been since General Saigo's handsome chesnut first faced the starter?

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

We are requested to state that the following alterations have been made in the spring meeting programme of the N. R. C.:—

First day—Race No. 1. After "Subscription Ponies" read "and Ponies which ran, but did not win at the Autumn meeting, 1890" 7 lbs. allowance.

Second day—Race No. 4. The conditions will read: For Japan Subscription Ponies of 1889 and 1890. Weight as per scale. Previous Winners, 7 lbs. extra for one race, 10 lbs. for two or more races. Once round.

The dates fixed for the meeting are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 28th, 29th and 30th. Entries to be sent to the Honorary Secretary, No. 236, by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8th.

COUNT INOUYE.

Count Inouye returned to Tokyo yesterday morning. Doubtless his re-appearance in the capital will set the tongues of the political gossips wagging. The fact of his having remained in seclusion so long as the Diet was sitting will be construed in all kinds of ways, and mystery-mongers will decline to be satisfied with the true explanation that, even though not in office, the Count's presence in Tokyo exposes him to a perpetual fire of query and consultation, which would probably have proved exceedingly irksome during the critical time just ended. He doubtless preferred to be absent at such a season, and if he comes back now, it is because Tokyo is not without attractions of its own in the early spring.

COUNT ITO.

The talk of Count Ito's resigning the Presidency of the Upper House is again renewed. Some say that he desires to proceed as Minister to China; others that he merely purposes travelling in Japan. But all agree in asserting that he has either sent in, or is on the point of sending in, his resignation. We do not think it at all likely that, under any circumstances, the Count will retain the office of President of the House of Peers. He declared from the first that his acceptance of the post would be only temporary, and he generally means what he says.

SIR R. RENNIE.

Sir Richard Rennie will not pay a visit to Japan on his way home, to the great disappointment of his many friends in this country. His present intention is to leave Shanghai by the French mail of April 4th, and to proceed direct to Europe. He says, in his own pleasant way, that if he came here, he should certainly be tempted to linger, whereas there are reasons for his presence in London in the middle of May. We can only hope that he may hereafter find an opportunity to come and spend some months in a land where he is so universally liked and respected.

MR. HOEHN.

In recognition of services of Mr. W. Hoehn in the Training School for police officers, Messrs. Tamba, Uchimura, and more than three hundred others who were under his instruction while at the school, presented to him a set of armour by Myochin, a pair of swords manufactured by Norinaga, and the bâton or staff of a commander-in-chief of the ancient army of Japan. It is stated that Mr. Hoehn was greatly pleased at receiving from his late students such a friendly recognition of their connection, and he so expressed himself in a letter of thanks.

AN INFERENCE.

The *Hyogo News* draws a peculiar inference from Viscount Aoki's speech in the House of Peers. "The Japanese," it writes, "are to have full rights to levy customs, but foreigners must not trade at other than the open ports, no coasting trade being allowed." Does the *Hyogo News* really imagine that "coasting trade" means trade carried on at places on the coast? We cannot conceive that it should be guilty of a misconception so extraordinary. Yet, if not, how are its remarks to be interpreted?

MRS. BINGHAM.

News has been received in Tokyo of the death of Mrs. Bingham on the 31st of January. She had been ailing for some time, and no hope of restoration to health at her advanced age could be entertained. Mrs. Bingham's life in Japan was a round of quiet unostentatious acts of kindness and charity. Worthy wife of one of the noblest men who ever fought the battle of international philanthropy, our sorrow for her death is embittered by the thought of what he must suffer by the separation.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The vernacular press has been, during the week, chiefly occupied in reviewing the labours of the Diet in its first session, discussing the present situation of the Cabinet and of political parties, and biding farewell to the dispersing members of the Diet. Another subject that has claimed a large share of the attention relates to a memorial alleged to have been presented to the Chinese Minister by Mr. Tei Yeinei.

* * *

The closing ceremony of the Diet was performed on the 7th instant in the *Homei-den* in the Imperial Palace. None of the papers express entire satisfaction with the labours of the Diet during the session; but even journals that distinguished themselves by unfavourable criticism of the members of the Diet, now admit that, with all its shortcomings and blunders, the Legislature has acquitted itself in a creditable manner. The papers in favour of the Extremists would have spoken more highly of the Representatives had they persisted in maintaining an uncompromising attitude towards the Ministry, and thus brought about the dissolution of the Diet. But even these papers are forced to admit that the ultimate reductions agreed upon between the Cabinet and the Diet, though falling short of what they had originally proposed, are better than no reductions.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun*, which, as the organ of the Progressionist party, is one of the warmest supporters of the Extremists, observes that, though the session just ended has not been free from some ridiculous blunders, due allowance must be made on account of the infancy of the representative system of Government in Japan. Viewing things from this standpoint, it must be admitted, continues our contemporary, that the first session of the first Diet in an Oriental State has ended in a manner far more satisfactory than many people would have expected. The *Mainichi* is not satisfied with the reductions effected in the Budget, but, inadequate as they are, the Diet must be thanked for them, because even such reductions would not have been possible had there been no Diet.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* congratulates the country on the happy ending of the first session, but expresses strong disapproval of the conduct of the Diet in relation to certain commercial subjects. It claims that the members showed themselves entirely indifferent to the interests of the commercial class, and it attributes such a state of things to the circumstance that most of the Representatives have little knowledge and experience of the business world, their attention having hitherto been entirely occupied with political questions. The *Jiji* hopes that they will gradually mend their ways and comply with the wishes of the business section of the community.

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The *Kokkwai* is glad to be able to say that Japan may well be proud of the first session of her Diet. The amount of work done has not been large, but the Japanese nation is now fully entitled to the honour of being the first non-Christian and non-European race that has successfully introduced a representative government. In another article, the Tokyo paper observes that, apart from political work, the first session of the Diet has been productive of wholesome results from social points of view. One of such good results has been the pulling down of the social barriers between official and non-official classes.

* * *

The *Choya Shimbun* speaks of the Diet in the most appreciative tone. That the first session has been so free from mistakes and errors, is attributed by our contemporary to the wisdom and forethought of the statesmen who have guided the nation in its career of progress since the Restoration. The

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Local Assemblies which have now existed for more than ten years, have given the people an excellent training preparatory to the introduction of constitutional Government. On the other hand, the Senate has been the means of educating a class of functionaries who now form the strength and ornament of the House of Peers. Thus the smooth introduction of a parliamentary Government in Japan is, in the *Choya's* opinion, due in no small degree to the wise measures of preparation worked out by the Government of the Restoration.

* * *

Formerly it was the universal practice among literary men in Japan to write something, either in verse or in prose, in honour of a friend starting on a journey. In pursuance of this time-honoured custom, the Metropolitan papers have addressed farewell articles to the dispersing members of the Diet. Journals that sympathized with the Moderates address the Representatives in a more or less appreciative tone. But the *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* organs betray an ungracious mood. They recommend the members to go home and consider whether they have been true to the pledges they made to their electors. It is evident that these papers principally address themselves to the members who took exception to the Budget Committee's report, and in particular to the seceders from the ranks of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, whose opportune movement saved the first Diet from the probable calamity of either dissolution or the non-existence of the Budget. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* even goes so far as to call upon the electors to examine whether their respective Representatives have fulfilled their promises, and in case a verdict to the contrary is pronounced, to demand their resignation. For, our contemporary argues, the constituencies ought to possess not only the right of electing, but also that of dismissing, their Representatives. The *Kaishin-to* papers are particularly enthusiastic in giving the electors advice of this nature. Disappointed in their hope of a general re-election, the members of that party, say some people, now set their papers to issue inflammatory articles, for the purpose of compelling weak-minded Representatives to step aside in favour of bolder spirits of the Progressionist Party.

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Apparently the position of the present Ministry is now very much stronger than before. It has had to comply with reductions of over six million *yen*, but of this sum the vital part only amounts to about four million *yen*. Still, there is talk of some changes in the *personnel* of the Cabinet Ministers, it being confidently stated that Count Yamagata is bent upon leaving his post. His probable successor is expected to be Count Saigo. But for the present at least, there is no indication of this forecast being realized.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun*, reviewing the present position of the Cabinet and political parties, observes that the parliamentary warfare of the first session has resulted in a victory for the Government. There is, however, one element of uncertainty in the position of the Yamagata Cabinet, namely, that the Ministry has to effect, on its sole responsibility, the changes necessitated by the reductions voted in the Budget. Whether the Cabinet will continue to be master of the situation or not, must depend upon the manner in which these changes are accomplished. Had it agreed with the Budget Committee's report, there would have been no necessity for the Administration to take upon itself such responsibility, since all the required changes were indicated, and the Government would have simply had to put them into practice.

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The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, writing on the same subject, remarks that the present Minister President appears at first sight to be happily circumstanced, since he has obtained a decided victory over his opponents. But his position may in reality be far from agreeable. Being himself in some respects a creature of clan influences, he is not perhaps uninfluenced by the weight of personal considerations inseparable from clan Government. Statesmen backed by strong clan support may be seeking to succeed him as Minister President. Others, perhaps, may be plotting to overturn his Cabinet. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* advises him to use his power for cleansing the official world of all the evils of clan Government. If he should prove himself unequal to such a task, pity and commiseration are all that he can seek.

* * *

As to the political parties, they have arranged themselves into two camps for all practical purposes. The *Taisei-kwai*, the National Liberals, the 29 seceders from the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, and the *Jichi-to* have formed an alliance under the name of the *Kyodo* Club. On the other hand, the *Kaishin-to* and the *Rikken Jiyu-to* constitute another confederation. There is talk of the National Liberals adopting some daring plan to increase their influence, and there is also a proposal for the open amalgamation of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to*. In the opinion of the *Hochi Shimbun*, the latter step would be rather premature. The two parties are now on good terms, and in course of time, their alliance will gradually and insensibly grow into amalgamation. For the present, the *Hochi* recommends them to restrict their efforts to the maintenance of friendly relations at their head-quarters in Tokyo, and at local centres in the provinces.

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The *Kokkwai*, conspicuous for its dislike of the *Kaishin-to*, observes that that party is certainly doomed to extinction, for how can a party maintain its permanent existence after a series of ignominous defeats such as the *Kaishin-to* has sustained in recent years? It has now an extremely injurious record of having endeavoured to encroach on the prerogatives of the Emperor. Moreover, its conduct in the late session confirmed the general opinion that its policy is under-handed and selfish. The time is thus near at hand when the *Kaishin-to* will for ever cease to be a force in practical politics. So says the *Kokkwai*. We (*Japan Mail*) cannot endorse any such gloomy forecast. We have great faith in the *Kaishin-to* though we deem it unfortunate that the party broke through its traditional reputation for sobriety and moderation by pursuing an extreme, and in some senses destructive, policy in the late session of the Diet.

* * *

The Bill for the reduction of the Land Tax was passed by the Lower House, as stated in our last weekly summary; but the Peers did not or could not take it up, their time having been entirely occupied with the Budget. This is a great disappointment to the landed class throughout the country. Land-owners took such a keen interest in the progress of this Bill in the Lower House, that many of them came to the capital for the sole purpose of watching the debates and the conduct of their respective Representatives. Loud complaints are uttered on the subject by certain members of the Lower House against the Peers. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* evidently reflects the sentiment of these people when it observes that the Bill having been sent up to the Peers either on the 27th or on the 28th ultimo, they would have had ample time to take it into consideration, if they were inclined to do so. With the question of the land-tax unsettled, what is the use of reducing the expenditures of the Government? The only result of the three months' debates has been to make a deposit of 6½ million *yen* with the Government by suspending some works or undertakings. The *Yomiuri* thinks that the Upper House was morally bound to make every possible effort for the passage of the Bill. It was the Peers, declares the *Yomiuri*, that wittingly thwarted the consummation of the long cherished object of giving relief to the overburdened people.

* * *

As to the memorial alleged to have been presented to the Chinese Minister by a certain Mr. Tei, the majority of the Tokyo papers seem to regard the story as well founded. The *Mimpo* states that the result of its extensive inquiries about the affair has been to confirm the report of the *Nippon*. The *Hochi Shimbun* and the *Nippon* discuss in a significant manner the difference between the verdict of a law court and the truth of a given matter, and remark that what is morally true may lack legal proof. In such a case, say these papers, the culprit must be left to the punishment of public opinion. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Choya Shimbun* write in a tone more or less sympathetic with the Tei family, while the *Jiji Shimpo*, *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, and *Mainichi Shimbun* refrain from touching the question pending the result of the hearing of the suit instituted against the *Nippon* by Mr. Tei.

* * *

The question of alliance between Japan, England, and China is debated in certain quarters more seriously than ever. There is a small but influential section in favour of such an alliance, but another party advocates a counter course, namely, alliance with some Power, Russia for instance, opposed to England and China, while a third party maintains that it is Japan's interest to keep aloof, as far as possible, from any international combination. We cannot say which of these opinions finds favour with the majority of the educated class. Mr. Takahashi Kiichi, a journalist of considerable reputation, writes on the subject in the editorial columns of the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*. He is of opinion that it would be unwise for Japan to join the Anglo-Chinese alliance. Whether or no the latter alliance exists, the writer declares it an unmistakable fact that England and China are on exceptionally good terms. In return for China's friendship, England has of late changed her policy relating to Korea, for she now seems willing to recognize the suzerainty of China over the peninsular Kingdom. Whatever England or China may think of Korea, Japan, says Mr. Takahashi, ought not to abandon her hitherto righteous policy of recognizing the independence of that country. He considers it advisable for Japan to join with some strong European Power in opposition to the Anglo-Chinese alliance.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, writing of the approaching visit of the Russian Crown Prince, observes that, considering the position which Russia occupies in Europe and Asia, this visit must be regarded as an international affair of vital importance. Our contemporary is very glad that Japan is to have in it a unique opportunity of showing herself as she is to a personage who may at any moment mount the throne of the greatest country in the world. The Czarevitch will make extensive journeys in the interior, and our contemporary advises the provincial population to spare nothing to receive and entertain the imperial visitor in a manner befitting his high position.

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The *Toyo Shimpo* devotes several articles to the question of the Columbian Exhibition of 1893. It suggests the desirability of His Majesty the Emperor's visiting the Exhibition. America is the country which first introduced Japan into the comity of nations, and which has since been her most devoted friend and sympathizer. Should His Majesty condescend to visit the States, the people of the trans-Pacific Republic would warmly appreciate the special honour done to them, and the friendly relations between the two countries would be confirmed for all the ages to come. Such a visit would also contribute to the further development of trade between the two nations.

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The *Kokumin Shimbun*, writing of the recent extraordinary growth of novel writing, regrets to notice a conspicuous absence of novels dealing with the ennobling relations of home life. The rising school of novelists take for their model either the celebrated authors of the *Genroku* period or the school of novelists represented by Zola. Our contemporary advises young novelists to turn their attention to the nobler and plainer themes of domestic virtues.

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DEATH OF THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE.

WITH great pain we have to announce the death of the Honourable J. F. SWIFT, United States Representative, which took place on Tuesday evening at his residence in Tokyo. Mr. SWIFT suffered at the commencement of the year from a severe attack of influenza, and though he recovered sufficiently to go about his business as usual, he complained of feeling only partially restored to health, and his looks showed that the effects of the illness were not completely shaken off. Nevertheless, no suspicion existed of the slightest cause for uneasiness. He himself attributed his weakened condition to malaria, and made all the necessary arrangements for a trip to America in May. Last Sunday he attended the ceremony of consecrating the new Cathedral of the Greek Church at Surugadai. He remained standing throughout the long service of nearly two and a half hours without exhibiting any fatigue, and on Monday and Tuesday he attended his office, showing all his wonted genial cheeriness of manner. But on Tuesday afternoon he spoke of a slight pain in his chest that seemed to require attention, and he asked that the doctor should be sent for either that night or the following morning. At about five o'clock he went to bed, saying that he should probably feel easier lying down. There was then no specially distressing symptom, nor any evidence of prostration. He lay for a time, chatting with Mrs. SWIFT, who stood at the foot of the bed. That he had no consciousness of imminent danger was proved by his mooting the idea of a run to Hongkong for change of air. It was then a few minutes past six. Mrs. SWIFT turned away for an instant, but her attention was immediately recalled by the sound of distressed breathing, and before she could reach her husband's side, he was dead. Medical assistance soon arrived, and every effort was made to restore animation, but without avail. Paralysis of the heart had done its work finally, and in a second of time. The sad event will be deeply mourned in Tokyo and Yokohama. Mr. SWIFT had endeared himself to everyone that knew him. His absolute freedom from any shadow of affectation, his wide information, and his ready but always kindly wit, attracted notice which soon ripened into sincere affection and esteem. A large-hearted man in the strongest sense of the term, he leaves behind him a full record of benevolence and upright dealing, and for this he himself would certainly have preferred to be remembered rather than for the abilities which won him so much distinction at home, and which, in his office abroad, he employed so earnestly to promote the interests of his country. An end so speedy and painless suggests some grounds of consolation to those that mourn; but, on the other hand, its suddenness is appalling. In the ordinary course of nature Mr. SWIFT should have had many years of successful service before him still. His country suffers a heavy loss by his untimely decease, and his numerous friends will be inexpressibly grieved that he should have been cut off in the maturity of his capacity, and in the midst of a genial intercourse at once rare and charming.

CLOSING SCENES IN THE HOUSES.

THE last few hours of the Lower House's first session were looked forward to with curiosity and some uneasiness. It was felt that the Extremists would not be likely to resign themselves tamely to the signal discomfiture suffered by them at the moment when victory seemed to be within their grasp, and that some effort to retrieve the situation might be anticipated. For a time rumour remained steadfast to the project of a simple vote of want of confidence, but this expectation had to be modified on the 6th instant, when Mr. ORITA KENSHI, one of the Kagoshima representatives, and a leader among the Extremists, handed in a motion to the effect that the Government's answer to the application for concurrence made by the House in respect of the Budget, violated the Constitution. The motion not having come up for discussion, we cannot say with absolute certainty in what particulars the obnoxious message is charged with being contrary to the Constitution, but from speeches delivered in connection with previous questions by Mr. SHIMADA SABURO and others, there can be little doubt that the great point of attack would have been the Government's declaration that the reductions recommended by the Budget Committee's Report represented procedure in excess of the House's legitimate powers. The Government, in short, asserted that the functions of the House in connection with the Budget could not lawfully be extended to administrative re-organization, and to making changes in expenditures expressly exempted by the Constitution from such treatment. No protest was raised at first against this ruling. But when the Extremists came to consider it carefully, they thought that it afforded an opportunity for renewed attack. According to their view, the House is at liberty to make any and every conceivable change in the items of the Budget, provided that before definitely voting such changes the Government's concurrence be sought. They professed to set the settlement of this question far above the mere arithmetic of the estimates, and they determined to employ it as the text of a fresh crusade. But their difficulty was that, by failing to choose their line of action at an earlier date, they were unable to get a motion included in the Orders of the Day until the 6th instant, when they found themselves in company with a number of other applicants for the ear of the House. Would it be possible to extricate Mr. ORITA'S motion from the general ruck, and to obtain a hearing for it before the session came to an end? Keen was the excitement on this subject when the House found itself, in the afternoon of the 6th instant, within a few hours of prorogation, and not within measurable distance of the significant motion, unless, indeed, some exceptional device could be adopted to shorten the interval. No such device presented itself, and the last chance seemed to be destroyed when Mr. HAMANO NOBORU, while nearly two hours of the legitimate working day still remained, moved that in view of the evident futility of attempting to deal with numerous matters still remaining in the Orders of the Day, the House should then and there stand adjourned. Involved in this motion, and but little concealed by its language, was the assumption that no selection could properly be made among the various items awaiting discussion; an idea which found many opponents even among the Moderates. After much tumult and controversy the motion was put, and rejected by the narrow majority of 5 in a House of 243 members. But, though not directly successful, the manœuvre virtually achieved its purpose. The closeness of the division necessitated a ballot, and that caused so much delay that when the result was announced, the Extremists abandoned all organized attempt to utilize the brief interval still remaining. Then ensued a scene such as the House had not witnessed before. Every member having an urgency motion in the Orders of the Day—and there were more than a dozen—and every one interested in an urgency motion, became a free lance to save his own particular "innocent" from slaughter. There certainly was much excuse for excitement under such circumstances. The House became a babel. Cries of "Order" from the chair were utterly disregarded, and after a vain attempt to restore things to their normal condition, the President announced a recess. Forty-five minutes afterwards the House re-assembled as calmly and leisurely as though its whole existence had been free from even a breath of excitement. The members took their places with a nonchalant air; there was not even an attempt at

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conversation, and when the President sauntered to his desk, it became plain that all the electricity had disappeared. The fact was that during the brief recess the members had agreed to a compromise—namely, that every one should sacrifice his pet Bill, and that the session should come to an end. Mr. ORITA, however, would not go home without firing at least a blank cartridge. He declared that though his motion could not be discussed, he wished to record his emphatic opinion that the Government had transgressed the Constitution—a statement which galvanized Mr. TANAKA SHOZO into a state of the wildest but briefest excitement and pleasure. The President then spoke a dozen words, his ordinarily quiet manner intensified into impressive deliberation, and the members took their departure evidently well pleased with themselves. It did not occur to them apparently to cheer for either the EMPEROR, the Constitution, or their President, an omission which the Upper House was careful to avoid. The procedure of the Peers, indeed, differed altogether from that of the Representatives. Entirely uninfluenced, apparently, by the close proximity of the session's end, they went on to the last calmly submitting Bills to special Committees, and generally behaving as though months not minutes of debating leisure were still before them. Count ITO'S speech made a worthy termination to a session of which the Japanese nobles and their associates in the Upper House may justly be proud.

OPENING OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE GREEK CHURCH IN JAPAN.

MORE than five years have elapsed since the presence in Japan of that powerful and constantly growing representative of Christianity, the Greek Church, was prominently recalled to the recollection of the foreign residents of Tokyo on a memorable occasion, the funeral of the Russian Minister, Mr. A. DAVIDOW. A State funeral under the auspices of the Japanese Government, the ceremonial was on a striking scale, Japanese Princes of the Blood attending in the Chapel, Japanese Ministers of State in full uniform walking behind the bier, and Japanese Imperial Guards lining the road as the cortége passed. What chiefly attracted attention, however, was the association of all this official pomp with Christian burial rites performed chiefly by Japanese, for although the Bishop of the Greek Church directed the ceremony, they were Japanese Christian priests who swung the censers and intoned the litanies, and Japanese Christian girls and boys whe chaunted the requiem for the dead. Watchful observers, taking note of these things, said that with the body of the large-minded and universally beloved gentleman who had passed so suddenly and sadly from our midst, were buried the last traces of anti-Christian prejudice that during more than two centuries had isolated Japan from the Western world. It was an eminent incident in the history of the Greek Church in Japan that it should have performed the rites at this figurative interment, and while people took cognisance of the fact, they did not fail to notice also what a high degree of training and organization the officiating votariesof the faith had attained. To the general public these evidences of the Church's progress were a surprise, for, like the Roman Catholics, the propagandists of the Russian national creed are absolutely self-effacing. Their zeal never flags; their ambition never soars above the successful spread of their tenets. But no hermit ever hid himself more effectually in his cave than they bury themselves in the humblest task falling to their lot. The world sees nothing, hears nothing of their every-day work, unless some exceptional occasion brings them into momentary and conspicuous notice. Such an occasion was the memorable funeral in the fall of 1885, and such another was the consecration of the Cathedral on Surugadai last Sunday. The Cathedral, standing as it does on one of the highest sites in the capital, and borrowing additional grandeur from its skilful adaptation to this lofty situation, has long been a striking object from every part of the city. With the huge but comparatively lowly structures of Kwannon at Asakusa and Monzeki in Tsukiji, it form a triangle of sacred edifices not unsuggestive of the variety of creeds offered for the choice of modern Japan. Since the time when, six years ago, a huge network of scaffolding rose on the site of the future building, the people of the city have spoken of the Cathedral as *Nicolai Kyodo*, paying thus an eloquent if unconscious tribute to the great propagandist who for more than three decades has toiled in this empire with such devotion and ardour that, despite the changeless humility of his life, the Japanese public at large knows the Greek Church chiefly through his personality. Probably the new Cathedral will retain this appellation for many a generation to come, though worshippers there are instructed to call it the Holy Church of the Resurrection. It is an imposing structure in the Russo-Byzantine style. Massive proportions, a large dome and a lofty spire, aided by advantages of position, render it the most prominent building in the Tokyo of to-day. The plan is that of a Greek Cross having equal arms; the main edifice measuring 91 feet in each direction, and the western end having an additional pronaos and vestibule 35 feet in length, at the sides of which are the Baptistry, Sacristy, and Treasuries in two stories. The central space is covered by a grand octagonal dome, 50 feet in span, supported upon solid pendentives and piers, 8 feet thick. Internally the apex of the dome is some 80 feet from the floor; it is ornamented by an arcade and lighted by eight arched windows. The main arches of the transepts are about 40 feet in span and height. Viewed externally, and considered as an ornamental monument of a Church remarkable for the splendour of its ritualistic ceremonials, the Cathedral lacks something of the warmth and richness that colour imparts to architectural as well as to other artistic efforts. White walls, relieved only by the dull grey of Japanese building stone, impart an air of Methodist monotony to any features, however elaborate. The same criticism applies in a lesser degree to the interior, though here the sense of sameness is relieved by a magnificent gilded and painted screen which occupies the whole eastern end, dividing the chancel into three closed sanctuaries, and by rich silver candelabra hanging from the dome and principal arches. Opposite to this splendid and broad reredos, its tiers of massive gilt frames and richly chased interspaces enclosing brilliantly coloured representations of scenes from the life of Christ and the saints, the upper part of the western end of the edifice is occupied by a graceful iron gallery for the choir, an important element in the services of the Greek Church. The north and south transepts have large recessed entrances which form special features of the elevation. Iron framework, instead of solid brick or stone, has been used for the vaults. In other respects the greatest solidity of construction has been observed, but this, the only important modification, we believe, of the original project, was deemed an advisable concession to the risk of severe earthquakes. Standing as the cathedral does upon the extreme edge of an almost precipitous plateau, its foundations and other invisible parts must have involved large outlay, and it says much for the skill of the superintending architect, Mr. J. CONDER, that notwithstanding the terrace-like character of the sub-structure, the unequal weights and thrusts to be contended with, and the enormous span of the arches and thickness of the walls, no settlement or fissure of any kind has occurred in the superstructure. It is impossible, of course, not to be reminded of seismic eventualities in the life of such a building in Japan, but as an additional precaution the whole of the brickwork at different heights is bound with stout iron ties, spanning the arches and serving as supports for the ornamental candelabra. In the tower at the west end is a spacious belfry containing eight bells. It is crowned by a light copper-covered spire carrying a gilt ball and cross at the apex. The height from the ground to the top of this cross is 126 feet, and that of a similar cross crowning the lantern of the octogonal dome is 115 feet.

The consecration of this fine edifice was

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conducted in the forenoon of the 8th inst. with all the pomp and éclat of the Greek Church. A congregation of over three thousand Japanese thronged the spacious building, their devout attention, genuflections, and frequent recourse to the sign of the cross proving that they had come to worship rather than to see. Unfortunately the Japanese Princes and Ministers were prevented from attending, their presence being required in the Palace to take part in the ceremony of closing the Diet. The Foreign Representatives were all present, with the exception of the Ministers of France, Austria, and Belgium. Several Protestant Missionaries, including the Venerable Archdeacon SHAW, also formed part of the congregation, their attendance evincing a spirit of Christian liberality to which their Roman Catholic brethren have apparently not yet attained. It is unnecessary to speak of the service at any length. The gorgeous robes of rich, gold embroidered brocades worn by the Bishop and his large band of assistants, the swaying of thuribles, the fumes of incense, the chaunting of the ritual, which was entirely in the Japanese language, the sacred vessels and many another element of the scene vividly recalled Buddhistic rites. Not the least remarkable feature was the admirable singing of the choir, incomparably the best of its kind ever achieved by Japanese choristers. The service lasted nearly four hours, and at its conclusion the first peal of bells ever heard in Tokyo rang out from the western tower. Those who had attended by invitation were then conducted to one of the Mission buildings, where they partook of a sumptuous *déjeuner*, the Russian Minister and the members of the Russian Legation acting as hosts.

THE SPEECH OF MR. MUTSU ON THE 7th INSTANT.

WE have already given a brief *resumé* of the speech delivered by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in the House of Representatives on the 7th instant, but as the speech is of considerable interest, we translate it now in full:—

GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in announcing the concurrence of the Government with the motion passed by a large majority of the House, namely, the motion by Messrs. Nakamura Yaroku and Naito Rihachi requesting the Government to lay before the House a Supplementary Budget to provide funds for taking part in the International Exhibition, which is to be held in Chicago on the 1st of May, 1893. You are doubtless aware that the Exhibition is to be in commemoration of the great discovery made by Columbus, the discovery of America; the year of holding the Exhibition being the fourth centenary of the famous discovery. The United States Government has moved all members of the comity of nations to contribute to the Exhibition. It will certainly be one of the greatest affairs of its kind ever organised, and for that reason as well as in consideration of the facts that the intercourse between the United States and our country stands on a footing of special amity, and that America, as you are aware, offers the largest market for our products, the Government has been preparing to take its place as a contributor immediately on receipt of an official notice from the Authorities of the United States. But, owing probably to the extensive preliminary arrangements connected with so large an Exhibition, the United States Government has been delayed in sending the official notice, and this Government did not receive it until the 2nd instant. However anxious we might be to take part in the Exhibition, it was obviously impossible to prepare and submit to the House an estimate of expenses prior to the receipt of the official intimation from Washington. When an international Exhibition is opened, it may be said to have become almost an established custom with the other members of the comity of nations to contribute to the enterprise, such an occasion being worthily and well adapted to enhance the reputation of a State. The Government, therefore, has not hesitated to contribute towards international exhibitions previously held. I need scarcely tell you that an Exhibition is not purely a commercial affair, nor does direct commercial profit constitute its chief object. It aims rather at advertising the productions of a nation, and introducing them to the knowledge of the world. It is, in fact, an opportunity to display a country's manufactures and products before the people of all lands and to invite their judgment, for the ultimate purpose of encouraging industry at home and opening new markets for the country's staples.—(Cries of "briefly," "briefly.") Yes, if you desire brevity, what I have said will suffice.—(Cries of "go on," "go on.") Well, I find myself in the face of two opposite wishes, so perhaps I had better finish what I have to say. In addition to these general considerations relating to exhibitions, our special relations with the United States constitute a still stronger reason for contributing to the Chicago affair. I would invite your attention to the fact that the greater part of our products are now absorbed by America, and that, consequently, in the opinion of the Government, the present is a rare opportunity for increasing the country's reputation and developing its avenues of profit. Ourselves entertaining these views, we have received your Representation urging that an estimate of the expenditure required for contributing to the Exhibition should be submitted to the House. The Government would not willingly lose a moment in submitting such an estimate, but unfortunately as only a few days remained before the end of the session, it was impossible to prepare the necessary calculations in time to lay them before you. Moreover, the outlay required during the present year will be small: most of the expenses will be incurred during the years 1892 and 1893, when considerable sums must be paid out. I may also remind you that an estimate of such expenditures involves unusual calculations, calling for great care and investigation, inasmuch as a considerable part of the outlay will take the form of subsidies to exhibitors and advances against articles exhibited. Payments made by the Treasury for such purposes require that examination should be made of the available productions, and that the best should be selected. In short, we have to see that the reputation of the country is enhanced. It is, however, a matter of no small difficulty, and one calling for much experience, to make suitable selections. Artists must be consulted, and thought given to questions of design, decoration, and so forth. Intelligent selection, however, needs time, and on the results of selection depend the expenses incurred and the assistance to contributors. We have to set out by an accurate examination of the long and minute rules for the guidance of foreign contributors issued by the American Government, and we have then to determine whether we shall contribute towards the shipping expenses; or whether we shall undertake the whole cost of fitting up and decorating the section assigned to Japan; or whether we shall give aid on account of travelling expenses. All this, you perceive, depends largely upon the condition of the contributors, and indicates that the views of our business men must be consulted beforehand. Otherwise considerable discrepancies are sure to appear between the sum asked for and the sum actually required. It will thus be apparent that time is needed for preparing the estimate. As I have already stated, we received the official announcement only on the 2nd instant, and the Government was then closely occupied with the task of adjusting the general Budget so as to obtain the consent of the House. There were therefore many difficulties in the way of submitting a detailed estimate. You, nevertheless, amid your pressure of business and without waiting for any application from the Government, in your capacity of the people's Representatives have presented a Representation to the Government, and from this earnest action of yours we infer that you are resolved to respond to the invitation of the United States, and I, as a Minister of State speaking on behalf of the Government, declare our concurrence with your Representation. It is a point of the greatest value that information should be thus publicly given of the consentient attitude of the House and the Government in respect of the American Exhibition. Your Representation is thus of much importance, domestically as an intimation to our business men of the views entertained by the Diet and the Government—an intimation that will have great influence in stimulating contributors—and externally as enabling the Government to express the unbounded goodwill of itself and the nation towards the United States of America. In your next session at the close of the year, I confidently anticipate that the subject of expenditure on account of the Exhibition will be considered early in your debates, and I trust that you will approach the subject with the spirit animating you to-day. Let me say one word in conclusion. This Diet being the first in our nation's history, both our own people and foreigners have watched its proceedings intently. During the session of ninety days, there have been some incidents of an exceptional character on the side of the House and the Government alike, but we have to be sincerely thankful that the spirit of compromise has prevailed, and that many useful measures have been passed. It gives me intense satisfaction to be able to stand here on this closing day addressing you on a subject concerning which our sentiments are absolutely one.

It is plain that the object of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, in making this speech, was to bring to the notice of the nation the combined resolve of the Government and the Diet in regard to the Chicago Exhibition. From that point of view the speech is excellently conceived. It may be supposed that just at the present moment Japanese manufacturers are not in the best possible mood towards international or national Exhibitions. Their experiences in connection with the Barcelona Exhibition were very bitter, and the results of last year's industrial show in Tokyo did not mend matters. If this spirit of depression were suffered to prevail, the invitation from Chicago would probably fall flat, and Japan would lose a splendid opportunity of extending her markets and making her productions known to the world. Mr. MUTSU has therefore acted with statesmanlike foresight in seizing the only available opportunity to inform manufacturers that both the Government and the Diet are resolved to assist them. The effect of his speech will certainly be very marked. It will be read at all the manufacturing centres, and a new stimulus will be given to flagging enterprise. But in other respects, also, the speech possesses great interest. It shows that a really intelligent policy is about to be pursued in directing Japan's efforts. It was of course to be expected that with a man of Mr. MUTSU'S great shrewdness and sound business views at the head of the Agricultural and Commercial Department, the mistakes hitherto made in preparing exhibits to send abroad and the indiscriminate methods too often adopted in extending official aid to exhibitors, would be avoided. None the less it is satisfactory to find strong assurance on these topics in the Minister's speech. He evidently appreciates the paramount importance of directing and guiding industrial effort. Japanese manufacturers never go wrong when they work for their own people. They rely upon instincts singularly correct and sound, and they appeal to tastes of

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which they possess accurate gauges. But they do go lamentably wrong when they set about manufacturing for foreigners. They allow themselves then to be led by their conception of Western tastes and Western fancies, forgetting that their own strength lies in absolute independence of both the former and the latter, and forgetting also that, in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of every thousand, their knowledge of what the foreigner likes is utterly erroneous. There is no reason why Japan should send to Chicago any exhibits that will not find ready sale. Hitherto it has invariably been her fate to ship to every international exhibition quantities of stuff only a fraction of which found a market, the remainder being left on her hands. It would not have been unreasonable to hope that her costly experience in this matter might have borne fruit ere now, and that the Industrial Exhibition of last year would have been without any hybrid monstrosities betraying lamentable confusion between the genuine canons of Japanese art and the uninstructed globe-trotter's interpretation of them. But the hope was disappointed. The old want of discrimination made itself apparent, though happily on a smaller scale, and the consequences confront us to-day in the shape of a lottery to dispose of articles unsaleable on their own merits. There is much need of a guiding hand. The importance of extending State aid to contributors is as nothing compared with the importance of directing their efforts into intelligent channels. It is very fortunate for the country that an official of Mr. MUTSU'S capacity happens to be at the head of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce just now, and that he has for his lieutenant Mr. SAITO SHUICHIRO, Chief of the Industrial and Commercial Bureau. Mr. MUTSU, as his speech indicates, appreciates the fact that any want of discrimination on this occasion may not only entail heavy direct loss to the country, but may also impair Japan's reputation and seriously discourage the enterprise of her manufacturers. A good deal of the interest originally excited by her art productions has been weakened by her mistaken attempts to adapt herself to Western caprice, and the great Exhibition at Chicago offers an opportunity for repairing much of this mischief. Happily she has wise men to utilize the occasion.

THE PUSHING FOREIGNER.

"FOREIGN merchants," says the *Riken Jiyu Shimbun*, "are supposed to be limited to the Settlements, but it appears that they go at present into the interior and make purchases and sales direct. Thus, in the case of Mr. TUSKA, as soon as it was decided, on the part of the miscellaneous-goods dealers, to put an end to all transactions with his firm, he immediately proceeded to Shizuoka, and directed an employé, one YASHIRO, to undertake purchases on his behalf. But the Shizuoka dealers, having been already warned by the Yokohama guild, declined, it is said, to enter into any transactions with him. It is quite a habit with foreigners now-a-days to go into the interior on the plea of recruiting their health, and then to engage in transactions of trade in the name of a Japanese. The Authorities, say the Yokohama merchants, ought to adopt strict measures for the control of foreign merchants, and for the protection of the interests of Japanese tradespeople."

It is always "the Authorities." Upon their shoulders every sin is laid, and to them every one looks for redress or aid in all contingencies. But how, in the name of every thing practical, are the Authorities to prevent foreigners from doing what, whether truly or falsely, the *Jiyu Shimbun* says that Mr. TUSKA did? Long ago the circumstances of Japan became incompatible with maintenance of the restrictions imposed upon trade by the present treaties. When railways run from the door of his house to every part of the country, the foreign merchant cannot be restrained from placing himself in contact with producers and consumers in the interior, if such a course presents advantages. He can always work nominally through a Japanese, and no law now in existence, or capable of being carried out if enacted, gives the Authorities power to scrutinise commercial transactions conducted by one Japanese subject with another. The general lesson to be learned from the gradual ramification of direct or semi-direct trade by foreigners outside the settlements, is that the attempt to confine foreigners to the Settlements under existing conditions is as idle as it would be to try and keep water in a vessel the sides of which had been broken down. The enterprising foreign merchant, driven by the keen competition that renders him so easy a prey to Japanese guilds and combinations, will go where profit calls him, whatever be the risk involved; and since in this case there is virtually no risk, his inclination to take advantage of every facility is correspondingly active. If the country is not opened lawfully, and under proper conditions as to jurisdiction, it will be opened in defiance of law and without any judicial arrangements other than the extremely imperfect ones existing already. That is the general outlook easily and certainly discernible by any one who performs the familiar operation of putting two and two together. As for the particular inference to be drawn from this "Tuska incident," it seems to us equally clear. Some persons cry out against the tyranny of the guild that decreed the ostracism of the American firm, and others even assert its illegality. But surely both views are equally idle? The whole tendency of modern commerce is in the direction of despotic combinations. The large syndicates and trusts of the West are characteristic of the age, and to cry out against guilds in Japan while they exist among ourselves on such a large scale, is absurd. Guilds have their uses. It is to their existence from old time in China that we must attribute the development there of a sounder system of commercial morality than can be found in Japan, though individually it is not credible that the Chinaman is one whit more honest than the Japanese, or that either is less honest than the European. The law cannot touch guilds unless they employ their combined power for improper purposes, and recent experience in the British Courts shows how difficult it is to establish any charge of that nature. Assuredly if a number of merchants agree not to sell their goods to a certain firm, a question of profit or loss alone being involved, no civilized tribunal could be found to pronounce their agreement illegal. But why should a Japanese guild adopt such a course for the sake of one of its members? Why should twenty or thirty merchants pledge themselves to turn away customers from their doors on account of a supposed injustice done to one of their number, instead of resorting to the far simpler and more natural expedient of letting the aggrieved person seek his remedy in a Court of Law? Because a Japanese will not go into the foreign Law Courts if he can possibly avoid doing so. He shrinks from the costly and intricate nature of our legal processes, not being able to foresee where a suit may end, or what expense it may not involve. Westerns having properly equipped Courts here are proud of the justice and ability of their judges, but they cannot hide from themselves that to a Japanese suitor the intricacies of their law are deterrent, and the cost of appealing to it is prohibitive. These things are responsible for such action as that taken by the guild of miscellaneous dealers in the TUSKA case. They provide a substitute for legal recourse, and although the notion of their setting themselves up as judges in matters where they must necessarily be partisans, is decidedly repugnant to our sense of fair play, there is no official help for it. The development of such guilds in order to relieve their members from the necessity of having recourse to the intricate and expensive machinery of foreign Courts; the growth of combinations to take the fullest advantage of the keen competition among foreign merchants; the impossibility of any appeal to Japanese public opinion on the part of men who insist upon remaining in a state of haughty isolation; the gradually increasing umbrage which impels the Japanese to close every avenue of employment or profit to foreign experts—all these things are inevitable consequences of the system under which we live, and which we avowedly prefer to maintain.

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THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN.

ACCORDING to returns compiled at the Finance Department, the total value of the Exports from Japan to foreign countries during 1890 was 56,603,506 *yen*, and the total value of Imports, 81,728,580 *yen*. These two figures aggregate 138,332,086 *yen*, against 136,103,766 *yen* for 1889, and 131,166,744 *yen* for 1888. There is consequently an increase of 2,228,320 *yen* in the bulk of the trade for 1890, as compared with 1889. This, from a merely arithmetical point of view, is a poor showing. In 1887, the trade amounted, in round numbers, to 104 million *yen*; in 1888, it grew to 131 millions; in 1889, to 136 millions, and in 1890, to 138 millions. Consequently the increment standing to the credit of the year just passed is the smallest witnessed since 1888. But when we come to examine Exports and Imports separately, striking differences present themselves. Never in the history of the trade has there been any such record on the Import side. The figures for the three past years are as follow :—

IMPORTS.

	yen.
1888	65,455,234
1889	66,103,765
1890	81,728,580

It thus appears that the increase in Imports for 1890, as compared with 1889, was no less than 15,624,814 *yen*. Even in 1888, when the bulk of the whole trade showed the unprecedented increment of 27 million *yen*, in round members, less than 14 millions of this total stood to the credit of Imports. But a mere statement of Customs figures conveys no real idea as to the nature of the trade. It is necessary to examine the actual deliveries, for to import a quantity of goods and find no sale for them, cannot be considered a profitable employment. The Report of the Chamber of Commerce has told us that deliveries were most unsatisfactory, and that the end of last year saw the godowns filled with unsold or undelivered goods. We must conclude, therefore, that the import trade was overdone and that its results were not good. Nor, indeed, is this to be wondered at, for the people's purchases of foreign manufactures must depend, to a great extent, on the sale of their own productions, aud the record for Exports is most disheartening. The following table shows that there has been a distinct retrogression on this side of the account :—

EXPORTS.

	yen.
1887	52,407,681
1888	65,705,510
1889	70,060,705
1890	56,603,506

It thus appears that the Exports nearly fell back to their condition in 1887, and that their decrease in 1890, as compared with 1889, was 13,457,199 *yen*. Of course there is no difficulty in accounting for this. About eight millions of the difference is to be put down to the account of rice, and the remainder to the block that paralysed the silk market during the closing months of 1890. The crippling effects of the failure of the rice crop of 1889 were felt all through 1890 in every branch of trade, and this, added to the extraordinary stoppage of the export of silk, fully accounts for the figures before us. The difference between Exports and Imports, striking enough even on the showing of the above tables—namely, 25,125,074 *yen*—becomes still more remarkable if we correct the Imports so as to obtain their value laid down in Japan. Their value in the table is that at the port of shipment, and to this 18 per cent. must be added on account of various charges. The total figure for Imports then becomes 96,439,724 *yen*, and their excess over Exports is 39,836,218 *yen*. It does not indeed follow that Japan paid out the whole of the latter sum during 1890, because, as stated above, the imported goods were not all sold. But we may fairly assume that the country's purchases exceeded its sales by from 25 to 30 million *yen*. In no year since the Empire opened its ports has a balance been attained between Exports and Imports, and in no year has the excess of Imports been so striking as in 1890. We conclude this brief analysis by noting that the one item of rice accounts for a great part of the discrepancy. Speaking roughly, there ought to have been an export of rice to the extent of 8 million *yen*, whereas there was actually an import to the extent of 10 millions. Making these allowances, the Imports would stand at 72 millions and the Exports at 64 millions, approximately.

IRRIGATION IN INDIA.

THE extraordinary efforts made by the British authorities in India to extend artificial irrigation, and to exorcise permanently in this way the spectre of famine which at one time haunted the country every year, are of great interest. The last Indian administrative report describes the general policy of the Government in dealing with this vitally important subject. Irrigation is extensively used in most parts of India under one or more of the three following methods. The first and most widely used is irrigation from wells. This does not, however, come within the scope of operations of the Public Works Department, which is confined to the more elaborate methods of irrigation from tanks and canals. The storage of water in tanks for purposes of irrigation has been practised most extensively, and on the largest scale in Southern India. There the works are principally of native origin, but much has been done under the British Government in repairing old tanks, and constructing new works, in Madras, the Bombay Deccan, and in Ajmere-Merwara. It is in canal irrigation, however, that the efforts of English engineers to carry out systematic irrigation on a large scale are seen to greatest advantage, and have produced the most important results. Irrigation canals are of two descriptions, viz., "perennial" and "inundation." The former class includes many magnificent works, which have required large capital outlay and the highest professional skill in their construction. They are furnished with permanent headworks and weirs, and as, for the most part, they draw an unfailing supply of water from the larger rivers, they are capable of irrigating wide tracts of country throughout the year, independently of the local rainfall. The inundation canals, which are peculiar to the Punjab and Sind, are of a much simpler and less costly description than the perennial canals. They are for the most part simple earthen channels, made without expensive machinery of masonry dams and sluices, and supplied with water by the annual rise in May of the Indus and its affluents. They constitute a very useful class of irrigation works, and in some cases have produced most successful financial results. The success of canal irrigation, as measured by financial results, has been very different in different parts of India, though, even where no adequate return on the capital sunk has been obtained, it is difficult to overrate the value of the security provided by this means against loss of life and property in times of drought. The causes of comparative financial success and failure are numerous. In some districts, as in Sind, the very existence of cultivation depends on irrigation works; in others, as in a great part of Bengal, the rainfall in ordinary years is sufficient for the needs of the cultivator, and the demand for irrigation only becomes urgent with a recurrence of drought. In some provinces the practice of irrigation on a large scale is of ancient standing, while in others, as in Bombay, it is of comparatively recent introduction, and it is difficult to induce the cultivators to take the trouble and incur the expense of preparing their lands for the artificial supply of water. In some districts the large rivers which traverse the country offer an unfailing supply of water; in others, as in Bombay, the supply is fluctuating, and irrigation is uncertain, and liable to fail when most needed. The different systems of collecting the revenue with which the irrigation systems are credited, have an important bearing on the financial success of the works. In Madras the bulk of the irrigation revenue is collected with the land revenue. In Bengal and Bombay, as in some other provinces, the receipts of the Irrigation Department consist to a great extent of "occupiers'" rates, not, with few exceptions, of a share of the land revenue. In Sind the revenue of the canals consists almost entirely of a share of the land revenue allotted to irrigation. Cultivation is dependent on the artificial supply of water, and the consolidated revenue from

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the irrigated lands is divided in the proportion of 90 per cent. to irrigation and 10 per cent. to land. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and in the Punjab, direct water rates are assessed partly on the occupier and partly on the owner of the land, the bulk of the rates falling on the former, and the irrigation receipts are further increased by a not unimportant contribution from the land revenue. All the irrigation works under the control of the Public Werks Department are divided into two classes, "major" and "minor." The former includes all works constructed from borrowed funds, and the conditions attached to their being undertaken require that, as far as can be foreseen, the net revenue derived from them should at least equal the interest which Government has to pay on the money borrowed for their construction. This class also includes the works known as "protective," the cost of which has been met, not from borrowed money, but from tbe annual grant for famine relief and insurance. The cost of constructing, as well as of maintaining and carrying on, minor works is met from the ordinary revenues of the year, and for the greater part of this class of works distinct capital and revenue accounts are not kept. Such details as the above have great interest and value for the Japanese, to whom also the irrigation problem presents itself under many difficult aspects.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF PEERS.—MARCH 6TH.

The House continued its sitting on the 5th instant up to 11 p.m. At 9.45 p.m. a closed ballot was taken on the Committee's Report, when 112 votes were recorded in favour of accepting the Report, and 42 against it. The House then proceeded to discuss the items of the Budget. On the motion of Marquis Hachisuka, it was decided to lump the items instead of taking them one by one. The Opposition adopted every means of obstructing the proceedings. Thus the decision on Marquis Hachisuka's motion was challenged, and it became necessary to take an open ballot, the result being 110 "ayes" and 38 "noes." The section of the Budget relating to the Foreign Office was then voted and the House rose. At 10.30 a.m. on the 6th, the House re-assembled under the presidency of Count Ito. The President apologised for his long absence, and explained that he had not yet recovered fully from his illness, but that, owing to the near approach of the Diet's rising, he had determined to attend. The Home Office Section of the Budget was taken. Mr. Honda Fukuzen inquired why money was appropriated for the maintenance of a public garden for foreigners in Yokohama. The Delegate replied that the item was necessitated by the terms of the Convention of 1866. The section was then passed. The Ordinary Expenditures of the Finance, Judicial, and Army and Navy Departments were passed without difficulty, but on coming to the Educational Department Mr. Kato Hiroyuki proposed an amendment that the reduction recommended by the Budget Committee in the Lower House, and accepted by the Government, namely 100,000 *yen* in the appropriation for the support of schools and colleges, should be rejected. He spoke at some length against the policy of interfering with educational progress merely for the sake of effecting economies, and pointed out that although the amount did not appear large, it would entail a large reduction in the staff of teachers. Mr. Miura Yasu supported the amendment, as did also Mr. Funabashi, Viscount Tani, Baron Makimura, Mr. Yamagawa, and Viscount Kageyunokoji. The closure was moved and carried, and Mr. Kato's amendment was rejected by 102 to 46. The ordinary expenditures of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce and of Communications were then passed without debate. A recess was taken at 4.50 p.m., and the House re-assembled at 6.45 p.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, and proceeding to the Revenue side, passed the Ordinary and Extraordinary Revenues. The Extraordinary Expenditures were next taken and passed with but little debate. The House, having concluded the Budget, rose at 9 p.m.

MARCH 7TH.

The House met at 10.50 a.m. under the presidency of Count Higashi-Kuze, and proceeded to consider Petitions relating to local boundaries. Mr. Obata asked permission to bring in an urgency motion for an appropriation on account of the Chicago International Exhibition. He urged the unquestionable importance to Japanese trade of taking advantage of such an opportunity to make known the country's products, and pointed out that preparations must be at once commenced. An appropriation would have been sought sooner had the necessary documents been received from the United States. He proposed to make the matter the subject of a Representation to the Government, leaving the latter to determine the amount. The House gave permission for urgency, and while the Government's consent to change the Orders of the Day was being sought, the debate on the Bill for the Protection of Japanese Females abroad was resumed in secret session. After a short interval the House was re-opened, the Government's consent having been received, and Mr. Obata's motion was debated. Marquis Hosokawa gave an account of Chicago, describing it as he had himself seen it. He strongly supported Mr. Obata's proposal. Mr. Miura Yasu approved the Representation, but took exception to the wording of one portion which suggested that Japan's relations with the United States were closer than those with any other country. He thought that the adoption of such a clause might give offence. In answer to Viscount Kioka, Mr. Obata said that as the Lower House had adopted a similar Representation, the Government would doubtless act on it when thus endorsed by the Peers. Marquis Hosokawa saw no reason to change the phraseology of the Representation. What it contained was quite true, and he failed to see that a Representation of this kind need have any serious effect on the country's foreign affairs. Viscount Tani said that international exhibitions were held in various countries, and applications for cōoperation would doubtless be received. Unless the same language could be employed towards all, offence would certainly be given. The House voted that the clause to which Mr. Miura took exception should be omitted, and that the Representation, thus amended, should be forwarded to the Government. A recess was then taken and on re-assembling at 1.40 p.m., Marquis Hosokawa moved that, in view of the great importance of the Bill for Amending the Periods of paying the Land Tax, the Orders of the Day should be changed for the purpose of debating that measure at once, and further that a Committee be appointed to examine the Bill. The Committee was chosen, and a recess was taken at 3.20 p.m. The House re-assembled at 4.15 p.m. The President announced that the Report of the Special Committee on the Bill for amending the Periods for paying the Land Tax had been received, and would be read by a Secretary. The Report recommended the adoption of the Bill as sent up from the Lower House. Mr. Watanabe Kiyoshi, in the temporary absence of Marquis Hachisuka, President of the Committee, explained the Bill. The House voted to proceed with the second reading, but the President said that he should previously have taken a decision as to altering the rule which provided for the lapse of a fixed number of days between the first and second readings. He was about to put this question when Viscount Yuri urged that the rule be observed. He thought that the Bill had not received sufficient attention at the hands of the Committee, and he objected to discussing a measure not fully comprehended. Marquis Hachisuka objected that the House had already decided to proceed with the second reading, and that no time remained for complying with the provisions of the rule. Viscount Kioka said that he could not admit the soundness of any argument based on the shortness of the time remaining, but as the Bill concerned the people's convenience, he wished it to be proceeded with at once. The House repeated its vote for the second reading. On the motion of Marquis Hachisuka, it was decided, by a two-thirds vote, to dispense with the third reading. The House then voted the Bill, and proceeded to the first reading of the Bill for abolishing the Peace Preservation Regulations. Marquis Daigo thought that the time for abolition had not come. Marquis Nakayama expressed the same opinion, and moved that the Bill be handed to a Special Committee according to the usual routine. Viscount Kioka supported this proposition. The House decided to leave the appointment of the Committee to the President, and then proceeded to the Copyright Law, which it was decided to hand over to a Special Committee. The next measure was the Bill for postponing the date of Operation of the City, Prefecture, and District Local Government System. It was similarly treated. The President then announced that the session was at an end, and the House rose at 5 p.m., but afterwards re-assembled at 5.35 to hear the following address by Count Ito:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—Having been unfortunately prevented by illness from meeting you since the passing of the Budget, I have asked you to attend here that I might say a few words about the working of the Constitution. This Diet marks the opening year of the operation of the Constitution. I think I shall not be exceeding the truth if I say that in no country and in no history has there been any instance of a first Parliament carried to so successful and orderly an issue. In Western countries what we see everywhere is that Constitutional institutions have grown out of disputes between rulers and ruled. None can show, as we can, a parliament which owes its existence to harmony between the Sovereign and his subjects. It is true that during the twenty odd years of the *Meiji* era, difficulties of an insignificant character have arisen, but beyond all question the advance of the nation towards representative institutions has been due to a consensus of opinion between the ruler and the ruled. In extreme cases you will find that the first page of other States' constitutions has been written in blood, but it has been our country's great good fortune to see the constitution carried into operation amid peace and concord. Whatever differences of opinion recently presented themselves between the Government and the people, were trifles of very limited character. The Constitution has become a living reality, and though its life has been for but a few months in actuality, the fact stands good for the whole year. This result, my Lords and Gentlemen, is due, I venture to affirm, to the loyal and devoted spirit in which you have received the Constitution. And because of these high qualities displayed by you, I believe that the glory of the Constitution will shine through all the ages of our Imperial country's life. Let me say a word about the story of the Constitution, if you will pardon me for venturing to express an opinion on such a subject. Foreigners assert that our Constitution has no history. That is because they are ignorant of our country. The early days of the era of the Restoration were pregnant with the beginning of our Constitution. I do not say that the establishment of representative institutions to-day was then indicated with perfect clearness, but the inclination was assuredly there. Many vicissitudes did indeed subsequently occur, but the fact that nothing ever opposed that general tendency shows how the majority were disposed. Think well, my Lords and Gentlemen. Could we have attained the enjoyment of this blessing had not the great patriots of the Restoration, Sanjo, Kido, Okubo and our illustrious predecessors worked so faithfully in their country's cause? And if among the people there had not been men who toiled diligently in behalf of the nation, could the great result have been achieved? The history of our country's Con-

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stitution does, it is true, read differently from the history of foreign constitutions. In Western States changes occur while the Constitution is already in existence, but here they have preceded the birth of the Constitution. Yet this difference does not justify the assertion that our Constitution has no history. The records of the achievements of those heroes of the Restoration, and of the patriots who have laboured among the people up to this day, are inseparably associated with our Constitution. How can it be said to lack a history? A long road, however, still lies before the Constitution. By the aid of the Constitution we have to establish the power of the Throne ever more firmly; to make the prestige of the country shine everywhere, and to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people. It is your function, your duty, my Lords and Gentlemen, to achieve these objects. May you be ever more earnest and zealous in their pursuit. This year's Diet has run its course successfully. There have been some differences of opinion, but there can be no doubt as to the earnestness with which you have worked in the country's cause, and in the fact lies firm assurance that the glory of the Constitution will continue to grow in the future.

At the conclusion of this address, cheers were given for the Emperor, the Constitution, and the President, Count Ito.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—MARCH 6TH.

The House met at 11.05 a.m. The President announced that a Representation had been presented by Mr. Komabayashi Koun on the subject of Tariff and Treaty Revision. Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, said that the following petitions, namely, 189 petitions asking for a reduction of the Land Tax; 197 approving of special re-assessment of taxation values, and 85 opposing it; 17 on the subject of Registration amendment; and 6, on the subject of Urban and Prefectural Local Government, had been examined by the Committee and accepted for submission to the House; but, inasmuch as Bills relating to all these subjects had been under debate, the Committee recommended the forwarding of the petitions *en masse* to the Government. With regard to 17 petitions approving reform of the regulations relating to silkworm's eggs and 9 petitions in the opposite sense, it was understood that the Government had contemplated introducing a new law on this subject, but nothing had yet come before the House. There were 7 petitions relating to the amendment of the Confectionary Tax, 26 relating to the Tax on *Sake* Brewing, and 159 relating to local boundaries. Drafts of laws had also been received, but as there was no possibility of their being discussed by the House during the session, the Committee proposed to forward them at once to the Government. This Report was endorsed by the House without discussion. Mr. Yamada Taizo, on behalf of the Committee for Disciplinary Punishments, reported that, on examination, the Committee, had seen no reason to inflict any penalty on Mr. Mutsu Munemitsu. The records of attendance previous to the burning of the Diet buildings were not complete, but since the burning Mr. Mutsu had been absent once for three days without leave, and once for one day. On every other occasion of absence, daily application had been made by him for leave. Mr. Suyehiro Shigeyasu moved that the Registration Bill should be handed over to the Continuing Committee, so as to come up for debate next session, but the President ruled that the House should proceed to the second reading as determined the preceding day. The ruling was challenged, and a vote taken, when Mr. Suyehiro's motion was rejected. The first Section of the Registration Bill, as amended by the Peers, was then passed after some debate, and the House rose for the mid-day recess. On re-assembling a reply from the Minister of Finance was read with regard to land survey for taxation purposes. Mr. Tanaka Shozo objected to the Committee's report about Mr. Mutsu, and asked at whose request they had made it. Mr. Oyagi Biichiro, on behalf of the Committee on the Criminal Code Bill, reported that the Committee approved of the Code on the whole, but had been unable to examine it minutely owing to want of time. Mr. Imai Isoichiro asked permission to move a Representation to the Government on the subject of re-assessment for Land Tax purposes. The House granted leave by 105 to 102. Mr. Takanashi opposed the motion on the grounds, first, that the Constitution forbade the re-introduction of a Bill which had been already rejected in the same session; and secondly, that if the House really wished for re-assessment it ought to draft a law in that sense itself, instead of leaving the matter to the Executive. Mr. Seki Naohiko traversed Mr. Takanashi's arguments. The Legislature did not divest itself of any of its powers by entrusting to the Executive the duty of preparing a law. The acceptance, rejection, or amendment of the law ultimately rested with the Legislature. He supported the proposal. Mr. Ebashi Ko denounced the measure as being merely a desire to interrupt the passage of the Registration Bill. The closure was put and carried. A closed ballot was taken when 113 "ayes" and 117 "noes" were recorded. The House then resumed the second reading of the Registration Bill. After a very brief debate, the third reading was opened without opposition. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi urged the House to reject the Bill. He said that the object of the Government in pushing it forward was to obtain another lever for carrying out the objectionable Civil Code. The House rose at 4 o'clock.

MARCH 7TH.

The House met at 10 a.m. The President announced the receipt of answers from the Government to various questions, and said that, unless objection were raised, he should consider that the House approved the urgency motion introduced by Mr. Kikuchi Kanji relating to the privilege of memorializing the Throne for the pardon of persons who, though undergoing punishment as ordinary criminals, were found to have committed offences which, in their origin or purpose, were of a State character. Mr. Hayakawa Riyosuke raised the question that as the pardon of criminals was a matter falling entirely within the Imperial Prerogative, Parliament should not interfere. In deference to this objection a vote was taken, and the motion was passed. The third reading of the Registration Bill was then proceeded with. Mr. Kuroda, Government Delegate, gave a futher explanation of the Bill, in order to dispose of objections that had been advanced by some of the members. Mr. Suyehiro urged that the measure was too important to be disposed of in a couple of days, and pointed out that as it was not proposed to enforce it until 1893, the House could afford to postpone the subject until more time was available. An open ballot was then taken, the result being 43 "ayes" and 125 "noes." Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, asked permission to address the House. He said that the Representation made by the House, on the motion of Mr. Nakamura Yaroku, for an appropriation in connection with the Chicago Exhibition, was entirely in accordance with the Government's views. The Exhibition, being held to commemorate the 400th universary of the discovery of America by Columbus, promised to be an affair of exceptional magnificence. They all knew how close was the friendship existing, and how large the trade carried on, between Japan and the United States. The receipt of an application from the latter would impose on this country the obligation of immediate action. But owing to the great magnitude of the contemplated undertaking, much time had evidently been required by the Exhibition Committee for preparations, and official notice had only reached Japan last month. They would see, of course, that however well disposed the Government might be, it could take no steps to obtain the consent of the Diet prior to the receipt of an official application. On every occasion of holding an international exhibition, it had been customary for the Government of the country where it was held to seek the cōoperation of friendly States, and they, on their side, had always availed themselves of such opportunities to strengthen amicable relations and enhance the nation's commercial importance. The Government of Japan understood, and had not failed in its duty in this respect. Exhibitions were not for mere show. Their purpose was to promote trade by spreading among the different civilized peoples of the world an intimate knowledge of one another's manufacturing and producing capacities. If Japan's exhibits at Chicago attracted favourable notice, it would be reasonable to look for a corresponding extension of markets for her goods. (At this point cries of "be brief" were raised. The speaker said that he did not object to close his remarks at once, but many members called "go on, go on"). The United States was Japan's best customer. The people of America bought far more of her staples than did the people of any other country. For this, and the other reasons already mentioned, the Government, desiring not to lose an hour in assisting to organise preparations for the great exhibition, had received the Representation of the House with great satisfaction. But there was one difficulty. A supplementary Budget could not possibly be prepared, submitted to the House and passed within the few hours of the session still remaining. During the present year, no great outlay would be needed, but in 1892 and 1893 a considerable sum must be spent. Besides, a supplementary Budget, relating to such a matter, would need a considerable time for preparation. He explained at some length the nature of the outlay required, and the difficulty of estimating it without careful investigation, and said that the Government greatly regretted the impossibility of seeking the House's consent to an accurate Budget. But as the people's Representatives had evinced such anxiety to promote the business, he undertook to act in accordance with their wishes in the interests of Japan's commerce, and with the object of cementing her friendly relations with foreign countries. The unison of view between the House and the Government in this matter could not fail to inure to the national advantage. The House here rose for the mid-day recess and re-assembled at 1 p.m. The President announced the receipt of various replies from the Government to questions asked by members; also that the Petitions Committee had presented a Report recommending that the following petitions, since there was no time for their consideration by the House, should be forwarded to the Government for purposes of reference; namely, 7 petitions relating to sales of woods and forests; 131, to the transfer of irrigation expenses from local to national account; 3, to reform of the Patent Medicines stamp Regulations; 19, to the creating of new Export Ports; 8, to the construction of railways; and 2, to the building of Prefectural offices. The Committee further reported against the following petitions being submitted to the House, as they did not conform with the Regulations, namely, 10 petitions for the abolition of licensed prostitution; 5, for reform of the Law of Witnesses; 2, relating to the peopling of Hokkaido; 5, for the abolition of capital punishment; and 100, for reform of the Confectionary Tax Regulations. Finally, that the following be transmitted to the Government for the same reason as that applying to the petitions in the first category; namely, 10, for the reform of the Election Law; and 3, for the reform of Local Government. This Report was accepted without debate. Mr. Hamano Noboru asked leave to bring in an urgency motion to the effect that, though many Bills had been included in the Orders of the Day, as no time remained to debate them, the session should be closed. The President announced his intention of taking the sense of the House on this motion, whereupon much confusion arose. Many members objected to the proposal, and a disorderly debate ensued. Mr. Hashimoto Kiutaro remained standing in his place, and calling out that the course proposed would disgrace the House. Mr. Tanaka Shozo charged the Government with wrongly interpreting the Constitution. Mr. Orita Kenshi declared that to bring to an end before the regular hour a session which the Emperor had prolonged, would be contrary to the Imperial will. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro said that the Government's reply to the application for concurrence had

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been quite correct. Mr. Fujino Masataka entreated the House to preserve order. Some semblance of order having been restored, the question of putting the motion to the vote was again raised. This brought Mr. Tanaka Shozo to his feet with loud protestations. He cried out that he had still many matters to discuss, chief among them being the improper payment of travelling expenses to Mr. Inouye Kakugoro. Mr. Watanabe Matasaburo reproved Mr. Tanaka's rudeness. A member asked whether there was such a thing as order. The President replied that order could only exist when the House observed it. Another member said that to preserve order was the President's duty. The President said:—"Gentlemen. I presume that you respect the decision of the majority. I have no resource but to seek the verdict of the majority. The sense of the House shall be taken." Mr. Inouye Kakugoro said that if such disorder continued, the only course was for the President to leave his place, when the members would follow his example and the session would come to a spontaneous conclusion. Mr. Hayama Chiuzayemon suggested the advisability of a short recess. Mr. Suzuki Shoji said that many important matters remained to be debated. Above all, the Representation as to the country's foreign relations demanded attention. The speech delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the House of Peers the preceding day contained statements at variance with those made by him previously to the Representatives. This matter must be discussed. Hereupon fresh commotion arose. The President called for a division. A member asked that the list of urgency motions before the House should be read. This was done, and at its conclusion the President put Mr. Hamano's motion. An open ballot was taken, when 119 "ayes" and 124 "noes" were recorded. Mr. Ayai Takeo asked that his urgency motion be taken, namely, that the consideration of bills relating to laws should be postponed and those relating to representations and memorials alone taken. He desired especially that the Representation as to Tariff Autonomy should come before the House. Matters relating to domestic affairs might be relegated to a future date, but matters of foreign policy must be debated at once. He was not satisfied with the answer given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 5th instant to Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke, and he urged the necessity of dealing with this question at once. Mr. Naito Rihachi suggested that the sense of the House be taken as to the precedence, for debating purposes, of the various urgency motions mentioned in the Orders of the Day. The President called for a division on Mr. Ayai's motion, when 98 "ayes" and 91 "noes" were recorded. Various proposals were now made as to the order of taking the motions affected by this decision. The House again fell into a tumultuous state. Mr. Suyematsu Saburo proposed that the President be left to determine the order of taking the motions. This proposal being applauded, the President announced that the House should commence with No. 4 on the list. Mr. Suzuki Shoji took exception to the President's assuming this function merely on the strength of a suggestion from one member. Again the House fell into disorder, and finally, at 2.40 p.m., the President announced a recess. The House re-assembled at 3.55 p.m. Mr. Orita Kenshi rose and said that no time now remained for debate. He wished, therefore, merely to put on record his declaration that the answer given by the Government to the House's application for concurrence had been contrary to the Constitution and extremely improper. (This statement was received with violent applause by Mr. Tanaka Shozo and others.) The President announced the receipt of several urgency motions, but said that no time to submit them now remained. Then rising in his place, he said:—"Gentlemen. During the space of over ninety days, you have spared no exertions for the sake of our country and for the sake of the Diet. I, too, am fully conscious that your goodwill has enabled me to discharge my functions. Your zealous desire to serve your country to the utmost of your strength, was never in doubt. I beg to announce that the session is now at an end." (These words were loudly applauded.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

SLIPSHOD JOURNALISM.

SIR,—As a regular subscriber of the *Japan Gazette*, I seek the aid of your columns to ventilate a grievance, which I, in common with many other subscribers, justly consider should be made public.

During a long residence in Japan I recollect no local print that has in any way approached some of the *Gazette's* recent issues for brain-breaking English, haphazard punctuation, and careless composition.

Take for instance the paper of the 5th instant. Although this contained no leading article, but only some notes and comments and a parliamentary report of the proceedings of March 3rd (that is of two days previous!!), the following are a few illustrations appearing in it of the grounds for the grievance that I allude to:—

BRAIN-BREAKING ENGLISH.

"and to whom poverty and misery are such strangers compared with *that* we were wont to see around us at home."

"and the keen air brought back a certain amount of *bracing energy*."

"In Paris about the middle of January there were 50,000 destitute, *and the number was no smaller even as far south as Naples*."

"But anything like a true estimate of what this winter has cost Europe *only those who have shared the bitter experience can tell*."

"The food of the lower classes has, in modern times, improved, but this does not in any way *atone for the work* which is expected of every toiler, be the weather what it may; *and yet never was the physical condition more unequal to the increasing demands on it then now*."

"The first volume contains fifteen short biographies, containing *those* of Count Itagaki and *that* of Mr. Hatoyama."

"The fact is that the *evidences* of Mr. Amano being a mere tool *has* been placed beyond all dispute."

HAPHAZARD PUNCTUATION.

"The suffering and misery which the unusually severe winter throughout Europe has brought, is a new experience."

"It is argued that in by gone days, a hard winter....."

"But even so, the farmers....."

"At the state dinner, which was held at Government House the next evening there were no speeches."

"We have to acknowledge the receipt of the Dai-nihon-meishi-den, or lives of noted Japanese from the author, Mr. Yamadera Seijiro."

"I thank thee, oh! So much, for the pleasure thy visit afford me."

"And the work it is said, will be carried on."

"It aims at shewing that. (1) By .....; (2) By ..... and justice, and (3) by the amalgamation of the armies of the world into one grand force, each country."

CARELESSNESS.

"and *con*plain."

"the farmers were dis-*contended*."

"the doings of some country *magnet*."

"an invaluable source *oft* knowledge, but we fear that the day is *no* at hand."

"to enlighten *constitutents*."

"*infini-tely*."

Surely this is a good gleaning from *three columns* of a single issue. The new Printing and Publishing Company can hardly look to pay a dividend unless the paper's editor mends his ways.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A "JAPAN GAZETTE" SUBSCRIBER.

Yokohama, March 6th, 1891.

A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Referring to the leader in your issue of this morning, under the heading "The Pushing Foreigner," kindly allow me to contradict the statement made by the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, according to your translation, as to my having "proceeded to Shizuoka and directed an employé, one Yashiro, to undertake purchases on my behalf." The fact of the matter is that ever since the misunderstanding which has arisen between the Japanese manufacturer and myself, I have not set foot out of Yokohama, except to go to Tokyo, nor has my employé, Yashiro, been out of Yokohama either of his own accord or by my instructions.

I am very much averse to airing my grievances in public, but if it interests you sufficiently, I will be only too glad to give you full particulars covering all points of the misunderstanding in question, which will enable you when commenting on or translating items appearing in the native papers concerning my difficulties with the Japanese, to determine what is based on facts, and what is, as in the case of the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* above quoted, pure fiction.

Very truly yours, E. H. TUSKA.

Yokohama, March 12th, 1891.

WHICH IS TRUE?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—A large number of American residents in Japan feel that your San Francisco correspondent persistently misrepresents the American people. A patent illustration of this misrepresentation appears in his letter dated February 5th. Speaking of the late Secretary Windom he says:—"He was good tempered, genial, affable with every body; could see the point in a discussion as quick as the next man; and was adroit in the manipulation of politicians. But among those who knew him personally he passed for a shrewd and unscrupulous speculator, who was never without a few shares of stock in some wild scheme which he was willing to part with to a friend just to oblige him, and who thoroughly appreciated the large part which boodle plays in the modern world."

This it will be noticed, is not a criticism of the Secretary's financial views or policy; it is a grave charge against his moral character. Is this charge true?

Writing upon the subject, *Harper's Weekly* of February 7th says:—

"There was universal confidence in the ability and fairness and high integrity of Secretary Windom. He was a man of great public experience and conservative moderation of temperament. His mind was hospitable to new ideas, but it was not erratic or unwisely impulsive. His official discretion was great, and his death at this moment is a serious public loss. The reform in the civil service to which his party was pledged had in Mr. Windom a sincere friend."

These words stand in the columns of a paper of which George William Curtis is the editor. He is not generally supposed to indulge in giving certificates of good character to rascals. If we accept his words as true, how shall we avoid declaring your correspondent's statements as false? And if false in this instance how can we believe his unsubstantiated charges against other American public men?

Yours sincerely, M. L. GORDON.

Kyoto, March 9th, 1891.

THE JIZEN-KAI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—So many of your readers have kindly contributed to the Yokohama Fujin Jizenkai (Japanese Ladies' Benevolent Society), that we think a short statement of the work of that organization during the past year may be of interest, incomplete though it must be or else of undue length. In January, 1890, the Society had been in existence but two months, and its membership fees amounted to about twelve *yen* per month. The work of the committees, however, soon revealed such a state of destitution, owing to the high price of rice, that the needs of the society were made public by the kindness of the Yokohama press and other agencies. The response was so generous that four rice kitchens were established, from which food was given to many starving people, during the months of May, June, July, and August. The sick poor have been a problem all along. Medical aid and medicine have been given, as will be seen from the report, but the bad air and absence of all comforts, have often made recovery impossible. A house was rented in July, and retained until October, where seventeen persons could be admitted, and this was filled most of the time. The great need for some suitable building for these poor people induced the society to attempt a permanent work, by the erection of a charity hospital, as soon as the pressing needs caused by the rice famine had been met as far as possible. This is the work before the Jizenkai at present, and it is hoped to have a building that will accommodate twenty women and children, before the end of the year—for a beginning. The condition of young girls in the families of the very poor, has appealed

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strongly to all who have come in contact with them. Industrial classes for these girls are being started, and it is hoped by the teaching of practical things for two or three hours daily, to open up some honest avenues to escape from starvation. This work has only begun, as yet, but twenty-seven girls, from six to thirteen years of age, are already in the first class. The condition of orphan children is, of course, very sad, and many appeals to the Jizenkai are made in their behalf, which will be considered as soon as practicable, unless their case is undertaken in the meantime by some other agency.

It has been the determination from the first not to foster a spirit of pauperism. In accordance with this idea, money has very seldom given, and rice and clothing only to those unable to work, except in a few instances, for a short time. The society has been able to undertake only a limited amount of work, of course; yet we believe that as much distress has been relieved as could be with the amount of money spent.

We are sincerely grateful to all who have contributed to, and are still assisting the work of the Jizenkai. The report given below does not pretend to be full. It does not mention any of the work done through the Jizenkai by private benevolence.

SUYE INAGAKI,
March 10th, 1891. President, Jizenkai.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1890.

No. of meals given	5,349
Medicine given, times	512
Persons supplied with clothing	90
Money given with which to return to friends, or to begin work, to	■
No. of burials provided for	9

To donations received	$1,674.80	By food, clothing, medicine, rent, &c.	$816.15
To membership fees	186.37	By five persons employed in cholera season	13.50
To balance from 1889	73.85	By ground for hospital	329.00
		By cash on hand	776.37
	$1,935.02		$1,935.02

"MISSION COMITY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—A circular with the above title has reached me, and as there is no name attached, I beg leave to return thanks through your columns, and to humbly suggest that it does not go far enough. It will certainly be an encouraging advance if (unless prompted by conviction of duty) ■ small church be not persuaded to unite with a stronger mission, nor a preacher be employed at larger salary by a wealthier mission than the one which educated him, and that it shall be deemed unfortunate if one be compelled to build a big meeting house near a small one belonging to another mission. I would suggest the following for the next circular:

Whereas, the Church of God was one in the councils and purpose of God in eternity; one in the typical history and symbolism of the Old Testament; one in prophecy; one in the mind of Christ; one in all the declarations made or figures used by him; one in the apostles' teaching and practice; one under their leadership to all countries; one for three hundred years or more after the last apostle died, and will be one in the millenium and in heaven throughout eternity, and whereas, divisions among the people of God, and the saying, "I am of Luther, and I of Wesley, and I of Calvin," are denounced in the scripture as carnal, and as sects are classed with drunkenness, fornication, and idolatry, all being works of the flesh, therefore:

Resolved, that we will teach the Japanese believers that sectarianism is sin, and ought to be abolished as speedily as possible.

Resolved, that, as human creeds used as tests of fellowship are divisive and repellent, we will teach that the Bible alone, *without any other creed whatsoever*, is an all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.

Resolved, that as human names attached to any portion of God's people tend to foster division and jealousy, we will teach the Japanese believers to call themselves by no names which are not given by the spirit of God in the Holy Scriptures.

Resolved, that we will teach that these sects arose partly from questions long since dead, and are maintained partly because men love sect more than Christian unity, and partly because we cannot break off from the past in a day, but that it would be sinful sectarianism for the Japanese to continue these divisions, and that their aim should be to build up in Japan the pure and sacred Church of the New Testament, rejecting everything on authority less than 1,800 years old, and scaling off with unsparing hand whatever human folly or human wickedness has piled on to the church since it was established by Jesus and the Twelve.

There are missionaries in Japan who recognize the evils of sectarianism, and who can rise above their denominational preferences to further Christian union. The Lord will honour such.

There must be concession if we attain to the unity for which the Redeemer prayed; it were as unreasonable to suppose that any one religious body has the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth as to suppose that any one man is perfect in wisdom. "Mission Comity" will be best attained when all who call themselves Christians, who believe in Jesus and keep his commandments, recognize the fact that the names, creeds, and opinions which separate them are of human origin, and as "every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up," these all shall be rooted up, and all Christians ought to work to pull down these barriers and become one even as the Father and Son are one.

The question arises whether the benign suggestions of "Mission Comity" reach to the Greeks and Romans. I presume not. I think it is held, perhaps unconsciously, that it is right to convict a man of ■ great error and win him over from the Greek or Roman Catholic church, but to convince a man of a lesser error is out of order. Truth is voluble but must be handled carefully. Some Protestants have said, don't preach it to the unlearned.

I was under the temptation to ask if "Mission Comity" includes the Unitarians and Universalists, but I anticipate the answer as follows:—"Unitarianism is not a religion, it is a philosophy of the 19th century, and its life is pretty late in the afternoon; the cruelty of universalism puts it outside the pale of mercy."

GEO. T. SMITH.
152, Higashi Katamachi, Hongo, Tokyo.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY.

The annual general meeting of the members of the community to receive the report of the Cemetery Committee and the Treasurer's statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December last, was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Chamber of Commerce Rooms. Among, those present were Messrs. J. Troup (H.B.M. Consul), A. O. Gay, F. O. Eustace, W. B. Walter, J. H. Brooke, B. Gillett (Hon. Treas.), J. P. Mollison, Rev. E. C. Irwine, Messrs. J. A. Fraser, and J. Rickett.

Mr. TROUP took the chair, and after stating that the minutes of last meeting should be taken as read, called on the Hon. Treasurer to read the report and accounts for last year.

Mr. GILLETT read the report and accounts as follows:—

The Committee of the Yokohama General Cemetery beg to place before the members of the Community the Treasurer's statement of account for the year ending 31st December, 1890, showing a credit balance of $3,182.69; of this amount $3,000.00 is placed on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, producing 5 per cent interest. The balance, $182.69, it is more than probable will be required during the present year for cost of renewing a portion of the fence enclosing the Cemetery grounds, and some few other necessary repairs.

In connection with the Treasurer's statement of account, it may be observed that the amount under the heading of Labour and Wages on the debit side of the account, shows an increase in the expenditure of about $60 over that of the preceding year; also there is an increase under the heading of Postage and Sundries of about $15; in both of these cases the increase has been brought about in consequence of the robberies which took place in the Cemetery in the month of April last, and which rendered it advisable, in the opinion of the Committee, to engage the services of a watchman at $10 per month, who should patrol the Cemetery Grounds during the night; also several other small sundry amounts, which had to be expended, in order if possible, to prevent a recurrence of the depredations. On the credit side of the account, the amount received in the shape of fees for erecting head-stones and enclosing graves has fallen off by about $100, but this has been for the most part counterbalanced by the increase of about $100 in the amount received for reserved lots. With regard to the number of interments during the past year, it will be seen from the tabulated statement annexed to this Report, that there have been 45, against 46 in 1889; included in the former figures there are 13 seamen who have been connected with the shipping lying temporarily in the harbour, 4 visitors, and 1 Tokyo resident. Deducting these from the total number of interments, there remain 27 (including 8 children, all of whom, with only two exceptions, have been under the age of 12 months) as the number representing deaths from the *bona fide* members of the Yokohama community during the year 1890.

The resident foreign Community (exclusive of about 3,000 Chinese) on the 31st December, 1890, according to the returns kindly furnished by the various Consulates, amounted to 1,595. Taking these figures as a basis, we arrive at the estimated death-rate of 16.920 per mille, as against 18.970 in 1889, 17,300 in 1888, 21.00 in 1887, and 27.20 in 1886.

With these observations the present Committee, consisting of Messrs. E. Blanc, J. A. Fraser, H. Grauert, Rev. E. C. Irwine, N. F. Smith, and B. Gillett beg to tender their resignations.

INTERMENTS IN THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1890.

British	20	against 20	in 1889.
American	12	against 11	in 1889.
French	4	against 6	in 1889.
German	1	against 2	in 1889.
Russian	2	against 0	in 1889.
Swiss	2	against 1	in 1889.
Austrian	1	against 2	in 1889.
Dutch	1	against 0	in 1889.
Spanish	2	against 0	in 1889.
Danish	0	against 3	in 1889.
Total	45	against 46	in 1889.

TOTAL INTERMENTS IN

1888	40	1884	47
1887	41	1883	50
1886	52	1882	50
1885	52		

THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY.

DR.—IN ACCOUNT WITH B. GILLETT, HON. TREASURER, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1890.

To Superintendent's salary 12 months	$ 480.00	
To Labour account 12 months	282.44	
To Night watchman 8½ months	83.33	$ 845.77
To Repairs	23.72	
To Tools, &c.	7.63	31.35
To Turfing graves, &c.		3.50
To Books, stationery, and advertisements		6.25
To Postages and sundries		15.01
		$ 901.88
To Amount on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank 5 per cent.	3,000.00	
To Amount on current account at Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	5.86	
To Balance in the hands of treasurer, 31st December, 1890	176.83	3,182.69
		$4,084.57

CR.

By Balance brought down from previous account, 31st December, 1889		$2,762.57
By Interment fees 12 months	$ 642.50	
By Fees received for exhuming	50.00	
By Fees received for erecting stones, enclosing graves	319.50	
By Fees received for reserved lots	185.00	1,197.00
		$3,959.57
By 12 months' interest received from Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, 25th March, 1890, on $3,500 fixed deposit ■ 5 per cent.		125.00
		$4,084.57
January 1st, 1891. By Balance brought down		$3,182.69

Dependencies 31st December, 1890.
Fees outstanding, since received and passed to credit of new account ..... $ 25.00

E. & O. E.

B. GILLETT, Hon. Treasurer.

Yokohama, January 1st, 1891.
Examined with vouchers and found correct:

E. WHITTALL.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting would agree with him that the general state of the finances as shown by the accounts was eminently satisfactory. He would be glad to hear any remarks or enquiries from those present.

Mr. IRWINE said not only were the finances satisfactory, but the death-rate was also satisfactory. It showed that the improved state of the finances had not been gained at the expense of an increased death-rate, seeing that the death-rate was it anything below the average.

The CHAIRMAN said it was the lowest quoted.

Mr. W. B. WALTER, in proposing the adoption of the report and the accounts and thanking the Committee and the Honorary Treasurer for the care they had taken of the general interests of the Cemetery during the year, said he would like to bring before the incoming Committee one great want which he thought the finances were now in a position to meet. There was no mortuary chapel in the Cemetery and—especially in the case of strangers whose death occurred at one of the hotels, as also in other cases—it was very desirable that there should be such a building. He would suggest that the incoming Committee be authorized to spend an amount—it need not be very great; probably $1,000 or $1,200 would cover it—to supply this want, and put up a suitable wooden building which would be all that was necessary for some time to come. In case of removal of the Cemetery it would be quite easy to move a building of that sort at the same time.

Mr. GILLETT reminded Mr. Walter and the meeting that for two years and a half, a large vault in which a temporary interment had been made, was kept open for mortuary purposes, but it was found that no one made any use of it. Mr. Walter, he thought, had suggested that it should remain for use in case of a death at one of the hotels, but it was only made use of in one case. It appeared that there was an arrangement between the hotels and the undertakers by which the latter, when a death occurred, removed the body to their premises. As to the question of providing a special building at the Cemetery, probably the expense would not be very large, but the object of the

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Committee in the past had been to accumulate as much as they possibly could against the time, which would come sooner or later, when the Cemetery would have to be removed. When the present cemetery is closed, there will always be a certain amount of money required to keep it up, and when those residents whose friends are buried there have left Yokohama, it always appeared to the Committee that it will be a matter of considerable difficulty to raise funds to keep it in decent order. With this fact before them they had endeavoured to secure that the expense shall be as light as possible when it does come, as it will one day.

Mr. WALTER said, with regard to Mr. Gillett's remarks as to a temporary tomb placed in the Cemetery some years since, he hardly thought that that answered the purpose to which he referred. A mortuary chapel was not only necessary for depositing bodies previous to burial, but also as a place where the friends of deceased persons might remain during the reading of the funeral service. They had seen—especially during the late severe winter—that on several occasions the clergymen officiating and the friends of the deceased had incurred considerable inconvenience and risk from the state of the weather. Although he quite agreed with Mr. Gillett that the Committee should have a considerable balance of funds in hand, it appeared to him that the object he had brought forward was one really worth spending some money on. He had no doubt that, if necessary, the community would readily respond to a request for subscriptions towards such a chapel. Probably Mr. Irwine would be in a better position, however, to tell the meeting about the matter.

Mr. IRWINE was sorry to say that his experience of mortuary chapels was not an agreeable one. There was, as a rule, great difficulty in keeping such buildings anything like warm and comfortable. They were only used on rare occasions, and as a rule they were cold and comfortless and from the same cause draughty. There was another consideration. There was a tendency sometimes on the part of those who officiate at interments to make the services at the cemetery rather long, a tendency which he thought was greatly to be deprecated, and, possibly, having a covered building in which to conduct the services might lead to a lengthening of those services, beyond even the limits to which sometimes they now extended. He remembered being present on one occasion when the services occupied three quarters of an hour, during which people had to stand uncovered in the open air, and got pretty well frozen. While admitting that it would be well to have a comfortable and warm place in which to conduct the services, he did not think it advisable that the Committee should launch out in that direction, as the main portion of the services was for the most part read in the chapels of the different religious bodies by whom the services were carried on.

Mr. BROOKE asked a question relative to the robberies of iron-work from the Cemetery that took place last year.

Mr. GILLETT said one man was caught, and was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour. His time had not yet expired. Since then one or two pieces of iron had disappeared, but nothing of any account had been taken. When the depredations occurred they were communicated to those interested in the maintenance of the graves, but beyond putting the graves again in proper order nothing had been done.

In reply to Mr. GILLETT,

Mr. JARMAIN, the keeper of the Cemetery, stated that the thief was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, to remain under police surveillance for 8 months, and to pay $22.50, the value of the property stolen.

Mr. GILLETT said the sentence had not yet expired; and as to getting back the $22.50, that was, he thought, a very doubtful matter.

Mr. IRWINE said as a matter of fact nothing had been lost of any consequence since the Committee had appointed the watchman.

Mr. BROOKE recalled that at a previous meeting some discussion arose on the question of the fence, when one gentleman stated that the fence along the high road spoilt a very fine view, and suggested that it should be lowered. Was that the fence which it was now intended to replace?

Mr. GILLETT said yes; the fence running up from Dr. Wheeler's house would have to be replaced, and it would be a question whether for the better protection of the Cemetery there should not be a high fence along the main road. Although the view was no doubt very nice, still he feared that they would have to revert to the tall fence. A low fence undoubtedly afforded facilities to thieves.

Mr. WALTER said not only did a low fence afford facilities to thieves, but on several occasions he had seen crowds of children outside the fence while interments were taking place, and their behaviour was most indecent.

Mr. GILLETT said the fence was lowered at the suggestion of Mr. Hall, and one or two others, as a matter of trial, but he thought experience indicated that they would have to go back to the former height.

Mr. MOLLISON said he had seen children throwing stones at persons, himself among the number, from the road leading up from Dr. Wheeler's, and he had also seen them throwing stones at some of the monuments. He had reason to believe that damage was done to a marble stone in the Cemetery some time ago by the throwing of stones, and it had been found necessary to put up a wire fence to protect the monument. He certainly endorsed what Mr. Walter had said as to raising the fence.

Mr. GILLETT said the replacing of the fence would probably be begun on the following day. It was a question whether bamboos should not be used to close up the fence.

Mr. BROOKE said galvanised wire netting was very cheap, and if it were put on the top of the fence the view would not be obscured, and children could not throw stones and thus disfigure the monuments.

Mr. IRWINE was afraid they would steal that also.

Mr. JARMAIN said the fence would be about 7 feet high, so that it would be impossible for a boy or a man even to throw stones over. The pales would be about 2 inches apart.

Mr. GILLETT thought and trusted that after the fence was put up they would have no further trouble. The meeting would readily understand that the matter of the thefts had caused considerable anxiety to the Committee, and the erection of the fence seemed to be the best way to protect the Cemetery. At any rate they could see how it worked. It was a very singular thing that for 9 or 10 years, with the tall fence, they had no robberies at all.

Mr. IRWINE remembered that he got considerably laughed at by the proposer of the motion when he said that the fence would be jumped over immediately after it was lowered. And yet that was exactly what had happened.

On the motion of Mr. WALTER, the report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

In reply to Mr. BROOKE,

Mr. GILLET said that with the exception of Mr. Grauert, who was absent, but had expressed a wish that his name should remain on the Committee, and of Mr. N. F. Smith, he had seen all the members and learned that they were willing to serve if re-elected.

On the motion of Mr. BROOKE, the Committee, consisting of Messrs. E. Blanc, J. A. Fraser, H. Grauert, N. F. Smith, Rev. P. C. Irwine, and B. Gillett was re-elected.

Mr. BROOKE thought a vote of thanks should be accorded to the Committee for their services during the past year, especially to Mr. Gillett, upon whom a great deal had depended, and who had done most valuable work.

The CHAIRMAN said they all agreed with the sentiment expressed by Mr. Brooke. There was, no doubt, a great deal of trouble involved in the management of the Cemetery, and he was sure the community was very deeply indebted to the Committee, and especially to Mr. Gillett for the great care he had taken in managing the Cemetery.

Mr. GILLETT thanked Mr. Brooke and the Chairman for their kind remarks in reference to himself, and, as to his colleagues, he could only say that whenever they were called upon they had shown the greatest willingness to give their services.

On the motion of Mr. IRWINE, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

THE AUTO-EPITAPH OF A MITO PRINCE.

The second of the Tokugawa Princes of Mito was Mitsukuni, a grandson of Iyeyasu. He was born in 1628, succeeded his father as prince in 1661; gave up to his nephew and heir the government of the clan in 1690, and died in 1700. He is well known in Japanese annals as a scholar and a patron of scholars; and in Chamberlain's "Things Japanese" he is styled "the Japanese Macænas." He is famous for the compilation of *Dai-nihonshi*, the standard history. He it was who welcomed into his clan two Chinese refugees, one of whom became priest of a Buddhist temple in Mito; and the other of whom was the prince's instructor, and was honoured with burial in the cemetery of the princes at Zuiryū, about 15 miles north of Mito.

In this same cemetery is a small tomb which Mitsukuni, before his death, had constructed for himself. This tomb he called *Bairi-sensei no haka*. ("The plum-village teacher's tomb"); and for it he wrote an inscription which, abounding in queer Japanese ideas, may be interesting to Occidentals. It reads as follows:—

"The teacher (*sensei*) is a native of Mito, Hitachi. His eldest son was feeble; and his elder brother died young: so that he alone waited on his father in a respectful and obedient manner. As for his character, he is neither stubborn nor obstinate. Although he venerates Shintoism and Confucianism, yet he is wont to criticize them; and, although he is an intelligent student of Buddhism and Taoism, still he often assaults them. He likes guests, so that his gate is as crowded as a market place. In his leisure he reads books, but does not require that they should be [perfectly] understood. Even pleasure does not gratify him; and grief does not trouble him. In the eve of the moon, and in the morn of flowers, taking the wine-cup, he indulges his appetete; singing poems, he humours his taste. The nice music, the beautiful female, the rich food, are not liked by him; the elegant mansion and rare furniture are not his aim: he is content with either affluence or indigence.

"From his youth he intended to write a [Japanese] history: but as reference books were scanty, he first sought for and bought them. Even a novel or a narrative was carefully read. The aim was to present the true facts, and to exclude doubtful matters. Having declared for the real Imperial line, and having criticized ancient "loyal subjects," he naturally formed original opinions.

"In 1690 he 'asked for his skeleton' [that is, resigned]. Before this he had adopted his nephew, had made him the heir; and he now consigned all the dominion to him. In such a way the long-cherished object was fulfilled. After a time he returned to his village; and, by his father's tomb on Mount Zuiryū, buried all his old official robes, and built a monument called 'the plum village teacher's tomb.' Ah! Here his spirit is to rest eternally! But his body is to be cast where it is destined: if in water, it is to be given to fishes and turtles; if on a mountain, it is to be fed to fowls and beasts. Hence there is no use even of 'the spade of Riūrei.'* The stanza says: 'Though the moon hides in the clouds of Zuiryū, yet its light remains for a moment on the peak of Nishiyama.' The person who built this tomb, and wrote this inscription, is Minamoto no Mitsukuni, Shiryū."

Mito, March 6th, 1891. CLEM.

* Riūrei was a famous Chinese scholar, who was attached to the doctrines of Laotse, and liked to drink wine. He once said: "When I die, I shall not need any funeral, only a spade will do, which will dig up the earth in the place where I may fall." Inasmuch as Mitsukuni's body was to be given, either "to fishes and turtles" or "to fowls and beasts," there was no need even of Riurei's spade to dig him a grave.

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Matsue, March 4th.

The month of February began here with severe weather, and ended with spring flowers and tepid winds. The winter on this coast is over; and the mountains encircling Lake Shinji and making its scenery so beautiful, have quite lost their snow, all except far Daisen, still ghostly white.

An event of scientific interest occurred here upon the 14th ult., but was not generally known until the 25th, namely a change of land-surface at a spot across the lake about two miles south-west of Matsue. Singular changes have been recorded on this part of the lake-coast for a very long time. About sixty years ago a large part of the hill called Otsutsumiyama sank with a great noise. Thirty years ago part of another hill called Otami-yama, in the same neighbourhood, sank; and the ravine thus formed is now called *Jabantani*.

The sites of these subsidences are in the neighbourhood of the village of Fujina, celebrated throughout Izumo for its yellow pottery. On the night of the 14th, at about 3 a.m., the people of Fujina and vicinity heard what they supposed to be a heavy thunder-roll. Some fishermen on the lake at the same hour were startled by a great swaying of the water, coincident with the noise; and looking south "saw the shore move." With the apathy characteristic of some of their class, however, they quietly went on fishing, and said nothing about the matter for several days. No examination of the spot was made for about a week. The hill, covered with pine-trees, is about half a mile from any habitation, and uncrossed by any path.

Upon news of the event reaching the police station, an examination was at once made. It was then found that along the foot of the hill, for a distance of about 480 feet (80 *ken*), east and west, the bed of the lake had been elevated to a height of more than 20 feet. The breadth of the strip of shore thus lifted—consisting of a dense black clay—is

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from 30 to 40 feet, from south to north. All this surface was cracked and fissured as by an enormous force. Embedded in the strata thus upheaved, two kinds of shells were found in great numbers, *shijimi*, still common in the lake, and *hamaguri*, which are marine, and no longer exist in these waters except as fossils.

But this was only one change. South-west of the part upheaved, on the other side of the hill there had been formed a new ravine. The ground had sunk for a length of 1,080 feet—making a ravine from 36 feet to 40 feet deep, with an average width of 60. Hundreds of pine-trees were buried.

On the news reaching Matsue, the students, male and female, of the Upper Schools and college, visited the spot accompanied by their teachers, to receive an object lesson in physiography such as few scholars have the opportunity of getting. It was interesting to see the girl-students walking fearlessly along the slippery edge of the cliff as nimbly as the young men. The lessons were excellently given. Even here, in Izumo, geology and physiography are taught according to the very latest scientific knowledge on the subject; and some of those wiseacres who have been writing in Yokohama papers about the inferior education of Japanese women would be considerably nonplussed could they see an Izumo school-girl's composition upon the geology of her own native hills, or the changes effected by seismic and volcanic action upon the face of the country of Shimane. Here it is the custom, in teaching botany or geology, to take the pupils out at times, and make them learn from direct personal observation. Excellent miscroscopes are also used in the classes; and a boy of sixteen is taught to study animal and vegetable tissues after a fashion that would surprise and delight a foreign savant. Study with the youth here is never a labour, but a pleasure. I could mention the name of a lad in the Middle School, for example, who collected and classified several hundred different kinds of seaweed to send to a teacher in Tokyo.

I think in my next letter, I shall be able to recount the opening of our new bridge over the Oshashi River. The difficulty encountered at the centre of the river bed, in making a solid foundation, has been overcome; and the work is nearly completed. The bridge is very handsome.

I wrote you before of the old bridge and its legend of Gensuke—the man buried under the pillar always called by his name, Gensuke-bashira. Doubtless a legend only. But in the country among the simpler folk, the legend is believed; and some old-fashioned people were afraid to come to town, for fear they should be buried under some pillar of the new bridge, to appease the spirits of the river.

The same legends and the same beliefs are not peculiar to Japan. Those who have read the ballads of Servia will remember the terrible and touching tradition entitled "The Foundation of Skadra (now called Scutari)."

Matsue has another such legend. The foundations of the castle were said to have been constructed only after some supernatural difficulties had been overcome by burying a girl under the walls. She was very fond of dancing; and the legend says that a law had to be passed forbidding any girl to dance in the street. For whenever one danced, the castle would tremble. But to-day I see pretty children dancing before the grim bastions; and the castle never trembles; and the legend itself is almost forgotten.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

San Francisco, February 14th.

Ex-President Cleveland has again brought himself prominently before the public by a letter written to an assembly of politicians who are in favour of unrestricted silver coinage. In that letter he said:

> It surely cannot be necessary for me to make a formal expression of my agreement with those who believe that the greatest perils would be initiated by the adoption of the scheme embraced in adopting the measure now pending in Congress for the unlimited coinage of silver at our mints. If we have developed an unexpected capacity for the assimilation of a largely increased volume of currency, and even if we have demonstrated the usefulness of such an increase, these conditions fall short of insuring us against disaster, if in the present situation we enter upon the dangerous and reckless experiment of the free, unlimited, and independent silver coinage.

To appreciate the importance of this utterance, your readers must understand that the great bulk of the Democracy of the South and West—except California—is in favour of "free, unlimited, and independent silver coinage." Their reason is that they regard that step as leading to an expansion of the currency and an inflation of values, including the values of agricultural produce. They are not all agreed as to details. Some of the silver men propose that, in exchange for silver deposited at the Mints, silver coins shall be given by Government, equivalent to the gold value of the silver deposit on the day of the deposit. Others go further, and under the lead of the silver miners, demand that Government shall issue a silver dollar to every depositor of 412½ grains of silver, though on the day of the deposit that quantity of the metal may only be worth 75 or 85 cents in gold. But this difference apart, the Democrats of the South and West are generally in favour of coining all the silver that is brought to the Mints. The law of last year, which requires the Government to buy $4,500,000 ounces of silver every month for coinage, having failed to raise the price of silver above $1.01 per ounce, and having also failed to inflate prices, they now purpose to tear down the limit on coinage altogether.

To these wild visionaries, Mr. Cleveland has thrown the gauntlet. He was warned that opposition to the free coinage of silver might cost him the nomination for the Presidency, but he replied that the occupancy of the White House was not at all essential to his comfort, but it was essential to his comfort to tell the truth so far as he knew it. Republicans are shouting that he has committed political suicide, and Democrats are afraid that he has postponed their victory. But honest men in all parties applaud his wisdom and his courage.

The aberration of intellect which now pervades the grain-growing sections of this country, and which manifests itself in the wild demands of Farmers' Alliances for prosperity by Act of Congress, is the fruit of the low price which cereals have commanded throughout the world for the past five or six years. Farming has ceased to pay in the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys, and poverty has crazed the farmer. When wheat fell in the early seventies below the cost of production, the farmers of the central states fell upon the railroads, and insisted on getting their transportation for nothing. That scheme failed. And now the farmer assails the monetary system. That arrant demagogue, Leland Stanford, introduces a bill into Congress requiring the Government to issue new legal tenders to be loaned to farmers on the security of their land. The Farmers' Alliance of Kansas, which has swept that State, insists that Government shall likewise loan money on farm produce. And the farmers of the Democratic party are clear that nothing will fit the case but unlimited issues of silver money involving a premium on gold, a depreciated currency, and a revival of the wild era of speculation which prevailed during the war. It is refreshing to find one Democrat who has the nerve to hold fast by sound principles and to defy the march of error.

Nothing has occurred in Congress, since I last wrote, which calls for particular notice. Less than three weeks of the session remain, and it will consume all that time to pass the necessary appropriation bills. It is possible that the Steamship Subsidy Bill may pass, but that is quite uncertain.

Among the items in the naval appropriation bill just passed by the House is one for $25,000 to be expended on a submarine survey of the bed of the Pacific between San Francisco and the Hawaiian Islands, as a preliminary to the laying of a cable. The work can probably be accomplished within a year, and the laying of the cable at the cost of the Government is among the probabilities of the future. The event may possess some interest for your constituency, as a cable to Hawaii would be a link in a telegraphic chain to Japan. But the deep trough which skirts the southern boundary of the chief Japanese island constitutes an obstacle that will puzzle engineers to overcome.

Quite a remarkable case of highway robbery took place last Monday near Napa in this State. A substantial farmer named Greenwood was returning to his house about dusk when he was accosted by two well dressed strangers who bade him hold up his hands. He complied. They demanded his money; he replied that he had none. They then led him into the house, gagged him, tied him hand and foot with vineyard twine, and tied his hands and feet together, so that he was unable to move. His wife coming in at the moment from a neighbour's, they dragged her into an inner room, and after assuaging their brutality on her, gagged and bound her likewise. A struggle seems then to have ensued, when they shot her through the head, killing her instantly. Returning to her husband, they forced him to swallow a considerable quantity of stuff from a bottle, which produced insensiblity. It was several hours before he recovered consciousness. When he did, he managed to shuffle off his manacles sufficiently to sit up; but he had no sooner done so than the robbers reappeared, and each of them shot him in the head. He was not killed, however, for at seven next morning, he contrived to crawl out of the front door, and to attract the attention of a neighbour. The robbers had by that time made their escape apparently with little plunder. Captain Greenwood had no money in the house, and the burglars allowed his wife's watch to escape them. The whole country was at once aroused, and scoured for the murderers.

In parts of this state, there appears to be a sort of sympathy for highway robbers, such as exists in Missouri, and such as used to prevail in England in the days of Robin Hood. At Tulare, the other day, a railroad train was boarded by "road agents" who proceeded to go through it for plunder. The express messenger happened to be a plucky fellow; he barricaded his car, and took pot shots at the robbers whenever he could see them through his window. For quite a while, a regular battle between this man and four or five assailants raged with such fury that the sides of the car were riddled with bullets, and the messenger to save his life had to lie down in the bottom of the car whenever his ammunition was expended and he had to reload. But he finally beat them off; whereupon the grand jury of Tulare found an indictment against him for manslaughter.

General Sherman is dying. He may be dead before this letter leaves the post. He is not a very old man, being only seventy-one, but he has been in poor health for some time. He will always occupy an honourable place in history as the leader of the march through Georgia, but his utterances and his acts since the war have furnished a new illustration of Buckle's saying that soldiers make poor statesmen. Except at the head of an army, he had neither judgment, nor foresight, nor a correct understanding of men or events. His one achievement was a stroke of genius. It was the decisive operation of the war. When he reached Savannah, having traversed without opposition and at a leisurely pace, the richest State of the Confederacy, Lee's continued resistance in Virginia was a mere waste of time and life. But having rendered this splendid service to his country, General Sherman subsided into nothingness. He lived an agreeable life, dined, wined, and was kissed by the girls wherever he went. But he was in fact a tedious and inconsequential old chatter-box.

A very different personage was Admiral Porter, who died yesterday. He was the Admiral of the Navy, and well deserved the post. He came of fighting stock. His father was the famous Commodore Porter who commanded the *Essex* in the war of 1812, and was one of the gallant band of sailors which included Decatur, Perry, and Lawrence. The Admiral who has just died was born in 1813, entered the service in 1829, and worked his way through the subordinate grades until the outbreak of the civil war found him Commander. In that war he had the remarkable luck of being assigned to solve problems which were new, and called for resources entirely outside of the regular routine. It was he who at the bombardment of Forts St. Philip and Jackson demonstrated what is now an axiom in gunnery that the damage done to a fortified work by a bombardment, however heavy, is inconsequential, if the garrison do not take fright and run away. A corollary to this proposition was his running the batteries at Vicksburg. He fitted out an old scow to resemble an ironclad, set her engines at full speed, and sent her past the batteries; they opened fire on her, but did not sink her, and could not hurt her, as there was nothing to damage, and no one on board. The rebels, terrified at the demonstration of this apparently invulnerable craft, blew up their own *Indianola*, a fine gunboat, to save her from capture, and the Union fleet passed the batteries in safety.

It was he, also, who demonstrated the fact that in the bayous of the Mississippi States, a properly built vessel, properly handled, can be sailed "whenever the soil is a little damp." He drove his ironclad craft, drawing six inches or less, through swamps and even ploughed fields. Where a tree stood in the way, his crew lauded, sawed it off and hauled out the stump. In this way he quite often surprised rebel camps, which were thrown into consternation by the appearance in their rear of a fleet of ironclads steaming out of the woods, and seemingly travelling over dry land. For ingenuity and resource there was no one in the navy like David Dixon Porter; he richly deserved the promotion he got.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate.
For the Tired Brain from over-exertion. Try it.

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THE NEW CONSULAR MARRIAGE ACT.

We reprint below from the offical copy of the statutes of last session the Marriage Act of 1890, on which we commented the other day. To make the record on this important subject complete, we append the Order in Council made under the Act from the *London Gazette* of November 25th, 1890.

53 & 44 Vict.—CHAPTER 47.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the marriage of British Subjects outside the United Kingdon.—(18th August, 1890.)

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1.—(1) This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Marriage Act, 1890.

(2)—The Act of the session held in the twelfth and thirteenth years of Her Majesty, chapter sixty-eight, intituled "An Act for facilitating the marriage of British subjects resident in foreign Countries," is in this Act referred to, and may be cited as the Consular Marriage Act, 1849.

2.—Every marriage between parties of whom one at least is a British subject which, from and after the commencement of this Act, shall be solemnized in accordance with the provision of this Act in the house of any British ambassador or minister residing within the country to the Court of which he is accredited, shall be deemed and held to be as valid in the law as if the same had been solemnized within the United Kingdom with a due observance of all forms required by law, and the Consular Marriage Acts, as amended by this Act, and as modified by adaptations made in pursuance of this Act, shall apply accordingly.

3.—The Consular Marriage Act, 1849, and the Consular Marriage Act, 1868 (in this Act referred to as the Consular Marriage Acts), as amended by this Act, shall apply in the case of a marriage solemnized before any governor, high commissioner, resident, or consular or other officer directed or authorised to solemnize and register marriages in the manner provided by the nineteenth section of the said Consular Marriage Act, 1849, as if such governor, high commisioner, resident, or consular or other officer were a consul within the meaning of the Consular Marriage Acts. This section and the provisions of the Consular Marriage Acts, and this Act relating to the marriages in this section referred to shall not be limited to places outside Her Majesty's dominions.

4.—Every marriage between parties of whom one at least is a British subject which, from and after the commencement of this Act, shall be solemnized in accordance with the provisions of this Act on board one of Her Majesty's vessels on a foreign station, shall be deemed and held to be as valid in the law as if the same had been solemnized within the United Kingdom with a due observance of all forms required by the law.

5.—The Consular Marriage Acts as amended by this Act shall apply in the case of a marriage solemnized on board one of Her Majesty's vessels as if the commanding officer of the vessel were a consul within the meaning of the Consular Marriage Acts.

6.—Where a consul is satisfied, in accordance with regulations made under this Act, that a marriage between parties, of whom one at least is a British subject, has been duly solemnized there in accordance with the local law of the country, he may register the marriage, and thereupon, subject to the said regulations, the Consular Marriage Acts shall apply as if the marriage had been solemnized in pursuance of those Acts.

7.—(2). The period during which a copy of the notice referred to in section three of the Consular Marriage Act, 1849, is to be suspended in the office of the consulate shall be fourteen days, whether the marriage is solemnized by licence or without licence, and section nine of the same Act shall have effect as if the period therein referred to were fourteen days in the case both of marriage by licence and of marriage without licence.

(2) The affirmation or declaration required by section six of the Consular Marriage Act, 1849, in the case of marriages by licence shall be required whether the marriage is by licence or without licence, but the certificate referred to in that section shall only be given in cases of marriage by licence.

8.—Section nine of the Consular Marriage Act, 1849, shall have effect as if the words "eight in the forenoon and three in the afternoon" were substituted for words "eight and twelve in the forenoon."

9.—Her Majesty the Queen may, by Order in Council, make regulations—

(*a.*) Prohibiting or restricting the exercise by ambassadors, ministers, governors, high commissioners, residents, commanders of ships, consuls, and other officers of their powers under the Consular Marriage Acts and this Act in cases where the exercise of those powers appear to Her Majesty to be inconsistent with international law or the comity of nations, or in places where, in the opinion of Her Majesty, sufficient facilities exist without the exercise of those powers for the solemnization of marriages to which any British subject is a party; and

(*b.*) Determining what offices, chapels, or other places are, for the purposes of marriages under the Consular Marriage Acts or this Act, to be deemed to be part of the house of an ambassador or minister or of a consulate; and

(*c.*) Modifying in special cases or classes of cases the requirements of the Consular Marriage Acts and this Act as to residence and notice, so far as such modification appears to Her Majesty to be consistent with the observance of due precautions against the solemnization of clandestine marriages; and

(*d.*) Adapting the Consular Marriage Acts to marriages in the house of a British ambassador or minister, or on board one of Her Majesty's vessels, and determining by whom such marriages may be solemnized or registered; and

(*e.*) Adapting the Consular Marriage Acts to marriages before a governor, high commissioner, resident, or other officer; and

(*f.*) Determining the conditions under which and directing the mode in which marriages solemnized in accordance with the local law of a foreign country may be registered in pursuance of this Act; and

(*g.*) Varying and revoking any regulations previously made.

All such regulations shall be published under the superintendence of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, and laid before both Houses of Parliament, and shall in force have effect as if enacted by this Act.

10.—Nothing in this Act contained shall confirm or impair, or in anywise affect, or be construed to confirm or impair, or in anywise affect, the validity in law of any marriage solemnized beyond the seas, otherwise than as herein provided, and this Act shall not extend to the marriage of any of the Royal Family.

11.—This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

12.—The enactments specified in the schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent appearing in the third and sixth paragraphs of that schedule.

SCHEDULE.—ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

Session and Chapter.—4 Geo. 4. c. 67.

Title.—An Act to declare valid certain marriages that have been solemnized at St. Petersburg since the abolition of the British factory there.

Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act so far as it relates to any marriage solemnized after the commencement of this Act.

Session and Chapter.—4 Geo. 4. c. 91.

Title.—An Act to relieve His Majesty's subjects from all doubt concerning the validity of certain marriages solemnized abroad.

Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act, so far as it relates to any marriage solemnized after the commencement of this Act in the chapel or house of any British ambassador or minister, or in the chapel belonging to any British factory abroad, or in the house of any British subject residing at such factory.

At the Court at Windsor, the 22nd day of November, 1890.

PRESENT.

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.
Lord President.
Marquess of Salisbury.
Earl of Yarborough.
Mr. Ritchie.
Lord Justice Kay.

Whereas, by "The Marriage Act, 1890," the Consular Marriage Acts are amended, and as amended, are made applicable to marriages at British Embassies and Legations, or before Governors, High Commissioners, Residents, or Consular or other officers authorized in that behalf without or within Her Majesty's dominions, and by the same Act it is provided that Her Majesty the Queen may, by Order in Council, make Regulations for certain purposes specified in the said Act.

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue and in exercise of the powers by the said Act or otherwise in Her vested, is pleased by and with the advice of Her Privy Council to order, and it is hereby ordered as follows:—

1.—For the purposes of section two of "The Marriage Act, 1890," every office, room, or place within the precincts or curtilage of the house which is for the time being occupied by an Ambassador or Minister, or in which an Ambassador or Minister for the time being resides, and any church or chapel annexed to such house, or for the time being used with the consent of the Government to which the Ambassador or Minister is accredited, as the chapel thereof, shall be deemed to be part of the house of such Ambassador or Minister, and the Consular Marriage Acts shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to marriages solemnized in pursuance of the said section, as if the Ambassador or Minister were a Consul duly authorized within the meaning of the said Acts.

2.—For the purposes of section two of the said Act, expressions in the Consular Marriage Acts referring to dwelling or residence, or usual place of abode within the district of a Consul, shall be deemed to refer to dwelling or residence, or usual place of abode within the city or place at which the Ambassador or Minister officially resides, or within ten miles of his official residence.

3.—For the purposes of the Consular Marriage Acts as amended by the said Act, every office, room, or place within the precincts or curtilage of the office or Consulate of a Consul, as defined in the said Acts, shall be deemed to be part of the Consulate or office of the Consulate of such Consul.

4.—In case Her Majesty is pleased, under the provisions of sections three of the said Act, to authorize any Governor, High Commissioner, Resident, or other officer (not being a Consul within the meaning of the Consular Marriage Acts) to solemnize and register marriages, or any person to act as Her officer and commissioner for that purpose in any country or place outside Her Majesty's dominions, the district for which he is so authorized to act shall be deemed to be his district for the purposes of expressions in the Consular Marriage Acts referring to the district of a Consul, and the office or place specified in the writing by which he is authorized shall be deemed to be his Consulate or office of his Consulate, and any document required by those Acts to be authenticated by the Consular seal shall be sufficiently authenticated if sealed with his official seal, or if signed by him with the addition of his official name or description.

5.—This Order may be referred to as "The Foreign Marriages Order in Council, 1890."

And the Right Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is to give the necessary directions herein. C. L. PEEL.

THE JAPANESE VIEW OF NEW JAPAN.

The electric shock—perhaps the most violent and painful shock I ever experienced—effected by the telegraphic communication transmitted from Yokohama on the 19th of September last, aroused in me—a member of the most excitable nation in the world—the determination to take up my pen in her behalf. But the mental electricity induced was not sufficient to cause my pen immediately to throw its intense and sparkling light on the subject which excited my deepest interest, viz, the revision of the treaties existing between Japan and the Foreign Powers. I deemed it expedient to wait, though I did so very impatiently, until the power of steam should bring more detailed information from Japan respecting the anti-revision meeting which lately took place in Yokohama. From the newspapers, both native and foreign, and from the private letters which I have received during the last two months, I have obtained so clear an idea of what took place that there is no longer any excuse for delay. By means of that mighty instrument the pen I hope to throw such light on this vexed and intricate question as may excite the intelligent sympathy and goodwill of the British public.

Before entering into an account of the meeting recently held in Yokohama, let me briefly describe the condition of the country, and the circumstances under which the existing treaties were signed in 1858. Japan was then an obscure country, almost unknown to the rest of the world, and her government a now obsolete feudal system. The foot of man or horse supplied the place of mail-train, telegraph, and telephone; the back of beast or the shoulder of man was her only means of land transport; her people went about the streets armed with swords, and no sign of Western civilisation could be detected in her social or political life.

This state of things has so entirely ceased that we read of them as of ancient history. The very name of Tykoon—at that time the absolute ruler of Japan, and the man by whom the treaties were ratified—has been almost entirely lost in oblivion.

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Moreover, the style of expression and the coins which are mentioned in the treaties are so strange to the present generation that we have great difficulty in understanding it. In brief the present treaties were signed when Japan was in a state of ignorance and inexperience with regard to international intercourse. This being so, we need not wonder that the conditions and articles of the covenant are somewhat peculiar and unsatisfactory to the New Japanese.

The main points of the agreement may be summed up as follows: The Tykoon's government was required to open seven ports as markets for foreign trade, to set apart a narrow section of each of these towns in which foreigners might reside and trade, and to allow aliens the privilege of making excursions in any direction whithin a certain distance (about twenty-four miles) of the towns. Beyond these limits foreigners might not go, unless they obtained passports from the Japanese Government. All foreigners were to enjoy the privilege of exercising their own laws under the system of consular jurisdiction, and were not to be subject to the Japanese courts or laws. Still more distressing is the clause which prevents any attempt to increase the duties more than a fixed rate of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, and forbids Japan to levy any duties on foreign goods not liable to duty already. By these latter clauses both her judicial and tariff autonomy is fettered to a great extent, and her national rights infringed. From these facts my readers may judge of the unequal and unfair condition in which Japan has been placed by the Foreign Powers. Still it is hardly surprising, when we remember what the state of the country was, that such a treaty should be considered suitable and advantageous to both parties. Happily, however, the treaty contains a clause by which both parties had a right to demand a revision of the document at the end of fourteen years, *i.e.* in 1872.

Thirty-two years have passed away, and in the interval our country has seen a great and glorious revolution, followed by a period of social and national progress which is unprecedented in the annals of the world. New Japan has risen in glorious majesty and splendour, fully justifying her claim to be called the "Land of the Rising Sun," yet her treaties with the Foreign Powers still remain as they were before she had seen the light of European civilisation.

Turning from the Old to the New Japan, the mind may well feel giddy to realise the amount of of progress which has been made. In twenty-three short years her government has been transformed from a feudal system, first to a bureaucracy, and then to a constitutional administration, with a representative parliament. Her national constitution—the object perhaps of her greatest pride—grew and blossomed in the atmosphere of peace and prosperity, unaccompanied by the storms and bloodshed which have nearly always prevailed in the countries of the West during their national struggles for freedom. Her army and navy have been entirely remodelled after the European pattern, and equipped with all the latest implements of warfare, in place of her ancient swords, bows, and arrows. A still greater change has been made in laws and in the judicial courts. The old Chinese system has been replaced by one thoroughly European, and, judging from results, our administration of justice would do no discredit to many a country in the West. Her police organisation also deserves the highest praise, the staff of the detective department being especially remarkable for their intelligence and morality. Education—the basis of all national greatness—receives the utmost attention. Every branch of science is being taught, and every kind of educational institution which has been introduced from the Occident has spread over the whole empire.

A few more details regarding her social and commercial improvement may be added to remove any lingering doubts as to the reality of our progress. The postal and telegraphic systems were introduced in 1872, and have been widely utilised. An official report which was issued about three years ago records that in one year 137 millions of letters, and over two and a half millions of telegrams, have been transmitted, with an annual increase of ten per cent. in both cases. The development of railways and of the mercantile marine, the building of lighthouses, the improvement of harbours and construction of docks, if they continue to progress at the present pace, will soon place Japan in a very satisfactory condition in these respects. It is a remarkable fact, and one deserving careful attention, that her foreign trade has doubled within the last ten years, and quadrupled during the last twenty years, whilst the growth of commercial and industrial enterprise has been something wonderful. Further, the members of New Japan, though proud of the position to which they have attained, are by no means satisfied to remain in their present state, but are ever ready to concentrate their energies on the improvement of any object which excites their national interest.

Truly Japan, like her celebrated Fuji Mountain, has suddenly sprung from the level plain to a celestial height, and is, like it, an object worthy of the admiration and wonder of the world, both for the beauty of its form and the rapidity of its construction. Though not yet equal to the Great Powers of Europe and America in every detail, Japan may be compared favourably with the rest of the civilised countries of the world, and is certainly superior to many of the countries in which the so-called Great Powers have not their extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Having once opened her eyes to the world, Japan soon became aware of the inequality of her national and commercial intercourse with foreign countries. Although an absolutely independent State, her judicial and tariff autonomy, the principal right of a nation, is under the control of other countries, and her government is deprived of the sovereign power which should belong exclusively to it.

Realising these afflictive facts, the people determined, as any other nation worthy of the name would have done, to remove the humiliating clauses from the international treaties. Other circumstances have tended to strengthen this determination. The extensive improvements and reforms, and the various public works which have been inaugurated within the last few years, have naturally entailed the expenditure of vast sums of money, to obtain which heavy taxes had to be levied upon the land and other estates, as the terms of the treaties prevented an increase in the tariff dues. Moreover, constant complaints have been made by the natives, that the aliens take an unfair advantage of the protection extended to them by the consular courts to annoy and defy the Japanese people. For all these reasons the Japanese Government, in 1882, made an application for the revision of the treaties. But what was the result? The friendly relations existing betwixt Japan and the "Powers" have been in a most critical condition ever since, and the result, instead of being an improvement in her condition, appears to be rather the reverse. In spite of the very reasonable, not to say humble, proposals of our Government, the negotiations for the revision of the treaties have been delayed by many difficulties and impediments.

During the last eight years no subject has created more excitement and agitation in Japan, nor has any political measure so sadly embarrassed the Government, as this affair. The following illustrations will be sufficient to prove this. The proposals made by the Japanese Government on two occasions have failed to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion in consequence of the persistent opposition of the Foreign Powers on the one hand, and the dissatisfaction of the Japanese people on the other. Hence, the Cabinet has resigned twice in three years, and two Ministers of Foreign Affairs have been obliged to retire from office, one having been crippled for life by the attack of a political fanatic. So violent did the excitement become, that it was found necessary to pass the "Peace Preservation Act," whereby many political agitators were banished from the capital. And what is the cause of all these deplorable events? Simply the demand of an independent nation for the recognition of its rights by the other nations of the earth!

But things have changed of late. The policy of agitation has now been adopted by the foreign residents in Japan. It is reported that, in the beginning of last September, a certain Englishman, residing in Yokohama, received information—the source of which is shrouded in mystery—that "Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs may be induced to concede the demand of the Japanese Government," and this he considered to threaten serious dangers. On the 1st of September a notice, which, strange to say, bore no signature except "By Order," appeared in the foreign papers, inviting the foreign residents to attend a meeting at the Public Hall on the 11th of the month for the purpose of formulating and transmitting to Her Majesty's Government the views of the British subjects upon the question. It is stated that over three hundred persons of all nationalities attended this meeting, and Mr. J. A. Fraser, a tea merchant, was elected chairman. This gentleman read the resolutions, which were spoken to and seconded by Messrs. J. F. Lowder (a solicitor), J. H. Brooke (the editor of the *Japan Herald*), A. O. Gay, and other gentlemen. The resolutions were unanimously carried, and their terms run as follow:—

1. That in the opinion of this meeting the time has not arrived when questions in regard to rights, whether of property or person, arising between subjects and citizens of Foreign Powers in the dominions of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan can be unconditionally and safely subjected to the jurisdiction of Japanese tribunals; or when an estimate can be formed of the period within which the unconditional relinquishment of extra-territorial jurisdiction in Japan can be safely promised.

2. That in the opinion of this meeting it would be an act of grave injustice to foreigners who have purchased land in Japan, under covenant with the Japanese Government, if the conditions or incidents of their tenure of such land should be altered without their consent.

A week after the meeting the resolutions were telegraphed by the committee of the meeting to Mr. W. M. Strachan, 18, Leadenhall Street, London, through whom they were conveyed to the Chambers of Commerce of London, Manchester, Bradford, Glasgow, Liverpool, Paris, Lyons, Berlin, Hamburg, Rome, Milan, Berne, Amsterdam, New York, and Lisbon; also to leading English, Continental, and American newspapers. Thus the question has been brought before the English public.

I now wait with great interest to see what action these Chambers of Commerce—the most influential and well-informed representatives of the commercial community in Great Britain—will take in this matter. Up to the present I have heard nothing about any definite course of action on their part. They have considered the question at their committee meetings and applied to the Foreign Office for more accurate information as to the state of the treaty negotiations, which information the authorities have declined to make public for the present. The Chambers of Commerce have therefore postponed further action until they receive further details both from official and other sources.

In the meantime, let me take the opportunity to make a few remarks which may throw a little light upon the subject, not only for the sake of the Japanese, but the benefit of the English people. As no official announcement regarding the proposals of the Japanese Government has yet been made, we cannot discuss these points with absolute certainty. We may pretty confidently assume, however, that the Japanese Government will consent to throw open the whole Empire to foreigners to reside or trade in, and that at the utmost her demands will not exceed the following: (1) the restoration of judicial autonomy over the aliens in her dominions, and (2) the restoration of tariff autonomy. Whether some conditional arrangement may be adopted we are not yet in a position to judge; but, even in case no conditional arrangement is made, her Government claims not any special or higher privilege than the countries with whom she trades possess, but only an equal intercourse, and that freedom of action to which she is entitled as an independent realm.

But, from the remarks of Mr. Lowder, principal promoter of the anti-treaty revision agitation, it appears that there are some conditional arrangements being made. He said in his speech at the meeting that "the proposals now put forward by the Japanese Government are to this effect: that outside what are known as treaty limits foreigners shall immediately become subject to the jurisdiction of the Japanese tribunals, and that after a period of five years all foreigners, whether within what are known as the concessions or whether in the interior, shall become subject to Japanese jurisdiction." Should this be trustworthy information, as he persists, it appears that the Japanese Government are prepared to make a most liberal conditional settlement in favour of foreigners; yet so great is the dissatisfaction among certain sections of the foreign community in Japan, that they express serious alarm, and are making vigorous demonstrations both at home and abroad.

Their reasons for acting thus are easily learnt from the wording of the resolutions. The objection embodied in the first resolution involves, perhaps, two elements; firstly, dislike to surrender the privilege of appeal to consular courts, which has been theirs for so many years, and to submit to Japanese jurisdiction; and, secondly, distrust of Japanese laws and tribunals, together with a fear as to the safety of their lives and property. It is, perhaps, only natural that they should have such feelings when a change of the conditions under which they live is impending. The first of these feelings may be likened to that which everyone has when about to leave an old situation for a new, or to leave the society of old acquaintances and friends for that of strangers; whilst the latter is similar to that of people who have watched over children from their infancy, and, familiarity having rendered them unconscious of the children's growth, still look upon them as children when they are fully grown. I shall not attempt to argue against these common feelings of humanity, except to remark that our prejudices and habits of thought are not always strictly reasonable. But it is very doubtful whether the present state of the Japanese judicial organisation is so unsatisfactory as to justify the foreigners in their opposition to the treaty revision, when they would thereby obtain the invaluable privilege of free intercourse with the whole empire. It may be wise, however, to leave this question to the

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impartial judgment of the English public, merely directing their attention to the following extract from Mr. B. H. Chamberlain's new book, entitled *Things Japanese*, which I trust may give a better and more impartial view of the matter than anything written by Japanese hands. Under the heading of "Law," Mr. Chamberlain writes thus:—

The new codes resulting from the legislative activity of the present reign are (1) The Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, drafted by M. Boissonnade de Fontarabie on the basis of the Code Napoléon, with modifications, suggested by the old Japanese Criminal Law; these were published in 1882; (2) the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, and the Commercial Code, which were just enacted; the new Civil Code, however, includes as yet but the law of things. Traditional Japanese usage still regulates such important matters as marriage, succession, adoption, and others belonging to the law of persons.[1] The Code of Civil Procedure and the Commercial Code are to come into force on the 1st January, 1891. The Civil Code will not come into force till the 1st January, 1893. Though not actually entitled codes, we may also include (3) the Constitution, with its attendant laws regarding the Imperial House, the Diet, and Finance; (4) the laws for the exercise of local self-government; and (5) divers statutes on miscellaneous subjects, one of the most important of which is banking.

Crimes, as classified in the Japanese Criminal Code, are of three kinds, namely (1) crimes against the State or the Imperial family, and in violation of the public credit, policy, peace, health, &c; (2) crimes against person and property; (3) police offences. There is also a subdivision of (1) and (2) into major and minor crimes.

The punishments for major crimes are: (1) death by hanging; (1) deportation, with or without hard labour, for life or for a term of years; (3) imprisonment with or without hard labour, for life or for a term of years. The punishments for minor crimes include confinement, with or without hard labour, and fines. The punishments for police offences are detention for from one to ten days without hard labour and fines varying, from 5 *sen* to $195. The court which tries persons accused of major crimes consists of one *juge de paix*. Capital punishments are carried out in the presence of a procurator. They are now extremely rare. Criminals condemned to deportation are generally sent to the Island of Yezo, where they sometimes work in the mines. The ordinary prisons are situated in various parts of the empire, and number one hundred and ninety-three.

. . . At present the courts are divided into local courts (presided over by *juges de paix*), districts or provincial courts, courts of appeal, and a supreme court, all of which have jurisdiction both in criminal and civil suits. Each of these courts has branch offices established to accommodate suitors, regard being had to population and to the area of jurisdiction. The local courts have jurisdiction over police offences; the district courts over crimes, besides acting as courts of preliminary investigation; the appeal courts hear new trials; the supreme court hears criminal appeals on matters of law. All crimes, of whatever sort, are subjected to preliminary examination before actual trial. The conducting of criminal cases, from the very beginning down to the execution of the criminal, if he be condemned to suffer death, rests with the public procurator, who unites in his own person the functions of public prosecutor and of grand jury.

The present judiciary consists partly of men trained under the old pre-European *régime*, partly of graduates of the Law College of the Imperial University, and of the private law colleges, of which there are six in Tokyo, and eight altogether in the Empire. About a thousand young men graduate yearly. Lawyers are bound to pass a certain examination before being admitted to practise at the bar; but it is of a very theoretical nature, and is likely to be soon revised. The new law concerning the constitution of courts requires candidates for judgeships to pass two competitive examinations, unless they are graduates of the University, in which case they need only pass the second of the two, after having served as probationary judges for a term of three years. Judges are appointed for life.

Granting that the system described in the foregoing passage may not give the English public the same satisfaction as their own laws and tribunals, we must at the same time consider whether the Japanese laws and judges are less perfect than those of many other countries, with which Great British has equal intercourse, and whether British subjects in these countries are always perfectly satisfied with the laws by which they are governed. Further, Mr. Brooke, one of the chief speakers at the meeting, laid great stress on the fact that Japan has no writ of *habeas corpus* nor system of juries; but it is hardly necessary for me to show that these two points are no arguments against the treaty revision scheme. Because, if the English public will only take the trouble to examine the judicial systems of European and American countries, they will find that many of them are in the same position as Japan in this respect.

Leaving this theoretical argument, let us more carefully consider the practical and most important element which closely concerns the national welfare and prosperity of both countries. Twenty years ago the foreign trade of Japan was not very considerable, the total value of imports and exports per annum only amounting to $33,692,000, or about 5,615,000*l*. Ten years later it had increased to $61,128,000, or 10,188,000*l*., and in another ten years, viz. in 1889, it reached over $136,164,000, or 22,700,000*l*. More than one-fourth of her trade represented by these amounts has been done with England alone. This shows not only the unusual progress in our commerce, but also the great connection existing between England and Japan. Remember, too, that the foreign trade has been carried out, nominally in the seven ports, but practically in four—the remaining three being very insignificant on account of their bad geographical situation—and beyond these open ports there is not a single penny of foreign capital invested, not a single foreign company established; not even a single foreign partner in any Japanese firm, not a single foreign commercial traveller seeking fresh orders, nor a single foreign vessel engaged in the coasting trade; all these advantages indispensable to commerce, being prohibited by the existing treaties. These grievous restrictions once removed, how great a development would be immediately manifested in her foreign trade! And the revision of the treaties is the simple and only means by which these obstacles may be removed. Now, comparing these valuable commercial advantages with the slight disadvantage (if such it be) of Japanese jurisdiction, it is plain what answer should be returned by the commercial community of England. Moreover, one of the most admirable characteristics of Englishmen, to my mind, is that they—the greatest commercial and most enterprising nation—are unceasingly striving with their well-known pluck, perseverance, and patriotism, through perils and difficulties, to discover new markets for their manufactures in every corner of the world. They shrink not from the overwhelming heat of the torrid zone, nor from the icy blasts of the polar regions. They even dare to make their homes and form settlements in the midst of noxious vermin, poisonous reptiles, and beasts of prey. They are content to associate with treacherous savages among whom strife and bloodshed are the normal state of affairs. And why do they risk these perils and endure these hardships? Simply to increase their prosperity as individuals and as a nation. By this courage and perseverance has Great Britain attained, and still firmly maintains, her superiority in the world. Why, then, does that portion of her brave people in Japan refuse the liberal offer of the Japanese Government? Is it really through fear of the laws and judges of Japan? Do they consider that Japanese Jurisdiction is more intolerable than those severe climates, or more injurious than the wild animals, or more hazardous and unsafe than those turbulent and barbarous regions to which we have referred? No! They are intelligent enough, just as are their fellow-countrymen at home, to recognise the difference between Japan and those countries. They are also brave enough to dare the perils of Japanese jurisdiction, however imperfect it may be. What, then, can be the real reason why they object to the treaty revision? Merely to protect their own private interests, as will be shown later.

Passing to the consideration of the second resolution, this conviction will be confirmed. With reference to the land question, on which this resolution is framed, I am afraid the public will be misled by the wording of the resolution—drawn up apparently by one who has an entire misconception of the facts—should they not be made thoroughly acquainted with the matter. I shall, therefore, endeavour to put the facts, and point out the misconception of them, as briefly as possible. In the third article of the treaty between Japan and Great Britain the nature of the land-tenure is clearly defined. After enumerating the ports to be opened to British subjects the article goes on to say:—"In all the foregoing ports and towns, British subjects may permanently reside. They shall have the right to *lease land*, and purchase the buildings thereon." The land, it will be observed, is to be "leased," the buildings "purchased." In accordance with this compact, the Japanese authorities have disposed of the lease of certain tracts of land in each port to the aliens by public auction under the conditions or incidents agreed upon by the Japanese and foreign authorities, whilst other tracts of land have been handed over, on certain conditions, without any charges whatever. A detailed statement of the conditions of tenure and maintenance of the land at the Yokohama Settlement will be found in the "Memorandom for the Foreign Settlement at Yokohama," signed in 1864, and the "Convention of Improvement of Settlement, Race-course, Cemetery, &c., of Yokohama," signed in 1866. From these two documents we learn (1) that the Japanese authorities issued the title-deeds to those who occupied the land as an evidence of ownership; (2) that the occupiers have to pay rent annually to the Japanese Government; (3) that the proceeds obtained from the public auction have been added to the municipal fund in order to provide for the construction of drainage, roads, &c., and other improvements in the locality; and (4) that all foreigners were exempted from all taxes and duties upon the land, such as are imposed upon Japanese subjects. Further arrangements regarding the boundary-lines of the settlement, the filling up of "swamp lots," the allotment of the ground, laying of roads, locating of the cemetery, race-course, public park, &c., fixing of terms of rent and management of public works of improvement in the locality, together with the plans of the settlement, will also be found in these documents. There is no other authoritative averment than these documents to settle any discussion arising from the land of the foreign settlement. But we cannot find any terms which might lead us to suppose that the land has been purchased by foreigners. Moreover, as all these conditions or incidents of the land-tenure were originally settled by the Japanese Government with the foreign authorities directly, and not with foreign subjects, there is no obligation on the part of the Japanese Government to ask the consent of foreign subjects when any alteration of the land-tenure is intended. It is therefore quite absurd to base a resolution on these grounds, and charge the Japanese Government with "grave injustice."

Having now cleared up the misty notions which prevail on the subject of land-tenure by reference to facts and official documents, the next question which suggests itself is, "What changes will be effected in the condition of foreign land-renters by the proposed revision?" This question is, I imagine, so simple that any fair-minded and well-informed person may easily arrive at a pretty accurate conclusion. Firstly, we must admit that, if it is right to restore the judicial autonomy of a nation, it is equally right to restore also the fiscal autonomy. Secondly, it is a principle universally recognised that an alien should not legally claim more privileges and advantages than a native enjoys. Bearing these principles in mind, it is reasonable to suppose that all the foreign land-renters will be placed on the same footing with respect to land-tenure as Japanese subjects; in other words, they will be obliged to pay the same land taxes as the Japanese, instead of the present rent, and be liable in all other respects to whatever taxes or duties are leviable upon land similarly held by Japanese subjects. With reference to the ownership of the land by the present foreign occupiers, we are informed from a reliable source that they will recive new title-deeds of ownership in lieu of their present leases without any extra charges. Should this be true, what a liberal arrangement has been proposed by the Japanese Government! But the English public will say, "If the offer is so generous, why do our fellow-countrymen in Japan so strongly oppose the treaty revision? Are there not some good reasons for their opposition?" Yes, there is a good reason at the bottom of the question, from their point of view. The present foreign land-holders are highly benefited by the terms of the present treaties, which compel all the rest of the foreigners and newcomers to reside or establish their business within a limited area, and consequently enhance the value of the land year by year. If the treaties were revised and this restriction removed their interests would suffer. This is the serious reason to which I referred when I asserted that their objection was entirely based on selfish motives.

In conclusion, let me again remind the commercial community in England of a singular fact which has been revealed during the last few years respecting the trade of Japan with England and Germany. Since Sir Harry Parkes's "Gunboat Policy" began to be observed with distrustful eyes by the nation of Japan, since Sir Francis Plunkett raised so many objections against the first negotiations of the treaty revision, the feeling of the Japanese people has shown a tendency to favour Germany rather than England. Germany, on her part, being, as we well know, the keenest rival of England in every part of the world, loses no chance of gaining every advantage. The consequences are shown in the increase of her trade with Japan. Facts are said to be stubborn things, and the following may serve to show the serious position in which England is likely to be placed unless she regains the favour of Japan by promptly revising the treaty.

Official statistics show that the trade of Germany with Japan has increased threefold within the last seven years, whilst that of England has only doubled in that time. To give further details I compiled tables according to the official statistics. The first showed the percentage of the Export, Import, and total trade of Japan with England, Germany, America, and France; the second, the increase or decrease of the trade of these countries with Japan. From the first table we find that the proportion monopolised by England is steadily declining,

[1] After this article was written, the writer received official information to the effect that the new Civil Code of Japan respecting property, marriage, succession, &c., received the sanction of H.M. the Emperor of Japan on the 6th of October last, and it will come into force on the 1st of January, 1893. So that the Japanese Civil Code is now complete.

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whilst that of Germany shows a rapid rise. The second table showed that whilst the total trade of Japan increased during the last five years (1884-89) 114.2 per cent., her trade with Germany increased beyond this rate, 130.2 per cent., whereas the increase of her trade with the other three countries was much less than 114.2 per cent., England being lowest in the scale. This is said to be chiefly owing to the feeling prevailing among the Japanese people. Again, the recent meeting, having been promoted by the English residents, has greatly increased the ill-feeling; so much so, that many of the Japanese merchants and professional men have been combining, and agreeing not to have any commercial intercourse with those who held that meeting. These actions may be looked upon as narrow-minded, but experience has taught us that the trade of England must certainly suffer if the Japanese maintain the same feelings as now. Alas! that England, whilst seriously alarmed by the McKinley Tariff Bill in the United States, and watching with deep anxiety the attempts of France and Russia to erect similar obstacles in the way of their neighbours, should hesitate to accept the incalculable boon which the Japanese Government offers, viz., the opening up of the whole empire to England capitalists, manufacturers, and traders.

That it is the selfishness of a few traders which prevents this revision is fully demonstrated by the action of the English missionaries in Japan. These gentlemen, whose aim is not the accumulation of wealth, but the good of mankind, are so sensible of the mutual benefits which a revision of the treaty between Japan and England would bring, that they recently drew up and signed the memorial which was presented to Her Majesty's Minister in Tokyo on the 3rd of October last. Trusting that the mental electricity which induced me to pen this article has thrown some light—feeble though it may be—on this grave question of national importance to Englishmen and Japanese alike, I am now glad to turn out the electric current of my own arguments and leave the subject to the careful consideration of the public, displaying the enlightened memorial at the conclusion.

To His Excellency HUGH FRASER, Esquire, H.B.M.'s Envoy-Extraordinary and Minister-Plenipotentiary to Japan.

May it please Your Excellency.—We, the undersigned British subjects resident in Tokyo, and engaged in Christian mission work, under a sense of the many evils resulting from the postponement of the revision of the treaties between H.I.M.'s Japanese Government and Foreign Powers, desire to approach your Excellency in the following memorial.

We desire to express to your Excellency our sense of the great and successful efforts which have been made in recent years by the Government of Japan, especially in the compilation of her code of criminal and civil law, and in the organisation of her legal tribunals, to bring her methods of legal procedure into a position similar to that enjoyed by the most enlightened nations of the West.

We venture, therefore, to express the hope that such a revision of the treaties may speedily be brought about as will, while sufficiently safeguarding the rights and interests of H.B.M.'s subjects, satisfy the legitimate demands of H.I.M.'s Japanese Government in the matter of extraterritoriality.

We remain your Excellency's obedient servants.

Tokyo, October 3, 1890.

DAIGORO GOH.

—*The Nineteenth Century* for February.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 6th.

The United States Senate has rejected the Brussels Convention for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, fearing that it will interfere with private commercial enterprise.

London, March 8th.

Robert Antrobus, a partner in Coutts' Bank, has committed suicide.

A financial panic has occurred in Buenos Ayres.

Later.

The death of Mr. Antrobus is ascribed to accidental shooting.

The Argentine panic is over.

London, March 11th.

The Manchester City Council has advanced £2,500,000 to the Manchester Ship Canal Company.

London, March 12th.

A blizzard has swept over England unprecedented in severity. Snow in London is unabated, and trains in the south-east are blocked with snow. The Channel packets are twelve hours late.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, February 18th.

The Egyptian troops have occupied El Teb unopposed.

The French Press strongly object to the nomination of Mr. Justice Scott, formerly of the Bombay High Court, as legal adviser to the Egyptian Government, it being considered that the appointment will greatly increase the influence of Great Britain in Egypt.

It is stated that Professor Liebreich of Berlin has discovered a curative substance for tubercle leprosy far surpassing that of Dr. Koch's.

London, February 19th.

France has protested against the appointment of Mr. Justice Scott as legal adviser to the Egyptian Government.

Last year the Egyptian surplus amounted to five hundred and ninety-eight thousand pounds.

A meeting of an excited nature has been held at Toronto, at which the Canadian Premier, Sir John A. Macdonald, read a document showing that the liberal Leaders had submitted to American statesmen an elaborate scheme for coercing Canada into a commercial union and annexation.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8 58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 ri.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ ri)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Ueno.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen* third-class, 25 *sen*.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.50 and 9.25 a.m., and 2.20 and 5.15 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.25 and 10.10 a.m., and 2.05 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6 and 9.55 a.m. and 1.15 and 5.30 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 7.50, and 11.48 a.m., and 3.08 and 7.23 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 5.45 and 9.40 a.m., and 1 and 4.25 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 6.47 and 10.42 a.m., and 2 02 and 5.26 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.03, 4 42, and 6.09 p.m., and 12.08 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.05, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1.10, 4.35, 7.10, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.35, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11 55 a.m., and 2.44 6, and 9 20 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 10.26 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OFU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.55 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, and 6.03 p.m., and 12.33 and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, and 7 p.m., and 1.25 and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, and 7.29 p.m., and 1.54 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 3.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 8 43 a.m., and 3.59, 7.01, 8.57, and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.40, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.50 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.30, and 11.08 p.m., and 5.36 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 12.36, 8.18, and 11.12 p.m., and 7 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, and 9.30 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, and 10.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 4.34 p.m., and 12.15 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, and 5.19 p.m., and 1.10 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, and 6.59 p.m., and 2.41 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3 05 a.m.; OGAKI at 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OFU at 9.01 and 11.53 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 5.57, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 50 a.m., and 6.02 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.08, 7.17, and 9 43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3 48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6, 8.50, and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.45 p.m.

TAKETOYO-OFU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OFU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

TOKYO-SHIOGAMA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UENO (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 9.57 a.m. and 3.04 and 6.11 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (down) at 8 a.m. and 12.34 and 5.42 p.m.; KORIYAMA (down) at 9.24 a.m. and 1.53 and 7.01 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (down) at 7.30 and 11.35 a.m. and 3.48 p.m.; and SENDAI (down) at 6.15 and 10.25 a.m. and 2.35 and 6.45 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE SHIOGAMA (up) at 6.50 and 11 a.m., and 3.10 and 7.20 p.m.; SENDAI (up) at 7.30 and 11.40 a.m., and 3.50 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (up) at 6.40 and 10.23 a.m. and 2.36 p.m.; KORIYAMA (up) at 8.28 a.m., and 12.15 and 4.26 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (up) at 6.30 and 9.45 a.m., and 1.35 p.m.; and UTSUNOMIYA (up) at 5.15 and 9.3 a.m., and 12.20, 4.18 and 6.30 p.m.

FARES.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6.45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 20th.
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 15th.*
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 15th †
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 28th ‡
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 24th.§
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 22nd.
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, Mar. 29th.

* *Ancona* left Kobe on March 14th. † *China* left San Francisco on February 26th. ‡ *Belgic* left San Francisco on March 10th. § *Mongkut* left Vancouver on March 5th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Colonist*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 15th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 17th.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 21st.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 22nd.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Wedn'day, April 1st.
For Europe, via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wedn'day, April 1st.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, April 10th

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, G. W. Pearne, 7th March,—San Francisco 14th and Honolulu 22nd February, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Salazie, French steamer, 4,016, L. Fiaschi, 7th March,—Hongkong 26th February, Shanghai 2nd, and Kobe 6th March, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Guy C. Goss, American bark, 1,524, Mallett, 8th March,—New York 19th October, Oil.—Isaacs & Bro.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 8th March,—Takao 3rd March, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Martha, German steamer, 1,580, Ahrenkiel, 8th March,—Kobe 6th March, General.—Boyes & Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomsen, 9th March,—Manila viâ ports, Sugar.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 9th March,—Kobe 7th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 9th March,—Hakodate 7th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 11th March,—Nagasaki 7th March, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 11th March,—Kobe 9th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alwine Seyed, German steamer, 558, Gosawich, 11th March,—Shanghai 5th March, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Harrow, British steamer, 1,701, Brooker, 11th March,—Kobe 9th March, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 11th March,—Hakodate 9th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Daphne, German steamer, 1,394, F. Voss, 12th March,—Hamburg viâ ports, and Hongkong 5th March, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, R.N.R., 12th March,—Vancouver, B.C., 18th February, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Mitamura, 9th March,—Yokkaichi 8th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 12th March,—Yokkaichi 11th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomas, 14th March,—Kobe 12th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 14th March,—Hiroshima 12th March, Emigrants and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pigmy (6), screw gunboat, Captain George H. Hewett, 14th March,—Nagasaki 7th March.

DEPARTURES.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 7th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigelthal, 8th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 9th March,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomsen, 9th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omaha (12), U.S. flagship, Captain B. J. Cromwell, 9th March,—Panama.

Mino Maru, Japanese steamer, 550, Handa, 9th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 10th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 10th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Mitamura, 10th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Queen Elizabeth, British steamer, 1,628, Wilson, 11th March,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,294, McIntosh, 12th March,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 12th March,—Takao, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 12th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 12th March, —Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, R.N.R., 13th March,—Hongkong viâ Kobe, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 10th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 13th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—For Honolulu: Mr. J. A. Anthony in cabin. For Yokohama: Mr. Celestine Rambach, Mr. Emil Frichot, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Simon, infant, and maid, Miss M. Fries, Miss C. Bloch, Messrs. Tozo Takayanagi, E. S. Bell, Frank J. Wilson, Samio Takaki, A. H. Dare, L. Wertheimber, and Mrs. Stanley Taylor in cabin. For Hongkong: Mr. Charles Freeman, Miss A. C. Freeman, Mr. J. A. Crawford, Mrs. Col. M. M. Spigel, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Woolf and infant, Miss Marion Woolf, and Miss Jennie Klotz in cabin.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace and child, Messrs. Yamada, S. Sato, Sarolidès, Captain Blair, Mrs. Blair, child, and maid, Mrs. S. Komuro and child, Mr. Sankichi Komuro, Mr. and Mrs. Orsulle Van Paryo, Messrs. R. D. Robison, Steenackers, and Elmann in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Hardy and son, Mr. Donald Fraser, and 11 Japanese in cabin; Mr. J. Cameron and 6 Japanese in second class, and 54 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Parthia*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. Peter Lee in cabin; Captain Steele and Mr. and Mrs. Schneider in second class, and 8 Japanese and 11 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Fujimoto, Y. Shibata, T. Kosugi, S. Kuwama, K. Otsuka, and H. Hattori in cabin; 55 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong:—Mr. A. M. Essabhoy, Miss E. Block, Miss M. Fries, and Mr. G. N. Macondray in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Kobe:—Miss B. Price, Mrs. Nose, Messrs. T. B. Glover, Steenacher, Nagamine, Mizutani, Lacey, E. V. Thorn, and Dangerfield in cabin; Mrs. Wakabayashi and Mr. Hayashi in second class, and 40 passengers in steerage.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left San Francisco the 14th February at 4.13 p.m.; had light variable winds to the 18th; thence to Honolulu strong westerly winds and head sea. Arrived at Honolulu the 21st at 5.25 p.m. and left the 22nd at 4.56 p.m.; had light northerly wind and fine weather to March 5th; thence to port westerly wind and head sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 7th March at 11.49 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Walter, reports:—Left Kobe the 7th March at noon; had light N.E. winds to Oshima, which was passed at 9 p.m.; had fresh N.E. winds to port; passed Rock Island at 0.50 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 8th March at midnight.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 7th March at 5.30 a.m.; had fresh to moderate N.W. winds and cloudy weather up to Kurosaki, which was passed at 4.30 p.m.; thence light and variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 8th at 3 a.m. and left at 11 a.m.; had light to moderate northerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 9th March at 10.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate the 9th March at 2 p.m.; had moderate southerly winds and cloudy weather. On the 10th off Kinkasan wind hauled to N.E.; increasing rapidly and heavy E.S.E. sea getting up; afternoon heavy gale from N.E. and N. with blinding rain and heavy easterly swell; at 9 p.m. weather moderating but barometer falling still; 10 p.m. barometer 29.67; midnight, wind hauling to the westward. On the 11th at 8 a.m. wind S.W., strong breeze and clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 3 30 p.m.

The British steamer *Parthia*, Captain Panton, reports:—Left Vancouver at 8.17 a.m. on February 18th and Victoria at 2.46 p.m., and experienced fresh W. winds and heavy head sea to 21st; from 22nd to 25th inclusive moderate N.W. winds and fine weather; from 26th to March 2nd strong W.S.W. winds and heavy head sea; crossed the meridian in 49° N. on February 28th. From March 3rd to 5th inclusive, moderate winds and heavy head swell, and on the 6th strong S.W. gale and very heavy sea; 7th to 9th moderate N.W. winds and fine weather; 10th moderate S.W. gale and thick rainy weather; 11th strong S.W. gale and heavy sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th March at 7.53 a.m. Time from Victoria 20 days, 23 hours, and 32 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Wynn, reports:—Left Hiroshima the 12th March at 5.30 a.m.; had light variable winds with fine pleasant weather to Rock Island; thence light N.E. to N. winds and thick rain to port. Arrived at Yokohama and anchored inside of lightship the 14th at 1.30 a.m.; proceeded to buoy at 6 a.m.

SHIPPNG IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Alwine Seyed, German steamer, 558, Gosawich, 11th March,—Shanghai 5th March, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Daphne, German steamer, 1,394, F. Voss, 12th March,—Hamburg viâ ports, and Hongkong 5th March, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Harrow, British steamer, 1,701, Brooker, 11th March,—Kobe 9th March, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Inishowen Head, British steamer, 1,988, Thompson, 1st March,—Singapore 15th February, Steel Rails.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Martha, German steamer, 1,580, Ahrenkiel, 8th March,—Kobe 6th March, General.—Boyes & Co.

Salazie, French steamer, 4,016, L. Fiaschi, 7th March,—Hongkong 26th February, Shanghai 2nd, and Kobe 6th March, General.—Messageries Maritimes & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Agostino Rombo, Italian bark, 807, R. Rottini, 8th February,—Bangkok 22nd October, Timber.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Arctic, British schooner, 49, Pyne, 22nd November, —North Pacific 15th November, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Bentensan, Norwegian schooner, 53, J. Johnson, 17th November,—North Pacific, Seal Skins.—Captain.

Diana, American schooner, 75, Alex. Peterson, 15th September,—North Pacific, 6 Otter and 239 Fur Seal skins.

Elwell, American ship, 1,388, Barstow, 5th March, —New York 10th October, Oil and General.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Guy C. Goss, American bark, 1,524, Mallett, 8th March,—New York 19th October, Oil.—Isaacs & Bro.

John McDonald, American ship, 2,172, Stover, 5th February,—New York 21st July, Oil.—China & Japan Trading Co

Oberon, British ship, 1,194, Fulton, 3rd March,—Cardiff 2nd October, Coal.—Langfeldt & Co.

W. W. Crapo, American ship, 1,573, Hardy, 13th February,—New York 31st July, Oil.—Mouriyan, Heimann & Co.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Alliance (6), United States cruiser, 1,375, Captain H. E. Taylor, 4th February,—Gun practice.

Hyacinth (8), screw cruiser, Captain Robt. W. Cragie, 3rd March,—Target Practice.

Tsukuba Kan (8), Japanese corvette, Captain Y. Shibayama, 23rd February,—Yokosuka 23rd February.

Volturno (8), Italian corvette, Captain Roych, 11th February,—Kobe 9th February.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The Import Market maintains a firm aspect, and although business continues rather slack, holders are not anxious sellers, hoping to see better prices when business is renewed. English Yarns and Shirtings have only been dealt in to a moderate extent. Fancies remain very dull. Sales for the week amount to 500 bales English Yarns, 100 bales Bombays, and 2,500 pieces Shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.		
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	PER PIECE. 1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1 87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0 50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3¾ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$27.00	to	28 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	29.00	to	30 00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.50	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.50	to	32.75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	37.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	38.50
	PER BALE.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	79 50
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—	

METALS.

The trade is not lively, but some small parcels of Iron are moving off at about previous rates. Holders would like to be selling more; but with a hardening exchange all the week, buyers rather hang back in the hope of better things from their point of view.

	PER PICUL.		
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$2.70	to	2.75
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.80	to	2.85
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.75	to	2.85
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.75	to	2.85
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	5.90	to	6.10
Wire Nails, assorted	4.30	to	4.60
Tin Plates, per box	5.20	to	5.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.35	to	1.40

KEROSENE.

No fresh business to report. The Tokyo and consuming markets are said to be quiet, with prices declining. Quotations are nominally as last advised, but dealers expect some concessions in price before operating afresh.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.67½	to	1.70
Comet	1.65	to	1.67½
Devoe	1 62½	to	1.65
Russian	1.57½	to	1.60

SUGAR.

Arrivals are coming freely now of New Browns from Takao, and there is a fair current demand at quotations.

	PER PICUL.		
Brown Takao	$3.80	to	3.85
Brown Daitong	3.20	to	3.80
Brown Canton	5.20	to	6.20
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	4.75	to	7.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 6th inst., since which date settlements on this Market amount to 1,352 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 11; *Filatures*, 765; *Re-reels*, 341; *Kakeda*, 230; *Oshu*, 5. In addition to these figures Japanese have shipped 27 bales to the States, consequently the business of the week is equal to 1,380 piculs.

As will be seen from the above statistics we have had a good daily business. Holders have been current in their ideas and shippers were able to operate accordingly. Exchange has improved somewhat as the week advanced, and holders have not failed to make a corresponding reduction in their quotations.

Arrivals from the interior are not large. Supplies of *Hanks* and *Kakedas* are very small, and the total stock shows a decrease of a thousand piculs since the 6th inst.

As noted above, holders have shown themselves current in their ideas and they are of now getting rather anxious at the bad news which arrives from consuming markets. Then again the present fine weather appears like a harbinger of Spring and is exceedingly favourable for vegetation. At the same time there is no desire to throw their silks away for nothing, and they will continue to fight hard against any large reduction in price.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the American and English Mails of the 7th inst. both taking silk. The *Oceanic* had 498 bales for America, and *Verona* 407 bales for Europe. These departures bring the present export figures up to 22,023 piculs, against 34,370 piculs last year and 37,283 at the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Small business in *Shinshu* kinds, medium grade, at $480. Other sorts neglected.

Filatures.—Considerable business has been done in these both for Europe and for the States, in spite of the bad market news which the cable brings us from day to day. With regard to our Italian friends, it would seem that they pursue the course of exporting their home grown silks to New York while they buy our high class Japans for their own use. Prices here have declined somewhat, but not to any very great extent; some large holders even succeeded in getting prices which seem out of proportion to other brands. *Tokosha* has been done in bulk at $592½; *Gakosha* $607½; *Kanayama* $585, and others in proportion. Some of the best known filatures such as *Kaimeisha*, *Hakuzuru* are extinct for the present season, and others will soon be off the list until new silks come round again.

Re-reels.—There has been a fair amount of business done in these at what seem to be high prices. *Kaura* $587½; *Three Girl* $585; *Five Girl* $577½, and others in proportion. These silks look dear by the side of filatures, but holders remain strong and seem to be able to get what they ask.

Kakeda.—There has been quite a run upon our small stock and good prices have been paid, No. 1 *Horsehead* being freely taken at $567½; No. 2 $550; No. 3 $535. Present stock is very small, and holders firm at quotations.

Oshu.—Nothing done since the purchase of a few bales *Sendai* at $540 a week ago.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1½	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$545	to 550
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	540	to 545
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	530	to 535
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	525	to 530
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3	Nom.	510	to 520
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	500	to 505
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	480	to 490
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		620	to 630
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		610	to 620
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		610	to 620
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		590	to 595
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		580	to 585
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		580	to 590
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570	to 580
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		510	to 550
Re-reels—Extra		610	to 620
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		595	to 600
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		585	to 590
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		575	to 580
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560	to 565
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		550	to 555
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520	to 540
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.		—
Kakedas—No. 1		570	to 575
Kakedas—No. 1½		560	to 565
Kakedas—No. 2		550	to 555
Kakedas—No. 2½		530	to 540
Kakedas—No. 3		520	to 525
Kakedas—No. 3½		510	to 515
Kakedas—No. 4		500	to 505
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		520	to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		530	to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510	to 520
Sofai—No. 2½			—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 13th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	9,076	14,416	19,285
America	12,463	19,523	17,696
Total ..... Bales	21,539	33.939	36,981
Total ..... Piculs	22,023	34,370	37,283

Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 24,550	Piculs. 34,800	Piculs. 36 950
Stock, 13th March	8,000	2,600	4,250
Available supplies to date	32,550	37,400	41,200

WASTE SILK.

Settlements in this branch are 250 piculs comprising *Noshi* 15, and *Kibiso* 235.

Situation remains unchanged. Waste is in demand, but shippers are unable to operate freely for lack of the necessary quality. Prices all round are well maintained, and anything special would command a good price.

The only shipping opportunity has been the *Verona*, on the 7th inst., which steamer took 154 bales of Waste for Europe. Present export is 25,489 piculs, against 23,884 last year and 27,319 at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No business at all, and no change in the situation.

Noshi.—Only one parcel has passed the scales consisting of fine *Bushu* at $124.

Kibiso.—Filatures have been taken to some extent for Italy and Switzerland. Prices paid ranging from $93 to $116. Some *Low Curlies* have also been done at $32.

In other sorts nothing to mention.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		$135	to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		120	to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100	to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best		130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85	to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½	to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70	to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110	to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100	to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		55	to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50	to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35	to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good		45	to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½	to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15	to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180	to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 13th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	24,202	21,694	24,841
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	25,489	23,884	27,319
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	27,600	26,050	28,900
Stock, 13th March	4,000	6,800	4,300
Available supplies to date	31,600	32,850	33,200

Exchange has steadily improved this week, rates closing as under:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3¾; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $79½; 4m/s. U.S. $80½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.13; 6m/s. fcs. 4.15.

Estimated Silk Stock, 13th March, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	170	Cocoons	300
Filatures	4,510	Noshi-ito	1,100
Re-reels	2,980	Kibiso	2,300
Kakeda	200	Mawata	125
Oshu	130	Sundries	175
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	8,000	Total piculs	4,000

TEA.

First hand musters of new crop are in town, and are being shown round the trade. They look well, but are of course nothing but a "curio." We can expect no merchantable parcels for another month.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has been steadily rising though by the smallest fractions.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/2⅞
On Paris—Bank sight	4.08
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.18
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	78½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	78½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	79½
Silver	45⅛

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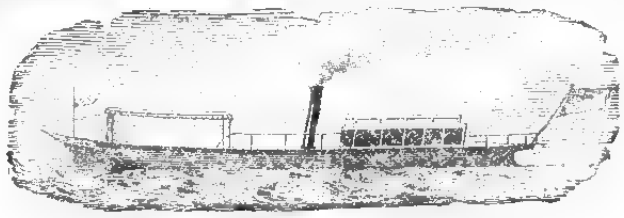

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"PAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1891.

DEATHS.

On February 18th, at Tacoma, Washington, Captain HENRY C. DEARBORN, aged 54 years.

At Kobe, on the 16th inst., B. ENTHOVEN, aged 28.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

H.I.H. PRINCE KITASHIRAKAWA YOSHIHISA left the capital on the 13th inst. for Atami.

THE Government has permitted the establishment of the Kanazawa Chamber of Commerce.

THE line between Okayama and Kobe on the Sanyo Railway Company was opened on the 18th instant.

THE doubling of the line between Oyama and Gotemba on the Tokaido Railway has been completed.

THE water-works of Nagasaki, now in course of construction, will, it is expected, be completed in April next.

ONE thousand and eighty Japanese emigrants to the Hawaiian Islands sailed from this port on the 17th instant by the *Omi Maru*.

HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPRESS proceeded to the Aoyama Palace on the 17th instant, leaving the Imperial Palace at 2 p.m.

DURING last month the Kanagawa Prefectural Government granted 43 passports to foreigners wishing to visit the hot-springs at Atami and Hakone.

THE spring general meeting of members of the Tokyo Rice Merchants' Association was held on the 15th instant at the Ibumura-ro, Ryogoku, at which Messrs. Yura Seitaro and Sato Kakujiro were elected President and Vice-President respectively. Over five hundred persons attended the meeting.

A THIEF entered the godown of the Hiyoshi Shrine in the province of Omi, the other night, and stole various precious articles valued at over 10,000 *yen*.

SOME two hundred members of the House of Representatives were to proceed to Yokosuka on the 14th instant to view the Yokosuka Shipbuilding Yard.

THE total number of Japanese residing in Korea at the end of the year was 6,298, of whom 537 were in Söul, 1,624 in Jinsen, 3,567 in Fusan, and 570 in Gensan.

COUNT YAMAGATA, who had been confined for some time to his villa at Mejiro by indisposition, proceeded to Oiso on the 16th instant for the benefit of his health.

ON the night of the 12th instant fire occurred in a house at Shinyokocho, Atami, and five dwellings were burned to the ground before the flames could be subdued.

IT is stated that Count Yamagata, who is at present confined to his residence by indisposition, intends to proceed to Kamakura shortly for the benefit of his health.

IN aid of the funds of the Honjo Lying-in Hospital theatrical performances were held on the 14th and 15th instant at the Yuraku-kan, Kakigara-cho, Tokyo.

H.I.H. PRINCE KITASHIRAKAWA YOSHIHISA, who had been for some time in Saitama and Kanagawa Prefectures, on official business, returned to the capital on the 16th instant.

A MEETING of managers of the Tokyo Charity Hospital was held on the 15th instant. Her Imperial Highness Princess Tadako, and Countesses Goto and Ogasawara were present.

DURING a severe blow on the 15th instant a Japanese cargo boat, loaded with cement for the Yokohama harbour works, capsized near the English Hatoba. All the crew are missing.

MR. E. J. PEREIRA, Portuguese Vice-Consul at Yokohama, has started for home on leave. During his absence Mr. E. Durand De la Penne, Italian Consul, will, it is said, represent him.

SOME 410 shares (paid up *yen* 25) of the Yokohama Union Electric Light Company were offered for sale by public tender on the 13th inst., and over 200 were sold at *yen* 18 per share.

MR. MATSUNO SHINJIRO, an editor of the *Nippon*, was summoned on the 16th instant to the Tokyo District Court, and examined before Procurator Fujii in connection with the Tei affair.

THE resignation by Count Ito of his position of President of the House of Peers will be accepted in a few days. Count Higashi-Kuze, Vice-President of the House, will, it is stated, succeed him.

A CONCERT was held on the 14th instant at the Tokyo School of Music, Ueno, by the members of the Dokokai, which was formed by students of the institution. Some three hundred persons were present on the occasion.

THE total quantity of tea that arrived in Yokohama from the interior from the commencement of last season to the 6th instant was 21,872,000 *kin* (one *kin* = 1⅓ lb. avoird), of which 21,686,500 *kin* were sold to foreign firms in the port, the quantity of tea that remained in stock on that date being 110,000 *kin*.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 17th instant, at which there were present Counts Saigo, Matsukata, Yamada, Oyama, and Goto, Viscounts Aoki and Kabayama, and Messrs. Yoshikawa and Mutsu.

ACCORDING to recent investigations the number of kindergartens in the capital is 26 (including both public and private institutions) in which 1,286 children (691 boys and 595 girls) are educated, the total number of teachers being 75.

THE total number of Primary Schools in the capital at present is 583, of which 223 are public and 360 private schools. The number of students in these schools is 778,200, of whom 47,090 belong to the former and 30,730 to the latter class.

DR. H. MAYER, an employé of the College of Agriculture in the Imperial University, will leave Japan for home shortly, his engagement in Japan having terminated. Dr. Mayer was received in audience by the Emperor on the 14th instant.

THE sections between Kurozaki and Monji (14 miles), and Kurume and Takase (34 miles) on the Kyushu Railway Company have been completed. Viscount Inouye, Chief Commissioner of the Railway Bureau, has left the capital to examine the works.

THE rumour that Mr. Hatoyama Kazuo would represent the plaintiff in the action for libel raised by Mr. Tei, proves to be entirely groundless. Mr. Okamura, formerly President of the Yokohama Law Courts, will, it is now said, appear for Mr. Tei.

IT is stated that important changes will be effected in the Judicial Department before the close of the present month, and that the Bureau of General Control, the Minister's Chamber, the Despatch and Receipt Office, and the Reports Office will be amalgamated.

THE total quantity of rice that arrived at the Fukagawa Granaries during last month was 172,731 bales, to which 453,026 bales, brought over from the previous month, were added, making a total of 625,757 bales. Of the above figure 324,494 bales were taken out during last month, the quantity of rice that remained in stock at the end of the month being 301,263 bales. As compared with the previous month the above figures show a decrease of 186,750 bales in the quantity that arrived, and an increase of 96,587 bales in the quantity removed.

THE Import trade is much in the condition last reported in so far as Yarns and Piece-goods are concerned, a small business in these having been done at rates that may be called slightly easier. A little life has been infused into the Metal trade, and fair sales have been effected, principally in consequence of buyers having run out of stocks. There have been sales of Kerosene to a moderate extent, but oil could only be moved at a reduction in most cases upon late rates, though holders are stiffening their attitude since the recent transactions. The stock is still very large. Sugar has been in moderate demand, and the new Formosa, which is coming in freely, sells well. The principal Export appears to be in fair demand, and a daily business takes place, the total Silk sales for the week being over 1,000 bales. For Waste Silk there has also been a fair demand. Exchange has again fluctuated, but not to any great extent on the week.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE BUSINESS OF THE TWO HOUSES.

THE business of the House of Representatives, while the House is not in session, is to be carried on in the building temporarily occupied by the House, namely, the formerly Engineering College. This spacious and handsome edifice—or rather pile of edifices—was utilized as the Nobles' School, after the absorption of the Engineering College into the University. By and by the Nobles' School was moved elsewhere, and the buildings were then partly occupied as a girls' school, the great hall and nearly all the adjoining class rooms remaining unemployed until they served the purposes of the Representatives after the destruction of the Diet by fire. Very shortly the whole compound is to be handed over to the Commissioners of the Imperial Museum. The buildings will require much alteration to fit them for museum purposes, but such is to be their fate. One or two rooms, however, will be lent to the Secretaries of the Lower House to carry on their business pending the re-building the Diet. The Secretaries of the Upper House are it is stated, to have a room at the official residence of the President in Nagata-cho, but we are not quite clear where that may be.

* * *

The transformation which the Examination Hall of the Engineering College underwent to prepare it for the sittings of the Representatives was not picturesque. It was converted into a great canvas box, huge pieces of linen being stretched at the sides and overhead, while to obtain space for the 300 members' seats, narrow wooden benches, partially covered with green baize, had to be crowded into every part. The acoustics were emphatically bad, the cold was often very trying, and the discomfort of the members must have been great. Never well lit, the Hall is not at present supplied with gas, and it was therefore impossible to continue the sittings of the House after sunset. This last point deserves to be noted, for we observe that the Representatives have been charged with want of zeal because they did not extend their hours of debate. Whatever their desire to be so, the thing was impossible. It may be assumed that they would have shown at least as much industry as the Peers, had it been in their power to do so, but whereas the Peers occupied a chamber well lit with electricity, the Representatives had to rely on the light of the sun.

THE OLD QUESTION.

THERE is scarcely a Japanese journal of any consequence that has not, within the past twelve months, published some detailed account of a new scheme of Treaty Revision, confidently asserted to be the latest and most authentic on the *tapis*. For a time a lull occurred in this persistent shower of revelations, but the pastime has been taken up once more by the *Mimpo*, which writes in the following strain:—"The efforts to accomplish Treaty Revision made ever since the beginning of the Meiji era by Iwakura, Terashima, Soyejima, Inouye, and Okuma, all came to nothing, either because of difficulties raised by the Treaty Powers or in consequence of opposition on the part of the Japanese people themselves. Since Viscount Aoki became Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Government has not entrusted the matter to him alone, but has appointed Counts Saigo and Goto as joint Plenipotentiaries. These three Ministers have consequently resolved to bring the important work to a fine termination and to gain the reputation of being great statesmen. The point in Count Okuma's programme of last year that offended public opinion was the employment of foreigners in a judicial capacity, and it is therefore concluded that if this condition be expunged, and if other eliminations and additions of a minor character be made, there will be no difficulty in satisfying the public. Consequently, after careful consideration a draft of Revision has been made, and preparations are said to be in progress to complete the business satisfactorily during the course of the present year. From a trustworthy source of information we have obtained the following statement of the items of the new draft:—(1.) The idea of employing foreigners in the capicity of judges shall be abandoned. (2.) A short and simple naturalization law shall be compiled, so that foreigners, without going through the formalities prescribed by the generality of Western naturalization laws, may acquire the privileges enjoyed by Japanese subjects. (3.) The whole country shall be thrown open, and mixed residence permitted. (4.) Import dues shall be levied on a basis of ten per cent. *ad valorem* at most. (5.) Consular Jurisdiction shall be completely abolished. The Government, and especially Viscount Aoki and Count Goto, fearing lest opposition should be raised by the people to these terms, are endeavouring to win over the leaders of thought to their side."

* * *

This statement is advanced with so much confidence that many persons will probably be found to credit it. But in point of fact the *Mimpo's* programme is nothing more than a collection of floating rumours. It does not even allude to the important questions of the ownership of real property and the coastwise trade, both of which received treatment at Viscount Aoki's hands in the House of Peers. Moreover, it speaks of the abolition of Consular jurisdiction as a project of immediate realization, whereas both the language used by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Diet, and the Representation proposed in the Lower House, show that no such heroic step is contemplated. We allude to the *Mimpo's* story, because, if left undiscussed, it would assuredly be snapped up and republished as important information by some of our local contemporaries.

THE DIET AND THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

THE members of both Houses of the Diet are to proceed to-day, as guests of the Government, to view the fortifications in Tokyo Bay. They have shown themselves very inquisitive and to some extent impatient about these forts, some members crying out against the notion that so many years must elapse before the works are completed, others urging that Tokyo Bay ought to be properly equipped for defence before any other part of the Empire, and a few grumbling about the cost. They will now see for themselves, and understand the nature of the task in hand. It is a pity that this kind of practical education cannot be extended. If, for example, the Extremists in the Lower House could be put in charge of the Army Department for a season, they would acquire a useful knowledge of what is meant by cutting down expenses, where no margin for the operation exists. The War Office's appropriation amounts to nearly twelve million *yen*, and from of this amount only the paltry sum of two hundred thousand has been deducted. Yet it is asserted that great embarrassment will be felt. Up to the year 1885 the Army folks spent their money pretty freely. It is not claimed that they actually wasted the public funds, but they did things in a fine open-handed way, and did not mind having an ample band of office officials. During 1885 and 1886, however, drastic reforms were carried out, all superfluous officials being dismissed, and every expense reduced that was capable of reduction. There is no room, they assert, to accomplish any more, and under such circumstances this reduction of two hundred thousand *yen*, though an apparent bagatelle, has really the weight of the last straw. They allege that the only chance of effecting such a saving is to stop the building of the new barracks. But probably ends will be brought together in some way or another.

CRIME IN TOKYO.

A TERRIBLE event occurred at the Yoshiwara in Tokyo on Saturday morning. At about 3.30 a.m. the porter sitting up in the Kajita-ro, one of the casinos in Yedo-cho, heard a jinrikisha drive up. Thinking that a guest had arrived, he threw open the door, and immediately received three disabling wounds from a large triangular-bladed knife (*deba-bocho*), with which the visitor attacked him furiously. Springing over the porter's body, the assailant made his way straight to the sleeping apartment of Kanda Kane, one of the prostitutes, and slashed her over the head and shoulders. The girl ran shrieking to the room of Kajita Zenjiro, father of the proprietor of the house, Kajita Tomejiro. Zenjiro, a powerful man, who had formerly served in the detective force, sprang from his bed and attempted to seize the ruffian, but received two severe wounds. Tomejiro and his wife Nabe appeared upon the scene at this juncture, and the madman attacked them at once with the greatest ferocity, injuring them both severely—so severely in Tomejiro's case that he expired the following morning. Having now, apparently, accomplished his purpose, the murderer fled, crossing the fence of the garden and effecting his escape before any hand could be stretched out to arrest him. Not before he had been identified, however, as one Izaka Shinkichi, a native of Ibaraki Prefecture, who had been a servant in the Kajita-ro until the close of January, when he was dismissed in consequence of the discovery that his relations were over-intimate with the girl Kane.

THE AKITA MURDER.

SOME further particulars of the terrible murder in Yuzawa, Akita Prefecture, are now to hand. It appears that the head of the annihilated family, Mr. Nakajima, was in charge of the branch of the First National Bank at that place. He retired to rest as usual, having put the key of the safe into a chest-of-drawers in the godown communicating with his house. He himself and his wife, aged respectively 44 and 42, were sleeping in one room, and in the adjoining chambers were their daughters Fuji, aged 20, Tsugi, aged 18, and their adopted son's wife, Shige, aged 30, with her baby. When the alarm was given and the police summoned, it was found that the whole six had been killed where they lay asleep. Not one, apparently, had ventured to get up; or had been roused in time to do so. From the sleeping chambers to the go-down, and all through the latter, traces of bloody feet were found. The chest-of-drawers had been opened, the key of the safe taken out, and thrown down in a corner of the room. Apparently the intention of the burglars had been to rob the safe, which contained over four thousand *yen*, but something had prevented them from doing so: the safe was untouched. Some seventy thousand *yen*, however, were taken from the box where the key usually lay, and sundry articles of clothing appeared to have been also taken, but as the entire family were killed, no accurate account could be obtained of what there had been in the house. The police have not yet arrested any one, but they are persuaded that the burglars belong to the neighbourhood, and that their capture is only a question of time.

DARE D'ARÔ?

WHO, we wonder, is the gentleman called "Yoshitani, Vice-Grand Master of Ceremonies," who according to the *Japan Gazette's* translation of the *Official Gazette* attended the funeral of the American Minister on behalf of Her Majesty the Empress. The Vice-Grand Master of Ceremonies is Mr. Sannomiya Yoshitane, one of the best known and most popular officials in Tokyo. To speak of him as "Yoshitani" is not only orthographically wrong and palpably rude, but is also to make the curious blunder of calling a man by what would be his Christian name in the West. It is as though one should say that John, Lord Justice of Scotland, presided on a certain occasion, or that Charles, Secretary to the Admiralty, wrote on behalf of the First Lord. People might recognise Mr. John Inglis and Mr. Charles Thomson Ritchie in these queer abbreviations, but they would be none the less startled by such a new departure in styles of public address. The editor of the *Japan Gazette* is evidently at sea in these matters. Some time ago, in a leading article, he spoke of Mr. Murata Tamotsu as "Mr. Tamotsu," plainly showing that his Japanese studies have not extended to the difference be-

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tween personal and family names. By what curious episodes social intercourse would be chequered if some members were introduced who could not distinguish between a Christian name and a surname!

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PROGRESSIONISTS' ASSEMBLY HALL.

THE burning of a large building in Yurakucho, Sancho-me, which took place on the 10th instant at 3 a.m., has caused some comment and speculation in Tokyo. The house was used by the Progressionists (*Kaishin-to*) for the purpose of holding meetings and transacting the business of the party. It had been rented under an agreement providing that in the event of its destruction by fire, whether accidental or incendiary, the loss should be made good to the owner, and of course, under these circumstances, the lessees have no resource but to pay up. The sum involved is, however, very considerable. According to a rough calculation, it is asserted that though each *Kaishin-to* member of the Diet, who used the Club, should disburse the whole of his Parliamentary allowance, namely, 800 *yen*, there would still be a balance of indebtedness. In consideration of this point people speak of the affair as "the fire that burned the salaries" and there is naturally a strong impression that some of the political opponents of the *Kaishin-to* were the authors of the conflagration. Various stories are circulated, but the strong probability is that the incident will never be cleared up.

THE MYSTERY OF THE "NIPPON."

THE mystery of the letter supposed to have been written by Mr. Tei Yeinei to the Chinese Representative in Tokyo, is pleasingly heightened by the *Japan Gazette's* comments. "The Chinese Minister and Mr. Tei," says that journal, "have both denied the authorship of the letter, and have prosecuted the first paper which published it, the *Nippon*." In this statement two very interesting pieces of news are contained; first, that the Chinese Representative has denied the authorship of the letter—a somewhat superfluous proceeding, seeing that he was never suspected of writing it—and, secondly, that he has instituted proceedings against the *Nippon*. Both items of intelligence are quite new. We fear that the Chinese Minister's grounds of action against the *Nippon* are scarcely sound. The mere statement that a man has had a letter addressed to him does not constitute a libel, and nothing more heinous has been charged against His Excellency Li. The Minister, however, will be very much astonished by the action attributed to him, for he has neither denied the authorship of the letter nor instituted proceedings against the *Nippon*. Both statements owe their existence entirely, not to the imagination of the *Japan Gazette*, but to its ignorance of the use of the English language.

* * *

To write English so clumsily that it shall convey utterly false ideas is, however, a very small part of the offence committed by the *Japan Gazette* in respect of this wretched business. The communication attributed to Mr. Tei primarily by the *Nippon*, and subsequently by other Japanese journals, contained no internal evidence of his authorship, except a description which the writer is made to give of himself. By this description Mr. Tei is easily identified, as it was obviously intended that he should be identified. The Chinese style of the document is quite insufficient to indicate the author, for there are hundreds of educated Japanese capable of such a literary achievement. The *Nippon*, then, having received the document from an anonymous source, and finding that the writer describes his antecedents so clearly as to be easily identifiable, does not hesitate to publish it and to openly ascribe the authorship to Mr. Tei. But testimony as to authorship furnished by the writer's account of his own antecedents is obviously quite valueless, unless the writer be really the person so designated. If Mr. Tei wrote the document, then his account of himself furnishes a trustworthy clue to his identification. But if he did not write the document, then a description inserted for the purpose of indicating him, is nothing more than an additional fraud. The case therefore stood thus at the outset:—A document received from an unknown source, and purporting to have been taken from the archives of the Chinese Legation, was published by the *Nippon*, and, on the strength of evidence absolutely valueless unless the document were authentic, the *Nippon* identified and declared the writer to be Mr. Tei. As for the contents of the document, nothing more terrible could have been alleged against a Japanese than that he had penned such words. A foul traitor to his country, he became at once an object of public loathing and execration. In point of fact, the greatest excitement was created in the capital, and if popular fury had proceeded to the length of active violence, nobody could have been surprised. But Mr. Tei lost no time in emphatically denying that he had ever written such a letter and in taking legal proceedings against the *Nippon*, while from the Chinese Legation an official denial was published that any letter of the kind had ever been received there. Now it will be remembered that the letter was said to have been taken from the archives of the Chinese Legation. Thus the latter's disavowal damned the whole story. Under these circumstances, what does the *Japan Gazette* do? Does it show any appreciation of the value attaching to the statement of an anonymous and unknown person, as compared with the open denials of the Chinese Legation and Mr. Tei? Has it the common decency to perceive that in such a conjuncture, even the strongest partisans of the libeller should exercise discretion? Does it recognise the rudimentary principle of justice that when popular fury has been roused against a man on account of a crime of which the balance of testimony goes to prove him innocent, every ordinarily honest journal ought at least to suspend judgment? Not a bit of it. The *Gazette*, on the contrary, goes out of its way to try and fix the charge. It writes as though Mr. Tei's authorship were beyond all doubt. "Mr. Tei," it says, "denounces his country and its institutions in such a forcible manner that he has aroused the most violent opposition, and his life is said to be in danger. And then, with that simulation of knowledge so comically familiar to its readers, it adds:—"The suspicion of all the best judges rests on one man. And the probabilities are that it is rightly placed." Nor does this suffice. In its next issue the *Japan Gazette* publishes the following:—

> The Chinese Minister has addressed a letter to the various Tōkyō papers denying that he received from Mr. Tei the letter whose publication by the *Nihon* has caused such a stir throughout the country, and asks that the statements attributing the authorship to Mr. Tei be withdrawn. The *Nihon* withdraws the statement, but is particular to explain that such a withdrawal is only made out of legal obligation, and that the paper still holds to its original assertion that Mr. Tei is the author of the letter in question; *it rightly argues that its failure to prove the authorship legally is not conclusive proof against the accuracy of its assertions.*

Now we are aware that to be obliged to acknowledge the reckless conduct of the *Nippon* in this matter would be very awkward for the *Japan Gazette*. The *Nippon* is the source of many of the wonderful revelations which our "honest" contemporary re-cooks and hashes up for its readers' edification, seasoning them with "private information" of its own. From the *Nippon* it obtained materials for its crusade against Count Yamada and the Cabinet, and the discrediting of the *Nippon* would mean that this prolific mine must be temporarily closed. But that such a consideration should betray the *Japan Gazette* into endeavouring to fix upon a man a foul crime unsupported by any evidence of the slightest value and contradicted by evidence of great weight; a crime which, if proved, must condemn himself and his whole family to national execration and even imperil their lives—this, we have no hesitation in saying, is one of the most disgraceful incidents that has ever disfigured the history of foreign journalism in Yokohama. The *Japan Gazette* is the publicly avowed organ of a number of leading residents of Yokohama. Its escapades concern the good name of the whole British community, and cannot be passed over in silence.

KOREAN NEWS.

THE Tokyo papers have been, for the last few days, publishing alarming news from Sōul. It is stated that the Chinese Resident, Mr. Yuan, has approached the Korean Court with two proposals of a startling nature. One relates to a treaty by which Korea gave to Russia great privileges of commerce and navigation on portions of the coast and on her borders. Several years ago, when this treaty was first concluded between the two countries, Mr. Yuan remonstrated with the Korean Government, and it was only the year before last that the treaty was ratified. As to the details of the demands preferred by the Chinese Resident in the present instance, no accurate information is given in any of the reports thus far published. The other proposal is said to have for its object the abdication of the present King in favour of his son. Some of the correspondents say that the Koreans are now very well disposed to Russia, and that they resent the interference of their western neighbour. The report published in the *Kokkai* states that the graves of the late King and Queen have been dug up and all jewels taken away. The grave-keepers were sentenced to banishment for their negligence.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE following is the report presented to the shareholders at the twenty-second ordinary annual meeting held at the offices of the company in Hongkong on Saturday last:—1889 Account.—The result of the year's working shows a balance at credit of $187,874, which sum, with the approval of the Consulting Committee, it is now proposed to deal with as follows:—Reserve Fund, $3,951.00; Bonus to Contributing Shareholders, $39,923.00; Dividend of $18 per Share, 144,000.00. Mortgages.—The General Managers and Consulting Committee are satisfied from the valuations made by the Company's Surveyors in Shanghai and Hongkong that the properties held by the Company are good for the advances made, although considerable depreciation has taken place in Hongkong. Consulting Committee.—Messrs. S. G. Bird and A. P. McEwen having left the Colony, Messrs. F. T. P. Foster and C. J. Holliday have been nominated to the vacant seats, and their appointment now requires to be confirmed. The present members, the Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. J. S. Moses and T. E. Davies offer themselves for re-election. Auditors.—The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. G. S. Coxon and Fullarton Henderson and their re-election as Auditors of the Company is recommended.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR PRACTICAL PURSUITS.

SEVERAL well known Japanese gentlemen, among them being Messrs. Hoshino Chotaro, Miyazaki Yukei, Mizi Tetsunosuke, Yamada Jinnosuke, and others, have formed an association called the *Jitsugyo-gikai*, or society for deliberating about practical undertakings. Apparently the object of the step is to direct public attention from political into productive channels. There are to be five sections in the Association, devoted respectively to tea (*Chagyo-bu*), silk (*Sanyo-bu*), agriculture (*Nogyo-bu*), marine products (*Suisan-bu*), commerce (*Shogyo-bu*), industry (*Kogyo-bu*), and cattle rearing (*Bokuchiku-bu*). It is expected that the association will develop great activity, and that considerable practical results will be attained.

THE THIRD EDITION OF "MURRAY'S GUIDE TO JAPAN."

THE printers are at last on the eve of receiving the manuscript of the third edition of "Murray's Guide to Japan." For a long time the work has been undergoing complete revision and enlargement at the hands of Messrs. B. H. Chamberlain and W. B. Mason, by whom the copyright has been acquired. Originally compiled

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by two men of whom one stood at the head of contemporaneous sinologues, and the other possessed qualities eminently fitting him to cō-operate in such an undertaking, the book proved an incalculable boon to every foreigner living in or visiting Japan. It occupied the field permanently. Competition was out of the question; for such a mine of information was opened to the public in its pages, information historical, archæological, topographical, artistic, geographical, social, ethnological, and statistical, that the most insatiate inquirer found something to satisfy him. If the book had any fault, it was bulkiness. Superficial tourists did not need so much, and not every resident took sufficient interest in the country to delve into details of subjects entirely strange to him. The consequence was that shrewd plagiarists set themselves to condense or copy such portions of the volume as they judged important. We should not like to express any definite opinion about the drafts made upon the book by minor writers following in the same line. Conscience is not very exacting in such matters, and besides, the dead past may be suffered to bury its dead. Meanwhile, the second edition of the Guide Book was sold out, and it became almost impossible to procure a copy for love or money. A constant demand suggested the issue of a third edition as soon as possible. But the work needed large revision to bring it up to the time, as well as expansion so as to include new portions of the country, and both of the authors had left Japan. Happily, after some delay, Messrs. Chamberlain and Mason took it up, and it thus came into the hands of precisely the two men conspicuously competent to carry its scheme to completion. How long the work of revision and enlargement has been in progress we do not know exactly, but every one will be glad to hear that it is completed—very thoroughly completed, we understand—and that nothing now remains but the printers' part of the task. There will be great satisfaction when the object of such protracted and impatient expectation becomes at length actually procurable.

A SINGULAR NOTION.

THE *Hochi Shimbun* contains a paragraph which we have read with much surprise. "Some persons assert," writes our contemporary, "that the approaching visit of the Russian Prince Imperial to Japan is not of an ordinary character, its object being to study the condition of our military organization with special regard to any important strategical positions on our northern borders. Among the people, therefore, who accompany his Imperial Highness, there are general officers and engineers, whose duty will be to examine, in the first place, all the ports and bays visible on the voyage from Kiushiu to Tokyo. Then, after a brief stay in the capital, the whole party will proceed to Niigata, there to embark in vessels of war for a trip to Hokkaido, going thence to Vladivostock. On the homeward voyage to Russia, the party will survey the Siberian Railway. The selection of this unwonted and inconvenient route *vid* Niigata affords ample grounds to divine the object in view." The *Mimpo* also writes in the same strain, evidently deriving its information from the *Hochi*, but seems to regard the motive attributed to the Prince Imperial as an additional reason for treating him hospitably. It is well known that the miscellaneous items in Japanese journals do not always receive careful scrutiny at the hands of the editor, but although such a want of proper care may be urged in extenuation of some errors, surely the visit of the Russian Prince Imperial is too important an event to be thus lightly treated? Japan has never before had the honour of entertaining the heir-apparent to the throne of one of the Great European Powers, and in visiting her shores the Russian Prince Imperial offers no small evidence of good will and amity. To suggest, under such circumstances, that he comes with an ulterior and unfriendly object, is not only most ungracious but highly impolitic. As for the motive assigned by the *Hochi Shimbun*, it sounds to us very laughable. If Russia wants to learn anything about Japan's harbours, bays, strategical positions, or military organizations, she has a thousand ways of doing so, without going to the extraordinary trouble of sending the Prince Imperial in quest of information. Truly, it is most singular to find such ill-considered and mischievous paragraphs in a journal of the *Hochi Shimbun's* high standing and generally sound views.

VAIN TROUBLE.

NEVER was there such a prolific theme for misconceptions and misrepresentations as Treaty Revision. The latest phase is a meeting organised by Conservatives, Messrs. Nishimura, Tomita, Kimpara, and others, for the purpose of exorcising a phantom of their own imagination. They have learned, by some wonderful process, that negotations for Revision having been opened on much the same lines as those contemplated by Count Okuma, with the important exception of the provision about foreign Judges, England has agreed, but Russia insists that unless the coastwise trade be thrown open to her subjects, she cannot consent to dispense with the foreign-judge clause. They have further learned that to this compromise Viscount Aoki and Counts Saigo and Goto, the three Plenipotentiaries, have consented, and that Messrs. Mutsu and Yoshikawa are of the same opinion. Accordingly, a meeting of Conservatives is to be held to-day for the purpose of protesting against any such concession. No doubt the politicians present at the meeting—Mr. Oi Kentaro is to be among them, we read—will have a very satisfactory half hour, from their own point of view, but surely it is too silly of them to take Russia as their object of attack. Russia does not care a bundle of pins about the coastwise trade: she has not the most infinitesimal interest in securing for her subjects the privilege of engaging in it. As to the judge question, she is not, perhaps, equally indifferent, but it is well known that she has never assumed any obdurate attitude on that subject; nay, that in 1889 her friendship went to such lengths as to suggest that even larger concessions than those then sought by Count Okuma would not have provoked her opposition. Yet it is Russia whom the Conservatives now select to charge with this new phantasy! When will these good folks grow weary of beating the air, we wonder.

THE ARTICLES REMAINING FROM THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

A DIFFICULTY appears to have arisen in connection with the articles remaining from the Industrial Exhibition of last year. We stated in a recent issue that the lottery for disposing of these articles was to commence on the 11th instant and would probably be concluded by the 20th, but it is now asserted that the utmost exertions will not enable a beginning to be made before the latter date. We have no information as to the cause of the delay, but things are not progressing smoothly, and some time may yet be required before the arrangements can be finally completed. The action said to have been instituted against the projectors has evidently been dropped, so that the unlooked for tardiness of the management cannot be placed to that score.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL.

THE arrival of the Russian Prince Imperial in Japan is expected to take place about the 15th of May. His Imperial Highness will land at Nagasaki, and after a very brief stay there will proceed by the Inland Sea to Kobe. It is not expected that more than a week will be available for sojourn in Tokyo, as the Prince will visit all the places of special interest in the interior. Great preparations for His Imperial Highness' reception are being made in Tokyo. The Palace of H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa is now undergoing thorough repairs and refitting, and will be placed entirely at the disposal of the illustrious visitor. This spacious and handsome edifice is particularly well suited for the purpose, being immediately behind the Foreign Office, about a hundred yards from the Russian Legation, and within five minutes' drive of the Emperor's palace. We observe that some comments have been made in the Japanese press with reference to the exceptional step of appropriating the residence of the Emperor's uncle for the reception of a foreign Prince; but it has been truly pointed out that no honour which Japan can pay to the Prince Imperial of Russia would be too great; and further, that the exceptional and magnificent courtesy shown by the present Emperor of Russia to Prince Arisugawa when the latter was despatched to St. Petersburg to represent Japan at the Coronation Ceremony, set an example of imperial hospitality not to be disregarded.

* * *

Our readers will remember that, towards the close of January, statements appeared in the Shanghai journals to the effect that the Viceroy of Hukuang had signified his resolve not to receive the Prince Imperial of Russia at Wuchang, and further, that the official intimation of the Prince's intended visit had been conveyed to the Viceroy by a Russian man-of-war sent by Admiral Nazimoff. We expressed our conviction at the time that both of these statements were entirely groundless, and it now turns out that we surmised correctly. Nothing of the kind has occurred in China. His Imperial Highness will carry out the whole of his originally projected programme there, and according to present appearances, his reception will be of the heartiest character.

SHANGHAI AND ITS CHIEF-JUSTICE-CONSULGENERAL.

THE British residents of Shanghai were to hold a public meeting on the 18th instant, for the purpose of voting a protest against the proposal to roll into one the two offices of Consul-General and Chief Justice. The protest, a draft of which was published before the last mail left, is a collection of powerful reasons carefully marshalled. It ought to command attention. *Apropos* the fact that it is to be forwarded to H.B.M.'s Representative in Peking, we observe that no contradiction has yet been published in Shanghai of the assertion advanced some time ago with so much confidence, namely, that the amalgamation of the two offices had been recommended by the First Secretary of Legation in Peking, and was, in fact, due to his recommendation. Our own information is entirely opposed to this. We believe that the contemplated change has not been viewed with any favour at the Legation in Peking, and that the conception of it must be ascribed entirely to the Foreign Office in London, where, doubtless, the Constantinople precedent was not without influence.

* * *

The protest contains a statement decidedly interesting to us in Japan, namely:—

> Moreover if the Consul-Geneaal is to be Chief Justice also, and the Consul is to be Assistant Judge also, neither of these Officials will be able, with propriety, to hear the case and urge the claim of one side, when there is a possibility of the matter resolving itself into a suit against a British subject or of such a suit arising out of it.

This is exactly what we have been pointing out for years with reference to the Consular Courts in Japan. Only one of the Treaty Powers has, in this Empire, a court presided over by a regular Judge. All the rest have courts presided over by Consuls or Consuls-General. But the functions of Consul and Judge are incompatible. The Consul is expected to be the advocate of his nationals. That is his distinct duty. Thus when a complaint is carried to him by one of his own countrymen, he has to think first of the latter's interests, and must take up the complaint in that spirit. Then finally he is expected to sit as an impartial dispenser of justice in a case where he has already been acting as advocate for one side. We have actually had, in this Settlement, instances of a Consul, in his capacity as such, officially denouncing, in the strongest terms of opprobrium, men of another nationality who a few days subsequently, appeared as complainants in the same case before the tribunal where he sat as Judge. These glaring anomalies have been treated with cheerful indifference here because the only probable sufferers are Japanese and Chinese. But they do no little discredit to Powers satisfied with such an obviously indefensible system of judicial administration. We are interested to find

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that the British residents of Shanghai are thoroughly alive to the anomaly, and have protested against it in the plainest terms. To Great Britain's credit she has hitherto laid herself open to no reproach of this nature. She has her duly equipped Courts in China and Japan, presided over by qualified Judges, who are entirely unconnected with Consular duties. It will be most regrettable if, for the sake of saving a paltry twenty-five hundred pounds annually, she descends from the eminence hitherto occupied by her, and places herself on the level of States which are content to roll into one the functions of Judge and advocate, forgetting that when they stipulated for immunity from territorial jurisdiction in China and Japan, they were bound to provide a proper substitute.

COUNT ITAGAKI AND THE BUDGET.

When Count Itagaki withdrew from the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, he set forth the reasons of his secession in a document eagerly scanned by the public. Among other statements he charged the *Jiyu-to* with excluding him from their counsels even in such a vital matter as the disintegration of the party, and from this accusation some people inferred that the Count intended to avow ignorance of the intention entertained by his former closest followers to introduce the motion which defeated the Extremists. We never held such a belief ourselves, but expressed the conviction that since Count Itagaki was understood to have made up his mind at a comparatively early date as to the unconstitutionality of the procedure advocated by the Extremists, he must have had full cognisance of the course contemplated in the House. His manifesto did not necessarily convey the former signification, and the probabilities were all against it. The *Choya Shimbun* now asserts that he was aware of the matter throughout. Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke, persuaded that if the plan advocated by the Extremists were persisted in the Budget could not possibly come into existence, consulted Count Itagaki as to the advisability of proposing reference to the Government at the close of the second reading. Count Itagaki was opposed at first, as he foresaw trouble in the Party, but ultimately he fell in with Mr. Misaki's views. The latter explained the matter to the *Taisei-kai*, and it was agreed that Mr. Amano Jakuyen should make the motion. All this sounds extremely probable.

JAPANESE ENTERPRISE.

The idea of "going down to the sea in ships" is evidently beginning to exercise upon the minds of the Japanese a charm such as it exercised in the days when their corsairs swept the neighbouring waters, and harried the unhappy shore-dwellers of China. The latest phase of the impulse is closely associated with the names of Viscount Yenomoto and Mr. Arai Ikunosuke. A large association has been formed, having for its object the exploration of the seas south of the Bonin Islands, with the hope of finding some fertile spot invitating colonization, or some new market for Japanese goods. We do not possess sufficiently accurate information about the plans of the company—if, indeed, a company has been formed—to speak in detail of its proceedings, but rumour says that a large number of naval officers on the retired list, or who have resigned their posts, are associated with the scheme, and that a sailing ship will soon be equipped and despatched to the districts southward of Ogasawara-jima.

POLITICAL PARTIES.

A split has occurred in the ranks of the *Aikokuko-to*, that is to say, in the party originally organized by Count Itagaki, subsequently amalgamated with the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, and recently brought into conspicuous notice by its secession from the latter at the critical stage of the Budget's progress through the House of Representatives. It is not, perhaps, quite accurate to call the *Aikokuko-to* a party, inasmuch as it has not, so far as we know, been officially reorganized since it ceased to be a part of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. Still, its members had been old associates and were expected to work together, though not under the immediate leadership of Count Itagaki, who adheres to his resolve to stand aloof from political parties. Seceding from the Extremists, in other words from the combined *Rikken Jiyu-to* and *Kaishin-to*, the *Aikokuko-to* joined forces with the Moderates on the Constitutional question of procedure in regard to the Budget, and a belief gained ground that this alliance would prove permanent. But the latest development contradicts any such notion. A part of the *Aikokuko-to* has indeed been absorbed into the Moderates (*Taisei-kai*), but the remainder, numbering about thirteen members of the Lower House, have decided to hold aloof, and to form themselves into a New Radical Party (*Shin Jiyu-to*). It is now predicted that a further disintegration of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* will take place after the approaching meeting in Osaka, and that the seceders will probably divide themselves between the Moderates and the New Radicals. Apparently we are still distant from the time when Japan shall possess really firmly knit and intelligently based political parties.

CHINESE IDEAS ON HYDROPHOBIA.

The benighted condition of the Chinese in regard to diseases and their treatment is well illustrated by a translation from the *Lat Pau* in reference to hydrophobia, the occasion being the dreadful condition of Singapore, which has for some time past been overrun by packs of ownerless dogs, many of which are afflicted with rabies, and have bitten several people with fatal results :—

Cases of hydrophobia are very common in Singapore. Many victims have succumbed from it and the danger has now become so apparent that a deputation of gentlemen and merchants waited on His Excellency the Governor the other day to request him to devise some means which would free the public from this dreadful disease. The deputation suggested that an entire extirpation of dogs should be carried out. We are, however, of opinion that such a course of action is not at all necessary. The object of the deputation in making such a suggestion is no doubt to protect human life, but it should be remembered that the dog is not a wholly useless creature to man and it has also life in it. Even the smallest thing created by heaven should be treated with consideration, and entire extirpation in this case is out of the question. The best way of dealing with hydrophobia we believe is by medical treatment. When proper treatment is given the disease could easily be cured, and as a matter of fact it is utterly unnecessary to raise such an outcry against hydrophobia. The European doctors however, have not yet discovered a good prescription for this disease; therefore their treatment is not generally successful. We will now say a few words on the treatment and the symptoms of hydrophobia. When a man or even his clothes or queue, has been bitten by a rabid dog, he is affected by the poison of the animal. After some time the poison develops itself and the patient begins to show signs of madness. At this stage of the disease proper medical treatment should be given, otherwise the patient will imitate the movement of a dog—smell anything that comes in his way and bark himself to death. In some cases when a man is bitten he thinks very little of it. He merely stops the bleeding, applies some medicine to the wound, and when it is healed he believes that the danger is gone. But he forgets that though the wound is healed up the poison has not been extracted and in some future day the disease will surely break out again. This is the mistake that the European doctors generally fall into. Now in order to determine whether the disease that a patient suffers from is hydrophobia or not the following method should be adopted :—Get a gong or any large brass utensil and strike it before the patient. If he is suffering from hydrophobia he will at once show signs of madness; then fan him with a large palm-leaf fan and he will crouch down as if in great fear. When we have determined on the disease the next step that should be taken—a most important one—is to search the hair of the patient. There we will certainly find one hair of the colour of vermillion, and rather stronger and coarser than ordinary hair. This particular hair should be entirely pulled out, not even the smallest part of root must be left, otherwise the disease cannot be cured. When this has been done a prescription must be prepared and the drugs used should be of such a natnre as will expel the poison from where it has located itself. Any how great care should be exercised in the treatment of this disease, and that depends upon the doctor who has the case under his treatment.

COMPETITION IN TEA PLANTATIONS.

The following, taken from the *Weekly Dispatch* of January 25th, throws some light on the telegram published in this issue :—There seems to have set in a keen rivalry amongst Ceylon tea-planters. Some time back one Ceylon estate sent over a consignment that put Mincing-lane in a flutter. This was knocked down at 31s. 6d. per lb., and the last time it was heard of it was selling at 5s. per oz. Of course, the name of the estate that exported this tea was in everybody's mouth, and a good advertisement was thereby obtained. Now, however, the estate has had to take a back seat, for a consignment from another estate was knocked down the other day at £4 7s. per lb., and immediately resold for £5 10s.—just as near as can be 1s. a teaspoonful. This is certainly a high price, but, from what a tea-broker tells us, it is nothing like the cost incurred in procuring such tea. In appearance this tea is golden coloured, and the leaves are exceedingly fine. They are young leaves, and, looked at through a microscope, appear to be covered with down. These downy projections enable them to cling to any cloth of a silky nature they may come in contact with, and this gives the clue to the secret of preparing these costly teas. Ordinary tea, in which there is a fair proportion of these golden leaves, is dabbed, so to speak, with a silk cloth, and the leaves that adhere to the silk are shaken into a pile by themselves. This tedious operation is repeated until the naturally gathered tea is exhausted of these golden, flossy leaves. The leaves that are left behind after this picking-out operation has been completed are, of course, not of the same value, weight for weight as before.

KOREAN STONE-FIGHTS.

A correspondent writes from Söul :—It is probable that in all countries there is a certain rotation of games, one style of amusement succeeding another in the same order year after year. But there are few countries where the transition is fixed at a certain date, as is the case in Korea. The first fifteen days of the year are taken up with the flying of kites. It must not be supposed that this sport is participated in by small boys only: young and middle aged men engage in it as well, and it is not an unmanly form of amusement as carried on in the peninsula. Immense sums of money are wasted in a single season. Thus it not infrequently happens that a man runs through the whole of his patrimony in two or three weeks. The reason is that kite flying in Korea is really kite fighting, the object being to get your kite string afoul of another man's string and then to see which will part the sooner. The kites cost practically nothing, but the string is very expensive, for it must combine strength and lightness. The best string is made of silk, and one skein of it, or enough to fly a kite, costs from seventy-five cents to a dollar. It is not uncommon to see small boys grinding up broken pieces of glass, mixing it with paste and putting it on their kite strings, so as more easily to saw off the enemy's strings. But if I were to tell of some of the exciting kite fights that have taken place here this winter I should have no room left to describe the still more interesting stone fights, or, as the Koreans call them, *pyensam*. On the fifteenth of the first month we see the last of the kites for the season, excepting those that festoon the trees and telegraph wires, these latter being the kite-flyer's greatest aversion and rock of offence. The kites all being put away on the fifteenth, the stone fights begin the very next day. The smaller ones take place in the streets of the city, but only between small boys. In the eastern part of the city there are large open spaces that have not as yet been built upon, and here occur the more serious and interesting fights. One section of the city is pitted against another, but any one can take a hand on either side at pleasure. There are no recognized leaders, but on either side the mass of fighters readily follows the lead of any one who shows himself to be a little more reckless than the rest. So you may imagine two mobs, consisting of fifty, seventy, or a hundred men each, drawn up against each other with an interval of perhaps fifty yards between them. There is an incessant shower of stones, and each man's business is to hit as many men as he can, and especially to dodge all the stones directed at him. But the fighting is not done with stones alone. From ten to twenty men on each side are armed with stout clubs and wear thick wadded helmets. These form the skirmishing line. They sally out from their respective sides and meeting in mid career, strike out viciously at each other's heads, each man holding up his cloak with his

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left hand as a shield to ward off the blows of his adversary. These sallies are accompanied by a partial cessation of hostilities on the part of the stone throwers while they watch the outcome of the club fight of their champions. After the club fight has lasted about thirty seconds, one side or the other begins to give ground, which is the signal for the backers of the successful club men to set up a wild shout and rush down *en masse* to follow up the advantage gained. Almost invariably the other side breaks and runs, and sometimes they are run clean into their houses, but generally some one or two of the pursuing party press too closely upon the fugitives. Then the latter suddenly turn and deal a few staggering blows, which check the pursuers, and in a second more the tables are turned, and those who a moment ago were flushed with victory, are now in full flight before their enemies, who are rendered doubly furious by reason of their late humiliation. And so the battle goes back and forth across the fields, while the neighbouring embankments are crowded with spectators, who shout for whichever side seems to be getting the better of the fight. They like to be on the winning side, and never has it been my lot to hear from any spectator a word of encouragement for the weaker side. They evidently believe in the wisdom of the proverb "nothing succeeds like success." It would be difficult to make an estimate of how many people stand and watch these fights. I remember one that took place in the dry bed of a stream. There were artificial embankments on either side, and these embankments were covered for a distance of two hundred yards with solid phalanxes of men row upon row from twelve to fifteen deep. And when the battle was exciting and the sight of victory on either side roused the martial spirit of this mass of spectators, the thundering cheers which rose as from a single throat were something to remember. Probably nothing is more inspiriting than such a cheer from so many thousands of lungs. The effect upon the combatants is something marvellous. They charge upon each other as if in actual battle, and show in not a few instances considerable bravery, or at least what would be bravery if exercised in some useful cause. It is worth while to cite one or two cases which go to prove that there is occasionally more than ordinary sport in this kind of amusement. Near the river are numerous villages, numbering from a hundred to five hundred houses each. They are situated along the bank of the river at intervals of half a mile or sometimes of only a few hundred yards. These villages keep up a continual series of fights among themselves during the fighting season, one village being arrayed against another. After a few sharp skirmishes the forces closed in and settled down to business. It was evident from the first that there were some old scores to be settled that day, or at any rate that amusement was not the only motive. Men rarely work in such a fashion for the fun of the thing. Before long the Yongsan party began to gain ground. A yell went up that made the very earth tremble. The enemy broke and fled, but Yongsan was right on their heels. Away they went leaping the deep ditches or falling into them, and scrambling up the other side and away again right through the marshy paddy fields, never mind the shoes! there is no time to stop to recover them. A whole skin is better than a pair of straw shoes. On they sweep right up to the outskirts of the defeated party's village. Here they surely will stop. But no! right up to the houses the pursuers push, and lay their hands on anything, wood, tiles, fence, hedge, anything that is vulnerable! A door wrenched off its hinges is a laudable achievement, anything to indicate "*Yongsan—his mark.*" But by this time the whole village is up, and the victors know it is time for them to be moving back. And they are fortunate if they get back with whole heads. Such scenes are enacted daily during the "Season," and exciting sport it must be. What do broken arms or even heads signify? You must have amusement. It is the same grade of thing as the Roman Amphitheatre or the Spanish bull-fight, but not so brutal. Man against man is bad enough, but man against brute is worse. The first stone fight of the season which occurred a few days ago was rather more disastrous than usual. It is reported that six men were killed, but this is probably an exaggeration. At any rate a company of soldiers was ordered out to stop it; which they found some difficulty in doing even with fixed bayonets. The long inactivity of winter makes men rather too active in the first few rounds of the "game."

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for January, showing the foreign trade of Japan for the month:—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	1890. SILVER YEN.	1891. SILVER YEN.
Exports	5,742,457,770	5,183,309,750
Imports	6,446,772,790	4,687,704,600
Total exports and imports		10,071,064,350
Excess of exports		695,685,150

CUSTOMS DUTIES. SILVER YEN.

Exports	144,931,678
Imports	178,448,322
Miscellaneous	9,974,233
Total	333,354,233

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
United States of America	1,711,366,730	459,011,680	2,170,378,410
Great Britain	438,290,710	1,526,754,240	1,965,044,950
France	1,474,437,800	226,067,500	1,700,505,300
China	304,014,330	711,613,350	1,015,627,680
Hongkong	674,008,540	300,296,080	974,304,620
Korea	101,713,050	461,166,450	562,879,500
Germany	136,731,680	396,403,970	533,135,650
British India	58,372,260	222,828,350	281,200,630
Italy	128,798,040	19,313,510	149,112,450
Switzerland	19,114,750	61,991,610	81,106,360
Australia	60,137,510	655,720	69,793,210
Russia	330,000	54,790,320	55,120,320
Canada & other British America	42,247,850	1,791,030	44,038,870
Belgium	2,054,520	28,271,420	30,325,940
Philippine Islands	9,789,000	7,620,430	17,409,430
Austria	7,635,000	4,511,680	12,146,680
Denmark	—	5,054,020	5,054,020
Spain	1,067,830	3,400,600	4,468,430
Holland	935,280	2,151,240	3,086,520
Portugal	—	648,580	648,580
Peru	—	585,300	585,300
Turkey	427,500	—	427,500
Sweden & Norway	240,000	50,000	290,000
Hawaii	203,100	—	203,200
Other Countries	50,362,070	200,827,550	251,089,620
Total	5,271,047,640	4,687,704,600	9,958,752,240

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Totals. Silver Yen.
Yokohama	3,498,652,260	2,106,589,350	5,605,241,590
Kobe	1,151,713,900	1,963,101,130	3,115,815,030
Osaka	63,354,550	362,426,560	425,961,110
Nagasaki	313,525,040	186,055,060	499,580,090
Hakodate	42,030,240	10,000	42,032,220
Shimonoseki	215,301,250	58,994,230	264,255,470
Moji	68,774,050	—	68,774,050
Hakata	330,000	150,000	476,900
Karatsu	11,145,600	—	11,145,600
Kuchinotsu	73,200 350	—	73,200,350
Misumi	9,747,500	—	9,747,500
Idzugahara	379 280	5,844,250	6,223,530
Sasuna	673,400	3,528,100	4,201,500
Otaru	5,350,000	—	5,350,000
Specie and Bullion Exports			240,241,400
Specie and Bullion Imports			158,854,000
Total			399,095,400
Excess of exports			81,387,400

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	639,384,370
	Imports	1,093,611,570
Imported by Government		91,456,070

TREATY REVISION.

THE *Kokkai*, now recognized as one of the best among Japanese newspapers, says that a meeting was held on the 16th instant in the Kaikaro, Kanda, Tokyo, by members of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, among whom Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Oi Kentaro, Kono Hironaka, and Komabayashi Koun were prominent. The subject of discussion was Treaty Revision, but the meeting was conducted with closed doors. No decision seems to have been reached. The *Kokkwai* asserts that the debate turned upon the difference between Viscount Aoki's programme and that of Count Okuma, and that the two were said to be virtually the same except in respect of the Foreign-Judges clause, which does not appear in the present proposals. According to the information before the meeting, Great Britain has resolutely declined to entertain Viscount Aoki's proposals, and declared that she could not consent to anything short of Count Okuma's; while Russia insists that if the Judges' condition be abandoned, Japan must consent to allow foreigners to take part in the coastwise trade. To this latter compromise the Japanese Plenipotentiaries are said to have agreed, and the meeting was informed that their Excellencies MM. Mutsu and Yoshikawa are of the same way of thinking. It was accordingly suggested that steps should be taken to organise agitation against such a concession, but the meeting probably thought that fuller information was essential before taking any definite action. In coming to this conclusion it acted wisely, for there is no difficulty in perceiving that the Japanese public is very much in the dark as to the bases of the new negotiations, and that, consequently, any agitation against particular concessions would be premature.

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES AND LAND OWNERS.

WE recently reproduced from the *Keizai Zasshi* an article dealing with the excessive influence wielded by land owners in Japanese politics. The same journal has since published another article on this subject, showing, by statistics, the evil consequences of the Local Assemblies' partiality for the class which elects them. All the Local Assemblies, with the single and remarkable exception of that of Tokyo, make it their business to raise as much revenue as possible in the form of *kosu-wari* (rates equally divided among all the householders of the locality), of trade towns, and of miscellaneous taxes, and to reduce to a minimum the *chika-wari* (land-rates assessed upon the basis of the national land tax). The inevitable result of such an unfair system is that the lower classes, as tenants, petty tradesmen, and mechanics, find it, in too many cases, entirely beyond their means to defray their local dues. The arithmetical facts of the case will be seen from the following table, which shows the number of persons who could not pay the different kinds of taxes, throughout the country in the two years 1887 and 1888:—

Tax.	Number of persons unable to pay. 1887.	1888.	Amount of unpaid taxes. 1887.	1888.
	yen.	*yen.*	*yen.*	*yen.*
Chiso-wari	1,212	583	7,608	3,162
Kosu-wari	40,044	25,009	264,031	141,305
Trade taxes	6,418	4,335	13,973	8,386
Miscellaneous taxes	4,832	2,455	6,573	3,625
Totals	52,506	32,382	290,185	156,478

Of all these different kinds of taxes the *kosu-wari* is the most iniquitous, for, as already explained, it is imposed equally on all householders, without distinction as to differences of individual wealth or poverty. Hence the poor find it particularly difficult to pay it. Should the *chiso-wari* be levied up to legal limits, peasants, petty tradesmen, and mechanics would have far smaller burdens to bear. The *Keizai Zasshi*, consequently, thinks it extremely unjust and absurd to clamour for a further lightening of the public burdens of land-owners who are already enjoying iniquitous advantages over the poorer classes of the public.

CHOICE OF LANGUAGE.

"THE other day," says a writer in the *Romaji Zasshi*, "when on visit a to Joshiu, I met a number of teachers at the Primary Schools. They spoke to me thus:—'We have been giving special attention to moral instruction and also to rules of behaviour and the choice of proper language. But when the honourable representatives of the people, in their places in the Tokyo Parliament, use language only suited to vulgar folks, and when their language is printed in the stenographic records and circulated everywhere, it is quite fruitless for us to inculcate the employment of polite words in the face of such a precedent set by men who ought to be a pattern to the nation.' I confess that I had to acknowledge the justice of this remark. It is to be hoped that, in the next session of the Diet, the members will take care to use gentlemanlike language, so as not to cause any more pain to the teachers at Primary Schools." This is fine sarcasm. Whose ears, we wonder, will tingle most when the gentle comment of the *Romaji*

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Zasshi reaches them. The appearance of a picture depends, to a considerable extent, on its setting, and when, in the midst of a shower of highly polished and classical orations, we find interpolated a phrase like the notorious "*burei na monome-ga*" of Mr. Tanaka Shozo, such a gem of repartee stands out in doubly high relief. But the Japanese House of Representatives has still a considerable margin to work on. It has not yet any Irish element.

THE NEW CURE.

"THE discovery," writes the *Pall Mall Budget*, "that Dr. Koch's lymph sometimes drives tubercle bacilli from the tissues into the blood, and thus mobilizes the enemy, so to speak, along a grand trunk railway over the whole body, is the most startling objection to the cure that has yet appeared. It confirms and explains Professor Virchow's observation of newly developing tubercles in different parts of the bodies of patients who had died after lymph injections. The hopes of the consumptive are thus dashed by the fear that in extirpating the disease from one quarter it may be given a fresh hold in others. But in the same day's news the sanguine patient finds a pretext for new hopes. France promises to succeed if Germany has failed. It is well known that goats cannot take consumption. What simpler than to transfuse goat's blood into the patient? It is to be hoped that the process will not communicate all the other hircine qualities along with immunity from tubercle."

PARTIES.

THE *Jiji Shimpo*, commenting on the fact that a reconstitution of political parties is likely to be the immediate outcome of the discussions in the Diet, divides the 295 members of the Diet (five out of the original three hundred have resigned or died) as follow:—

Kyodo Club	81	*Kaishin-to*	38
Rikken Jiyu-to	77	*Taisei-kai*	27
Seceders	48	Independents	24

The Kyodo Club is the nominally non-political association recently formed by members of the *Taisei-kai* and seceders from the *Rikken Jiyu-to*. All the members of the *Taisei-kai* did not join it, twenty-four standing aloof; while of the seceders forty-eight were, at the time of the *Jiji's* analysis, independent though united. These seceders consisted, in great part, of members of the original *Aikokuko-to*. They have now split up into two camps, of which one calls itself the New Radicals, and the ultimate tendency of the other is uncertain. It will be apparent from the above table that the 99 members included under the headings of seceders, *Taisei-kai*, and Independents (*Mushozoku*) constitute a most important element of the situation: the side to which they attach themselves will be at once in a majority. It will also be evident that until the parties become a little more vertebrate as to their policies, a fringe of waverers must always hang upon their skirts. The Unionists (Kyodo Club) will have to declare themselves distinctly. Nothing is lost, however, by deliberation. The present expectation is that the general meeting of the *Rikken Jiyu-to* in Osaka at the close of this week will have the effect of further disintegrating that Party, and that the new seceders will drift, for the most part, into the ranks of the New Radicals. In that event the Extremists on the Radical side may find themselves left with only a skeleton of their former association.

* * *

The *Kaishin-to's* position is becoming decidedly difficult. Its failure at the last elections —a failure due in great part to the Treaty-Revision agitation of 1889—reduced it to comparative insignificance in the Diet. Still, with some forty members, it could have held the balance of power between the *Jiyu-to* and the *Taisei-kai*. But it threw in its lot finally with the Extremists, and of course the defeat suffered by the latter over the Budget question has helped materially to mar the reputation of the *Kaishin-to*. What will now be the programme adopted by this party which, though seemingly insignificant at the moment, numbers men of large means and eminent ability, and is directed by one of the greatest statesmen Japan has ever possessed? Will the *Kaishin-to* consent to suffer effacement by absorption into the ranks of the *Rikken Jiyu-to*, or will it seek to revert to an independent status? Strange things sometimes happen in politics, but it would be incredibly strange that the *Kaishin-to*, formerly remarkable for moderation and ballast, should definitely join forces with the most violent section of the Radicals. The disintegration of the Radicals in connection with the Budget, and the further disaffection likely to take place after the approaching Osaka meeting, will leave in the *Rikken Jiyu to* camp only the most pronounced Extremists. We cannot conceive an alliance between these and the *Kaishin-to*, yet, failing such alliance, the *Kaishin-to* will find itself ostracised, temporarily at any rate, from all the other political associations.

JAPANESE ARCHITECTS.

WE are not surprised that the answer given by the Government Delegate in the House of Representatives on the 24th of February has caused some comment. Asked whether he thought it beyond the capacity of Japanese architects to direct the construction of the wooden edifice for the Diet, he replied:—"I do not think them incapable of doing it. They *might* be able if a very careful selection were made among them." The *Romaji Zasshi*, referring to the matter, says:—"According to the Government Delegate, although the building for the Diet is to be of wood and to cost only some two hundred thousand *yen*, a Japanese expert *might* be capable of undertaking it if he were very carefully selected. We deem this a strange assertion. Our own idea is that Japanese architects are not such inefficient persons, but since the statement has been openly made by an honourable Government Delegate before the honourable Imperial Diet, we cannot choose but believe it, pending due refutation. Verily! Verily!" The *Romaji Zasshi's* appears to forget that parliamentary buildings are not exactly as other buildings. It is conceivable that an architect of high capacity, speaking generally, might be unprepared for such special work. That, however, is a secondary consideration. The spirit of the comment is the really interesting part of it.

* * *

Speaking of this, it seems worth while to refer to a remark of Mr. Naito Rihachi in the same debate. The abbreviated report of the proceedings made Mr. Naito say that mistakes were understood to have occurred in consequence of employing foreign architects, and that Japanese experts should suffice. Naturally this caused some amusement to foreigners. "Considering," they observed, "that the Japanese owe any knowledge they possess of Western architure to foreign instruction, it is rather quaint to find them turning round at this eleventh hour, and asserting that as blunders have been committed by the teachers, the work had better be entrusted hereafter to the students." Certainly that would be very funny, but what Mr. Naito really said, according to the *Official Gazette's* report, does not altogether warrant such an interpretation. His words were:—"There was a rumour to the effect that the cost of the temporary buildings for the Diet was increased owing to some faultiness in the design of the foreign architect. I do not myself know precisely in what respect the plan was faulty, but I think it possible that some of you, gentlemen, may be acquainted with the actual circumstances of the defective plan and the additional expenditure. It was only a rumour, indeed, but as there does not appear to be any necessity now to employ a foreigner for the purpose of superintendence, I propose that the appropriation on that account be omitted." This is obviously a less sweeping assertion, though not incapable of being construed into something very like a claim of superiority for Japanese architects. On another score, however, it is very unjust. The truth is that no error whatsoever was committed by the architect. He planned the building in strict accord with his original instructions, but was subsequently obliged to make more than one addition to it in obedience to altered views on the part of his employers. Nothing is more creditable to him than the fact that he succeeded in preserving harmony and proportion despite these changes, made when it was too late to adapt the original plan to them. It is most regrettable that, before committing himself to a public statement, Mr. Naito Rihachi did not investigate the matter more minutely. He would then have found reason to praise rather than to censure the German architect.

THE NICARAGUAN CANAL.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR, Commander of the U.S.S. *Alliance*, delivered his lecture on the Nicaraguan Canal and its relations to the trade of Japan before the members of the Asiatic Society of Japan, in the Public Hall, Yokohama on Wednesday evening. Mr. N. J. Hannen, H.B.M. Judge, President of the Society, occupied the chair and briefly introduced the lecturer. Captain Taylor then delivered his lecture, which was given in Tokyo before the Geographical Society on the 27th inst. and which was reported in the *Japan Mail* of January 29th. Speaking of views he had heard expressed by leading Japanese during his stay in Japan, Captain Taylor said there seemed to be an opinion that the connection between Japan and New Orleans to be brought about by the opening of the Nicarguan Canal would result in a very large trade. New Orleans was the natural outlet for the great interior valley of America, which in wealth, population, and activity was now really becoming America itself. With the opening of the Canal it was probable that there would begin a great interchange of commodities between Japan and New Orleans. It would be too much to attempt to prophecy what those commodities would be, but it seemed natural that there should be such an interchange between that great valley and Japan, each of which had so many products that were needed by the other. At the close of the lecture Mr. Hannen said he was sure he was only speaking for all present when he thanked Captain Taylor most heartily and sincerely for the interesting lecture he had given. Those who felt inclined to look more closely at the maps or charts displayed about the room would now be able to do so, and he felt sure that occupation would form an interesting termination to Captain Taylor's very enjoyable lecture.—(Applause.)

CIVILIZATION.

A CORRESPONDENT signing himself "Scrutator" has been endeavouring to demonstrate, in the columns of a local contemporary, that the Victoria School's failure to obtain the support of the community is due to the reluctance of Western folks to allow their progeny to associate with children of Oriental blood. "The leading merchant residents," he says, "have never sent their sons to the school, as they, like the British merchants in India, object to associating their children with children of Oriental blood, because of the low standard of Oriental morality, especially as regards truthfulness and respect to women." So bitterly prejudiced is this "Scrutator" that he extends his objection to children of mixed race, as though even a strain of Japanese blood were fatal, and he goes so far as to indicate that foreigners in the employment of the Japanese Government were not proper persons to be members of the School Committee. Of course such silly prejudices must be greeted with ridicule only. The leading foreign residents of Tokyo, high dignitaries of the Church, Ministers, merchants, men of science and so forth, unhesitatingly send their sons and daughters to schools where they associate freely with Japanese children and with children of mixed race. It has not occurred to them that any contamination is likely to result from the contact. "Scrutator's" condemnation extends even to Bishop Bickersteth, "whose experience of the East" is declared to be "insufficient to instil in his mind the deep seated feeling in the minds of British and American merchants in favour of keeping their boys surrounded by home associations." Long may Bishop Bickersteth's

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experience remain insufficient, if sufficiency is synonymous with adherence to miserable prejudices that disgrace Occidental intelligence and Occidental civilization. Why, we wonder do men like "Scrutator" come to the East? If their surroundings here are so very repugnant to their fine moral sense; if they actually regard Japanese children as pariahs to be kept at arm's length, why do they not stay at home and thus avoid all risks of degradation? Their presence in the Orient, marked as it is by the most outspoken declarations of contempt for the people they live among, only has the effect of bringing unpopularity on their nationals and disgrace on their civilization. What feeling except one of intense umbrage and indignation can be roused in the minds of Japanese, when they are told in the public press that foreigners who come here to trade with the nation and to earn a subsistence in Japanese territory, regard the people of the country with such disdain and distrust that they will not even send their sons to a school where there is a risk of associating with Japanese boys? In the face of such open announcements of contempt and dislike on the foreign side, the Japanese are expected to treat foreigners with unvarying gentleness, consideration, and politeness! It is, we fear, of little avail to tell the Japanese that persons of "Scrutator's" type are in the minority, for unfortunately these representatives of blind prejudice have the advantage of always making themselves conspicuous. One of their intemperate utterances suffices to efface the effect produced by years of unostentatious liberality and friendliness on the part of more civilized Occidentals. Yet the Japanese themselves, we think, must have observed that the higher the social and educational standing of a European or American, the freer is he from ignorant narrow-mindedness like that of "Scrutator," and the less disposed is he to claim and rudely parade a superiority which exists chiefly in his own inflated imagination.

THE ANTI-JACOBIN.

MR. FREDRRICK GREENWOOD, who founded the *Pall Mall Gazette* twenty-five years ago, and the *St. James's Gazette* about ten years ago, and whose differences with the proprietors of these periodicals—differences which, by the way, were all to Mr. Greenwood's honour—will be remembered, has once more added to the list of newspapers by the publication of the *Anti-Jacobin*. At first sight the name might appear unfortunate as bringing the paper into competition with the immortal publication of the same name, with which the names of Canning and Frere are associated, and to which we owe the wittiest and most pungent ballads in the English language. But Mr. Greenwood has his own very good reasons for this, as he has for most things he has done, for, next to his gifts as an editor, next to his power for collecting around himself a band of able writers, who, whatever their constitutional differences, all bear in their writings the stamp of Mr. Greenwood himself; next to these, we say, sound unemotional commonsense, and a keen perception of the currents of foreign politics, are the characteristics of Mr. Greenwood as an editor. He admits that the political conditions and the literary manners of the old anti-jacobin are extinct, but the spirit embodied by the Jacobin tyranny of the French Revolution is not. In modern times, he thinks, Jacobinism is most likely to arise from the perversion of Democracy, although it has no necessary connection with any particular form of government. Disregard of justice, intolerance of free discussion and of free individual action, the imposition of political dogmas by mere weight of numbers before those dogmas have been fully and fairly discussed, unbounded belief, real, or professed, in the efficacy of political machinery, all these are characteristic of the modern Jacobin, and all need to be fought against. Hence the establishment of the *Anti-Jacobin*. It is a weekly publication, in appearance very much like the old *Examiner*, save that the paper is white instead of creamy. It closely resembles the *Saturday Review* and the *Spectator*—possibly a trifle smaller, but it has this very important advantage that it only costs 2d. From the introductory article—and, indeed, we scarcely wanted this to tell us so—Mr. Greenwood views with profound distrust the present tendency of politics to establish the growth of what is called "new radicalism." The political articles are all well and vigorously written. The articles in the middle are on social and art subjects; then follow a number of crisp notes on the events of the week, a poem, and several reviews of the leading books. Mr. Greenwood has been so fortunate as to secure some extracts from the forthcoming volumes of Reminiscences of Dr. Russell, the veteran correspondent of *The Times*. It is extremely difficult to say what are the conditions of success of a newspaper in England now. Good writing alone does not do; energetic management often fails, and the fairest prospects frequently end in disaster and disappointment. But the *Anti-Jacobin* would certainly seem to have in it all the elements of success. For Mr. Greenwood's sake we trust that these hopes will be amply fulfilled.

TYPHOID AT KOBE.

WE hear that several cases of typhoid fever have occurred at Kobe, and referring to the fatal termination of one in the case of Mr. Enthoven, whose death we recorded yesterday, the *Hyogo News* of the 17th instant says:—"We sincerely regret to announce the death of Mr. B. Enthoven, who, at the early age of 28, succumbed yesterday to an attack of typhoid fever. He was taken ill last Friday week, and carried to the hospital the following Wednesday. Though the fever made rapid progress, the deceased retained his consciousness until Sunday at about 3 p.m., when he ceased to recognize anyone at his bedside. From that hour all hopes were abandoned, and he died yesterday evening at about 6 o'clock. He was attended by Drs. Miller and Graham, whose united efforts to check the fever, however, proved unavailing. Mr. Enthoven was very popular with all classes of the community here; his unassuming geniality, combined with his musical ability, gained for him the good-will of all. He was been in Japan four a half years in the service of Messrs. M. Levy & Co., by whom his services were highly valued." Mr. Enthoven was one of the Kobe Football team that re-recently visited this port.

A LADY INTERVIEWER.

INTERVIEWING has now become one of the most important departments of journalism in Japan. During the last few years this practice has been extensively followed. The latest development is a interviewer, Miss Ikuno Fumi, on the staff of the *Jogaku Zasshi* ("Woman's Magazine"). She is a bright will informed writer. Her last interview was with Count Katsu, popularly known as the Count of Hikawa, from the place of his residence. Miss Ikuno's object was to obtain an explanation of some obscure points in the history of the Tokugawa House, but as the Count was not inclined to discuss these topics, the conversation turned to questions of current politics. Asked about the Diet, Count Katsu observed that the first session had passed off more creditably than he had expected. He reproved the men of the present generation for their want of originality. They converse well, argue skilfully, and know much, but, said he, they are anything but good public speakers. Asked whether the present *soshi* are much worse than the desperate youths before the Restoration, he replied that there is no radical difference between the two sets of men: the difference lies in the character of their leaders. Before the Restoration the persons who controlled the *soshi* were conspicuous for earnestness and solidity; whereas the leaders of the present *soshi* are fickle and untrustworthy. Of all modern Japanese statesmen, he thought that the late Saigo was the greatest. Lastly he alluded to the paramount importance of his countrymen becoming more careful in matters of private finance. Unless they developed the faculty of taking care each of his own purse, Japan could not become a prosperous country. Japanese ridiculed the Chinese as being mean and base. But the Chinese knew perfectly well how to enrich their country. During the last few years, he had noticed improvement in this respect among his countrymen, but some years must elapse before the truth of his observation would be recognized by the majority of the nation.

* * *

The above report of the Count's conversation is rendered in plain and graceful language. We notice Miss Ikuno's accounts of interviews show a wonderful power of reproducing the exact tone of the conversation. In the present case, for instance, she has retained all the characteristic phraseology and accentuation of the distinguished statesman so successfully that the reader imagines himself listening to the veritable Count of Hikawa.

COLORADO NOTIONS OF JAPAN.

HERE is an extract from the *Rocky Mountain News*. It is headed "Back to Barbarism," and is evidently written by a person who, in so far as regards the moral attributes of civilization, has but a short distance himself to travel in order to reach the goal he indicates. We reproduce the foolish rigmarole, because its reference to the missionaries suggests that the duty of answering it devolves upon them:—

Yokohama, February 10th.

A most critical danger is looming up before the thousands of Christians in this government, and the religion is threatened with extirpation.

Some time ago a little cloud arose on the horizon of Christian work here, which to those who watched it from the hill-tops, threatened a deluge of opposition to the efforts being made to supplant a religion full of superstition by one whose influence would aid on the great work of modern civilization taking place.

The cloud is no longer a man's hand on the horizon, but it has burst and already the first drops are falling on the toilers in the mission field.

Japanese ingratitude is telling on the pastors who have given up their best years to the service, that the Japanese do not feel bound to be governed in their religion by any of the hard and fast doctrines recognized and revered by the West; that the time has come when they must make an individual and independent selection for themselves as to what creeds they must retain and what to reject. They are Japanese and must have a Japanese Christianity.

At Nagoya, where the third division of the army is quartered, there is a revolt in process. It started in the Nineteenth Regiment, but was in no way a political affair. Its cause was homely, its result prosaic.

Something fastidious in the tastes of the regiment led them to revolt against their rations. Considering what Japanese soldiers' rations are likely to consist of makes the case more noteworthy, and the general variety of Japanese ordinary dietary comprising nothing more startling than rice and fish or fish and rice, one or the other of these delicacies must have been astonishingly bad or the regiment astonishingly "nice" in their requirements.

A whole regiment is under arrest. The missionary has been in power in the land, teaching, speaking, and building, the land whereon he builds still remaining in Japanese hands, and the total becoming Japanese properly when the missionary retires. And now they are not even to have the gratification of seeing the religion they have planted grow into a mustard tree.

There is to be a Japanese Christianity, and it is to be greatly feared with the Christ left out, and that Japan is going to try a little retrograde movement now.

She is going back to the days when she used to prefer calling all foreigners "ugly barbarians," with an impartiality that scorns a distinctive nationality.

Those who are her warm admirers fancied that she had quite dropped that pretty little habit of giving folks nicknames, but in moments of natural unrestraint, a little lapsus linguæ betrays the fact that her connection with old characteristics is not quite severed. The incident giving rise to the poetical phrase is a reference to the Russian legation episode, couched in language hardly redolent of the "altar of politeness" fragrance for which she is so far famed. The remarks appear in one of the leading native papers of the capital.

The real gist of the paragraph lies in a patriotic call on the youth of Japan to "eradicate the rudeness of the foreigner," viz., the accidental attitude of the Russian ladies when viewing the procession and consequent overlooking of the imperial cortège—aye, and "the foreigner himself from the shore which is Japan's and for the Japanese.

The youth scarcely needs "boiling up" by advice on this line, and newspaper "puffs" of this description recall the two-sworded days, which are not yet too remote to be remembered.

It should be added that the story is called "a special cablegram," and as no one is likely to have telegraphed such particulars in full, something may perhaps be due to reckless expansion.

MR. INUGAI AND THE "SOSHI."

ON the 16th instant at 3 p.m., as Mr. Inugai Ki, a well known member of the Diet, and editor of the *Mimpo*, was driving in a *jinrikisha* past the Kogetsu-ro in Karasumori-cho, Tokyo, a *soshi* seized the jinriki from behind and arrested its motion. Mr. Inugai turned round quickly, and received two heavy blows from a stick which his assilant carried. The latter then ran away

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at full speed, but the drawer of the *jinrikisha* a man named Fuji, pursued him vigorously, and after a short race succeeded in seizing and holding him until the police came and effected his arrest. It turned out that he was a native of Nakamura-machi in Tosa Prefecture, named Imaune Chojiro, aged 22, who had been living in the house of Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, the well known Radical leader. The motive of the assault is said to have been political. Mr. Inugai's injuries are happily trifling.

BOOKS.

We have on our desk some volumes awaiting comment. The first is a collection of press notices of Mr. Alfred East's exhibition of Japanese landscapes. The notices have been brought together and re-printed by Mr. Lazenby-Liberty, and are prefaced by the following words:—"To my good friend and fellow-traveller, Alfred East, Esq., R.I., R.P.E., these press cuttings have been compiled and printed as a souvenir of most pleasant days, by his friend and admirer, Lazenby Liberty." The volume contains eighty pages, but in this large assemblage of cuttings scarcely a word appears that is not complimentary to Mr. East. Undoubtedly that gentleman achieved a marked success by his visit to Japan, and we may be permitted to hope that the attractions which this country offers to an artist will induce him to re-visit the scenes he depicted so skilfully, and the friends his brief association with whom is remembered so pleasantly.

* * *

Mr. F. Warrington Eastlake and Professor I. Tanahashi have compiled a "Pocket Anglo-Japanese Dictionary," very handy as to size and complete as to matter. The book contains 871 pages, each tiny page measuring 3 inches by 2¼. There are numerous illustrations, diminutive but clear, which must be decidedly helpful to Japanese students. For the latter alone the dictionary is intended. It might have been made to serve the purpose of foreigners also by adding the romanized forms of the Japanese words, instead of giving the ideographs only; but this step was doubtless avoided in order to save space. After all, foreign purchasers of such a book are insignificant compared with the Japanese. The authors are to be congratulated on having furnished another material aid to the study of English.

* * *

Messrs. Berger-Levrault and Company, No. 5, Rue des Beaux-Arts, Paris, have just published a work of great beauty, namely, "Ancien Armorial équestre de la Taison d'or et de l'Europe au 15e siècle." The book is a superb volume, folio, containing 293 pages and 114 chromotype plates, reproduced for the first time from the manuscript No. 4,790 in the Library of the Arsenal, by Lorédan Larchey. Only 500 copies have been printed, namely, 5 on Japanese paper at 450 francs; 5 on Whatman paper at 400 francs, and 490 on specially manufactured, tinted paper at 200 francs. All the great European families find in the beautiful work some interesting reminiscences of their doughty ancestors. The plates are facsimile reproductions of their originals. Many of them represent the notables of the time, all in full armour. The author justly reminds us that these equestrian figures have no individual character. Their purpose is to represent, not the men themselves, but the heraldic attributes belonging to their social ranks. They are, in fact, dummies, stiff as to attitude and conventional as to draughtsmanship. The rules of perspective are as conspicuously neglected as was the case in all pictorial representations of the middle ages. We have the pictures precisely as they came from the brush of the industrious author of the celebrated manuscript, concerning whom nothing is known, except that he was a military officer in the service of Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy.

* * *

Mr. T. Hasegawa of Tokyo publishes a volume entitled "Japanese Jingles," by Mrs. St. John Bramhall. It is a unique little book, printed on the peculiar crape-paper familiar as a material for doylies. The verses occupy only a small portion of each page, the remaining space being filled with pictorial designs in brilliant colours, executed, on the whole, with much taste and care. As for the verses enshrined in such a dainty setting, their title, "Jingles," describes them pretty accurately. Here, for example, are some, called "The fickle little lantern":—

In my heart a tiny lantern
Burned its scented wick and swayed;
And the little flame was fervid
As flushed palm on cold pulse laid.
In its pink and tender glintings
Basked I through the live-long day;
And the night I *knew* I knew not
All because of this limpid ray.
Now "*Hail Fellow!*" am I with shadee,
And all things else belonging to night,
For, Ah! this lantern's folded up
And gone from out my sorrowing sight;
And the sinful little maid that trimmed it
Has now *another wick to prune*,
And I'm alone in the dappled shades,
With all my heart and soul aswoon.

The italics occur in the original. All the poems, so far as we have read, contain italicised portions, but for what purpose we cannot tell. "The frolic of a frivolous fan" runs thus:—

A frivolous fan
Of festive Japan
Unfurled its wonders unto me;
But this frivolous fan
Of festive Japan
Had n't the power to undo me.
Though it spread its net,
And its sail it set,
With a vowed intent to woo me.
With *anger* this fan
Of sinful Japan
I caught at with ruthless endeavour.
But alack! This fan
Of festive Japan
I failed from its *power* to sever;
Though I spread my net,
But a fan to get,
I've secured its soft power for ever.

Such verses, it is plain, would never be seriously published in Europe or America. Their presentation to the public in the elaborate and attractive form given to them by the Tokyo printer is decidedly comical. At the same time the little volume shows what wonderful strides have been made by Japanese representatives of the publishing art.

* * *

The Nautical "Pocket Manual," published by Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, now in its 17th year of existence, is too well known to need any special comment. It contains the Shanghai Tide Tables, Customs Signals, Woosung Bar Signals, and a quantity of other information essential to sailing masters entering or clearing from Shanghai. The volume is in the handy form of a tiny pocket-book.

OFFICIAL SUAVITY.

It has often been remarked by people unfortunate enough to be the recipients of official communications in Japan, that whatever changes may have overtaken the general relations between rulers and ruled since the fall of feudalism, conservatism still holds its ground unshaken in respect of the phraseology of official documents. The haughty "*Ke-Tojin*," titled perhaps, and wealthy probably, when he receives a passport to travel and scatter his pelf among the people in the interior, remains happily ignorant that on the face of the document he is described as *migi no mono*; that is to say, "the above person," or, as some would translate it, "the above thing." Such is the style adopted universally in communications from officials to private folks. Never a suggestion of politeness, never a scintilla of deference, finds its way into the despatch or memorandum. Every one is a "*mono*" and every intimation is in the imperative mood. "Honourable officials, contemptible people" (*Kanson Mimpi*) is the stereotyped motto. Among the miscellaneous notes of the *Romaji Zasshi* we find a few strong words on the subject. The writer asks whether, in these times, when men talk so much of personal rights and of the necessity of eradicating old abuses, it might not be well to make a commencement by reforming official phraseology. He recalls the fact that English official documents breathe the very essence of politeness. The "*mono*" of Japanese style becomes "Sir" in England; a communication is prefaced by the courteous formula "I have the honour to inform you"; the "*ko ko surubeshi*" (do so and so) of Japan is transformed into "you are requested to do so and so," and the writer of the memorandum or despatch is the "obedient servant," perhaps "the obedient, humble servant," of its recipient. It is a good suggestion that in order to bring the mercantile, manufacturing, and artistic classes to a higher plane, the official class might show the way by descending a little from its traditional pedestal.

THE ELECTION IN TOKYO.

The result of the election in the Tenth District of Tokyo was announced on Thursday, Mr. Tsunoda was successful. He obtained 350 votes against Mr. Hatoyama's 344. Nearly every elector in the District voted. It is stated that the cost of the election was very heavy, the successful candidate disbursing about eight thousand *yen*, and Mr. Hatoyama, one half of that sum. In a constituency of only some 700 voters, such an outlay is decidedly heavy. It means 17 *yen* per vote, approximately. Rumour has it that Mr. Hatoyama lost a good many voters owing to the act of armed violence perpetrated by his opponents the day before the polling. The wounding of four people with swords exercised a deterrent effect on timid folks. The story is very credible. At any rate severe methods should be employed to prevent the recurrence of such disgraceful incidents. If the use of deadly weapons comes to be a feature of Japanese elections, the reputation of the country will suffer severely.

* * *

The election of a member for the representation of the Fourth District of Osaka, *vice* Mr. Nakaye Tokusuke, who retires, has resulted in the choice of Mr. Murayama Ryuhei, who received 657 votes, against 529 obtained by Mr. Kenichi Noriyasu. Further, in the Fourth District of Shiga Prefecture, the seat vacated by Mr. Soma Nagatane falls to Mr. Wakizaka Gyozo (1,288 votes) who has defeated Mr. Yamaoka (655 votes) and Mr. Asami (642 votes).

THE ORPHAN ASYLUM AT OKAYAMA.

The *Jogaku Zasshi* ("Woman's Magazine") of the 14th instant contains an interesting account of a visit to the Okayama Orphan Asylum, under the management of Mr. Ishii Juji. When the visitor, who employs the *nom de plume* of *Rosenshi*, reached the institution, it was time for the evening meeting of the boys and girls. Entering the hall, where the meeting was to take place, the visitor's attention was attracted by three masks on the wall, representing a blue devil, a red devil, and an *Otafuku* (an emblem of innocence and geniality). At the ringing of a bell, the orphans, about seventy in number, quickly repaired to the hall from all directions. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Mr. Ishii. A few of the orphans reported on the work they had done during the day. Mr. Ishii, then, pointing to the blue devil's mask, asked the boys and girls assembled how many of them had been wicked during the day like that devil. Whereupon fourteen or fifteen children raised their hands. Mr. Ishii next asked the orphans how many of them had been quarrelsome and mischievous like the red devil. This question was answered by about fifty hands, and one boy complained that a comrade, who had quarrelled, did not raise his hand. Lastly, when asked how many had been good and gentle like the Otafuku, only four had the courage to raise their hands. The visitor observes that the perfect naivete and innocence of the little ones in answering these questions were extremely touching. We are next introduced to one of the Saturday lecture meetings of the boys and girls. Six lectures were delivered, of which two are given as specimens. The following was spoken by a boy named Maruta Daiichi, formerly a beggar:—

As, you know, hens love their chickens dearly. When a dog or a cat comes to take away any of her young ones, a hen instantly comes to its rescue. In a similar manner our parents* love us dearly, and we owe them a debt of gratitude as high as mountains.—(Loud Cheers.)

The other address was on the Power of Prayer, by a girl named Yano Kishiyo, who is describ-

* The orphans call Mr. and Mrs. Ishii parents.

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ed as the pride of the institution. It runs as follows :—

It is prayer that unlocks the gate of Heaven. The prayer of John Knox was more powerful than the troops of Queen Mary of Scotland. We, the inmates of this institution, must not, therefore, forget to pray.

The writer tells a story well illustrating the intimate relations existing between the kindly superintendent and the orphans under his care. Among the boys is one greatly lacking in brains but endowed with a strong constitution. He had been ordered with other boys to pound rice in a mortar. Presently he came back and said that he would not work unless in company with his "parent," whereupon Mr. Ishii good humouredly consented to share the toil of the rice-pounding. The object lessons with the masks are a singular innovation. Judging from the number of children that confessed to having quarrelled, it would seem that the idea of resembling the red demon has not a very deterrent effect.

THE SPRING EXHIBITION OF ART OBJECTS IN TOKYO.

THE usual Spring Exhibition of Art Objects opens to-day in the Uyeno Fine Art Gallery. Up to the 19th instant five hundred old specimens and more than a thousand new had been sent in. The Household Department exhibits the huge pictorial scroll, a description of which was published in these columns last autumn, depicting scenes from the Chinese invasion of Japan. The exhibits are divided into five Sections: namely (1) Pictures, the judges being Messrs. Yamana Tsurayoshi, Kano Tambi, Taki Watei, Noguchi Yukoku, Ishii Shigekata, Kawabe Mitate, Kawabata Gyokusho, Araki Kampo, Satake Yeiko, and Murase Gyokuden; (2) Architectural Fittings, judged by Messrs. Tsumagi Raiko, Haibara Naojiro, and Kawasaki Chitora; (3) Carvings, judged by Messrs. Kakamura Koun, Ishikawa Komei, Ito Katsumi, Kagawa Katsuhiro, Tsukata Shukyo, Unno Shomin, and Masuda Takashi; (4) Porcelains, Bronzes, and Enamels, Judged by Messrs. Namikawa Sasuke, Wakai Kanesaburo, Takemoto Hayata, Miyakawa Kozan, Obori Seiju, Oki Soba and Suzuki Chokichi; (5) Lacquers, Embroideries, &c., judged by Messrs. Kurokawa Mayori, Ogawa Shomin, Saito Masakichi, Kobayashi Ayazo, and Shibata Kametaro.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD'S NEW POEM.

MR. DOUGLAS SLADEN, in a long letter to the *Chicago Tribune*, mentions the price paid for the MS. poem by Sir Edwin Arnold, "The Light of the World." He says:—"Sir Edwin read the bulk of it to me in installments as he was writing it, and I was one of the fortunate few hundred who were present on the historical occasion when he recited from it in the great hall of the Rokumeikwan—the building which contains the Tokyo Club, whose hospitalities so many good Americans have tasted. All the most representative foreigners in Japan were present, and many of the Japanese, such as that fine old Marquis Nabeshima, erst Daimio, or feudal Prince of Hizen. Tokyo was dressed for church, and Harry Deakin, the Tiffany of Japan, the prince of curio dealers, was so enthusiastic that he is said to have made his $25,000 offer for the American rights there and then, and certain it is that directly afterwards he sent a special agent all the way to New York with the manuscript to negotiate its re-sale.

A HATCHET WANTED.

THE *Tokyo Shimpo's* joke excited a certain amount of merriment when that newspaper proclaimed that the new Japanese journal in four languages was to be directed and edited by Prince Bismarck, Sir Charles Dilke, M. Jules Ferry, and Counts Ito and Okuma. But the fun of this jest is as nothing compared with the laughter stirred by the solemn simpleton who has taken the whole thing *au grand sérieux*, and thought it necessary to inform his readers that "the list of names of persons to be connected with the new journal is sufficient to excite ridicule." Such imbecility is delicious. In future, when reproducing any piece of banter from the vernacular press, we shall add a *nota bene* to save the dear old local dotards from making themselves ridiculous.

GREAT SALE OF ART OBJECTS IN NEW YORK.

WHEN the last mail left New York, collectors of Eastern bric-a-brac in that city were greatly excited about a huge sale of art objects then impending. The collection of no less an amateur than Mr. Brayton Ives, the well-known New York banker, was about to be brought to the hammer. The collection numbered from four to five hundred pieces of Chinese porcelain; 110 fine Japanese swords; 70 specimens of jade; a quantity of fine lacquer, sword furniture, and so forth, the whole representing $500,000 approximately. The affair doubtless constituted a sort of carnival for amateurs, Mr. Brayton Ives' specimens having long been known for their beauty and rarity.

THE BLIZZARD IN ENGLAND.

FROM the first telegram in reference to the blizzard that recently swept over England it might be imagined that the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country were the only districts that suffered, but this morning's message shows how severe must have been the weather when six trains were snowed up in the short distance between Exeter and Plymouth, the most salubrious spot in all England without exception. Protected from the strong north-westerly gales that occur in the spring by the high tors of Dartmoor, and gradually sloping to the sea in a south-easterly direction, this part of Devonshire is a veritable flower-garden in the middle of March. Such an occurrence as that telegraphed to-day certainly never before happened within the memory of man.

RUMOURS.

Now that the excitement of the Diet is past, people are turning their attention to the subject which stands next in public interest, namely, Treaty Revision. All kinds of rumours are circulated as to the terms of negotiation, two journals especially—the *Kokumin Shimbun* and the *Nippon*—giving detailed accounts, item by item, of the bases which they believe to have adopted. Both papers differ materially, and it seems quite unnecessary to reproduce either account, inasmuch as very little reliance is to be placed on their accuracy. We allude to them merely for the purpose of warning our readers that no faith attaches to such rumours.

AN OMISSION.

IN our notice of the funeral ceremony of the late Honourable J. F. Swift, we omitted to mention that, conspicuous among those who attended in the Episcopalian Church was the head of the Greek Church in Japan, the Very Rev. Bishop Nicolai, who appeared in the robes of his rank, his presence recalling the Christian tolerance that has always characterised his faith, and recalling also the fact that, only five days previously, the deceased statesman had assisted at the consecration of the Cathedral of the Resurrection, and received the blessing of the Prelate who now prayed for the repose of his soul.

THE REPORTED NEWSPAPER.

THERE has been much talk lately of a new journal to be started in Tokyo with a capital of three hundred thousand *yen*, subscribed by noblemen. Rumour asserts that the paper is to be published in English, French, and German, and the *Tokyo Shimpo* professes to give full details. The Director, it says, is to be Prince Bismarck; the Managers, Sir Charles Dilke and M. Jules Ferry; the Accountant, Count Okuma, and the Editor, Count Ito.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN DEARBORN.

PAPERS by the American mail bring news of the death, at Tacoma, of Captain Dearborn, well known at this port as being many years in the service of the Pacific Mail Company. It appears that the cause of death was rupture of a blood-vessel in the head, brain fever supervening and death occurring a fortnight after. Captain Dearborn had been connected with the steamers of the company for over 25 years, on the Australian route, subsequently on the coast to Shanghai, and lastly on the Pacific, and was a popular man with passengers. At the time of his death he was surveyor at Tacoma.

THE ELECTION IN THE TENTH DISTRICT OF TOKYO.

WE reported on Tuesday that a disturbance had been caused by *soshi*, acting in the interests of Mr. Tsunoda, the day before the election of a member of the Diet for the Tenth District of Tokyo. It appears, now, that swords were employed by the rioters, and that four persons were wounded, though happily not seriously. Rumour says, however, that in consequence of the lawless conduct of the *soshi*, several electors who desired to vote for Mr. Hatoyama, were deterred from coming to the poll.

ENGLISH AS SHE IS WROTE.

HERE is an example of English as she is wrote in this Settlement; we take it from the columns of the *Japan Herald*:—

We can only say that the *Mail's* returning to the subject by the flurry the editor was in after our paragraph appeared, that his libelling of the foreign mercantile community might lead to farther withdrawals by them of subscriptions and advertisements.

STORM OFF THE COAST OF HITACHI.

EARLY in the morning of the 15th inst. a severe wind storm arose with violent waves, and caused great loss of property and of life. Some 13 boats belonging to the town of Iso-no-hana, are known to have been lost, and others are missing. The number of lives lost cannot yet be accurately ascertained, but from 40 to 50 fishermen are missing. The sound of the waves could be heard at Mito, 7 miles away.

QUOT HOMINES.

TASTES differ, or perhaps we should say, the modes of expressing them. The *Japan Gazette* found some parts of the funeral service last Friday "most enjoyable," and says so, with fine open rusticity. These are not sentiments usually inspired by the obsequies of a man for whom the public mourns.

COUNT ITO.

IT is stated, but we cannot vouch for the truth of the assertion, that Count Ito resigned both the offices held by him, namely, that of President of the House of Peers and Privy Court Councillor, but that, by special command of the Emperor, he has consented to retain the latter post.

THE CHARITY THEATRICALS IN TOKYO.

OWING to the lamented decease of the American Representative, it has been decided to postpone until the 1st of April the theatrical performance originally fixed for the 21st instant, in behalf of charitable objects. The place of performance remains as before, the Rokumeikan, Tokyo.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Movements of political parties, reported changes of Cabinet Ministers and, Governors of Cities and Prefectures, the Korean question, and Treaty Revision constitute the principal topics of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the week.

* * *

The political parties of the present day are all in a transitory state. Regroupings and disintegrations are constantly taking place among them. The *Rikken Jiyu-to* has been holding a series of conferences at Osaka. No accurate report of the results of the meetings has yet been published; but it was rumoured that a certain section of the party contemplated proposing the election of Count Itagaki to the leadership of the party. This question of leadership, in whatever manner it may have been decided, will no doubt cause a further split in the party.

* * *

It is reported from Nagoya that Viscount

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Tanaka Fujimaro, late Minister to France, is organizing a local party professing liberal principles. In league with him are said to be Colonel Aoyama, Mr. T. Kato, formerly Private Secretary of Count Okuma in the Foreign Office, Mr. Narai Kyuichiro, a Private Secretary of the Minister of Education, and other persons of Nagoya origin. For the present, this party will maintain an independent existence, but it is believed that it will eventually join the *Rikken Jiyu-to*.

* * *

Reports about probable changes in the Cabinet still continue to engage the attention of the political world. The *Jiyu Shimbun*, referring to the Minister President's supposed intention to resign his post, advises him to identify himself with some party, and then to decide as to whether he is to remain in office or leave it, according to his party. By this time, observes our contemporary, Count Yamagata must have become aware of the impossibility of keeping aloof from political parties. The perpetual continuance of one set of statesmen in power is liable to engender abuses in official circles, and popular disaffection toward the Cabinet may possibly lead to alienation of the people's hearts from the Imperial House. Thus Count Itagaki's organ counsels the present Minister President to carry courageously into practice the principle of Government by party.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun*, reproducing the opinion of a certain high dignitary of State, observes that the report as to changes in the *personnel* of the Cabinet is not well founded. When Count Yamagata consented to accept his present post, he told his colleagues that he did not like to remain long in office, and that he could not promise to stay after the close of the first session of the Diet. The present rumours as to his intended resignation and consequent changes in the Cabinet, have no other foundation to rest upon than this declaration, made many months ago. Moreover, Count Yamagata has the responsibility of carrying out the changes in the Government necessitated by the amendments in the Budget. Some changes of Cabinet Ministers may take place after the accomplishment of these reforms, but not before. Lastly, our contemporary states that no credit is to be placed in the story now circulated as to the probable appointment of Count Inouye to succeed Count Yamagata, in case the latter resigns. The *Hochi's* information seems to be pretty correct.

* * *

There appears to be ground for the report that some changes will be effected in Governors of Cities and Prefectures. It is rumoured that six or seven new Governors will be appointed from among members of the Diet. We do not know whether this rumour is well founded or not, but there is little doubt that the Cabinet has really under contemplation some changes in the *personnel* of the local authorities. The *Kokkwai*, writing on this subject, observes with regret that many of the Governors of Cities and Prefectures do not seem to be at all capable of discharging the important functions of their office. Much scandal has been from time to time created by exposures of the immoralities and extravagance of local officials. Our contemporary hopes that the Government will replace all Governors of evil reputation by men of proved ability and honesty.

* * *

The *Choya Shimbun* observes that hitherto the appointment of local officials has been in many cases controlled, more by the convenience of the Central Government, than by any consideration as to the capacity of particular persons. For instance, whenever some economy had to be effected, local officers were put on the retired list, and their place taken by functionaries from Tokyo. Such a practice may have caused comparatively little evil in the past, but with the carrying out of the new system of local government, the duties of Governors have become far more difficult and important than before; and our contemporary asks the Government to change its method of appointment. The subordinate functionaries in the various departments of State need not necessarily be men of exceptional ability; but the Governors of *Fu* and *Ken* possess must constructive capacity. Unless this truth is practically recognized by the Government, there is—says the *Choya*—no hope of giving satisfaction to the people of the provinces.

* * *

The Korean question attracts serious attention. Judging from what has appeared in the press on this subject, it appears that the public, especially the rising generation, is in favour of a strong policy towards the peninsular Kingdom. The Government is asked to keep a vigilant watch over the course of events there, and to take steps for the protection of Korean independence, in case any foreign Power should attempt to endanger it. Formerly China's interference in Korean affairs was the principal subject of criticism in this country, but of late a certain section of the nation has come to look with suspicion upon the policy of Russia at the Korean court. This uneasiness is increased by a report that the Korean populace is very much excited because 1891 is the five hundredth year of the rule of the present dynasty, the popular belief being that the House of Li will fall in the five hundredth year of its rule. The *Nippon*, writing on this topic, observes that the history of Eastern countries, especially China, furnishes abundant instances of the founder of a new dynasty of princes predicting the length of his house's tenure of power. Such predictions very often are the means of bringing about their own fulfilment. Chinese and Koreans are peculiarly liable to put faith in prophecies of this nature. Possibly the founder of the present dynasty of Korean kings may have foretold the fall of his family, in accordance with the examples set by some Emperors in China. Whatever be the origin of the prophecy, it is a fact, avers the *Nippon*, that the Korean people have fallen into a mood capable of being imposed upon by daring adventurers. Our contemporary fears that some calamity may befall the distracted nation, in the form of either foreign invasion or civil war. Japan, we are told, has a friendly duty to discharge towards the Koreans in case they should find themselves in trouble, for the two nations are closely related to each other in race, language (written), and history. The *Nippon* asks the Government to pay due attention to Korean affairs.

* * *

As to the policy which Japan ought to pursue towards Korea, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, which represents an intelligent section of the rising generation, writes in an alarmist strain. It believes that Russia has gained a strong foot-hold in the Korean Court, and that the hermit kingdom may at any moment be converted into a Russian dependency. Under such circumstances, it is, says the Tokyo journal, vitally important for Japan, as a means of self-defence to maintain the independence of Korea. The time has come for the Japanese to open their eyes, and to adopt a definite and strong course of action, instead of the temporizing policy hitherto pursued.

* * *

The sudden and unexpected death of the late Minister to Korea, Major Kawakita, is deeply lamented by the press, and the question of the appointment of his successor is discussed with interest. The Tokyo newspapers unite in arguing that Japan's Minister in Korea ought to be a diplomatist of the first rank. The ideal representative described by them is a man of courteous manners but of the greatest decision of character. The *Nippon* observes that hitherto Japanese Representatives at the Korean Court have been simply Resident Ministers or *Chargés d'Affaires*, but that hereafter they ought to have the rank of Minister Plenipotentary and Envoy Extraordinary. As to the appointment of a successor to the late Major Kawakita, the Government is advised to choose some officer in the Army or Navy. The *Kokumin Shimbun* writes in a similar strain, being of opinion that the new Minister ought to be a diplomat perfectly competent to keep the Korean Court in good humour, for both Russia and China are perpetually striving to gain new allies among officials near the King's person.

* * *

The question of Treaty Revision is beginning to attract public attention once more. The Tokyo papers are not yet in possession of trustworthy facts relating to the matter, and their discussions are consequently vague and general. But it is certain from what has already appeared that they will not be satisfied with any terms not decidedly favourable. The *Kokkwai*, after alluding to an alleged treaty programme of Viscount Aoki lately published in the Tokyo press, observes that the particulars of the programme are incredible, as they do not tally with the public professions of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. From his declarations in the House of Representatives, in reply to Mr. Arai Shogo and Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke, and in the House of Peers, in reply to Mr. Nishimura Shigeki, Viscount Aoki's object is inferred to be recovery of tariff and judicial autonomy in part, the granting of mixed residence, in return for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, the withholding of the privilege of owing real estate, as well as that of participating in the coasting trade. Pending the publication of the details of the scheme, the *Kokkai* calls it premature to pronounce any decided opinion either for or against the treaty policy of the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile it recommends its countrymen to keep a keen watch and obtain more trustworthy information on the subject.

* * *

The *Chinsei Nippo*, the organ of the Conservative party under Viscount Torio, asks its countrymen whether they are determined as to the last resort in case Japan's demands be rejected by the Treaty Powers. It is all very well to express dissatisfaction with any scheme of revision not coming up to the desired standard, but how many out of those who opposed the preceding Minister's programme were really prepared to answer the above question? Our contemporary thinks that the number of such people is extremely small. Unless the whole nation makes up its mind to have its wrongs righted, even at the point of the bayonet, it will be futile, says the Conservative organ, to attempt any satisfactory accomplishment of the objects of Treaty Revision.

* * *

The *Kokkai*, writing on the approaching visit of the Russian Prince Imperial, observes that in a certain quarter grave apprehensions are entertained respecting the object of the visit, and strongly condemns people cowardly and unmanly enough to exhibit distrust toward Russia, while in point of fact there exist the best of relations between Japan and that country. Further Russia will become a great purchaser of Japanese tea, and with the development of Siberia, the commercial relations between the two countries will grow more and more intimate. Our contemporary advises its countrymen to receive the august visitor with every possible mark of respect and goodwill.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is engaged in reviewing the history of the late session of the Diet. The *Hochi Shimbun*, alluding to the growth of sericulture in Italy, France, and the United States, calls upon Japanese sericulturists to improve their goods so as to compete successfully with foreign rivals. In another article, the same journal cautions the *soshi* not to adopt violent measures against the Tei family. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* is discussing, in a long series of articles not yet concluded, the various constitutional questions relating to the Budget. The *Mainichi Shimbun* and the *Nippon* are reviewing the labours of the Diet during its first session. The *Jiji Shimpo* is engaged in an interesting series of articles on the development of Japanese navigation and commerce. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* suggests the desirability of granting a maintenance fund to the Imperial University from the Imperial purse.

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THE FUNERAL OF THE UNITED STATES MINISTER.

TEN o'clock on the 13th inst. was the hour fixed for the official funeral of the late Honourable JOHN F. SWIFT, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States in Japan. The body had been carried the preceding evening to the American Episcopalian Church in Tsukiji, and had remained there under military escort during the night, the coffin lying before the chancel, covered with the Stars and Stripes, and under a mass of floral wreaths. The Church, by far the handsomest and most spacious place of Episcopalian worship in Tokyo, proved wholly inadequate to accommodate the large assemblage that gathered to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased. Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, by whom magnificent wreaths had been sent, were represented by their Excellencies Marquis NABESHIMA, Grand Master of Ceremonies; Viscount SUGI, Grand Master of Services; Mr. SANNOMIYA, Vice-Grand Master of Ceremonies; Viscount MATSUDAIRA, Grand Master of Ceremonies; and several of the Ladies in Waiting. All the Ministers of State were present, except H. E. Count YAMAGATA, who is still suffering from influenza, and all the Foreign Representatives, with the exception of H.E. M. SCHEVITCH who also is indisposed, and H.E. M. NEYT, who attended in Yokohama. These with other members of the Corps diplomatique and Consular body, as well as a number of minor Japanese officials, and Naval Officers, American and Japanese, were in full uniform. The front rows of pews were reserved for the use of persons attending officially, and in the remaining space the whole foreign Protestant community of Tokyo—for of absentees there were scarcely any—found seats so long as sitting room was available, and ultimately massed themselves standing. Outside, a battalion of troops was drawn up under arms, and another battalion lined the road on either side at the western entrance to the Tsukiji Settlement. Precisely at the appointed hour the Episcopalian clergymen of the American and British Churches in Japan with the Choristers in surplices, passed up the nave in procession, the Rev. J. M. FRANCIS leading, and the Rev. J. T. COLE reading the prefatory verses of the service. The procession included the Rt. Rev. Bishops BICKERSTETH and WILLIAMS and the Venerable Archdeacon SHAW. Filing past the bier, the clergy took their places on either side of the chancel, and the service proceeded, the lesson being read by the Rev. Mr. COLE, the prayers said by the Rt. Rev. Bishop WILLIAMS, and the Psalm chaunted by the Rev. Mr. FRANCIS. The singing was excellent, especially that of Mr. FRANCIS, and indeed nothing could have been more impressive than the manner of performing the whole service. A somewhat painful impression seems to have been produced by the fact that the official element of the congregation did not observe the usual forms of episcopalian worship, but remained seated throughout. It is obvious, however, that this course is invitable; for among those attending a funeral *ex officio* many, possibly a great majority, do not belong to the sect or creed of the deceased, and are therefore unacquainted with the routine of the service, even supposing that they have no scruples about joining in it. While the last hymn was being sung, the procession of clergymen and choristers formed again and passed slowly down the nave, the coffin being carried behind them, and deposited in the hearse outside. Then with wonderfully little confusion or delay the immense crowd of carriages fell into line, and the cortége took its way to the Shimbashi terminus, a battalion of troops with a band marching in front and another bringing up the rear. At least fifty wreaths and other handsome floral offerings, some prepared in Japanese style, were laid inside the hearse or carried in the procession, and minute guns were fired by Japanese men-of-war lying off Shinagawa as the cortége travelled towards Shimbashi. It is scarcely necessary to add that a decorous but intently gazing crowd lined both sides of the streets throughout the entire distance. On arriving at the terminus, the coffin was carried to the inner waiting-room, where due preparations had been made for its accommodation, and after having seen it deposited there, the Ministers of State, members of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique, and other officials repaired to the chambers in the upper part part of the building, the mass of the mourners remaining below. A brief delay ensued before the platform could be completely cleared for the departure of the special train, which shortly afterwards steamed slowly out of the station, carrying away from Tokyo the remains of a Minister who had won all hearts during his brief term of service in the capital. Here the official ceremonial ended, only the chief mourners, and a very few others accompanying the body to Yokohama.

In accordance with the suggestion made public at the meeting of American residents on the previous day, most of those intending to take part in the Yokohama procession collected at the Railway Station about noon. The platform was kept clear by officials, and marines and sailors from men-of-war in port were drawn up as they arrived opposite the Station buildings. The detachment from the *Alliance* was first on the ground, marching up headed by the band, which had been transferred from the *Omaha* previous to that vessel's departure. The men from the *Volturno*, and those from the *Tsukuba Kan* and the *Hyacinth* came later, and prolonged the line towards the bridge over the creek. The wait at the station was much longer than had been anticipated, and it was not till about 12.50 that the train drew up at the platform. The Diplomatic, Prefectural, Consular, and naval officers collected on the platform near the entrance, the majority of the mourners, however, remaining outside. Some delay took place in removing the hearse from the car in which it had been conveyed from Tokyo, and harnessing the horses that were waiting, but ultimately the coffin, carried by eight bearers (sailors of the *Alliance*) who had mounted guard over it during the journey, was placed in the hearse. A body of clergymen and choristers preceded the hearse as it moved along the platform, among whom were Bishop WILLIAMS with the Rev. Mr. COLE as his Chaplain, Bishop BICKERSTETH with the Rev. Mr. FREESE as his Chaplain, Archdeacon SHAW and the Rev. Mr. WOODMAN, the Rev. Messrs. WILLIAMS and JEFFRYS; the Rev. Messrs. MOORE and GARDNER; and the Rev. Mr. FRANCIS, who acted as precentor. These walked two abreast in the order we have indicated. Outside, the work of organizing the procession took some time, but the various bodies composing it fell into their places with such order and regularity that no confusion occurred, and at length the head of the cortége began to move over the bridge in the following sequence:—

Mounted Police Inspector. Mounted Police Inspector
Four blue-jackets carrying banderoles draped with crape.
The Band.
The American flag draped with crape.
Company of marines with reversed arms, marching in single ranks of 12 men each.
The Clergy.
Pall Bearers. THE HEARSE. Pall Bearers.
Carriage containing Admiral Belknap, Lieut. Reamey, Mr. E. Don, First Secretary of Legation and *Chargé d'Affaires*, and Mr. Gardiner, Second Secretary.
Carriage containing Dr. Whitney, Interpreter of Legation, Ensign Boughter (Admiral's aide), Messrs. G. H. Scidmore, Vice-Consul-General, and J. McLean, Deputy-Consul-General.
Carriage with wreaths.
Two companies of sailors from *Alliance*.
Company of sailors from *Volturno*.
Company of sailors from *Tsukuba Kan*.
Company of sailors from *Hyacinth*.
United States naval officers.
Italian naval officers.
Japanese naval officers.
English naval officers.
American and other residents.
Consular body.
Diplomatic corps and Governor of Kanagawa.
Carriages.
Japanese Floral tributes.
Mounted Police Inspector.

The pall-bearers elected by the American residents were Messrs. J. F. MCGRATH, A. O. GAY, A. GENTER, JOHN LINDSLEY, E. R. SMITH, and W. S. STONE. To this number there were added by appointment of Admiral BELKNAP, Captain TAYLOR of the *Alliance* and Doctor GRAVATT, U.S.N. It will be observed that the most distinguished bodies occupied the last place in the procession, but this apparent reversal of ordinary rule was in reality due to the observance of established custom at naval funerals, the arrangements being under the charge of Admiral BELKNAP. Excellent order was maintained by the large force of police detailed for that purpose, and in consequence the passage of the *cortége* along the streets was unattended by any confusion. The Hearse, drawn by four horses, moved slowly along. The bells of the ships in the Harbour had in-

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dicated half-past one when the head of the procession emerged upon the Bund, and the *Alliance* fired the first of a series of minute guns, followed at a second's interval by the *Volturno* and the *Tsukuba Kan*. The *Hyacinth*, not being a saluting ship, did not take part in the demonstration. The streets all along the line of route, with the exception of the space kept clear for the procession, were crowded by spectators, the windows of the buildings being also all occupied. By the course taken (Honcho-dori, the Bund, and Camp-hill) passage through the business part of the foreign settlement was avoided, but all places of business remained closed till after two o'clock. At the Cemetery the coffin was carried from the Hearse, the chief mourners closely following. Arrived at the temporary grave, which had been dug in the locality set apart for American naval interments, Bishop WILLIAMS and the Rev. Mr. COLE took up their position at the head of the grave, the clergy being grouped together with the Legation and Consular officials, on their right, the marines drawn up in single rank opposite, and the band stationed on the left. The American Flag was now removed from the top of the coffin, and the latter was lowered into the grave. The opening part of the service was read by the Rev. Mr. COLE, and the band then played a solemn dirge. The clergy, led by Bishop WILLIAMS, joined in the Lord's Prayer, and the service having been brought to a close by the Bishop, the hymn "Rock of Ages" was sung, and the mourners dispersed.

In addition to the gentlemen whose names we have already given, there were present the Belgian Minister, French, Russian, Danish, German, Swiss, and British Consuls, Lieut. RICH and officers of the *Alliance*, officers from the *Hyacinth*, *Tsukuba Kan*, and *Volturno*. Mr. MITSUHASHI, and Marquis NEMBRINI-GONZAGA, of the Kencho, and about eighty foreign residents among whom were Dr. HOWE, Dr. TRIPLER, Messrs. F. H. OLMSTED, A. D. BRAMHALL, N. F. SMITH, F. MACONDRAY, A. T. WATSON, C. S. ARTHUR, H. DEAKIN L. EPPINGER, A. ETLINGER, W. A. CRANE, E. A. SARGENT, KILDOYLE, J. MAYERS, E. H. TUSKA, W. DENING, J. H. BROOKE, T. W. KENNAWAY, Rev. Mr. LOOMIS, Rev. Mr. BALLAGH, Messrs. N. J. HANNEN, H.B.M. Judge, J. MENDELSON, W. J. KENNY, J. B. RENTIERS, Rev. Dr. MEACHAM, Messrs. A. BRENT, E. W. TILDEN, M. B. N. HEGT, J. A. FRASER, C. G. WILSON, WILSON WALKER, H. Z. WHEELER, R. M VARNUM, A. STEIN, C. P. LOW, W. T. PAYNE, J. P. MOLLISON, J. R. SIMON, C. POPE, G. W. ADAMS, W. L. MERRIMAN, C. GIBBENS, R. ABEMHEIM, S. SONDHEIM, J. O. AVERILL, Jun., Rev. E. C. IRWINE, Mr. E. LEOPOLD, Professor MILNE, Rev. Dr. HEPBURN, Messrs. C. ROHDE, W. J. CRUICKSHANK, Dr. HARRIS, Messrs. B. GILLETT, A. BARNARD, &c.

The coffin was of *hinoki*, with electro-plated mountings, and covered with cloth. It bore on a centre panel a massive plate with the plain inscription :—

JOHN FRANKLIN SWIFT.
BORN 1ST MARCH, 1829.
DIED 10TH MARCH, 1891.

Many beautiful wreaths were sent, particularly noticeable among which was a splendid one from H.M. the EMPEROR, the ground of which was white, of lillies and orchids, with double violets and snowdrops. Attached to this wreath was a white silk ribbon bearing in silver the Imperial crest. A fine wreath was also sent by the Yokohama United Club.

"*TRUMPETER UNUS ERAT.*"

WE should indeed be sanguine if we imagined that the old habit of misrepresentation, so steadily practised by certain foreign writers in this Settlement, had been abandoned or modified. There is no change. If anything published in these columns can be twisted, however unjustly, into a text for accusing us of running down the foreign merchant, the opportunity is never lost. Of course the aim of this kind of thing is palpable enough. There are SHORTS and CODLINS in every community. Contemptible as the motive is, however, its expression is sometimes sufficiently skilful to call for notice. A case is before us. One of our local contemporaries attacks us vehemently on the pretence that we have claimed for Japanese traders as much integrity of dealing as Chinese traders possess, and even as much as European merchants exhibit. Both propositions are, of course, strenuously denied, and a great deal of fustian flattery is published about "the integrity and upright dealing of respectable British, European and American merchants," and about the "gross libel" of "lowering them to the same level as those (*sic*) with whom they come in contact in trade in the East." One gets a little weary of these blatant panegyrics. They recall too forcibly the Pharisee, his upturned eyes and his pious pæan, "Lord I thank thee that I am not as other men are." Only that the Pharisee spoke good Greek and the local puffer is not strong in English. As to the propositions put into our mouth, they are obtained by the ingenious but somewhat hacknied device of quoting a part of one of our sentences and leaving the rest unconsidered. What we wrote was :—

> Guilds have their uses. It is to their existence from old time in China that we must attribute the development there of a sounder system of commercial morality than can be found in Japan, though individually it is not credible that the Chinaman is one whit more honest than the Japanese, or that either is less honest than the European.

There is here a distinct admission that a sounder system of commercial morality exists in China than in Japan, and there is not a word justifying the inference that "European merchants are lowered to the level" of Japanese merchants. But by cutting out the first five lines, and considering the last four only, the CODLIN-SHORT brood find an opportunity to pose once more in their attractive attitude of trumpeter to the immaculate Western trader. The fact is that the Japanese merchant does not belong to the same social class as the foreign merchant with whom he is usually compared. If the two are to be placed side by side for purposes of comparison, we must either take the very highest types of Japanese, as Messrs. IWASAKI, SHIBUSAWA, MASUDA, ONO, SUMITOMO, FUJITA, KONOIKE, KASHIMA, MITSUI, and a host of others whose names will easily occur to everyone acquainted with Japan; or we must descend to the rear rank in the foreign phalanx. Nobody, however prejudiced, will venture to pretend that the Japanese merchants whom we have mentioned and their peers do not stand on the level occupied by the best foreign merchants, or that the word of any one of them is not just as good as his bond. Equally certain is it, on the other hand, that the general body of persons engaged in commerce in Japan were never in ancient times accorded, and do not yet occupy, the same social position as that enjoyed by merchants in the West, and that, consequently, the conduct of the former is not subserved to the same strict obligations as those acknowledged by the latter. On the one side the gentleman's code of honour, is observed; on the other, the petty tradesman's. Add that, even among Japanese merchants, the least reputable are those who have established relations with foreigners—the *Boyeki Shônin*, a byword in their own country. But when all this has been granted, the only justifiable conclusion is that commerce has not yet been elevated in Japan to the place of respect and consideration accorded to it in the West. It does not follow for an instant that because in Japan a particular occupation is abandoned to men of inferior social position and therefore, speaking generally, less scrupulous integrity than the men who engage in the same occupation in Europe, individual integrity throughout the Japanese nation must be of a lower type than individual integrity in Europe. To this distinction alone we addressed ourselves in the sentences quoted above; a distinction that ought to be clear to the most casual reader. But there are none so blind as those that will not see. To submit such questions to the kind of controversy fashionable with a section of the local press of this settlement, is like employing an agricultural implement to perform a delicate anatomical operation. Mutilation, not dissection, is the result. Honesty forsooth! A peg whereon to hang a panegyric that shall tickle the vanity and attract the subscriptions of the Western merchant—that alone is what these ingenuous metaphysicians seek.

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THE EVER-MEMORABLES.

STILL, even after an interval of six months, the projectors of the celebrated meeting of last September appear to smart so much that even to point a finger towards them, however gently, makes them wince and cry. Obviously a very painful sore has been established, which remains to this day in a festering and sensitive condition. Some suspicion of this state of affairs induced us to be as tender as possible in composing a recent allusion to the Meeting's procedure, but even our zephyr of comment seems to have touched the rankling wound with the force of a hurricane. The projectors, speaking through their organ, are as frantic as though we had mercilessly re-applied the flail that inflicted their original bruises. They charge us with "effrontery;" hysterically proclaim their meeting "ever memorable;" accuse us of a "palpable falsehood;" call us a "person," and declare that "no amount of ignorance, actual or pretended, on our part, can astonish them." Truly had we known that the spot smarted so much we should have applied balsam, not a probe. And yet, could we have expected that our little question would have provoked such an outburst? Our point was simply that no reasons had been given for the resolutions passed by the meeting, and that, as reasons are said to have been subsequently compiled, their submission to the public would be interesting and beneficial. What is the answer, delivered in a tumult of excitement and invective? The answer is that the resolutions passed by the meeting were founded on reasons contained in the advertisement convening the meeting. Here is the advertisement:—

> Negotiations for the revision of the treaties having been resumed, and there being grave reason to apprehend that Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs may be induced to concede the demand of the Japanese Government that British Subjects shall come under the jurisdiction of the Japanese Courts, without any of the safeguards that have, hitherto, been considered necessary for their protection, it is thought that no time should be lost in formulating and transmitting to Her Majesty's Government the views of British Subjects upon this very serious and momentous question. Another point calling for an expression of the opinion of those interested is the alleged proposal to interfere with the vested interests of land holders, by altering the conditions of their tenure without their consent. A Meeting of British Subjects, at which all are invited to attend, will, therefore, be held at the New Chamber of Commerce Rooms on Thursday, the 11th instant, at 3.30 p.m. for the purpose of taking these and cognate matters into consideration, and of taking action thereon.

In this paragraph, it is now alleged, reasons are set forth sufficiently clearly to convict us, who fail to detect them, of the crassest moral obliquity. Now, since we are dealing with folks who lay claim to a great deal of consideration and weight, let us consider briefly what the principal resolution was, and what is the reason now assigned for it. The easiest method of contrast is to place them side by side:—

Resolution.	Reason.
That the time has not arrived either when Consular Jurisdiction can be unconditionally surrendered, or when any estimate can be formed of the period within which it may be unconditionally surrendered.	That there is an apprehension of the British Government's consenting to surrender Consular Jurisdiction unconditionally.

Whether the subtle intellect which places these two statements in the mutual relationship of reason and result, is capable of detecting, in a few simple words, something quite beyond the ken of ordinary brains, we cannot tell. But to us it seem like a large and very audacious jest to pretend that the advertisement contains any semblance of reason for the declaration embodied in the resolution. The advertisement says that the British Government is believed to be about to consent to a certain thing; the resolution says that such consent, or the giving of any pledge to consent at a future date, would be altogether premature. And the advertisement is now declared to contain the reasons for the resolution! We repeat, what we have often written before, unhappy cause that rests on such rotten props of trifling and prevarication! The public wants to know why certain international action would be premature; the answer given hotly and hysterically, is because the nations seem inclined to take such action. A new science of induction appears to be among the probable results of the "ever-memorable" meeting, little else as it has accomplished. Example:—The sky is over-cast; therefore, a fall of rain would be premature.

If, however, the champions of the meeting have still some faith in their logic, perhaps they will examine the words used by the mover of the principal resolution himself. Here is what he said—we italicise the expressions bearing directly upon the present point of discussion:—

> We are here for the purpose of expressing our opinion upon two subjects of great and serious interest and moment to the community at large. That opinion has been passed into the form of a resolution which you have just heard read from the chair, and I will ask you whether it embodies your opinion as representing this community—whether it embodies your opinion upon that question. If it does, *then there is no reason whatever to proceed to any arguments in support of this resolution.*—(Applause.) That applause, gentlemen, shows me that it will not be necessary to depart from *my original resolution, namely, to hold my peace entirely as to the reasons why we have this opinion.*

So, then, the fact is that the resolution was explicitly submitted to the Meeting "*without any arguments in support of it,*" and that its mover avowedly "*held his peace entirely as to the reasons*" for it. Yet now when we venture to affirm that no reasons were given, we are accused of "effrontery," of "palpable falsehood" and of the *ne plus ultra* of ignorance!

No reasons, then, having been put forward in support of the resolutions at the time of the meeting, and it being generally understood that among the Chambers of Commerce to which the resolutions were sent some asked for explanations, there is a natural curiosity to know what form the explanations took. There ought to be no secrecy whatever in such a matter. The projectors of the meeting truly claim that it was perfectly open and above-board; that copies of the resolutions were circulated beforehand; and that everybody was free to come and discuss them. A representative Committee was appointed publicly by this public meeting. Unless, therefore, some unexplained, and, as we think, inexplicable reasons for secrecy have since become apparent, the arguments said to have been compiled by that Committee for transmission to England, and the letters written by it when forwarding the resolutions, ought to be published. We suggested that this should be done, and what answer do we receive from the organ of the promoters of the meeting? That we are "fishing," and that we "write with the object, but scarcely with the hope, of finding out what is being, or has been, done on the subject of Treaty Revision by the Committee of the foreign residents of Yokohama." Is it then essential that the Committee should work in the dark? Are we to conclude that the arguments prepared by it to prove the justice of the resolutions adopted by a public meeting of the residents of Yokohama, will not bear the light of day? Certainly, we did not expect that any such admission would be published. It is indeed true that whenever an attempt has been made by speakers and writers in Yokohama to bolster up the cause of anti-revision by a statement of facts, the result has been a fiasco. But the Citizens' Committee ought not to anticipate such a fate, and do not anticipate it, we are assured. Whatever they have written they must be prepared to stand by, and since it has been written for a public purpose and in pursuance of resolutions publicly passed, secrecy becomes ridiculous. Yet to ask for information is courteously described as "fishing," and the inquirer is sneered at for being so silly as to think that anything can be discovered of the Committee's doings. If these retorts are made with the authority of the Committee, it appears to have lost sight of one of the principal functions assigned to it at the time of its creation, namely "to act as the representatives of the Community in any and all questions incidental to, or arising out of, the foregoing resolutions, now or at any time hereafter." Secret representation was certainly not contemplated by the drafters of this function.

THE HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND THEIR CENSORS.

THE foundation some four or more years ago, by the late Viscount MORI, of five Higher Middle Schools throughout the empire, was a measure the wisdom of which could scarcely be gainsaid by thoughtful educationists. It established centres for more advanced education in the provinces, thus moving in the line of that decentralization which is so much needed at present in Japan. With only one national University, and that in the capital, Japan ran the risk of having an edu-

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cational congestion in her political centre. The dangers to the development of character—which, after all, is the supreme end of true education—from the massing of giddy, ill-balanced youths in the boarding houses of Kanda and Honjo, subject to all the excitements and temptations of a restless city, are excessive, and must be kept particularly in view by educational legislators here. Again, Japan is looking forward, undoubtedly, to the multiplication in due time of her Universities. Already two institutions, one in Tokyo the other in Kyoto, are anxious to receive charters, the former founded by public subscription, the latter mainly by donations from abroad. But the Government itself will, sooner or later, take the matter in hand, and found new Government institutions north and south, probably in some cases by developing these Higher Middle Schools into Universities. A so-called economy, which would break the schools up just when they are getting into working order, seems too rash an extravagance to be coolly reasoned with. And yet members of the Diet, even, it is said, a powerful party there, are or were moving for the abolition of the Higher Middle Schools. They talked of throwing the higher work on the University, and leaving the other work to the ordinary Middle Schools. Probably this is but the thin edge of a wedge whose insertion would lead to further curtailing of Government effort and expenditure on education.

It is a curious movement to spring up in Japan, this movement in favour of free-trade education. In countries where, comparatively speaking, Government is not everywhere as in Japan, but is almost effaced, the question of education is becoming more and more a national one, a question recognized as coming primarily and essentially within the sphere of official action. A heedless, unpractical desire to be in the forefront of reform with HERBERT SPENCER and his American followers, may be a powerful motive with the promoters of the Japanese movement. Yet the loose, haphazard organization of the private adventure schools of Tokyo, with their absurd knuckling-down to the students who attend them, is a sufficient warning against the abolition of State institutions. Let the representatives of the people in their Diet by all means advocate economy and the introduction of every useful and needful change and reform in the national University and schools; but the extinction of these as national institutions would be a national calamity. The fault lies, not in the fact of governmental administration, but in the false ideals and methods of the age, which is fond of constructing and of educating by contract, and is only now, after bitter experience, going back on the miserable system of "payment by results" in school education. We challenge the free-trade educationists to show us any solid grounds for believing that private effort in education avoids, nay rather does not accentuate, the conspicuous weaknesses of our modern education.

However, this may be slightly beside the actual subject in hand. Granted that the censors of the Higher Middle Schools are anxious merely for their levelling down so that the ordinary Middle Schools may be levelled up, the practical question follows, can the University take up their higher work? School work differs from University work mainly in the element of drill. By the time that a student is prepared to enter on University work, it is supposed that he has been sufficiently drilled in the fundamentals of science and art to benefit by a more suggestive, liberal, and original treatment of literary, philosophical, and scientific subjects. Also that he has acquired ease in the use of languages, the grammatical part of which is never learned well in a University course. Are the present Higher Middle Schools really doing University work? It is, we believe, the general testimony of those who have to deal with their graduates, that no work of a University grade is really attempted or carried out. Especially is it felt that the language training is defective, and that the knowledge of English, for instance, shown by entrants at the University leaves much to be desired.

If the criticisms and complaints of those who would deal summarily with the Higher Middle Schools should lead to the reform and better development of these institutions, a good work will have been effected. The present condition of the First Higher Middle School in Hongo has been causing grave anxiety to interested outsiders. Perhaps the Director, Mr. KINOSHITA'S, favourite system of self-rule has not yet had a fair trial, but it cannot be said, so far, to have justified itself, and strange stories of mis-rule and unseemly behaviour are afloat. However, the Director's position is a difficult one, and he is not to be judged precipitately, being a man of energy and ideas. The institution, to begin with, is too large, having to educate yearly from twelve to fifteen hundred pupils. At a University when there is a fair sprinkling of older students, and where each professor is virtually autocratic in his own department, discipline may easily be kept up with a still larger number of students; but in a school, where the masters are subordinates and the pupils all mere boys, matters are different. In any case, for drill in languages, the classes in the Higher Middle School are overgrown. The Hongo institution might, therefore, be well broken up into three Higher Middle Schools. And the energies of the students, moreover, are frittered away on a score of subjects, instead of being concentrated on three or four important branches. A thorough and efficient knowledge of one of the foreign languages used at the University is worth all other training in a mass. They have plenty of little subjects, each of their numerous teachers "making up," to use Mr. FREDERIC HARRISON'S somewhat inelegant analogy, "a kind of mental pemmican, which he crams into the learner's gullet. When the pupil vomits up these pellets, it is called 'passing his examination with honours.' Teachers and pupils cease to think, to learn, to enjoy, to feel. They become cogs in a huge revolving mill-wheel, which never ceases to grind, and yet never grinds out anything but chaff." And so the graduates of these Higher Middle Schools are apt to enter the University in this de-educated state, lame in their knowledge and use of English or German, *the* important matter, and "pemmicaned" in a host of other subjects. We agree with Professor TOYAMA in believing reform and development to be the policy demanded. Smaller classes, more concentration on vital subjects, fewer examinations, more personal supervision, less of system and more of trust in teachers; this is the goal to be striven after. It is surely extravagant and unwise to clamour for the abolition of institutions barely in working order, which are the results of much careful and capable planning and organization, and which are on the lines of the best institutions in other lands.

JUDGE DENNY AND KOREA.

NO name has been more prominently identified with the questions and interests of Korea during the past five years than that of the Hon. O. N. DENNY, who has just left the Hermit Kingdom for America.

Judge DENNY first came to the East as United States Consul-General at Shanghai where his strict adherence to right and justice, and his administrative abilities, won for him the respect and esteem not only of his own nationals, but also of all others brought into contact with him. His relations towards the Government and people of the country to which he was accredited were so uniformly courteous and impartial as to gain the personal respect of high Chinese officials, among whom none entertained greater regard for him than His Excellency the Viceroy of Chili.

In 1885 LI CHUNG-TANG was requested by His Majesty of KOREA to suggest the name of a competent man for the post of Foreign Adviser to the Korean Government, and Judge DENNY was immediately nominated by the Viceroy as one well qualified in nationality, ability, and record for the position. And in urging upon him the advisability of accepting the post, the Viceroy even went so far as to pledge his influence and support to Judge DENNY in maintaining peace and good order, and in advancing the prosperity of the Peninsular Kingdom. Under which circumstances the post was accepted and entered upon in April, 1886.

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At his very induction into office, however, Judge DENNY met with what he esteemed a presage of ominous import, in the segregation of the office of Inspector-General of Customs which had previously been included in the post of Foreign Adviser. By this act the Korean service became a department of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China.

From the very first Judge DENNY devoted himself entirely to the interests and good of Korea. And while at Söul, as at Shanghai, his manly qualities won for him the warm personal regard of all, his vigorous, single-hearted measures to rectify the soiled and turgid conditions produced by conflicting political elements in the Peninsula gained for him enmity in quarters both influential and unscrupulous. He conducted the administration of his office with tact and courage. He soon found that, while it would be next to impossible to inaugurate many of the reforms he contemplated, he could, and did, unearth many abuses. Grasping with proper estimate of their importance the true condition and aspect of affairs, internally as well as externally, he attempted to provide, as far as the duties of his post made it incumbent upon him to do so, a solution for existing difficulties. His policy, as far as we can judge of it from those portions made public, was friendship and strict neutrality towards Foreign Powers, and purification of the shamelessly corrupt native administration. Throughout his whole course it is conceded by even those who differ widely from him politically, that he was conscientious and sincere in the discharge of his duties to the Korean Government. No one has yet thought of charging him with subterfuge or a "questionable alliance." It is out of the question to speak at any length of his public career as Foreign Adviser. In fact it is impossible at this early date to properly estimate the possible bearings of the measures advocated or accomplished by him. Among the most important of these is undoubtedly the obtaining of the return of Port Hamilton to the Korean Government. This harbour, important only for strategetical purposes, had been occupied by England at considerable expense. Her object was notorious. Judge DENNY knew that England's presence there in such an attitude would render all claims of the neutrality of the Peninsula, especially in Russia, not worth the paper they were made on. And though no Anglo-Russian question had existed here in the East, his course could not have been otherwise than perfectly plain. Previous to his time others had recognised the dangerous character of the occupation of the port, but had made no attempt to secure its surrender. Under the sanction of His Majesty the King of KOREA, Judge DENNY prepared a statement of the facts and bearings of the case, and forwarded it to the English Government with a request in the name of the KING for Port Hamilton's surrender. This reasonable and straightforward course met with immediate success, the English Foreign Office cabling, we are told, the surrender of the port. Thus was a serious impairment of the neutrality of Korea remedied and an unmistakable assurance given to the Treaty Powers of the sincerity of her attitude towards them.

Another important measure accomplished by Judge DENNY was the dispatching of Embassies to the United States and Europe. The making of the Treaties was the death-blow to Korean isolation, and while the foolish "Hermit" policy was undoubtedly voluntarily given up by the leading Progressionists of the realm, their sincerity still needed one further seal, which was given in this dispatch of Koreans to the various Governments of the "barbarians." The measure was also important from another standpoint. It had an intimate bearing upon certain questions already mooted as debateable. Upon the appointment of these two Embassies the fight began. China immediately denied Korea's power to accredit envoys; this was defended by Judge DENNY; and China's last argument was a fleet in Korean waters to forcibly detain the envoys if they should attempt to depart.

It is needless to discuss here the character of such an interference. Both Embassies got off, the Envoys to Europe going as far as Hongkong where they stranded, native courage giving out. The Embassy to the United States embarked in the U.S. flagship *Omaha*, which, on her way out, met the Chinese Fleet. Unconscious of how their prey was slipping through their hands, the Chinese saluted the little ship as she steamed through their midst, thus missing their only opportunity to "argue" on the Envoy question. The Embassy arrived safely at Washington; was received as the representative of a Sovereign Power, and is still maintained there by the Korean Government.

The backbone of this Embassy was undoubtedly its Foreign Secretary, Dr. H. N. ALLEN, who, selected for the post by Judge DENNY, was in thorough sympathy with his views, and successfully piloted the Embassy through some of its dangers. And possibly if the European Embassy had had such a backbone, it might have gone farther than Hongkong.

The greatest work Judge DENNY did for Korea was, probably, his discussion of her relations to China. After making a thorough investigation of the latter's charge of vassalage, and becoming convinced of its slender nature, he embodied the results of his investigations in a small brochure entitled "China and Korea." By his efforts not only has the sovereignty of the Korean KING been vindicated against the charges of China, but also the misty and suspicious historical precedents appealed to by her have been exhibited in their true bearing on the case, and completely invalidated as premises upon which to base a claim of dependency. An attempt was made, we are told, to prepare an answer, but as it has never to our knowledge appeared, we surmise that the attempt was abandoned, probably for lack of evidence.

In dealing with the internal condition of Korea, a more complicated problem presented itself to Judge DENNY. The KING, surrounded by a mass of corrupt officials, was, and is, almost powerless to inaugurate reforms. Every attempt to introduce the adjuncts of modern civilization had accomplished nothing more than the enrichment of a few officials. The Powder Mill was in ruins; the Mint idle; the Postal system a failure; the equipment of the Army a farce, and the steamers worthless or attached for debt. Such spasmodic efforts at progress might have done among some people, but among the Koreans their end was sufficient to convince anyone that the route of reform for the Peninsula did not advance viâ Powder Mill, Mint, Post Office, Army, and Steamships. As internal improvements some of these things must come sooner or later, but more radical reforms were necessary before such adjuncts could become even a possibility. Judge DENNY trusted to accomplish this by the appointment of a Board of Control composed of two foreigners and three high noblemen, who should have entire charge of the financial affairs of the realm. The efficacy of such a measure can be seen at a glance. By this he would have swept away the whole brood of parasitical sycophants who now drain the resources of the country into their own coffers, and would have placed in the hands of responsible men power and means to further the development of the country. More than once this was actually promised by the KING, but the "boodlers" about HIS MAJESTY knew just as well as Judge DENNY against whom such a measure would work, and its realization proved abortive on one pretext or another. That this measure would make possible other reforms which will benefit the people cannot well be denied, and it remains to be seen whether Judge DENNY'S scheme does not hereafter prove the final solution of internal problems.

The most unpopular measure advocated by Judge DENNY was the abrogation of the privileges now enjoyed by the Yang Bans, the hereditary aristocracy of the land. The idleness and extravagance of this class render national prosperity an impossibility. Holding up to the KING the courageous and wise policy of HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY of JAPAN towards the *Samurai*, Judge DENNY advocated an analogous course towards the Yang Bans, pointing out the good which would accrue from the accession of this caste to the wealth-producing classes of the nation.

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The only result was intense distrust and enmity on the part of the Yang Bans.

Judge DENNY met, in the discharge of his duties, experiences which are the lot of public men the world over. He encountered a full portion of personal abuse and vilification; but this, coming as it did from persons who misunderstood him and his public course, who found in him a rock of offence over which they stumbled to failure, rather redounded to his credit. The enmity of some is more honourable than their friendship. We can only say that with the departure of Judge DENNY, Korea loses an able and tried official, and HIS MAJESTY a staunch friend. The old office of Foreign Adviser has now been abolished, and in its place two new offices are created, one, that of Legal Adviser, being filled by the former Consul-General of the United States at Yokohama, Mr. GREATHOUSE; the other, that of Financial Adviser, being filled by General CHAS. LE GENDRE, formerly of Tokyo.

GUY PALMERSTON.

MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN INDIA.

THE last official report on the moral and material progress of India contains some interesting information about the great experiment of applying municipal institutions generally in India. In every province the cities and larger towns manage their own local affairs, through the agency of commissioners or committees appointed from among the citizens. The municipal bodies exist, raise funds, and exercise powers under enactments which provide separately for the special requirements of each province, and of the three presidency capitals, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. In most places the majority of the commissioners or committees are elected by the townsfolk under precise rules, while in some towns all, and in all towns some, municipal members are appointed by the Government. In almost every municipality one or more Government officials are members; but the number of Indian and non-official members everywhere exceeds the number of Europeans and officials. The municipal bodies are subject to the control of the Government in so far that no new tax can be raised, no work costing more than a definite sum can be undertaken, and no serious departure from the sanctioned budget for the year can be made without the previous consent of the Government; and no rules or bye-laws can be enforced without similar sanction and full publication. In Great Britain, it may be remembered, local bodies are subject to similar control. The sources of municipal revenue are mainly:—house tax, tax on rentals, octroi duties, bazaar or market rents, carriage tax, water rates, conservancy taxes, rents of public lands and properties, public gardens and parks. The objects on which municipal funds can be spent are, mainly, water supply, hospitals and dispensaries, streets and roads, vaccination, drainage and sanitation. Muncipalities do more for the benefit of their citizens under these heads than was done before by Government officers; and the commissioners or committees evince for the most part diligence and public spirit in the performance of their honorary duties. The interest in the municipal elections, and in municipal affairs generally, is growing on the whole every year. It is reported that in every province municipal work is generally well done, and municipal responsibilities are faithfully performed, though occasional shortcomings and failures occur in particular towns. The tendency of these local bodies is to be slow in incurring new expenditure; and they are generally unwilling to impose new taxes even for purposes in themselves beneficial. In some towns there is a tendency to devote educational funds mainly to middle or higher education rather than to primary schools. The members of municipal bodies are diligent in their attendance to work, whether at meetings for business or on benches for decision of petty criminal cases. The more important totals of municipal statistics for British India are:—Number of municipal towns, 745; total population, 14¼ millions; total income in 1888-1889, inclusive of loans, Rx.* 3,385,882; total expenditure, Rx. 3,546,750; yield of octroi duties, Rx. 739.908; yield of direct taxes, or imposts other than octroi, Rx. 1,316,221; amount of loans credited in the income of the year, Rx. 579,420. For the conduct of port and harbour affairs local bodies called Port Commissioners have been established at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Rangoon, Kurrachee, and some few smaller ports. Their income is raised partly by tonnage dues on shipping, and partly by rates charged for the use of wharves, storehouses, and appliances for landing goods. Local merchants, Indian and European, sit on these port trusts, and on the whole give much satisfaction to the public and to traders. Their funds are spent on pilots, on port and harbour improvements, and port conservancy of all kinds; some of the port trusts have borrowed considerable sums for the construction of docks, wharves, and other permanent improvements. The yearly income of these trusts ranges from Rx. 440,000 in Bombay and Rx. 330,000 in Calcutta, to small sums in the case of minor ports; every trust pays its way and provides a sinking fund for its loans, while most of the port trusts have during the last 10 years materially reduced the rates of harbour dues on shipping and the rates of charge for wharves and landing facilities. The local bodies charged with the administration of local funds and undertakings in rural districts are of more recent creation than the municipalities and port trusts. In the older provinces there is a board for each district, the members of which are partly nominated and partly elected by local or subdivisional boards. These boards are charged with the expenditure and control of all funds available for local roads and bridges, local hospitals and sanitation, and in some provinces they undertake the control of educational affairs in their jurisdictions. In Madras and in Bengal these boards, or analogous bodies, have existed for several years, and are doing good work in a manner commended by the local authorities. Elsewhere the district and local boards are gradually establishing themselves as independent bodies, which conduct local affairs to the satisfaction of the people and the Government.

* Rx.=tens of Rupees.

THE NEW BRITISH FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT.

ONE of the characteristics of recent British legislation is the application of codification to various topics which have been the subjects of previous legislative enactments. A considerable number of English philosophical lawyers and jurists had been for years urging the necessity and importance to the public of codifying whole areas of English law. Sir JAMES STEPHEN, Sir FREDERICK POLLOCK, Lord COLERIDGE, and others would, for example, have the whole criminal law in two codes, one of crimes and punishments, the other of criminal procedure; they would have the law of evidence and much else put in a similar form. Indeed, in 1873, Lord COLERIDGE, then Attorney-General, introduced into Parliament a Bill, drafted by Sir JAMES STEPHEN, codifying the English law of evidence. In 1878 Sir JOHN HOLKER, the Conservative Attorney-General, introduced a bill containing a criminal code drafted by the same eminent lawyer, which was ultimately referred to a Commission, and the bill was mentioned in the QUEEN'S Speech in 1882, but neither measure ever got beyond the first reading, and whether they will ever see the light again is a matter of considerable speculation. Meantime, by a process characteristically English, the work of codification goes on, through not called by that name, being performed, as it were, in the dark. The English Parliament and English statesman will never do anything which they have theoretically the right to do; they will seldom or never do anything on a large scale unless forced by hard necessity. They will take existing machinery and alter it here, mend it there, and patch and cobble it until nothing of the original structure is left. Then it will occur to them that it is better to sweep the whole thing away, and substitute entirely new machinery. In legislation, to take a

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hypothetical case, an Act dealing with Highways was passed in 1786; it was supplemented and altered in 1787; in 1814 it was amended by a special Act; in 1820 it was further amended by two clauses in the Act of a local vestry; in 1827 it was further amended in another Act of another local vestry, and so the process went on until only the merest shreds of the original Act were left, and in 1879 it occurred to somebody in authority that there might be advantage in bringing together the thirty or forty Acts and the hundreds of judicial decisions dealing with the whole subject. Then a new statute was passed embodying the remaining portions of all the previous Acts and the results of the decisions, and this became the Act at present in force. This, we say, is a purely hypothetical case, but anyone who cares to examine the law on, say, Bills of Exchange prior to the codifying Act in 1881, or on Merchant Shipping prior to the great Act of 1854, will find that our hypothetical statement underestimates, rather than exaggerates, the chaotic condition of English legislation.

Among the latest instances of this codification is one in which our readers are very largely interested. We refer to the Foreign Jurisdiction Act of 1890 (53 and 54 Vict. chapter 37), entitled "An Act to consolidate the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts." From the 3rd Schedule to this Act it repeals wholly seven different statutes and two sections of another statute. These are the great Foreign Jurisdiction Act of 1843, the amending Acts of 1865, 1866, 1875, and 1878, as well as the Jurisdiction Acts relating to Siam and the Straits Settlements of 1857 and 1870, and two sections of the Slave Trade Act of 1876. In addition to this, the 2nd Schedule gives HER MAJESTY power by Order in Council to revoke or vary the statute of 1861 relating to Sierra Leone, and one of 1867 relating to South Africa, while the 1st Schedule gives the QUEEN power to extend the provisions of all or part of twelve different statutes dealing with such various subjects as Admiralty offences, evidence, fugitive offenders, merchant shipping, and a formal ascertainment of British law, Colonial law, and foreign law. Fortunately the new Act reduces this chaos to order, and the whole subject of Foreign Jurisdiction is practically contained within the four corners of an Act of nineteen sections. The entire matter of the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts is described by Sir JAMES STEPHEN in his History of the Criminal Law of England as one "of great curiosity and very little known." It includes not only various Acts of Parliament, but innumerable Orders in Council. Sir JAMES says:—"The importance and curiosity of these Orders lie in the fact that they show how wide is the extent over which English Criminal law is in force, and under how great a variety of circumstances it is administered." This is very true, for these Acts, as we know, are in force in such countries as China, Japan, Siam, and various Mahommedan States, where they, in fact, form the bases of laws under which British subjects are governed; but they also deal with such territories as the groups of islands in the South Pacific and with the slave trade wheresoever carried on.

The new Act consolidates, without material alteration, the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts already referred to, and it covers two classes of countries; first, those in which "by treaty, capitulation, grant, usage, sufferance, and other lawful means HER MAJESTY the QUEEN has jurisdiction," and secondly those countries, which are not subject to any Government, over which the QUEEN might obtain jurisdiction—in other words uncivilized countries like certain regions of Africa and the South Sea Islands. The Act provides that HER MAJESTY may hold, exercise, and enjoy jurisdiction in these countries in the same manner as if she had acquired that jurisdiction by cession or conquest of territory. The definition of "Foreign Country" is, "any country or place out of HER MAJESTY'S dominions" and is therefore of the largest character. In the case of countries having no Government, the Act *ipso facto* gives the QUEEN jurisdiction over her subjects residing there; in other countries, of course, the exercise of jurisdiction depends upon treaty. Section 3 provides that matters done in pursuance of the QUEEN'S jurisdiction under the Act shall be as valid as if done according to the local law, and it is provided that whatever is so done shall be recognized by every Court under the QUEEN'S authority. There is an improvement here on the old Acts, which only provided that the validity in question was to be recognized by the Courts in the QUEEN'S dominions, leaving the QUEEN'S Courts outside her dominions to recognize the Act or not as they pleased. By section 4 the answers of the Secretary of State to questions propounded to him with that object, are to be taken as conclusive evidence as to the existence or extent of the QUEEN'S Jurisdiction in a foreign country. By section 6 the QUEEN has power by Order in Council to direct that all persons charged with offences in a foreign country may be sent for trial to British possessions, and by section 7 HER MAJESTY has a corresponding power to direct where the punishment of persons convicted of an offence in a foreign country may be carried out. For the protection of the prisoner, however, it is provided that the prisoner's witnesses may be examined in the place in which the crime was committed, and that the law applicable is to be that of the British Court in the country in which the offence is alleged to have been committed. Thus, if the QUEEN ordered that a certain offence committed in Japan be tried in Hongkong, the law governing the reception of evidence on the trial of the prisoner would be that applicable to British subjects in Japan, not to those resident in Hongkong. The remainder of the statute gives protection to persons acting under the Act and deals with the extent to which Orders in Council are to be void because of repugnancy to the principal Act. Section 14 continues the power of section 6 of the Act of 1878, under which the QUEEN has the same power for the government of her subjects in any vessel not more than a hundred miles from the coast of China and Japan, as she has with regard to subjects in this country. Sir JAMES STEPHEN, in commenting on the corresponding section of the Act of 1878, suggests that this must mean any vessel other than a British ship, inasmuch as all persons on board any British ship are already subject to the criminal law of England. The other sections of the Act to which we have not specially referred are either formal, or refer to Acts connected with the slave trade. It is, at any rate, satisfactory to know that there is now no necessity to search through old volumes of statutes, some of them very difficult of access to the persons chiefly concerned, in order to ascertain the powers given to the executive by Parliament for the government of British subjects in these countries.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DID JESUS TEACH ANYTHING NEW IN ETHICS?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—If not he is a more wonderful person than if he did. If he did, the superior morality of the man who practises the teachings of the Son of Mary might be ascribed to the new teaching of morals by the Nazarene. Admitting that the world had a perfect code, of ethics, the state of the world at that time and the confessions of its best men show plainly that man was unable to obey that which he acknowledged to be right. The same thing is evident by comparing nations who have morals without Christ to-day. Confucius was a good teacher, but you ask the Chinese if they believe the Confucian code they will say "Yes;" ask them if they observe it, they will say "No." They will pick up a piece of paper in the street sooner than step on it lest it should have one of the characters of their language on it, but a dying man they will pass by with indifference; Confucius is dead.

Whether Jesus taught any new morals or not, I leave for the next man to tell; if he did not, his is the harder task of reaching across the centuries, and in spite of all our fleshly and selfish propensities, giving the spirit power to conquer, and enabling his true followers to live the best life in their power. A new life is infinitely more than a new code of ethics. A sign-board can tell a man where to go, but the ability to go comes only with life. Jesus said he came that men might have life, and have it abundantly. No other teacher ever made such a claim. Jesus is living.

NON-SECULARIST.

March 12th, 1891.

EX-SECRETARY WINDOM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Your Kyoto correspondent, "M. L. Gordon," deserves hearty thanks for his defence of ex-Secretary Windom against the aspersions of your San Francisco correspondent. His quotation from *Harper's Weekly* would have even greater force if he had stated that the editor of that paper is, if not a Democrat, at least a "Mugwump," and is far from inclined to treat Republican office-holders with praise.

Permit me to quote from another paper, whose editor is far less inclined than even George William Curtis to treat Republicans with leniency. The *Nation* of Feb. 5th says, editorially, "Mr. Windom was one of those useful average statesmen who are necessary to all countries, and who keep things going in about the right way from

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generation to generation. He had twice filled the office of Secretary of the Treasury, and in both instances creditably." Surely, a public official whom political opponents praise so strongly cannot be a very bad man.

The writer can testify, from personal knowledge, to the high esteem in which William Windom was held by the people of Minnesota, and especially by the residents of Winona, his home. He was regarded by all citizens, regardless of party affiliations, as an honest and upright man. He was honoured by elections to the House of Representatives and the Senate, and by the complimentary vote of Minnesota in at least one Republican convention for the nomination of a President. At the time of the infamous "Salary Grab," he was one of the few Representatives who returned the "back pay" into the Treasury.

Permit one anecdote to illustrate his decision of character in what he thought to be the right course. He entered Congress as a teetotaler at a time when there was seldom, if ever, a public banquet at which wine was not served. He invariably turned down his glass, and was many times the only abstainer in a large company. He was ever regarded as a sincere Christian, a man of a pure and upright life, both in private and in public.

E. W. C.

Mito, March 14th, 1891.

GENERAL SHERMAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The unjust disparagement of General Sherman in the communication from your San Francisco Correspondent, as contained in the last number of your weekly issue, leads me for the first time in a twenty years' residence in Japan to send a communication to the press here. Permit me as one who was, as a private soldier, as an officer on staff duty or in command of a regiment, near General Sherman, and most of the time under his direct command for four years from 1861 to 1865, to say that your correspondent's representations of General Sherman are extremely unjust. He speaks of his march to the sea as "his *one* achievement," of his nonentity since the war, characterising him as "a chatterbox."

Impartial history will record the march to the sea as *one* of the achievements of General Sherman, but *only* one. General Adam Badeau, who was on General Grant's staff tells us in his *Century* article on General Grant, that Grant "often spoke of Sherman as the greatest soldier living," and this was before his march to the sea. General Grant was most intimate with General Sherman; the latter served under Grant for two years, and Grant said it was to Sherman that he largely owed his successes in the West, the safety of his army the first day at Shiloh, the victory at Vicksburg, and at Chattanooga.

General Sherman was a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point in 1840, he served for twelve years in various subordinate positions in the army; and then resigned his commission and engaged in other pursuits. The outbreak of the rebellion found him in charge of a military academy in the State of Louisiana, but before that State seceded from the Union, General Sherman wrote to the Governor of the State, asking to be relieved of his position at the academy. The moment the State determined to secede he wrote, "on no earthly account will I do any act, or think any thought hostile to, or in defiance of the old government of the United States." After the battle of Missionary Ridge, in Nov., 1863, General Grant was transferred to the East, and General Sherman was assigned to the immediate command of the four armies of the Tennessee, the Cumberland, the Ohio, and the Trans-Mississippi. His masterly conduct of the Atlanta Campaign, in the spring and summer of 1864, when, with wonderful strategy he drove the Confederate army under the able General Joseph E. Johnston back to Atlanta, with but little loss to his own army, and, capturing that city, at once laid his plans for the march to the sea, which he successfully carried out, and then the march through the Carolinas to the final surrender at Chapel Hill, form a fitting close to four years of service which was full of brilliant "achievements."

On these campaigns there was only one tent used by General Sherman's head-quarters, and that was used by his Adjutant-General and his clerks. General Sherman slept with his staff on the ground under a tent fly. From March, 1869, to November, 1883, when he reached the age at which officers are retired on half-pay, General Sherman was General-in-Chief commanding the United States Army. During that time, "he traversed every State and Territory and visited every military post in the United States, except two." With the exception of General Scott, Sherman held this position the longest of any man who has been raised to it in the United States. General Sherman, though loyal to the core, was never a partisan in politics; no one can point to any one of his speeches since the war as a partisan political speech; although he had a brother, John H. Sherman, in the United States Senate, who has had Presidential aspirations, the General always refused to use his influence directly or indirectly to advance the political interests of his brother. I leave it for the unprejudiced reader to judge whether the march to the sea was "his one achievement," and whether he has been only a nonentity and a "chatterbox" since the war ended.

Sincerely yours, J. D. DAVIS.

Dōshisha, Kyoto, March 16th, 1891.

THE YOKOHAMA GAS COMPANY.

Sir,—I should like to be informed when foreigners became associated with the Yokohama Gas Company, as appears by some accounts published in the *Japan Gazette* on Saturday night?

Respectfully, C. A. W.

Yokohama, March 16th, 1891.

THE AMERICAN MINISTER'S FUNERAL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—As a report has been widely circulated in Tokyo to the effect that the body of the late U.S. Minister was left without a guard during the journey from Shimbashi to Yokohama, may I trouble you to state that the sailors, who acted as pall-bearers, were stationed in the car with the Minister's body during the transit.

Yours truly, X.

Tokyo, March 18th, 1891,

THE BUDGET.

The Budget for 1891-92 was promulgated on the 11th instant. The total amount of the revenue is estimated at *yen* 83,462,532.755, and of the expenditure at *yen* 77,012,252.300. The maximum amount of Treasury Bills to be issued in the 24th fiscal year is fixed at *yen* 17,913,000. The following is a summary of the Budget:—

REVENUE.

Ordinary Revenue.

1.	Taxes	66,423,196.742
2.	Licenses and Fees	1,766,393.684
3.	Receipts from Government Industries and Properties	9,262,709.192
4.	Miscellaneous Receipts	720,694.997
5.	Interest on money deposited	1,370,870.255
	Total	79,543,864.870

Extraordinary Revenue.

1.	Donations	90,646.000
2.	Sales of Government Properties.	656,222.549
3.	Miscellaneous Receipts	147,289.000
4.	Amounts transferred from contributions for Coast Defence...	75,521.002
5.	Amounts transferred from fund for preparing and issuing Consolidated Public Loan Bonds..	100,350.000
6.	Amount transferred from Distress Relief Fund	163,100.000
7.	Amount transferred from the previous Fiscal Year	2,685,539.334
	Total	3,918,667.885
	Grand total of Revenue	83,462,532.755

EXPENDITURE.

Ordinary Expenditure.

1.	The Crown	3,000,000.000

Foreign Department.

1.	Department Proper	145,619.200
2.	Legations and Consulates	595,478.119
	Total	741,097.319

Home Department.

1.	Ise and other Shrines	27,113.000
2.	The Department Proper	316,156.161
3.	Shrines, Temples, &c.	179,698.250
4.	Expenditure on offices for Superintending Public Works	130,293.000
5.	Expenses of Penitentiaries	388,313.652
6.	Railway Bureau	23,674.875
7.	Metropolitan Police Bureau	293,998.000
8.	Police Expenses of the Seven Islands of Izu	1,580.000
9.	Hokkaido Administration Board	1,092,531.081
10.	Sapporo Agricultural College.	38,589.977
11.	Hokkaido Prison	517,792.171
12.	Cities and Prefectures	4,768,960.330
13.	Local Expenses of the Bonin Islands	8,124.000
14.	Local expenses of Okinawa Prefecture	152,897.600
15.	Local police expenses of Tsushima	8,149.000
16.	Local police expenses of Oshima	6,705.000
	Total	7,954,576.097

Financial Department.

1.	The Department Proper	441,265.500
2.	National Debts	21,370,870.255
3.	Rewards and Pensions	896,282.524
4.	The Cabinet	284,939.000
5.	The Privy Council	113,709.000
6.	The House of Peers	227,585.000
7.	The House of Representatives.	338,038.650
8.	Accounts Examination Bureau.	113,098.251
9.	Administrative Court	35,533.000
10.	*Official Gazette* Bureau	153,748.000
11.	Custom Houses	210,405.000
12.	Expense of levying Domestic Taxes	1,718,823.128
13.	Cost of dealing with currency.	511,107.000
14.	Moneys for miscellaneous repayments, and for supplying deficiencies and losses	160,000.000
15.	Salaries of officials on Retired list	131,563.604
16.	Reserve fund of the Treasury	1,000,000.000
	Total	27,706,967.912

War Department.

1.	The Department Proper	214,714.672
2.	Military Expenses	11,549,667.156
3.	Gendarmerie	296,576.076
4.	Colonial Militia	438,653.845
5.	Donation to the *Yasukuni Jinja*	7,550.000
	Total	12,507,161.749

Naval Department.

1.	The Department proper	138,399.202
2.	Naval Expenses	5,577,071.764
	Total	5,712,470.966

Judicial Department.

1.	The Department proper	180,137.944
2.	Courts of law	3,512,399.209
	Total	3,692,537.153

Educational Department.

1.	The Department Proper	169,514.400
2.	Schools and Libraries	746,068.855
	Total	955,583.255

Agricultural and Commercial Department.

1.	The Department Proper	326,670.539
2.	Forestry Offices	504,163.470
	Total	830,834.009

Department of Communications.

1.	The Department Proper	334,581.079
2.	Marine School (*Shosen Gakko*)	26,022.700
3.	Expenses of Communications	4,303,162.907
4.	Postal and Telegraphic School	20,437.800
	Total	4,684,266.486
	Sum total of ordinary expenditure.	67,785,432.906

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

Foreign Department.

1.	Cost of Repairs	4,289.000

Home Department.

1.	Subsidies	314,975.000
2.	Subsidy towards expense of shrines	10,000.000
3.	Subsidies towards expense of works	409,412.573
4.	Repairs and construction of rivers	795,000.000
5.	Cities and prefectures	850.000
6.	Yokohama Harbour Works	123,000.000
7.	Office for building shrines	1,500.000
8.	Cost of building offices & houses	249,600.000
9.	Rebuilding of shrines	65,000.000
10.	Construction and repairs	36,217.700
11.	Emigration of Totsugawa residents	22,543.200
12.	Competitive exhibition for products of Hokkaido	12,443.300
13.	Expense of building railway between Yokokawa and Karuizawa	1,000,000.000
14.	Rebuilding of temporary Houses of Parliament	215,423.334
	Total	3,255,965.107

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Finance Department.	
1. Subsidies	978,224.000
2. Cost of preparing land records.	172,693.423
3. New works	12,921.165
4. Expense of preparing and issuing Consolidated Public Loan Bonds	100,350.000
5. Subsidy to Central Famine Relief Fund	163,100.000
6. Expense of decorating and furnishing the House of Peers	16,050.000
7. Expense of decorating and furnishing the House of Representatives	16,945.000
Total	1,460,283.588
War Department.	
1. Construction of Forts	250,741.145
2. Construction of Artillery	76,284.336
3. Arms and Ammunition	382,286.748
4. New works	456,246.398
Total	1,165,558.627
Naval Department.	
1. Construction of men-of-war	675,121.000
2. Expense of arms and torpedoes	188,300.000
3. Works	642,233.300
4. Construction and repairs	138,945.434
5. Repairs and construction of vessels	73,361.000
Total	1,717,961.034
Judicial Department.	
1. Investigation of laws	4,166.500
2. Buildings	56,000.000
Total	60,166.500
Educational Department.	
1. New works	50,000.000
Agricultural and Commercial Department.	
1. Survey of forests and fields	39,151.500
Communications Department.	
1. Subsidies	943,000.000
2. Expenses of travelling abroad.	12,167.640
3. Construction	518,276.358
Total	1,473,473.998
Sum Total of extraordinary expenditure	9,226,819.354
Grand Total of Expenditure	77,012,252,300

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held in the Society's Rooms, No. 17, Tsukiji, on Tuesday, March 17th, 1891, at 4 p.m., Rev. Dr. Amerman, Vice-President, in the chair.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The Chairman then called on Mr. Van de Polder to read his paper entitled "An Abridged History of the Copper Coins of Japan." The following is an abstract:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—For several years past I have occupied myself with collecting old coins of Japan, and as I believe that few have yet given anything about this most interesting subject, I have in my leizure time, by the aid of my ancient as well as new Japanese books about the coins of Japan and China, tried to put together a good deal of historical, and I believe very interesting information and particulars, and I might venture thus to call this little work an abridged history of the copper coins of Japan. I have of course consulted many Japanese coin books, but the work where I have found the most information is the great work of 46 volumes published by the Okurasho or Finance Department, called *Dai Nippon Kwa-heishi*, in the 9th and 10th years of Meiji (1876 and 1877) in the time of Count Okuma's administration of that department. From what I have been able to find in my books, we see that coins were already in use before the time of Empress Jingo Kogo. This Empress, as is known, crossed over to Korea, and is said to have conquered Shinra, Koma, and Haksai, which are the names of different parts into which Korea was divided. This Empress was the consort of Tchin Ai Tenno who died in the 9th year of his reign (201 A.D.); the Empress became Regent and reigned for 69 years until her death in the year 269 A.D. In the year 201 A.D. she crossed over to Shinra, a part of Korea, embarking at a place called Wakitsu (in Tsukushi or Tchikuzen, now Fukuoka Ken). The King of Shinra, without taking up arms or showing any opposition whatever, submitted and gave himself up to her, and Her Majesty returned to Japan with 80 vessels laden with gold, silver, and other precious things. The two Kings of Koma and Haksai, two other parts of Korea, also submitted to her. These particulars are taken from a work entitled *Nippon Shoki*. After this time, it would seem that tribute of gold, silver, and other precious things were received. It is said that the Empress brought also some coins or money of the shape of a bird. This coin, however, is only mentioned in old books, no drawing being given. In the 38th year of the Regency of Empress Jingo Kogo (238 A.D.) it is said that gold and other precious things were again received, but this time from China. In the 14th year of the reign of Emperor Ojin Tenno (282 A.D.) it is stated that one Yudzuki-Kun, later on said to be a son of the King of Haksai, came to Japan bearing gifts of gold, silver, &c., and according to the work entitled *Dai Nippon Shi* or History of Japan, His Majesty the Emperor was highly pleased to accept these presents, and as guerdon, accorded him permission to reside in the Empire and further assigned to him a gift of land. I find in my Japanese *Shinsen Nempio* or Japanese Chronology, an article corresponding in date with the arrival of this Korean, which although it has no connections with numismatics, is, nevertheless from an historical point of view, very interesting. I shall therefore give it: "At the same time two women were sent over from Korea as presents to teach in Japan the way of weaving silk with figures on brocade; they were kept at the court, and there they instructed pupils in their art. These two women were sisters, one being named Ayaha and the other Kureha. The elder, Kureha, really did the weaving, while the younger Ayaha sat above the loom raising the threads as the work proceeded, as was necessary, to produce the figures in the woven cloth. Now even down to this day that part of the work in this trade is still called *ayadoru*, a word derived from this woman's name; so in like manner is the term *gofuku* which the Japanese apply to woven goods, derived from the name Kureha which is only another reading of the same characters. In Kyoto these women came to be deified and worshipped as the tutelary goddesses of that trade. According to the work *Dai Nippon Kwahei Shi*, there was silver money in the time of Emperor Guenso Tenno (485 A.D.) one piece had a diameter of one *sun* (1 Jap. inch or 3 centimetres) and weighed 1 *momme* 8 *fun*=104.97 grs. troy. Another of the same diameter weighed 3 *momme*=174.99 grs. troy. The fact that since the time of Empress Jingo Kogo quantities of gold and silver were received, and the existence of the above mentioned pieces conclusively proves that coins were already in use in Japan at that time. In Guenso Tenno's time we find even that, on account of the crops having been plentiful and the consequent prosperity of the farmers, the price of rice was fixed at one silver piece per one *koku*. In the time of Emperor Hansho Tenno (406-11 A.D.) there were gold, silver, and copper coins, and all these must have been made from metal received from abroad, inasmuch as it is not recorded that gold, silver, or copper had up to that time been found in Japan. In the time of Empress Suiko Tenno, and in the 13th year of her reign (605 A.D.) according to the work *Nippon Shoki*, gold was received as tribute from Korai (Korea) and of this gold by Imperial decree and by order of the Prince Imperial and the Ministers, an idol was made,—and when the King of Korai heard of this, he sent a further tribute of 300 gold *rio* more. The origin of gold, silver, and other tribute being paid to Japan by Korea is said to be really thus: one night the Empress Jingo Kogo dreamed that the God of Sumiyoshi or Sumiyoshi Miyojin, whose shrine and temple are in Osaka, appeared to her and said: "I give the gold and silver countries Korai, Haksai, Shinra, and Ninna to the Emperor you bear within you." Her Majesty was pregnant at that time, and it was on account of this dream that she undertook to cross over and take possession of those countries, appointing officials to administer the realm during her absence and stationing guards along the coast to protect the Empire from invasion. In the 1st year of the reign of Empress Kokiyoku Tenno (642 A.D.), tribute of gold and silver was received from Korai borne by an embassy which landed at Naniwazu or Osaka. In the work *Shinsen Nempio* I find that again in 647 A.D. and 653 A.D. embassies came from Korea to Japan bearing tribute. In the 3rd year of the reign of Emperor Temmu Tenno (675 A.D.) in the 3rd month, silver was received from the Island of Tsushima, and regarding this, in the *Nippon Shoki* we read that in that month the Governor of Tsushima, Oshiumi Okuni, found for the first time silver in his province and presented it to the court. This was the first silver found in this Empire, and consequently the precious metal was first offered up to the different Gods, after which portions were given to the high officials and to all those of the rank of *Shokin* and *Daiōn*. The Governor of Tsushima received the rank of *Shokin* in recompense for the zeal and activity which he had displayed in the matter. In the 8th year and 10th year of the reign of Emperor Temmu Tenno (680-82 A.D.) tribute was again received from Shinra consisting of gold, silver, copper, iron, piece goods, silk, deer and other skins, fine hemp, and banners embroidered with gold and silver. As a proof that the tribute must have been very plentiful at that epoch, I may aduce the fact that in a sumptuary law promulgated in that year the costumes to be worn by the different classes from the Princes down to the lowest of the people were regulated and fixed. In the same decree the wearing of gold and silver embroideries was also placed under certain restrictions and regulations. In the time of Emperor Kotoku Tenno (645 654 A.D.) a law was already passed forbidding the burial of the dead with gold, silver, copper, or iron in the coffins, as this had become an almost universal custom with the people. In the 12th year of the reign of the Emperor Tenmu Temo (684 A.D.) it is said that copper coin was first circulated, the circulation of silver coin being stopped. But in the same year the silver coinage was resumed. This was the 10th year after silver was first found in the Empire, and thus the the silver coin spoken of will probably be that which was made in the time of Guenso Tenno in (485-87 A.D.) I may further remark with regard to the decree in which the use of copper coin is prescribed, that it is the first notice which we find of the existence of such coin at all, and as the decree contains nothing but the bare prescription that copper coin in future is to pass current, we have no basis upon which to ground a statement as to where these coins came from or when they were struck; it is, however, most probable that it was a Chinese coin brought over through Korea, although it is possible that it may have come from China direct. In the 2nd year of the reign of Emperor Mombu Tenno (698 A.D.) copper ore was received from Inaba, at present known as Tottori Ken, and from Iyo, now Ehime Ken, tin and tin ore was received. From Suwo, at present Yamaguchi Ken, copper was brought and some also was received from Tsushima. It is further said in some of my books that it was only in the 12th month of the 3rd year of the reign of Emperor Mombu Tenno (699 A.D.) that a director of the mint was appointed and that this function was called *Tōsenshi*; still this position was created already two years before as aforesaid in my work, but at this time a new director was appointed, one named Nawo-no-oshi Nakatomi Ason Imimaro. The first copper piece of Japan is said to be a coin quite plain, and without any characters on it; in shape it is circular, and it has a round hole in the centre. On the face around the hole, are four small round marks each with a cross. At the back there is nothing, the surface being entirely smooth. It is very roughly made. Illustrations of this coin are found in nearly every old book treating on coins, and it is always stated to have been struck in the time of Mombu Tenno (697-707 A.D.) but it is impossible to find out either the exact date or its size and weight, and I believe that although we see that copper ore had lately been found and presented to the court, still the quantity then found was small and the true method of coining was not yet well understood in Japan, and this is probably the reason why this piece is roughly made and rather uneven. It is even more likely that it was made of copper received from abroad, as that was at this time much more plentiful than that which was mined here. In the 4th year of the reign of Emperor Mombu Tenno (700 A.D.) Prince Ginobu Shinno and two other ministers, were ordered by His Majesty to make Regulations and Laws, and in these laws it was ordered that the *Okurasho* or Finance Department should have the administration of the entire finances and taxes, and should decide the values and prices of coins, gold, silver, precious stones, copper, iron, ivory, feathers, lacquer ware, and piece-goods, and regulate weights and measures in the interest of commerce in general. It was further laid down that the *Okurasho* should enjoy a monopoly of the minting of gold, silver, copper, and iron coins. In an article of the above laws, relating to mines, it was enacted that mines which were discovered and not taken over by the Government, might be worked by the farmers themselves upon application being made for permission at proper quarters. In the 3rd year of Taiho (703 A.D.) silver was received from the province of Kii no Kuni, Wakayama Ken, and it is further said that from the two counties in this province named respectively Nakagori and Nagusagori, in this year, instead of the taxes being levied in linen they were received in silks; and from the three counties Ategori, Idagori, and Morogori taxes or revenue were collected

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in silver, which proves that this metal was found in Kiushu. According to the works *Zoku Nippon-ki* and the *Midou-kagami*, in the reign of Empress Genmei Tenno in the 1st year of Wado (708 A.D.) copper was received in payment of revenue from the Province of Musashi, where a director of the mint or *Tosenshi* was appointed. The copper coin called *Wado-kaichin* was put in circulation at that time. There were, however, two kinds of this coin, for besides the copper one, we find another made of silver and of the copper one different varieties again were made. In the same year (708 A.D.), in the 1st month, from the county of Chichibugori, in the province of Musashi, copper was presented to the court, and it was in commemoration of this, the first discovery of copper in the Empire, that by Imperial decree, the denomination of the year was changed and a new era called Wado was inaugurated (Wado meaning our copper, or copper of Japan.) The first of the Wado coins were made in the province of Omi, now the Shiga ken; later on the same coin was made in Dazaifu in Chikuzen, and in Harima, now embraced in the Hyogo Ken. Afterwards Nagato no Kuni, now Yamaguchi Ken, was, it seems, definitely set apart as the place for minting these coins. The main reason for the choice of this place was that by degrees as copper at the places Suwo, Harima, Inaba, Bitchu, Bingo, and others, was more and more produced, this place was found to be more centrally situated and therefore more convenient. In the 2nd year of Wado (709 A.D.) it was prohibited by Imperial decree for private persons to make silver coin. We find also in books that at different times silver coins were abolished and copper ones only ordered to be used. In the work *Zoku Nippon-ki* it is said that in the 4th year of Wado (711 A.D.) 6 *sho* or over 9 quarts of rice was worth 1 *mon* or one cash, and now the same quantity is of about 600 times that value. Of this time a law determining the salaries of officials was made; and another law was made providing that persons who saved money should obtain rank, and on the other hand that those who were found coining money on their own account should suffer decapitation. It was in the 10th month that the *Rokuho* or scale of official emoluments or incomes according to rank was fixed as follows:—The yearly income of a *Nihon* or Prince of the second rank and all *Ni-i* or officials of the second grade was fixed yearly at 30 *piki* of linen cloth (60 *tan*), 100 *kin* or pounds of raw silk, and 2,000 *mon* or cash, about 2 *yen* of the present currency, and so on becoming less, depending upon the rank. Although no comparison can be drawn between the present enlightened era of Meiji and the times from the annals of which I am giving extracts, yet as the official ranks of that period still exist to-day, it is interesting to note the contrast; thus the present Naikaku or Cabinet is composed of officials ten in number who are all of the second rank, *Ni-i*. I am afraid that with the present style of living a yearly income such as was enjoyed by their predecessors of 60 pieces of linen, 100 pounds of raw silk, and 2,000 cash would not go very far. We can see that the people, and especially the farmers, had no desire at that time to use coin, and in order to teach them its value as a medium of exchange, an Imperial edict was promulgated in which it was decreed that as the farmers, being accustomed to the old system of barter, did not seem to be willing to understand the value and utility of money, they should begin gradually to take it in lieu of their produce and in their other business transactions, and in order to encourage their use of it, it was further decreed that every person who should have accumulated over 10 *kwanmon* or 10,000 cash should be entitled to receive a rank below that of *Juroku-i* or 2nd of the 6th grade, and anyone having amassed double that was entitled two ranks higher. Coins, the existence of which we are sure of, are first thus:—

	A.D.
The Mumonji-sen of silver	708
The Wado Kaichin, silver and copper	708-14
Kaiki-shoho of gold Taihei-guenpo of silver Mannen-tsuho of bronze	760
Jingo-kaiho	765
Riyuhei-yeho	796
Fuju-jimpo	818
Showa-shoho	835
Chionen-taiho	848-50
Kiyoyeki-shimpo	859-69
Jogwan-yeho	870-89
Kwampei-taiho	889-90
Engui-tsuho	907-57
Kengen-taiho, brouze and lead	958

and nearly each time that a new coin would be minted and put in circulation, there appeared in the decree that the new one was worth ten of the former, although their intrinsic value had not improved. In fact in most of the cases in these last years the coins got poorer in quality, which cannot have suited the people very much; but we must not forget that by this time Japan had entered a very critical period, what with rebellions, etc., like for instance the rebellions of Fujiwara no Sumitomo, who burned the mint in Dazaifu (Fukuokaken), and of Taira no Masakado which lasted over nine years. Now from this time to about 600 years later, or up till the period of Tensho (1573-91 A.D.) hardly any coin was made. We find in different books that in Emperor Godaigo Tenno's reign (1319-37 A.D.) there was a coin called *Kenkon-tsuho* in circulation; this was in the time that the Imperial Court was divided into the North and South Courts, but not one of these coins has yet been found; during that time and for many years the old coin formerly made in Japan and further mostly cash imported from China was all that was used. The quantity that was imported from abroad was very great; further, during this time affairs being very unsettled and the Government not minting any coin, many imitations were made of the Chinese coins by private individuals. One reason why Japanese coins were getting to be more and more poor in quality is that the good copper and the good coins even were turned into idols and copper Buddha statues. Emperor Shirakawa Tenno (1073-1129 A.D.), for instance, had large and small idols made to the amount of over 3,000, and this is without counting what the priests had made of cash, and others. In the time of Emperor Gouda Tenno in the 3rd year of Kenji (1277 A.D.) merchants were sent to Guen or China with gold in order to get copper cash for it as cash was wanted here. Later, in Ashikaga's time, gold was sent to Min or China to be exchanged for copper coin. Specially in the time of Ashikaga Yorimasa (1475-83 A.D.) great quantities of copper coin was received from China; and he finally, without sending anything in exchange, wrote to China in a style which was not very much appreciated here, and begged China to send coin, saying that the finances of the country were in a very poor condition, what through big fires in Kyoto, etc. After this long unsettled and poor state of affairs, things got by degrees more settled again, and in Toyotomi Hideyoshi's time we see coins were made; the finest gold and silver pieces date from his time also. The bronze coin that was made now was called the *Tensho Tsuho*; it was made in the 10th year of Tensho (1587 A.D.); a silver coin of the same shape and denomination was also made. The next in Hideyoshi's time was called the *Bunroku Tsuho*, a coin made in the 1st year of Bunroku (1592 A.D.), two kinds were made, one of silver and one of bronze; the further coins which were made now by degrees were; *Keitcho Tsuho*—1 silver and 1 bronze—made in the 11th year of Keitcho (1660 A.D.); *Genna Tsuho*, which was made in silver and bronze in the 3rd year of Genna (1617 A.D.) Regarding this period we find in the work called *Tokugawa Jikki*, a decree which appeared on the 20th of the 5th month of the same year, fixing the travelling expenses along the Tokaido or, better said, the lodging fees, and deciding it to be in each stoppage place, per one person for one night 4 *Kio-sen* or Kyoto made cash, and for one horse 8 cash, but if the traveller should bring his own wood (for boiling his rice, which wood they would often pick up on the way themselves), then the inn-keeper could only charge half the above fee. This was in Tokugawa Hidetada's time; people were rejecting the former coin for the one fault or the other, so although it had appeared already before, a new decree appeared prohibiting the rejection of other cash but six kinds already mentioned in a previous decree; and as people seemed still to go on with the habit of rejecting, the punishment of the stigma or burnt marks on the face was again promulgated and put in force. It was also and anew decreed that the value of one *rio* would be 4 *kwanmon* or 4,000 cash, and any one who should disobey this decree would have the whole amount of the transaction confiscated, both parties to be dealt with in the same way; besides, where such an infringer of the law should be found, the village officer would be fined 5 *kwanmon* or 5,000 cash, and each house of that village 100 cash. In the 12th month of the 4th year Kwanye (January, 1628 A.D.) in each province a director of the mines and of Finance was appointed, and in the 6th month 13th year Kwanye (July, 1636 A.D.) the coin *Kwanye tsuho* was made. The first were minted in Sakamoto in Omi, and in Yedo at Asakusa, and some at Shiba; the minting of the coin was kept on for many years and they were made in different parts of the Empire; they are all the same in denomination, but can be distinguished either from their shape or size, form of characters or marks at the back, either a dot above the square hole or the one or the other character showing the period or place where it was minted. In the Hoye period, 5th year (1708 A.D.) a large copper cash called *Hoye-tsuho Taisen* was made; it was ordered to be used as being worth 10 former coins although its weight and value was only about three times that of the former coins; the result was that the people would not take to it, its size being also much larger and less practicable. Then *Kwanye tsuho* was made again in Sado in Kyoto, Shichijo and Kameido and Fukagawa, Yedo, Nambamura, near Osaka, Ishinomaki, Sendai; some were made also in a place called Jumantsubo in Fukagawa, Yedo, in Konmemura in Wakayama, in Udo and Nakajima in Kishu, at Fushimi, and Takatsu near Osaka, Ashiwo near Nikko and other places. Some were made of iron, but the worse of the iron ones were made in Sendai after the *Sendai-sodo* or Sendai rebellion, and as punishment the Daimyo of the province was ordered to make the Sendai-bori or cutting or canal which is behind Surugadai. In the 6th year of Tempo (1835 A.D.) the *Tobiaku sen* or *Tempo sen* was made; this was in the time of Emperor Ninko Tenno. In the Ansei period (1857 A.D.) a coin was made in Hakodate called *Hakodate Tsuho*. In the Bunkiu period (1861 A.D.) coins were made in Liukiu, and the coin called *Bunkiu Yeho* was made and the minting of the old style of copper coins was kept up till, I believe 1868 A.D. Now, ladies and gentlemen, as it will be much easier for those who interest themselves in numismatics to read over the whole little work at ease when it will have appeared in print in this society's transactions, I will abstain from giving any more passages out of it, fearing I have been too long already, but as I thought it might be interesting to the honourable audience to see the collection I have been able to gather, I have brought it here with me to-day. My pieces are somewhat mixed, as I put them on the cartoons by degrees as I found them. In conclusion, allow me to thank you all for the attention you have so kindly paid to the subject I have ventured to treat upon.

After reading his paper, Mr. Van de Polder drew the attention of the audience to the collection of coins, Japanese and Chinese, which he had arranged, and which included pieces ranging from the *Wado Kaichin* of 708-714 to the *Tempo* and *Bunkyu-sen*—up to 1868.

The SECRETARY read the following communication from Professor Wigmore, who was unfortunately prevented from attending the meeting:—The *eiraku-sen* was a coin of particular importance because of its connection with prices. Its full weight caused it to be taken as a special measure of equivalence, and this merits a few words on the subject of its origin and history, in addition to the facts which the learned author of to-day's paper has adduced. First, as to the introduction of this coin. Mr. Van de Polder speaks of it as having occurred in the Kwanto, in 1403-24, a shipment having probably been unloaded by mistake in Sagami. This surmise finds confirmation in a story which I found in *Denyen Jikuta Kigen*, "History of Land in the Provinces," quoted from *Chuko Chiranki*, "History of Peace and War in the Middle Ages." In the 10th year of Oyei (1403) says the story, the greatest typhoon ever known in Japan drove a Chinese ship to Misaki village in Idzu, now Soshu. Ashikaga Matsukane, in command of the Kwanto, sent three high officers to Misaki to see the ship. The people of the ship told the story of how they were driven out of their course, and requested a harbour. Five or six *kwan* of *eiraku-sen* were found on board; and on hearing of this, Matsukane sent word to Kyoto to Yoshimitsu, the *inkyo* Shogun, and Yoshinochi, his son, the Shogun, to ask what should be done. Matsukane was told to decide for himself. So he confiscated the ship's cargo and after provisioning the crew with *miso*, salt, fuel, and rice, sent them back to China. The author of *Denyen* does not credit this story; for he says (1) the 10th year of Oyei, when this incident is said to have happened, was only the first year of Eiraku in China, and the *eiraku-sen* was not coined until the 9th of Eiraku, on about 1413, the 19th of Oyei; (2) the ex-Shogun Yoshimitsu died in the 15th of Oyei; (3) Matsukane died in the 17th of Oyei; so that neither of them could have ever seen an *eiraku-sen*, nor could one have been imported in the 10th of Oyei. This may all be, and yet the story may have a framework of truth. It corroborates very aptly the supposition of Mr. Van de Polder. Secondly, as to the subsequent history of the *eiraku-sen*. From the above authority I glean the following. Towards the latter half of the 16th century the *eiraku-sen* had begun to displace the ordinary money (*aku-sen*, bad money) in the Kwanto. In 1573, Hojo Ujiyasu conquered that region, and soon afterwards he called a meeting of some of the chief lords of the region and submitted a proposition prohibiting the use of any money except *eiraku-sen*. His reasons were: (1) the *eiraku-sen* was of much better quality; (2) disputes about media of payment must be stopped; (3) such a measure would stimulate trade. His views met with favour, and the law was passed. (Incidentally this method of passing it raises questions of great interest.) Thereafter, says the chronicler, all the bad money in every *machi*, *gun*, *sho*, *go*, *mura*, and *sato*

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was collected and sent to the Kamigata (or Kyoto region); from this time bad money was called *Kyoto-sen*. In 1590 Tokugawa gained the mastery in the Kwanto, and (in some unexplained manner) the *Kyo-sen* came partly into use again, and its ratio to the *eiraku-sen* was fixed at 4 to 1. But disputes again arose, and a law was passed more than once prohibiting the use of *eiraku-sen* except for the payment of taxes. The reason for this law was said to be a dream of Iyeyasu; for one night in his castle at Sumpu (now Shizuoka) he dreamed that he was changing his castle, and on telling this to Honda, an official, the latter interpreted it as meaning that the money should be changed. Perhaps Honda had a stock of *Kyo-sen* which he was anxious to put upon the market. This account differs slightly from that of the authorities cited by the learned author, (1) in regard to the time when the rate 4 to 1 was fixed; (2) in regard to the time when the term *Kyo-sen* came into use. But my purpose in mentioning it is to call attention to the important connection between the *eiraku-sen* and the history of land-tenure. Under Voritomo there came the final step in the process of commuting the old labour and commodity taxes into money. From his time (the middle of the 12th century) until Iyeyasu, the principal taxes (*ta* and *hata*) were paid in money. *Kwan* being the unit of coinage, the amount due from a given piece of land was called the *Kwandaka*. It is probable that the amount of *Kwandaka* was determined in the beginning by the amount of land producing sufficient to support one horseman for the lord's service. Now when the *eiraku-sen* came into use, the value of the *Kwandaka* came to be often expressed in the terms of the *eiraku-sen*. When so expressed, the term *eidaka* was used. The income of the *samurai* was paid in *eiraku-sen*, and the term *eidaka* was thus forced into being. Ordinary taxes were *sen-no*; taxes paid in *eiraku-sen* were *ei-no*. The use of *Eidaka* apparently began about the time that Hojo Ujiyasu made *eiraku-sen* the sole lawful medium. The important consequence of this double reckoning is that for a period of two or three decades, we are without the means, in many cases, of knowing whether the assessed value of land is to be taken as named in terms of *Eidaka* or of the ordinary *Kwandaka*. In the deeds of the time the lands is usually described as having such and such an income, and it is impossible to base any conclusions on such ambiguous data. This ambiguity is the more deplorable as it was about the same period (1590) that Hideyoshi altered the area of the *tan* and made it consist of 300 instead of 360 *tsubo*; for thus another kind of data is rendered ambiguous. Such is one of the interesting questions on which Mr. van de Polder's history of the coinage throws light.

The CHAIRMAN said they must bear in mind that Mr. Van de Polder had not only condensed the work of eight or ten years investigation of this subject, but he had also, his paper being long and somewhat technical, taken on himself the further labour of preparing an abstract of it, to which they had just had the pleasure of listening. For that, and for his kindness in bringing his large collection of copper coins, the society was much indebted to him, and the Chairman had much pleasure in extending to him the thanks of the members.

Dr. KNOX remarked that in the earlier part of the paper Mr. Van de Polder repeatedly spoke of the tribute brought to Japan from Korea, which included Chinese silver and gold coins. Were any of these still in existence?

Mr. VAN DE POLDER said he had spoken simply of silver and gold—not in the form of coins. The first coins made in Japan were of silver and gold brought from China.

Dr. KNOX had been interested by the thought that light might be thrown on the history of that time in Japan, if coins then brought were still in existence. There were many things that people were inclined to doubt, the invasion of Korea and indeed most of the occurrences alleged to have taken place before the 4th century. But of course silver and gold, other than coins, would leave no trace behind.

Mr. VAN DE POLDER said it was stated that the Empress Jingo Kogo brought back from Korea a coin shaped like a bird, but of that he had found no sign. There was a person in Osaka who had a specimen of the first silver coin struck in Japan.

The CHAIRMAN noticed that Mr. Van de Polder had several coins in his collection to which were attached images of *Daikoku-fukujin* and *Ebisuko*; were these rare?

Mr. VAN DE POLDER said they were rare. They were called *Miya-sen*, and were Sendai coins. When they were first struck some were made specially as offerings to temples, and hence the gods, and the name *Miya-sen*.

Mr. DIXON said that would furnish the answer to a question that was aked in *Notes and Queries* in December last, whether there were coins struck in Japan bearing the guardian angel of Japan.—(Laughter.)

The meeting shortly afterwards dispersed.

GAS COMMITTEE.

The following is the Report of the Yokohama Gas Committee:—

Statement of receipts and expenditure for the tenth year, ending February 15th, 1891.

Balance from last account		$1,029.44
Receipts from subscribers for 12 months		3,595 90
		$4,625.34
Payment for Gas: 4 months	1,306.40	
Payment for Gas: 2 months	516.20	
Payment for Gas: 6 months	1,461.60	
	3,184.20	
Secretary's salary and collector's commission..	379.07	
Stationery, &c.	24.00	
		3,587.27
Balance in Bank and in hands of Hon. Treasurer		$1,038.07

The charge for gas was reduced in August last to *yen* 2.10 per lamp, and a reduction of 20 per cent. on subscriptions of one *yen* and upwards was made from that time. The number of lamps now lighted is 116 at a cost of $243.60 per month, while the net income from subscribers is about $250.

The present Committee consists of Messrs. A. O. Gay, Chairman; A. Dumelin, Hon. Treasurer; J. H. Brooke, J. Ph. Von Hemert, W. B. Walter, and E. Blanc.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

San Francisco, February 26th.

The end of the session approaches, and the Committees are working extra time to get the appropriation bills through. It often happens that in the hurry and confusion of the close of a session, bills which have hung fire for months are surreptitiously passed, sometimes as riders to appropriation bills; and thus it is possible that the shipping bill may yet become a law. But the chances are against that and all other measures. Report declares that Mr. Harrison is in a sulky fit, in consequence of the defeats his policy met with, and that he may veto any bill which is passed in the closing hours of Congress.

He has done one act which is greatly to his credit. He has appointed as Windom's successor in the Treasury Department Charles Foster of Ohio, one of the ablest and purest men in the country. Foster has been a successful man from his birth. Beginning life as a small shop-keeper, he rose to be a great merchant, and retired with a fortune and wide popularity. He then went to Congress, and served three terms with credit to himself and advantage to the country. At the end of his third term, he retired to become Governor of Ohio. To this office he was twice elected; he only left it when his party lost the State. He will now administer the finances of the nation at a time when he will need a clear head and a stout backbone to resist the "grotesque gimracks" of the labour unions and farmers' alliances; but he will be the right man in the right place. Charles Foster stands conspicuous among Ohio politicians, who are as a rule, to use Conkling's words, "of the white livered order." If Mr. Harrison had had more like him round him, his administration would not have been such a failure.

The political campaign is under full headway in Canada. Sir John A. Macdonald charges the Liberals with high treason, for discussing the subject of annexation to this country. Messrs. Goldwin Smith and Farrer of the Toronto *Globe* are likely to bear the imputation with fortitude, as their predecessor in treason, John Rose, was afterward chosen by the British Government on more than one occasion to represent the Empire in delicate diplomatic negotiations, and was knighted for his services. But among the old English and Scotch settlers, the name of treason is odious, and it is quite possible that Sir John may have dealt the Liberals a severe blow. In many parts of Canada, loyalty to Great Britain merely means antipathy to the United States; and in the Eastern provinces, the priests are united against union with a godless nation like ours.

The bill providing for international copyright passed the Senate by 36 to 14, and now goes to the House. It is believed that if it can be got at, it will receive a majority vote, notwithstanding the efforts of those who hold that there is no wrong in stealing from an author, though it is very wicked indeed to steal from a grocer. But nothing is certain. The American people live in dread lest international copyright should end the era of cheap books, and oblige them to pay $4 or $5 for a work which can now be bought for fifty cents. Should this result really follow the passage of the Bill, the spread of intelligence would be checked. We are accustomed in this country to buy the novels of Jerome, Kipling, Stevenson, and other writers of like standing for half a dollar, and the consequence is is that they have far more American than English readers. That admirable poem by your neighbour, Sir Edwin Arnold, "The Light of the World" is for sale for fifty cents, and is in every one's hand. Stanley's book, on the other hand, which was printed in England, and is more or less securely protected by a copyright, sells at $7.50 in New York; it is only bought by libraries and by a few book collectors. Our own novel writers, like Marion Crawford, James, Howell, and Cable occupy a position between the two. Their tales, when published in duodecimo form, sell for $1.50. But most of them reckon on getting their reward out of their serial publication in magazines.

The silver miners who have been trying for weeks to induce Congress to take their product off their hands at 25 per cent. above its value have at last given up the struggle. A report of the coinage Committee in the House in which both parties concurred has administered to them their quietus, and for this session at all events, they will not be heard from again. It is astonishing how they ever acquired the influence they had. The silver producing states are few in number, and small in population, yet by bawling, and enlisting the services of a few newspapers, they managed to make the silver question appear a Western question, and rallied to their support a sufficient number of western votes in Congress to ensure the passage of the ridiculous law of last session requiring the treasury to buy 4,500,000 ounces of silver every month, whether bullion was needed or not. Their idea was that the Government purchases would put up the price of silver to the old parity with gold, or $1.29 in gold for the silver ounce. But the scheme failed, as such schemes generally do. There was a spurt in silver when the bill passed, and the price touched $1.20, but it has ever since been declining, and is now quoted at .98¾. Exasperated at their failure, the silver miners then insisted on the free coinage bill, a measure which would have compelled the Treasury to give a standard dollar, worth in the market one hundred cents, for every 75 cents worth of silver bullion. This was too much for the stomach of the Eastern men who stood ready to yield to the West on non-essentials. They kicked the free coinage bill out, after Cleveland had trampled on it; and next Congress will probably repeal the Silver Purchase Act.

We have had our usual winter cyclone on this coast, and it may not be amiss to describe it, as it was a type of its kind. All cyclones which strike the Pacific Coast of the United States originate at sea, and reach the coast in the vicinity of Cape Flattery, or some point on Vancouver Island; thence they travel south, in opposition to the wind, and while some of them occasionally deflect into Nevada and Idaho, they almost all die out in Arizona. The cyclone of February 18-24 was no exception to the rule. It was a double perturbation. One cyclone struck the coast on the 18th, and was followed on the 20th by another; the two combined forces on the 21st, and swept down the coast as far as the Mexican boundary, with a heavy rainfall, and gales in which the wind travelled at the rate of fifty miles an hour. Railroad tracks were washed away, and bridges carried off, landslides blocked the roads, villages in low-lying sites were flooded, rivers were swollen till they converted the lowlands into lakes. The most serious accident was the wreck of the ship *Elizabeth*, which occurred on Sunday afternoon. She was making for the entrance to the port, in tow of a tug. It was broad daylight, and there was no fog. The ship was not disabled: she carried an efficient crew; the tug was powerful. Yet she was not only unable to make the four or five miles which divided her from the Golden Gate, but she was irresistibly, as if by the hand of fate, driven upon the rocks above Point Reyes, where the angry sea converted her timbers into kindling wood, and drowned her captain and the bulk of her crew. Within eight miles of the spot where she was wrecked there is a life-saving station, with a full crew. But the lifeboat lost her captain in trying to reach the wreck, and had to put back, a contemptible example of inefficiency. On the same spot, thirty-eight years ago, the steamship *Tennence* ran ashore with a shipload of passengers; but she took the land in a sandy cove, and not a life was lost.

A curious rescue from the grave is reported from Pennsylvania. Eighteen days ago, a cave

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in a coal mine near Hazleton entombed eighteen miners. Three shifts of men were immediately set to work to dig them out. But though the work never stopped for an instant night or day, over a fortnight elapsed before any of the imprisoned men were reached, and when they were found, they were corpses. Up to Monday last thirteen of the eighteen who were missing had been discovered dead. Five remained to be heard from. On Monday night, one of the diggers thought he heard a faint tapping on the rock inside. He and his comrades redoubled their exertions, and in the course of a couple of hours came upon the whole five, alive, though nearly dead. Only one of them was strong enough to be moved. His story was pitiful. When the miners realised their entombment, they put themselves on short allowance, and made the contents of their dinner pails last them six days. Then they lived on the oil from their lamps and from the can from which they were replenished. When their thirst became insufferable: they drank the water which oozed out of the cracks in the rock, though it was so strongly impregnated with sulphur as to be almost poisonous. It is said that all five men will survive.

General Sherman had a grand funeral at St. Louis. The military display was large. The only curious feature of the occurence was the announcement by the General's son, the Rev. Father Sherman, that his father died, as he had lived, a good Catholic. The secret had been faithfully kept in view of the possibility that at some time or other General Sherman might become an available candidate for the Presidency.

The civil war in Chile does not seem to be nearing its end, and the advantage is with the insurgents, who have got possession of the bulk of the fleet. They have taken Iquique, which is the southern station of the foreign fleets that cruise on the west coast of this continent. The British flagship *Warspite*, which is at anchor there, nearly got involved in a recent skirmish between the belligerents. On the other side of the continent, old General Fonseca has just been elected President of Brazil. He headed the revolution which overthrew the ex-Emperor and now fitly takes his place. He is a man of high character and a good soldier.

Prize fighting has received some set backs lately. In this city, a meeting was arranged between a noted bruiser known as "La Blanche, the marine," and one Mitchell, an importation from the old sod. A good deal of money was placed on the mill, and the disgust was profound, when in the middle of the fight, La Blanche lay down and refused to come to time. At Columbus, Ohio, a contest took place yesterday between one Seville, and a professional with the high sounding name of Majesty. Seville knocked out his opponent in the seventeenth round with a blow delivered simultaneously with both fists on the top of the head. When Majesty was picked up, the doctor set his broken nose, and sewed up a lot of rents in his scalp, but when he examined his crown, he found the skull fractured. The man died an hour afterward. It is no easy job to crack the top of a skull with a blow of the fist; the hitting must have been pretty heavy. Prize fighting is suffering in public estimation in consequence of these occurrences. It is not raised by the behaviour of John L. Sullivan, who is perambulating the country, and indulging in a series of plain drunks—in some of which he has been kicked and cuffed by men who could not stand before him in the ring for a minute. Some day, this unmitigated blackguard will meet some impertinent gentleman who will perforate his epigastrium with a bullet, and the world will say with a sigh of relief, *Requiescat in pace.*

HONGKONG.

Acting Governor FLEMING to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Hongkong,
September 15, 1890.

My Lord, I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1889.

REVENUE.

2.—It is satisfactory to find that the revenue continues to increase. Sir G. William Des Vœux, in his Despatch of the 31st of October, 1889,* remarked that the revenue for 1888 ($1,557,300) was larger than in any former year. But the revenue for 1889 was $1,823,549, exceeding that for the previous year by $266,249.

3.—There was a continued increase on the amount derived from "Stamps" and "Assessed taxes," the former rising from $187,150 in 1888 to $213,479 in 1889, the latter from $360,291 to $374,857.

The very large amount of business done during the year on share transactions must have given rise to this addition in stamp revenue, however much this speculative business may have proved detrimental in other respects.

The increase in "Assessed taxes" may in great measure be attributed to the number of houses built during the year, but the better assessment of property no doubt tended to further the increase.

4.—The large increase of $246,325 derived from opium is owing to an agreement which was entered into in March, 1889, in virtue of which the opium monopoly was sold for a period of three years at $477,600 per annum, being $295,200 over the price previously obtained.

5.—Another important increase is that of $10,582 on leased lands, which is to be accounted for by several land sales that took place during the year.

6.—The decrease of $12,586 under the heading of fines tends to show a falling off in the number of convictions before the Police Magistrate's Court, while the increase of fees is some proof that the business before the Supreme Court had not lessened.

EXPENDITURE.

7.—The ordinary expenditure in 1889 was $1,459,167 as against $1,461,459 in 1888, the extraordinary expenditure being $374,551 as against $530,870. The total expenditure, therefore, in 1889 was $1,833,718, being $158,611 less than in the year before.

8.—The decrease in the amount expended on extraordinary public works in 1889, when compared with 1888, is, to a considerable extent, attributable to a large amount spent in 1888 for the distribution of water, and for the purchase of land for a new central market in the city of Victoria.

9.—It may be added in connexion with revenue and expenditure that the Chinese inhabitants contribute, by a voluntary assessment among themselves, towards the pay of what are called district watchmen, who are appointed by the Governor under an Ordinance passed in 1888, for protecting those portions of the town especially alloted for the residences of the Chinese inhabitants. In 1889 the amount contributed by them was $7,350, to which $2,000 were supplemented by a grant-in-aid from Government.

10.—The military contribution so-called was in 1889 the same as in former years, viz., 20,000*l.* a year, although it has since been increased, under the instructions of the Imperial Government, to double that amount on the assumption that the garrison is to be considerably enlarged.

But the amount paid for this military contribution by no means represents the entire cost entailed on the Colony for military purposes. The military property, which is of considerable extent, is situated in the centre of the town; it is in itself of great value, but apart from this it pays no rent nor taxes.

LEGISLATION.

11.—There were 35 Ordinances passed during 1889, the principal being an Ordinance referring to Chinese emigration, an Ordinance to regulate the construction of buildings in the Colony, and one providing for the extradition of Chinese criminals. Some laws of importance have been passed since the commencement of the present year, and several of more or less consequence, including a new Ordinance on bankruptcy, are under consideration.

EDUCATION.

12.—Two additional schools subject to Government supervision were opened last year, the present number being 99.

The total number of scholars in Government schools during the year was 2,388, as compared with 1,933 in 1888; in grant-in-aid schools 4,814 as compared with 4,325.

The total expenditure for these schools amounted to $44,321, which was somewhat less than in 1888, owing to a discontinuance of a scholarship, and the amalgamation with salaries of rent allowances formerly given to some of the masters.

13.—The Victoria College, the principal school of the Colony, was opened during 1889. This has proved a very costly building, but it no doubt provides much increased accommodation for scholars as well as for a teaching staff.

14.—The Government central school for girls was opened not long since. It is as yet premature to offer an opinion on its future success, but any step towards the better education of females should receive every encouragement. Much good must result in Eastern countries by the proper position of women being felt and recognized, and there is nothing more likely to bring this about in this Colony than in careful training and education of Chinese girls.

15.—The principles upon which the grant-in-aid system is worked in Hongkong give every satisfaction, and it is seldom that any question arises in connexion with the system that cannot be amicably settled.

POPULATION.

16.—The estimated population at the close of the year was 194,482, of which only 56,449 were females. The number was less by 21,318 than that estimated at the end of 1888 and less than in any year since 1886.

I entertain doubts whether the population of the Colony has a tendency to increase at the present time. It is, of course, difficult to form any safe opinion on somewhat unimportant fluctuations of a comparative short period, while a mere estimated calculation is necessarily of no great value. The census, however, which will take place next year will be a far more accurate criterion as to what the population really is.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

17.—It is very gratifying to find, from the report of the Colonial Surgeon, that the general health of the Colony during the year was exceptionally good.

The number of deaths among the European residents was lower than for several years past, while among the Chinese number was the smallest for the last 16 years.

There was no epidemic and even the influenza which, during the latter portion of the year, attacked with such virulence so many different countries, only appeared here in its ordinary form.

The improved condition of the Colony as regards health is in all probability due to the many measures which have been lately taken to secure a more perfect sanitary system, and a more plentiful supply of wholesome water for the community.

PRISONS.

18.—The only gaol in the Colony is the Victoria Gaol, situated in the town, in which the average number admitted during the last few years has been about 4,000. The daily average during 1889 was 581 as against 531 in the year before. Many among these belong to the mendicant class, who find their way to Hongkong from the mainland of China, and who, when they arrive here, are arrested as vagrants, and committed accordingly. It is to be feared that prison life in regard to these is anything but a deterrent to crime. They frequently enter prison in such a state as to be at once placed on the sick list, and the gaol is, in fact, rather a hospital in which they are cared for than a house of detention in which they are punished. The introduction into the Colony of this class of Chinese should be discouraged as much as possible; but with the constant means of communication between Hongkong and the different parts of China their arrival is very difficult to guard against.

19.—The prison accommodation in the Victoria Gaol is unquestionably insufficient for the number detained there, and this subject is now receiving the serious attention of the Colonial Government. It is very satisfactory to find, however, notwithstanding its somewhat crowded condition, that the gaol is so healthy. There were only four deaths during the whole of the year, and the admissions to the hospital were but 244, as compared with 306 in 1888.

PUBLIC WORKS.

20.—Most of the public works now in course of construction were referred to by Sir G. William Des Vœux in his despatch above mentioned, but I may state that the Praya reclamation scheme (the object of which is to reclaim a large portion of land along the western front of the town of Victoria), the new drainage and water works, the new central market, and a new lunatic asylum for Chinese are rapidly being proceeded with. To these may be added the progress of the work connected with the Gap Rock Lighthouse, the foundation stone of which was laid a short time since. The rock on which this lighthouse is destined to stand is a small island, 400 feet in length, about 33 miles south-west of Hongkong. It consists of two rugged mounds of rock separated from one another by a long narrow gullet, and this it is which gives the island the name of the Gap Rock. Much difficulty was at first encountered in obtaining the permission of the Chinese authorities to erect the lighthouse on what still continues to be Chinese territory. It is, I think, to be regretted that when Hongkoeg was ceded to Great Britain some of the small islets around, and which naturally belong to it, were not also acquired.

To have lighthouses adjacent to Hongkong, although situated on Chinese territory, is no doubt better than to have none at all; but in case of a war, or of any complications taking place between the British and Chinese Governments, it is impossible to say what difficulties may not arise.

MISCELLANEOUS.

21.—No particular event happened during 1889 to call for special notice.

22.—It became generally known towards the

* Colonial Possessions Report No. 84.

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close of 1889 that their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught would visit Hongkong on their way home from India, on the termination of His Royal Highness's period of service as Commander-in-Chief in Bombay.

Their Royal Highnesses accordingiy arrived in Hongkong on the 31st of March last, when they were received with a most loyal welcome by all classes of the community. After seeing as much of the Island as the limited time at their disposal would permit of, and after having paid a visit to the neighbouring city of Canton, their Royal Highnesses sailed for Japan *en route* for Canada on the 4th of April.

23.—The present condition of this Colony, its increased population, and its rapid strides in advancement generally since it became a British possession less than half a century ago, were vividly described by Sir G. William Des Vœux in the despatch I have quoted.

I venture to think, however, that the future prosperity of Hongkong must, in a great measure, depend upon the future of that great Empire to which it belongs geographically, although not politically.

The more trade with China is opened up, which can only be done by an increase in the means of her internal communication and by a reduction of her inland taxation, the more advantageous will it be in the interests of this Colony.

The Chinese are naturally averse to innovations and tardy in carrying out changes of any description, but there are some among them as shrewd and as intelligent as can be found in any other nation, and when these perceive what the extension of the railway system and the introduction of modern improvements have done for the neighbouring Empire of Japan, where during the last few years the foreign trade is said to have doubled, they will scarcely be able to close their eyes to the expediency of doing what cannot fail to benefit a country which possesses the largest population of any country in the world.

To encourage China in the adoption of modern ideas, to assist her, in so far as possible, in opening up her vast territory, and to facilitate intercourse between her and other nations, should surely be the duty of a Colony, whose interests are interwoven with her interests, and whose prosperity will be retarded in proportion as hers is held back by a policy of too conservative a nature.

I have, &c., (Signed) F. Fleming.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,

BITS OF OLD CHINA.

Several successive issues of the *Whitehall Review* contain a series of paragraphs under the above heading which are worth reproducing :—

It was a good many years ago when a Chinese carter deposited me and my baggage in the courtyard of the British Legation at Peking. I had travelled nearly ninety miles in the machine which, innocent of springs, had been dragged over the most awful apology for a road ever essayed by wheeled vehicles. It was bitterly cold, and the keen wind had covered cart, self, and belongings with a sandy dust, reducing the vizage to a dirty leather colour. The torture I then endured—evinced by bruises which were obvious for several days thereafter— has stamped itself indelibly on my memory. But a warm welcome from the junior mess made amends for a good deal. I was at least in better condition than another junior, who had travelled by the same conveyance from Chefoo, a distance of some 400 miles, and had become frost-bitten on the journey!

* * * * *

Peking (foreign) society in those days was at least select. It consisted, firstly, of the inmates of the British Legation, numbering some sixteen or eighteen, with a mounted escort of old cavalry soldiers of the same number. Next came the Imperial Maritime Customs employés, who numbered about a dozen, residing in roomy quarters about a mile away. The French Legation had five members, the American three, and the Russian about eight or ten. No other Legations were at that time in residence, and the sixty individuals above enumerated were the sole foreign inhabitants, excepting one American and two English missionaries. There were only two ladies.

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As a large majority of the above-described community consisted of young men about twenty-four years of age, life was by no means so dull as might have been imagined. Good hard study for about four or five hours each day was succeeded by riding—the only amusement practicable outside our respective premises. But when evening drew on, and we met at dinner, each mess seldom without a few guests from the neighbouring yamêns, song and story beguiled the time until the "wee sma' hours," and old College or University days were lived over again.

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Most people have a vague idea that Chinese is a "difficult" language to acquire. The idea is well founded, but it may be well to say that there is no more a general "Chinese" language than a "European" one. Some seven "dialects," as they are most erroneously called, but which are, to all intents and purposes, separate languages, are spoken throughout the empire, and these again are subdivided into about 360 "dialects," using the word in the same sense as Lancashire or Devonshire English. To us, of course, Chinese meant the official or Mandarin language, which is spoken with unimportant variations throughout a large portion of the Northern provinces. Peking and Nanking (the old "Southern" capital) are the quarters of the official speech, so far as a line drawn between them extends, but the Hupeh variation is apt to puzzle a tolerably expert speaker of the standard tongue.

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My introduction to the mysteries of this most exasperating of languages was not devoid of a comic element. Having duly called upon the eminent official who supervised our studies, he asked me if I had acquired any preliminary idea of the written character; and, on my replying in the negative, proceeded with admirable lucidity to explain to me the system of radicals or "keys" which formed the basis upon which the formidable-looking characters were constructed. Thence he proceeded to show me how the search for any given character was to be conducted in the ponderous six-volume dictionary (Morrison's, then the only one available) which filled a shelf over his table.

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It occurred to me that a search of this description was very like hunting for a needle in a haystack, but I was unprepared for the amusing sequel. After satisfying himself that, in a general way, I understood his explanations, my instructor requested me to choose any character in a book lying open before us, so that I might be practically shown how to "look it out." I naturally chose the most complicated upon which my eye fell. "Ah, yes," said he; "yes, that will come under the 17th radical," and down came a volume of Morrison from the shelf. The eminent scholar spent some minutes in hunting amongst its pages, and at length exclaimed, "Dear me, how stupid I was! Of course I should have said the 65th." Down came another volume, but a second and longer hunt failed to find the erratic character. "Very extraordinary," muttered the great man. "Oh! ah, yes; it must be the 25th," as another volume was hastily taken down. "Well, really, I can't —Oh! *of course*, the 102nd," as the fourth volume followed its predecessors and began to inconveniently crowd the table. A further search followed, and I felt that the situation was becoming depressing. Suddenly a volume was hurled to the other end of the room, and my instructor shouted, "There, sir, that will do! I've studied Chinese for twenty-five years, and I can't find the first character you show me. You know all I can tell you. Go away, sir!" I saw that, possibly, the difficulties of written Chinese had not been exaggerated!

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As above stated, we were a very cosmopolitan community. As a rule, English was the universal means of intercommunication, but I recollect a dinner-party at which the only language common to us all was Chinese. Carl B——, the nephew of a leading European statesman, represented Germany; P——, now a professor in the States, answered for the Stars and Stripes; I stood for the Rose, and McW—— for the Thistle, of the United Kingdom. Young D——, now a Consul-General, was in those days a subject of his Imperial Majesty Napoleon III. A Mongolian military mandarin and a Chinese subordinate of the Salt yamên, completed our oddly-assorted party, and the only language we could all (more or less) speak was Mandarin.

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D——, the Frenchman above alluded to, was a good fellow, of partly Scotch parentage, and with a rabid antipathy to everything English except his personal friends. We mostly spoke French enough amongst us to keep up a conversation, but D—— always persisted in talking what he supposed was English. One winter morning the cook of the French Legation was found suffocated by the fumes of a charcoal fire which, *more Chinense*, he had lit in his room without providing for any ventilation. D—— gave us the news when he called in next day, and was asked if they had tried to resuscitate him. "Oh, yas," was the reply; "ve did friction him on ze poitrine mit ein shuatszu pour les souliers." (*Shuatszu* is the Chinese for brush.)

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As was natural in a community of which riding was the only amusement (theatricals, lawn-tennis, &c., were the dissipations of a later day), racing held high favour in our esteem. Our racecourse was the dry bed of a former shallow lake, not far outside the walls, and our semi-annual meetings were usually honoured by the presence of Chinese officials of high rank. On one occasion a considerable body of native soldiery, with three or four field-guns, attended the sport, in order to receive some native of high rank with the orthodox Chinese salute—three, or a multiple thereof. Unfortunately, the cartridge-box of one of the squads was left lying open not far from the muzzle of a gun, with the result that on a discharge taking place the box blew up, killing one man and maiming others. The mandarin in command did *not* hold a court of inquiry into the matter, but within ten minutes the party responsible for such carelessness was laid upon his stomach, sat upon by three comrades, and beaten with a broad bamboo to an extent which speedily reduced him to much the same condition as the most severely injured of the survivors.

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A curious little industry sprang up in the environs of the city consequent on the horsey proclivities of the Europeans. This was getting run over, which was generally accomplished by rushing in front of a horse and throwing up the hands. One of two things always happened. Either the horse shied and his rider came off, to the huge delight of the Chinese mob; or the gesticulating party was knocked down. In this latter event, cautioned as we all were to give no offence, if possible, to the natives, a dollar was generally handed as salve to the artful victim, whose screams and yells that he had been killed never failed to draw a large and sympathising crowd of friends, who regarded the "foreign devil" with most unfriendly looks. In one particular village this sort of thing became at last intolerable, and we decided that if any further attempt was made to startle our horses we would ride down the culprits intentionally. As usual, on our next visit three or four young *gamins* essayed the usual dodge. Being fully prepared for it, nobody was unseated, and a minute afterwards, as we turned back at full gallop, three or four Chinese were hurled into the hedge by our horses. We did not stop to offer dollars on this occasion, but were never afterwards troubled by a repetition of the attempt.

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Seriously, however, we did in those days, to some extent, carry our lives in our hands. The native Government was friendly, or, at least, firmly convinced that hostility would have most unpleasant results. But there was a large party of malcontents who hated us and their own officials about equally. Rumours constantly reached our ears of intended attacks upon the Legation, and on at least a dozen occasions our pistols were carefully inspected before retiring to rest, the sentries were doubled, and the least noise induced anxious attention. Nothing serious ever came of the threatened attacks except a spasm of hostility on the part of the villagers outside the walls, who, believing the rumours that we were shortly to be exterminated, thought it safe to intimate by showers of stones when we passed them that they fully approved of the intended massacre. On one occasion I began to realise what being "stoned to death" really meant. Of course I was only struck two or three times, but I felt that, had my horse not soon placed me out of reach, I should have required but a very few more stony mementoes of the ride to have left my body and bones at the mercy of the mob. One of our little band only—a member of the escort guard—was actually murdered during my residence in Peking; but, all things considered, the natives treated us very well.

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The surest defence against an angry Chinese mob, if you happen to be unarmed, is a joke. Of course, we all spoke Chinese after a time more or less fluently, and were thereby enabled on many occasions to disarm impending hostility. I remember a striking illustration. A party of young men had gone to visit Yuen Ming-yuen, the "Summer Palace" destroyed by us and the French in 1860. A crowd of Chinese collected around them, and one of their number who happened to possess a capacious mouth, was very voluble in his abuse of the "foreign devils." Going up to him and pointing to his face, one of the Europeans quietly remarked in Chinese, "Don't open your mouth so wide, or I shall tumble in." The crowd laughed and began to chaff the orator, while a few good-tempered remarks completely turned the tables

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on the would-be tormentor, and the visit passed off without a symptom of further disturbance.

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The junior officers of the Peking Legation nearly thirty years ago comprised a mess of thirteen individuals, one of them being the talented German before alluded to, and the remainder student-interpreters in our own service. The office of mess-president and caterer was filled by a very worthy ex-missionary, whose powers of controlling a baker's dozen of young fellows averaging about three-and-twenty years in age, and full of youthful spirits, did not at all equal his acquirements as a Chinese scholar. The food was (for so good a source of supply as Peking) abominable; but no one cared to put the matter plainly to our worthy president. At length matters became unbearable, and a witty member, G——, declared that he would expostulate that very evening. We sat down, and poor old B——, the president, had commenced the usual grace—"For what we are about to receive——" when G—— mimicking his tone, added from the other end of the table—"We pay thirty dollars a month, and infernally dear at the price." B—— stared in blank amazement at the audacious youth for a moment, and then quitted the room. He resigned his position as caterer next morning, and within a few weeks died suddenly of apoplexy as he was eating a solitary meal in his own quarters.

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Of course, the spirit of mischief could not be repressed among a body of youngsters situated as we were. One of our exploits was to rob a neighbouring temple of its principal idol, about two-thirds life-size, and convey it to our own quarters by scaling the garden wall. But then contrition—or rather the dread of discovery—seized us, and, after some deliberation, we buried it at dead of night in a cave or artificial grotto within the grounds. There was a great hullabaloo about the loss of his godship, but as his image was never found the natives opined that he had gone to heaven, or the opposite locality. I fancy, however, that the officials guessed pretty truly the state of the case, but did not think of our having buried the idol. Idol-collecting (stealing, I am afraid, in some cases) became, by the way, quite a mania for a time with some of our number.

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The comforts of the British Minister's house and table were looked after by a worthy old lady, aged about fifty-two, who had been long attached to the Elgin family, and at times rather presumed on the connection. She had followed Sir F——B—— all over the world, and prided herself on the way she could manage "Harabs and all them Heastern folk." She quite declined to recognise any particular reasons for acting in Peking otherwise than she had acted at Cairo or Constantinople, and the first morning after her arrival sallied forth, basket on arm, to do her marketing for the day. When I add that she knew not a word of Chinese, that none of the natives spoke English, that she was about five feet high and ten feet round the crinoline, and was the first female European ever seen by the Pekingese, her enterprise will be judged to have been braver than she knew! However, nothing daunted, she entered a butcher's shop, closely pressed upon by an inquisitive and delighted crowd. Before she could even look at joint or chop she was hemmed in, and one waggish native, bolder than the rest, gave her a substantial dig in the crinoline, shouting in Chinese, "Let's see if she's solid." But the laugh was not for long on his side. Seizing a chopper from the block, Mrs. A——made a mighty blow at his head, which he happily evaded. In less than a second the shop was clear, the terrified natives tumbling over each other in their haste to get away. A European who came upon the scene at the moment beheld the startling sight of some 500 Chinese rushing up the principal street pursued by an infuriated old woman armed with a chopper. With some difficulty she was persuaded to abandon the chase—and her basket, which she had dropped in her excitement. But it is on record that for a good two years thereafter Mrs. A—— was allowed to shop in peace, and became a "Black Douglas" to troublesome Chinese children in the vicinity of the Legation. The most hardened baby was scared into good behaviour by a threat of being handed over to the "Foreign She-Devil."

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Mrs. A—— was in charge of the staff of coolies whose duty it was to clean and dust the chancellerie and other offices, and one day incurred a severe reprimand from the Assistant Chinese Secretary for allowing them to neglect their work. On going to his office next morning, the official in question found Mrs. A—— at the door anxious to express a hope that on this occasion there would be no cause for complaint. "Yes, Mrs. A——, the place looks much more tidy. You've made those lazy fellows do their work—used a little manual persuasion, I suppose?" "Ah, sir," she replied, simpering, "that's what I'm afraid people will say of me—that I'm *more manual than feminine!*"

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The old lady finally had to be dismissed, having been found seated on the French cook's stomach, while her fists and nails were inflicting dire injury upon his face. But all who now survive those old days at Peking will have a kindly recollection of the really good-hearted old woman who made us many a delicacy—especially at Christmas-time—and really was an angel sometimes, albeit by no means a Venus, when sickness laid its hand upon one or other of our number.

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Our native servants—each two students shared a "boy" between them—were variously recruited, and amongst them we had several members of the imperial clan, or, in other words, cousins (and pensioners) of the reigning emperor. Sensibly enough, in view of the fact that the imperial harem may often contain 300 inmates, such cousins, although recognised as of the family, and receiving a small monthly dole in consequence, are not necessarily held to belong to the aristocracy, and vast numbers are servants, carters, water-carriers, and what not. But they have one privilege of which they are very proud, viz., being entitled to wear a yellow girdle in token of their royal descent. Our principal water-carrier in the Legation was a "yellow-girdle," and was much chaffed thereat by those who knew Chinese enough to indulge in jokes.

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Another body of men to whom the Foreign Legations afforded employment was known as "teachers" or "writers." The acquisition of colloquial Chinese being impossible without *viva voce* instruction, these men, who were mostly failures at the public examinations, were selected to aid us. As regarded teaching properly so called, they were as ignorant as a North-American Indian. But as living dictionaries they had their virtues, and some of them were much esteemed by us. Several were confirmed opium-smokers, and, so far as we could judge, not one whit the worse for it. We must often have taxed their patience enormously, but as a rule they maintained the imperturbable calm regarded as a sign of native good-breeding, and only swore at our stupidity (as *they* thought it) under their breaths, after we had done ditto to them in vigorous Anglo-Saxon.

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I do not know if they have of late years been undeceived, but all the Chinese I ever met who had seen Scotch troops have persisted in asserting that they were women. There are no bare-legged soldiers in the "Middle Kingdom," but there are bodies of men most eccentrically uniformed—the "Tiger Braves," to wit. These men are clothed in a tight-fitting yellow suit streaked all over *à la tigre*, and are about as demoniac-looking as can well be conceived. They are a special corps, the Tartar army generally being divided into eight "banners," each answering somewhat to an "army corps." Swords were the only weapons when I saw them reviewed, and each man carried a shield of the same prevailing yellow colour painted in remote resemblance to a tiger's head.

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As before stated, the Russians are represented in Peking by an establishment similar to our own, but previous to 1859 the resident diplomatic chief was an archimandrite. By a treaty made about 1727 permission was given to establish a Russian mission of six ecclesiastics and four lay members; and the head of this mission conducted all diplomatic intercourse, until the appearance of other European Powers at the capital induced a change. There was a good deal of heart-burning about the supersession of the reverend Chargé d'Affaires, but the new minister plenipotentiary made short work of his predecessor's protests. One of the great subjects in dispute was the valuable library which had been collected by the mission. As, however, the new-comers occupied the same premises, now greatly enlarged, as those they superseded, but faint echoes of what we understood to be a very bitter quarrel reached the outside world.

FOR NERVOUS DEBILITY USE HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

Dr. W. WILSON, L.K.Q.C.P., 80, Broad-street, Pendleton, Manchester, says:—"I have found it advantageous in cases of nervous debility."

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 14th.

A small quantity of tea from the Gartmore Estate, Ceylon, has just been sold in Mincing-lane at 212s. 6d. per pound.

The telephone cable between London and Paris has been successfully laid.

London, March 15th.

Six trains have been buried in the snow on the South Devon Railway, between Exeter and Plymouth. The passengers suffered horribly.

Later.

Fighting continues in Chile, and in a battle near Iquique the Government troops have been defeated with loss.

London, March 16th.

The Portuguese have seized a British steamer on the Limpopo River.

The Times says that Portugal must account to England for this outrage.

London, March 19th.

Mr. Gladstone, in a speech at Hastings, said that he was satisfied with the foreign policy of the Marquis of Salisbury, but he severely criticised the financial schemes of the Government. Mr. Gladstone adheres to the Home Rule programme of 1886.

Later.

The steamship *Utopia*, when off Gibraltar, leaving the Mediterranean bound West, came into collision with Her Majesty's ship *Rodney* (ironclad), and sank in five minutes. The *Utopia* had on board a large number of Italian emigrants, of whom 576 were lost.

[The *Rodney* (10) is a twin screw battle ship of the first class, of 10,300 tons and 11,500 horse-power, commanded by Captain John B. Warren, and attached to the Channel Squadron. Naturally any ordinary steamer coming into contact with such a heavy ship, would be liable to damage that would sink her in a very few minutes.—*Ed. J.M.*]

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, February 25th.

The expenditure for the Royal Navy is estimated at fourteen million pounds. Sixty-nine out of the seventy ships provided for under the 1889 programme will be completed before 1894.

London, February 27th.

Owing to the pressure of public opinion the French painters who acceded to the request of the Empress Frederick (when she was staying in Paris) to exhibit their pictures at the Berlin Exhibition, have all withdrawn their promise. This has caused great irritation, and the *Cologne Gazette* has published a violent article in which it says that the Germans are deeply outraged at the insults offered to the Empress, and in which it demands satisfaction from the French people and Government.

Her Majesty the Queen has launched at Portsmouth the *Royal Arthur* and the *Royal Sovereign*. Huge crowds were present to witness the ceremony.

London, March 2nd.

The French newspapers resent the violent article recently published in the *Cologne Gazette*, regarding the French painters and the Berlin Exhibition, but the fact remains that the recent visit of the Empress Frederick to Versailles and St. Cloud has been a failure, in so far as it was intended to be the means of a reconciliation between the two countries.

(FROM MANILA PAPERS.)

Madrid, February 20th.

It has been agreed that French and Spanish gold coins of ten and twenty francs and pesetas shall circulate on equal terms in both countries.

Madrid, March 2nd.

The opening of the Cortes took place to-day. The ceremony was a brilliant one. Their Majesties the child King and the Queen Regent were present, the speech from the Throne being read by the Queen. Mention was made of the Philippines.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 27th.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 28th.†
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 24th.‡
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 22nd.§
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, Mar. 29th.
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 29th.
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Wedn'day, April 8th.

† *Belgic* left San Francisco on March 10th. ‡ *Mongkut* left Vancouver on March 5th. § *Melbourne* left Shanghai on March 17th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 22nd.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 24th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 29th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Wedn'day, April 1st.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wedn'day, April 1st.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, April 17th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 14th March,—Hakodate 11th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 15th March,—Hongkong 6th, Nagasaki 11th, and Kobe 14th March, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 15th March,—San Francisco 26th February, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Saratoga, Norwegian ship, 1,398, Zernichow, 15th March,—Cardiff 14th September, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 15th March,—Kobe 14th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Mitamura, 15th March,—Yokkaichi 14th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Strathleven, British steamer, 1,588, Connak, 16th March,—Kobe 14th March, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 16th March,—Yokkaichi 15th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hampshire, British steamer, 1,699, Kerruish, 17th March,—Kobe 15th March, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 17th March,—Hakodate 15th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 17th March,—Kobe 16th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cito, German steamer, 387, Nodap, 18th March,—Kobe 16th March, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,210, Barstow, 18th March,—Fushiki 15th March, Rice.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kristina Nelson, German brig, 280, C. P. Boysen, 18th March,—Takao 28th February, Sugar.—Chinese.

Mino Maru, Japanese steamer, 550, Handa, 18th March,—Yokkaichi 17th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,446, Boutillier, 19th March,—Kobe 17th March, General.—Cornes & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 19th March,—Hakodate 16th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 19th March,—Handa 18th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 19th March,—Yokkaichi 18th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 19th March,—Kobe 18th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Collingham, British steamer, 1,450, Watson, 20th March,—Kobe 18th March, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Pemptos, German steamer, 1,341, Johansen, 20th March,—Kobe 18th March, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Mitamura, 20th March,—Yokkaichi 19th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 20th March,—Shanghai and ports 14th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 21st March.—Hongkong 15th March, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomsen, 14th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 14th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 14th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alwine Seyd, German steamer, 558, Gosawich, 15th March,—Nagasaki, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Martha, German steamer, 1,580, Ahrenkiel, 15th March,—Kobe, General.—Boyes & Co.

Salasie, French steamer, 4,016, L. Fiaschi, 15th March,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 15th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Daphne, German steamer, 1,394, F. Voss, 16th March,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Harrow, British steamer, 1,701, Brooker, 16th March,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 16th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 17th March,—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 17th March,—Honolulu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 17th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Mitamura, 17th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 17th March,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 18th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 18th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hampshire, British steamer, 1,699, Kerruish, 19th March,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Horima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kobayashi, 19th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mino Maru, Japanese steamer, 550, Handa, 19th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 19th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

John McDonald, American ship, 2,172, Stover, 23th March,—New Tacoma, Ballast.—Captain.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 20th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 20th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 20th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 21st March,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Peyton, Rev. Dr. Sheshadri and servant, Dr. and Mrs. Reeves Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Tod, Mr. Tod, Jun., Miss Tod, Messrs. H. Dewner, W. T. Warner, T. Douglas Murry, Mrs. and Miss Douglas Murry, Mr. L. Wallace, Mrs. Hart and maid, Mr. H. M. Pugh, Mrs. Dudley and 2 children, Dr. Ernest Hart, Mr. F. Meck, Mr. Melson and son, Mrs. Stewart, Miss Stewart and maid, Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Barnett, Miss Paterson, Mr. C. J. R. Fraser, Mr. F. Rivington, Misses Rivington (2), Miss Smalley, Miss Ell, Mr. Ah Yan, Mr. and Mrs. J. Benton, Mr. and Mrs. G. Benton, Mr. J. T. Gilman, Miss Cole, Mr. E. McFarlane, Mrs. Goodrich, Messrs. Goodrich, H. D. James, C. W. May, and F. Van Gander in cabin; one Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, from San Francisco:—Mr. W. Darlington, Dr. W. E. Osborn, Mr. R. B. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Vinton, Mr. R. S. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Meinertzhagen, Mr. O. K. Dalrymple, Rev. and Mrs. W. J. White, child, and maid, Messrs. H. Shigio, E. Chiedell, and Kabayama in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. V. A. C. Hawkins, child, and nurse, and Mr. Edward F. Stork in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. R. Suwa and J. Ito in cabin; 26 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—Miss Hellyer in cabin; 11 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. T. Buchanan, Miss Ure, Messrs. J. J. Enslie, H. A. C. Bonar, and B. C. Howard in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong:—Miss Annie Woods, Messrs. Chas. J. Barnes, Alex. J. Ferguson, P. E. Heerman, W. J. Bate, and W. Bray in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. D. Harman in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Salasie*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Miss P. Klobukouski, Mr. A. Klobukonski, Messrs. E. Pereira, Vivanti, Lowder, L. Samil, Lichtenstein, Roaget, A. Bianchi, Miss A. Rickett, Messrs. F. Retz, G. Volterlorni, N. Lavacry, C. Opffer, S. Dolambo, O. Khusaburo, L. Laichi, P. Caron, Y. Langlois, C. Stammarstoicht, F. Conan, S. Lecorre, L. Lecolvez, P. Bellani, P. Auger, H. Rascher, and P. Stavron in cabin.

Per British steamer *China*, for Hongkong:—Miss Wilson and Mr. J. A. Crawford in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Dr. Osborne, Mr. L. L. Fobes, Mr. O. K. Dalrymple, Dr. and Mrs. H. May and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Dare and three children, and Mrs. Nomura in cabin; Messrs. Hara, Watanabe, Matsuoka, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Suing and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Chong Ching Wing, Mr. Dare's servant, Mr. Loo Hong Sam, Mr. and Mrs. Sugihara, Miss Sugihara and two children, Messrs. I. and N. Mizokawa, and Miyayama in second class, and 79 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Salasie*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France 889 bales; for Italy 20 bales; Waste Silk for France 228 bales. Treasure for Singapore $100,000; for Shanghai $5,100.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Hakodate the 11th March at 2 p.m.; had light northerly winds and snow; passed Shiriya-saki at 6.30 p.m. with moderate wind from the north and heavy N.E. sea continuing through the night. Arrived at Ogimohama the 12th at 3 p.m.; fresh winds from the west and fine weather. Left the 13th at 5.15 a.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather; passed Imuboye at 8.50 p.m. with light southerly winds and fine weather; on the 14th at 2 a.m. set in cloudy with rain; at 3 a.m. wind shifted to N.W. with fresh breeze continuing to port. Arrived at Yokohama at 8.45 a.m.

The British steamer *China*, Captain Seabury, reports:—Left San Francisco the 26th February; for ten days had hard S.W. to N.W. gales; off the coast of Japan very heavy N.W. gales and heavy seas.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 14th March at 0.30 p.m.; had moderate to fresh N.W. winds to Oshima, which was passed at 8.30 p.m.; thence wind increased to moderate and fresh N.W. gale with nasty confused sea to Omai-saki; passed Rock Island the 15th at 10 a.m.; had light to strong northerly winds and clear weather up to arrival at Yokohama at 3.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 16th March at noon; had fresh southerly winds and overcast sky; passed Oshima light at 9.17 p.m. had strong E.S.E. winds and high head sea and heavy rain till arrival at Yokohama the 17th March at 8.45 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 18th March at noon; had fresh breeze from the N.W. and fine weather; passed Oshima at 9 p.m.; midnight fresh breeze from E.N.E. and fine weather; passed Rock Island at 1.12 p.m. with fresh breeze from E.N.E. and fine weather; passed Cape Sagami at 5.45 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 19th March at 8 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 13th March at 1 p.m.; had light northerly winds and fine clear weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 15th at 8 a.m. and left the 16th at 5 p.m.; had fresh westerly winds and rain. Arrived at Shimonoseki the

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17th at 7 a.m. and left at 11 a.m.; had light westerly winds and cloudy weather. Arrived at Kobe the 18th at 8 a.m. and left the 19th at 12.25 p.m.; had calms and light E.N.E. winds and clear weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 20th March at 3.55 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain Ward, reports:—Left Hongkong the 15th March at 6.36 a.m.; through the Formosa Channel had strong N.E. monsoon with heavy sea, since fine weather and smooth sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 21st March at 3 a.m. Time 5 days, 18 hours, and 42 minutes.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The Import Market generally has been rather dull during the week. Prices of English Yarns are slightly easier, but Bombays are higher. Shirtings continue quiet, and Woollens neglected. Sales for the week amount to 200 bales English Yarns, 150 bales Bombays, and 4,000 pieces Shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.		
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.54
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
	PER YARD.		
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.15
	PER PIECE.		
Turkey Reds—1¼ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2½ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3½ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4 00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 5½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$27.00	to	28 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	29 00	to	30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.50	to	30.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	31 50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.50	to	32.75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	15.50	to	37 50
Nos. 32s, Two-fold	14 50	to	36 00
Nos. 42s, Two-fold	16.00	to	38.50
	PER BALE.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	79.50
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—	

METALS.

Some revival in this market, and fair sales have been made at the undernoted quotations. Holders have succeeded in their efforts to establish better prices, and buyers were bound to replenish their stocks.

	PER PICUL.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80	to	2.85
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.85	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.70
Tin Plates, per box	5.70	to	6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1 40	to	1.45

KEROSENE.

No fresh arrivals since the steamer *Martha* on the 8th instant. There have been a fair amount of sales at some reduction on previous quotations. Deliveries are fair, but there remains a stock of 675,000 cases on hand at the Nakamura godowns.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.65	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

A fair current business, and holders have succeeded in getting rather better prices for Brown, the fresh arrivals from Takao selling well. White is in fair demand also.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.00 to 4.10
Brown Daitong	3.20 to 4.00
Brown Canton	5.25 to 6.25
Brown Java and Penang	5.50 to 6.00
White Refined	5 00 to 7.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 13th inst., since that date settlements in this market amount and to 975 piculs divided thus: *Hanks*, 59; *Filatures*, 618; *Re-reels*, 207; *Kakeda*, 77; *Oshu*, 14. In addition to these figures, Japanese have shipped 45 bales to Europe, making the total business of the week equal to 1,025 piculs.

We have had a good current trade from day to day. Exchange has been favorable; holders of silk were not impracticable and considerable parcels have been fixed for the out going steamer.

The current business doing has induced some supplies from the interior, and the stock list only shows a reduction of 200 piculs on the week. Best chop silks are in some demand, and the supply of these grows less and less every day.

There are plenty of orders in town at low limits, but holders struggle hard, and, so far successfully, against cutting prices too much. From all appearances it would seem that we cannot see a rising Market here for some time to come.

There has been only one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the French Mail steamer, *Salazie*, on the 15th inst., taking 909 bales for Europe. Present export figures are therefore 22,931 piculs, against 34,615 last year and 37,664 at the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Some little business has been done the last day or two, *Shimare* bringing $510 and *Shimonita* $515. Stock is small and insignificant.

Filatures.—Good daily business both in full and fine sizes; prices practically unchanged but inclining towards ease, although holders fight hard against every small reduction. The news from consuming markets is dull and depressing, and shippers do their best to "hammer" prices accordingly, but without much effect. Among the recent sales we find *Gakosha*, $607½; *Choshinsha*, $590; *Kanayama*, $585; *Saishinsha*, $585; with other marks of equal quality at the same price. In fine sizes many parcels have been taken at from $570 to $615, according to quality.

Re-reels.—These have been rather neglected on account of the high prices which holders require for the prime qualities. One parcel of *Katsuyama* brought $620, while ordinary No. 1 *Maibashi* was done at $580. In *Oshu* sorts low quality brought $540, and some inferior *Bushu* $510.

Kakeda.—The recent business in this class has brought in fresh supplies from the interior and considerable trade has been done. The latest arrivals, however, are winter reelings and do not show up very well as regards quality. Some few parcels really good silk brought $575 and $570.

Oshu.—The only transaction has been one parcel of *Hamatsuki* at $530.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$520	to 530
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	520	to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	510	to 515
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	510	to 515
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	500	to 505
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	490	to 495
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	470	to 480
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		610	to 620
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		590	to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		590	to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		580	to 585
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		570	to 575
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		570	to 580
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560	to 565
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		540	to 550
Re-reels—Extra		610	to 620
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		595	to 600
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		585	to 590
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		575	to 580
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560	to 565
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		550	to 555
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520	to 540
Kakedas—Extra	Nom		—
Kakedas—No. 1		570	to 575
Kakedas—No. 1½		560	to 565
Kakedas—No. 2		550	to 555
Kakedas—No. 2½		530	to 540
Kakedas—No. 3		520	to 525
Kakedas—No. 3½		510	to 515
Kakedas—No. 4		500	to 505
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		520	to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		530	to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510	to 520
Sodai—No. 2½		—	

Export Raw Silk Tables to 20th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	9,985	14,457	19,344
America	12,463	19,710	18,007
Total	Bales 22,448	34,167	37,351
	Piculs 22,931	34,615	37,664

	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	25,600	34,900	37,200
Stock, 20th March	7,800	2,400	4,000
Available supplies to date	33,400	37,300	41,200

WASTE SILK.

Transactions in this branch reached 615 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 405; *Kibiso*, 102; *Neri*, 108.

Stock is still reduced and buyers complain loudly of the absence of good quality. Holders show themselves current with such stock as they have, and on the other hand buyers would pay some advance in price if they could procure better quality.

The French Mail steamer *Salazie* on the 15th inst. carried 248 bales of various Waste for Europe, and the present export figures are now 26,236 piculs against 24,706 last year and 27,948 at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No transactions, and it looks as though the season were finished.

Noshi.—Some business done in medium *Oshu* at from $80 to $117. *Joshu* has also been taken in considerable parcels at from $70 to $75. A few bales of choice quality being entered at $85. One parcel *Tama-ito* brought $260, and a little filature $135.

Kibiso.—Small business, a few bales filature taken at $117, *Oshu* $77, *Joshu* $30. *Low Curlies* are freely offered without finding many buyers.

Sundries.—A few parcels of *Neri* have been booked at prices ranging from $12 to $14 for the uncleaned stock.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 20th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	24,949	22,516	25,470
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	26,236	24,706	27,948
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	28,200	26,500	29,300
Stock, 20th March	3,800	6,500	4,000
Available supplies to date	32,000	33,000	33,300

Exchange has declined but closes a trifle above the lowest point, viz.:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3¼; Documents, 3/3⅜; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3⅝; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $79; 4m/s. U.S. $79¾; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.13; 6m/s. fcs. 4.15.

Estimated Silk Stock, 20th March, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	130	Cocoons	320
Filatures	4,270	Noshi-ito	850
Re-reels	2,948	Kibiso	2,340
Kakeda	287	Mawata	125
Oshu	160	Sundries	165
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	7,800	Total piculs	3,800

TEA.

A small dribbling business in Old leaf at $10 or $11 per picul for "Common." Nothing fresh as to New crop; the weather remains favourable.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has again fluctuated, but not to any great extent.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/3
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	4.06
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.15
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	½ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	78
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	78
On San Francisco—Private 10 days' sight	79½
Silver	45⅞

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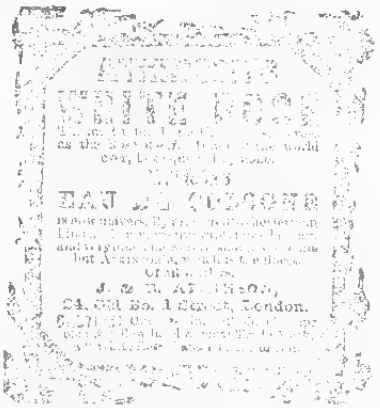

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1891.

DEATH.

On Monday, 23rd instant, WILLIAM FALCK, a native of Norway.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Retired List with pay has been abolished.

THE new Law of Weights and Measures has been promulgated.

PRINCE SHIMADZU left the capital on the 23rd instant for Kagoshima.

DURING the week ended the 9th instant there were 513 births and 502 deaths in the capital.

THE *Chiyoda Kan* sailed from Singapore on the 21st instant for Hongkong *en route* for Japan.

COUNT ITO left the capital on the 19th instant for Odawara, starting from the Shimbashi Station at 3.35 p.m.

MR. SUYEMATSU KENCHO will leave the capital shortly to make a political tour through the north-eastern provinces.

MRS. SWIFT, wife of the late United States Representative, will, it is said, leave the capital about the 15th proximo for home.

MORE than sixty officials of the Agricultural and Commercial Department were placed on the *kishoku* (retired) list on the 20th instant.

AN earthquake was felt in the capital on the 20th instant at 8h. 32m. 38s. a.m. The direction was from east to west, the shock being a sharp one.

AN action for libel raised by Mr. Suyematsu Saburo against Messrs. Takagaki Noriharu and Tezuka Senzo, of the *Tokyo Shimpo*, was decided on the 20th instant in the Tokyo District Court in favour of the plaintiff. Messrs. Takagaki and Tezuka were sentenced to major confinement for fifteen days, and to pay each a fine of *yen* 2.50.

THE Shareholders of the Osaka Tea Export Company were to meet on the 25th instant to decide whether or not the company should be wound up.

THE opening ceremony of the Nobles' School for Boys, which was to take place about the 27th instant, has been postponed to the beginning of next month.

IMPORTANT changes will be carried out in the Cabinet Office in a few days, prior to which, however, Count Yamagata, though not perfectly recovered, intends to return to the capital.

THE *Hiroshima Maru*, a new steamer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, sailed from Singapore on the 19th instant *en route* for Japan. She will, it is expected, arrive at this port about the 31st instant.

MR. ASADA, Governor of Kanagawa, proceeded to the Home Office on the 20th instant. The visit was in connection with important changes which will, it is said, take place in the Kencho about the 25th instant.

IT is stated that the Russian Prince Imperial, who will arrive in Nagasaki about the beginning of May next, will visit Kagoshima, and that Prince Shimadzu, of Kagoshima, is now making preparations to receive him.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Yamashiro Maru* will arrive at this port about the 29th instant from the Hawaiian Islands. It is stated that she will leave again on the 14th proximo with over a thousand emigrants.

A RUMOUR is current that the Government has decided to appoint Mr. Sonoda, Assistant-Chief of the Metropolitan Police, to succeed Viscount Tanaka as Chief of the Bureau. The appointment will, it is said, take place in a day or two.

EARLY in the morning of the 17th instant an outbreak of fire took place in a house at Kubikigori, Niigata Prefecture, and destroyed one village office, one Buddhist temple, and thirty-two dwellings before the flames could be got under control.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Tokyo Temperance Society was to take place on the 21st instant at the Society's rooms at Konyacho, Kyobashi. Mr. Ando Taro, formerly Consul-General to the Hawaiian Islands, and a few others were to deliver speeches.

IT is announced that at a general meeting of the *Rikken Jiyu* party, held on the 20th instant, it was decided that the party should be ruled by a President, and that eleven persons should be elected to form a Committee for the investigation of Treaty Revision.

H.M. THE EMPEROR, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Yoneda, Viscount Higashizono, and Count Nishisanjo, Chamberlains, Mr. Nagasaki, Private Secretary, Dr. Ai-iso, Court Physician, and several other officials, proceeded to the Aoyama Palace on the 23rd inst.

THE sections between Kurozaki and Monji, and Kurume and Takase on the Kyushu Railway, have been completed, and the Government examination took place on the 16th instant. It is expected that the lines will be opened about the 1st of next month.

THE Weights and Measures Law was promulgated on the 23rd instant over the signatures of Count Yamagata, Minister-President, and Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, and consists of 22 articles. The Law is to come into force on the 1st of January, 1893.

A SPECIAL general meeting of shareholders of the Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company was held on the 20th instant at the Kosei-Kan, Kyobashi, Tokyo, at which over fifty persons attended. Messrs. Fujita Kuman, a Councillor of the Hokkaido Administration Board, and Okano Chiso, an Accountant of the Board, were also present at the meeting.

MR. MUTSU, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, accompanied by Mr. Saito, Director of the Commercial and Industrial Bureau in the Department, and Mr. Uchida, a private secretary, left the capital on the 25th instant for Osaka to attend the opening ceremony of the new buildings of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce.

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR, accompanied by Marquis Tokudaiji, Grand Chamberlain, Viscount Hijikata, Minister of State for the Imperial Household, Lieutenant-Colonel Yoneda and Lieutenant Hirohata, Chamberlains, secretaries of the Imperial Household Department, and court physicians, proceeded on the 20th instant at 9 a.m. to the Toyama Military School at Ichigaya, returning to the Palace about noon.

A "SOSHI" named Handa Goro, aged 20, who had been under arrest for some time on a charge of having attempted to assault Mr. Hamaoka, a member of the House of Representatives for Kyoto, was sentenced on the 17th instant in the Kyoto Local Court to one month's major confinement and to pay a fine of *yen* 5. He appealed against the decision.

THE amount of Government paper currency and bank notes in circulation on the 1st instant, was *yen* 58,441,512.400, of which *yen* 24,798,913.000 represented Government notes over 1 *yen* face value, *yen* 8,064,120.900 Government notes under 50 *sen* face value, and *yen* 25,578,478.500 bank notes. As compared with the previous month the above shows a decrease of *yen* 334,967.200 in Government notes and *yen* 116,120.000 in bank notes.

THE Import trade remains much as last reported, the fluctuations in exchange necessitating caution on the part of both buyers and sellers. The easy condition of prices for English Yarn noted last week has resolved itself into a fall of 25 cents per picul, due mainly to the weakness of some holders. Bombay spinnings are also slightly lower, with not much enquiry. In Piecegoods things are very quiet, small quantities of Shirtings and Italian Cloth being the extent of transactions. The Metal trade is much the same as last reported, and though holders try to advance rates as exchange falls, they are not very successful, and there is but little difference in the prices paid for the small parcels of Iron taken. The Kerosene business is quiet, buyers seeming well supplied for the moment, and holders are firm. There have been sales of Sugar at late rates. There has been a good deal of Silk sold—2,000 piculs for the week—at fairly easy prices. Stocks have been reduced to little more than 6,000 piculs, and it appears probable that very little Silk will be carried over into the new season, especially if arrivals continue as at present. There is nothing trustworthy to report in regard to the new Tea crop. Exchange has fluctuated again, and after dropping a point for several days in succession, recovered slightly on Thursday.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

FOREIGN EMPLOYÉS.

THE action of the Diet in reducing the Budget has had an effect on the foreign employés of the Government. Gradually the spirit of independence has been growing among the Japanese until it has now become almost morbid. If that once popular song the refrain of which runs "We're going to do without'em, We don't want any more," could be rendered aptly into Japanese and set to the *Koto* or *Samisen*, we should expect to hear it sung habitually at evening *réunions* in the *Chaya* and *Machigaisho* of the capital. The foreign employé has assumed in the eyes of the rising generation the character of a constant witness against the competence of the Japanese, and whenever the necessity arises to practise economy, the employé must expect to suffer. It is all very natural, but he were a rash prophet who should assert that it is not more or less premature. Among those shaken out of their places by the present earthquake is Mr. W. B. Mason, of the Telegraph Department, a man whose services would be invaluable in any capacity requiring industry, sound judgment, and fine tact. Many of our readers probably know Mr. Mason chiefly by his delightful writings, unhappily few and far between, but thoroughly characteristic in directness, grace, and artistic feeling. Possibly Mr. Mason's loss of his appointment may be the public's gain, if it brings him leisure to employ his pen more frequently. The Japanese deprive themselves in him of an exceptionally valuable servant, but it happens too often, here as elsewhere, that the unostentatious, faithful worker, who never pushes his own claims or trumpets his own capacities, fails to obtain the recognition of the many, however he may endear himself to the few. After seventeen years' service Mr. Mason finds, we believe, that the economy imposed on the section of the Administration to which he belongs is exactly covered by his emoluments, and the Japanese Authorities, having to choose between losing him and dispensing with the services of several teachers of their own nationality engaged at the school where he is employed, have chosen as might have been expected under the circumstances. It is a pity. Those of us who would fain see this country grow and prosper cannot witness without much regret and some misgiving, the gradual departure if not from its shores, at any rate from its service, of men whose assistance would contribute materially to the healthy development of any State. Another sufferer by the economical commotion is Mr. W. L. Merriman, hitherto in charge of the Foreign Mail and Telegraph Section of the Yokohama Post and Telegraph Office. Mr. Merriman had come to be regarded as an integral part of the institution, to the smooth working of which his competent industry and unfailing serviceableness have contributed materially. Such appointments as his are, of course, exceptionally liable to be brought within the sphere of enforced economies.

* * *

It has been stated, we observe, that Mr. F. A. Satow's approaching departure from Japan is connected with the retrenchments necessitated by Budgetary changes. Such is not the case. Mr. Satow had with difficulty been induced to postpone his return to England until the conclusion of his work on the new Civil and Commercial Codes and Code of Civil Procedure. He now leaves entirely by his own choice and to the keen regret of a wide circle of friends.

CORRESPONDENCE IN FOREIGN JOURNALS.

THE Rev. H. Loomis, referring to anti-Christian Agitation in Japan, publishes the following statement in the San Francisco *Weekly Bulletin*—we re-quote from the *Hyogo News*:—

In the City of Tokushima fierce opposition is reported, and at a meeting held there in February last there was such a determination shown to prevent the spread of the Gospel as has not been witnessed before in sixteen years. At Kanazawa the opposition has sometimes been so strong that men who were baptized have had to leave their homes because no one would rent them a place in which to live. At the Normal School, Fukuoka, the Bible and all Christian books have been prohibited as pernicious literature. It is reported that at one of the largest schools in Tokyo no teacher will be employed hereafter who will not worship a picture of the Mikado.

This paragraph seems to us quite out of touch with the spirit generally shown by earnest missionary workers in Japan. These men often have to contend with great difficulties and sometimes find themselves in positions of considerable peril, but their habit is to toil on in silence. They have not invariably approached their task with all the tact desirable. Militant and destructive, their teaching in many cases has aroused opposition before attracting sympathy. But their present attitude is, as a rule, admirable—if we may be permitted to say so without impertinence—and we have watched with applause their unostentatious zeal and quiet courage. It will be a new and inconsistent departure if they begin now to cry out against the Japanese nation because it declines to receive an alien faith with absolute docility. We must remember that a persistent and strongly organised attempt to convert England to Buddhism or Confucianism would surely excite opposition both radical and demonstrative. It has been charged against the Japanese, to their discredit, that their attitude towards all religions is one of indifference. The verdict is, we think, superficial. But, if evidences of deeper feeling have begun to show themselves, it is not for those to cry out who formerly blamed the absence of all feeling. Mr. Loomis, too, does not appear to write with great circumspection. His reference to the incident of the Emperor's picture is distinctly misleading. The obeisance which teachers were required to make to the picture at a Tokyo school was a simple mark of respect. It had no manner of connection with religion. Those persons who hastily and foolishly, as we think, attached to the performance a religious significance, ought first to have considered whether any creed in Japan prescribes the worship of living personages. How can religious significance belong to a proceeding which does not constitute a part of any recognised form of worship? An indication of loyalty to a reigning sovereign and an act of worship of a supernatural being are two totally different things. If Mr. Loomis seeks to convey to American readers the impression that to bow to the Emperor's portrait is idolatrous and anti-christian, he not only draws an extravagant deduction, but also invites a dangerous and needless conflict between the faith he seeks to propagate and the strongly rooted feeling of loyalty which every genuine Japanese cherishes. "Honour the King" is a leading precept of the Christian creed. We find it amusingly inconsistent that men who bend the knee before their own Sovereign and kiss her hand, should call it anti-Christian and pagan on the part of a Japanese to incline his head before the portrait of his Emperor. And seeing that Mr. Loomis pronounces such incautious verdicts in one instance, we may be permitted to doubt whether the other points of his story are absolutely uncoloured by prejudice. Obviously he finds difficulty in regarding a question from the standpoint of those he criticises. He would be the first, we suspect, to denounce a Protestant School where the Roman Catholic bible or Roman Catholic books were suffered to pass into the hands of the students, yet he alludes with plain reproach to a precisely similar sentiment of religious exclusiveness on the part of Japanese educationalists. Christian propagandism in Japan will not be promoted by the publication of such criticisms.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. ENTHOVEN.

As briefly announced in our issue of yesterday, the interment of the remains of the late Mr. B. Enthoven took place at the Foreign Cemetery, Kobe, in the Jewish section, on March 17th. The coffin was taken first to the Masonic Hall, the deceased having been a member of the Hyogo and Osaka Lodge, where the impressive funeral service of the Order was commenced under the superintendence of the R.W.M. Rro. R. M. Thomson, assisted by the Rev. Bro. J. L. Atkinson (Chaplain of the Lodge), the musical portion being ably performed by Bro. Pearce, and over 50 members of the Lodge being present. At the conclusion of the first portion of the ceremony a procession was formed, the members of the Lodge preceding the coffin. There were two sets of pall-bearers, the one composed of members of the Lodge, including Bros. Abrahams, Phillips, G. H. Whymark, Drewell, Maitland, and A. Cameron, who carried the coffin from the Masonic Hall to the hearse, and the other composed of friends of the deceased, including Messrs. Ailion, Abrahams, Grimble, Berigny, Cameron, and R. de B. Layard, who carried the body from the entrance to the Cemetery to the grave-side, where the service was concluded, the R.W.M. Bro. R. M. Thomson reading the service, and the Rev. Bro. J. L. Atkinson the prayers. The procession was constituted as follows:—The Tyler, the Stewards, members of the Lodge, Secretary and Treasurer, Junior Warden, the Past Masters, the Master, the Clergyman, the Coffin, on which rested the deceased's regalia, the pall-bearers walking at the side; the Chief Mourner, Mr. E. C. Passey-Adams; other mourners, two Stewards, Inner Guard; the general friends and sympathizers following. There were upwards of 200 persons present. A very large number of wreaths were sent to place on the coffin, most of them being anonymous, with the exception of those from Miss Whymark, Mrs. A. Drewell, Mrs. Maurice Fitzgerald, and Messrs. R. de B. Layard, J. Mackey, E. C. Passey-Adams, H. L. Phillips, R. M. Thomson, and J. A. Ailion, and the Rising Sun and Hyogo and Osaka Lodges. The R.W.M. of the Hyogo and Osaka Lodge requests us to thank the large number of brothers and friends who attended the funeral.—*Hyogo News*.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF FRANCE IN 1890.

THE official statistics of the foreign trade of France for last year are published in *Le Temps*, and are of special interest because of the impending changes in the commercial policy of that country, foreshadowed by the Customs Tariff Bill now before the Legislature. The annexed table shows, in francs, the values of the imports and exports of the country during 1890 and 1889, under the officiail subdivisions of food products, raw manufacturing materials, manufactured goods, and miscellaneous merchandise:—

IMPORTS.

	Francs.—1890.	Francs.—1889.
Food products	1,470,763,000	1,472,097,000
Raw manufacturing materials	2,222,600,000	1,193,280,000
Manufactures	603,005,000	597,644,000
Miscellaneous products	126,797,000	133,847,000
Total	4,423,255,000	4,316,768,000
Equal in sterling to	£176,930,200	£172,670,720

EXPORTS.

Food products	832,498,000	812,330,000
Raw manufacturing materials	756,220,000	821,850,000
Manufactures	1,915,458,000	1,847,028,000
Miscellaneous products	215,936,000	213,131,000
Total	3,720,-21,000	3,703,657,000
Equal in sterling to	£148,804,340	£148,158,280

There is thus an increase both of imports and exports during last year, notwithstanding the special impetus which the Paris Exhibition of 1889 gave to foreign trade during that year. *Le Temps* is disposed to attribute this increase to the continued good influence of the Paris Exhibition. The Exhibition, it says, has tended to strengthen the position of France in the markets of the world, and the increase indicates an undoubted general revival of commercial enterprise. In its review *Le Temps* enquires how a sensible Frenchman can desire an alteration in the present commercial policy of the country so far as its foreign trade is concerned. It asks whether in view of these official returns it is wise to incur the risk of such an important and adverse change in the foreign trade of the country as must necessarily result from the adoption of the Tariff Bill. If the Tariff Bill should be passed it will certainly lessen greatly the foreign trade of France. Some British exports to that country will be reduced, but on the whole British trade with France has already been so far curtailed by the existing tariff that any further increase of duties is not of very much importance. The advanced rates of duty prescribed in the Tarlff Bill, now under the consideration of the Tariff Committee appointed by

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the French Legislature, are framed solely upon representations of the protected interests. The interests of French consumers have not been considered.

MR. ERNEST HART.

MR. ERNEST HART, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, the well-known author of the series of Lectures on Japanese Works of Art, delivered before the Royal Society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce of Great Britain, is here for a few days prior to his departure to the country, where he purposes spending some time visiting the principal places of interest. His works on Japanese art, frequently quoted in this country, enjoy a high reputation in Europe. Mr. Hart possesses an extensive collection of objects of art, including rare specimens in every department. The printed catalogue containing the dates and names of the greatest Japanese artists, is a favourite handbook for collectors. He was the first person in England to think of cataloguing in a methodical and comprehensive way the works of the principal Japanese metal workers, potters, and lacquerers, and has thus rendered a signal service to the cause of art in Japan. Appointed by the Prince of Wales one of the Commissioners to the South Kensington International Exhibition, he rendered important services to the Japanese Commission. He is the bearer of letters of introduction from the Japanese Legation in London. While in Hongkong, Mr. Hart was entertained at a banquet offered in his honour by the staff of the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese, presided over by Dr. Cantlie, the Dean of the College.

A STANGE STORY.

FROM Chicago comes a strange story, told by a Mr. H. Slocum, of Peking. While in San Francisco he was invited to "a sale of some choice Japs." Proceeding to the appointed place, he found a richly furnished house where "several well known citizens and a number of old women" were assembled. "Suddenly, the folding doors at the further end of the parlour were flung open, and through them came about twenty young Japanese girls, none of them more than sixteen years old. It was with evident reluctance they entered the room, and most of them hid their faces in their hands for shame at the paucity of their clothing. The girls had just arrived here from Japan, whence they had been enticed by unscrupulous wretches with promises of easy and remunerative employment. They were auctioned off at prices varying from $40 up to $500 a piece. Such sales occur every month or two, but nothing is done to prevent them." We do not believe Mr. Henry Slocum's narrative. Possibly it may pass in Chicago, but here in Japan it will scarcely be included among the examples of veracity which help to shed lustre on Occidental truthfulness.

THE RETIRING VICE-MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS.

VERY old and familiar is the habit of politicians in opposition to make capital out of every retirement of a prominent official. The outgoing Minister, or Vice-Minister as the case may be, becomes for the moment a hero, whose delicate conscience forbids him to endure the pain of longer association with corruption and incompetence. Mr. Mayejima, who has just resigned the post of Vice-Minister of Communications, figures at present in the role of a flail to thrash his former colleagues. The agitators have suddenly discovered that his high integrity made it impossible for him to continue in a Department where the practice of swindling the State has been developed into a fine art. One or two of the opposition papers show address that is quite pretty in discussing this incident. They dip their critical pens in tears as well as in gall, and profess to be really pained by rumours which they nevertheless find it their duty to ventilate—rumours that the Department of Communications is in a shockingly demoralized condition, and that the upright Mr. Mayejima, *vir integer vitæ scelerisque purus*, would have been stifled had he remained any longer in its atmosphere of vitiated morality. Slander is proverbially too garrulous to be logical. It does not occur to these critics that their accusation turns, not against the Government, but against Mr. Mayejima himself. Only a few days before his retirement, that official attended in the House of Representatives as Government Delegate, and with conspicuous skill defended his Department against every insinuation of corrupt or irregular dealing. There had been some talk among the uninitiated in connection with the fact that the Department of Communications did not always accept the lowest tenders for work done under its direction. People inferred that such a departure from the common custom could only be accounted for on the hypothesis of favouritism and bribery. Mr. Mayejima was questioned pretty closely about this suspicion, but he treated the whole thing with lofty disdain, explaining that the Department accepted tenders the terms of which were consistent with satisfactory performance of the work undertaken, and even going so far as to hint that the perplexity of the members of the House on this point arose from pure ignorance. A few days afterwards he sent in his resignation, and therewith the opposition cried out that a righteous man had severed his connection with unendurable iniquity. In other words, Mr. Mayejima, having successfully and stoutly repelled every insinuation that corruption existed in his Department, immediately retired because the corruption there was so terrible. Pretty creditable for Mr. Mayejima, it must be confessed. Amusing too, to those acquainted with the true reason of the outgoing Vice-Minister's retirement, namely, that his personal relations with the Minister of the Department were of such a nature as to render official cō-operation exceedingly difficult. The existence of friction, evolved by political and private considerations, had been recognised for many months, and the catastrophe did not arrive until long after its imminence had become apparent. But this very simple fact will of course signify nothing to the mischief-makers. They have their own hatchet to grind.

"SCRUTATOR."

THE Yokohama correspondent signing himself "Scrutator," who imagines that contact with Japanese children or with children having Japanese blood in their views would contaminate European or American children, now enables us to estimate his moral bias more clearly than before. He falls back upon the gracious and polite subterfuge that the editor of the *Japan Mail* is paid to "flatter Japanese vanity." Men of "Scrutator's" type may constitute a very noble band of conservatives, but is it not possible that they place themselves on a pedestal just a trifle too high? Their readiness to attribute mercenary motives to every one differing from them is simply a confession of the exceeding coarseness of their own moral fibre. Nothing was wanting to complete the unsightliness of "Scrutator's" position except his reference to Christ. The great apostle of charity and universal brotherhood is honoured by such company, and Christianity becomes a pleasant burlesque when men apply its tenets to support a Pharisaical assumption of superiority to their fellows, and to justify that noble attitude of fierce intolerance and wholesale condemnation assumed towards all Orientals by the kindly Occidental. "Scrutator" has travelled. He knows the world, and takes us to Calcutta in search of precedents for his exclusiveness. According to his account the Indian city has a school to which are admitted only children having "three non-Oriental grandparents." If "Scrutator" goes a little farther afield he may discover that the purely non-Oriental ancestors of the Calcutta exclusionists burned people at the stake because they denied the divine authority of the Pope, and persecuted the countrymen and countrywomen of Christ because of their nationality. We do not feel absolutely bound by Calcutta traditions in Japan, neither do we admit "Scrutator's" right to set himself up as the exponent of "the leading foreign merchants of Yokohama." He is a very good exponent of the unreasoning prejudice on which too many Occidentals build their fine title of superiority to all Orientals, but it is simply a part of his self-sufficiency to imagine that the vacuum of reason and experience in which he moves is universal.

* * *

"Scrutator," we observe, echoes the silly criticism of a local journalist who found fault with us for alluding to the "Greek" of the self-satisfied Pharisee in the parable. "Scrutator" does not know, apparently, that the utterances of the Pharisee have come down to us in Greek and Greek only. The children of Calcutta with three non-Oriental grandparents could doubtless instruct "Scrutator" on this point.

THE LAND-OWNERS OF THE NORTH.

WHEN the question of special re-assessment of land for purposes of taxation was embodied in a Bill and submitted to the Diet, the land-owners of the northern districts, to whom re-assessment on the proposed basis meant an increase of some twenty-five per cent. in the amount of their tax, subscribed to send a deputation to the capital for the purpose of doing everything possible to oppose the passage of the measure. The members of the deputation, arriving in Tokyo, took up their abode at comfortable inns, engaged private *jinrikisha*, and let no day pass without organizing a *shimon-kai*, or a *konshin-kai*, or an *enseisu-kai*, or some other form of gathering for the exchange of opinions or the ventilation of views. What, if any, effect all this contrivance and industry exercised on the fate of the Bill, no one pretends to judge, but the fact is that the measure was thrown out, and the members of the deputation went home rejoicing, each carrying a bill of another kind in his pocket. It appears that, at the outset, only a certain sum of money had been actually put up by the land-owners, there being an understanding that additional expenses should be subsequently dealt with. An understanding, however, is generally open to more than one interpretation. When the successful lobbyists returned home and presented their accounts, they discovered that the land-owners understood themselves not to be liable for anything in excess of what had been already disbursed, and a terrible complication ensued. No settlement is yet reported, but of course the usual give-and-take process will be resorted to in the end. Under any circumstances, to the *O-u* lobbyists will belong the honour of having furnished an example which will doubtless prove useful to the members of future deputations from the provinces.

AMUSING EPISODE IN THE BRITISH COURT.

MR. WILLIAM WILSON, a gentleman whose language proclaimed him Scotch as his demeanour evidenced his sublime indifference to the usages and customs of a court of law, appeared on Saturday in H.B.M. Court before N. J. Hannen, Esq., to defend a claim for $2.50 brought against him by a jinrikisha man. It appeared that on the 12th inst. the latter, having taken a fare from the Hatoba to No. 187, was waiting outside when Wilson drove along in a carriage, which came in contact with the *kuruma* and caused damage, assessed by the owner at $2.50. Wilson entered the box, and after a good deal of irrelevant talk was at length got to state that the horse which he was driving had bolted with him, and that the coolie, seeing this, deliberately placed the jinrikisha in the way. The defendant embellished this statement with much fanciful expression, describing how the horse danced about, and how he had to get out and take it by the head, as no one else would do so. Asked by the Judge—who treated him throughout with a degree of consideration which the subject of it was much too drunk to appreciate—whether he knew any of the spectators, he replied in a reserved kind of manner that he dared say Jack Adams was there. "But" he continued, "look here, you can't put us in for more than three days." Then, as an attempt was made to detain him in the box—"Not another word will I say to anybody. No use writing that down, sir; if you are going

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to charge us, charge us." He deigned to inform the Court that he could not pay the claim, and that what he chiefly desired was to leave Yokohama. Condescending at length to answer a question put to him, he said Jack Adams was an American citizen. But, he added, it was no use writing that down. "It's no use doing that, man," he said to his Honour; "I would rather stand for it myself. It wasn't my fault, but I'm willing to go to jail. But don't bring anybody else into it." The Judge hastened to assure him that there was no present desire to put him in jail. The defendant continued to refer to the "—— country," and in tones of sorrowful regret to the circumstance that he had "got roped in" over a difference with a jinrikishaman. Finally the Judge said he would adjourn the case until Monday, until the defendant got sober. If he came into Court again in his then state he would be committed for contempt. ("Contempt?" interjected the defendant enquiringly). He was under the influence of liquor. ("That's a mistake of yours," corrected Wilson). His Honour was convinced that he was correct. ("All right. You may be convinced;" from Wilson). If defendant wanted to call any witnesses—(Defendant—"I don't want no witnesses, whatever. You can do your worst; you can only put me in jail.") His Honour then left the bench, and Wilson left the Court, removing absently from its place a hat belonging to one of the reporters. When this was discovered a moment later, an attempt was made to recover the defendant and the hat—the latter, if possible, before he could put it on—but they had vanished into the moist and misty beyond. The owner of the missing property sadly but withal gingerly, led the venerable affair that Mr. Wilson had left behind him, into the Consulate, and painted in such vivid colours the contrast between it and the valuable article of which he had been deprived, that the usher departed hastily in search of Wilson. But though aided considerably by the trail of Grogtown aromas, which remained floating in the air to mark the course that Wilson had taken, the expedition proved unsuccessful, and, indeed, the owner ceased very shortly to yearn for his hat. He, therefore, accepted one of a reserve stock kept on the Consular premises, and went on his way rejoicing.

WHALEBONE.

SEEING that whalebone is at £2,300 per ton, the local Whaling Company, with a modicum of luck during the coming season, ought to pay a good dividend. The long talked of exploitation of the Antarctic in search of the *Balæna mysticetus* seems to be as far off as ever, and it is not certain that this member of the *mutilates* will be found there when search is made. He is, however, getting very scarce in the north. We find the following in reference to the price of whalebone in a home paper:—"The year 1890 began with a price of 2,200*l.* per ton for whalebone. That was thought a very hige price, for it was very nearly 300*l.* above the average of 1889. But when in October it was known that the Greenland whale fishery was a failure, the price rose to 2,250*l.*, the highest price on record. American successes in the Pacific brought it back to 2,000*l.* in November, but it is again rising, and 2,300*l.* is the quoted price for the new year; and, unless the talked-of Antarctic fishery for whales should prove a success, and balance the failure of the Arctic fishery, a still higher price is expected in the near future."

ATTRACTING FOREIGNERS.

THE *Jiji Shimpo*, commenting on the fact that there are every year some 1,500 visitors to Japan—though whether this figure applies only to those who come here for health purposes from the hot regions near the equator, or also includes the genus globe-trotter, is not quite clear—observes that if each one spends $1,000 during his or her stay, the gain in money to the Empire may be represented at $1,500,000. But our contemporary regards the means available in this country to attract foreigners in larger numbers as very inadequate. There are one or two hotels in the capital, but their prices are hardly moderate enough to be in keeping with the accommodation they offer; and visitors who start out to buy Japanese goods are at once scared away by the exorbitant prices asked by shopkeepers. Not only are intending purchasers thus driven away, but they warn others and in many cases even prevent them from coming here at all. Again, if a visitor wishes to enjoy a celebrated view or to associate with high class Japanese, he has few means of gaining his object, and his enjoyment is consequently limited. In Tokyo and Osaka steps are absolutely necessary to attract foreigners, for if provision is made for such visitors they will stay longer and come oftener, besides persuading their friends to come also. More can be gained in this way than even by the opening of new and productive kinds of business. It is stated that the mattee is at present being considered by a leading merchant of Tokyo. Exactly what form of attraction the *Jiji Shimpo* would provide for foreign visitors we are at a loss to understand, and consequently we await with some little impatience the result of the "leading merchant's" cogitations.

THE ACTION OF LIBEL AGAINST THE "TOKYO SHIMPO."

MR. SUYEMATSU SABURO was prime mover in the action taken by the House of Representatives with regard to the imprisonment of its member Mori Tokinosuke. The House did not gain much honour by that action. On the contrary, it came off distinctly second best, for, after long debate and some bluster on the part of the Representatives, the refusal of the Administration to disturb the due process of law remained unshaken. Failure is always condemned. Plenty of critics hastened to make a display of *ex-post-facto* sagacity when the unsuccessful issue became apparent, and some were so intensely astute that they discovered occult evidences of collusion between Mr. Suyematsu Saburo and the Government. Conspicuous among these excessively wise onlookers was the *Tokyo Shimpo*. In its issue of the 9th of December, it charged Mr. Suyematsu with being a tool of the Authorities, and declared, almost in so many words, that in accordance with a secret arrangement between him and the Minister of State for Justice, the House of Representatives had been betrayed into a position from which it could not retire without loss of dignity. He had, in fact, joined in a conspiracy to bring ridicule and discomfiture on the Diet, of which he enjoyed the honour to be a member. Mr. Suyematsu at once instituted proceedings against the *Tokyo Shimpo*, and the case came up for hearing on the 20th instant, in the Tokyo Local Court, before Judge Yamagawa Tokuji, and Assistant Judges Mochizuki Genjiro and Nakajima Seisuke. The plaintiff gained his suit, the judgment being that, in accordance with the 89th and 90th Articles of the Criminal Code, the defendants, Mr. Takayagi Tokuji, publisher, and Mr. Tatsuka Senzo, editor, of the *Tokyo Shimpo*, having been guilty of libel, should be imprisoned for 15 days with hard labour, and pay a fine of 2.50 *yen*.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT THE GRAND HOTEL.

ON Monday evening the directors of the Grand Hotel formally inspected, under the guidance of the engineers, Messrs. Bagnall and Hilles, the engines, machines, and other fittings of the electric lighting system which has just been installed in the hotel. The examination was most satisfactory, all the directors present, Messrs. J. F. Lowder, E. Blanc, J. Walter, and Dr. Gravatt, expressing their pleasure with the working of the plant, and Mr. Lowder, on their part, assuring the engineers that the light had given every satisfaction to the directors as well as to the public. Six hundred and seventy-six lamps have been distributed throughout the extensive premises of the hotel, of which 14 are 32-candle power, 40 are of 10-candle power, and the remainder are of 16-candle power. These are incandescent lights, and in addition to this system of internal lighting, there are provided 4 lamps of 2,000-candle power each, three of which are on the Bund side and one on the Water Street entrance to the building. The power for supplying electricity to these lights is obtained from three machines, two of which—that for the arc lights, and one for the incandescent installation of 225-candle capacity—are driven by one engine, and the other, of 450 candle capacity (also incandescent) is driven by a second engine. Steam for the engines is generated in a Buckeye tubular boiler, which works at about 90 lbs. pressure; the engines are of the Buckeye double-valve, automatic, cut-off type, one of 30 and the other of 45 horse-power; and the dynamos are Brush shunt-wound machines, having a self regulating power, which, joined with the cut-off principle of the engines, renders the installation practically self-regulating, and independent of the instruments usually required for that purpose. The arc machine is also Brush, of the kind which was first used in Japan for external illumination (in the Palace grounds at Tokyo). All the wire used is Grimshaw's White Core, manufactured by the New York Insulated Wire Co. and is of the very highest insulation; and the electrolics are from the Mitchell, Vance Co. of New York. Seventy lamps of 16 candle-power (a centre piece of ten, four groups of 4 and the remainder single) are used to light up the large dining room; a similar number is fitted up in the billiard-room and bar, and there are 25 in the old dining room, the hallways, corridors, verandahs, &c., being all well illuminated. Apart from the high insulation of the wire employed, precautions against fire are multiplied in the form of safety fuses. No lamp has less than four of these soft metal fuses between it and the dynamos and many lights have six, so that risk may with perfect truth be said to have been reduced to the lowest point possible. The distributing arrangements are of ideal convenience, for irrespective of the switch-board in the machine room, by which the power of the engines may be divided or combined according to the number of lights burning, there are three switching places in different parts of the building, one containing 3, one 4 and one 7 switches. Last evening the engines, running at about 170 revolutions to the minute, worked smoothly and regularly; the switching off and on of the machine supplying the four big arc lights (an addition of 5 horse-power) failing to affect in the slightest degree the engine to which it is attached. The system altogether reflects the very highest credit on the engineers, and the shareholders of the hotel are to be congratulated on the completion of a work which cannot but enhance in a remarkable degree the value of their property.

THE GREAT ENGLISH FROST OF 1890-91.

DURING the last week of January the British public was undergoing the process of being thawed out. Since the 9th December there had been an almost uninterrupted frost of a character unknown since the year 1813. At intervals there would be brief thaws covering the ice with a few inches of water which was immediately frozen by the returning frost. The bitter cold was accompanied by a succession of fogs, the like of which had been unknown in England for many years. For thirty-five successive days in December and January the Sunshine Recorder of the Meteorological Department at Westminster recorded no sunshine. On December 19th snow, which had been threatening for some time, began to fall, and exceeded in depth and intensity anything since the great snowstorm of 1881. For weeks it lay on the ground and rendered traffic, save in large towns, all but impossible. Until it was cleared away from the lines, trains found considerable difficulty in going on; express trains, for instance, on the Great Western line which first stopped at Swindon, were compelled to pull up at wayside stations near Reading to replenish their boilers which were exhausted in the struggles to go forward through the snow. As for the ice and frost, they are not likely to pass out of the memory of the present generation. The water in the London parks had ice nine inches thick, and London was not by any means the coldest place in South Central England. At Oxford, to

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which this honour belongs, the Thames was not only frozen over but a coach and four with passengers was driven from Iffley Lock to the Tolly Bridge. At one time one might have skated with scarcely any intermission from Cricklade at the head of the Thames to Teddington Lock where the tide begins. If, here and there, the skater found dangerous places, it was because of the efforts of the tug boats to pass through the ice. In London itself huge sheets of ice passed up and down with every tide and sometimes completely concealed the water underneath. Here and there oxen and sheep were roasted on the ice in accordance with what is supposed to be an old custom on such occasions. The force of the frost was almost inconceivable. At Topsham on the estuary of the Exe a fleet of fishing boats were left stranded by the departing tide. The frost bound them so firmly in the mud that the incoming tide could not release them; they were held fast, and the water passed over them leaving nothing but their masts visible. In the estuary of the Dee, as the tide went down the ground from which it receded was immediately frozen, and at low water from shore to shore there was nothing visible but a mass of ice. With the incoming tide came the famous bore which is characteristic of the Dee and the Severn. Not being able to melt the ice, the water rushed under it and forced it high up into the air in all directions and in the most fantastic shapes. At a great fire in London the firemen employed in pouring water on the flames became masses of icicles from the spray, and had to be frequently relieved for the purpose of being thawed out. Almost everyone in Southern and South-eastern England has his own story of the tricks played by the frost. All this time, not only the West of England, but the extreme North of Scotland, enjoyed bright mild weather. As one travelled on the Great Western line out of London the frost and snow remained unchanged in intensity as far as Bristol; beyond that, as the traveller crossed the Somersetshire Marshes through Bridgewater towards Taunton, there were signs of a decrease in intensity, and as one ran south towards Exeter the snow gradually disappeared, and along the south coast was not to be seen at all. The vapour on the carriage windows, which was frozen between London and Exeter, thawed between the latter city and Torquay. In the south of Scotland there was bright sunshine, and certain winter flowers were blooming. Meteorologists, no doubt, have their own explanations of these eccentricities; to have to endure them is more than enough for the average man.

LYING CORRESPONDENTS.

We have already drawn attention to an extraordinary article about Japan published under the heading of "Special Cablegram" by a Colorado newspaper. On further examination we find that the article is a portion of correspondence which appeared in the *New York Herald* of February 10th, dated "Yokohama, Japan, January 11th, 1891," and headed "Special correspondence of the *Herald*." The part telegraphed to the Colorado journal and already reproduced in the these columns, forms the concluding paragraphs of the correspondence. The preceding portion is as follows:—

The Japanese Diet has now been opened about six weeks, and during that time has demonstrated one thing at least very clearly to the world in general—namely, its utter inability to reflect lustre and renown upon the country. From the very first day of their assembling themselves together it became evident to all that their career was not going to follow the commonplace lines generally characteristic of parliamentary assemblies. That the regulation for candidature had not been sufficiently stringent to keep the House purged from characters not above the temptations of filthy lucre, also became evident, as the very first action the Diet took was a strenuous effort to wrest a brother member from the clutch of the law on account of misplaced attentions on his part being bestowed on funds committed to his care. Now, although this indiscretion on the part of this erring member was undoubtedly a very serious one, it was still more indiscreet of the Diet to take offensive steps to reinstate him, and a lively passage of arms between the government and the new constitutional assembly was the result, ending in the slight discomfiture of the latter.

A Diet composed as this is, however, of young and warm blood, is not easily abashed, and speedily recovered itself sufficiently to plunge into the question of the budget, which has provided some rather lively debates, the bone of contention being a wholesale reduction of the expenditure. Now, it is always pleasant to see a well balanced detestation of reckless waste, and no one would feel inclined to quarrel with a Diet prompted in its actions by motives of practical economy; but in reducing a national expenditure it is customary, if not arbitrary, to specify under what particular headings the reductions were to be made. This happened to be exactly what the Diet did not seem inclined to do. Whether this little matter of detail appeared to the House to savour of lowering its dignity has not been given to the common herd to know, but certain it is they did not enter into detail, but merely expounded a theory that $10,000,000 of the annual expenditure ought to be dropped. Even when pressed to unbosom themselves more full on this point, the only item they condescended to enumerate as requiring curtailment was the salary of the President. This was uncommonly unneighbourly, especially as not a single member volunteered to renounce his own. There is one direction, however, in which an increase is almost unanimously clamoured for. This is the national defence, both military and naval. It is thought that the latter should at least be equal to the Far East squadrons of England, Russia, and China, but for what reason no one acquainted with Japan's peaceful platform can be expected to readily comprehend. This formidable increase is estimated as the work of seven years.

Previous to the opening of the Diet the Japanese Bar was figuratively a "public lounge," at least outsiders were not unnaturally led to consider that any and every youngster with a fancy for legal argument had access to it, to judge from the annual number of candidates. Something like two thousand went up a few months back, but quite a small percentage passed, only 250, and even this modest number causes one a shudder of apprehension lest any unlucky chance should involve one in a law suit. Fancy 250 barristers annually! These happy go lucky days are gone for the law, however, and legal aspirants of the future must examine their pockets as well as their brains ere they can hope to distinguish themselves in the courts of their country. A bill—for the "Prevention of Barristers" it should be called—has just been successfully carried making some of the most especial qualifications for the Bar to begin with quite a pretty substantial figure in the form of fees, besides a really stiff examination and a final condition that all candidates must be "sound in mind and body" before being permitted to practise. This ought to keep the courts fairly clear. The title of barrister is not to be permanent, either, but a matter of arrangement; but the precise duration which a man may and may not consider himself a full blown pleader has not been publicly announced.

The constitutional movement that has really been convulsing Japan to her centre is, however, the commercial code. This, as every one knows, was to have come into operation in eight months' time, but as the day approached consternation began to paralyze one and all whom it would effect. High and low far and wide began to realize how utterly unequal they were to the task. Useless for the Government to suggest that the backs would be fitted to the burden, useless for teachers to run hither and thither through the land seeking to make plain the intricacies of the terrific code—the terror could not be stemmed, and has resulted in a universal and undignified cry for postponement. This has been warmly contested, but the vote has passed, and now the commercial and civil codes will come into force in double harness. Count Yamada, Minister of State for Justice, warmly advocated the immediate enforcement of the code, but when, the Cabinet seconding it, the bill for postponement was introduced and finally passed he at once sent in his resignation. The Emperor declining to receive it, the Count sent it in again, at which His Majesty consented to allow him a temporary retirement on account of his health. This is the position of affairs at present. The Count will retire from active service for a season nominally for medical treatment, but virtually till he has recovered from his umbrage at his personal opinions being set aside.

As an instance of how the code would have affected only one class of society even, I may cite the fact that hotel keepers would have become responsible for the property of their customers in the same way as they are liable in the Occident, and this, seeing that no Japanese house has the most elementary substitute for a fastening to doors, windows and walls, all of which slide about in an equally unconventional manner, the responsibility entailed upon "mine host" at Japanese hotels would have been burdensome in the extreme, nay, positively impracticable.

When the Diet opened a stern mandate was in vogue that "no ladies" would, could or should be admitted upon any pretext whatever; but strange to say for once feminine influence has been allowed a "sphere" and permitted to overrule the lordly man even in Japan, and ladies did have and still have access to the Strangers' Gallery, where it is to be hoped they will get that insight into what is going on which their natural intelligence deserves. How it happened no one seems to exactly know, perhaps—but this is pure supposition—it was a *mauma* with a member's lunch?

Of course there is only one epithet applicable to this rigmarole: it is a tissue of falsehoods and blunders, and the man who penned it can be nothing but an unprincipled romancer. The opinions of the correspondent are, of course, his own property, but whenever he undertakes to make a statement of facts, he errs grossly. He errs about the controversy between the Government and the House of Representatives in the matter of a member's detention in arrest; he errs about the Budget; he errs about the examination of barristers; he errs about the Barristers' Bill, and he errs about the admission of ladies to the Diet. It is very regrettable that the columns of a newspaper like the *New York Herald* should be open to such a graceless impostor.

MISS BIRD.

Mrs. Bishop, better known to the world as Miss Bird, had before the last mail left, just returned to London from an extensive and hazardous journey in Central and Eastern Asia. Mrs. Bishop's husband died some time ago, and left a large sum of money wherewith to found a hospital in the most out-of-the way place where it would be likely to be of service. Loyally carrying out her late husband's wish, Mrs. Bishop has been travelling in Asia over a year. She has been among the Karakorum Mountains, where she met Captain Younghusband, whose return to India is just announced. To this remote region she made her way through Cashmere and Sadak, and in the former country she selected a spot on which to erect the hospital endowed by the piety and humanity of her husband. Among the Karakorum Mountains she encountered great difficulties, but fared much better than she did on returning through Armenia. In Luristan she met a party of officers of the Indian Survey, and accompanied them some time while they carried on their work. In Persia she visited some rarely visited regions. She is, we believe, the first European to explore the course of the Karun river, the upper course of which is unknown. She found that the river rushes full-grown from a cave high up in the mountain side, inside which are the springs which give the Karun its genesis. Almost immediately after leaving the cave the Karun passes underneath two great bridges of snow, and runs for over 100 miles between precipitous rocky banks. Its waters, Mrs. Bishop states, are of a green intense beyond all she has ever seen in Switzerland, and the scenery altogether is of the most unique character. While passing through Armenia she found the country in a state of desolation and terror, completely devastated by the merciless Kurds. She halted at a hut near Erzeroum, was arrested by a band of Zaptiehs under pretext that she was in league with the Armenians, dragged through the streets to the police station, and searched in the worst manner possible. Her difficulties were not over when her captors, finding they could substantiate no charge against her, unwillingly allowed her to go free. She was rearrested and subjected to many indignities, but eventually was able to set out for the coast. On her way news reached her that the Kurds had again determined to make her a prisoner; but she eluded their search and in the end crossed safely over to Constantinople. Here she paid a visit to Sir William White, the British Ambassador, who mentioned Mrs. Bishop's arrival to the Grand Vizier. That official at once expressed a desire that Mrs. Bishop should give him such information as she had gathered during her travels of the actual state of things in Armenia. In an audience of more than an hour and a half she spoke with the greatest frankness of the atrocities committed by the Kurds, and the Grand Vizier expressed his thanks to her for the information she had given him. It was, he said, impossible to get at the truth from the official reports he received. "What did Mrs. Bishop think the best policy to adopt?" "Send half a dozen regiments of infantry and a regiment of cavalry to give the Kurds a lesson which they will not readily forgot. They have not forgotten the lesson the Persians gave them ten years ago. Let the Turks give them a similar lesson." The Grand Vizier promised that in the spring he should take the vigorous measures indicated by Mrs. Bishop, who soon afterwards returned to London, where she is now engaged in preparing for Mr. John Murray, the publisher, a volume descriptive of her latest adventures.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL.

Lieutenant-General Kawakami, as reported by the vernacular press, has expressed himself very sensibly, and with well merited severity, in regard to the thoughtless utterances of the busybodies who lately sought to create an excitement, by proclaiming that the imminent visit of the Russian Prince Imperial was inspired by a desire to examine Japan's military condition, and to ascertain the strategical features of the country. The General says that such rumours betray not only the ignorance but also the thoughtlessness of their ventilators. The Heirs Apparent of Great Western Potentates do not travel in state for the purpose of accomplishing military and topographical surveys. If such work needs to be done, they have a thousand trustworthy and competent officers to whom it can be entrusted. Suppose that, owing to the silly fussiness of these unreasoning folks, the Emperor of Russia should come to entertain the idea that the next occupant of the Russian Throne, instead of being received with the honour due to his rank and the amity due to his friendly intentions, might look forward to encountering in Japan suspicious looks and a half-hearted welcome, His Majesty would certainly not hesitate to direct that Japan should be left out of the Prince's route—an intentional omission from which Japan would suffer materially in the eyes of the civilized world. The General, doubtless with entire truth, observes that only an insignificant minority of the

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people can entertain such short-sighted notions as those which the agitators would fain circulate, and that the nation, *en masse*, will welcome the advent of His Imperial Highness, and do everything possible to make his gracious visit a pleasant reminiscence. Russia is Japan's neighbour on the north, and everything counsels this country to cultivate the most friendly relations with her.

CHINESE GINGER.

THE *Bulletin* of the Royal Gardens, Kew, for January contains a section on Chinese ginger, from which it appears that the article known by that name has in fact nothing to do with the ginger plant. As long ago as 1878, Dr. Percival Wright, Professor of Botany in the University of Dublin, wrote to Kew, pointing out that the "large flat ginger-like masses sent to this country from China as preserved ginger," differed from anything that the ordinary ginger plant (*Zingiber officinale*) could possibly produce. The question then naturally arose what was the plant used by the Chinese? Ginger itself, as is the case with so many cultivated plants, is unknown in a wild state. But there can be little doubt that it is a native of Asia. It was known as a spice to the Greeks and Romans, who received it by way of the Red Sea, and supposed it to be a production of Southern Arabia. It was very early introduced into the West Indies, whence it was shipped for commercial purposes to Europe as early as the 16th century. The dried ginger met with in British commerce is almost entirely derived from the West Indies, Sierra Leone, Egypt, and India. It is noteworthy that none is received from China. At the instance of Professor Wright, Mr. Playfair, of H.M. Consular Service, sent a case of Chinese plants to Kew in 1878. They were propagated without difficulty and largely distributed to tropical colonies. That the plant was different to ordinary ginger was obvious. But plants of the ginger family are shy of flowering in cultivation, while their foliage is all so much alike that it affords no adequate means of discrimination. The plant obstinately refused to flower at Kew, as it also appears to have done in Ceylon, and there was nothing to do but to wait until some lucky chance as to conditions of growth in some colonial garden enabled Kew to be furnished with the necessary material for identification. In the meantime a root of a ginger from Siam shown in the Health Exhibition at South Kensington in 1884 proved to be alive when received at the Kew Museum. As it obviously differed from the ginger of the shops it was handed over to the assistant curator for growing. He succeeded in raising plants from it, and ultimately in flowering it in 1886. On comparing it with the drawings and specimens in the Herbarium it was identified with a specimen labelled "*Alpinia* sp., Bangkok," which was collected by Sir R. Schomburgh in 1864, and which is very near to *A. Allughas*, also a native of Siam, where, according to Schomburgh, it is cultivated for its Cardamom-like fruits, and is known as *Luk-Reu* or Bastard Cardamom. Under the name of Galangal, *A. officinarum*, a Chinese species is cultivated for the sake of its aromatic rhizomes, and this unnamed species now in flower at Kew is apparently largely cultivated by the Siamese as a substitute for ginger. The rhizome is very thick, slightly flattened, and not so freely branched as in common ginger; it has the pungent aromatic properties of ginger, so far at least as could be ascertained by tasting it. There is some reason for believing that the Chinese Ginger of commerce is not obtained from *Zingiber officinale*, the source of Jamaica ginger, but from a species of *Alpinia*, and possibly this unnamed one at Kew. In 1887 Sir Joseph Hooker figured the plant in the *Botanical Magazine* as a new species, *Alpinia zingiberina*. The rhizomes he describes as "very aromatic;" they "smell and taste a good deal like the official plant; they are, however, very much larger, at least three times as thick, are much more shortly and irregularly branched, and the branches are thickened in the middle." In December, 1888, Kew received the first authentic flowering specimen of the "Chinese Ginger" from the Botanical Department, Jamaica. This proved to be an *Alpinia*, and also identical with the Siam plant. It is in fact nothing more than the well known *Alpinia Galanga*. In a letter to Kew Mr. Playfair says that it has been established as incontrovertible by Dr. Hance that the ginger plant in China never flowers, and the natives assert the same. The plant is propagated entirely by tubers. Canton is the head-quarters of preserving ginger; the plant grows in Amoy too, and is used as a condiment, but not as a sweetmeat.

THE RETIRED LIST.

ON the 22nd instant the following Notification appeared in the *Official Gazette*:—

We hereby direct the repeal of a portion of the Retired List Regulations, and order the same to be duly promulgated, the change to come into operation from the 1st of April, 1891.

(Imperial Sign Manual.)
(Great Seal.)

NOTIFICATION No. 23.

The 5th Article of the Retired List Regulations is hereby repealed. Provided that officials who are on the Retired List on the 1st of April, 1891, shall, during the remaining period of their Retired Service, receive one-fourth of the salary then payable to them.

The Retired List Regulations referred to in this Notification were promulgated on the 4th of January, 1884. Their provisions, in sum, amounted to this:—that, thenceforth, in the event of an Office, Bureau, or Department being abolished, or in the event of disabling sickness, officials might be placed on the Retired List, by order of the Emperor in the case of *chokunin* officials; by order of the Minister President, in the case of *sonin* officials; and by order of the Head of a Department, in the case of *hannin* officials. On retirement, an official retained his rank, but discharged no duties. He could, however, be re-appointed to office at any moment by authority of the same nature as that exercised in respect of his dismissal. The term of retirement was three years, at the end of which all official connection ceased, and the retiring allowance was one-third of the pay actually received by the official at the time of retirement. The object of these Regulations was plain enough. They were intended to provide a golden bridge for the retreat of superfluous officials, who, though no longer required by the administration, had nevertheless served too faithfully to be dismissed off-hand. Moreover, it was evidently thought convenient to retain touch of these retired officials so that, in case of public necessity, they might be re-appointed to office without submitting to the usual routine of competitive examination and probationary service (as *Shiho* or *Minarai*). The Regulations served their purpose fairly well, but nevertheless, little by little, public opinion turned against them. It appears to have been thought that unless an official had served long enough to entitle him to a pension, the State ought not to be at any charge in the event of his services being no longer required. The fact that Pension Regulations were issued on the same day as the Retired List Regulations, and that the two have been in operation side by side during the past seven years, has perhaps helped to accentuate this feeling. At all events, when the various political parties compiled their programmes last year, it was found that the abolition of the Retired List Regulations was a common plank, and people expected that the subject would receive early consideration by the Diet. Like many another measure, however, it seems to have been thrust out of sight by the Budget. Not until the 4th of March did it appear in the Orders of the Day, on a motion of Mr. Minobe Teiryo, and beyond being announced on two or three consecutive days by the President as one of the proposals awaiting immediate consideration, nothing more was heard of it during the session. Nevertheless the Government has now recognised that the wish of the nation points to a change of these Regulations, and the result is the issue of the above Notification. The portion now expunged from the Regulations is the article fixing the retired allowance at one-third of the retiring official's salary. For the rest, the Regulations remain unchanged. Officials can still be placed on the Retired List, retaining their rank, and remaining eligible for re-appointment during a term of three years, but they will receive no allowance. Further, the allowance of officials whose names are on the List when the change now announced comes into force, will be reduced by one-twelfth—namely, from one-third to one-fourth. It will be seen that while, on the one hand, all retired allowances, except those enumerated in the Pension Regulations are abolished, on the other the Government still retains the discretionary power of placing an official on an unpaid Retired List for a period of three years, during which time he is eligible for re-appointment without submitting to any of the tests provided by the Official Examination Regulations. According to the pension system, fifteen years' service is necessary to qualify an official for a life pension, the amount of such pension being one-fourth of the official's active-service pay with an additional $\frac{1}{240}$th for every additional year's service up to thirty-five years, when the maximum pension of one-third is reached. Short of fifteen years' service no retiring allowance can any longer be granted, a change which will doubtless be welcomed by the country.

* * *

The reduction of one-twelfth applied to allowances already granted to officials on the Retired List, may seem a somewhat arbitrary measure. But it must be remembered that the receipt of these allowances has never partaken of the character of a right. Eligibility for the Retired List is not determined by any prescribed conditions. The Government possesses an absolutely free hand in the matter, and has always exercised its power so as to suit administrative convenience. Officials have no sort of claim to retired pay—no claim such as they acquire under the Pension Regulations after fifteen years' service. Those who are in receipt of retired allowances at present cannot, therefore, complain of being subjected to a reduction, especially when they know that the salaries of the upper grades of officials on active service are to be reduced simultaneously. The Government is evidently resolved to carry out the wishes of the Diet, expressed or implied, and it certainly seems fair that when economy has to be extended to the cutting down of salaries, it should also be made to include retiring allowances which are based on salaries.

THE RADICALS AND TREATY REVISION.

IT has been already stated that the Radical Party, at its recent meeting in Osaka, elected a Committee of eleven members to investigate the subject of Treaty Revision. The names of the Committee are now published. They are Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Oi Kentaro, Kono Hironaka, Arai Shogo, Kawashima Jun, Ishida Kannosuke, Matsuda Masahisa, Suzuki Teiichi, Higashio Heiichiro, Suzuki Shoji, and Komabayashi Koun. The objects which the Committee is instructed to keep in view are, first, the re-consolidation of the five parties which formerly united for the purpose of opposing the Government in respect of Treaty Revision; secondly, to inquire into the aims constituting the basis of the present Cabinet's programme of Revision; and thirdly, to contrive that all politicians, to whatever party they belong, who share the views of the Radicals as to Treaty Revision, shall combine their strength. Our readers doubtless remember that in the summer of 1889, when Count Okuma's scheme of Treaty Revision seemed to be on the point of consummation, its opponents formed an association called the *Godantai*, or five-party league, their watchwords being "no foreigners on the Japanese Bench," and "no foreign land-owners in Japan." It is this league that the Radicals now seek to re-construct. At its head was the *Daido Danketsu*, the other four constituents being the *Kokusui Hoson-to*, or Nationalists; the *Hoshu-to*, or Conservatives, led by Viscounts Torio and Tani; the *Shimei-kai*, a Conservative Club numbering among its members several men of

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note, as Mr. Inouye Ki and Mr. Furusho Kamon; and finally, a group of Independents. Whether any considerable portion of these malcontents could be again brought together for the purpose of opposing a programme of Treaty Revision that no longer includes the provisions objected to in 1889, is very problematical. The Radical Party itself is in a disintegrated condition, and its leaders probably think that Treaty Revision might be employed as a common standing place for re-union. We scarcely venture to express any distinct opinion on the subject. It is perfectly well known that the new scheme of Revision does not include any provision for the employment of foreigners in the capacity of Judge, and does not confer the privilege of land-ownership by foreigners outside the settlements. If, then, the objections advanced by the Five-Party League in 1889 were honest and exhaustive, there should be no real basis of opposition today. Yet the Radicals are obviously organizing a campaign in opposition. This time, it would, seem, that their motto must be *Taito-joyaku* (Unconditional Revision), plain and simple. Indeed, well informed persons affirm that such is the fact. The Cabinet, however, if we may judge by Viscount Aoki's speeches in the Diet, does not contemplate unconditional Revision. To do so would be obviously inconsistent with the first principle of negotiation, for men do not negotiate when they have no intention whatsoever of compromising. Thus we have, in effect, the situations of 1889 and of 1887 reproduced. The Government, in the exercise of proper and prudent statesmanship, is willing to compromise; the anti-Governmental section of the nation will be content with nothing short of complete victory.

* * *

Perhaps the most perplexing element in the situation is the attitude of the *Kaishin-to*. Less than two years ago the members of this great party were singing a pæan of triumph because their leader, Count Okuma, had achieved the remarkable feat of reducing the bases of negotiation to a point acceptable by foreigners and highly satisfactory to Japan. Count Okuma regarded with great satisfaction the prospect of a certain number of foreign legal experts being appointed to the Japanese Bench, and the prospect of foreigners being permitted to own real estate in the interior. The former he counted not only a means of improving the Japanese Judiciary, but also a safeguard against international disputes; the latter he welcomed as a step in the development of the empire's resources. These liberal and wise views were heartily endorsed in the press and on the platform by the whole of the Count's Party, but their programme fell before the bitter opposition of the very men who now seek to array themselves against the new scheme. What side is to be taken by the *Kaishin-to* under these circumstances? They allied themselves with the Radicals in the Diet to oppose the Government on the Budget question, and they carried their opposition to such lengths that their desire to overthrow the Cabinet evidently took precedence of any genuine wish for fiscal reform. It is true that in this campaign they advocated a scheme of administrative organization mapped out by Count Okuma himself while in office. Thus, in one sense, their attitude was perfectly consistent. But ready association with former political opponents and a marked disposition to push the struggle *à l'outrance* betrayed the bitterness of their animosity to the Government, and render it most improbable that they will now support the Cabinet in the matter of Treaty Revision. On the other hand, they cannot possibly endorse the opposition of the Radicals, because the latter's claim is that the new programme concedes too much to foreigners, whereas the programme of the *Kaishin-to* conceded a great deal more. Their position is, therefore, decidedly perplexing. The *Choya Shimbun*, discussing the matter, observes that the *Kaishin-to*, in order to avoid either stultifying itself or supporting the Cabinet, would have to preserve a strictly neutral attitude. But neutrality in respect of a question that engrosses the whole nation's attention, means effacement, and the *Kaishin-to* will scarcely consent to blot itself out of the political page at this crisis.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

The Weights and Measures Bill, one of the few important measures passed by both Houses of the Diet, has received Imperial sanction and become the law of the land. It will be remembered that this Bill provoked much debate in the Upper House, the Conservative Peers objecting to the fact that the French metre was mentioned in the body of the law, and objecting even more to the fact that a foreign standard—although the only scientific standard of length in the world—should have been taken for the purpose of connecting the Japanese system with that of the West. These scruples were not unnatural, and to the credit of the Peers it must be confessed that a great majority of them showed intelligent appreciation of the purpose and scope of the measure, which, for the rest, was admirably explained and piloted by the Government Delegates, especially Professor Kikuchi. Nevertheless, when the Bill reached the Lower House, the Representatives were entirely occupied with the Budget, and there appeared to be very little chance of their finding time to consider a complicated reform of the national system of weights and measures. No sooner had they disposed of the Budget, however, than they settled down to legislation with such earnestness that the Weights and Measures Bill was passed after a brief debate, every attempt to reject, alter or add to the amendments introduced by the Peers, being outvoted immediately. So slender was the margin of time for considering the measure that any alteration proposed by the Lower House must have been fatal to the passage of the Bill during that session, since such alteration would have necessitated a conference of the Houses and re-submission of the Bill to the Peers. The debate in the Lower House showed that the Representatives had carefully followed the progress of the Bill in its various stages before the Peers, and had resolved how to treat it when it came into their hands. A pretty full analysis of the provisions of the Bill has already appeared in these columns, but as the subject is of great importance, we shall take an early opportunity of publishing a full translation of the new law.

ACCURACY AND MORAL DECENCY.

It is singular that even such a simple matter as the number of members in the House of Peers should be misstated by the local English journal which has adopted for itself the rôle of exposing official abuses, imaginary or real, in Japan. That accurate newspaper charges the House with perfunctoriness because, on the important occasion of discussing the Budget, "only 154 out of 300 numbers put in an appearance." There are not 300 members in the House, but 252, made up as follow:—

Princes of the Blood	10
Princes	10
Marquises	21
Counts	15
Viscounts	70
Barons	20
Imperial Nominees	61
Representatives of the Highest Tax-Payers	45
Total	252

From this number the Princes of the Blood must be subtracted, in considering attendance for parliamentary discussion, and of the other members more than thirty were unavailable owing to sickness, absence from Tokyo or other unavoidable causes. The truth is, then, that out of a possible attendance of, not 300, but a little over 200, there were found in their places 154 members, at 9.45 p.m., the sitting having lasted from 10.30 a.m. This in itself would not be a bad showing; but when we add the fact that the opposition numbered less than 45, it becomes plain that a fuller House would have been quite unnecessary. In England full Houses are found when a close division is anticipated or when a vigorous struggle has to be carried on; but when the opposition is in a hopeless minority, members not desiring to speak and having no need of further debate in order to make up their minds, are apt to absent themselves. It seems to us that a critic must be in great straits for a ground of attack when he manufactures charges out of such material.

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We notice this matter, not because the public is likely to attach any importance to criticisms of the nature described, but because the thing is typical of the whole plan of anti-Government campaign pursued by the journal which a number of leading British residents of this Settlement have openly established as their organ. We fail to perceive by what right, or on what principle of expediency, an English newspaper published in Yokohama lays itself out deliberately to play the part of a political agitator. Foreigners residing in this country claim exemption from any obligation to observe the laws of the land, and are certainly exempted from the processes of those laws. Holding themselves aloof from the nation in everything that regards prohibitions or penalties, moral decency requires that they should refrain from thrusting themselves into its political disputes, and from seeking to discredit the Government in the interest of political agitators. Doubtless we shall be hotly told that nothing of the kind is done by the journal in question. But when we find "attention called to the disgraceful nature of the legislation forced on the Upper House by the Government;" when we read that the proceedings of the House in respect of the Budget were "a travesty on legislation;" that the "House stultified itself and established a dangerous precedent by consenting to act as a tool of the Government;" that only a handful of "earnest men protested against the despotism of the Government;" and when finally we see a hope published "that the members of the House of Peers who have ideas of their own and feel themselves to be something more than puppets, to be moved to and fro at the will of the Government wire-pullers, will organise a party in the House which will be able to command a majority against the arbitrariness of the Executive"—when we read all this, we have conclusive evidence that the journal printing such editorials is simply an anti-Government agitator of the most pronounced type. To people conversant with the facts of the Budget question, the silliness of the whole criticism will be apparent. But that it is criticism at once seditious towards the Government and exceedingly insulting to the House of Peers, cannot be denied.

KOREAN GOSSIP.

A correspondent writes from Korea:—The foreign community of Sōul is under a shadow just now. The new *Chargé d'Affaires* of the Japanese Legation, Mr. Kawagita, who succeeded Mr. Kondo, arrived here a little over a month ago. On the Korean New Year, with the others of the diplomatic corps, he called at the Royal Palace. While waiting for the audience which was to have been at nine o'clock, but did not take place until about twelve, he got thoroughly chilled. Returning to the Legation he took to his bed, from which he never rose. He died on the 9th inst. and his body will be taken from Sōul on next Sunday the 15th inst. He will probably be buried in the Japanese cemetery in Chemulpo. Col. E. H. Cummins and Major J. G. Lee, formerly of His Majesty's Military Service, but for the last eighteen months insisting on a settlement of their claims with the Korean Government, have finally reached a settlement satisfactory for the present, and the two gentlemen leave by the steamer that carries this letter. Notwithstanding the fact that this Government is slow to carry out its contracts, it does not seem to have any serious difficulty in filling vacancies. Dr. W. B. Scranton of the Methodist Episcopal Mission, with his family and mother, after a residence of six years in Sōul return to the U.S. This is the oldest mission in Korea, having been practically opened by Rev. Dr. R. S. Maclay in the summer of 1884.

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To the question whether any Christian work has or is being done in Korea, it is enough to state that in addition to the thousands treated by Dr. Scranton every year for the past few years, and the Christian books sold daily in his dispensary, his mother, Mrs. M. F. Scranton, the founder of the woman's work in Korea, not only established a girls' school, but is at the head of a religious work to which the women come with commendable regularity. The number has risen from none in 1885 to an attendance of something like a hundred in 1891—true not large, but a good beginning. Japanese enterprise is making itself more and more felt in Korea. It is well known that, apart from the enterprising firm of Messrs. Morse, Townsend & Co., the bulk of the Korean trade is carried on by the Japanese. The latest scheme is to run a stage-coach between Sōul and Chemulpo. To make the distance between these two places either in sedan chair or on pack pony is a day's work. With two or three relays the trip can be made with ease and comfort in six hours. The scheme is not a new one, but up to this time it was expected that the Korean Government would father it. We believe the Japanese will succeed in this enterprise, and if they do they will render substantial service to all travellers between Sōul and Chemulpo.

THE "KOBE MARU" IN COLLISION.

A COLLISION occurred soon after 5 p.m. yesterday, says the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 18th instant, between the *Kobe Maru*, inward bound from Japan, and the *Telemachus* going out. The two vessels collided on the bar, and the *Kobe Maru* is damaged about the bows, the fluke of her anchor going through her plates just below the port hawse pipe. She has lost the anchor and some of her rail. The *Telemachus* is more seriously damaged, and has returned to Shanghai for repairs.

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The *Telemachus* is now (19th) alongside the Old Dock, having the necessary repairs made after collision with the *Kobe Maru*. The damage done to her consists of two holes torn in her port side, a little abaft the foremast, and the injury was caused by the flukes of the *Kobe Maru's* stockless anchor, the head of which was left adhering to the side, while the shank remained in the hawse-pipe of the *Kobe*, being broken clean off at a part where it is eight and a half inches thick and five inches through. The fore bridge of the *Telemachus* is broken, and a heavy boat-davit has been torn away from the socket, the boat, however, being uninjured. Some of the rail is gone and further aft again the main bridge is smashed. Near the stern, there is more damage, and the after boat is smashed. Two or three plates will have to come out, and the waterway has to be cut, and the half-round beading removed before this can be effected. The work is in the hands of Messrs. Farnham & Co., and the repairs to the *Kobe Maru* are being done by Messrs. Boyd & Co. The *Kobe* has two plates broken, some four frames are bent, and her port hawse-pipe is smashed. The *Telemachus* is built of iron and the *Kobe* of steel. To see the peculiar position of the *Kobe's* anchor in the side of the *Telemachus*, a large number of people visited the steamer yesterday, and Mr. Mathieson took a photograph showing the position of the anchor.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA IN THE EAST.

IN a series of articles just concluded, the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* reviews at great length the positions of Russia and England on the Continent of Asia. The first article discusses the general aspect of the subject, and observes that a collision between England and Russia will inevitably take place on the borders of India. The ultimate object of the Asiatic policy of Russia is to conquer India, which England is determined to retain at whatever cost and risk. To illustrate Russia's ambitious designs upon India, the Tokyo periodical alludes to the gigantic plan of aggrandizement formed by General Skobeleff. England, we are told, is determined to suffer no interference with her Indian Empire, where she finds profitable markets for her manufactures. The *Kokumin* gives statistics showing the value of England's trade with India, and the general economic value of the latter. As to an alliance between England and Russia, the Tokyo journal thinks, with Sir Charles Dilke, that the only result of such an alliance would be to place England in an extremely disadvantageous position *vis-à-vis* Russia; since an agreement could only be effected by suffering Russia to have her own way in the Balkans in return for a guarantee of India's security. The consequence would be a gradual increase of Russian influence in the Mediteranean, to the serious injury of England's trade with Turkey in times of peace and to the hampering of her fleet's movements in time of war. The second article of the series gives an elaborate account of the sucessive stages of the progress of Russian influence in Central Asia, and notices that the great Northern Power is now ready to push forward into Afghanistan. The third article asserts that the field of contest between England and Russia will be Afghanistan. The history of the latter State's relations with England and Russia in recent years is described, and special attention is directed to the strategical position of Herat, which important place, the *Kokumin* predicts, will fall an easy prey to the advancing arms of Russia. In the fourth article, our contemporary considers the relative positions of the two Powers, from the standpoint of their facilities for transporting forces to the scene of combat. In time of war, we are told, it will be extremely difficult for England to secure the use of the Suez Canal for her transports and war vessels. Moreover, there is a strong probability of the English fleet being attacked in the Mediteranean by French squadrons. Thus England will have either to double Africa or to make use of the Canadian Pacific route. The latter course would be more convenient and secure than the former, but the connection is not continuous throughout, and the route is consequently objectionable. On the other hand, Russia is capable of putting her troops on the field of battle much more rapidly and conveniently, by making use of river and lake navigation, and of railway lines within her own territory. As to the forces that the two countries can bring into the field, the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* observes that, in this respect too, the balance is certainly in favour of Russia. Against the immense numbers of soldiers that Russia can at short notice pour down upon India, Great Britain has but 224,000 troops, of whom only 72,000 are Europeans. Further, military command is very much divided in India, and would be greatly hampered in its exercise in time of war. Three other circumstances contribute to lessen the value of the defences available in India against foreign invasion; namely, the absence of patriotic ardour in the Sepoys; the existence of several semi-independent native Princes, who maintain their own military establishments; and the general discontent among the mass of the people against British rule. In the art of ruling a subjugated people, England cannot, in the opinion of the Tokyo periodical, claim superiority over Russia. Indeed, the *Kokumin* is inclined to give the palm to the Russians, who, being in some essential respects an Asiatic people, know well how to assimilate an Asiatic race. Russia's manner of dealing with her subject people is magnanimous and open-handed. The *Kokumin*, in short, insinuates that the people of India would not show much enthusiasm to prevent a change of masters. Yet another element of danger to Great Britain, we are told, is the circumstance that a portion of the advancing troops of Russia would be Mohamedans, and this fact would probably operate to deter the Mohamedan Sepoys in the British service from fighting against the invaders. Thus England finds herself at a great disadvantage in her probable conflict with Russia. Is England, then, doomed to defeat? The Tokyo journal think that the only hope for England lies in an alliance with China. The latter, with immense masses of troops stationed on her north-western frontiers, can easily so far reduce the effective strength of any Russian advance on India as to enable England to stand her ground. On the sea, the Northern Squadron of the Chinese Navy would be of great service in intercepting the advance of the Russian fleet towards Hongkong or Australia. In conclusion, the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* alludes to the close bearing which the probable collision between England and Russia must have on the position and safety of Japan. This part of the question our contemporary reserves for discussion on a future occasion, but judging from the manner in which it speaks of Russia as a Power destined to cause immense troubles in the East, we infer that, unlike Mr. Takahashi Kiichi, whose article on this subject was noticed in these columns some time ago, it does not desire to see Japan allied with the great Northern Power.

FISHERIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1890.

THE official returns relating to the fishery industries of Great Britain and Ireland in 1890 have recently been published. The value of the fish returned as "landed on the Scotch coast" is considerably in excess of the preceding year (1889). The total for 1890 is set down as being £1,627,461, as against £1,493,578 in 1889, showing a difference in favour of last year amounting to £133,883. In the matter of the quality of fish captured, which, for round and flat fish, is stated in hundredweights, there is reported a slight falling off as compared with the take of the previous year, the weights being given as follows:—1890, 5,362,115 cwt.; 1889, 5,416,012 cwt. The take of cod is noticeably less; herrings, too, show a deficiency; but an improvement is manifest in the sprat-fishery, as also in the weight of whitings captured, and of skate. Coal-fish (saith) seem to have been singularly abundant, the take of 1889 having been exceeded last year by 21,000 cwt. The weight of herrings taken in the two years for which statistics are now furnished was in 1890, 3,513,810, and in 1889, 3,554,283 cwt. As regard values, herrings, whitings, and haddocks show an increase, and cod-fish a decrease, on the preceding year. The shell-fish fisheries show a slight improvement as compared with 1889, as the following figures will show:—

	1890.	1889.
Number of crabs caught	2,845,716	2,770,600
Number of lobsters caught	652,364	571,900
Oysters dredged	350,200	310,800

The money value of the shell-fish landed is stated for the two years as being respectively £67,849 in 1890, as against £62,947 in the preceding shell-fish season, so that, on the whole, it may be taken for granted that the Scottish fisheries are not retrograding so quickly as some economists have been asserting. Turning now to the English fisheries, we find that so far as the value goes of the quantities of fish landed on the coasts of England and Wales, the figures of 1890 denote an excess ever those of 1889. They are given as follows:—£4,742,406 for last year and £4,167,082 for the year preceding. The catch of what are known in the English markets as "prime" fish (turbot, soles, and brill chiefly) was considerably in excess of the take of the preceding year. Mackerel, plaice, and sprats were also much more abundantly captured in 1890 than was the case in 1889. In the figures given relating to the oyster supplies, there is shown a large increase in the number of oysters, and also in the lobster capture, but crabs have not been taken in such great numbers as in 1889. The money value of the shell-fish fisheries is represented by a sum of £374,060 in 1890 and by £305,346 in 1889. The improvement in value of 1880 over 1889 may be stated at £575,324, which is so far satisfactory. In Ireland, also, it has to be premised that the year recently closed showed an improvement in respect of fishery values over 1889, bnt the total figures are still considerably under half a million sterling for the fish returned as landed on the Irish coasts. It has to be kept in mind, however, that probably not so much as half of the fish caught in the Irish waters is brought ashore in Ireland. The oyster fisheries show a considerable falling-off as compared with the results of last year's dredging, and the same has to be said of crabs and lobsters. The value

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of the flat and round fish taken in Ireland in 1890 amounted to £362,804, of the shell-fish to £11,045, making a grand total for last year of £373,849; the total figure for 1889 was £33,044. The number of oysters dredged in 1890 was 534,910, not a tenth part of what could be obtained some 20 or more years ago. The mackerel fishery of last year yielded a sum of £212,285, an amount very considerably over what was placed to the credit of the fishermen in the preceding year. The respective amounts for the three kingdoms are as follows:—England, £4,742,406; Scotland, £1,627,461; Ireland, £373,849, making a grand total for the United Kingdom in 1890 of £6,743,716. These figures are to be accepted as representing "the actual values returned by the local officers" at the various fishing ports. In all probability the public pay not less than 12 millions per annum for their fish supply. These figures show the magnitude of this industry in the British Islands, which, for the rest, are not in an ideal fish producing region—nothing for instance to compare for wealth and variety with the Japanese Islands.

RETROGRESSION.

THE *Jiji Shimpo*, writing of the action taken by the House of Representatives with reference to the land tax, says it is matter for regret that the people's delegates, while well aware of the inadvisability of interfering with the Land Tax, should have decided to reduce this source of national revenue by a half per cent. The *Jiji* thinks that the difficulties that present themselves outside are much more serious than those to be encountered within the country. It does not, in speaking thus, refer to the probability of war, but has in its mind only the fact that while foreign countries are striving to enrich themselves Japan is distinctly retrograding. It is therefore the duty of the people not only to be industrious in their respective spheres of work but also to bear cheerfully their burdens, while the Government, on its side, applies its best efforts towards keeping down expenses. The reduction of the revenue from the land tax will, in our contemporary's opinion, benefit only the landholders. It may be said with perfect justice that in Japan the land tax is heavy and the national expenditure by no means small. But even with this admission, how does Japan's expenditure compare with that of other Powers? Take Italy for instance. The Italian people have to bear the burden of an annual expenditure of about *yen* 360,000,000; even Belgium spends *yen* 70,000,000, and Turkey *yen* 150,000,000. With these compare Japan's *yen* 80,000,000. After commenting approvingly on the course pursued by so poor a State as Italy to keep herself in the path of progress, a course which it says the Japanese are too weak to imitate, the *Jiji* asks what impulse can be given to navigation colonization, commerce, agriculture, or industries in general by means of such a paltry sum as *yen* 80,000,000; and ought not Japan to be termed the Land of the Setting, rather than the land of the Rising Sun!

THE PANAMA CANAL.

THE Paris *Figaro* has published the text of the arrangement concluded between the Government of the United States of Columbia and the Panama Canal Company, according to which the following are the principal clauses of the contract:—"(1) The time allowed for the completion of the canal is extended for a further period of ten years; (2) the concessionaire to effect the liquidation of the old company, the assets of which will be transferred to the new company; (3) work on the canal to be effectively resumed before February 28th, 1893; (4) the concessionaire to provide for the support of 250 soldiers charged to protect the line of the canal during its construction; (5) the concessionaire, in exchange for services rendered by the Columbian Government, will pay to the latter ten million francs in gold and five million francs in 10,000 of the new company's shares; (6) the Columbian Government will have the right of appointing a special delegate to sit on the board of the new company." The contract bears date December 10th, 1890, and is signed by Señor A. Boldan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Columbian Government, and by Colonel Bonaparte Wyse, the representative of the liquidators of the old company.

THE REV. SAM JONES.

THERE are good muscular Christians in Texas. The New York *Sun* says:—

Palestine, Feb. 8.—At a series of meetings held here in November last the Rev. Sam Jones of Georgia assailed sinners in general and several individuals in particular. Among those mentioned by the evangelist, was Mayor J. J. Ward, to whose official and private character Mr. Jones alluded before a large audience in the severest and most pointed terms. The Mayor was absent from the city at the time. For the last three weeks the city has been all agog over the announcement that the evangelist would be here again to deliver his lecture, "Get There," and there was a rush for seats.

Mr. Jones arrived last night, and the lecture was delivered before a large audience. At 8½ this morning, just before the evangelist took the train for the West, Mayor Ward was seen to approach him and vigorously strike him with a cane.

The cane exchanged hands during the struggle, and the Mayor received several severe blows before bystanders parted the angry combatants. Heavy bruises were inflicted, and both bled profusely.

In a few minutes the train pulled out with Sam Jones on board, and the Mayor was arrested and is now under bond for aggravated assault, and carrying a pistol. A meeting of citizens was held to-night and the act of Mayor Ward denounced.

Mr. Jones sent this despatch to Atlanta to-night:

"The one gallus Mayor of Palestine, Texas, tried to cane your uncle Jones this morning at the depot. I wrenched the cane from him and wore him out. I am a little disfigured, but still in the ring. I criticised his official career last November. It needed criticising."

EXPORT DUTIES.

As already stated in these columns more than once, the question of the entire abolition of export duties now levied at the open ports is engaging the attention of business men. Mr. Taguchi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, one of the most enthusiastic advocates of the measure, recently delivered a lecture on this subject before the *Keishin* Club, which is composed of the leading merchants of the capital. Knowing that Mr. Masuda of the *Mitsui Bussan Kaisha* was a strong advocate of the reform under consideration, the lecturer had urged him to take some active steps towards the realization of their common aim, and Mr. Masuda had suggested the delivery of a lecture. Declaring himself very reluctant to address the accomplished and experienced members of the club on a subject so plain and simple, Mr. Taguchi said he had one welcome disclosure to make. In 1888, in a conversation on this topic with Count Matsukata, Minister of Finance, the Count had avowed his wish to see all the export duties abolished, but had explained that the condition of the public finance did not permit him to realize his desire. The Government, however, had just abolished export duties on more than a hundred articles; consequently the present seemed an auspicious time to revive the topic. In consequence of the reductions effected by the Diet, a surplus of more than six and a half million *yen* would be shown in the Budget of the current year, and the lecturer had no doubt that, should his listeners memorialize the Government, the latter might so far sympathize with them as to convene an extraordinary session of the Diet and lay the matter before it. The export duties at present aggregated about 1,600,000 or 1,700,000 *yen* per annum, and consequently a small portion of the surplus would suffice for the accomplishment of the much desired reform. Considering the question from a diplomatic point of view, the Foreign Office might—though Viscount Aoki was too shrewd to entertain such a notion—think it advisable to reserve the abolition of export duties as a concession wherewith to purchase the Treaty Powers' agreement to Japan's proposal for an increase of import duties. That would be like asking a man to allow himself to be pinched on the plea that a neighbour would then stop pinching himself. Who paid the export duties? Mr. Taguchi concluded that it was the Japanese themselves. Consequently, whatever benefit resulted from the abolition of these duties, would be so much gain to Japanese producers and Japanese merchants. Thus the reform would be eminently in unison with the popular cry *min-ryoku kyui-yō* (nursing of the people's resources). Mr. Taguchi advised his audience to approach the Authorities on this subject by all means. He was of opinion that the majority of the members of the Diet would be inclined to favour the measure.

* * *

Most persons will agree very readily that the proposed abolition would be a distinct advantage to trade, but we are unable to follow Mr. Taguchi when he asserts that export duties come out of the pockets of Japanese producers and merchants. It is a principle, not of abstruse political economy, but of simple reasoning, that all taxes on productions and manufactures are paid, not by the manufacturer or producer, but by the consumer. Indirectly the Japanese suffer by having to pay export duties, because, in the case of such of their products as find competitors in foreign markets, every *sen* of export duty places the Japanese article at a disadvantage, and, other things being equal, reduces the demand for it. The duty, however, must of necessity come out of the consumer's pocket. That is as plain as the first rule of arithmetic. While, therefore, the abolition of all taxes on Japanese exports is to be greatly desired in the interests of the country's commercial development, it is entirely misleading to assert that such taxes come out of the pockets of Japanese producers and merchants. On the other hand, every additional *yen* levied by the Customs on imports from foreign countries has to be paid by Japanese consumers. Heavy import duties may diminish the bulk of imports, and may give spurious encouragement to home industries, but it is the Japanese consumer, and the Japanese consumer alone, that pays duties. Instead of buying a lot of yarns or shirtings for 105 *yen* when the import duty is 5 per cent, he has to pay 110 *yen* for the same lot when the import duty is 10 per cent. If the Japanese people find that they are enabled to dress themselves and to live more economically by the aid of cheap foreign manufactured goods, and that they can thus devote a larger portion of their energy and industry to the production of articles for sale abroad, then it is distinctly to their advantage that import duties should be reduced to a minimum. Among all known devices for raising State revenue not one is so economically unsound and morally injurious as the levy of Customs duties, whether import or export. Mr. Taguchi is one of the leading Japanese economists of his day. We do not like to see him endeavouring to support a good cause on fallacious props.

RAILWAYS.

ON the 19th instant a meeting was held at the Ise-kan, Tokyo, for the purpose of discussing the question of railway extension in Japan. A large number of members of Parliament attended, as well as civil engineers and other professional experts. The idea of the promoters, Messrs. Sato Satoji and Tanimoto Michiyuki, was to debate the proper steps to be taken in regard to railway construction, and to consider what districts ought to be selected as the first objective points of future lines, so that the problem might receive intelligent and thorough examination during the next session of the Diet. Nothing has yet been published as to the decisions arrived at.

SUICIDE.

ON Monday afternoon about two o'clock Mr. W. Falck, a native of Norway, who only lately quitted the employment of Messrs. Langfeldt and Mayers after a term of service extending over ten years, shot himself with a pistol in his room at No. 52. Mr. Falck had been in low spirits for some time, and it is believed that his failure to obtain employment had preyed upon his mind. No one was in the room when the act was committed, but several persons residing at No. 52 were called by a

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servant, the only one who heard the shot, and entered in time to see the unfortunate man breathe his last. The bullet, that of a heavy Smith and Wesson revolver, had entered the head at the left temple. Deceased was thirty-five years of age.

THE RADICALS IN OSAKA.

THE great Radical (*Rikken Jiyu-to*) gathering commenced on the 19th instant in Osaka, but little is yet known in the capital. The place of assembly was the Senshin-kan, in Naka-no-Shima. A hundred and fifteen delegates were present, and the oldest among them, Mr. Nakanishi Mitsusaburo, of Wakayama Prefecture, was voted to the chair. A good deal of discussion is said to have taken place, and the first business transacted was been the passing of a resolution to drop the two first ideographs (*Rikken*) of the Party's name, and the election of a Committee consisting of one representative of each City and Prefecture. Subsequently the meeting decided that a Committee of eleven should be appointed for the purpose of investigating the question of Treaty Revision. The revised rules of the Party were then made the subject of discussion, and a vehement debate ensued as to whether five leaders should be elected, or whether one would suffice. Messrs. Hoshi Toru and Oi Kentaro supported the latter view, and finally succeeded in carrying their point. Votes were then taken, the result being that 72 were cast for Count Itagaki, and ten each for Messrs. Hoshi Toru and Oi Kentaro. It appears, therefore, that despite Count Itagaki's retirement, the great bulk of the Radical Party is still determined to recognise him as leader, and will not readily follow any other chief. The question now is, will Count Itagaki, in view of this renewed and emphatic vote of confidence, consent to resume the leadership of the Radicals. If he does, the Party must look forward to finding itself just as unfavourably circumstanced in the next session of the Diet as it was in the last, for Count Itagaki cannot sit in the Lower House, and the great trouble with the *Jiyu-to* in the session lately ended was the want of a strong and generally recognised leader.

MR. HARRY RUTHERFORD PARKES.

THE Attorney-General moved yesterday, says the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 18th instant, that Mr. Harry Rutherford Parkes, B.A., son of the late Sir Harry Parkes, be admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The Chief Justice said, "I have looked through these papers and have found them in order. I have therefore much pleasure in admitting Mr. Parkes to practice in this Court. As you say, Mr. Attorney, Mr. Parkes bears an honourable name; it is a name universally respected in China and Japan. Mr. Parkes in his practice may confidently look forward to all consideration from all concerned in the law. I make the order that Mr. Parkes' name be added to the Roll of Solicitors of this Court." Mr. Parkes joins the firm of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson.

BANKRUPTCY IN JAPAN.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* publishes some interesting statistics of bankruptcy in Japan from 1879 to 1887. The figures are as follow:—

Year.	Number of Bankruptcies.	Total Liabilities. Yen.	Total Assets. Yen.
1879	9,935	1,666,175	547,617
1880	9,955	1,282,344	260,136
1881	7,789	1,049,648	239,614
1882	23,191	1,624,176	342,593
1883	22,492	3,452,386	735,052
1884	27,526	4,713,904	1,047,012
1885	12,483	2,874,097	635,019
1886	10,732	1,583,288	394,658
1887	8,756	2,190,367	420,537

The very exceptional numbers of bankruptcies in the three years 1882, 1883, and 1884 are attributed to the reductions then effected in the volume of the fiat currency, and its consequent appreciation.

THE AGENT OF THE P.M. AND O. AND O. M. SERVICES.

MR. ALEXANDER CENTER, Agent of the Pacific Mail and Occidental and Oriental Mail Services at this port, has been appointed to the Agency of the same Services at San Francisco. During his many years of duty in Yokohama Mr. Center has gained the reputation of a first-rate man of business, and has been universally popular. His departure from Yokohama will be greatly regretted, but it will certainly be for the advantage of the two steamship companies that his capacities should be utilized in the wider sphere of his new post, which, for the rest, is the highest prize of the service.

MR. G. GOWARD.

ON the 18th instant, Mr. Dun, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires called at the Foreign Office upon H.E. Viscount Aoki, and presented to him Mr. G. Goward with his new credentials as Special Commissioner of the World's Columbian Exposition to the Empire of Japan. A subsequent interview with H.E. Mr. Mutsu at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce developed the fact that exposition matters are favourably progressing. It is understood that Mr. Goward will soon proceed to Korea for a short sojourn, having received a similar appointment to that kingdom.

HANDKERCHIEFS.

WE read in the *Jiyu Shimbun* that from August, 1890 to February, 1891, the number of handkerchiefs of Japanese manufacture exported from Yokohama, was 378,890 dozens. The growth of the trade in this article is very remarkable. The returns for the past three years are as follow:—

EXPORT OF SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.

Year.	Number of Dozens.	Value. Yen.
1888	340,465	1,233,927
1889	641,671	2,104,459
1890	826,803	2,516,946

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION LOTTERY.

SEVERAL times already there have been confident announcements as to the opening of the lottery for the articles remaining unsold from last year's Industrial Exhibition, but as yet all such fixtures have proved fallacious. The *Jiji Shimpo* now asserts that the delay has been due to difficulties in connection with the suit instituted against the projectors of the lottery, but that this question having been at length arranged, the drawing will commence on the 25th or 26th instant at the Koseikan in Kobikicho.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

A SWEEPING reduction of officials has been accomplished in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Fifteen *Sonin* officials and 63 employés are placed on the Retired List. It is fortunate for these officials that the change has been effected before the end of the present month, since they are thus enabled to receive, during the next three years, a retiring allowance equal to one-fourth of their pay. Had the reform been deferred until April, no retiring allowance could have been given.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

THE following Notice to Mariners, relating to the Silver Island Spit Buoy, in the Chinkiang district of the Yangtze River, has been issued from the Coast Inspector's Office of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs:—Notice is hereby given that a conical six-foot buoy, painted in red and black vertical stripes, and surmounted by a black diamond-shaped cage, has been moored in 20 feet at low water (average winter level), to mark the end of the spit which extends from the eastern end of Silver Island.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

WE are informed that Mr. Alfred East, whose pictures of Japan have gained so wide a celebrity, kindly offered one of his smaller sketches to be sold privately for the benefit of S. Hilda's Hospital, and that the Hospital Fund has been thereby benefited to the amount of ten guineas.

A SUCCESSOR TO BISHOP WILLIAMS.

THE American House of Bishops have elected the Rev. H. C. Swentzel as "Missionary Bishop of Yedo" having jurisdiction over the American Episcopal Mission in Japan. He is 40 years of age, a college graduate, and has been in the ministry for 16 years. It is supposed that he will accept, but some time must elapse before his consecration. Meanwhile Bishop Hare comes out to take provisional oversight of the Mission.

RESULTS.

THE unhappy fate of the Turkish frigate seems to have proved the means of introducing Japan to Turkey's notice. We read in a home journal that "the arrival in Constantinople of two Japanese men of war bringing the survivors of the ill-fated *Ertougrou* has caused great interest. A book in Turkish, with a map, has been compiled by Mehemed Zekki Effendi, giving a copious account of Japan."

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha's new steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, arrived at Hongkong on Thursday morning the 26th inst.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The proceedings at the recent general meeting of the (Constitutional) Liberal party, especially the appointment of Count Itagaki to the leadership of that party, form the principal topic of discussion in the vernacular press during the present week. The regular time for the spring general meeting of the party is in the month of April, but this year the rule has been departed from, partly to suit the convenience of the dispersing members of the Diet, and partly—according to rumour,—because the party was in a critical condition, requiring prompt action to secure its unity and re-assert its influence. The principal results of the meeting have been to nominate Count Itagaki to the leadership of the party, to strike out the word Constitutional (*Rikken*) from its name, and to appoint a Committee for the investigation of matters bearing on Treaty Revision.

* * *

Count Itagaki's consent to resume the leadership of the party, though he had but lately withdrawn his name, has caused no small surprise. Various stories are told as to the object of the politicians who prevailed upon the Liberals to re-elect their former chief. The most probable explanation is that the members of the party had become fully convinced of the folly of attempting to maintain their organization without a recognized leader. The Liberal organs welcome Count Itagaki's appointment, while the *Kaishin-to* papers are on the whole cold and indifferent. Journals not belonging to either of these parties, are inclined to regret his acceptance of the leadership, deeming the act injurious to his reputation. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is particularly frank on this subject. It has always admired Count Itagaki, not for the brilliancy of his parts, but for his disinterested fidelity and constancy. But it avows that of late his conduct has caused it no small disappointment and doubt. It strongly criticises the vacillation recently shown by him in his relations with the Liberal party. The *Kokumin Shimbun*, generally conspicuous for its good disposition towards the Count, is not at all satisfied with his return to the leadership. Observing, however, that what is done cannot be undone, the *Kokumin* offers the radical chief two pieces of advice, namely, that he should henceforth remain constant to the party through evil report and good report, and that he should not show any partiality to the twenty-nine seceders (the old *Aikoku-to*). The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, though it welcomes Count Itagaki's appointment, is inclined to doubt whether he will be able to successfully accomplish the difficult task of controlling the heterogeneous elements that make up the Radical Party; the old *Jiyu-to*, the old *Daido Danketsu*, and the old *Kyushu Shimpo-to*. It is very conceivable that the party may again be divided into factions headed by Messrs. Kôno Hironaka, Oi Kentaro, and Hoshi Tôru. The disposition of the Count does not

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suit him for the direction of a large body of men prone to mutual jealousies. Though honest and disinterested, he is not magnanimous enough, neither is he free from the weakness of setting the promptings of friendly emotion above the dictates of justice and policy. The *Yomiuri*, like the *Kokumin*, advises him to abstain from his tendency to show partiality to Tosa politicians, especially to the well-known 29 seceders, or as they are now more frequently called, the betrayers of the *Jiyu-to*.

* * *

Perhaps the most important feature of the proceedings at the Osaka meeting was the excision of the two initial ideographs of the Party's title, and the appointment of a Treaty Revision Committee. These transactions are significant, principally because they reveal the fact that the bulk of the party is not at all well disposed towards the *Kaishin-to*. The *Kokumin Shimbun* and the *Tokyo Shimpo* dwell upon this phase of the proceedings. At the time when negotiations were in progress for the amalgamation of all the progressive parties, the name *Rikken Jiyu-to* was adopted for the purpose of conciliating the members of the *Kaishin-to*. The dropping of the word *Rikken* is therefore to be regarded as a decided display of indifference to the susceptibilities of the Progressionists. That the Radicals assembled at Osaka were not particularly anxious to conciliate the members of the *Kaishin-to*, is further evidenced by the circumstance that the Treaty Revision Committee was charged, among other things, to contrive the revival of the celebrated "Five-party union." That Union is, in short, a confederation of parties whose opposition principally contributed to the failure of the Revision programme of the leader of the *Kaishin-to* in 1889. The revival of such an alliance is tantamount to a declaration of open hostility to the *Kaishin-to*. The proceedings at Osaka have consequently been regarded by the latter with no agreeable feelings. The Progressionist organs, however, do not entirely abandon their cherished hope of amalgamation with the Radicals, for they take pains as far possible to conceal their vexation at the present turn of events. It is a significant fact, as the *Tokyo Shimpo* observes, that most of the *Kaishin-to* papers have not even made an allusion to the dropping of the word *Rikken* and to the proposed revival of the union of five parties.

* * *

The amendments of the *Hishoku* Regulations, proclaimed on the 22nd instant, have been welcomed by the majority of the papers. According to the original regulations, officials on the *Hishoku* list were entitled to one-third of their former pay, but that privilege is to be hereafter withheld from officials transferred to the Retired List on and after the 1st of April next, while those already on the list will be allowed from that date only one-fourth of their pay. The advantages still left to officials on the Ritired list, are that they may receive appointments without examination, and that the time spent by them on the *Hishoku* list will be counted as active service, so that they may become entitled to receive pensions. The *Kaishin-to* papers are satisfied with the amendments, but the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* complains that the Government has not been courageous enough to entirely abolish the objectionable Regulations.

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Next to the *Jiyu-to's* Osaka conference, the question of Treaty Revision has received the principal share of journalistic attention during the week. Owing to rumours that negotiations for revision have been resumed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, political parties are beginning to take up this question. The *Jiyu-to's* conference at Osaka appointed a Treaty Revision Committee and charged it, among other things, to revive the former alliance of five parties which opposed Count Okuma's programme. It is not known whether such revival is possible; neither is it certain what course the union, if effected, would adopt in regard to the programme of the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. But this much is certain, that political parties are more than ever eager to make capital out of whatever objectionable points they may detect in Viscount Aoki's scheme of treaty revision.

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Mr. Nakaye Tokusuke, who recently resigned his seat in the House of Representatives, writes in the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, strongly urging the importance of excluding foreigners from the privilege of possessing real estate in Japan. He asserts that land, however small in extent, in the possession of foreigners, would be so much less of genuine Japanese soil, and he is of opinion that foreigners, in order to possess land in Japan, ought to be first naturalized in the country.

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The *Mimpo*, under the editorship of men like Messrs. Ozaki and Inukai—staunch supporters of Count Okuma's programme—finds itself in a delicate position in respect to the Treaty question. It speaks more or less contemptuously of "those conservative advocates of equal treaties, whose real object is not equality but inequality in favour of their country," and who clamour for restrictions on mixed residence, and for the prohibition of foreign ownership of land. It assures these politicians that their apprehensions about the evil results of unrestricted mixed residence, and the ownership of land by foreigners, are entirely unfounded. Nevertheless, however unreasonable such fears may be, the *Mimpo* considers it the duty of practical statesmen to recognize their existence, and points out that, when even a perfectly equal treaty cannot satisfy a certain influential section of the community, it would be impolitic to conclude treaties that fall short of equality. It justifies this changed attitude by saying that time is a great reformer, and that since the failure of Count Okuma, many alterations have taken place in the political and social conditions of the country. Viscount Aoki, taking advantage of the difference, ought to revise the treaties on a basis of perfect equality. Should this be found impossible at present, the Minister is advised to wait until a favourable opportunity presents itself, rather than commit himself to a course that can never be supported by his nationals.

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The *Tokyo Shimpo*, writing on the same subject, states that, according to a trustworthy report, the treaty programme of the present Cabinet has been subjected, by special command of His Majesty the Emperor, to the consideration of Counts Soejima, Terajima, Inouye, Ito, and Okuma; and declares that the present proposals will not be prejudicial to the national rights and interests of Japan. At any rate, our contemporary thinks it too early to assume any hostile attitude toward the Ministry on the question of Treaty Revision, and hopes that the leaders of political thought will use their influence to educate public opinion in the right direction, so that a solution of the problem may be effected without the interference of party jealousy and selfishness.

* * *

The *Chugai Shogyo Shimpo*, in a series of articles not yet concluded, undertakes to discuss the question from economic points of view. It observes that, although the primary causes of the failure of Japan's past efforts to effect revision, must be sought in the distrust with which foreigners regard her, and in their unwillingness to resign the selfish advantages which they enjoy under the present system, it is at the same time an undeniable fact that uncertainty on the part of Japanese public opinion contributed in no small degree to the abortive issue of the negotiations. It then goes on to reprove the narrow-mindedness of persons who confine their attention to the conservative side of the question, and attach undue importance to the exclusion of foreigners from the privileges of owning land, working mines, and so forth. There are also people desirous of seeing the customs duties raised to a prohibitive degree. As to the relative merits of protection and free trade, the *Shogyo Shimpo* observes that no country adheres to either policy entirely and absolutely. The United States' relations with the South American Republics, and England's treaties with Montenegro and Italy, are cited as showing the truth of this statement. The adoption of a protective policy in Japan, is denounced as suicidal. Reciprocity being now the recognized principle of international intercourse, an increase of duties on foreign goods would, in many cases, be followed by a corresponding increase of import duties on Japanese goods entering foreign countries. Instead, therefore, of resorting to a protective policy, the Tokyo journal thinks that it would be for the interest of Japan to endeavour to make special arrangements for the admission of Japanese goods into foreign countries on favourable conditions in respect of duties and other facilities. The extension of Japan's foreign trade should be placed above all other considerations in shaping the course of policy to be pursued in respect of Treaty Revision. Compared with this question of foreign commerce, all other considerations as to mixed residence, possession of real estate, and so forth, sink into utter insignificance. The future of the country lies, says our contemporary, in the development of commercial relations with foreign nations.

* * *

The Korean question still continues to receive attention from the metropolition press. There is a general agreement that the day is near when the Powers concerned in the independence of the peninsular Kingdom will have to take decisive action. Some papers even hint that the denouement will be more or less hastened by the visit of the Russian Prince Imperial. The *Nippon* is almost entirely occupied with this question. A certain person, signing himself *Kyo-un-sei*, writes in its columns as to the advisability of an alliance with some foreign Powers. The writer is not at all enthusiastic for any alliance. Unless Japan is able to maintain her own ground, alliance with any strong Power would ultimately mean reliance on its protection, and no good could result from such an attitude. In another article, the same paper welcomes a rumour that the present Ministry is resolved on some decisive line of action about Korea. But, as usual, it strongly doubts the ability of the members of the present Cabinet to carry out any such policy.

* * *

The *Chusei Nippo*, writing on the same subject, uses language showing the extent to which the writer has been alarmed by the disquieting reports lately appearing in the press about the condition of things in Korea. He seems to think that Korea is about to be absorbed into Russian territory, and he urges his countrymen to be united and on the alert, so as to show a brave face in case of any emergency.

* * *

The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* alludes to a rumour that the Japanese Government is inclined to terminate the Tientsin Convention, on the ground that its provisions are mutually inconvenient to the high contracting parties. Our contemporary fears that the result of such a course of action would be very injurious to the maintenance of friendly relations between China and Japan, for the two Governments being then at liberty to send troops to Korea, collisions would inevitably occur.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing on the approaching visit of the Russian Prince Imperial, recalls the splendid treatment which His Imperial Highness Prince Arisugawa received in Russia some years ago, and finds it natural that special preparations are being made by the Court to welcome the Imperial visitor with great hospitality. It further observes that Japan is not at all partial in her manner of greeting foreign princely visitors. Such visitors, from whatever country they come, will invariably find the Court of Tokyo as hospitable as it now intends to be towards the Russian Prince Imperial. The *Jiji* draws attention to the increasing importance of Russia from a commercial point of view, and advises its countrymen to do full justice to their reputation for hospitality in the case of the august personage now on the eve of arrival.

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WHITE WIVES IN THE EAST.

THERE appeared in a recent number of the New York *Tribune* a long letter over the signature of "Ex-Diplomatist." Inspired avowedly by a desire to save American girls from marrying Japanese or Chinese men, the writer undertakes to describe the life awaiting a young lady who contracts such an alliance. His description is certainly one of the most remarkable productions ever penned by any person professing to speak the truth. That his pretended object had any connection, however remote, with his real purpose, is wholly incredible, for his letter teems with falsehoods so gross and so palpable that they cannot for a moment be regarded as misconceptions. We have hitherto taken no notice of the communication for two reasons: first, because we hoped that it would speedily elicit crushing contradiction in the American press; secondly, because we would fain consign to oblivion calumnies so painful to their objects, and so humiliating to all concerned in ventilating them. Not only however, has the letter been re-published, without comment or contradiction, by a Yokohama local journal, but from several quarters queries have reached us, accompanied by requests that, if the statements of the *Tribune's* correspondent are untrue, they should be publicly contradicted.

"Ex-Diplomatist" offers evidence of his credibility. He has made, he says, "several prolonged stays in China and Japan;" has "seen more of native life than it falls to the lot of most foreigners to see;" has "had important dealings with members of both the Chinese and the Japanese nationalites," and has "lived in direct contact with the Japanese, understanding their language." We quote these self-proclaimed qualifications because, if "Ex-Diplomatist's" account of himself be correct, the context in which it appears constitutes him one of the most unscrupulous romancers that ever obtained access to the columns of a newspaper. It does not concern us to identify him. The clues he furnishes make that task easy, but we shrink from fixing upon a former member of the United States Legation in Peking disgrace that would reffect upon the whole service which has had the misfortune to include him. Not the least striking feature of his communication to the *Tribune* is audacity. The astounding recklessness of his falsehoods gives them an air of reality well calculated to deceive uninformed readers. Did he confine himself to the assertion that "there are a number of poor, deluded white girls in both China and Japan living in material and mental misery as the wives of natives," the vagueness of the statement might save it from complete refutation. We could indeed say that during twenty-five years of residence in Japan and of close intimacy with all classes of Japanese, we have never met or heard of any such unfortunate wives. But there would still remain the possibility that "Ex-Diplomatist's" experience had been wider than our's, and wider also than that of any other foreigner with whom we are acquainted. The *Tribune's* correspondent, however, is not content with generalities. He has the courage to particularize, and unfortunately for himself he selects, as examples of "poor, deluded white girls living in material and mental misery," two ladies who are among the leaders of Society in Tokyo, who have the honour of being frequently received at the Emperor's Palace, whose dwellings, equipages, and general mode of life are according to luxurious Western standards. He has been in Tokyo. He has, presumably, moved in respectable foreign circles there. He must know perfectly well that every foreign lady married to a Japanese is treated by her countrymen and country-women precisely as though her husband were of their own nationality; that she receives all the respect, and even more than the respect, due to his rank, and that she enjoys a degree of social consideration much greater than she could hope for in any large Western city. Yet he ventures to say that "in every case the fate of foreign girls married to Japanese has been equally unhappy and disappointing"; that "on reaching the shores of their husbands' country, they have found that they were regarded as pariahs by the foreign residents;" and that, "mercilessly boycotted by every American and European woman in the place, they are treated with open contempt as creatures that have lost caste and every claim to respect by the men." These are gross falsehoods. They belong to the same category as "Ex-Diplomatist's" even blacker lies, namely, that "there is no Japanese synonym for the English word chastity," and that "such a thing as regard for the marriage vows, or indeed, for any sort of morality, is conspicuous only by its absence in Dai Nippon." There are men who in their progress through life, come in contact with vice alone. Virtue is repelled by them. They create about themselves an atmosphere of grossness not permeable by any ray of purity. The Orient is to such creatures what their own degraded morality makes it. The impressions they gather there are marred and distorted by the prurient medium through which they pass. "Ex-Diplomatist" is evidently such a person. He has moved, in circles suited to his moral calibre. It is impossible for him to conceive that anything can be innocent or virtuous unless it is surrounded by all the visible bulwarks which alone his gross perception is capable of appreciating. Absence of prudery becomes to him impudicity; natural artlessness he regards as obscenity. In petty outward forms and observances he looks for the essentials of civilization. If he fails to find bedsteads in a house, he concludes that its immates are semi-savages because they sleep on a pile of silk cushions; if he does not see Western chairs and tables, there is no meaning for him in richly lacquered utensils, choice porcelains, and appurtenances of the most artistic nature. "Our civilization," he declares, "is grounded upon Christanity and is the product of nineteen centuries of gradual development; that of Japan is solely attributable to imitation." In a word, he imagines that before PERRY'S ships came here, the Japanese were savages, and that over their savagery they have since then spread a thin veneer of Occidental civilization; whereas in truth they had already developed a civilization of the highest refinement; a civilization in some respects superior to anything that the West had to offer them. But it is idle discussing the theories of a man so careless of veracity, so incapable of reasoning as is "Ex-Diplomatist." To find such a person speaking of "the extraordinary talent of the Japanese for embroidery on facts" is exceedingly comical. Doubtless this country has its own due proportion of liars—if we may be pardoned for employing the ugly word—but "Ex-Diplomatist" could hold his own with any of them. The limits of his inventive powers are the sole boundaries of his assertions. After a column of falsehoods, each more startling than the other, he climbs the pinnacle by declaring that when he called on the President of the Japanese Senate, who "had recently returned from Europe, where he had spent three years as the MIKADO'S Ambassador to one of the grandest courts of Christendom," he "found the old man walking with his wife—a woman of great lineage—and his deputy wives in his garden, and arrayed in nothing but a parasol, a fan, and a breech-clout." The official to whom this clumsy libel refers is one of the proudest nobles in Japan. If he ever received "Ex-Diplomatist," it was with all the forms of perfect courtesy and all the observances of refined etiquette. His hospitality is well rewarded by this despicable slanderer. We shall not dwell upon the unfairness of classing Japanese and Chinese together for the purposes of this question. The Chinese doubtless have their own high qualities, but a European or American girl marrying a Japanese finds this great difference, that whereas she and her husband are received everywhere into foreign society, live, in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, in Western style, and are surrounded by conditions acquiring daily a closer resemblance to those existing in the Occident, the same girl if married to a Chinese, would be virtually exiled from Western civilization. Her husband might possibly be one of those exceedingly rare Chinamen who live in foreign style, but even then he would be entirely out of touch with his compatriots, and their society would have nothing to offer her. There are, we freely admit, objections to mixed

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marriages of the kind criticised by "Ex-Diplomatist." The *sans-gêne* of Japanese domestic habits is not unlikely to distress a delicately nurtured American or European lady, and complete separation from her relatives, ignorance of the Japanese language, as well as the strangeness of her surroundings may become elements of unhappiness. But it is pure romance to say, as "Ex-Diplomatist" says, that she "is not permitted to sit at table with her husband," and that "she is forced by etiquette to approach him in the same manner as the domestics, namely, on all fours." These mis-statements belong to the same category as the assertion that "thirty dollars a month is considered big pay for a Government official in Japan," whereas in truth an official drawing three or four times that amount still belongs to the lower ranks of the Administration. After all, facts are more eloquent than words. Not a few marriages have taken place between Western girls and Japanese, but up to the present there has been no instance of the terrible results indicated by "Ex-Diplomatist." The ladies are living in apparent comfort and happiness, have access to the best society, foreign and Japanese, and, so far from suffering in public esteem, are welcomed and made much of everywhere. Japan is not the first country that has been slandered by unscrupulous scribblers, and doubtless her people will find it very diverting that a man obviously without a scintilla of regard for truth should lay untruthfulness at their door as a cardinal sin.

RUMOURS ABOUT TREATY REVISION.

PEOPLE have been wondering why the subject of Treaty Revision should have sprung into such sudden prominence after the closing of the Diet, and, above all, why programmes of Revision set forth by the vernacular press should differ materially from principles enunciated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in his various speeches before the two Houses of Parliament. A long and somewhat laboured explanation is evolved by some critics out of the policy pursued in regard to Special Ports of Export, but as this theory applies only to the question of coastwise trade, and is moreover quite fanciful, we need not re-produce it. Our own conviction is that the rumours lately circulated with so much assiduity owe their origin, not to any actual knowledge of what is going on, or even to any notion that negotiations have been resumed, but simply to party politics. The problem of Treaty Revision is of such magnitude and its national importance is so manifest, that every political party wants to have the credit of solving it, and no party is willing that the laurels of success shall be worn by a rival. Thus the matter has been eagerly dragged into the light, and made the subject of discussion as premature as it is wild. Of course this greatly adds to the difficulty of devising a satisfactory solution. Just as Count OKUMA'S proposals encountered intenser opposition because of his association with the *Kaishin-to*, and because of the latter's somewhat injudicious assumption of credit in the days of early success, so any scheme elaborated by the present Cabinet will assuredly be condemned by the anti-Government party—the so-called "Extremists." The day is past when a compromise really satisfactory from the foreign point of view might have been effected. Japanese public opinion has become exacting in proportion to the development of its self-assertive capacity, and the least that can now content it is more than the conservative foreigner can contentedly concede. If any fail to recognise this it must be because they do not wish to recognise it. Many years ago, when we first began to advocate a speedy settlement of the knotty question, it seemed to us that every month suffered to elapse without an understanding removed the problem so much farther from the sphere of quiet discussion and liberal compromise, and brought it so much nearer to the realm of popular clamour and nationalistic intolerance. We can scarcely doubt that even the writers who opposed us most resolutely in those times, must now recognise how incomparably better it would be for all parties had this everlasting source of friction been finally dealt with when the conditions were so much more favourable than they can ever be again. If the narrow margin of concession and guarantee remaining to Japanese plenipotentiaries is to be whittled away by party politicians, the question must ultimately pass entirely beyond the reach of negotiation, and become an affair of absolute trust. Already, while all statements of the Cabinet's programme are of necessity purely conjectural, and while the question stands practically where it stood six months ago, men are busily attributing to the Government intentions not consistent with any known facts, but simply designed to suggest that popular wishes are disregarded. By this device the opposition hopes primarily to excite a general distrust of the present negotiators, and secondarily to gain the spurious credit of averting what was never imminent. Time, that unriddles so many mysteries, only adds to the perplexities of the Treaty Revision problem.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE. A HEALTHFUL TONIC.

Used in place of lemons or lime juice it will harmonise with such stimulants as are necessary to take.

FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES.

A VOLUME of very considerable interest to every one concerned in any way in trade has lately been issued by the British Board of Trade. It is a return of the rates of import duties levied in European countries and in the United States upon the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom. The value of the return, besides its practical use to British exporters, is that in 1885 a similar volume was published, and a comparison of the two enables us to see how the world is travelling in this matter of tariffs. There is a general, and it now appears accurate, idea that the tendency is not towards freedom of trade; and here we have details, percentages, specific duties, and the like. In various European countries also the commercial treaties are expiring, and the volume shows us, apart from other indications, what may be anticipated under the new commercial régime. The book is incomplete in two important particulars, the first being in regard to the United States, and the second to Russia. It was not found possible to include the new American duties in the body of the return, as it was already near completion when the new Act was put in force, but full particulars as to the duties on all classes of goods have been printed as an Appendix. With regard to Russia, in accordance with an Imperial decree published on the 20th August (1st September) last, the duties leviable under the whole of the sections of the tariff of that country, with the exception of those relating to coal and to a few articles of small importance to British trade, have been augmented by 20 per cent.

The various changes that have taken place since the issue of the last volume in the rates of foreign import duties upon the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom, are due to alterations made from time to time in the classification of, or duties on, articles under particular sections of the different tariffs; entire tariff revisions as in the case of Portugal, Italy, and Austria-Hungary; alterations in excise laws, affecting also the import duties leviable; direct negotiations between the United Kingdom and other countries, as in the case of the treaties, concluded with Spain, Greece, and Roumania; and commercial arrangements containing special tariff clauses made between foreign Powers of which the advantage has also been reaped by Great Britain under the most-favoured-nation articles in its treaties with those Powers. Among such arrangements are those which have been concluded between Germany and Switzerland, Spain and Italy, Italy and Austria-Hungary, Switzerland and Italy, Austria-Hungary and Switzerland, and Roumania and Germany. It will be observed upon comparing the two volumes with five years between them that the tendency in that

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period has on the whole been toward an increase rather than a reduction in the duties chargeable upon British goods, and it may be interesting to quote a few of the more important differences. In Russia all the alterations made in the import duties have been in the nature of additions to the rates then levied. The principal of these alterations are the following:—On coal and coke the duties have been trebled, and then 40 per cent. placed again on top of that. In June and July, 1887, additions were made to the duties on iron and steel and various manufactures thereof, motive machinery, ships and boats, hops and tobacco; about the same time, also, an alteration was made in the method of assessing the duties on cotton thread for sewing or knitting, whereby they are now levied upon the *gross* weight instead of upon the *net* weight as formerly. In November, 1887, increases were made in the duties upon a variety of articles, among which were included agricultural machinery, dried and salted fish, sewing and knitting cotton, twisted cotton yarns, cabinet-makers' wares in the rough, lace of all kinds, buttons, glass beads, &c. A further alteration in regard to cotton yarns and sewing thread was made in June of 1890, the whole effect of the alterations in the cotton yarn duties since 1885 being that, whereas single and twisted yarns formerly paid the same rates, and were charged with duty according as they were above or below No. 45 English, three classes of single yarns are now tariffed instead of two, and separate classes have been opened for twisted yarns and sewing thread, and the duties generally increased by about 40 per cent. Over and above all other increases there is a uniform addition of 20 per cent. to the duties made according to an Imperial decree referring the change to the alteration which had taken place in the relative values of the gold and credit roubles. The changes made in the Swedish tariff are very much less both in extent and in amount than those in the Russian. They are mainly confined to increases on twisted yarns of cotton, linen, and jute, iron goods, and spirits. The Norwegian tariff has remained virtually unchanged, the only alterations being in regard to sugar, spirits, tobacco, and hops, and these being comparatively unimportant in amount, except as regards tobacco. The Danish import duties are identical with those of 1885: there has been no change in the tariff of this country for many years. The alterations in the German duties since 1885 are few in number, and are partly the result of the treaty concluded between that country and Switzerland in 1888. In consequence of this, reductions have been effected in the duties on silk yarns, cotton embroideries, watches, and watch works, and a few other articles; additions have, however, been made to the duties on raw sugar and spirits. There has been no alteration in the tariff of Holland since 1885, and the alterations in the Belgian import duties since 1886 are confined to vinegar and sugar. In France also the alterations since 1885 are few in number. Beyond increases on salt and sugar, the only alteration of importance has been the abolition of the excise duty on paper, which was previously charged on imports as well as on home-manufactured paper. A revised tariff for Portugal came into force in September, 1887. In this the general and conventional tariffs were amalgamated, and the additional duties for Custom House fees and for harbour works were combined with the rates of duty. Additional rates to the extent of 7 per cent. have been imposed upon all articles not subject to conventional duties; a charge is made on all goods free or otherwise, for porterage in the Custom House; all articles free of import duty are to pay the tax of 2 per cent. *ad valorem* for harbour works; and also articles comprised in the free list which are not made free by treaty are still to pay the "additional" duty of 6 per cent. established by the law of April, 1882. The considerable difference observable in the rates of customs duty leviable in Spain are due almost entirely to the operation of the Anglo-Spanish Commercial Treaty of 1886, which by according most-favoured-nation treatment to British goods placed them under the Spanish "Conventional" tariff instead of under the "General" tariff as formerly. A new customs tariff for Italy came into force on the 1st March, 1888, on the lapse of the Italian Commercial Treaties. In this tariff the classification of a number of articles was extended, and the rates of duty throughout were considerably increased. Some modifications in them have since been effected by the conclusion of new treaties between Italy and Austria-Hungary, Spain and Switzerland, but a comparison of the present rates with those existing in 1885 shows that on the whole the duties are now much larger than formerly. This is expecially the case in regard to cotton yarns and tissues, printed linen tissues, woollen yarns and tissues, the various descriptions of iron and steel wares, machinery, cutlery, &c. Considerable alterations in the Austro-Hungarian import duties have also been made since 1885, in consequence of the issue of a new tariff in 1887. Some modifications of a minor character in the duties leviable under this tariff were due to the conclusion of a new treaty with Italy in 1888, and further reductions were effected by the Austro-Swiss Treaty concluded early in 1889. Among the articles upon which duties have been increased are bleached and dyed cotton yarns, woollen and worsted yarns, all kinds of common cotton tissues, certain descriptions of sheet and plate iron, locomotive machinery, fine wares of copper, brass, lead, tin, and zinc, and several others. A revised tariff for Switzerland has also come into force since 1885, but in this case the alterations made are not nearly so numerous as those in the Italian and Austrian tariffs. But they are in the direction of increases, and in some cases this is very considerable indeed. On the other hand, the conclusion of treaties between Switzerland and Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy, brought about some slight tariff reductions. A revised tariff for Greece came into force in November, 1886, but this has since been modified in several important particulars. The first of these modifications took place about the middle of 1887, and further changes were made by a law which came into force in February, 1889, and which affected the duties on a variety of articles. These alterations were followed by the Anglo-Greek Treaty of 1890, which brought about considerable reductions in the duties on some of the most important articles of British manufacture. The principal differences between 1890 and 1885 as regards Greece are the reductions caused by this treaty, viz., those on cotton yarns, and tissues of cotton, linen, hemp, jute, and wool. The most important articles upon which duties have been increased are common window glass, common glass wares, raw hides, certain shoemakers' wares, leather gloves, indiarubber wares, printing paper, sugar, molasses, bleaching materials, and tobacco. The provisional arrangement which was in force in 1885 and under which a duty of 8 per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on all imports into Turkey from Great Britain, is still in operation, pending the elaboration of a new tariff and the conclusion of a new Anglo-Turkish Treaty. As to the United States, it as unnecessary to speak of the McKinley Tariff Act, the general effect of which is known.

The return, a portly volume of nearly 400 pages, gives the duties on various classes of British goods in the different countries, both in native currency and in the British equivalents.

THE PROBLEM OF MORAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN.

(By a Japanese.)

THE question of moral training is receiving serious attention at the hands of an ever widening circle of educators and statesmen in Japan. Broadly speaking, there are four schools of thought struggling to have their own particular ideas of morality adopted into the national system of education; namely, the Buddhistic, the Confucian, the Scientific, and the Christian schools. The Buddhists have perhaps the smallest number of sympathizers among the educated classes. It is true that Buddhism has of late revived much of its old evangelizing spirit, and that a number of able scholars—for example Mr. Nanjo Fumio and Mr. Inouye Enryo—are enthusiastically endeavouring to popularize

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the essential doctrines of their religion. Possibly the study of Buddhism as a system of thought may thus come to attract a larger share of the attention of philosophically disposed men, and the religion itself may long continue to hold its ground among the masses. But there is little, if any, prospect of its ever extending its influence to the educated classes as a practical faith. Confucianism finds itself in a scarcely brighter position. With the fall of feudalism the Chinese system of philosophy fell from the important position occupied by it for centuries in the national system of education. Its sway over the minds of the educated classes having formerly been almost as despotic as the authority of the feudal chiefs themselves, the reaction against it has been correspondingly strong. As Mr. KATO, President of the Imperial University, recently remarked in an article published in the *Ten-Soku*, the younger generation, in their excessive and wilful indifference to whatever savours of Chinese philosophy, have almost forgotten the great debt they owe to the immortal sage of ancient China. At one time students would not even touch the works of the great master. It is true that, some years ago, there set in a reaction against this repellant mood, and the study of Chinese classics became once more quite popular. But the change has not apparently done much to revive national faith in the morality of this cult. The study of the works of Chinese philosophers has now given place to the more popular study of Japanese literature. It is true that the text books on practical ethics now in use in most of the elementary schools are written on the basis of the Chinese philosophy; but it is an indisputable fact that these books are used merely because nothing better is supposed to be at present procurable, and further, that they do not exercise much influence on the minds of the pupils. Whatever influence they may temporarily exert, is soon cast off when the boy or girl, beginning to associate with members of the elder generation, breathes an atmosphere charged with incurable distrust of Chinese philosophy.

The educated class is thus hopelessly alienated from both Buddhism and Confucianism. A section of this class, as more than once noticed in the columns of the *Mail*, advocates a system of morality called the *Rigaku-shû* (Scientific Ethics). The leaders of this school are Mr. SUGIURA JUZO, a member of the Diet, and Mr. KIKUCHI KUMATARO, editor of the *Kokuhon*. Their object is to apply the laws of physical science to the conduct of human beings. In reply to the objection that such a complicated system of ethics will be of little avail for the everyday uses of national education, they urge that for practical purposes it will be sufficient to teach simply the conclusions evolved from their theoretical reasoning, and that, with the spread of their ideas, there will arise a literature permeated with the spirit of the system they advocate; a literature appealing to the heart as well as to the understanding of the people. Despite their great zeal and scholarship, the originators of this school do not seem to have yet obtained any noteworthy addition to the ranks of their followers; nor is there, so far as we can see at present, any likelihood that their moral tenets will ever be accepted by a majority of the intelligent classes. In a word, not one of the systems of morality above described is deemed adequate to supply a want more and more keenly felt by the nation in the sphere of moral education. There only remains the Christian system. Many people hold that this will finally fill the gap. Eminent statesmen and educational authorities, though not professed converts to the doctrines of Christianity, are convinced, and do not hesitate to avow in public, that the only efficient and practicable system of morality which can be adopted into the educational programme of the country, is that furnished by the teachings of CHRIST. Among confessed adherents to this view, we may mention Mr. FUKUZAWA, Professor TOYAMA, and ex-Senator NAKAMURA MASANAO. The names of many other distinguished men of the rising generation might be added. That persons in high station also take an active interest in the growth of the Christian system of education, is shown beyond all doubt by the handsome donations which statesmen like Counts OKUMA and INOUYE, and merchants like Messrs. HARA ROKURO and SHIBUSAWA EIICHI, subscribed for the founding of a University at Kyoto under the control of the late Rev. Mr. NIISHIMA.

While the attitude of the intelligent section of the public towards Christianity is steadily becoming more and more appreciative and favourable, it is somewhat incomprehensible that the propagandists of that religion do not seem to make very palpable progress in their crusade. It is the fashion to say that the Japanese are naturally devoid of religious instincts; and there are some superficial indications that seem to confirm this view. But in our opinion, there can be no more palpable misconception. Their national and psychological history proves that the Japanese are naturally as religious as any other people in the world. Without high religious instincts, how could tens of thousands of men and women of all sorts and conditions have been willing to die rather than forsake their trust in CHRIST, as did Japanese three centuries ago under the cruel persecution of the feudal Government of the day? The zeal and indomitable spirit with which the persecuted Christians withstood the civil as well as military authorities of the country, notably in the case of the famous Amakusa rebellion, led the ruling class, the *Samurai*, to regard Christianity with dread and deadly hatred. A few generations previously, Buddhism had likewise come into serious collision with the civil power, under the administration of ODA NOBUNAGA, and this circumstance, coupled with the recent case of the rebellion of Christians in the South-western parts of the country, induced the Tokugawa Government to encourage the adoption of the rigid secular morality of Confucianism, which is peculiarly well adopted to feudal purposes. Thus for three centuries the educated class lived under artificial moral conditions, and as a consequence, its members are now observed to be apparently indifferent to religious matters. But three centuries are insufficient to eradicate the original instincts of a race, and we have no doubt that, under proper management, Japanese youths of to-day can be converted into as zealous Christians as any missionary could desire.

The true cause of the tardy progress of Christianity among educated Japanese, is to be sought, not in their indifference to religious faith, but in the inability of propagandists to present their religion in the only aspect acceptable by genuine Japanese. Christianity, in order to be welcomed by true Japanese, must be stripped of the unintelligible and superfluous excrescences that have grown round the original stem in the course of sectarian dissensions and political alliances in Europe and America. In other words, Christianity must be presented to the Japanese in its orginal simplicity, without any of the dogmas of later theology. We are not the first to draw attention to these things. Indeed such considerations can hardly fail to occur to any intelligent observer of the contemporary history of Christian evangelization in Japan.

But of late, as repeatedly noticed in the *Mail*, there is, among Japanese Christian thinkers a strong movement in the direction indicated above. It is too early to predict what form the fermenting ideas of the new school of Christian thought will finally assume. But there is little room for doubt that the present movement is in the right direction. Whatever shape the new theology may take, it will be adapted to the national genius of the country. Perhaps we should add that the immediate exponents of this tendency are the Christians led by men like Messrs. YOKOI TOKIWO, KANAMORI TSURIN, KOSAKI HIROMICHI, and others. But what has often been urged as to the importance of casting aside the foreign dress in which Christianity came to this country, applies with equal force to American Unitarianism and German Universalism. Equally in the case of these rationalistic forms of Christianity, a movement for Japonization must sooner or later set in. Whether Unitarian or Orthodox in form, Christianity, we mean Christian theology, must first undergo thorough reconstruction at the hands of exceptionally capable Japanese. Then and then alone will it come to receive the attention of the

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educated public. But the movement already commenced seems to indicate that the ultimate triumph of the Christian system of morality is now merely a question of time. How long the consummation will be deferred depends principally upon whether and to what extent the leading Christian propagandists practically recognise the importance of acknowledging the rationalistic and nationalistic tendency mentioned above.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE "YOKOHAMA PUNCH."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I see the editor of the *Japan Gazette* is reproducing extracts from *Punch*. What his object is I have not the remotest idea. *Punch* is doubtless new to him, but if he gave the subject one moment's thought it might occur to him that most Yokohama residents possess *Punch* in the original. But that is not what I started to write about. What I wish to remark is the impertinence of the editor of the *Japan Gazette* in last night's paper. In a foot-note to some extracts from *Punch* he says:—It may be necessary to call attention to the fact that the spelling, punctuation, and grammar of "Punch" are far from perfect." Great Scott! the idea of the editor of the *Japan Gazette* calling attention to a lapsus on the part of poor Wirgman. Those who knew "Punch" know that he wrote—and frequently spoke in his ordinary conversation—purposely in this way, and very often made his seeming errors sound exceedingly funny. Then the impertinence of the editor of the *Gazette* in making any reference to imperfections in "spelling, punctuation, or grammar"! There is never an issue of his paper that might not be held up to ridicule resulting from his sheer ignorance of these matters.

I enclose my card, Sir, and remain, one of the old friends of "Punch,"

Yours, &c., CRAYON ROUGE.

March 19th, 1890.

AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—My attention has been called to an expression "The cruelty of Universalism" in my late letter to the *Mail*. It is thought that it will not be understood, or will be misunderstood as a declaration that the belief of universalism tends to make men cruel. That would be as untrue as it would be unkind. So far as my slender personal acquaintance or my reading justifies me in expressing an opinion, the believers of that doctrine are very kind-hearted and liberal-minded. In fact it is the opinion of some hard-headed thinkers, that a man's emotional nature must rise above and hypnotize the intellectual before he can believe that theory. So far as my heart is concerned I am an ultra universalist. I wish I could believe it, but my plaguey head and the old Bible are insuperable obstacles. I beg your indulgence while I try to show that I was justifiable in supposing that "the cruelty of universalism" would put it outside the sphere of mission comity. I respectfully submit that a man must imagine himself in my position in order to judge fairly whether I am justified in laying the charge of cruelty at the door of the system. Accepting the Bible as a revelation from God, and Jesus Christ as "God manifest in the flesh" who taught that God is love, I find that no other preacher in the New Testament spoke so much about hell and eternal punishment as Jesus. Limiting my examination to His utterances, I find that Universalism adds to or annuls His teaching everywhere on this subject. He knew more about it than any one else; He suffered more to keep men out of hell; he loved with a love to which ours is but a drop to the ocean; if He were a friend to humanity, then Universalism is not, for the teaching of the two form an antithesis. Universalism scouts at the idea of fear as a motive in religion; they say it is to scare people into heaven. Jesus knew human nature and the province of fear, so that He told His friends not to fear man. "But I will warn you whom ye shall fear; fear him who after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yes, I say unto you, fear him." Luke 12.5. There are two classes of men in the Bible and in Japan. A number of descriptive titles are given them in the Bible, the plainest distinction being: "the righteous" and "the wicked." Another term is "children." Some are children of God, others are children of the devil. Death cannot change character or state. Jesus says to men whom He had called children of the devil:—"Ye shall die in your sin; whither I go ye cannot come," John 8: 21. Jesus went to heaven. He thought they could not come there, but Universalism thinks differently. In Luke 16th, the Phatisees who were covetous derided Jesus; He told them that what was highly esteemed among men was abomination in the sight of God, but as God does not execute judgment speedily and, indeed, reserves the unjust until the day of judgment to be punished, that proposition is not very evident to men in the flesh. Therefore Jesus lifted the curtain and gave us a glimpse of the condition of two men five minutes after death: the rich man of this world, highly esteemed among men, was in torment a beggar; while the beggar here was in the acme of Jewish ideas of happiness, *i.e.* in Abraham's bosom. Between the two there is "a great gulf; one which neither mercy from heaven, nor repentance from hell can bridge" (Abbott). These two classes are separated in the resurrection also; there is a day coming when all that are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of judgment," John 5: 29. These two classes are divided in the day of judgment. Jesus says that when He comes in His glory, with all the angels, all nations shall be gathered before him, and He will separate them as a shepherd his sheep and goats. The righteous He will bid enter the Kingdom, the wicked He will command to depart into the eternal fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. These divisions remain eternal. "And these shall go away into eternal punishment; but the righteous into the eternal life, Matt. 25: 31-46. (Revised version.) Any attempt to break the force of this testimony of Jesus by showing that eternal does not mean eternal, terminates the blessedness of the redeemed at the same hour. How cruel Universalism represents Jesus to be when He knew that it was only a temporal punishment, and would not gild the future with a ray of hope. For His followers who obey him, and are blessed more in this life than the poor deluded slaves of sin who work harder and suffer more to go to hell than Christians do to seek heaven, for these Jesus had many words of cheer, but for those who are deprived of the peace which passeth understanding in this life, and then have to pass through a severe purgatory before they reach heaven, Jesus had not a word of consolation. This deficiency in His teaching, also that they would repent and that their repentance would avail unto salvation, was left for those who prophecy smooth things unto the people and assure them that the bitter will turn put sweet. Jesus said that there is a sin which has never forgiveness, neither in this world nor in the wold to come. "It would be impossible to employ language more definitely inconsistent with the idea that all men will be finally pardoned and restored to favour." (Abbott). In Matt. 13th, seven parables give a picture of the history of the Kingdom. Of two of these we have an exposition by the Master himself. The word of God as seed falling on some hearts brings forth no fruit. Jesus does not tell that in the next world He will sow some more seed in the hearts of those who rejected the gospel here and they will then bear fruit; how that was found out I do not know. In the exposition of the tares, Jesus says, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; the good seed, these are the sons of the Kingdom, the tares are the sons of the evil one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be in the end of the world. The Son of Man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that cause stumbling, and them that do iniquity, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be the weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He that hath ears and hear, let him hear." It would seem from this that repentance may come too late. Life is a tremendously earnest thing with the Son of Mary. In it are the issues of eternity. There is not the slightest hint in the teaching of the Nazarene that the man who neglects salvation here will have a chance hereafter, and a chance that he will accept. That seems to imply that God is not as good now as he will be hereafter, or that what the Redeemer's tears, entreaties, agonies and blood could not effect, will be brought about by the pain of punishment. Jesus had opportunity to teach universal salvation. He could have said "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotton son that all men might not perish but have everlasting life." He was asked once. "Are there few that be saved?" He could have used the one argument of Universalism and replied: "Could you, as a father, see one of your children suffer to all eternity, and do you not suppose that God is more loving than you are?" To which a man might have answered, "No I could not, nor could I have one of my children born blind, and another become a leper, and another blaspheme God, and his parents, but I see that God can. There must be reasons beyond my feeble reason. Love is not weakness and indulgence. God is truth as well as love. Are there few that be saved?" Jesus told that man to strive to enter the narrow door for many would try to enter and *should not be able*. Why not? Because they tried too late. When once the Lord has shut the door in vain will they strive to enter; He will say "Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity" Luke 13: 23—30. It is impossible to put into language a more emphatic condemnation of the doctrine that all men will be saved. Universalism would say "But that is not broad or liberal." Perhaps Jesus was not seeking to be broad; He may have preferred depth. Perhaps He thought that the truth is God's and to give away what belongs to another is not liberality; while to teach contrary to the unchangeable truth is cruelty.

Reading the Bible with Universalist spectacles, we shall be agreeably surprised to learn that the chaff being burned turns to good wheat, the fruitless tree instead of being burned to ashes, springs up a good fruit tree; that the branches of the vine after being burned bear highly flavoured fruit. The tares which Jesus supposed would be destroyed, are by that marvelous fire, turned into good seed. The bad fish thrown away flop back again good fish; the house built on sand which Jesus left in impressive ruins, will be rebuilt. Body and soul destroyed in hell will turn up in heaven. The coward who saves his life by denying Christ will not lose it; though Christ may deny him before the Father, afterwards he will confess him before the Father. The man who had been warned that the broad way leads to destruction yet went that way because it was easy, will find that all roads eventually bring a man to heaven. The king who said that those invited guests who murdered the messengers should none of them partake of the supper, will repent and have them all come. The goats departing into eternal punishment will come skipping back as spring lambs. The foolish virgins will find the door open, while the wicked servant who was cut in twain will be healed and receive eternal life like the faithful servants. The slothful man who hid his Lord's money will have it given to him. The swine will admire pearls, and dogs that which is holy. All this and more must be read into the scriptures, in order to bring them into accord with this benign speculation. If I were to see men in a boat, asleep, floating rapidly toward the Niagara falls, and did not warn them, it would be cruelty. If a man dying in his sins cannot go to where Jesus and his people are, and I tell him that he can go there, that is cruelty. If I see a man entering a way from which he can never return alive, and do not warn him, I call that cruelty.

Unless I wrench my understanding, do violence to laws of language, put the Bible in a theological vice and twist it till it screeches out a different saying from the plain Word, and unless I part company with the Son of God, I must believe Universalism to be a false system, deluding men with a baseless hope and leading many to trust in the "larger hope" who will, deceived and self-deceived, descend to a remedyless and everlasting woe. It is not for those who hear the missionaries that I most fear. Those who hear will be faithfully taught that righteousness is the price of blessedness, and that those who put off their salvation here must repent in the next world, and they will have incorruptible Christian lives set before them as examples. But outside of that circle there will be a large number (as in the United States), who will merely hear that all men are to be saved, and they will decide to wait and take their chances in that world. The atrophy of the spiritual nature resulting from centuries of living on husks, the glare of modern civilization, the doubts raised by materialistic theories from the West, the force of national customs, the weight of the influence of society, the force of casual appetites, form a torrent against which a young man must struggle to live a Christian life in Japan. Conscience is the main ally of the preacher of the gospel. Those who would fain have an opiate for conscience may find it in Universalism. I think I know a few in the United States who, living dissolute or careless lives, trust to be saved at last. I could adduce a little proof that such a theory will lessen nerve tension in Japan.

From my position, then, is it not evident to the

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reader that I am justified in saying that such teaching is cruel? Was it unkind for me to use that phrase when I believe that such teaching will soothe men in their cherished sins, and result in the poor men being forever separated from God and the happiness of the redeemed? With profound respect for the Christian grace and self-denial of those who advocate this theory, I am compelled to think that it misrepresents God and deludes man. It is not like an error of opinion merely: that is only a barnacle on the ship's bottom. This is vital. It is an error in the reckoning which will result in eternal shipwreck. In all tenderness and sorrow then I am driven to the conclusion that there is truth and justice in the phrase; "The cruelty of Universalism." I ought not to ask so much of your valuable space for an individual opinion. I intended to write only a note, but this much seemed necessary to set myself right.

GEO. T. SMITH.

Hongo, Tokyo, March 16th, 1891.

"SCRUTATOR."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In a recent issue of the *Japan Herald* appeared a letter bearing the *nom de plume* of "Scrutator" which for savage unjustness and brutal bluntness of expression has seldom been surpassed in the foreign prints—styled by courtesy newspapers—published in Yokohama.

Had this "Scrutator" paused to think for a moment how inexpressibly insulting and galling his utterances are to the Japanese, even he might have hesitated before sending letters such as he has for publication, unless his direct object was to stir up the bitterest animosity and hatred between the foreign residents and the natives of this country. But, not content with his first letter, this propagator of discord sends a second in which he substantially repeats and reiterates his former falsehoods, and adds till greater sting to his insults by raking up and quoting certain rules for admission to a certain college in India, which are a disgrace to humanity if they exist, and further, *ninpinin* 人非人 that he is, he now attempts to prove his words by reference to reverend gentleman whose very name is too worthy and excellent to be pronounced by the lips of "Scrutator."

The Very Reverend Bishop Bickersteth is not here to teach *morality* only to the Japanese—Buddhism did that ages ago! What the Bishop and other missionary pastors are doing is to propagate Christianity theologically:—they are evangelizing the country, and doing a great and noble work. But centuries before they came to Japan we had a sterling code of ethics to make men brave and good and women gentle and womanly, and to pretend anything to the contrary is simply to expose "Scrutator's" superficiality and crass ignorance.

"Scrutator" cunningly asks why, if Japan is so moral, does Bishop Bickersteth come here, and as he seems to need some enlightenment on the point. I would refer him to the Christian New Testament Mat. xxviii. 19th and 20th verses. Besides this, how about "Christian England," "Holy Russia" the United States of America, and other countries where, year in year out, an army of priests and prelates strive in main to create a terrestrial millennium although Europeans vaunt their "superior civilization" and call Orientals immoral?

Is it true that Japanese scholars have proved themselves less susceptible to instruction than European?—No!—emphatically no! Oxford and Cambridge and other Universities have given them well-earned degrees. The Church, the Bar, the Military and Naval, as well as Civil, Services in Japan can show a long roll of names illustrious and worthy to which we can point with pride; and as to our statesmen,—could any European Government have made greater and more radical progress than our Government has within the last quarter of a century?

Japanese women stand out in a brave phalanx throughout the ages of history, headed by the Empress Jingu, adorned by the presence of a host of talented authoresses, and given an additional charm and lustre by Her Gracious and Imperial Majesty the present Empress Haruko. To do as this poor "Scrutator" has done, to come to a free and independent country, and taking advantage of the ægis of extraterritoriality given by treaty and not by conquest (which unfortunately enables him to publish matter derogatory to the dignity of the Empire in which he has been *permitted* to reside), to flaunt his jibes and sneers in the face of a free and chivalrous people, is the very acme of bad taste and impertinence. But I feel confident that the majority of foreigners have too much good sense and tact to countenance this fellow's utterances or to share his miserable bias against race.

The only thing I can advise this superfine and pure-blooded creature "Scrutator" to do is to get out of this Empire as quickly as he can in order to avoid "contamination" by Japanese. We can do very well without such pestilential fellows here, who only set race against race and tend to make bad blood between foreigners and Japanese. There is no use staying here when steerage passages to Europe are so cheap.

A few ignorant libertines start the cry that Japan is immoral, and forthwith we are informed that the "standard of Japanese morality is low," and that the position of women is very inferior; and yet these *shaba-fusagi* know nothing about the average women of the country while pretending intimate knowledge on the subject.

It is true that our women do not aspire to take the place of the male sex; that they do not study the art of fascinating the other sex by the adjustment of busts; that they do not sport high-heeled and tight shoes, and that they do not entertain male callers in the absence of their husbands. But they are what God made them—natural, kind, and affectionate "helpmeets" to man, and in every way *womanly*.

What, may I ask, causes "Scrutator" to assume that either a Japanese or Eurasian child is an unfit companion for his superior offspring? What right has he to assume that a Japanese woman is inferior as a maid, a wife, or a mother as compared with her foreign sister? What right has he to insult Japanese womanhood, childhood, and manhood by his execrable and cursed distinctions when he has no true basis for his invidious classification outside the egotistical value he sets upon the fact of belonging to the Caucasian race? What right has he to insult and pain those Europeans who, rising superior to the meaness and pettiness displayed in the open ports, have married Japanese women and are living perfectly happy and contented in their domestic circle? Lastly, what right has he to pick out and hold up to scorn the many perfectly well-educated and well-bred Eurasian children who are now growing up in the various Settlements?

To all these questions there can only be one answer, and it is that "Scrutator" is so overwhelmed by his arrogance and self-conceit that he thanks God, as did the Pharisee of old, that he is not like unto other men, and therefore he puts a corresponding value on his family. It is that he has never met or known any of the pure and modest Japanese women who are the glory and flower of our country—virtuous, obedient, affectionate. It is that his researches and investigations have been confined to house-servants and low females; and to the painted courtesans and "hippari" inhabiting the dens of vice and dirty tea-houses surrounding the various open ports. It is that his experiences have been gained in the course of disgusting orgies, when, surrounded by panders and immoral characters composing a very pandemonium of Japanese social pariahs, he made a study, forsooth, of—our *women!* It is that a mind such as his can never rise to know the power that love has to soar above his pitiful race prejudices and little-mindedness. It is that his mind can never grasp the immeasurable span of that infinite mercy and kindness that the Eternal Buddha gave to the world and that the founder of Christianity preached and practised; although probably he ranks among those pious Englishmen who, Sunday after Sunday, pray with sanctimonious voices "Give peace in our time, oh Lord!" while doing their best to create war and strife!

On reading over the above I see passages which may lay me open to a charge of simply vilifying "Scrutator," but such is not my object at all. All I wish to do is to show that such words as his do not pass unnoticed, and to correct an impression which is perfectly false as regards Japanese morality.

There are generally two sides to every question, and after "Scrutator" pretends to be the mouthpiece of foreigners, it is only fair to let the World see a Japanese side also.

Thanking you for inserting this letter, and enclosing my card.

Yours respectfully,

A JAPANESE SHIZOKU.

Yokohama, Meiji 24th Year, 3rd Month 23rd Day.

A curious phenomenon was seen during the recent severe weather at Folkestone. A ship laden with oil sank in collision off Hythe, and the sea was covered with oil. This produced a strange effect upon the wild fowl, which is always plentiful in severe weather. Wild duck, teal, and other birds were easily caught, as they were quite unable to fly, their plumage being saturated with oil.

THE SPECIAL BUDGET.

The financial estimates for the 24th fiscal year relating to expenditure and revenue of a special nature have been promulgated as follow:—

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Railways of the Government.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from Railways	6,420,515.000

Expenditure.

1. Expenses for Railways.....	3,970,515.000

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Mint.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from the Mint	1,810,430.000

Expenditure.

1. Expenses of the Mint	1,596,358.000

Printing Bureau.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from the Printing Bureau	774,282.265

Expenditure.

1. Expenses of the Printing Bureau	712,796.937

Mines of Hiroshima.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from the Hiroshima Mines	159,300.241

Expenditure.

1. Expenses of the Hiroshima Mines	153,947.228

Fund for Consolidating Public Loans.

Revenue.

1. Fund for consolidating Public Loans	15,000,000.000

Expenditure.

1. Repayment of Public Loans ...	14,899,650.000
2. Amount transferred from Extraordinary Revenue	100,350.000
Total	15,000,000.000

Fund for the Exchange of Paper Money.

Revenue.

1. Fund for the exchange of Paper Money	1,000,000.000

Expenditure.

1. Expenditure from the fund for the exchange of Paper Money...	1,000,000.000

Central Famine Relief Fund.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from the Central Famine Relief Fund	178,871.186

Expenditure.

1. Expenditure from the Central Famine Relief Fund	163,100.000

Interest on Deposits in the Savings Bureau.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from interest of deposited money	1,444,080.376

Expenditure.

1. Amount transferred to ordinary yearly expenditure	1,370,870.255

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Tokyo Arsenal.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from the Tokyo Arsenal.	1,511,033.000

Expenditure.

1. Expenses of the Tokyo Arsenal.	1,511,033.000

Osaka Arsenal.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from the Osaka Arsenal	1,056,216.000

Expenditure.

1. Expenses of the Osaka Arsenal.	1,056,216.000

Senju Woolen Mill.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from the Senju Woollen Mill.....	761,909.620

Expenditure.

1. Expenses of the Senju Woollen Mill	761,909.620

NAVAL DEPARTMENT.

Fund for Construction of Vessels at the Yokosuka Naval Station.

Revenue.

1. Receipts from Material for Constructing Vessels at the Yokosuka Naval Station.....	736,465.000

Expenditure.

1. Expenses of Materials for Constructing Vessels at the Yokosuka Naval Station.....	736,061.000

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FUND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VESSELS AT THE KURE NAVAL STATION.

REVENUE.

1. Receipts from Materials for Constructing Vessels at the Kure Naval Station	243,284.000

EXPENDITURE.

1. Expenses of Materials for Constructing Vessels at the Kure Naval Station	281,284.000

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Imperial University	483,481.389

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Receipts for New Works	30,000.000
Total	513,471.389

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Imperial University	482,822.431

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Expenses of New works	30,310.000
Total	513,132.436

REVENUE OF THE UNIVERSITY FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the University	7,798.180

EXPENDITURE OF THE UNIVERSITY FUND.

1. Disbursements from the Fund for maintaining the University	7,798.180

HIGHER NORMAL SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Higher Normal School	41,975.500

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Higher Normal School	41,975.500

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the School	379.000

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursements from Fund for maintaining the School	379.000

HIGHER FEMALE NORMAL SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Higher Female Normal School	36,845.000

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Higher Female Normal School	36,845.000

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the School	205.000

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursements from Fund for maintaining the School	205.000

FIRST HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. First Higher Middle School ...	106,435.171

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Receipts for New works.....	321.066

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. First Higher Middle School ...	104,206.708

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. New Works	1,134.066
Total.....	105,340.774

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the School.....	4,865.015

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursement from Fund for maintaining the School.....	10,094.327

SECOND HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Second Higher Middle School..	49,847.561

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Receipts for New Works.....	2,632.618
Total.....	52,480.179

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Second Higher Middle School..	49,506.728

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. New Works	2,832.618
Total.....	52,339.346

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the school	5,031.262

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursements from Fund for maintaining the school	10,881.434

HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Third Higher Middle School ...	69,668.115

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Receipts for New works	2,900.000
Total	72,568.115

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Third Higher Middle School ...	62,175.651

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. New works	10,382.132
Total	72,557.783

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for Maintaining the School	6,403.500

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursements from Fund for maintaining the school	14,774.702

FOURTH HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Fourth Higher Middle School...	46,823.000

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Receipts for new works.....	34,150.881
Total	80,973.881

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Fourth Higher Middle School...	46,823.000

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Cost of New Works	34,150.881
Total	80,973.881

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the school	157.500

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursements from Fund for maintaining the school	157.500
2. Disbursements from Special Fund	73.179

FIFTH HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Fifth Higher Middle School ...	55,639.044

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Fifth Higher Middle School ...	50,970.678

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Cost of New Works.....	3,051.836
Total	54,022.514

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the school	4,243.122

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursements from Fund for maintaining the school	9,515.217

YAMAGUCHI HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Yamaguchi Higher Middle School.	23,988.537

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Yamaguchi Higher Middle School.	22,150.000

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Cost of New Works	1,750.000
Total	23,900.000

ZOSHIKWAN (KAGOSHIMA HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.)

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Zoshikwan	20,164.018

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Zoshikwan	20,144.000

HIGHER COMMERCIAL SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Higher Commercial School.....	45,145.900

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Receipts for new works.....	20,000.000
Total	65,145.900

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Higher Commercial School.....	45,145.900

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Cost of New Works	20,000.000
Total	65,145.900

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the school	2,691.000

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursements from Fund for maintaining the school	2,691.000

TOKYO INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (KOGYO-GAKKO).

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Industrial School	66,467.217

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Industrial School	64,506.556

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Cost of new works.....	1,100.000
Total	65,606.556

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the School	1,611.000

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursments from the Fund for maintaining the School	1,611.000

TOKYO ART SCHOOL (BIJUTSU-GAKKO).

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Art School	31,826.190

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Art School	30,226.190

EXTRAORDINARY.

1. Cost of New Works	1,600.000
Total	31,826.190

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the school	1,417.700

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Expenditure of Fund for maintaining the school	1,417.700

TOKYO MUSICAL SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Musical School	14,000.000

EXPENDITURE ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Musical School	14,000.000

TOKYO BLIND AND DUMB SCHOOL.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Blind and Dumb School.	4,905.000

EXPENDITURE—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Blind and Dumb School.	3,968.000

REVENUE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Receipt of Fund for maintaining the School.....	1,653.700

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursments from Fund for maintaining the school	1,653.700

TOKYO LIBRARY.

REVENUE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Library	8,700.000

EXPENDITURE.—ORDINARY.

1. Tokyo Library	8,700.000

REVENUE OF FUND.

1. Receipts of Fund for maintaining the institution	201.000

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUND.

1. Disbursments from Fund for maintaining the institution ...	201.000

AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT.

TOMIOKA FILATURE (TOMIOKA SEI-SHI-SHO).

REVENUE.

1. Receipts from Tomioka Thread Manufactory.....	219,835.300

EXPENDITURE.

1. Expenses of Tomioka Thread Manufactory	215,499.700

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

TELEGRAPH AND LIGHT-HOUSE WORKS.

REVENUE.

1. Receipts from Telegraph and Light-house Works.....	145,417.000

EXPENDITURE.

1. Cost of Telegraph and Light-house Works	142,273.000

LAUNCH AT YOKOSUKA.

On Tuesday, in presence of His Majesty the Emperor, the *Hashidate Kan*, a new vessel designed for purposes of coast defence, was launched at the Yokosuka Building Yard. The *Hashidate Kan* is a steel ship, the construction of which was begun in August, 1889; she is 90 metres in length, 15.540 in beam, and has a draught of 6.050 metres; her displacement being 4,277 tons. Her engines are compound horizontal, developing, under forced draught, 5,470 horse-power, steam being supplied from six cylindrical boilers working at a pressure of 175 lbs. Her speed will be about 16 knots; she has a coal bunker capacity of 405 tons, and her full complement will consist of 300 men. The *Hashidate* has a low turret forward for one big gun, and three sponsons on each side, probably for quick firing guns. She will be schooner-rigged, with two masts, and will be driven by twin screws. She is provided with tubes for the discharge of torpedoes.

The Emperor left Tokyo at 12.55 on Tuesday, the departure of the Imperial party from Shimbashi Station being marked by a salute from the ships of war at Shinagawa. Arriving at Yokohama about half-past one, His Majesty rested for a while and then resumed the journey by rail to Yokosuka, which was reached about half-past two, the Emperor driving in the Imperial carriage to the Chinjufu or Arsenal Offices. Thither a large number of invited guests, consisting of the officers of the *Hyacinth*, the *Alliance* (then in the port of Yokosuka) the *Volturno*, and of many Japanese vessels, with a contingent of other officials, had

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repaired at an earlier hour. After a short rest, His Majesty gave audience to the chief officials present, and to several ladies.

Shortly before four o'clock all those invited by the Dockyard authorities proceeded to the building yard, where pavilions were erected, the stand for the Imperial party being exactly opposite the bows of the ship. The Emperor, who was accompanied by Marquis Tokudaiji, Grand Chamberlain, Prince Sadanaru, Viscount Hijikata, Minister of the Imperial Household, Dr. Ikeda, an Imperial Physician, Colonel Yoneda, Chamberlain, and other officials, arrived on the stand about four, and the ceremony was at once begun by the reading of an Imperial address sanctioning the launch of the *Hashidate Kan*. This was done by Viscount Kabayama, Minister of Marine, who then gave the signal to Mr. Saso, Chief of Construction in the Dockyard. A very few minutes sufficed to free the ship from the frame work that prevented her from slipping down the ways, and she glided with momentarily increasing speed into the water. The launch was watched with evident interest by His Majesty, who had risen to his feet while his address was being read, but resumed his seat while the shores were being knocked away. As the *Hashidate* began to move the usual paper globe containing pigeons and coloured scraps was burst, and its contents fluttered about for a brief space in the eddies of air left by the retreating vessel, while the whistles of all the launches in the port joined in the production of one sustained note, and the Imperial Marine Band contributed triumphant strains. Having witnessed the successful launch, His Majesty rose and, with a final look in the direction of the *Hashidate*, which still swayed with a gentle motion resulting from her plunge along the ways and into the waters of the basin, left the stand and returned to the Arsenal Office, whence he emerged some half an hour later, and drove to the station *en route* to Tokyo.

The weather was all that could be wished. The invited guests were for the most part conveyed to Yokosuka by the *Shinten-go*, a torpedo vessel of considerable accommodation attached to the Dockyard, and under the command of Mr. Kasama. The trip was a most enjoyable one, the slight sea being insufficent to cause any one inconvenience, the wind a bracing breeze, and the sun genially warm. The return was marked by a much lower temperature, the departure from the dock having being delayed, on account of the usual tardy souls, till a late hour.

Prince Arisugawa Taruhito was present and witnessed the launch, and Viscount Enomoto, Count Saigo, Count Oyama, and Admirals S. Ito, and Y. Ito, and Arichi were among the spectators.

Vice-Admiral Viscount Nirei and Capt. Shibayama, entertained their guests after the launch, at tiffin in one of the draughting lofts, where the usual hospitality of the Yokosuka officials was dispensed with a lavish hand. As we have already indicated, the foreign ships in port were represented by their officers, and among the few other foreigners present was Captain Ingles, R.N., of the Naval Department.

YOKOHAMA SAILING CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of the Yokohama Sailing Club took place on Wednesday. Among those present were Messrs. J. F. Lowder, A. Owston, C. D. West, Unite, A. M. Forbes, W. N. Wright, H. G. Gorman, Archer, Schmidt, J. B. Gibbs, jun., Captain Owston, Messrs. C. S. Averill, Balk, Marshall, Beart, W. Young, S. C. Nash, &c.

On the motion of Professor WEST, seconded by Mr. OWSTON, Mr. Lowder took the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read.

Mr. A. OWSTON said, in reference to an allusion in the minutes to the new Harbour Works, he had written to the Governor and had received the following reply:—

Kanagawa Kencho, April 8th, 1890.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 28th ult., with regard to the construction of a breakwater to form a suitable shelter and accommodation for yachts and boats belonging to the Yokohama Sailing Club and others, and the erection of a club-house on the end of the breakwater, I beg to state that inasmuch as the Harbour Works have only just been commenced, I can only say at the present moment that your proposal will be duly considered when the time arrives at some future date for the promulgation of the Harbour Regulations, &c.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

N. MITSUHASHI,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said they had before them the report of the Committee, which as usual was as exhaustive as it was interesting. He thought perhaps it was rather a pity that they should take it as read, because of its great interest, but they had all perused it, and as they had other business before them he was afraid they would have to follow that course. Having described the business to come before the meeting, Mr. Lowder said he gathered from the report that the general business would be to consider certain suggestions brought forward by the committee in in their report, one passage of which read:—

Now that there is a sufficient number of craft in the 17 rating class or near that rating, it would perhaps be well to offer prizes for boats of some rating below 17, which might collect several craft too small to complete in the 17 rating class with any fair chance of success. It would also be a matter of convenience to divide the Club's fleet into Division A, containing the 30, 32, 20 and 21 Raters, and Division B, containing the 17 Raters and under. This will be a subject for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

Another question would be that of the Club's Course, referred to in the report as follows:—

The operations of the Harbour Works will this year necessitate a change in the Club Course, and plans will be submitted for discussion at the annual meeting. The increase of yachting as a sport here is much hampered at present by the want of a proper anchorage and of landing facilities, but with the growth of the breakwaters now building and some suitable provision for yachts and pleasure craft within their shelter we look for a much increased interest in this sport.

That he thought would be the business before the meeting. Before sitting down, he suggested for the consideration of the Committee the advisability of giving prizes of a character somewhat different from those usually presented. While looking over an album of photographs the other day he saw some excellent views of yachts under full sail, and it occurred to him that it would be well if some enterprising artists were requested to take photographs of every boat in the Club's fleet, under full sail. An album containing such photographs would, he thought, form a most interesting and valuable prize, which he felt sure members of the Club would be glad to possess.

On the motion of Mr. FORBES, seconded by Professor WEST, the report was adopted.

A ballot for the Committee was then taken and resulted in the election of the old Committee—Messrs. W. W. Campbell, J. O. Averill, jun., A. Owston, E. Beart, and H. J. Gorman, the Chairman congratulating the members on the selection they had made.—(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said the first business was the discussion of the Committee's suggestion as to prizes for boats under 17 rating.

Mr. BEART pointed out that under the rules the present ratings and dimensions were fixed for three years, and therefore could not be altered. But though the classes could not be altered still a prize might be given to smaller boats.

In the course of the discussion which followed,

Mr. A. OWSTON said he was in favour of encouraging such craft. Such a class had been formed in Southampton, about equal to 15 rating, and they were considered very wholesome boats. With a harbour here there would be sport for such boats, in which the younger members of the community might join. The small boats would of course race with the 17 raters, and would have a chance of winning record points in that class, but would also have special prizes given now and then.

The question then dropped, the understanding being that the Committee should, if they saw fit, offer special prizes for such boats.

Mr. A OWSTON brought up the proposal that a prize, to be got up by special subscription, of from $100 to $150, should be given for an interport match. It was impossible in view of the long voyage to get up a match for large boats, but for such a prize as he suggested Kobe boat sailers might see their way to build small boats and send them up by steamer.

This point gave rise to some discussion, and the matter was eventually also left to the Committee.

The proposal in the report to class the boats as A and B divisions was approved of.

The question of changing the Club Course then came up,

The CHAIRMAN expressing the opinion that alteration of the sailing rules did not require a special meeting.

Mr. A. OWSTON suggested the following as a new Club Course, the old Home Course being impracticable in consequence of the Harbour Works:—Home Course.—From an imaginary line between the Bathing Barge and a flag-boat, around the E. end of E. breakwater, and a flag-boat off Tsurumi, then returning around a flag-boat off Mandarin Bluff, the E. end of E. breakwater and back to a winning line between the Bathing Barge and end of the French Hatoba—distance 8.50 miles.

On the motion of Mr. BEART, seconded by Mr. FORBES, it was decided, pending the completion of the Harbour Works, to leave to the Committee to adopt experimental courses with the view of determining on that which would be most suitable.

A vote of thanks, accorded to the Chairman on the motion of Captain OWSTON, terminated the proceedings.

THE BEAR HUNT ON FUJI-SAN.

BY A.M.

Professor Wilson resolved to give a party to the bachelors,—that is to say he determined to invite all and sundry of his acquaintances who either did not have European helpmeets at all, or who did have, but who for the nonce were resignedly wrestling with a spell of the festive martyrdom of grass-widowhood. So he opened the Directory and sat down to hammer out invitations to an "informal," or as his misspelling machine insisted on putting it, an "infernal" supper. For that type-writer of his, which he manipulates like a Morse telegraph or a Singer's sewing-machine, has its own peculiar ideas of orthography. It seems to have been originally built on lines purely phonetic; but the Professor has been trying to convert it from the error of its ways for the past two years and has only succeeded in hopelessly mixing the drink, and in making it turn out stuff that looks like a Japanese comp.'s first shot at setting up badly scribbled copy. However, on this occasion most of the *invités* understood what was meant, and most accepted. I didn't get a card because the Professor bailed me up in the compound, and asked me by word of mouth.

"Black-coat?" I inquired.

"Black-coat, or anything you like, from that up to a *fundoshi*, or both included and nothing besides," he blurted out at me over his shoulder, as he shambled off to his lecture with a cudgel as big as himself, and a pair of boots that once had had heels.

Dudishness is not Wilson's strong point. When he first came to Japan he *did* have a bell-topper and actually put it on once. That was the first time he went to meet his "boss," but he made the concession to propriety and Philistinism with much inward groaning and travailing of spirit. When he went home, he went outside to spoil the nests in his fowl-yard, and returned with their contents in the chimney pot. He put it down on the settee in his study, and then in a fit of absent mindedness he tried to seat himself on the top of it. Since that date, as a married Scotch Professor once plaintively and sombrely confided to me, there has been a steady sartorial decline going on visibly in Wilson. Japan, you see, is a Capua. But it acts differently on different natures. In some folks it is the intellectual grip that becomes feeble and flaccid. In other cases it is liver that is the matter. Some men have been known to start newspapers, collect all the subscriptions and the ads. for a year in advance and stop publication after the first issue. Others have been known to pocket the contents of the church plate and then skip off to 'Frisco for the welfare of their souls and the good of their health. Drink has done for another lot, while too much geisha and shamisen have often caused the folks at the Rokumei-kwan to shake their heads and gently murmur over their emptied glasses, "Another good man gone wrong." Others have blown out their brains, and still others have taken liberties with their jugulars. Some of my scientific friends say its electricity; I think it is original sin.

Anyhow, it is so in Wilson's case most undoubtedly. It was that fig-leaf apron business that was the first and fatal indication of pristine moral obliquity in human-kind, and it is in the matter of clothes that Wilson has gone all to the devil.

But that's neither here nor there, and has nothing to do with the supper. That was a grand affair and no mistake, for there's no meanness in Wilson. When he does take a thing in hand he is not the man to make two bites of a cherry. He set all his household to work, and made them work like so many niggers. He piled all his chairs and tables into his studio and sent out for more. He had in all the cook's sisters and cousins and female relatives to the fourth degree removed, and had them wait at table. They were all arrayed in the gorgeousness of brand new *kimono* and *obi*, and looked so fetching that you began to understand how it was that Cook-san was so beastly ugly himself. There had been so much beauty lavished on the other members of the family that there was none, not even a redeeming grain, left for him. For he was hideous, and when he did condescend to grin audibly, you couldn't help mistaking him for Satan in a good humour. He is a stout, squat-set individual, with a shock bullet-head glued on to his shoulders in much the same fashion as decapitated Japanese criminals' top-storeys used to be stuck on to the pillory. His eyes are always heavy and fish-like, wonderfully eloquent of low cunning and copious libations of sake. Sometimes it's sherry, Wilson says, and he should know, because he pays the bill. But the beast could *cook*, and he did cook that

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evening and no mistake, and covered himself with gravy and glory all over.

It didn't take long to thaw the ice and to set the guests' tongue's a-wagging. It sounded like the ground-floor of the Tower of Babel. There was a feast of wit and flow of soul in five different languages, without counting dialects. *In primis* there were Doctors Horn and Egmont, who carry about locked up in the secret cupboards of their consciences all the fashionable maladies of Tokyo. They know all about this Ambassador's gouty toe, and all about the root of that Minister's chronic ill-temper, but that has nothing to do with the story. Although they're Deutsch they can both tell stories in English that make you fall off your seat with cackling. Then there was an Italian Count who was fully up to the form of the Apostles at Pentecost. He told *risqué* yarns and cracked jokes in all the languages of Europe and in several of those of Asia besides. He fell back upon the resources of Oriental philology when his subject matter became too indecent for artistic treatment in the languages of the West. I believe that was because he didn't know Latin. Latin of course is *the* tongue in which you can express all kinds of beastlinesses without a blush. Gibbon gives us chunks of high smelling indecency wrapped up in Latin foot-notes, and Professor Chamberlain ventures on some first-class realism with its aid in his translation of the *Kojiki*. Truly a glorious thing is Latin,—it is a high and lofty privilege to be acquainted with it.

There was Rossignol who had served his time in the French army in Tunis as a full-private. He too "had been a corporal wanst, but had been rejuiced." A Japanese Professor of economics who had also come out high in the Moral Science Tripos at Cambridge was in the Vice chair, and made things hum in his own immediate neighbourhood. There were besides a stray Irishman or two with just "a broth av a brogue," two portly specimens of John Bull that might have stepped out of one of Punch's cartoons, and the ubiquitous and much travelled Scot. You can scarcely heave a brick in the streets of any Treaty-port in the East without hitting a "Sandy" and getting cursed in Doric for your kindness. The chances are, furthermore, that the anathema will be couched in the Aberdeen dialect. I like to hear the "twang" of it, even when it is speaking Japanese. Aberdeen Scotch and *Yedoko no kotoba* make a cross that effectually puts a set on Ryobu-shinto. Then there was a tall, lanky American, with a well shaped head on his shoulders, and a handsome dark Vandyke face that somehow in spite of its good looks gave you a misty notion of dyspepsia or unrequited affection. It was altogether a splendid and magnificent function, and we were soon all well on the way to sworn universal brotherhood.

When we had all got about half drunk Wilson proposed an adjournment to the drawing room for a "little entertainment" he had provided for us. We adjourned. It was a Japanese conjuror and ventriloquist, with his assistants that he let loose upon us. They were splendid and first-rate, and we were all hopelessly broken up! There was not a sound in the heavens above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth that they did not reproduce for our edification and amusement. They gave us an imitation of the rooks and crows in parliament assembled, and all wanting to speak at once, like the legislators in the Japanese Diet who want to reduce every body's salary but their own. Then they gave us doves a-cooing and tom tits a-wooing, and you began to feel awkward, just as you are apt to do when connubial partners get kissing and hugging and sitting on each other's knees when you call in on an afternoon to leave your pasteboard. Next a dog that was being slowly tortured to death in the interests of science in the medical compound adjoining began to howl, as they docked another inch of his tail, and immediately the room was sobbing and moaning with a pathetic canine appeal to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Anon we were treated to something that licked the chorus of the Batrachoi of Aristophanes into a cocked hat, and began involuntarily to prospect for the second Plague of Egypt in our boots and our breeches pockets. Next the place seemed turned into a saw-pit, and then into a fowl yard. This was succeeded by the beauty in the bellow of the blast, and the grandeur in the growling of the gale, and the eloquent outpouring when the lion is a-roaring, and the tiger is a-lashing of his tail. But the final thing was the grizzly; it was the plantegrade bully of the Rockies to the life.

Rossy was sitting near to me while all this was going on. I noticed he had stopped laughing and was serious. That meant he had put on his thinking cap, and when Rossy puts on his thinking-cap you may lay heavy odds that there is some devilment or other getting hatched, and yet not lose your money.

"By Jingo!" he said at last, coming down on my thigh with a blow that might have been a wallop from a shark's tail, "I see the thin end of a thousand dollars sticking out there!"

I remarked that I'd much rather see his liberality exercised in parting with them than with his friendly caresses. For the brute hits like a twenty-five ton steam-hammer that's got neither conscience nor consideration for the feelings of what it comes down upon.

However, I got over my grumpiness and asked for further information. He said the thing wa-n't for publication, and that besides he wouldn't trust any newspaper man out of jail. I knew it was no use trying to pump him just then, so I gave him up and turned my attention sole and undivided to the performance.

Well, the party broke up, and some of us went home, and some didn't. The last thing that I remember was a bleared and blurred vision of our host, balancing himself first on one foot and then on the other as he tried to mix a bucketful of whisky and soda for the ventriloquist. He did finally succeed in filling up all the infinity of vacuum in his seemingly sponge-like and bottomless stomach, and as I dropped off into a fuddled doze I fancied I saw the conjurer on the flat of his back, helplessly waggling his dumpy hands, and trying to crow like an impotent and superannuated rooster. Altogether the function was a howling success.

II.

Mr. Coolidge, of Boston—the man with the Vandyke face and the look of dyspepsia *cum* unrequited affection referred to above—was really in a bad way. He was in love; hopelessly over ears and far beyond the summit of his stuck-up collar, submerged in the mire of the tender passion. And the worst of it was that he was stuck, bogged, utterly "laired" as a Scotchman would say. He couldn't get back, though he did once try all he knew to make a masterly advance in that direction. No more could he get any forwarder. He simply struggled weltering there vainly trying perchance to find bottom in the slough of amorous despond.

It was a Miss Kitty Dawson that was the matter. She was neither English nor American; she was Canadian, a B.A. a Mus. B. and some folks enviously inclined declared a B.S., which in her case was short for Blue-stocking and not for Brandy and soda as it usually is. She could play, she could sing, she could compose oratorios. She could sketch, she could paint,—pictures I mean and not her face, for that never needed the laying on of artificial colours, her own natural one being always as fresh as any rose,—and she could talk philosophy and write books and newspaper articles. It was this last accomplishment of hers that accounted for her presence in Japan. She had come over by the C.P.S.S. to get impressions and to retail them at so much per column to a syndicate of wideawake journalists. I don't know whether she could cook or sew the buttons on her husband's shirts when she got one; but my idea is that in a case like hers it really doesn't much matter. You see there is such a thing as a division of labour, and it's outrageous to expect a female Admirable Crichton to excel in the hod-work of domestic drudgery.

Coolidge had heard of her and had contrived to get introduced. He next contrived to fall in love, as already delicately insinuated. He then tried to contrive to marry her, but that wasn't so easy. She didn't want to marry—at least just then. She said so, and as much as delicately hinted that HE—the right man, that is—had not yet come along. Now although that was bad, it was not utterly crushing. Anyhow it was a great deal less unsatisfactory than the Though I-cannot-be-yours-I-will-never-wed-another sort of thing.

There's something radically wrong with the moral make-up of a girl who is mean enough to come this high-falutin' sort of nonsense. It strikes one as being altogether too beastly selfish and dog-in-the-mangery. But Miss Kitty wasn't built that way; she was honest, and in spite of her fine head, had a first-class digestion and was altogether a healthy and well-balanced young woman, mentally morally, and physically.

Now Mr. Coolidge had a sister, and although sisters are usually only first-class nuisances, there are exceptions. The other fellow's sisters for example are likely to be exceptions. Now Coolidge found his sister useful and helpful. She was a bosom friend of Miss Kitty's, and the mill-dam in which the current of her confidence emptied itself. Therefore when she hinted to Coolidge that Miss Kitty had made up her mind to call no one lord and master who had not shown himself a hero, he was fully inclined to believe it, and felt hot and cold by turns all over. He wasn't a coward; no one could say that. But then opportunities of picking up a Humane Society's Medal don't offer themselves every morning, and it was no use going loafing round day after day in the wake of Kitty on the off-chance of a hoodlum insulting her, and giving a fellow a show of knocking him into immortal smash for his pains.

But at the same time Coolidge made a memo. of the thing, and waited. For he was no fool, was Coolidge. He didn't make himself too cheap by any means. He was in earnest and was bent on winning, and he saw pretty soon that Miss Dawson was not the sort of girl that one could afford to make an ass of oneself over, if she was really to be the means of making one foreswear bachelorhood for good. So he quietly dropped all protestations of the tender passion, and worked the friendship racket for all that it was worth. He made himself useful in a hundred ways, and all so unobtrusively that Miss Dawson took the whole thing quite *au naturel*.

When she got her commission from the syndicate to write up the East it was not surprising for her to learn that Mr. Coolidge had business in that quarter also. What did surprise her though was to learn just as she was starting that he was one of her employers, and that it was to his influence mainly that she owed her present trip. When she heard this she sat down and resting her pretty dimpled chin in the palm of her left hand—left elbow resting on left knee—indulged in the luxury of five minutes consecutive thought. On that speaking countenance of hers there was an irregular march of the scud of discontent, varied by detachments of pleasing thoughts. When she got up there was just the suspicion of tenderness in her looks, and of what one who did'nt know her would have called the love-light in her eyes. But it wasn't that, or at least if it was she would have indignantly denied it. But she did not, as she at first thought she intended to do, write to give up her commission. She was too sensible for that, and she had now been the best part of two months in Japan.

She hated the rush and the racket and the bustle of hotels and wanted a quiet place. A peripatetic journalist or artist has rough times of it in Japanese hotels, having as a rule to submit to being interviewed twice every twenty-four hours, and to being made to talk all sorts of nonsense in perpendicular columns of "chops" and the foot-prints of a fossil fowl-yard in the vernacular press of the day following. So she was wise and went to board with Rossy and his wife. Coolidge soon discovered her retreat, and as a natural thing of course quickly succeeded in making Rossy's acquaintance. It is not very difficult to do that—except perhaps for a bill collector or a missionary. Coolidge and Rossy soon got beyond a mere nodding acquaintance, and the former made the latter a confident in his troubles. It was balm in Gilead for Coolidge to find a sympathetic listener as he unbosomed himself of his hopeless passion. Sixteenth century folks used to ease themselves of their despair by slashing out the initials of their flame on live oak-trees and so forth, but that sort of thing is now played out. It takes a lot of imagination to get much comfort out of a chunk of wood, even though there's sap in it. Rossy was much ahead of any piece of timber for purposes of this nature. For he had fellow-feeling and sensibility and—oh! lots of things that were very consoling in a case of this description.

Well, one day, Rossy startled Vandyke out of the bottomless pit of despair, by getting up and offering to lay even money with him that he'd be a Benedict within six months, the stakes to be handed over, either at the end of that period, in case Miss Kitty was still rushing around like Diana in petticoats and blue spectacles in the guise of a literary globe-trotter, or otherwise, on the day of the execution. Coolidge looked incredulous and then Rossy put it another way.

"Suppose the thing were fixed for you, would you be ready to part with a thousand dollars?"

"A thousand dollars! Two of them, and glad to make the bargain."

"All right!" returned Rossy. "The other 'thou' will do to cover expenses. Now you just put yourself in my hands and leave it entirely to me. And mind when I'm skipper, there's to be no back talk on board *my* boat."

Next morning at breakfast, Miss Dawson suddenly asked Rossy where he had got that lovely bear-skin she had seen in the room downstairs. Rossy shifted uneasily on his seat and said she must be mistaken; there was no such thing in the house that he knew of. Now that was not altogether a lie, but it wasn't very far off one, for there was a splendid pelt of a defunct grizzly in the jinrikisha shed adjoining at that very moment. But it didn't suit him to say go.

"Why, talking of bears now, this *is* most interesting. But surely there must be a mistake. Just read that."

She handed over that morning's copy of the

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Snorter, with her finger at a sensational heading of "Pilgrims Chased by a Grizzly on Fuji-san." If the heading was sensational it was well backed up by the text that followed. It was vivid and graphic and picturesque and dramatic,—all that it was, and more. It was really a fine piece of writing, although I say it that shouldn't, for it was myself that wrote it, and jolly well paid I was for doing it. I got 50 *yen* per column for it, five *yen* being ordinary *Snorter* rates, and the other 45 *yen* being for the skillful exercise of imagination.

"Well now," answered Rossy "that is strange! Of course there are no grizzlies in Japan, except those imported by the showman. Only now when I come to think of it, that's just where the mischief comes from. A week or so back, I saw in the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that a *shiroi-kuma* had escaped from a menagerie that was trying to cozen the heathen out of their cents in Shizuoka and that it had disappeared in the forest at the base of Fuji."

"Oh that's in Yoritomo's old hunting-park, is it not? How romantic," said Miss Kitty clapping her hands.

"Romantic, but not for the man or woman that meets his bearship I should say! And talking of that now, what about your trip to Fuji? Of course you can't go alone. That's all nonsense. Certainly there may be exaggeration in this bear-story, but it would be awkward for you to get chased. Of course I can't go with you on the 16th, because I have business that will keep me away from Tokyo all that week. But now that I think of it, I can fix the thing, for a good friend of mine, and a compatriot of yours is talking of doing the grind about the same date. Now I'll see him, and make certain. I'll get coolies for you and put you up to all the wrinkles, and do all I know to get you up and down without inconvenience. Shall we say settled?"

After some little tacking and beating—for Miss Dawson was a woman—it was agreed that Rossy should do as he proposed.

III.

The landlords of Subashiri, I was going to say, are the biggest and most voracious sharks out of the sea, but that would have been speaking altogether too fast. Where the globe-trother most doth congregate, there the land tends to become sharkiest. In Hakone it is bad, in Enoshima it is worse, and in Nikko it is simply awful. But all these plague spots are as flea-bites alongside of the Fuji district. There the tariff seems to rise in direct proportion to the elevation of the ground. At Gotemba you find they will charge you about twice as much as they would a fellow-countrymen of their own. But if you are not a consummate first class ass, you won't think of raising ructions over that. The supposition is that you give extra trouble, or at least that if you don't, you ought to. Besides in the extra impost there is a nice little sop to your vanity: by implication the local Boniface sets you down as a citizen of a nation of millionaires, and up to a certain point it is not at all unpleasant to be mistaken for a peripatetic Vanderbilt. But the line has to be drawn somewhere, and when it comes, as it does come in the huts at the top of Fuji, to paying just six times as much as your Japanese friend for fare and accommodation a trifle inferior to his, you begin to fancy that it is possible after all to set too high a value upon the accident of being born white and upon the privilege of paying income-tax to Her Gracious and upon the other benefits and blessings of the British Constitution.

Well, these Subashiri folks, holding as they do an intermediate position as regards elevation, have also an intermediate tariff. They put it on stiff, very stiff to begin with, and then expect you to cover up the enormity with a top-dressing of *chadai*. That was what they tried with Mr. Coolidge and Miss Dawson's party at all events, and possibly too with others. For the good of the hotel treasury, it is to be hoped that the swindle was attended with more success in the case of "others" than it was when an attempt was made to play it off on Coolidge and Dawson.

The mischief happened in this wise. Rossy had said he would get a trustworthy coolie as guide for the party, and he had been as good as his word. The coolie had met them at Tokyo station and had been a veritable guardian angel ever since. So when the Subashiri landlord showed signs of a disposition to fleece, he met with vehement and outspoken opposition from a quarter totally unexpected. However, he fancied he saw what the matter was, and talked of a commission for the guide. To his astonishment this only made matters worse, and after a long and vigorous *yakamashii*, he had at last to sigh and content himself with submitting to the disgrace of presenting an honest and a reasonable bill. He then gave himself up to a profound consideration of the enormity of honesty being found in a guide for the Fuji district. He had just smoked and knocked out his sixteenth pipeful in coming to the conclusion that this coolie must be an outrageous *baka* not to have accepted his proferred tip for an open show of doing a squeeze, when the horse-hirer from up the street came in with a similar story about the hiring of ponies to go to Umagayeshi.

"It was simply disgraceful; such a simpleton as this ought to be taken in hand by his friends and locked up in a lunatic asylum. And then the rudeness of the fellow, too! The way he talked to one and the names he misnamed things were really too disgraceful. Certainly he must have been very highly bribed by the foreigner!"

Meanwhile Miss Dawson and her escort were well on their way towards Umagayeshi, which they reached at last without any startling adventure. There the horses were sent back and the party, consisting of the two Europeans, the coolie guide from Tokyo, and two of the *goriki* or mountain coolies of the locality addressed themselves to the ascent.

After entering on the bridle-track above Umagayeshi, the road gets steepish, in some pinches just steep enough to justify a man in placing a strong right arm around a slender waist to help its owner along her onward and upward passage. In one or two very stiffish spots Mr. Coolidge had presumed to offer this attention without any unpleasant consequences following thereupon. Only Miss Dawson blushed furiously when her eye chanced to light upon the snigger that was breaking the Tokyo coolie's phiz all into fissures, like a landscape touched up by a baby earthquake. At the next semi-vertical she gently slid uphill out of Mr. Coolidge's forwarding embrace, and Mr. C. instantly fell to blessing the coolie *sotto voce*, in the style adopted by the Mt. Ebal division of the offspring of Jacob. The coolie must have caught or guessed the burden of certain of his remarks, for the grin on his features now began at one ear and ran right round to the other.

Miss Dawson, besides being a really clever girl had a good allowance of the indescribable gift that makes a good pressman. One ingredient in it is a power of quiet and unobtrusive observation, the knack of getting folks to set you down as a nobody or as a born idiot and of just taking them all to tiny little pieces and sizing them up so nicely when you've successfully lulled them into the notion that you aren't worth watching. Not that Miss Dawson could ever be taken for nobody, much less for a born fool,—the disguise would have been altogether beyond her capacity, great as that in some things undoubtedly was, yet she could observe without attracting attention, or rousing the suspicion of the individual she happened to honour with her attention. So when they reached the top of the flight of steps leading into the little temple of Ko-mitake, where the priest seems to drag out a sinful and miserable existence by branding cudgels with spidery legends for the pilgrims, she sat down with a flop and a catching of the breath, and inquired of Coolidge when she caught her wind if he hadn't noticed anything peculiar in that coolie.

"Only that he is deucedly impudent and forward! I have a good mind to ——"

"Now, now you are all wrong! I'm sure he is very nice. And do you know I think I must have seen somebody very like him before. And do you notice that he actually *walks* fair toe-and-heel work, not a hobble-hubble-jerky up-and-down forward motion like a man brought up on chop-sticks and Japanese *geta* from his tender child hood. Don't you notice also—Good Heavens! what is all this?"

She might well ask. A terrific babel of yells and shouts and terrified screams echoed down through the wood, and in an instant a long string of twenty or thirty white-robed pilgrims tore like a whirlwind in at one end of the little shrine and out at the other and down the steps in front of it, with the bells they had tied to their waists clashing and jangling as if the whole country side were in flames.

"*Kuma, kuma, shiroi kuma,*" they shouted in mad fear as they rushed down the ricketty wooden steps in a herd like the devil-possessed Gadarene swine into the sea. The priest and the customer with whom he was chaffering about the price of a cudgel, cast one terrified glance over their shoulders and then joined in the general uproar, and made for the door as if a band of *soshi* had just got in by the window. For it was something even worse than *soshi* that was at the bottom of it all. Miss Dawson had just time to catch one glance of a huge, clumsy, unwieldy monster of the Rockies advancing upon her pawing and grunting, and to see Coolidge snap out a six-shooter and open fire, before she fell off in a dead faint into his arms.

* * * * * * * * * *

About a fortnight after Rossy came into Coolidge's office in such a guise that I could scarcely recognise him. For the glory of Rossy was his moustache, and alas his moustache had disappeared! Poor old Rossy! he did look very glum, and melancholy and generally cut-up and out-of-sorts. Now it is no good being hard upon a poor devil when you see he is so hopelessly foundered as he was. Anyhow, if you are mean enough to insist on chaffing him, at least give him a drink to begin with. So I gave him the best stuff I had in the house and then he allowed the cat to get out of the bag by the thousandth part of an inch at a time.

"Of course," he wound up, "when I saw that she was landed all right I made off after the bear, for as he turned round to make off and got Coolidge's third fire just right astern of him, the brute gave vent to a yell that could come from nothing short of a human bit in a tender place. I ran down and found him lying in a clump of bushes moaning and bleeding like a homicided porker. Of course the other business came off all right; I saw the execution—the wedding I mean at the American Legation this morning."

I remarked that there must have been money in the affair.

"Yes," said Rossy meditatively stroking the sprouts of his up coming moustache, "yes, there *was* money in the affair, I admit, but there was also a deuced deal of real hard work. Now, just look here,—first there were fifty dollars for that bear-skin,—it was the only one to be got for love or money in Yokohama at the time. Then there was fifty dollars to you for writing that stuff about Pilgrims and Bears on Fuji,—it was just about fifty times as much as it was worth. Then there was the hire of that ventriloquist codger,—three days at ten *yen* a day which with his expenses, *sake*, and what not, just came to thirty-nine *yen* twenty-six *sen* four *rin*. And then that confounded fool Coolidge must needs forget to draw the bullet from the third cartridge he slapped into his six-shooter. That cost me just 500 *yen*! He hit the poor old chap in a soft spot behind, and there was the very devil to pay. He meant to have us all up for every offence from murder down to shooting out of Treaty limits, and of course that wouldn't have suited my own particular book at all. So after a deal of parleying and lying and general untruthfulness, we at last compromised the affair for the figure named. When the old fellow gave me a receipt he grinned and said he wouldn't at all mind making a target of himself at that rate once a month, because it wouldn't interfere with his other business! That old brute had me properly, and it takes a pretty good man to get the drop on Lucien Rossignol, let me tell you! Then there were my own expenses,—loss of time, mental anxiety, and so forth,—say another 100 *yen*. Now let me see," he went on taking out his pocket-book and jotting down figures. "There's fifty and fifty; that's a hundred, and thirty-nine, say forty—one hundred and forty—six hundred and forty; seven hundred and forty in all. That leaves something like a matter of twelve sixty to the good. But it has been dearly earned—confoundedly dearly earned. The peace and harmony of the Rossignol household have gone for ever since the day I scraped off my moustache to go playing the goat on the slopes of Fuji-san!"

AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

The *N.C. Daily News* of the 19th inst. has the following comments on the audience of the Foreign Ministers at Peking with his Imperial Majesty the Emperor Kuang Sü:—

In another column will be found a full report of the address of the *Doyen* of the Diplomatic Body to the Emperor, with the Emperor's reply, at the audience on the 5th of March instant, and the address of the *Doyen* with Prince Ching's reply at the banquet on the following day. They are, of course, formal addresses, and the terms in which they are couched must have been carefully considered, especially on the Chinese side. The foreign Ministers, after definitely refusing orally and in writing to be received in the Tze Kuang Ko, had given way. Diplomatists do not give their reasons to the common men above whom they are lifted, but we imagine that they gave way provisionally, on the understanding, as we have already mentioned, that this should positively be the last time they would be received in the "Hall of the Tributaries," and that a separate Hall should be built before the next occasion came round. The Ministers apparently concluded that it was better to recede from their protest, with this condition, than to refuse altogether the spontaneous offer of the Emperor. They waived their personal dignity and that of their sovereigns, "in the conviction,"

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as they told the Emperor, "that the policy inaugurated by Your Majesty will greatly contribute to augment and to strengthen the bonds of friendship which exist already so happily between China and the countries and nations having treaty relations with it." We congratulate the Ministers on having the conviction, which it does not appear is entirely shared by the Emperor, unless indeed an Imperial wish is as good as a Ministerial conviction; for the Emperor's reply to it is: "We add the further wish that the relations between China and the other countries may in future take the friendliest form." These words came from the lips of a potentate who is described in the *Chinese Times* as "rather pale and dark, with a well-shaped forehead, long black arched eyebrows, large mournful dark eyes, a sensitive mouth, and an unusually long chin. The young Emperor," we are told, "together with an air of great gentleness and intelligence, wore an expression of melancholy, due, naturally enough, to the deprivation of nearly all the pleasures of his age, and to the strict life which the hard and complicated duties of his high position force him to lead." The recent death of his father might have been added to these causes.

There was a touch of the didactic in Mr. von Brandt's speech at the banquet. The whole diplomatic body are represented as delighting in the recent audience, but they also "fully trust and believe" that the policy of a good understanding with foreign Powers is to be maintained, and that China is anxious to enter freely and unconditionally into the comity of nations—not to keep aloof any more—into which she will be cordially welcomed. Prince Ching's reply is thoroughly sympathetic, and China is as anxious as the foreign Ministers can desire her to be to strengthen her good relations with the other countries. The foreign Ministers and those of the Tsung-li Yamên were all equally well satisfied with the Audience, we learn from our northern contemporary; the former recognised that the Imperial Court honestly desired to make the ceremony as consistent with their dignity, and as pleasant to their feelings, as possible; something they had to pardon to the inexperience of their hosts, and the difficulty of eradicating old traditions all at once; but those time will smooth away. It is always well to persuade ourselves if we can that the intentions of our entertainers are good, and this is the excuse of the Ministers for being received in the Tze Kuang Ko, after vowing that they would rather not be received at all. They are not the first who—

"whispering 'I will ne'er consent,'—consented."

THE AUDIENCE AND THE BANQUET.

The following is the full text of the speeches and addresses made at the two ceremonies on the 5th instant:—

Address of the German Minister as *Doyen* at the General reception of the Diplomatic Body by His Majesty the Emperor of China on the 5th of March, 1891.

Sire,—The members of the Diplomatic Body resident at Peking have to-day for the first time the opportunity and the honour to be able to offer in person their respectful wishes to Your Majesty.

They do so with the conviction that the policy inaugurated by Your Majesty will greatly contribute to augment and to strengthen the bonds of friendship which exist already now so happily between China and the countries and nations having treaty relations with it.

That such may be the case is the most fervent wish of all the persons assembled here to-day, and while they offer to Your Majesty their sincerest and most respectful felicitations on the occasion of the New Year just entered upon, they beg to be allowed to give expression to their hope and their conviction that under the enlightened rule of Your Majesty the blessings of peace and happiness will be granted to the Imperial Dynasty and the people of China.

Reply of His Majesty the Emperor to the address of the Diplomatic Body presented on the occasion of the audience on March 5th, 1891.

We have been greatly pleased by the felicitations offered to us by the honourable ministers and others (*kuei shih ch'ên têng*). We hope that Their Majesties the Sovereigns and the Rulers of countries which you represent will enjoy good health during the year just entered upon. We wish that the gentlemen here present may remain yet many years in China, that they may feel well in every respect, and that all their hopes may be fulfilled. We add to this the further wish that the relations between China and the other countries may in future take the friendliest form.

Speech read by Mr. von Brandt as Dean of the Diplomatic Body at the Banquet given by the Tsungli Yamên on March 6th, 1891.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies,—It gives me great pleasure to be able to be once more the mouthpiece of the diplomatic body in proposing the health of H.M. the Emperor.

Nearly two years have gone by since at the banquet given by order of H.M. the Empress Regent to the Representatives of the Treaty Powers I had the honour of paying our respectful tribute of admiration to the virtues and talents of Her Majesty, and to point out that the banquet then offered to the foreign Representatives and still more so the reasons which had been put forward in the Imperial edict for doing such an honour to them, might be considered as a new point of departure and as indicating that the joint work of the Tsung-li Yamên and the foreign Representatives had begun to bear its fruit. To-day another banquet unites my Colleagues and myself with Your Highness and Your Excellencies, and this time it is given not on the occasion of a ruler withdrawing from the work and the successes of many years, but of a young sovereign, full of promises and hope, having entered for the first time upon what may be properly called the international part of his great office.

And again the Imperial edict by which this banquet has been ordained, has mentioned the growing intimacy between China and the Treaty Powers and the part taken by the foreign Representatives in bringing about this satisfactory result.

My Colleagues and myself have been deeply moved by this Imperial acknowledgment of our endeavours to strengthen the friendly relations between China and the Treaty Powers; we gladly recognise in the audiences granted yesterday to the foreign Representatives and the whole Diplomatic Body and in those to take place in future a further advance in the direction indicated by the edict of Her Majesty the Empress Regent issued two years ago; we fully trust and believe in the will and the power of His Majesty the Emperor to continue in the line of policy announced by him in his edict of December last and to bring about that which we consider as His Majesty's ultimate aim, a perfect understanding between China and the Treaty Powers, and the free and unconditional entrance of China into the comity of nations, where we can assure Your Highness and Your Excellencies, she will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

My Colleagues and myself request Your Highness and Excellencies to place before His Majesty our profound and most respectful thanks for the honour done to us yesterday and to-day, as well as our wishes for the happiness and welfare of His Majesty, the Imperial Dynasty, and the people of China.

To the health of H.M. the Emperor.

Reply of H.H. Prince Ch'ing to the speech of the Dean of the Diplomatic Body at the banquet given at the Tsung-li Yamên on Mar. 6th, 1891.

The words of the Foreign Representatives in the speech just read contain a warm appreciation of the sincere intention of H.M. the Emperor to strengthen the existing friendly relations with the Treaty Powers; it will be a pleasant duty for us (the Prince and Ministers of the Yamên) to bring to the knowledge of His Majesty the thanks just offered by Your Excellencies. To-day's banquet, prepared by Imperial order, offers to us a welcome opportunity to converse with you in a joyous and cheerful spirit; we consider it as a loving omen for the future strengthening of the good relations between China and the other countries. It is in this sense that we drink to the long life and happiness of Their Majesties, the sovereigns, and of the Presidents of the countries represented by Your Excellencies; may they be blessed with constant peace and welfare. At the same time we add our best wishes for Your Excellencies.

BITS OF OLD CHINA.

The origin of the ecclesiastical mission was curious. About 230 years ago, the Tartars defeated some Russian troops and carried them prisoners to Peking. Here they were formed into a regiment, and, gradually inter-marrying with Chinese, founded a small colony, still retaining the "orthodox" religion. The priests were allowed by the treaty to reside at the capital in order to act as religious instructors to the Russian colony. Upon the establishment of the Legation, the ecclesiastics moved to another part of the city, and being successful in retaining their library became the tutors of the young Russians sent thither to acquire the Tibetan and Mongolian languages. The old "colony" has long since become, in all except religion, an integral portion of the Chinese, or rather Tartar, population. The archimandrites have as a rule, been distinguished for ability, and their pupils have generally proved apt scholars. It used to be asserted that the Russians knew a good deal more Manchu, the nominally "court language" of the present dynasty, than any native-born Manchus themselves. As a matter of fact, Manchu is in Peking pretty much what Hebrew is in a European city—spoken by a few, read by less, and thoroughly known only to a very limited circle.

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The respect paid to Russian wishes to whims just after the Anglo-French war with China was almost incredible; and it is quite certain that had any other Europeans attempt to imitate their bullying brutality they would have been exterminated. So vivid, however, was the belief that Russia would hesitate at nothing in the way of reprisals, that the Pekingese submitted to the grossest outrages in silence. As an illustration, I may cite the following story. A carter (the mule-cart is the hackney carriage of Peking) had taken a junior official of the Legation to some place in the city, and on his return was paid what he considered much less than his fare. Disputing the amount, the money was taken back, and he was bidden to begone. Now, it had been found that when any similar difference of opinion had arisen between the inmates of the British Legation and a native "cabby," an appeal to the higher officials had generally resulted in the payment of the full fare, it being their policy to insist on the strictest fair-dealing on the part of the juniors. Unaware of the difference between British and Russian views, the carter in question was foolish enough to go to the Russian Legation next day and demand to see the Secretary, for the purpose of lodging a complaint. This was duly heard, and the carter was informed that as he had dared to accuse a Russian official of fraud, he merited severe punishment. The sergeant of the Cossack Guard was called in, and ordered to tie up the unfortunate complainant and give him four dozen lashes! These were actually inflicted, and no carter ever complained again. But the Jehus of Peking loved the Russians thereafter with exceeding love.

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On another occasion a carter driving two Lama priests passed a mounted Russian student interpreter in the street without dismounting. The Russian young gentleman got off his horse, pulled the carter from his seat, giving several blows with his whip, and then compelled both carter and priests to go down on their knees in about nine inches of filthy mud and "kotow" to him nine times. A crowd of Chinese, including several so-called police, surrounded the parties; but so great was the dread of a Russian that not a word was said in remonstrance. This and the foregoing were not isolated cases. Floggings also were frequently administered to native servants within the Legation. I think the Chinese officials rather admired this rough-and-ready way of enforcing obedience, as resembling their own; and yet we were told that if a British officer even struck a native once, he would be immediately suspended, and reported to the Secretary of State for dismissal from the service.

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I have referred to the particular care taken to impress upon the minds of all residents in the Peking Legation that to assault a Chinaman was a serious offence. Apropos of this, an amusing incident occurred. One of our number having been "cheeked" by his servant, knocked him downstairs. No bones were broken, and the aggrieved domestic hurried to the eminent official in charge to lay a complaint. The occasion was deemed a favourable one for reading the whole of us a lesson, and we were desired to muster in the square next the students' quarters. After the peccant student had admitted his offence "under provocation," and been ordered to pay amends to the complainant, our chief addressed us in the most emphatic manner, winding up by saying, "If there is any similar complaint made, no matter what the provocation, I shall order the officer concerned to Hongkong to be at the disposal of the Secretary of State. And that, you know, young gentlemen," concluded our mentor, "is pretty sure to mean dismissal from the service."

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We all murmured assent to this proposition, and were dismissed, walking away in groups of two or three towards our quarters. We had got about half way across the small square when the noise of a resounding smack made us turn our heads. It appeared that a coolie, naked to the waist, had passed the chief with a very insolent gesture, and had been promptly reminded of his mistake by the latter's open hand upon his yellow face. The situation was awkward for the chief, as our efforts to disguise the amusement we felt at this comment on his lecture were but too apparent. But, beckoning us towards him, he said, "Er—gentlemen, I should have added, *unless you are insulted beyond all bearing*. You may go."

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One of the winter features of Peking is the influx of Mongolians, who flock thither to make their annual purchases with large camel caravans, laden for the most part with felting and camels' hair to

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exchange for other articles. They are looked upon by the Chinese as the "Johnny Raws" of the capital, and a certain number of rascals attach themselves to the country boobies, and succeed, as a rule, in fleecing them considerably. The women, who ride their camels astride, are hardly to be distinguished from the men, nature having been particularly niggardly towards them in the matter of beauty. For sheer, downright, exasperating ugliness Mongolian females, indeed, are hard to beat, though they are slightly more quickwitted than their lords. Even these latter, however, at times get the better of the keen Chinese, and great is the wrath of the latter when this happens.

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A Chinaman one day borrowed from a Mongolian an "oil-basket." It should be explained that Chinese basket-work can be made of such fineness that it will hold any viscid liquid without leaking, and an oil commonly used, made from a very small seed—probably linseed—is stored in these basket-jars. The Chinaman used the basket to measure out rice, and on being asked a short time later to return it, flatly denied that he had ever borrowed it, counting on the fact that the Mongolian "booby" would never dream of claiming so trifling an article in court. Being, however, deeply incensed at the way he had been treated, the latter appealed to the local prefect for justice. The Chinaman stuck to his story, and appealed to the dusty appearance of the wickerwork to show that it had been constantly used as a rice measure. "Well," said the mandarin, "each of you claims it, and neither has any witnesses. How can I decide?" "Ask the basket," said the Mongolian. The prefect was a very intelligent man, and took the hint at once. Calling forward the executioner, he ordered him to flog the basket with the bamboo, mouth downwards, to see if he could get an answer as to who really owned it—the onlookers gaping with astonishment at the apparently idiotic order. After about a dozen strokes had fallen, the prefect said: "Well, it doesn't seem inclined to answer, but I dare say it will show me what I want," and, stepping down from his seat, he closely examined the dust which had fallen from its interior. "That will do," he observed. "Give this fellow"—pointing to the Chinaman—"twenty-five strokes." The linseed which had fallen with the rice-dust showed at once that it had been used for oil.

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I was staying at a temple outside the city when the Salt Commissioner and his three wives came to pass a few days there also. The temple in question had a remarkably fine wide marble staircase leading to the principal pagoda; and one morning the youngest and best-looking lady slipped, and cut her forehead severely. The husband became so alarmed that, believing, like many Asiatics, that all Europeans were medical men, he sent me an urgent message begging me to come and staunch the bleeding. It was evidently a great effort to consent to let me see the patient, but to follow my advice was a greater. I asked that her face might be washed, as it was covered with such a thick coat of cosmetics that it was difficult to see the exact extent of the wound. I was assured that this could not be thought of; "she had not washed her face for several weeks!" I could only decline to interfere, so a compromise was agreed to. Her forehead alone was washed, all below the eyebrows being left as before. A cold-cream bandage sufficed to dress the wound, and it speedily healed.

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A good many readers familiar with the East will very probably say that the Chinese are a particulary clean race, and that the above must be an exaggeration. Those living in the subtropical latitudes are clean in their person. Those living farther north are much like the inhabitants of the colder European countries. Cleanliness is not a distinguishing virtue of the Tartar, neither is he remarkable for its contrary. The Cantonese, on the other hand, are exceptionally clean.

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It is a curious fact that, although the Tartars are the governing race, a single Cantonese will use his whip freely upon a Peking crowd if anything occurs to put him out. The Pekingese, despite their mixed descent from the conquerors of China, are in effect far less brave or truculent than their Southern kinsmen, whom they politely term "Cantonese thieves," or "Amoy pirates."

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A jaunt to the Great Wall of China is a certain incident in the life of all who stay at Peking, and I was greatly amused a few years since to see it gravely asserted in an American journal that the Great Wall existed only in the imagination of unveracious travellers. I further found in the *Graphic* of September 13, 1887, a statement that the Abbé Larrieu, a French Catholic missionary, had declared that he "had lived just where the wall should be had it existed, and that though the idea of such a monster defence was undoubtedly entertained by an early Chinese Emperor, it was never fully carried out." The *Graphic* published two photographs of the wall, forwarded by a correspondent in China, by way of contradicting the Abbé's assertion.

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As one who has seen and measured the Great Wall at several points, I may be permitted to give some figures. There are, to begin with, two walls—an inner one, 500 miles in length, crossing the northern portion of the Chihli and Shansi provinces, first in a direction from N.N.E. to S.S.W., and thence west, northerly. This, built of limestone and granite, which many Chinese allege to be the "real" Great Wall, unites at its extremities with the outer and longer wall which extends from Shanhaj, on the coast of the Gulf of Peichili, for 1,500 miles westward. Both walls are constructed alike. In the level valleys they are about 15 to 20 feet wide, and about 32 feet high, decreasing to 10 or 12 feet when fronting a precipice, with towers at frequent intervals—not particularly imposing, but realising the idea usually entertained of them. I only saw the crenellated portion of the inner wall, but the outer wall, directly it begins to ascend the rocky hills, loses its square shape, and consists of a sort of stone mound of triangular section. The measurements I made varied from 15 to 25 feet from foot to apex, with an average base of 15 feet across—a barrier quite sufficient to check any cavalry in the world.

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The material chiefly used is quartz-porphyry; and as the apex consists only of a single stone about eight inches wide, it was quite practicable to sit astride it—which, of course, I did—with "one foot in China and one foot in Mongolia." Theoretically the frontier is 300 miles north of the wall, but, practically, Chinese jurisdiction is not enforced outside it; and to say that a man comes from "beyond the Wall" implies that he is not Chinese-born. The old political frontier between the two countries is marked by a heap of mounds extending for an immense distance, but how far I could never accurately ascertain.

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I travelled through Mongolia with the German and American friends before mentioned, and one night a Mongolian mandarin, who spoke Chinese fairly well (many do not), arrived at the inn. We became very good friends, dined together on fowl and lau-ping or "damper," and shared with him a bottle or two of our scanty stock of the Bass beer aforesaid. When about to take leave he said that he had a great favour to ask, which he hoped we would not take amiss. It took some time to find out what the favour was, so great was his desire not to give offence. At last it was formulated—he wanted the beer-bottle! As glass utensils were scarce in Mongolia, we readily gave him what we supposed he would find a useful flask for "koumis" or camel-milk wine. But to our astonishment he explained that he wanted it as a god! I had never made a present of that description before, and have not done so since. The experience is probably an uncommon one—out of Africa.

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But, distant as Mongolia is from London or Parisian civilisation, two signs of its products are to be found even at the foot of the Great Wall—empty Bass's beer bottles and "striking on the box" match-boxes. Chinese and Japanese firms are now turning out very indifferent imitations of Bryant and May's and Swedish "Tändsticker," but my visit was prior to the Eastern imitations having been started. Bass has not yet been imitated, though often rivalled. In my younger days he held the Eastern markets, and is not quite unfamiliar there even now.

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The "Lay-Osborne Affair" which caused no small sensation in Eastern and naval circles, took place while I resided at Peking; and at this distance of time—twenty-seven years since its occurrence—no confidences are violated in stating, what has not before appeared in print, what actually occurred. The principal actors have mostly "gone over to the majority," Mr. H. N. Lay, C.B., being, however, still in the flesh. He was at that time Inspector-General of the Chinese Customs, and had induced the Peking Government to fall in with his views as to establishing a small but effective fleet of vessels, foreign-officered. No ostensible objection was made by our authorities. The Admiralty permitted Captain Sherrard Osborne to take the chief command, and the fleet was duly brought out by him to China. But neither he nor Mr. Lay had any idea at the time of the forces working against them.

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Mr. Lay was a most able man, but assumed so autocratic a position towards his employers that the Chinese became afraid of him. When the fleet arrived he stipulated that its officers should take orders only through him or his subordinates. The Chinese insisted that they should be directly responsible to one of the provincial viceroys. Each side stuck to its guns, and the British Minister was appealed to. Mr. Lay felt confident of his support, in view of the friendly interest he had ever shown in the matter. The Chinese pointed out that to comply with Mr. Lay's demands would be to make him virtually master of Chinese policy. Sir Frederick Bruce told both parties they were right, and referred the matter to the Foreign Office, which had all along viewed Mr. Lay's position with grave displeasure, as he had let it be seen he would advise the Chinese quite independently of what our Minister or Secretary of State might desire.

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It was easy to foretell how this would end. Both Governments distrusted Mr. Lay—the Chinese fearing that he would become too powerful, and the Foreign Office fearing that he might encourage China in her resistance to British demands. Mr. Lay's sacrifice was determined on. For six weeks, however, after this understanding was arrived at, Mr. Lay was led by our Minister to believe that matters would be arranged. A final despatch was sent home announcing that it had been decided to disband the fleet and dismiss Mr. Lay from the post of Inspector-General, which was offered to, and accepted in strict confidence, by Mr., now Sir Robert, Hart. Mr. Lay breakfasted at the Legation about ten days or a fortnight after this, and was told that the matter would probably be settled in his favour in a few days. His subsequent dismissal, coincident with an entire repudiation of the whole arrangement regarding the fleet, came on him like a thunderclap.

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The Chinese behaved with fair liberality, but the loss of power and prestige was a sad blow to a man who had very nearly succeeded in making himself Dictator of China. He went over to Japan, and there opened negotiations regarding railways on behalf of a London syndicate. Everything seemed to promise well, but on his arrival in London he found all his arrangements repudiated, and legal actions even were threatened or commenced regarding commission or other moneys connected with the scheme. It was alleged he had exceeded his powers. However this might have been, it would appear that the same idea prevailed regarding his action in Japan as in China. He forgot that he was employed by others in both cases. But he was no doubt treated very badly both in China and Japan, because disavowal was preceded by apparently cordial approval.

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Captain Sherrard Osborne was a most amusing travelling companion, and used to tell stories of the Crimean War with great effect. One of them related to some Jack-Tars who stole a camel, and, not knowing what to do with their prize, put him into an empty hut, bricking it up so that he could only put his lips out for food. Jack's efforts to provide the needful commissariat were detailed with comical effect, but, as the language used was more forcibly descriptive than polite, the story had better perhaps not be recorded in these columns.

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Mr. Lay's successor had an abundance of what his predecessor lacked—tact, and though quite as autocratic in his way, managed to obtain and retain much greater influence over the Chinese. His splendid career—open, of course, to criticism at times, like that of every man a head and shoulders above his follows—sufficiently answers carping criticism. The best men of his enormous staff, amongst whom jealousies naturally existed as they do in all "services," admit that he has been wonderfully fair, all things taken into account. When it is considered that he is practically the sole dispenser of patronage in the way of appointments amounting to about 300,000 dols., or at least 50,000*l.* year, this is no slight praise.

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It was curious to note the intense dislike with which our Gallic friends were regarded at Peking just after the Anglo-French occupation of the capital and the destruction of the Summer Palace. I have many valued French friends, but believe a Frenchman, as a rule, to be absolutely incapable of dealing with Asiatics so as ever to gain their confidence or business support. Hence the commercial failure of their colonies. They are the best military colonists in the world, but carry Paris into Asia with all its irritating bureaucracy, or, as we put it, "red tape." They were especially stingy, too, in the matter of tips to the gatekeepers, &c., of public buildings and to say that you were not French was, in the days I write of, a necessary preliminary to securing courteous treatment. The Tientsin massacre was simply the outcome of a

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long existing feeling of hatred against every one of French nationality, and the gross mismanagement of the more recent Franco-Chinese War on the part of the Republican authorities has not, I fear, improved the position. This is to be regretted, inasmuch as all "devils," as they term Europeans, are much confused with each other throughout China. On the other had, France was, next to Russia, the most feared.

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Apropos of "devils," or "foreign devils," as the phrase usually runs, a good deal of undeserved anger has been exhibited by foreigners. It is, of course, not intended to be complimentary, but in a vast number of cases is just as little intentionally insulting. It is a popular descriptive term, just as "nigger" was in preabolition days. You would hear a U.S. Southerner in the 'fifties say, "He's the best nigger I ever knew," without intending to in any way depreciate the said nigger's racial descent. The American world contained white men and niggers; that was all; and similarly the Chinese contains Sons of Han and devils. We always remonstrated, however, with the result that the remonstrance was taken in good part.

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I am not sure either that *Kwei* is at all correctly translated by "devil," as "spirit" almost equally well renders it. The Scotch "kelpie," "warlock," more nearly express the meaning, which is "uncanny spirit." To show, however, how little the users sometimes intended to insult those whom they thus designated, I may remind readers of the anecdote related by the late Mr. Baber, or Margary—I am not quite sure which. A petition was presented to one of those distinguished civil servants, in which he was addressed as "The Honourable Devil"!

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General Gordon's doings as chief of the "Ever Victorious Army" have long since passed into the domain of history; but as all his letters to the British Minister and the replies thereto, were seen by me, a few words about him may fitly find place in these desultory notes. His distress at the execution of the Taiping Wangs was very real, and he actually placed his resignation in the Minister's hands. It was only upon the most urgent representations that he would again plunge China into civil war if he resigned, that he consented to complete what he had begun—the suppression of the Taiping rebellion. All the same, scarcely a single British official then in China thought the part we took in that enterprise a wise one. A successful revolution is the only condition of China freely adopting either Western civilisation or Western religion—it is useless to call it "Christianity," when the two great sections declare each other to be heretics, and the Portestant churches have a dozen antagonistic schools of teaching. Apart from this, however, a revolution of some sort, bloody or bloodless as it may turn out, must take place before the innate conservatism of centuries can be induced to cease its present opposition.

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The first thing wanted is roads—not even railroads, but good cart roads. The next is judicial reform; and the third is the abolition of universal bribery and consequent corruption. It is urged that as both sides bribe, and that no secrecy is even hinted at, the result in the long run is much the same as if no bribery existed. As a matter of fact, it costs an Englishman about as much to get justice as a Chinaman, only we call it solicitor's and counsel's fees. There are no lawyers or pleaders in China, which in this respect is perhaps to be envied by other less fortunate countries. All the same, the Chinese system works very badly for litigants.

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Torture plays a conspicuous part in criminal proceedings. A certain specified number of tortures are "legal," but unfortunately, even these are often exceeded, and ghastly horrors are perpetrated in the name of law. As an illustration of a minor and "legal" application of the question, I may mention that while I was in Peking one of the Legation servants was charged with a petty theft and handed over to the native authorities for safe custody. Nothing was heard of him for some days, when the result of inquiries showed that the unfortunate wretch had been kept for several hours each day "kneeling upon chains." As this perhaps does not sound very terrible, let me recommend any sceptical reader to try it for one hour only. Kneeling upon broken glass, which is an unlawful refinement of the chain torture, has been more than once resorted to in the provinces to extort a confession. But most comprehensive works on China give full and hideous details of such matters. One saving consideration, however, must not be overlooked. When did we abolish judicial torture? For a Christian nation I think we kept it up to a tolerably late date.

Torture and trial naturally suggest executions, and these were sufficiently frequent during my stay at the Chinese capital. The actual death-penalty was inflicted in two ways: by simple decapitation, or by the "ling chih," conventionally and most inaccurately rendered by "cutting into ten thousand pieces." It would be too sickening to describe it in detail. Suffice it to say that in includes the cutting out of the principal muscles, the flaying of the face, and a final *coup de grâce*. The executioners are often bribed to inflict this latter at an early stage, and the prisoners' friends are mercifully allowed to drug them with opium, if they can afford it. Two women (one undoubtedly insane) were thus executed while I was in Peking, and in one case I received an invitation from a friendly mandarin to be present, he promising me "an excellentseat." He would not understand my declining the well-meant offer without thanks.

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Ordinary decapitation is by means of a peculiarly shaped sword, very broad and heavy towards the point, the victim being made to kneel down with his hands tied behind him, and extend his head forwards. It has often been described, but the subsequent exhibition of the head in a bamboo cage has less seldom been noted. I saw the heads of some seven *décapites* in one cage, and was struck by the fact that not a single one exhibited any signs of violent death. The execution ground at Peking is a small open space formed by the meeting of three or four streets, and the actual spot where the sentence is carried out is usually occupied by a pork-seller's stall.

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As decapitation carries with it most unpleasant consequences to the relations of the criminal—in some cases all of his family sharing the punishment of his crime, and in others the house in which he dwelt being razed to the ground—eminent officials sentenced to death are often "permitted" to hang themselves. A silken cord, *à la* Turkish bowstring, is sent to the condemned, who thereupon takes the hint. A curious instance of this—or rather of an objection raised by the victim—occurred within my own knowledge. A general, who had somewhat distinguished himself during the Taiping rebellion, was incautious enough to make some very uncomplimentary remarks about the then Dowager Empress—remarks, in fact which any woman would bitterly resent. Like all successful men in China he had unscrupulous enemies, and the Empress soon became aware of what had been said of her. He was, however, at that time in too high favour with the Emperor to be attacked. Meanwhile, our "little war" with China took place. The Emperor fled to Jehol, and shortly afterwards died. Prince Kung was appointed regent, but the real power behind him was the Dowager Empress, to whom everything was referred. The time came when the erring general laid himself open to censure. Some few thousand *taels* had been misappropriated, and he was cited to Peking to answer the charge.

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The matter was from a Chinese point of view so unimportant—a trifling bribe being all that was necessary to settle the matter quietly—that the general obeyed the summons rather because he thought it a good opportunity for visiting the capital than because he feared the displeasure of the Government if he ignored it. He was too powerful to be attacked at the head of his own troops; but, dreading no evil, came to Peking. Here he was put under nominal arrest—*i.e.* he was free to move about, could have his family to visit him, and, being rich, could eat and drink what he pleased. Six months passed away, during which time he had "squared" any possible accusers respecting the missing money; and desiring to return to his duties, he sent in a petition asking for immediate investigation.

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He had forgotten that the woman whose character he had traduced—though, if the gossip of the day were true, the sting of the accusation lay in its truth—was now the virtual autocrat of China. The petition was duly carried to her with the other documents of the day's proceedings, when the Empress noticed the petitioner's name. With a mocking smile, she marked it with the fatal characters which meant "Direct him to hang himself." Within an hour or two the unhappy man had received the silken cord; and, either by accident or design, the bearer of the unpleasant gift was the general's former tutor. This was to a Chinaman like sending a father to execute his son; and the fact was much commented on in the Court circles.

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While the general's friends objected to the channel of communication, the general objected much more strongly to the communication itself. In fact, he seemed to be destitute of ordinary feelings of decency, for he absolutely declined to avail of the kind permission accorded. His friends had great ado to persuade him that it was for the best, keenly alive to the inconveniences of being connections of a man executed in the ordinary way. He was persuaded with extreme difficulty to put his head in a noose attached to a convenient nail, and the stool upon which he stood was snatched away in hot haste lest he should repent and plunge his family into overwhelming misfortune. Shortly after he had ceased to breathe, his wives came as usual to dine with him, and were somewhat astonished to learn that dinner was for him a bygone luxury. They took it very philosophically, however, all things considered, and, having taken possession of the body, sent out the usual invitations to the funeral. In the next day's *Gazette* the gracious permission accorded to the deceased to commit suicide was set out at length, with a laudatory notice of the deceased officer's services.

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In my early days missionary knowledge of Chinese had not reached the respectable stage which a few years' experience enabled many to acquire. As the various well-meaning societies which sent them out were invariably in a hurry for "results," the ignorance alluded to led sometimes to queer incidents—I hasten, *par parenthèse*, to say that some few were even then sound scholars; my remarks apply to "griffins" of similar standing to myself—and one of these I recall. Near Tientsin is, or was, a temple known to us as the "Treaty Temple," on account of the treaty of 1860 having been signed within its walls, and those resident at the port used frequently to ride out there for a chat with the priest in charge and his assistants. These gentlemen naturally became also the objects of missionary attention, and on calling one day we were informed that a member of one of the six-and-forty denominations, who seek to show the Chinese how united Protestant Christians are amongst themselves, had paid them a visit. He did not, they said, speak much Chinese (this was not to be wondered at, as he had only been in China a little under two months); but, they added, he seemed good-natured, and had told them a long story about a "heavenly pig." It took us some minutes to discover that by mistoning the word *chu*, or lord, the speaker had spoken of a pig, much to the mystification of the worthy Chinese, upon whom his Christian exhortations had fallen somewhat flatly in consequence.

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Tientsin was at that time looked after by a Consul, who has long since passed away, but who, owing to the orbit of his eye being pierced by a spear in a brush with robbers, became for a time a source of wonder and perplexity to both his chiefs and subordinates. The serious nature of his wound was unknown at the time, while his conduct became stranger day by day. His eccentricity at last reached such a pass that in answer to a mild censure from the Minister at Peking, he drafted a letter stating that "the soul of any one who held such opinions (as the minister's) must have sunk to bottomless perdition." The assistant at the Consulate protested against this being sent, but was ordered to copy it for despatch. In place of doing this he locked it up in his desk and left the office for the day. Next morning he was horrified to find that his unfortunate superior officer had managed to open the desk, and having copied the letter verbatim, had despatched it per special courier to Peking. Needless to say that a medical examination into the Consul's mental state was ordered by return, and that his being invalided to England was only a matter thereafter of a few hours.

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A few words about the much misdescribed *Peking Gazette* may fitly find a place in reminiscences of the Chinese capital. A popular idea prevails in Europe and America that it is a newspaper, whereas it is simply a sort of Court Circular, from the pages of which news of any sort is rigidly excluded. It is issued in three forms—the first being printed from wooden blocks, the second written in manuscript, and the third struck off from hurriedly engraved wax. The first is tolerably well printed, and is legible; the second, which is much dearer, and is supplied to various Government departments, as also to the foreign legations, is well written on white paper; while the third, or wax plate edition, is often scarcely readable, and is proportionately cheaper in price.

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An average copy of the first form would probably be supposed by an unsophisticated foreigner to be some advertising tract relating to patent pills or drugs. It is certainly the least imposing-looking official document produced throughout the world. It consists of from ten to twelve leaves, $7\frac{1}{8}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, of brownish-coloured paper, enclosed by two covers of bright yellow ditto, stitched to the

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former with paper twine. The inside leaves being folded double at the edges, give from twenty to twenty-four pages, each containing seven columns of matter, and each column giving space for fourteen characters. The first page records audiences, presentations, and a list of the palace officials for the day. This is followed by rescripts or decrees, the remainder being devoted to memorials. There is a very perfect organisation for supplying the necessary copy, transcribing, printing, and distributing this publication. One trifling drawback is connected with responsibility as to the *Peking Gazette*. A minor "error of the press" is followed by fine or flogging: a serious one is apt to lead to banishment or decapitation. It need hardly be said that the *Gazette* people are uncommonly careful proof-readers!

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A good many expenses had to be incurred both at Peking and the various ports, for which it was hard to obtain the formal receipts called for by the Home Treasury Department; but the useless system in vogue survived numerous representations from the Legation and Consulates for a long while. It was obvious that in dealing with men who could not write—such as the majority of couriers, carters, coolies, &c.—it was impossible to obtain signed receipts. But the audit office objected to a series of vouchers bearing "his mark" only. It became, therefore, customary to employ a teacher, or "writer," to sign these precious receipts *en bloc* at the end of each month. This led to a fresh remonstrance from the authorities, who said that "all the signatures looked as if written by the same person"—which was true enough. The writer of the memo, from home, however, was incautious enough to add that "the system of signing receipts common amongst the Chinese themselves was to be adhered to in future." Whereat there was great joy and visions of a clerical revenge upon the over-particular Treasury minute-writer on the part of the Consular assistants.

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The reason is easily given. When a proper receipt is exacted from a Chinaman who cannot write—an unusual proceeding—the party is required to place the tips of his thumb and fingers on a slab covered with Indian ink, and then transfer the impression to the document requiring signature. The vouchers which reached the Treasury and Audit Office for the ensuing month were probably the most novel in appearance ever forwarded to a British public office. But as the Chargé d'Affaires certified that they were in due form as directed by the instructions given, there was nothing for it on the part of my lords but to give in. Directions were instantly sent out that in future petty expenses were to be vouched for by the senior official at each port "upon honour." It was a very sore subject with the audit department for several years afterwards.

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We were hard put to it in those days to secure the few prisoners whom fate or due process of law committed to the "Consular gaol." The said gaol was a small room about ten feet square, with paper-covered windows and door—*i.e.* that paper supplied the place of glass, while any moderately strong boy could have wrenched away the woodwork with the greatest ease. One day some ten Chinese were exceedingly noisy at the Consular gate, and the constable was ordered to arrest and lock them up—the latter direction being given in pure forgetfulness of the above facts. In a few minutes the officer returned to the court-room and reported the prisoners to be "all secured." Suddenly, bethinking himself of the gingerbread nature of the cell-the Consul anxiously inquired *how* they were secured. "Handcuffed round the flagstaff, sir," was the prompt reply. Sure enough, on going out to the court-yard to see, the ten men were as described, keeping up a "round the mulberry-bush" dance, having been threatened with a flogging if they once paused in their comical-looking performance.

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It is a very curious, but nevertheless undoubted fact that the superabundant filth of Chinese cities does not seem to induce any extraordinary visitation of sickness. Tientsin and Peking were equally filthy, but were as free from epidemic or disease as most European cities. Our medical missionaries, in fact who do more good to foreign repute than any other body of men in the East, find that their principal work is surgical, not medical. The Chinaman, indeed, seems of all human beings to have greatest faculty for recovering from serious external injuries, but is powerless in the face of internal derangements requiring operations. I have known a native to survive after a cart-shaft had passed completely through him, and some very strange cures were made by our medical men of Chinese soldiers left for dead, after the engagements on our march to Peking.

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Though terribly afraid of the knife, the Chinaman, if there is no help for it, submits to it with astonishing calmness. Apropos of this, a native who came to Edinburgh, and there took his degrees in surgery and medicine, once informed me that the Chinese nervous system was undoubtedly less sensitive to pain than that of Europeans. One curious difficulty encountered in cases of wounds and other injuries is that it is sometimes difficult to set up the moderate inflammation of the exposed surfaces, which is a necessary preliminary to granulation and subsequent healing. It is often much more dangerous to strike a Chinaman over the spleen than to inflict a frightful-looking wound. He is so tender in that organ—or perhaps enlarged spleen is so common a Chinese complaint—that he is apt to fall dead in the first case, while seeming to be only slightly inconvenienced in the other.

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In the early 'sixties a good deal of what is termed "rough and ready" justice was meted out by Consular officers. One of the Consuls at a northern port was especially remarkable for the speed with which he disposed of mutinous, and that class of loafing foreigners who formed the chief bulk of those dealt with. Upon one occasion a sailor, who was a bit of a "sea-lawyer," exclaimed on being sentenced to three weeks "hard," "Well, if you call that justice, sir, I don't." "Justice be d——d," replied H.M. representative." "You came here for law, and you've got it. Take him away."

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Very few people in Europe ever heard of a personage known in the North of China as the "living Buddha." He is supposed to be the veritable incarnation of that deity, and the fact of his existence at the present date has a romantic interest, when the conditions of his life are known. I saw the Buddha of that day some twenty-eight years ago. He was about twenty years of age, and had passed his short life, an absolute prisoner since childhood, within the small temple he occupied. According to popular belief, upon the disappearance of an existing representative, he is supposed to enter Nirvana direct, and neither dies nor is buried, the alleged fact being that he is quietly disposed of by the priesthood before reaching middle age. His soul is reincarnated in the person of a child, known to the priesthood by certain signs. This child at once takes the vacant place, and passes his days seated, like his predecessor, in doing nothing except mumbling a few occasional prayers. Of course he is fed in privacy, although the idea of his requiring nourishment is ridiculed. When the time comes he too mysteriously vanishes. And so from cycle to cycle.

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To come of "a fine old family" is a matter many people are proud of. But it will have to be a very old family indeed to match that of a gentleman I once met. He can trace his descent back, without dispute or flaw, to 550 years before Christ. And his great ancestor Confucius came, according to undisputed records, of a "good old family" then. For 2,240 years has the Kung family—for Confucius is Latin, not Chinese, and the real name is Kung-fu-tsz—been revered in China for the sake of its illustrious scion—not founder, be it noted. A portrait of the great philosopher hangs in the Confucian temple at Peking. Whether it is authentic or not nobody knows, but the probabilities are in favour of its being a copy of some older picture. I do not myself think paper and canvas would last for two and a quarter thousand years, hung up and exposed to the air. Papyrus is found in mummy-cases of equal or greater age. Archæologists should endeavour to get the true story of this picture, which I saw while at the capital.

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Some idea of the difficulties besetting the most advanced students of the Chinese language may be formed from a conversation I once overheard between Mr. T. Taylor Meadows and our then Chargé d'Affaires at Peking. The Chinese used jokingly to say that what those gentlemen didn't know about the language was certainly unknown to any native. The latter official having called on Mr. Meadows found an open Chinese work on his table, over which he naturally glanced. On his host entering the room, the visitor pointed to a character and asked what it meant. "That's what I left the book open for—to find out. I know you would look at it, and was curious to see if you could translate it. I never met a Chinaman who could," was Mr. Meadows's reply.

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There used to be "an outward and visible sign" of an "inward" but by no means spiritual frame of mind on the part of the eminent official in question which acted as a storm-warning when anything was wrong. If a student had to be severely admonished, a "teacher" to be dismissed, or the Chinese authorities to be talked to in a paternal way, the chief invariably put on a pair of high yellow-leather riding-boots. "He's got his boots on" was the sentence then passed from one to the other, until even the coolies learned the news. Young gentlemen conscious of some error of judgment immediately found it convenient to go for a day's excursion, returning when the storm had blown over.

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The signature of the Dutch treaty with China was the occasion of an outburst on the part of the able but quick-tempered official that its witnesses have never forgotten. Several copies were prepared, and at an early hour in the morning the Chargé d'Affaires, with some junior officials, proceeded to the Tsung-li Yamên to compare and sign them. As it happened, he was to depart that day for England on leave, and by the unaccountable ill-luck which so often makes things happen at just the most inconvenient time, the copyist of two of the copies had omitted some pages of the manuscript. The Chinese Prime Minister and his colleagues had, without doubt, seen the British representative in a passion before, but had never seen him in quite so stormy a mood as then. To say that he swore at the whole body politic of China is to gravely understate the fact. The curse of the Jackdaw of Rheims was not more exhaustive, and was infinitely more courteous.

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One of the most ludicrous blunders ever committed by an over-zealous naval officer was a mistake made by the captain of a Spanish man-of-war in the Gulf of Taku. Fired with emulation at the success of our cruisers in hunting down pirates, he one morning ordered a small squadron of junks to heave to, and, on their refusing, fired into and eventually captured one or two, dispersing or sinking the rest. Very proud of the achievement, he brought his captures into Taku and reported proceedings to Señor de Mas, the Spanish Minister, then resident at Tientsin. To the horror of the latter he learned in a few hours that his naval friend had captured the treasure fleet of the Emperor.

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Of course, there was tremendous indignation on the part of the Chinese Commissioner, and the despair of the Spanish Minister, who was just completing the negotiations for the Chino-Spanish treaty, was piteous to see. Finding he could not shake the former's resolution to at once report the matter to Peking, he came round to the British Consulate, and, with tears in his eyes, implored the Acting Consul to try and dissuade the Commissioner from doing so. That officer consented to undertake the task, and was successful. The Minister talked and wrote strongly of urging his Government to bestow some acknowledgment upon his British friend, but—as was usual with Spanish promises in those days—nothing ever came of it.

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Life at the open ports—Shanghai excepted, as it was even then a place of some importance—was not very exciting. Contests with the provincial authorities were plentiful, and it required a good deal of "grit" to obtain satisfaction for constant evasions of the treaty provisions, the destruction of foreign property by mobs, &c. So far as punishing individuals went, however, the mandarins were rather over-complaisant. On one occasion some thieves stole a quantity of cotton from a cargo-boat in the harbour, and, being caught red-handed, were committed to native custody. The Consul accidentally learned late that night that it had been decided to execute them at 4 A.M. next morning without trial, and sent his assistants at 3 A.M.—they would not have obtained an interview between 8 P.M. and that hour—to see the Prefect and obtain an adjournment of the ghastly ceremony. They arrived, however, too late; at 3.30 the headless trunks, still warm, were lying on the execution ground in the dim light of an early summer morning. The Prefect seemed mightily astonished at our objecting to this rapid mode of vindicating the law, and subsequently observed "that there was no pleasing some people."

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Apropos of this early rising business, it may astonish London readers to know that the work of the Grand Secretaries of the Chinese Government commences at 2 a.m. After the evening meal at five to seven o'clock nobody will transact any official business whatever, but you may appoint almost any hour between 2.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to meet an official. The Chinese, in fact, turn night into day much as we do. But they turn the other end of the night, thus vindicating the claim to topsyturvydom characteristic of a nation which puts the candlestick into the candle in place of what we consider the more rational method.

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I have before adverted to the bloodthirsty nature of the Chinese code, and the readiness to behead—above noticed—reminds me of a fact I have not seen before noted in the London press.

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It is that the cannibal practice of eating the heart and kidneys of a defeated enemy is by no means unknown in very recent Chinese history. During the "Arrow" War the bodies of several Europeans were thus treated. The Arab travellers of the ninth century spoke of the Chinese soldiers as habitual cannibals; and in 1862 Mr. Cooper was told by a Roman Catholic missionary that he had seen men in Yünnan eating the blood and brains of a celebrated robber they had just captured. Pith-balls are, even at this day, steeped in the blood of criminals executed at Peking, and sold as a cure for consumption.

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That children's eyes and blood were used for photographic purposes was a firmly founded belief when I was in China. Equally strong was the mob superstition that we used the corpses of kidnapped children to place under the foundations of our bridges and church at Shanghai. A rumour to the same effect was widely circulated some four years ago at Singapore, but any "body" took the place of children's corpses. So frightened were the native amahs or nurses that for some weeks none of them dared leaved their masters' houses after nightfall.

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I had almost forgotten to notice a people whose "embassy" to Peking was an annual event, the Koreans. At the time of which I write no Englishman had ever penetrated their strangely-secluded country. In 1864, however, an English missionary, who evinced such remarkable linguistic faculty for acquiring Chinese that Sir Thomas Wade pronounced him to be a *rara avis* amongst students, took passage for Sŏul, the capital, in an American schooner. The vessel duly reached the city, but was fired upon and burned by the infuriated natives, and the missionary, with the captain and crew, perished in the flames.

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The Korean embassy was a ramshackle building just inside the south wall, and its inhabitants found great pleasure in stoning us as we passed their abode—a practice we put an end to by administering a horse-whipping to an incautious Korean caught in the act. What would have happened had this come to the ears of the minister, I don't know. The "tribute" brought by these strangers from the north-east corner of the empire was paper, ginseng, cloth, and medicines. They were insatiably curious, and, after we had made acquaintance, we found them most undesirable guests, as when once seated in our quarters no hint whatever would make them move. Oddly enough, they were large purchasers of harmoniums, electrical apparatus, model engines, magic lanterns, and similar articles, obtained through Tientsin firms.

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Opposite Amoy lies the island of Formosa, long famous in our literary annals as having suggested the famous imposture of George Psalmanazar. In later days it was the veritable scene of a very able diplomatic mission on the part of Mr. W. A. Pickering and General le Gendre, the then U.S. Consul at Amoy. The former gentleman, who at that time was the agent of an Amoy firm in this island, was a most accomplished linguist, and had acquired a good knowledge of the dialects used by the savage tribes inhabiting the island. As the only Englishman—in fact, his only rival of any nationality was a French missionary, who died some time ago—who ever possessed this knowledge, he was deservedly regarded as a linguistic prodigy.

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The savages had a bad habit of killing, and, it was said, sometimes eating, the crews of any vessels wrecked on the southern coasts of the island. These wrecks were very numerous, especially during typhoon seasons, and it was felt that something should be done. The two gentlemen named were asked to undertake a mission to the savages with a view of convincing the latter that the British and American Governments could give them better presents than an occasional roast white man, or even the loot from a wrecked vessel, if they would only mend their ways. The two gentlemen did as requested, and met with gratifying success.

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Foh-ke-tok, the savage chief, however, was not all smiles when the negotiations commenced, and to General Le Gendre belongs the credit of having, at Mr. Pickering's suggestion, worked off on him a physical defect, and so given rise to a class of stories told with varying detail of numerous other negotiators with savage tribes. The General had a glass eye, and, as arranged with his co-negotiator, pulled it out, when the latter adduced the ease of such an operation on the part of Europeans as a proof of our physical superiority. The treaty was signed then and there; and for a good many years roast white man *à la Formose* disappeared from the menu of the native feasts.

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By a printer's error I was made in the last contribution of "Bits" to speak of Foh-ke-tok in place of Tau-ke-tok, the Formosan chief. And this reminds me that I also neglected to mention that the third official who accompanied Mr. Pickering and General le Gendre was Captain (now Colonel) Man, then Commissioner of Customs in Formosa, now commanding the third battalion Gordon Highlanders. It was entirely owing to his relations with the Chinese authorities that the expedition was able to start at all.

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It was owing to Captain Man's influence with the Manchu General that an intended attack upon our people was prevented. He was taken prisoner by the Chinese pickets when attempting to get to their head-quarters, and would have been killed there and then, had he lost his head for an instant. As it was, he was subjected to somewhat severe handling.

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A quarter of a century ago Hongkong, despite is recent origin, had become our most important Eastern colony. Sir John Bowring was its governor during a portion of the time (some eight years previously) when our relations with the Chinese Government were, to put it mildly, somewhat strained. A good many curious stories were in circulation as to the peculiar egotism of the governor regarding the Chinese language and the customs of the natives. As most people now know, Sir John was a really clever man, with such an itching for celebrity or notoriety that he prostituted his really great talents in endeavouring to persuade the world that he understood Chinese as well as other languages with which he had, at all events, a speaking acquaintance.

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Several good stories were current of his thirst for celebrity as an "all-round" linguist. On one occasion, as the tale goes, he undertook to teach a newly arrived official the Chinese word for salt. This, pronounced in the "second tone," is "yen," nowadays expressed in Sir Thomas Wade's transliteration as "yen^2." He unfortunately pronounced it "yen^1" (*i.e.* "yen" in the first tone), and on being corrected by his pupil remarked with refreshing coolness, "Ah, yes, some Chinese say so; but then, you know, very few know their own language!"

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Hongkong in the 'sixties was not a residence which offered temptations to nervous people. Some seventy-two piracies per annum within the waters of the colony was the average when I made its acquaintance, while the roads were so unsafe that ladies habitually carried revolvers if they had to go from the more distant residences into town for shopping or other purposes. Crimes of violence were rampant until Sir Richard Macdonnell became governor, and introduced, amongst other wise measures, an ordinance obliging all natives to carry a pass and lantern if abroad in the streets after dark. There was, of course, a terrible howl on the part of the curious section of humanity which always finds a client in the "downtrodden Asiatic." But as the leading Chinese strongly supported the measure, it remained law until the pestilent action of an Irish Home Ruler removed this salutary check upon the predatory instincts of the Chinese housebreaker and thief.

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Sir Richard Macdonnell was succeeded by Sir Arthur Kennedy, who was one of the best governors the colony ever saw. He had much sense not to reverse the beneficent policy of his predecessor, and was probably the most popular governor the colony ever possessed. If less able, he was far more conciliatory in manner than Sir Richard, and his amiable wife and daughter seconded his efforts to be a pleasant host in the most admirable manner.

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The Chief Justice of those days was a well-meaning but somewhat old-womanly official, who, albeit a fair lawyer, was by no means an ornament of the bench. Upon one occasion he sentenced a prisoner to death in the ordinary form, and told the court interpreter to convey his remarks to the prisoner. This the latter did, while the judge was still speaking, by saying, "You're to be hanged next Tuesday"—knowing full well that any further rendering of the "patient trial before the jury," or of the prayer that God would have mercy upon the murderer's soul, was simply a waste of breath. As the judge paused for his address to be rendered he was taken much aback by being informed that his remarks had already been translated. "A wonderfully expressive language, the Chinese," was, however, his only remark.

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The magistrates of those days were not exactly of the stamp which now finds favour. An ex-convict was an occasional occupant of the bench, and it was no uncommon occurrence to find "his worship" of 9 a.m. very drunk and disorderly about midnight, and ready to tip a policeman a 5-dollar note to see him safely to his domicile.

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High play, too, prevailed to an extent which would startle the present generation. I have known from 20,000 dols. change hands in one night, but nobody was particularly shocked. Money was made easily, and was as easily spent, much to the satisfaction of that useful class of men known as "compradores," who were virtually, though not ostensibly, the real masters of the mercantile world in the colony.

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To illustrate the way in which operations were conducted before the advent of the telegraph, I may mention the following facts. One night the signal-station (1,760 feet above the sea) became aware that a steamer consigned to the then leading firm, from Calcutta, was in the offing. The firm was informed, and within a few minutes a gig was to be seen pulling out to sea to speak the steamer. The captain of the latter simply handed his visitor an ordinary letter, and shortly afterwards steamed away seaward. The profit made by the firm on the information thus communicated was 200,000 dols., or about 40,000*l*. It need scarcely be added that the deal was in opium.

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Canton, situated about ninety miles distant from Hongkong, on the Pearl River, was the residence of a small European community, amongst whom the late Sir Brooke Robertson was the most conspicuous, in virtue of his position as British Consul and very decided diplomatic ability. He was rather a small man, but made up for his want of size by a very large amount of dignity. Counsel were not then permitted to appear as such in the Consular courts, but leave was sometimes given to a lawyer to act as the "friend" of a defendant or prisoner. Upon one occasion a young and particularly vulgar member of the Hongkong bar attempted to assert his right to appear for the defence. He was politely informed that he had no *locus standi*, but persisted in arguing the point. "Take that man away," thundered the little Consul, adding, "If you dare say another word, I'll commit you for contempt of court."

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One of the most noteworthy characters of the small community was the worthy Archdeacon. He had been stroke oar of the Cambridge eight in his university days, and was still of remarkable physique. He was fond of alluding to "this poor miserable body of mine," striking himself on the chest as he did so, and as his muscular capabilities were well known, this allusion invariably excited a titter amongst the younger and less reverend portion of the congregation. He was good-nature personified, and never could shut his ears to a plausible tale of distress. One of the objects of his bounty was a Chinese opium-smoker, who returned his kindness by nearly burning down the house with his opium lamp. Sometimes the good man's hospitality verged on indiscretion, though no breath of scandal ever assailed his character. But when he put up a "lady" in distress whose character was of too public a nature to bear investigation, his friends felt that it was time to remonstrate.

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Shortly after his first arrival at Canton he projected with some friends a tour to visit the Miaotzu, or aboriginal savages, inhabiting the mountainous country some days' journey to the westward of the provincial capital. Sir Brooke Robertson declined to grant them a passport on the ground that the journey was unsafe, and that the Chinese authorities could not be held responsible in case of outrage by the savages, over whom they had no effective control. However, the party determined to go, and they went. The next seen of the Archdeacon, a week or two afterwards, was the apparition of an elderly gentleman in a tall hat, *sans culottes*, and, in fact, devoid of all clothing except a piece of coarse matting, which a friendly Chinaman had given him on learning that the hat was the only single thing which the Miaotzu had disdained to rob him of.

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The Archdeacon was very fond of showing visitors through Canton, and often unconsciously gave great offence to the natives by entering their houses unbidden and directing attention to any domestic arrangements in progress. On one occasion he was taking round a party of friends, including ladies, and came upon a man changing his coat: "Here you will observe," said the amateur cicerone, "a man changing his

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coat. That which he is taking off is the short coat known as the *ma kua*;" and he was proceeding to further dilate when the native, in the most imperturbable manner, began to take off his trousers also. There was a shriek and a scuttle into the street, and when the Archdeacon could find breath to speak, all he could say was, "Dear me, how very inconsiderate!" But nothing could cure his blindness to the fact that even Chinese disliked intrusions on their privacy. It was the one fault of one of the gentlest of men.

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Those who have had personal experience of the "Old Factories at Canton" are becoming lamentably fewer and fewer. The factories consisted of a number of closely packed buildings in which the foreign merchants resided, and between them and the river there was a public garden some four acres in extent. This garden was the only place where the foreign merchants could take their daily exercise, and their perambulations round and round this garden excited the wonder of the Chinese, who, anxious to account for such a strange proceeding, came to the conclusion that the "barbarians," not having learnt the use of the abacus, adopted this method to calculate their business accounts.

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In 1854-55 the rivers around Canton were blockaded by a body of rebels, and the hills in the neighbourhood of the city were also in their hands. But, although they overran the whole province and captured many cities, they never got possession of Canton. Their blockade was, perhaps, rendered ineffective by the British naval authorities affording protection to lorchas of the same class as the *Arrow*, which afterwards formed a *casus belli* between England and China; these lorchas were enabled, under this protection, to convey provisions certainly, and munitions of war probably, into the beleaguered city.

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At that time H.M. Vice-Consulate at Whampoa, the shipping port of Canton, was on board an old teak-built hulk which had served in the wars of the early part of the century as H.M.S. *Alligator*. One day a fleet of Imperial junks was anchored some distance from this hulk, when a fleet of rebel boats attacked them, some of the latter utilising the Vice- Consulate as a protection from the Imperial fire; the hulk therefore became a target for the latter, and though the shot made no impression in her sides, they effected considerable havoc by entering the port-holes; one of these shot took off a child's leg while the writer was leading him to a place of safety. The Imperial junks were of the ordinary sea-going type, but the rebel flotilla consisted of boats of all kinds cut down almost to the water's edge, affording no protection whatever to their crews. It was a grand sight to see thousands of athletic, well-formed young men, without any clothing but a loincloth and a red turban, standing to their oars in these open boats exposed to the fire of the enemy, with no protection save that of the *Alligator*, when they retired behind her in order to reload their guns.

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The old factories were periodically burnt during riots, which, if not encouraged, were certainly not discouraged by the authorities, whose policy it was to foster an anti-foreign spirit among the masses, a policy not unknown in other countries besides China at the present day. The last burning took place in December, 1856, at the commencement of the hostilities brought on by the affair of the lorcha *Arrow*. The Chinese had surrounded the factories with combustibles, which were lighted simultaneously in several places. The destruction of the foreign buildings was admirably planned, and next morning only one was standing, and that one, strange to say, was situated in the middle of the row of buildings known as the English or Queen's factory. Chinese looters soon invaded the ruins, though the risk of being shot by the English sentries was very great. The English troops threw an entrenchment across the public garden, and the houseless and servantless foreign merchants cheerfully set to work as amateur cooks. The historical site of the old factories, founded centuries ago by the East India Company, is now covered with narrow streets of Chinese shops.

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The first blood shed in Canton during the *Arrow* war was that of a street watchman. Previous to the destruction of the old factories the approaches thereto were barricaded with bales of cotton, behind which were guards of British soldiers. An armed Chinese patrol was seen approaching one of these barricades; the men forming the patrol halted and knelt on one knee; the English guard, assuming this movement to be preliminary to opening fire, fired at them, whereupon the street was left clear, except for the corpse of the watchman, whose head presented a ghastly illustration of the effect of a Minie rifle bullet. Afterwards the Chinese authorities explained that the patrol was not of a military character, but only a municipal guard for the protection of property against robbers, and that the kneeling attitude was intended to indicate a friendly intent towards the British troops.

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During all the exciting scenes connected with the commencement of the war, with the four years' occupation of Canton by allied British and French troops, as well as with events in the North of China, Mr. (afterwards Sir Harry) Parkes was a prominent personage; he was clear-headed, active-minded, and indefatigable, a splendid type of a British official. He has been accused of diplomatic pugnacity, but there was no foundation for such a slur on his noble character. In the earlier days of the *Arrow* war, he acted loyally under direct daily instructions from Sir John Bowring, whose general policy towards China no doubt accorded with his instructions from the Government of the day.

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"Bits of Old China" have come to a sudden close, the writer having been attacked by serious indisposition and ordered off on a sea voyage by his medical adviser.

THE NEW FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT.

In view of the importance of the new British Foreign Jurisdiction Act, on which we recently commented, we give here the full text of the statute from the volume of statutes for 1890 issued by the Queen's printers in London.

53 & 54 Vict.—Chapter 37.

An Act to Consolidate the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts.

(4th August, 1890.)

Whereas by treaty, capitulation, grant, usage, sufferance, and other lawful means, Her Majesty the Queen has jurisdiction within divers foreign countries, and it is expedient to consolidate the Acts relating to the exercise of Her Majesty's jurisdiction out of Her dominions, namely:—

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows, viz.:—

1. It is and shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen to hold, exercise, and enjoy any jurisdiction which Her Majesty now has or may at any time hereafter have within a foreign country in the same and as ample a manner as if Her Majesty had acquired that jurisdiction by the cession or conquest of territory.

2. Where a foreign country is not subject to any government from whom Her Majesty the Queen might obtain jurisdiction in the manner recited by this Act, Her Majesty shall by virtue of this Act have jurisdiction over Her Majesty's subjects for the time being resident in or resorting to that country, and that jurisdiction shall be jurisdiction of Her Majesty in a foreign country within the meaning of the other provisions of this Act.

3. Every act and thing done in pursuance of any jurisdiction of Her Majesty in a foreign country shall be as valid as if it had been done according to the local law then in force in that country.

4. If in any proceeding, civil or criminal, in a court in Her Majesty's dominions or held under the authority of Her Majesty any question arises as to the existence or extent of any jurisdiction of Her Majesty in a Foreign country, a Secretary of State shall, on the application of the court, send to the court within a reasonable time his decision on the question, and his decision shall for the purposes of the proceeding be final.

2. The court shall send to the Secretary of State, in a document under the seal of the court, or signed by a judge of the court, questions framed so as properly to raise the question, and sufficient answers to those questions shall be returned by the Secretary of State to the court, and those answers shall, on production thereof, be conclusive evidence of the matters therein contained.

5.—(1) It shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen in Council, if she thinks fit, by Order to direct that all or any of the enactments described in the First Schedule of this Act, or any enactments for the time being in force amending or substituted for the same, shall extend, with or without exceptions, adaptations, or modifications in the Order mentioned, to any foreign country in which for the time being Her Majesty has jurisdiction.

(2) Thereupon those enactments shall, to the extent of that jurisdiction, operate as if that country were a British possession, and as if Her Majesty in Council were the Legislature of that possession.

6.—(1) Where a person is charged with an offence recognizable by a British court in a foreign country, any person having authority derived from Her Majesty in that behalf may, by warrant, cause the person so charged to be sent for trial to any British possession for the time being appointed in that behalf by Order in Council, and upon the arrival of the person so charged in that British possession, such criminal court of that possession as is authorised in that behalf by Order in Council, or if no court is so authorised, the supreme criminal court in that possession, may cause him to be kept in safe and proper custody, and as soon as conveniently may be made inquire of, try, and determine the offence, and on conviction punish the offender according the laws in force in that behalf within that possession, in the same manner as if the offence had been committed within the jurisdiction of that criminal court.

Provided that—

(a) A person so charged may, before being so sent for trial, tender for examination to a British court in the foreign country where the offence is alleged to have been committed any competent witness whose evidence he deems material for his defence, and whom he alleges himself unable to produce at the trial in the British possession.

(b) In such case the British court in the foreign country shall proceed in the examination and cross-examination of the witness as though he had been tendered at a trial before that court, and shall cause the evidence so taken to be reduced into writing, and shall transmit to the criminal court of the British possession by which the person charged is to be tried a copy of the evidence, certified as correct under the seal of the court before which the evidence was taken, or the signature of a judge of that court.

(c) Thereupon the court of the British possession before which the trial takes place shall allow so much of the evidence so taken as would have been admissible according to the law and practice of that court, had the witness been produced and examined at the trial, to be read and received as legal evidence at the trial.

(d) The court of the British possession shall admit and give effect to the law by which the alleged offender would have been tried by the British court in the foreign country in which his offence is alleged to have been committed, so far as that law relates to the criminality of the act alleged to have been committed, or the nature or degree of the offence, or the punishment thereof, if the law differs in those respects from the law in force in that British possession.

(2) Nothing in this section shall alter or repeal any law, statute, or usage by virtue of which any offence committed out of Her Majesty's dominions may, irrespectively of this Act, be inquired of, tried, determined, and punished within Her Majesty's dominions, or of any part thereof.

7.—Where an offender convicted before a British court in a foreign country has been sentenced by that court to suffer death, penal servitude, imprisonment, or any other punishment, the sentence shall be carried into effect in such place as may be directed by Order in Council or be determined in accordance with directions given by Order in Council, and the conviction and sentence shall be of the same force in the place in which the sentence is so carried into effect as if the conviction had been made and the sentence passed by a competent court in that place.

8.—Where, by Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act, any British court in a foreign country is authorised to order the removal or deportation of any person from that country, that removal or deportation, and any detention for the purposes thereof, according to the provisions of the Order in Council, shall be as lawful as if the order of the court were to have effect wholly within that country.

9.—It shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen in Council, by Order, to assign to or confer on any court in any British possession, or held under the authority of Her Majesty, any jurisdiction, civil or criminal, original or appellate, which may lawfully by Order in Council be assigned to or conferred on any British court in any foreign country, and to make such provisions and regulations as to Her Majesty in Council seem meet respecting the exercise of the jurisdiction so assigned or conferred, and respecting the enforcement and execution of the judgments, decrees, orders, and sentences of any such Court, and respecting appeals therefrom.

10.—It shall be lawful for Her Majesty the

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Queen in Council to revoke or vary any Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act.

11.—Every Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament forthwith after it is made, if Parliament be then in session, and if not, forthwith after the commencement of the then next session of Parliament, and shall have effect as if it were enacted in this Act.

12.—(1) If any Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act as respects any foreign country is in respect repugnant to the provisions of any Act of Parliament extending to Her Majesty's subjects in that country, or repugnant to any order or regulation made under the authority of any such Act of Parliament, or having in that country the force and effect of any such Act, it shall be read subject to that Act, order, or regulation, and shall, to the extent of such repugnancy, but not otherwise, be void.

(2) An Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act shall not be, or be deemed to have been, void on the ground of repugnancy to the law of England unless it is repugnant to the provisions of some such Act of Parliament, order, or regulation aforesaid.

13.—(1) An action, suit, prosecution, or proceeding against any person for any act done in pursuance or execution or intended execution of this Act, or of any enactment repealed by this Act, or of any Order in Council made under this Act, or of any such jurisdiction of Her Majesty as is mentioned in this Act, or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Act, or of any such enactment, Order in Council, or jurisdiction as aforesaid, shall not lie or be instituted:—

(a) in any court within Her Majesty's dominions, unless it is commenced within six months next after the act, neglect, or default complained of, or, in case of a continuance of injury or damage, within six months next after the ceasing thereof, or where the cause of action arose out of Her Majesty's dominions within six months after the parties to the action, suit, prosecution, or proceeding have been within the jurisdiction of the court in which the same is instituted; nor

(b) in any of Her Majesty's courts without Her Majesty's dominions, unless the cause of action arose within the jurisdiction of that court, and the action is commenced within six months next after the act, neglect, or default complained of, or, in case of a continuance of injury or damage, within six months next after the ceasing thereof.

(2) In any such action, suit, or proceeding, tender of amends before the same was commenced may be pleaded in lieu of or in addition to any other plea. If the action, suit, or proceeding was commenced after such tender, or is proceeded with after payment into court of any money in satisfaction of the plaintiff's claim, and the plaintiff does not recover more than the sum tendered or paid, he shall not recover any costs incurred after such tender or payment, and the defendant shall be entitled to costs, to be taxed as between solicitor and client, as from the time of such tender or payment; but this provision shall not affect costs on any injunction in the action, suit, or proceeding.

14.—It shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen in Council to make any law that may seem meet for the government of Her Majesty's subjects being in any vessel at a distance of not more than one hundred miles from the coast of China or of Japan, as fully and effectually as any such law might be made by Her Majesty in Council for the Government of Her Majesty's subjects being in China or in Japan.

15.—Where any Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act extends to persons enjoying Her Majesty's protection, that expression shall include all subjects of the several princes and states of India.

16.—In this Act,—

The expression "foreign country" means any country or place out of Her Majesty's dominions.

The expression "British Court in a foreign country" means any British Court having jurisdiction out of Her Majesty's dominions in pursuance of an Order in Council whether made under any Act or otherwise.

The expression "jurisdiction" includes power.

17.—The Acts mentioned in the second schedule of this Act may be revoked or varied by Her Majesty by Order in Council.

18.—The Acts mentioned in the third schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent in the third column of that schedule mentioned: Provided that,—

(1) Any Order in Council, commission, or instructions made or issued in pursuance of any enactment repealed by this Act, shall, if in force at the passing of this Act, continue in force, until altered or revoked by Her Majesty as if made in pursuance of this Act; and shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been made or issued under and in pursuance of this Act; and,

(2) Any enactment, Order in Council, or document referring to any enactment repealed by this Act shall be construed to refer to the corresponding enactment of this Act.

19.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

(2) The Acts whereof the short titles are given in the First Schedule to this Act may be cited by the respective short titles given in that schedule.

SCHEDULES.—FIRST SCHEDULE.

Session and Chapter.—12 and 13 Vict. c. 96.
Title.—An Act to provide for the Prosecution and Trial in Her Majesty's Colonies of Offences committed within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.
Short Title.—Admiralty Offences (Colonial) Act, 1849.
Session and Chapter.—14 and 15 Vict. c. 99.
Title.—An Act to amend the law of evidence.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—Sections seven and eleven.
Short Title.—Evidence Act, 1851.
Session and Chapter.—17 and 18 Vict. c. 104.
Title.—The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—Part X.
Session and Chapter.—19 and 20 Vict. c. 113.
Title.—An Act to provide for taking evidence in Her Majesty's Dominions in relation to civil and commercial matters pending before Foreign tribunals.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.
Short Title.—Foreign Tribunals Evidence Act, 1856.
Session and Chapter.—22 Vict. c. 20.
Title.—An Act to provide for taking evidence in Suits and Proceedings pending before Tribunals in Her Majesty's Dominions, in places out of the jurisdiction of such tribunals.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.
Short Title.—Evidence by Commission Act, 1859.
Session and Chapter.—22 and 23 Vict. c. 63.
Title.—An Act to afford Facilities for the more certain Ascertainment of the Law administered in one Part of Her Majesty's Dominions, when pleaded in the Courts of another Part thereof.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.
Short Title.—British Law Ascertainment Act, 1859.
Session and Chapter.—23 and 24 Vict. c. 122.
Title.—An Act to enable the Legislatures of Her Majesty's Possessions Abroad to make Enactments similar to the Enactment of the Act ninth George the Fourth, chapter thirty-one, section eight.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.
Short Title.—Admiralty Offences (Colonial) Act, 1860.
Session and Chapter.—24 and 25 Vict. c. 11.
Title.—An Act to afford facilities for the better ascertainment of the Law of Foreign Countries when pleaded in Courts within Her Majesty's Dominions.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.
Short Title.—Foreign Law Ascertainment Act, 1861.
Session and Chapter.—30 and 31 Vict. c. 124.
Title.—The Merchant Shipping Act, 1867.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—Section eleven.
Session and Chapter.—37 and 38 Vict. c. 94.
Title.—The Conveyancing (Scotland) Act, 1874.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—Section fifty-one.
Session and Chapter.—44 and 45 Vict. c. 69.
Title.—The Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—48 and 49 Vict. c. 74.
Title.—The Evidence by Commission Act, 1885.
Enactments which may be extended by Order in Council.—The whole Act.

SECOND SCHEDULE.—ACTS WHICH MAY BE REVOKED OR VARIED BY ORDER IN COUNCIL.

Session and Chapter.—24 and 25 Vict. c. 31.
Title.—An Act for the prevention and punishment of offences committed by Her Majesty's subjects within certain territories adjacent to the colony of Sierra Leone.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—26 and 27 Vict. c. 35.
Title.—An Act for the prevention and punishment of offences committed by Her Majesty's subjects in South Africa.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.

THIRD SCHEDULE.—ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

Session and Chapter.—6 and 7 Vict. c. 94.
Title or Short Title.—The Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1843.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—20 and 21 Vict. c. 75.
Title or Short Title.—An Act to confirm an Order in Council concerning the exercise of jurisdiction in matters arising within the kingdom of Siam.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—28 and 29 Vict. c. 116.
Title or Short Title.—The Foreign Jurisdiction Act Amendment Act, 1865.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—29 and 30 Vict. c. 87.
Title or Short Title.—The Foreign Jurisdiction Act Amendment Act, 1866.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—33 and 34 Vict. c. 55.
Title or Short Title.—The Siam and Straits Settlements Jurisdiction Act, 1870.
Extent or Repeal.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—38 and 39 Vict. c. 85.
Title or Short Title.—The Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1875.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.
Session and Chapter.—39 and 40 Vict. c. 46.
Title or Short Title.—An Acts for more effectually punishing offences against the laws relating to the slave trade.
Extent of Repeal.—Sections four and six.
Session and Chapter.—41 and 42 Vict. c. 67.
Title or Short Title.—The Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1878.
Extent of Repeal.—The whole Act.

NEW BOOKS ON CHINA.

Notice sur la Chine. Par Henri Cordier. (Paris, Lamicault & Co.)—China is so large a country, and the statistics connected with it are so difficult to obtain, that there is always an element of uncertainty about figures relating to it. Orientals have as little idea of the value of figures as they have of the value of time. The difference of a few hundred square miles in the area of a province, or of a few hundred thousands in the population of a city, appears to the unstatistical mind of a Chinaman so insignificant as not to be worth a thought. The Chinese delight in round numbers, and the larger they are the better. In this way the population has generally been spoken of as being about 400,000,000. This is so plainly an exaggeration that some foreign observers have been tempted into the other extreme, and have put down the grand total as not exceeding 250,000,000. M. Cordier steers a middle course between these figures, and supposes that 380,000,000 approaches sufficiently near the truth. During the last hundred years there have been many causes at work which have made the number of the people a constantly varying quantity. Famine, pestilence, and the sword have from time to time carried off such numbers as would have left a small kingdom desolate; and then, again, the reproducing powers of Chinamen are so great that a few years suffice to fill up the spaces left empty by these powers of destruction. With regard to the superficial areas of the empire and its provinces the same uncertainty does not exist. At the desire of the Emperor Kang-hi, the Roman Catholic missionaries made in the seventeenth century a rough survey of the country, which has of late years been subjected to revision by the Customs officials, who, acting under the orders of the most energetic Inspector-General, Sir Robert Hart, have carefully estimated the areas of the various provinces. The result arrived at shows that the eighteen cover an area of 1,348,870 square miles. All those who are acquainted with M. Cordier's most accurate and detailed bibliography of China will expect to find carefully prepared and exact statistics in the present work. Nor will they be disappointed. It is a mine of information on all subjects connected with China which can be expressed by figures, dates, and lists. History, language, literature, philosophy, geography, religion, and ethnography are all carefully summarized and tabulated, and thus make the volume an invaluable aid to all those who desire to acquaint themselves with facts and figures relating to far Cathay.

Chinesische Studien. Von Friedrich Hirth. (Munich and Leipzig, Hirth.)—It is a new and refreshing experience to meet with an invention of which the Chinese do not claim to have been the first discoverers. The late Marquis Tsêng used to

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assert that Confucius was conversant with the electric telegraph on the faith of an utterance by the sage infinitely less to the point than Puck's boast that he would "put a girdle round the earth in forty minutes." But even he could not say that his countrymen discovered the art of manufacturing glass; for on the first knowledge which the Chinese had of that material the dynastic histories speak plainly enough. According to the historian of the Han epoch (140-86 B.C.), agents were sent abroad to buy specimens of the glass of the period, which seems to have been opaque and much like the substance which is found in Egyptian tombs. The Chinese distinguish this kind, or *liu li*, from the clear glass, or *po-li*, which does not appear to have been known in China until some centuries later, when an embassy from Bokhara brought as a present to the Emperor a number of glass tumblers. Glass has never been generally used in China for the purposes common among ourselves. Except in some few houses at the treaty ports, windows are still covered with paper; and only in the case of luxurious individuals who are greedy of light is even talc used as a substitute. A Chinaman's wine bottle is made of porcelain, as are the cups out of which he drinks, and Chinese ladies still tire their hair and paint their cheeks by the aid of metal mirrors. Canton is as yet the principal seat of the native manufacture, and there broken glass used to be imported to be remelted. This, however, is no longer done, although flints are still carried from England for the use of the glassblowers. Hitherto the attempts of these artists to make glass mirrors have been dismal failures. Every object reflected in them is hideously distorted, and it is not surprising, therefore, that the Canton belles prefer to indulge their conservative instincts and to use bronze mirrors rather than to suffer the disfigurement of their almond-shaped eyes and willow-leaf eyebrows in native looking-glasses. The art of making metal mirrors was early brought to great perfection in China, and appears to have reached its zenith at the beginning of our era. Hirth gives in his "Chinesische Studien" two illustrations of these mirrors, and describes minutely the two kinds which the engravings represent; but he omits to make more than a passing mention of the magic mirrors which have so puzzled European men of science. These curious mirrors have "a double debt to pay," for not only do they show the object presented to them, but when held in the sun they reflect the raised characters or devices drawn on their backs. It is commonly reported that the art of making them was discovered by accident, although it was afterwards commonly practised, and was appropriated by the Japanese with that love of acquisition which has prompted them to adopt in succession the arts of China and of Europe. Of other products of Chinese skill Dr. Hirth speaks in a full and interesting manner. He deals also with the early trade of China with foreign countries, and shows how indefatigable the Chinamen of the first centuries were in seeking out new markets for their goods. Recent researches have demonstrated how successful they were in disseminating their manufactures. Chinese porcelain ornaments have even been discovered in Egyptian tombs, and not many years since some ancient Chinese seals were found in an Irish bog!—*Athenæum.*

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 20th.

The captain of the steamer *Utopia*, which was in collision with H.M.S. *Rodney* off Gibraltar, has been arrested.

London, March 21st.

The Oxford and Cambridge University Boat-race was a very close affair, the "Dark Blues" winning by only a quarter of a length.

Distressing scenes occurred at Gibraltar afte the collision between H.M.S. *Rodney* and the steamer *Utopia*, in the identification of hundreds of corpses that have been recovered since the sinking of the latter vessel.

London, March 24th.

Ramiakatra, the Governor of Nosibé, has been executed on the same spot where he had massacred so many of his people.

The Portuguese have proclaimed a state of siege at Sofala, in Manicaland.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Nagasaki, March 23rd.

The steamer *Queen Elizabeth*, from Karatsu, coal laden, bound to Manila, has sunk off Ikishima. All hands saved.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, March 6th.

In the House of Commons the Radicals have renewed their attack with reference to the occupation of Tokar. The Right Hon. Edward Stanhope, in reply, said the Government did not intend to reconquer the Soudan.

London, March 7th.

Portugal refuses the conditions put forward by England regarding the African boundary question. A settlement is therefore considered improbable.

The recent elections in Canada show that the Government majority has been reduced one half.

London, March 9th.

The Soudan force has dispersed, the Khedive having decreed a general amnesty.

The market on the Stock Exchange is depressed in consequence of forced sales on provincial account.

The Liberals in the Forest of Dean have nominated Sir Charles Dilke as a candidate at the next general election.

(FROM THE "PENANG GAZETTE.")

London, March 5th.

Sir William Gordon Cumming claims £5,000 from each of five defendants in the card scandal case.

The Governor of Nosibé (an island in possession of France formerly a dependency of Madagascar), furious at an appeal of his subjects to the Queen of Madagascar as to his cruelties, has massacred 280 men, women, and children.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8.58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between Kozu and YUMOTO (distance 4 ri.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ ri).

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TAKETOYO-OFU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OFU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.03, 4.42, and 6.09 p.m., and 12.08 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.05, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1.10, 4.35, 7.10, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.35, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.44 6, and 9 20 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 10.26 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OFU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.55 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, and 6.03 p.m., and 12.33 and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, and 7 p.m., and 1.25 and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, and 7.29 p.m., and 1.54 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 3.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 8.43 a.m., and 3.59, 7.01, 8.57, and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.40, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.50 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.30, and 11.08 p.m., and 5.36 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 12.36, 8.18, and 11.12 p.m., and 7 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, and 9.30 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, and 10.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 4.34 p.m., and 12.15 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, and 5.19 p.m., and 1.10 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, and 6.59 p.m., and 2.41 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3 05 a.m.; OGAKI at 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OFU at 9.01 and 11.53 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 5.57, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 50 a.m., and 6.02 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.08, 7.17, and 9 43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6 and 9.55 a.m. and 1.15 and 5.3m p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 7.50, and 11.48 a.m., and 3.08 and 7.23 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 5.45 and 9.40 a.m., and 1 and 4.25 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 6.47 and 10.42 a.m., and 2 02 and 5.26 p m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE SHINJIKU, TOKYO, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m.; and HACHIOJI (up) at 5.25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

FARES—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60; third-class *sen* 30.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 3rd.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 28th.*
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	To-day, Mar. 26th.†
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 29th.‡
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Wedn'day, April 8th §
From Hongkong.	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, Mar. 30th.‖
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 5th.¶

* *Belgic* left San Francisco on March 10th. † *Monghut* left Vancouver on March 5th. ‡ *Verona* left Hongkong on March 21st. § *City of Peking* left San Francisco on March 21st. ‖ *Gaelic* left Hongkong on March 24th. ¶ *Djemnah* (with French mail) left Hongkong on March 26th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 29th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 31st.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Wedn'day, April 1st.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Wedn'day, April 1st.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, April 4th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 11th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, April 17th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 21st March,—Hakodate 19th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Melbourne, French steamer, 3,847, Vimont, 22nd March,—Hongkong 13th, Shanghai 17th, and Kobe 21st March, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Oopack, British steamer, 1,729, H. Kemp, 22nd March,—Kobe 20th March, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 23rd March,—Kobe 21st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Piccola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 24th March,—Nagasaki 20th March, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 24th March,—Hakodate 21st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 24th March,—Kobe 23rd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 25th March,—Hakodate 23rd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 26th March,—Hongkong 20th March, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Endeavour, British steamer, 1,640, Thompson, 26th March,—Batoum 8th February, Oil.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 26th March,—Kobe 25th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 27th March,—Shanghai and ports 21st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Remus, German steamer, 1,722, Simonsen, 28th March,—Kobe 26th March, General.—Ahrens & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 28th March,—Honolulu 14th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,446, Boutillier, 21st March,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Cito, German steamer, 387, Nodap, 21st March,—Tientsin, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 21st March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 22nd March,—San Francisco, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ainoko, British schooner, 74, Steele, 22nd March,—Victoria, Ballast.—Captain Grant.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 23rd March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Collingham, British steamer, 1,540, Watson, 25th March,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Pemptos, German steamer, 1,540, Johansen, 24th March,—Honolulu, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 24th March,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Walter, 24th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bellona, German steamer, 2,032, Schroeder, 24th March,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Oberon, British ship, 1,194, Fulton, 25th March,—Portland, Ballast.—Captain.

Oopack, British steamer, 1,729, H. Kemp, 25th March,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 25th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kristina Nelson, German brig, 280, C. P. Boysen, 26th March,—Nagasaki, General.—Chinese.

Piccola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 26th March,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 26th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Agostino Rombo, Italian bark, 807, R. Rottini, 27th March,—Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 27th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsukuba Kan (8), Japanese corvette, Captain Y. Shibayama, 27th March,—Yokosuka.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Ngiiata Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. and Mrs. D. Ito and children in cabin; 11 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, from Hongkong via ports:—Captain J. Itsuki, Messrs. Bonkhoretsky, Fred. Sale, Akidzuki, Asaoka, Litchenfelder, Font, J. S. de Castro, Geo. Butler, D. Baldassi, Mrs. M. P. Lord, Baron de Gunzberg, Mr. H. F. Everson, and Mr. Ed. MacCabe in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—Miss White, Mr. William Posch, and Mr. W. L. Watkins in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 32 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. K. Hara, T. Shiraishi, and H. Kimura in cabin; 45 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Rebentisch, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Boyes, Captain Petersen, Messrs. Douglas Dick, Ah Hew, Ah Look, Chey Yuen, and 2 Chinese women and 2 children in cabin; 28 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. C. Gubbins in cabin; 47 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Miss Dullfield, Mrs. Carrew and son, Mr. and Mrs. Kawamata, Messrs. E. V. Thorn, Mukuyama, Uyehara, and Tanaka in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Suyematsu, Messrs. Swendsen, Talisley, and Macmillan in second class, and 61 passengers in steerage. For San Francisco: Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Woods and 2 children, Mr. J. Wolder, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Laughlin and infant, Rev. and Mrs. Meigs and infant, Messrs. C. F. Findley and A. L. Rathbone in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Honolulu:—Mrs. Kawada and Mrs. Kimura in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 72 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Carleton, Misses Carleton (2) and maid, Captain W. H. Forbes, Miss Leslie, Miss Stanley Taylor, Dr. Yeo, Messrs. Gibbens, E. A. Beard, J. von Eltren, J. Cameron, E. Becker, Aitchison, Fabricius, Mr. J. Rickett, Miss Rickett, Mrs. Takanouchi, and Mr. and Mrs. Wong Pun Tun in cabin; 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Harman, Mrs. M. B. Dullard and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Curtis, Miss E. Baird, Messrs. G. Voltaltorni, J. F. Gilman, E. Kildoyle, A. Vickerman Priestly, C. Beckford, A. Churchill, W. T. Warner, W. Doberentz, A. H. Morgan, and Jas. Saunders in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. R. Kirby and child, Messrs. E. B. Edwards, Hayashi and 2 children, Okada, W. Darlington, and O. Vinals in cabin; Messrs. Veranoff, Hara, Mrs. and Miss Fukuhara, Messrs. Miyoshi and Watanabe in second class, and 42 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 369 bales.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	1,524	—	420	1,944
Hongkong	245	110	—	355
Total	1,769	110	420	2,299

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	293	—	293
Hongkong	—	372	—	372
Yokohama	—	1,295	—	1,295
Kobe	—	37	—	37
Total	—	1,997	—	1,997

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $5,000.00.

REPORTS.

The French steamer *Melbourne*, Captain Vimont, reports:—Left Marseilles the 8th February at 4.30 p.m.; called at Alexandria the 13th and the same day at Port Said. She entered the Suez Canal the 14th at 3.30 a.m. and left Suez the 15th at 4.30 a.m.; experienced in the second portion of the Red Sea strong southerly winds with very heavy sea. Arrived at Aden the 19th at 3.15 p.m. and left the 20th at 2 a.m.; immediately after departure, lost a blade of the propeller, which greatly shook the whole vessel. Arrived at Colombo harbour the 27th at 8 a.m. and left at 9.30 p.m.; thence light monsoon with smooth water, but strong southerly currents. Anchored near Sultan Shoal the 5th March at 2 a.m., and came along the pier at 7 a.m.; left Singapore at 4.30 p.m. Anchored at St. James's Cape the 7th at 5.30 p.m., proceeded at 8 p.m. to Saigon where arrived at midnight and left the 9th at noon; experienced fine weather with smooth water as far as Paracels Reefs; thence rough sea and overcast and rainy weather. Arrived at Hongkong the 12th at 4.30 p.m. and left the 13th at 4.15 p.m.; experienced strong monsoon and heavy sea; passed Lamocks the 14th at 10 a.m.; Dodd Island at 6.45 p.m.; passed the Seaon Channel the 15th at 9 a.m.; passed Pih-Ki-Shan at 4.30 p.m.; thence variable breezes and continual rain with shôrt horizon; passed Video the 16th at 7.30 a.m. and anchored at Woosung at 4.15 p.m. Left the 17th at 4.15 p.m.; had clear weather, fair N.W. winds with swelling sea; passed Quelpart the 18th at 4.30 p.m.; thence light breeze and smooth water; passed Shimonoseki the 19th at 9 a.m. and came along the Kobe pier the 20th; left Kobe the 21st at 6 a.m.; had rainy weather; passed Tomangai at 8.15 a.m.; thence strong S.W. winds with heavy sea; glass at 29.8; passed Oshima at 3.30 p.m., wind slackening and rain stopping, glass rising and sky brightening; passed Rock Island the 22nd at 5 a.m.; thence overcast and rainy weather with N.W. winds. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd at 11 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Walter, reports:—Left Kobe the 21st March at noon; had very thick weather with heavy rain to Tomangoshima. Off Tomangoshima and to the southward had very heavy southerly swell, and on account of the suspicious look of the weather put into Manouchi for the night and left at 5.30 a.m.; passed Oshima at 11 a.m.; at 6 p.m. had fresh N.W. winds which Rock Island; passed Rock Island the 23rd at 2 a.m.; thence to port moderate to fresh northerly winds. Time of arrival at Yokohama 9 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 21st March at 2 p.m.; rounded Shiriya-saki at 6 p.m. Arrived at Oginohama the 22nd at 1 p.m.; had light southerly and north-westerly winds with overcast sky and misty weather. Left Oginohama the 23rd at 6 a.m.; had strong to moderate northerly winds and clear weather up to port. Time of arrival at Yokohama the 24th March at 5.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate the 23rd March at 8 p.m.; had fresh W.S.W. winds and overcast with snow weather, moderating at midnight and wind hauling to the southward; experienced light moderate variable winds and fine clear weather till arrival at Yokohama the 25th March at 10 a.m.

The German steamer *General Werder*, Captain Eichel, reports:—Left Hongkong the 20th March at 4 p.m.; had through the Formosa Channel foggy weather and strong N.E. winds with high head sea, for the first three days; thence to port mostly moderate northerly breeze and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 26th March at 2.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 21st March at 8 a.m.; had cloudy weather with fresh northerly winds; the 22nd, wind freshened to moderate gale with heavy sea. Arrived at Nagasaki the 23rd at 4 a.m. and left at 5.45 p.m.; had light northerly winds and fine clear weather. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 24th at 6 a.m. and left at 9.30 a.m.; had fine clear weather and light north-westerly winds. Arrived at Kobe the 25th at 5 a.m. and left the 26th at noon; had fine clear weather with light S.E. winds to Oshima; passed there at 7.40 p.m.; thence to Rock Island moderate northerly winds and fine weather; passed Rock Island at 9.16 a.m.; thence to port moderate N.E. winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 27th March at 3.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Honolulu the 14th March at 2.50 p.m.; crossed the meridian on the 19th in lat. 24.40 N. Arrived at Yokohama the 28th March at 2.30 a.m.; had moderate variable winds, smooth sea, and fine pleasant weather throughout the entire passage of 12 days, 15 hours, and 50 minutes.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The Import Market has continued very dull during the week. The easy feeling in English Yarns developed into a drop of 25 cents per picul owing to the weakness of one or two holders, but the downward track of Exchange has made sellers disinclined to accept low rates, and buyers will not pay higher prices. Bombay Yarns are quiet and slightly lower in sympathy with native spinnings. In Piece-goods and Fancies there is nothing doing. Sales for the week amount to 500 bales English Yarns, 100 bales Bombay Yarns, 3,000 pieces Shirtings, and 450 pieces Italians.

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COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.		
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
	PER YARD.		
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.15
	PER PIECE.		
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼ lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.15	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3¼ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.75	to	27.75
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.75	to	28.75
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.75	to	29.75
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.25	to	29.75
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.75	to	31.25
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.25	to	32.50
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	37.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	38.50
	PER BALE.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	79.50
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay	—		

METALS.

Market unchanged since last week. Exchange is receding daily, and holders try to advance prices for Iron in the same proportion. Quotations firm at last rates.

	PER PICUL.		
Flat Bars, 4 inch	$2.80	to	2.85
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ¼ inch	2.85	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.30	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.70
Tin Plates, per box	5.70	to	6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.40	to	1.45

KEROSENE.

Nothing fresh to note in this market. Buyers are apparently well supplied for the moment and trade is quiet. Holders strong on account of a declining exchange.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.65	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

No change to note in prices, and business about the same.

	PER PICUL.		
Brown Takao	$4.00	to	4.10
Brown Daitong	3.20	to	4.00
Brown Canton	5.25	to	6.25
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	5.00	to	7.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 20th instant; since that date settlements in this market amount to 1,900 piculs divided thus:—*Hanks*, 70; *Filatures*, 1,457; *Re-reels*, 257; *Kakeda*, 107; *Oshu*, 9. In addition to these figures direct shipments have been 106 bales, making the total export business of the week equal to 2,000 piculs.

A good current trade at easy prices, until two days back when a shipper for the American market who had apparently some "short sales" to fill, came with a rush and the market at once hardened. Quotations are back again to where they were a week ago, some holders refusing to sell for the moment in the hope of still higher rates.

Exchange, contrary to expectation, has continued to dribble down day by day until at the present moment we are at the lowest point touched for many months past. This also encourages holders to ask much higher prices for their silks, and at the present writing it is probable that we will have higher rates for Silk when the market re-opens after the Easter Holidays.

Arrivals from the interior are very small, and stock is now down to the neighbourhood of 6,000 piculs. Sellers feel that they have the game in their own hands for the time being, and nothing but a period of quiet combined with the approach of the new crop will have any effect upon them.

Purchases have been made both for Europe and America, those for the latter country preponderating, at the same time telegraphic intelligence from all consuming centres is by no means good, and orders from abroad still continue to come in at low limits. We leave our quotation list unchanged, although in some instances holders simply decline to sell for the moment at any price.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote: the English Mail steamer *Ancona* of the 22nd inst. took 369 bales for Europe, and the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the same date, had 1,295 bales for the New York trade. These departures bring the present export figures up to 24,680 piculs, against 34,748 last year and 37,675 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Some few purchases have been made at late rates, but prime quality is very scarce, in fact the total stocks of *Hanks* do not exceed 80 piculs. These are held in strong hands, good silk especially being very scarce indeed. Ordinary 2½/3 have been done at $500, while for something really prime as much as $540 has been paid.

Filatures.—These touched bottom two days ago, when some large parcels were settled for the United States. The following prices were made: *Taiyosha*, $595; *Matsushiro*, $590; *Meijusha*, *Choshinsha*, *Tokushinsha*, $585; *Tenrusha*, $582½; *Matsumoto*, $575; *Shunmeisha* and *Tokosha*, $570. Holders now refuse to go on unless at $5 or $10 advance. Some of them will not sell at any price; looking for a rising market. In fine silks for Europe, best *Shinshus* were done at $615; *Uzen*, $600; *Mino*, $600; *Goshu*, $600; with second qualities at $590 and $580. Prices here are also $5 or $10 up, and since the above was written a parcel of fine *Shinshu* has been done at $620.

Re-reels.—There has not been very much business in this class; holders have for the last two months been strong, and have kept their silks at prices which were out of proportion to filatures. Now that the stock of Filatures has become much reduced it is probable that shippers may turn their attention more to re-reels; in which case, if holders are not impracticable, considerable business will doubtless be done. The principal sales of late have been *Koriyama*, second quality, at $560, with medium *Joshu* at $540; $570 has been offered for *Tengensha* and refused. Some very common *Bushu* has been done at $510.

Kakeda.—Stock in this department is small, and holders insist on prices which buyers as a rule cannot pay. The business done has been large, some good No. 1½ brought $565; No. 2 $540; No. 3 $520; No. 4 $500. But as a rule there is not much doing at these prices. Shippers generally want a reduction which holders are not willing to grant.

Oshu sorts.—Only one transaction in *Hamatsuki* at $520. In other sorts nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1¼	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$520 to 530
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	520 to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	510 to 515
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	510 to 515
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3	Nom.	500 to 505
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	490 to 495
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	470 to 480
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		610 to 620
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		580 to 585
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		570 to 575
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		570 to 580
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		540 to 550
Re-reels—Extra		610 to 620
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		595 to 600
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		585 to 590
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		575 to 580
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		550 to 555
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520 to 540
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1		570 to 575
Kakedas—No. 1¼		560 to 565
Kakedas—No. 2		550 to 555
Kakedas—No. 2½		530 to 540
Kakedas—No. 3		520 to 525
Kakedas—No. 3½		510 to 515
Kakedas—No. 4		500 to 505
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		520 to 530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		530 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 27th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	10,354	14,503	19,351
America	13,758	19,795	18,007
Total { Bales	24,112	34,298	37,358
Total { Piculs	24,680	34,748	37,675

	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	27,600	35,050	37,400
Stock, 27th March	6,200	2,250	3,750
Available supplies to date	33,800	37,300	41,150

WASTE SILK.

Transactions in this branch are 411 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 172; *Kibiso*, 211; *Neri*, 28.

Stock shows a further slight reduction, and buyers say that they cannot find the quality which they require. *Noshi* especially is in very small supply, about two-thirds of the present stock is *Kibiso*, which for the moment no one seems anxious to buy.

The English Mail steamer *Ancona*, on the 22nd instant carried 191 bales of Waste for Europe, and the *Oopack*, which left yesterday, had 25 bales for the same destination. These departures bring the present export figures up to 26,898 piculs, against 25,072 last year and 28,434 to the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—Again no business, and no movement in any shape either in arrivals, deliveries, or rejections.

Noshi.—Some business has been done in *Joshu* assorted at from $65 to $85 per picul, according to quality. One parcel of common *Oshu* has been done at $90; one lot of fair *Hachoji* $135; with some medium *Shinshu* at $105.

Kibiso.—Nothing done in *Filatures*, some low quality *Oshu* passed the scales at $50, $46 and $43, according to grade. One or two parcels of *Zaguri* at $65, $50 and $45 complete the list.

Sundries.—Small lot of *Kusu-ito* at $80, with *Neri* at $12.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—	
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—	
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		$135 to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		120 to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130 to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—	
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100 to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—	
Noshi-ito—Hushu, Good to Best		130 to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85 to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½ to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70 to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110 to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100 to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		55 to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50 to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good		45 to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½ to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15 to	8
Mawata—Good to Best		180 to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 27th March, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	25,611	22,882	25,956
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	26,898	25,072	28,434
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	28,600	26,650	29,500
Stock, 27th March	3,700	6,550	4,000
Available supplies to date	32,300	33,200	33,500

Exchange.—This has continued to weaken the last few days, and rates have risen a little at the close:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/2¾; Documents, 3/2⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3; Documents, 3/3⅛; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $77⅝; 4m/s. U.S. $78½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4 07; 6m/s. fcs. 4.09.

Estimated Silk Stock, 27th March, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	80	Cocoons	320
Filatures	3,000	Noshi-ito	870
Re-reels	2,750	Kibiso	2,230
Kakeda	250	Mawata	130
Oshu	110	Sundries	150
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	6,200	Total piculs	3,700

TEA.

Nothing definite can be said about the new crop.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has again fluctuated, and, after a series of falls, recovered a point at the end of the week.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2⅜
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/2⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3
On Paris—Bank sight	4.00
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.09
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	76⅛
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	77⅛
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	76⅛
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	77⅛
Silver	44⅞

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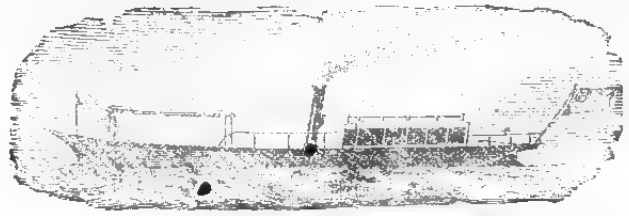

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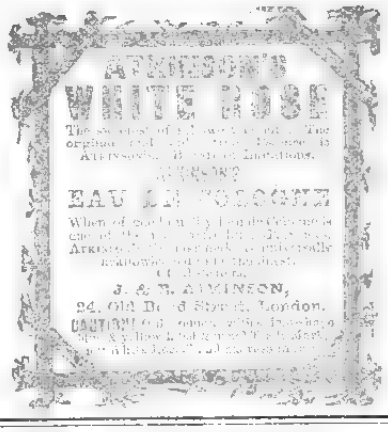

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1891.

BIRTH.

On 2nd April, 1891, at No. 9-A, Tsukiji, Tokyo, the wife of W. SILVER HALL, Esq., of a Daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL visited the Fine Art Exhibition on the 29th ultimo.

MR. OGOSHI NARINORI was appointed on the 27th ult. Consul at London.

MR. SONODA YASUNOSUKE has been appointed Chief of the Metropolitan Police Bureau.

A SLIGHT shock of earthquake was felt in the capital on the 28th ultimo at 3h. 28m. 7s. p.m.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL intends to proceed to Narashino, Chiba Prefecture, about the 10th ultimo.

MR. K. KUMAZAKI was appointed on the 27th ultimo Vice-Consul at Lyons, being raised to fifth class *sonin* rank.

H.I.M. EMPEROR will proceed on the 10th inst. to the residence of Count Kawamura, a Privy Councillor, at Azabu.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA TAKEHITO, who had been at Saseho for some time on official business, returned to the capital on the 27th ult.

THE *Yamashiro Maru* arrived in Yokohama from the Hawaiian Islands on the 28th ultimo. About eighty Japanese emigrants returned by her.

THEIR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES Princes Komatsu Akihito and Kitashirakawa Yoshihisa, Counts Matsukata, Inouye, Goto, Okuma, Soyejima, Kawamura, and Sasaki, Viscounts Hijikata, Tanaka, and Inouye, and Mr. Ozaki had the honour of dining with the Emperor on the 30th ultimo in the Palace.

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR despatched Viscount Ayanokoji, a Chamberlain, with an Imperial present to the family of the late Mr. Matsudaira Kakudo, on the 28th ultimo.

THE remains of the late Mr. Kawakita, Minister-Resident at Söul, arrived at Shinagawa on the 28th ultimo at 1 p.m., and were conveyed to his residence at Kojimachi.

TEN *hanniu* officials and twelve employés were dismissed from the Hyogo Prefectural Government Office on the 27th ultimo. Other changes will, it is said, be carried out in a few days.

MR. SONODA KOKICHI has been re-elected Director of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Messrs. Koizumi Shinkichi and Yamakawa Yuki being elected Manager and Assistant Manager respectively.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA TAKEHITO, Lieutenant-General Kawakami, and Mr. Sannomiya, Vice-Grand Master of the Board of Ceremonies, will leave the capital for Nagasaki shortly to receive the Russian Prince Imperial.

DURING the week ended the 27th ultimo, 3,078 persons visited the Fine Art Exhibition at Uyeno, of whom 17 were distinguished, 313 special, and 2,478 ordinary visitors, the rest being students of the Fine Art School and members of the Fine Art Society.

H.I.H. THE EMPRESS, accompanied by Viscount Kagawa, Grand Master, and Mr. Sannomiya, Master of Services to the Empress, Dr. Takahashi, a Court Physician, and several other officials, proceeded to the Nobles' School for Girls on the 27th ultimo.

TWENTY-FOUR *hannin* officials were placed on the *hishoku* list on the 31st ultimo in the Cabinet Office, of whom 4 were in the Secretarial, 2 in the Board of Decorations, 4 in the Bureau of Statistics, 5 in the Accountants' Bureau, 5 in the Legislative Bureau, and 4 in the Bureau of Archives and the Pension Bureau.

AT a special general meeting of shareholders of the Kyoto Weaving Company held the other day, Messrs. Shibusawa Yeiichi (Chairman), Arakawa Shinichiro, Isono Koyemon, Nakai Saburobei, and Tsujikawa Shinzaburo were elected to form the Committee, Mr. Nishimura Torasaburo being appointed Superintendent.

A CHARTER has been granted by the Home Minister to the Shinkaku Tramway Company to lay a line between Ikutagawa and Mitamachi, Kobe (a distance of about 17 miles). Stations will be erected at Ikuta, Tanigami, Gosha, and Shirogoshi. The cost of the work is estimated at *yen* 120,000, of which *yen* 60,000 will be raised by the promoters, and the other half from the public.

MR. FURUSAWA, Director of the Postal Bureau in the Communications Department, received on the 31st ultimo the additional appointment of Director of the Bureau of Postal Money Orders and Saving Banks, being raised to first class *sonin* rank. Mr. Watanabe, Secretary of the Communications Department, was appointed the same day Director of the Nagasaki Postal and Telegraph Office.

MR. TANAKA SADAYOSHI, Director of the Despatch and Receipts Section in the Metropolitan Police Bureau, and twelve other officials of the Bureau, and seventeen other police inspectors, were dismissed on the 27th ultimo. Messrs. Yenjo, Chief of the Saruyacho Police Station; Tamba, Chief of the Izumibashi Police Station; Tateishi, Chief of the Kojimachi Police Station; Oyama, Chief of the Senju Police Station, and Mitsuhashi, Director of the Second Bureau, were released from their posts the same day at their own request.

THE following officials were decorated by the Emperor on the 30th ultimo with the first class Order of the Mirror:—Mr. Mitsukuri, Vice-Minister for Justice; Baron Makimura, President of the Administrative Court; Viscount Kiyooka, late Senator, and Mr. Ozaki, Privy Councillor. The following gentlemen received the Second Class Order of the Mirror the same day:—Messrs. Wataru Masamoto, Ozaki Saburo, of the Legislative Bureau, Miyoshi Taizo, Chief Procurator, Judge Matsuoka, Judge Nambu, and Mr. Murata Yasushi. Besides these some thirty other officials received various decorations.

THE following higher officials of the Financial Department were placed on the retired list on the 27th ult.:—Messrs. Yokose Fumihiko, a councillor; Ro Takayoshi, a secretary; Shishido Sho, Chief Commissioner of the National Debt Bureau; Kobayashi Koai, Chief Commissioner of the Deposits Bureau; Saiki Ikei and Koyama Masatake, of the Revenue Bureau; Togano Masa-akira, Chief Commissioner of the Government Printing Office; Okamoto Kwa, Chief Commissioner of the Osaka Mint; Taga Yoshiyuki, Superintendent of the Niigata Custom House; Aoki Kanichi, Assistant Director of the Disbursments Bureau; and Nomoto Takayoshi and Nagao Yasutatsu, of the Accountants' Bureau.

DURING the month of January last the Oji Paper Mills, the Kukosha, the Kobe Paper Mills, the Fuji Paper Mills, and the Yokkaichi Paper Mills manufactured 1,097.036.50 *kin*, or about 1,462,715lbs. of paper, the sales during the same period amounting to 986,366.30 *kin*, or about 1,315,155lbs. Classifying the different varieties, we find that of ordinary printing paper 936,279.00 *kin* were manufactured and 838,612 30 *kin* sold; of superior printing paper 26,570 00 *kin* were manufactured and 10.152.00 *kin* sold; of coloured paper, 3,503.00 *kin* were manufactured and 2,017.00 *kin* sold; of wrapping paper 42,533.50 *kin* were manufactured and 57,829.00 *kin* sold; and of miscellaneous kinds, 88,151.00 *kin* were manufactured and 77,756.00 *kin* sold.

THERE is nothing in the form of improvement to be noted in the Import trade, Yarns, Shirtings, and other goods being slow of sale at low prices, and buyers appear to be indifferent. The Metal trade is dull, and there is but little enquiry for any description of goods. The Kerosene market is quiet and unchanged, and stocks are ample though there have been no fresh arrivals during the week. A steady business continues in Sugar, both White and Brown, and the latter having improved in value, sales "to arrive" have been effected at from $4 to $4.20 according to grade. A fair amount of Silk has been sold during the week, and business would have continued active had not holders checked buyers by an advance all round, and in some cases by retiring their Silk from the market. Transactions in Waste Silk have been small. A few sales of very Common Tea have been made. The weather has been most favourable to the new crop, which is rapidly coming on. Exchange has not fluctuated much, and has steadily risen for several days past.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE "NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN" AND MR. MASUJIMA.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, speaking of the attitude of foreigners in Yokohama towards Treaty Revision, says that the statements embodied by Mr. R. Masujima in the paper read by him last year before the Asiatic Society furnished materials of which large use has been made by the anti-revisionists to support their case against the incompetence of Japanese tribunals. This assertion, as might have been anticipated, elicits one of the explosions of polite invective so familiar to readers of the English local press. The usual voluble babble about independence, hatred of flattery and sycophantism, and so forth is poured forth by men happily and conspicuously free from all the failings of their wretched and degraded opponents. However, without venturing to thrust ourselves into the paradise of these paragons, we desire to note a fact not unworthy of their attention. It is this:—An old paradoxical proverb says that nothing is so little hidden as that which is most concealed. Within the past few months an illustration has occurred in Yokohama. The Committee appointed by the foreign residents at the meeting of last September is commonly reported to have drawn up a memorandum setting forth the reasons of the resolutions then adopted. No reasons were given at the meeting, the mover of the principal resolution explicitly refraining from all explanation of the causes on which the resolution was based. But although an appeal to pure sentiment might succeed very well at a public meeting, the recipients of the resolutions in England were naturally anxious to learn something of the motives of their framers and supporters. Accordingly a document is said to have been compiled by the Committee and printed at the office of a local newspaper, setting forth the why and the wherefore of the anti-unconditional-revision agitation—we trust that this title, however cumbrous, is sufficiently comprehensive to cover the scruples of the promoters—and to have been forwarded to England. Rumour, also professing to be, in some degree, acquainted with the contents of the document, says that the arguments it contained as to the incompetence of Japanese legal tribunals consisted, in the main, of statements embodied in the paper read by Mr. R. Masujima before the Asiatic Society of Japan. The document, if indeed it was really prepared and printed, seems to have been carefully kept from the public, and very possibly the story about its contents may be erroneous. Nevertheless, the story circulates as we have stated it, and Mr. R. Masujima gets the credit of having involuntarily contributed materials for a case against his own country. Secrecy is not sound policy in these matters. The plain truth is never so bad as the caricature that rumour draws of it. A Committee publicly appointed for a public purpose by a majority of the residents of Yokohama cannot desire to draw a veil over its doings.

HOKKAIDO.

STATISTICS about Hokkaido are always interesting, not only because of the resolute and expensive efforts made by the Government during so many years to colonize that region, but also because the public has never been able to make up its mind distinctly whether the northern island can be converted into a prosperous and wealth-producing portion of the empire, or whether it is doomed to remain a comparatively sterile and poor region. We read now, in the vernacular press, that the Hokkaido Administration, having expended a sum of thirty thousand *yen* for surveying purposes, has published some important statistics. Taking into consideration only the great plains that offer most inducements to cultivators, the total area of arable and pasture land in the island is given as 2,389,000 acres. Of this total the choicest portion lies in the Ishikari district, where there are 266,522 acres of arable land and 6,825 acres of pasturage, as well as 15,855 acres which only require drainage to become fit for cultivation. It is asserted that this Ishikari land is of very high quality, being superior, on the average, to the land of the main island now under cultivation. The Ishikari district is said to possess a total of 482,307 acres fit for colonization, but apparently a considerable portion requires clearing. The statistics of 1889 show, further, that the total quantity of land brought under cultivation, and not yet paying any tax, in Hokkaido, was 41,955 acres at the close of that year, of which 3,627 acres were actually producing rice, and 35,540 acres were under upland crops. During the same year the work of reclamation seems to have been carried on with exceptional energy, no less than 103,632 acres having been parcelled out for cultivation—or 16,912 acres more than the quantity placed to the credit of the preceding year. It will be observed that this figure—103,632 acres—is more than double of the total acreage returned as under cultivation at the close of the year, but in point of fact only a fraction of the area marked out for cultivation during any year is actually brought under crops by the end of the same year. If the statistics showed the total acreage of land hitherto assigned to colonists, and the portion of that total now actually cropped and pastured, we should be in a position to form a clearer estimate of the progress made. The number of families that emigrated from the island to Hokkaido during 1889 was 3,730, or 13,118 souls, namely, 7,242 men and 5,876 women. The number of families during 1888 had been 2,567, representing 8,536 souls. Nara Prefecture contributed the largest contingent of immigrants in 1889; namely, 600 families of 2,446 persons. Among the 13,118 immigrants of 1889, there were 7,069 farmers; 504 artizans; 1,337 merchants; 1,123 fishermen, and 3,085 miscellaneous bread-winners. In the Shiribetsu district there is large tract of 16,717 acres which has not yet been reclaimed. Ribetsu also has a fine level tract of 13,563 acres, well suited for colonization. The soil is rich and the vegetation abundant; there are some mineral deposits, and crops grow excellently. Roads, however, are wanting. Another tract mentioned as well suited for colonization is in Iburi. It measures 24,558 acres, and though more or less covered with volcanic ash, has a rich subsoil and is capable of successful cultivation. If these statistics are trustworthy, they show that the colonization of Hokkaido is still in its infancy.

THE NOSIBÉ MASSACRE.

RAMIAKATRA, the Governor of Nosibé, has, according to Reuter's message in last issue, been executed on the spot at Nosibé, in the district of Belanona, where he had, in cold blood and without apparently the slightest justification, tortured and slaughtered some ninety of his people, who are Malagasy of the Betsimisaraka tribe. It appears that for years past the people had been squeezed and ground down to a condition unbearable, when it was determined to appeal to the Queen for relief from the illegal exactions of Ramiakatra, and a deputation waited upon the Prime Minister, but without much effect. They then assembled with the idea of addressing the Governor himself. The latter, becoming aware of their intention, sent troops against them as they approached the town, and those captured were brought in, and under direction of Rasamuel, the Governor's brother, were brutally hacked to pieces, men, women, and children alike being subject to terrible torture and indignities before being finally despatched and their bodies thrown to the dogs. The number massacred, as given in a telegram taken from a Straits paper was 280, but this is evidently an exaggeration, "about ninety" being the number according to a trustworthy authority.

ONCE MORE.

ONE unvarying experience is the result of all controversies in this Settlement when the volunteer champions of Occidental superiority take the lists. At a very early stage of the proceedings these noble Pharisees write down their own record in letters blacker than any used by their opponents. "Scrutator," whose comely creed bids him ostracize even the little children of Japan, holding them sources of contamination until the fatal strain of Orientalism shall have faded into the person of a solitary grandparent—"Scrutator," that fine exponent of Christian charity and Western honesty, incontinently makes an *auto-da-fé* of his own moral reputation when he tells his opponents that they are "paid to flatter Japanese vanity." To such a man the jingle of the guinea seems the one sweet tune to the music of which all human action dances. The miserable motives that he ascribes to others are a reflection of the mind that suggests them. So, too, of that other champion who holds "Scrutator's" shield. Honesty he cannot possibly believe in. He detects some devious device in the plainest occurrence, unconscious that, like his confederate, the suspicion he utters is in truth a confession. He deems it, apparently, an everyday incident that a newspaper editor should indite letters to himself and publish them in his own journal! "A Japanese Shizoku" who addressed a communication to these columns in answer to "Scrutator," must be diverted by the whole affair. "Are these the men," he may well ask, "who claim that their offspring would be contaminated by association with Japanese children? Is their's the moral code that stands on such a pinnacle of incomparable superiority?"

THE CORRESPONDENT OF THE "NEW YORK HERALD."

THE correspondent of the *New York Herald*, whose wonderful letter to that journal we reproduced in our issue of the 23rd ultimo, has had the temerity to attempt a defence of his position. He blusters a good deal at the outset of his pleading, and indulges in some heroic suggestions as to what the editor of the *Mail* might have to endure were it not for "the security of his Tokyo retreat" and "the incognito of the journalistic we;" whereby we conclude that, having already figured as a Munchausen, he now wishes to pose as a *soshi*. But as for his defence, it is a comical collection of evasions. Not one of the falsehoods contained in his letter to the American paper is even touched upon in his rejoinder to our comments. It would seem that his object is to avoid losing caste with the journal which he so grossly misleads, and that, with this hope, he has induced a local newspaper to print nearly two columns of extracts proving that such of his facts as no one denies, were correct, and leaving entirely untouched the false assertions which he ventilated in the *New York Herald*. A brief list of these assertions will serve to show his flagrant inaccuracy, as well as the clumsy subterfuges behind which he now takes refuge. Here is his first falsehood:—

> "That the regulation for candidature had not been sufficiently stringent to keep the House purged from characters not above the temptations of filthy lucre, also became evident, as the very first action the Diet took was a strenuous effort to wrest a brother member from the clutch of the law on account of misplaced attentions on his part being bestowed on funds committed to his care.

It would scarcely have been possible to pen a grosser and more groundless slander. The action taken by the Lower House in respect to the detention of one its members by the Legislature turned entirely on a point of privilege, and had not the most shadowy connection with the nature of the man's offence. The House claimed that its permission should have been asked for the enforced absence of one of its members, even though his arrest had taken place before the session began. A vicious perverter of the truth was needed to twist this perfectly legitimate assertion of an important parliamentary privilege into a proof that the House of Representatives contained "characters not above the temptations of filthy lucre." And how does the slanderer now seek to wriggle out of his falsehood? By quoting four extracts from English and Japanese local journals, which set forth nothing beyond the bare fact that the House did apply for the release of its imprisoned member! As if that simple fact were questioned by any one! Undoubtedly the House applied for Mori's release, but it did so in defence of what it

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believed to be a constitutional principle, not because, as the correspondent of the *New York Herald* asserts, the low morality of its members led them to sympathise with, and try to save, an embezzler of funds committed to his care. Had Mori Tokinosuke been a parricide or an incendiary the attitude of the House towards him must have been exactly the same. The second falsehood of the correspondent is the following:—

> Now, it is always pleasant to see a well balanced detestation of reckless waste, and no one would feel inclined to quarrel with a Diet prompted in its actions by motives of practical economy; but in reducing a national expenditure it is customary, if not arbitrary, to specify under what particular headings the reductions were to be made. This happened to be exactly what the Diet did not seem inclined to do. Whether this little matter of detail appeared to the House to savour of lowering its dignity has not been given to the common herd to know, but certain it is they did not enter into detail, but merely expounded a theory that $10,000,000 of the annual expenditure ought to be dropped. Even when pressed to unbosom themselves more full on this point, the only item they condescended to enumerate as requiring curtailment was the salary of the President.

What can we call this but a tissue of malicious lies? The epithet is not pleasant, but truly we fail to see that anything less blunt meets the case. The correspondent asserts that the Diet simply voted a sweeping reduction of ten million *yen* and declined to specify under what headings economy was to effected, "only condescending to enumerate, as requiring curtailment, the salary of the President." Now the fact is, as every one knows, that the Budget Committee drew up an accurate report setting forth, item by item, the reductions which they recommended, and expounding an elaborate scheme of administrative reform by which the official *personnel* was to be largely diminished in each Department of State. The House, after much debate, adopted this report, and discussed it clause by clause, disregarding the remonstrances of the Cabinet that such a scheme of economy encroached upon the Imperial Prerogatives, and was distinctly unconstitutional. In the face of these facts the correspondent of the *New York Herald* affirms that the Diet declined to enter into any particulars and simply voted a reduction of ten millions *en bloc*. Yet he has now the audacity to pretend that he spoke the truth! There is no occasion to follow him into his minor errors. To be obliged to notice him at all is bad enough. But before concluding we are constrained to add a word about the conduct of the *Japan Gazette* in opening its columns to a man of whose flagrant falsehold it must be perfectly cognisant. The *Gazette* allows this slanderer to fill a very large space in its issue of the 25th instant with extracts and explanations which do not bear at all upon the original falsehoods, and which are obviously intended to throw dust in the eyes of the public. This, forsooth, is "honest" journalism. If the *Japan Gazette* does not know well that the correspondent of the *New York Herald* erred in a gross and wholesale fashion, it must be ignorant of the whole history of the Diet's proceedings as published day by day in its own columns. If it does know that he erred—and undoubtedly it knows it—why has it deliberately assisted him to make a defence as evasive and dishonest as the correspondence in the New York paper was false and slanderous? Newspapers take a noble view of their functions when they band themselves with any miserable traducer, provided only that he be opposed to those whom they regard as journalistic rivals.

COUNT ITAGAKI.

THE attitude of Count Itagaki towards the Radical Party during the past year has betrayed so much apparent vacillation that comments not at all favourable to his reputation as a political leader are freely made. Two years ago his efforts to amalgamate the various sections of the Party having proved unsuccessful, he organized a separate branch under the name of the *Aikokuko-to*, but subsequently a union of Radical bodies in all parts of the empire was effected, and Count Itagaki received tacit recognition as its head. We say "tacit" recognition because, although his popularity and political status plainly indicated him as the chief of any Radical confederation, younger and more ambitious leaders seemed to challenge his supremacy by a display of qualities essential to all political leaders but never conspicuously shown by Count Itagaki. The Count is not a great speaker, and moreover there are in his character many elements ill suited to the part of a Radical agitator. When he broke up the *Jiyu* association some years ago, and withdrew into long retirement, it was understood that he had been perturbed by the growth of forces which owed their existence indirectly to his own initiative, but which he did not yet recognise as inevitable concomitants of every political movement owing its impetus to the masses. Another circumstance militating against the Count's competence as a Radical leader was his patent of nobility. He could not sit among his followers in the Lower House, and neither there nor at their diurnal meetings was his voice heard in the rostrum or on the platform. That he should have retained his eminent position despite these disqualifications, testifies eloquently to the strength of the esteem and regard inspired by his long career of upright disinterestedness. Shortly after the Diet met, however, he turned his back upon his party under circumstances that seemed to indicate a serious difference of opinion, and no little surprise was caused by the discovery that, within a very few days, he had consented to draw the sponge through this incident. A brief interval of apparent concord then ensued, when suddenly the secession of the *Aikokuko-to* from the Radical ranks at the final stage of the Budget debate was followed by a manifesto from Count Itagaki, complaining, in effect, that he had ceased to be treated with the consideration due to a leader, and announcing his fixed resolve to stand aside altogether from the field of politics for an indefinite time. Within a month of the publication of this intention, an overwhelming majority of his former followers, at the Osaka general meeting, re-voted him to the post of leader, and once more he surprised the public by consenting to be placated. It is, of course, extremely probable that, before the voting in Osaka, Count Itagaki's sentiments had been accurately sounded, but that hypothesis tended rather to increase than to diminish the wonder of his remarkably yielding mood. The only thing to be said, however, is that he does not resume the leadership of his Party unconditionally. He is understood to have made his consent contingent on their acceptance of a document embodying various demands. We have as yet no accurate information about the contents of the document, but it is reported to contain five conditions: first, as to the central organization of the Party; secondly as to the local organizations; thirdly, as to the relations between the centre and the localities; fourthly, as to the relations between electors and candidates, and fifthly as to party movements. It is understood that the Count strongly objects to the tendency recently displayed to control the Party's representatives in the Diet by pressure from the side of the Party, his view being that the members of Parliament should be the leaders and moulders of policy.

IWASA MATAHEI.

IN a recent number of the *Kok-kwa* (Art Journal), there appeared an interesting essay on the life of Iwasa Matahei, the well known founder of the style of painting called *Ukiyo-ye*. His career is wrapped in such obscurity that most contradictory stories are told about him. There have even been critics who maintained that the great artist had no existence, but was a purely imaginary person. The writer of the essay lying before us supports the general belief that there really existed an artist of that name. He quotes from a book called *Ukiyo-ye Rin-ko*, and states that Iwasa Matahei was the son of the celebrated warrior Araki Murashige, Lord of Settsu, who was ordered to commit *harakiri* in 1579, in consequence of having disregarded the directions of his liege lord Oda Nobunaga. At that time Matahei was two years old, so that his birth took place in 1578. On the death of his father, his mother took refuge in a Buddhist temple. He adopted his mother's family name, Iwasa, and on reaching manhood entered the service of Oda Nobuo, the son of Nobunaga, as official artist. He was fond of painting *genre* pictures, and hence came to be popularly called *Ukiyo* Matahei (*Ukiyo* meaning society or fashion). Little is known about his student life, but, on the authority of Santō Kyōden, a famous scholar of the Tokugawa period, the writer in the *Kokkwa* mentions that Matahei at first received instruction in art from one of the former retainers of his father. Afterwards he became a disciple of the Tosa School, but was finally disowned by that school on account of his proclivity to seek motives in the figures and objects of everyday life. Some writers assert that he actually worked in the atelier of Tosa Mitsu-nobu. But this is an evident mistake, for Mitsu-nobu had been dead fifty-two years when Matahei was born. Even in the present day, the Tosa School refuses to recognize an *Ukiyo* picture as an object of art. Very seldom do Matahei's pictures bear either his signature or seals. In some pictures of courtesans, his seals are stamped with black ink. The word Matahei is generally written 又平, but that form is not correct, the proper characters being 又兵衛. He is sometimes called Tosa Matahei, or Yuasa Matahei. It is plain that Yuasa is a corruption of Iwasa. As to the date or manner of his death, nothing is known definitely.

* * *

Dr. W. Anderson, in his excellent work on Japanese pictorial art, fixes Matahei's parentage and period correctly, according to the researches of the writer in the *Kok-kwa*, but gives him a notice altogether too brief in comparison with his genius and the influence he exercised upon the art of his country. Only one re-production from Matahei appears in the book. Taken from a picture in the possession of Mr. Ernest Hart, it represents a *Samurai* standing, with a branch of blossoming plum in his hand. The figure is somewhat stiff and graceless, showing nothing of the extraordinary power of line which made Matahei one of the most admirable painters of dancing girls and youths ever known in any country. He created a type of figure which was copied again and again by subsequent artists, but none ever attained to the skill shown by the master himself in this particular line. Not a few of his works have survived, and are immensely valued by their fortunate possessors.

AN INCORRIGIBLE.

JOHN HEYWOOD, who deserted from a ship in harbour as long ago as June last year, and has spent a great part of his time since in H.B.M. jail and in the hospital, was brought up on Saturday before Judge Hannen, in H.B.M. Court for Japan, charged with having been drunk and disorderly on Good Friday. From the evidence given it appeared that he was found asleep by a policeman, whose attempts at rousing him he strongly resented, with the result that he was ultimately taken into custody. Heywood, it seems, at first stated that his ship had left him in the port, but he was ultimately sent to jail for desertion. Put on board a P. & O. steamer, he left her at Kobe, and after a period of gutter existence was sentenced to a term of imprisonment, to serve which he was sent back to Yokohama. He had only been released a few hours when he again got drunk, and thus reappeared in H.B.M. Court. He urged, with tears in his eyes, that he was willing to go on board an American ship, if only he could get away from the place. The Judge fined him $5, with the option of a week's imprisoment, with the understanding that he should be put on board any ship that could be got for him before the expiry of the term.

THE WRECK OF THE "QUEEN ELIZABETH."

WE publish in this issue a telegram giving the result of the Court of Enquiry at Nagasaki into the loss of this steamer, but particulars of the accident do not appear in the latest issue of the *Rising Sun*, which says:—"On Sunday morn-

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ing last, news was received here of the loss of the British steamer *Queen Elizabeth*, in the vicinity of Ikishima, about seventy miles distant from this port. Full particulars are not yet to hand, but from what we can learn, the ill-fated vessel left Kobe on the 14th inst., bound to Karatsu, a non-treaty port, for a cargo of coal, for Manila. She is reported to have left Karatsu, for Manila direct, on the 20th, and shortly afterwards, experiencing bad weather and thick fog, she ran ashore off Isabuse-mura, Ikishima, the same day, and sank. Very fortunately no lives were lost, we believe. The circumstance was reported to Governor Nakano while witnessing the *Shokonsha Matsuri*, in company with Admiral Amamatsu. The latter at once telegraphed to Saseho, for a man-of-war to proceed to the scene of the wreck, and we understand that the *Nishin Kan* went to Ikishima on Sunday, and was followed by the *Iwaki Kan* on Monday. The Mitsu Bishi Co.'s tow-boat *Yugao* endeavoured to go there on Sunday night, but had to turn back in consequence of the heavy sea outside. The *Queen Elizabeth* is a British steamer, of 1,628 tons register, and was commanded by Captain Wilson. The captain, officers, and crew were expected here last night, in the *Nishin-kan*, but had not arrived when we went to press."

THE LATE CAPTAIN OF THE "MUTINE."

THE death of Captain J. Harrington Martin, on board the *Mutine*, at Suda Bay, says the *Broad Arrow*, besides being a loss to the Service will be widely felt. The deceased officer bore a high reputation in all ranks through which he passed. There is something peculiarly sad in the death of an officer just promoted, and drawing towards home to enjoy it. Captain Martin was always a very delicate man, constantly suffering from an acute form of dyspepsia. It is believed that he caught a chill in the Canal, which aggravated a previous attack of dysentery, and was seriously ill when the *Mutine* quitted Port Said. The ship met very bad weather, and the motion increased the dangerous symptoms so much that smooth water was sought in Suda Bay. It was too late, however, and he passed from unconsciousness into death at 6.15 a.m. on Jan. 17. The *Mutine* under his command had been noted for her good order and discipline, and possessed all the characteristics of a happy ship.

* * *

The sloop *Mutine* arrived at Plymouth on the morning of the 13th ult. from the China Station, in charge of her first Lieutenant, Edward Bradford, Commander Martin having died on the voyage. *The Times* adds:—The vessel was taken outside for the usual one hour's trial of engines, preparatory to being put out of commission. A report is to be forwarded to the Admiralty on the condition of her boilers, and, unless this should prove more satisfactory than is anticipated, the vessel will be passed into the third-class reserve.

A DISTINGUISHED ADDITION TO THE JAPANESE SERVICE.

THE *Jiyu Shimbun* says that a telegram has been despatched by the Government to the Japanese Representative in London, desiring him to make arrangements for the engagement of Mr. Thomas Erskine Holland as Legal Adviser to the Cabinet. Mr. T. E. Holland, D.C.L., is Professor of International Law at Oxford, and Assessor of the Chancellor's Court He is a writer of distinction, and his services would doubtless be very valuable to Japan. The Tokyo journal adds that his emoluments would be 7,200 *yen* annually, with travelling allowance and a house, and that the project of his coming to Japan was mooted by Count Yamagata during the latter's visit to Europe in 1889. We trust that the statement may prove correct.

ARMY AND NAVY.

AN absurd rumour was recently circulated to the effect that a dispute had arisen between officers of the Army and officers of the Navy, one side claiming that projectiles made in Japan could not pierce foreign armour plates, and the other maintaining the opposite proposition. Even the thickness of armour was mentioned, and full details of every kind were given. The story scarcely deserved a second thought, for every one knows that excellent iron can be obtained in Japan, the only trouble about it being costliness, and that no difficulty whatever exists in piercing armour of the thickness mentioned—7 to 10 inches. Nevertheless, the rumour found credence, and when people heard that a series of trials of guns *versus* armour had taken place at the Kannon-saki Forts from the 18th to the 22nd instant, they were quite prepared to be assured by the press that the dispute had been decided by practical experiment. The *Mimpo* now laughs at the whole affair. No doubt, it says, Japanese projectiles were used in the trials, but that any such controversy between the two services was the cause of the experiments, is a complete misconception.

THE SPECIE BANK.

THE shares of the Yokohama Specie Bank, of a hundred *yen* face value, which were quoted at 195.50 *yen* on the 1st ultimo, fell to 180 *yen* on the 26th. No catastrophe of similar magnitude having previously overtaken the scrip of the Bank, public interest has been very strongly excited. By some it is stated that the cause of the fall is a plot on the part of the bears, who have succeeded in creating distrust of the Bank's condition by circulating and exaggerating the fact that the Reserve was drawn upon to pay a dividend of 16 per cent. for the second half of 1890. But inasmuch as that step was openly taken with the approval of the shareholders at a general meeting, and for the purpose of sustaining the market value of the scrip, it is scarcely conceivable that any such device can have been successfully employed to shake the Bank's credit. A wider and less fanciful explanation is that the action of the United States in respect of silver has greatly perturbed the shareholders, who feel that the future of a Bank limiting its transactions to foreign trade—a sphere into which great instability has been introduced by the financial policy of America—invites no confidence. But it is scarcely conceivable that the present disturbance can be due to a factor which came into operation many months ago, and the severest effects of which were experienced during 1890. Between March and August of last year the fluctuation in the gold value of silver amounted to no less than 23 per cent., and during September, October, and November a fluctuation of 13 per cent. occurred in the opposite direction. Such stupendous irregularities in the gold value of the medium of exchange might well have produced disastrous results, but by skilful and prudent management the Bank was steered through these dangers, and found itself, at the close of the year, in a condition somewhat less prosperous, it is true, than it had been at the corresponding period of 1889, but sufficiently sound and flourishing. Why then should troubles that now belong to the past, suddenly exercise an injurious effect on the Bank's credit? Yet another method of accounting for the disturbance has reference to the action of the Diet. The Bank holds ten million *yen* of Government money, upon which it pays no interest, and in view of the extremely economical tendency displayed by the House of Representatives, it is feared that exception to this advantage may be taken and allowed during the next session. Such an apprehension, if seriously entertained, might well have the effect of depressing the shares of the Bank. Whatever be the true explanation, it is undoubtedly a serious thing that shares of the second Bank in the empire should suffer a depression of nearly 8 per cent. within a month. The present President of the Bank, Mr. Sonoda Kokichi, is a man of very exceptional ability and prudence. It is certain that, in his hands, the management will be conducted in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. But the Bank owed its remarkable success in former years chiefly to the fact that it found itself steadily confronted by a depreciation of silver, so that the sterling bills purchased by it at this side were always more valuable, in terms of the white metal, at the time of their sale than at the time of their purchase. Called upon suddenly to deal with radically altered conditions, the Bank could scarcely have avoided some inconvenience. Moreover, it was considerably embarrassed by the block in the silk market during the latter half of last year. It had advanced very heavily against silk which, under ordinary circumstances, ought to have left the country, and for a time the Directors must have felt great anxiety. These things are virtually past, however, and there is no apparent reason why the credit of the Bank should not stand high to-day.

* * *

There has been an earthquake in the Specie Bank. The piping times of big dividends when every specie bill purchased here realized a greater number of pieces of white metal than it had cost, and when the Government's transactions in connection with the accumulation of a hard-money reserve for currency resumption purposes opened to the Bank a field of perpetual and certain profit—those fine old days are past, and the Bank has been suddenly called on to deal with conditions altogether different and particularly embarrassing. Mr. Sonoda Kokichi, formerly Consul-General in London, accepted the position of manager on the eve of the changed era, and it is immensely to his credit as an able financier that the Bank finds itself still prosperous. But Mr. Sonoda has had difficulties to overcome within as well as without. Nominally Director of the Bank's affairs, he appears to have found himself in reality powerless to control its business. A striking case ocurred at the time of the last semi-annual settlement of accounts, when the actual profit and loss statement justified a dividend of only 14 per cent., whereas, despite Mr. Sonoda's objections, the Board voted a dividend of 16 per cent., and decided that the reserve fund should be drawn upon to make up the difference. Mr. Sonoda thereupon resigned, but after much negotiation he has been induced to withdraw his resignation and resume charge of the Bank's affairs, on condition, however, that veritable control shall be placed in his hands. On the 30th ultimo various changes were effected in the staff of the Bank, the most important being the replacement of Mr. Kimura Riyemon, Vice-President, by Mr. Koizumi Shinkichi, of the Nippon Ginko, and of Mr. Sakurai Tsunejiro, Sub-Manager, by Mr. Yamakawa Yuki, formerly Manager of the Bank's London branch, a man of whose business capacities Mr. Sonoda doubtless has intimate knowledge. Mr. Kimura Riyemon, the outgoing Vice-President, is the gentleman who, in conjunction with the absconding and defaulting Mr. Uyeno, appealed to the Japanese Traders' Guild against the conditions imposed by Messrs. Thomas and Company. It was doubtless a mere coincidence that placed the two dealers simultaneously in the same position, but the incident has injured Mr. Kimura's reputation in the eyes of the foreign community at all events, and we deem his resignation of the Vice-Presidency a distinctly wise measure. Under any circumstances it seems most undesirable that a prominent official of the Specie Bank should engage in trade on his own account. Several other changes of a minor character have been effected in the Bank's staff, and Mr. Sonoda doubtless has the whole machine now well in hand. If he has, and if he meets with no further opposition from his assistants, the Bank is pretty sure to prosper. We observe that a proposal is mooted with reference to the shares held by the Imperial Household. There are 15,100 of these shares, of which 10,025 are old shares, having a face value of 100 *yen* and a market value of 180 *yen*, and 5,075 are new shares, their face value 50 *yen*, and their market value 90 *yen*. The idea is that these shares should be handed over to the Bank at their face value, which would mean a clear gain of 802,000 *yen* on the old shares, and 203,000 *yen* on the new; a total of 1,005,000 *yen*. Of course such a generous operation would be extremely pleasant for the Bank, and would send up its scrip at once, but there are many points to be considered. The Imperial Household is virtually precluded from selling its shares in the open market. They are held

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purely as an investment, and not at all for speculative purposes. Their transfer to the Bank would not involve any loss to the Household, supposing them to have been purchased at their face values. Still it is plain from what passed in the Lower House with reference to the Imperial Household's shares of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, that the public strongly objects to all these special operations, and if the Bank can get on—as it certainly can—without recourse to such favours, it will be wise to abstain from them. The shares held by the Imperial House are not without their effect on the credit of the Bank, and moreover, they help distinctly to appreciate the scrip, for it is well understood that they cannot be placed on the open market, and are consequently withdrawn from the bulk of negotiable shares.

GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

"GERMAN UNIVERSITIES," the subject of a German lecture delivered by Prof. Y. Terada, Councilor in the Department of Education, attracted a comparatively large audience to the University Lecture Hall at Hitotsu-bashi, Tokyo, on the 23rd ult. The cold that had so unexpectedly set in on that day, and its greatly increased severity, owing to a strong north wind, towards evening, kept many at home that would otherwise have attended. But despite these drawbacks, when the lecturer had ascended the platform and begun his address, his words were followed by a large and attentive audience, among whom His Excellency the German Minister, Baron von Holleben, and professors and teachers of the Imperial University and other institutions of learning were the most prominent. The lecturer, who last year visited Europe with Mr. Kubota's mission and returned some months ago, set out by designating the university, and the German university more particularly, as the highest elevation discernible to the eye of the educationalist, corresponding in a measure to the proud position of Mount Fuji as seen from the hills in and about the capital of Japan. He then passed on to interesting details about university life in Berlin, and its probable cost to students intending to go there, a part of his discourse of special value to his Japanese hearers, many of whom being students and as a matter of course desirous of visiting Europe, will find, in details and data given by the lecturer ample food for reflection as well as a basis for sound calculations as to their probable expenses when abroad. Then followed the body and substance of the address, a long, thorough and carefully prepared description of the Berlin University, its organization, its *Privatdozenten*, extraordinary and ordinary professors, and their remuneration, its government and disciplinary powers over the students, its various faculties, departments, its plans of work and study, as well as those of its allied institutions, such as the Oriental Seminary, with the training it affords in Japanese, Chinese, Suaheli, etc. In concluding, the speaker regretted that the advanced hour and a strict interpretation of the limits assigned to his lecture did not permit him to enter into the details of the life and experience of his countrymen abroad, or to make a comparison between the German Universities and the Imperial University in Tokyo, a comparison which while showing many similarities, would show also striking differences, most of which he thought were chiefly due to the different circumstances that confront Japanese educationalists and to the working of the national mind that assimilates, transforms, and turns to its own use whatever seems best for the progress and development of the country. Speaking, in conclusion, of the duty of promoting the nation's educational interests, the lecturer emphasized the necessity of sympathy and coöperation on the part of all engaged and concerned in a cause so noble in itself and so far-reaching in its final consequences and results. The applause that followed the closing words of the speaker showed how highly his lecture had been appreciated. For the sake of those who did not understand German sufficiently well to grasp the meaning of everything said, the address was after a short pause given in Japanese also. Professor Terada's lecture was one of a series of addresses that are being given at the University Lecture Hall this winter. The next in order, to be delivered by Dr. Grasmann of the Imperial University, will be on the 27th of April at the usual hour, 6 p.m., and will deal with "The Forest, in its Historical Legal, and Economic Aspects," a subject as interesting as it is important in its bearing on the welfare of modern States.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for February, showing the foreign trade of Japan for the month :—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	1890. SILVER YEN.	1891. SILVER YEN.
Exports	4,476,677.280	5,245,299.970
Imports	5,964,563.850	4,478,358 900
Total exports and imports		9,723 658.870
Excess of exports		766,941.070

CUSTOMS DUTIES. SILVER YEN.

Exports	133.337.784
Imports	176,699 097
Miscellaneous	9.187.555
Total	319,224.436

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
United States of America	1,521,451.980	635.641.110	2,157,093.090
Great Britain	393,027.120	1,514,634.630	1,908,561.750
France	1,391,431.400	158,475.250	1,450,890.650
Hongkong	865,495.000	273,444.720	1,138,939 720
China	538,392.980	673,397.490	1,012,760.470
Germany	137,938.530	417.959 510	555.897.840
Korea	93,300.630	319,984.140	413,284.170
British India	89,723.870	195,149.870	284,873 740
Australia	65,688.930	28,065.400	91,754.330
Switzerland	10,535.300	42,633.300	53,168.600
Italy	41,370.280	4,019.460	45,389.640
Belgium	1,918.640	40,604.540	42,523.180
Russia	43.200	35,369.780	35,412.980
Canada & other British America	53,691.110	1,575.120	55,266.230
Philippine Islands	15.033.880	17,009.650	32,043.530
Austria	20,884.890	1,051.670	21,936.500
Denmark	—	4,007.180	4,007.180
Holland	500.000	2,703.020	3,203.020
Peru	—	1,819.680	1,819.680
Spain	508.060	1,233.120	1,741.180
Hawaii	1,450.900	—	1,450.900
Portugal	—	517.260	517.260
Turkey	145.000	—	145.000
Other Countries	209,294 100	109.093.400	318,386.500
Total	5,153,614.900	4,478,358.900	9,611,973.800

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Totals. Silver Yen.
Yokohama	3,115,738.200	2,173,982.450	5,289,720.650
Kobe	1,573,114.280	1,842,828.820	3,415 943.100
Osaka	55,638 320	214,522.310	270,160.630
Nagasaki	325,384.610	170,512.740	495,896.350
Hakodate	21,039.460	—	21,039.400
Shimonoseki	29,700.500	63,963.950	93,733.450
Moji	51,088.000	—	51,088.000
Hakata	177.070	5,211.870	5.389.840
Karatsu	14,577.500	—	14,577.500
Kuchinotsu	54,184.000	—	54,184.000
Misumi	2,800.000	—	2,800.000
Idzugahara	935.290	6,300.230	7,235.520
Shishimi	431.600	250.840	742.440
Sasuna	371.040	786.810	1,157.850
Specie and Bullion { Exports			569,864.700
Specie and Bullion { Imports			100.497.160
Total			679,361.860
Excess of exports			460,367 540

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants { Exports		496,751.850
By Japanese Merchants { Imports		1.134,816 310
Imported by Government		53.129.410

CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

THE usual annual Returns have now been issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs of China, showing the foreign trade of that empire for 1890. The figures for Imports and Exports during the past three years are as follow :—

	1888. Hk. Taels.	1889. Hk. Taels.	1890. Hk. Taels.
Imports	124,784,893	110,884,355	127,093,481
Exports	92,401,067	96,974,832	87,144,480
Totals	217,185,960	207,832,187	214,237,961

The large increase—17 million taels approximately—in the value of imports during 1890 as compared with 1889, and the decrease—over ten millions—in exports are chiefly attributable to disturbances of exchange. The Statistical Secretary says :—Without giving minute details, I may record that the telegraphic transfer price of the Shanghai Tael on London rose, by fitful movements, from 4s. 3½d. on 28th February to 5s. 3½d. on 5th September, a difference of 23 per cent., and thereafter fell to 4s. 6¾d. on 28th November, or 13 per cent." That the sales of imports were materially facilitated and those of exports seriously retarded by these great fluctuations—fluctuations far exceeding any margin of legitimate profit or loss contemplated in the ordinary course of commercial affairs—there cannot be the smallest doubt. Import merchants in Shanghai and the other open ports of China found themselves, in the spring and summer of last year, most happily situated, since the prices obtainable for their goods in the Chinese markets represented an increase of about ten per cent. in gold, as compared with the invoiced prices. Of course this golden harvest did not last long, and when the reaction ensued in the autumn, corresponding embarrassment must have been felt. But for a time the import men enjoyed good fortune of a very rare character. Exports, on the other hand, suffered from the same cause, and their bulk was further diminished by the competition of tea from India and Ceylon, and by the terrible floods that devastated such a large area of country in the plain of Chihli. This calamity helped to swell the bulk of the imports also, since it led to an increased import of rice, to the extent of 5 million taels, compared with the record for 1889. The following extract from the Report prepared by the Statistical Secretary, gives a clear idea of the detailed course of the import and export trades :—

Opium increased in quantity by 600 piculs, or barely 1 per cent., and decreased in cost by 1½ million taels, or about 5 per cent. Cotton Goods bounded upwards in value from 36 million taels in 1889 to 45 million taels in 1890, an increase of 25 per cent. In these I find woven Cotton Goods of nearly every texture infected with the general contagion of increase and expanding in quantity and in value; while Cotton Yarn, and more particularly that from India, poured into China in higher ratio of increase than ever heretofore, having risen from 678,558 piculs in 1889 to 1,081,495 piculs in 1890, the latter quantity representing 19½ millions of taels of money's worth and an increase of 6 millions of taels, or 50 per cent., over that of 1889. The spreading in China of a liking for Cotton Yarn, whose import has grown from 108,360 piculs in 1878 to 228,005 piculs in 1883 and to 683,468 piculs in 1888—doubling itself every few years—and has now attained the magnitude of over 1,000,000 piculs, is full of happy augury for the success of the mills of China now beginning to turn Chinese Cotton into Yarn. Of Metals I find that Iron of all kinds maintained a steady consumption of 1,100,000 piculs, and its congener, Steel, rose from 39,000 to 56,000 piculs, an increase of 43 per cent.; but it is noticeable with Steel that the import is very variable, its weight in piculs having been 50,000 in 1886, 27,000 in 1887, 51,000 in 1888, 39,000 in 1889, and now 56,000 in 1890. A few items in Sundries attract attention, namely, Coal, Raw Cotton, Dyes, Ginseng, Window Glass, Matches, Needles, Kerosene Oil, Rice, and Sugar. Coal fell off in quantity by 64,000 tons, or 17 per cent., and yet more Coal was burned in 1890 than in 1889—a fact which may point to the increasing out-put from China's own coal-fields. The Foreign Raw Cotton imported was 36,000 piculs, or 30 per cent., over that of 1889, and yet in China the 1890 harvest of Cotton was splendid, and the Foreign export of it 200,000 piculs less than it had been in 1889, when the harvest was a failure: such facts defy ready comprehension. The quantity of Dyes increased by 30 per cent.; of Ginseng, by 26 per cent.; of Window Glass, by 58 per cent.; of Matches, by 23 per cent.; of Needles, by 20 per cent.; and of Kerosene Oil, by 50 per cent. and these increases indicate the acquiring by the masses of increased comforts. Of the other items, one—Rice—was taken almost all by the Kwangtung province and through the Kowloon Customs. It speaks marvels for the resources of that province that it can pay out 11½ million taels for food products without any unusual scarcity being heralded abroad or indications of distress being brought to the notice of the outer world. And it is probable that had there been a free export of Rice from Wuhu, Chinkiang, and Shanghai in the early part of the year, and in the latter part no need to send large supplies to the province of Chihli to combat the distress there brought on by the floods, much of this large payment of the Southern people for Foreign Rice would have been made to the people of the central provinces for home grown Rice. The increase in the Foreign Sugar import may be illusory rather than real, as the refineries in Hongkong work

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upon Sugar which is accounted Foreign when imported even though of Chinese origin.

(*b.*) EXPORTS.—The Exports from China fell off in 1890, as compared with 1889, by a value of 9½ million taels, or 10 per cent., and the estimated Duty paid on them by Hk. Tls. 759,392, or 12 per cent., of which the falling off in Tea Duty represents Hk. Tls. 500,000; of Silk Duty, Hk. Tls. 190,000; and of Raw Cotton Duty, Hk. Tls. 70,000. Thus, Tea fell from 1,877,331 piculs, valued at Hk. Tls. 28,251,314, in 1889, to 1,665,396 piculs, valued at Hk. Tls. 26,663,450, or by 212,000 piculs and Hk. Tls. 1,600,000 respectively, or in value 5½ per cent. This falling away of the Tea industry is a terrible loss to the people of China to whom it has been a source of wealth in the past, and one cannot but hope that the means may be found of building it up again to its old dimensions of Hk. Tls. 35,500,000 in 1886. Silk also fell off from a value of Hk. Tls. 36,401,967 in 1889 to Hk. Tls. 30,255,905 in 1890, say 6 million taels, or 16 per cent. This loss fell principally on White Raw Silk, of which 15,000 piculs less went away in 1890 than in 1889, representing a value of 4 million taels, and on Silk Piece Goods, which dropped from 12,780 piculs, to 9,858 piculs, or 2,900 piculs, equal in value to Hk. Tls. 1,750,000. Not only was the season's yield of Silk in the Chêkiang and Kiangsu provinces short of the average, but the rise in the value of silver seems to have checked sales, and, by compelling buyers to offer lower prices, had the effect of making holders of this article—which does not suffer by being kept—wait in hopes of a better market. There will be, perhaps, a large export in this present year, either because silver will fall again or because holders of Silk will accept lower prices. One other promising staple of the Export trade, namely Raw Cotton, which went to Japan in ever-increasing quantity of late years, fell off by 200,000 piculs, or in money's worth 2 million taels, equal to 40 per cent. of the 1889 export to that country. I am told that this backward movement, now ended, was the consequence of a temporary cessation of demand for this Cotton in Japan, where a bad harvest, on the one hand, disabled the people from buying as usual, and Indian Yarn, on the other hand, strove to oust all other competitors.

* * *

To show in what measure and proportions the foreign trade of China has increased during the past 13 years, we have the following table:—

ANNUAL VALUE OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA 1878 TO 1890.

Year.	Net Imports.* Hk. Taels.	Exports. Hk. Taels.	Total. Hk. Taels.
1878	70,804,027	67,172,179	137,976,206
1879	82,227,424	72,281,262	154,508,686
1880	79,203,452	77,983,587	157,177,039
1881	91,910,877	71,452,074	163,393,851
1882	77,715,228	67,336,846	145,052,074
1883	73,567,702	70,197,693	143,765,395
1884	71,760,758	67,147,680	139,908,438
1885	88,200,018	65,005,721	153,205,739
1886	87,479,323	77,200,368	164,685,891
1887	102,263,669	85,860,208	188,123,877
1888	124,782,893	92,401,067	217,183,960
1889	110,814,355	96,947,832	207,832,187
1890	127,093,481	87,144,480	214,237,961

* Net Imports, i.e., the value of the Foreign Goods imported direct from Foreign Countries, *less* the value of the Foreign Goods re-exported to Foreign Countries during the year.

It is interesting to note in this context that the total value of the foreign trade of Japan in 1878 was only 50 million *yen*, whereas in 1890 it reached 138 millions. Thus while the increase in China's case, during the thirteen years under consideration, was 56 per cent. the increase in Japan's case was 176 per cent. Of course percentages are not a perfectly trustworthy test where the figures to which they apply differ very largely in value. The actual increase in China's trade, between 1878 and 1890, was 115½ million dollars (taking the Haikwan Tael as equivalent to 1.5 Mexican dollars), whereas the actual increase in Japan's trade, according to the Customs Returns, was only 88 millions. If, however, it be desired to make an accurate comparison of the trade of the two countries, certain corrections must be applied. The value of the imports shown in the Chinese returns is based on the prices in the markets of the ports of entry, whereas the value in the Japanese returns is based on the prices in the markets of the ports of shipment. The Japanese figure must therefore be increased by the cost of carriage, insurance, and other charges. We have generally made a total allowance of 18 per cent. on this account, but taking a slightly lower figure—16 per cent.—we find that the foreign trade of Japan was 54 million Mexican dollars in 1878 and 151 dollars in 1890, an increase of 180 per cent. in round numbers. Comparing the bulks of the Chinese and Japanese trades in 1890, it will be seen that the former (311 million Mexican dollars) was more than double of the latter (151 millions). But although the difference is so great, the rapid advances made by Japanese trade during the past few years justify us in looking forward to a not very distant time when it will stand on nearly the same plane as the Chinese. Even now if the two trades be compared with the populations, it appears that while the Japanese trade amounts to 4.50 *yen* per head (taking the population at 35 millions), the Chinese trade is only 1 30 *yen* per head (taking the population at 240 millions).

MR. ERNEST HART.

MR. AND MRS. ERNEST HART were entertained at dinner on the evening of 27th ult. by Mr. Okakura, Director of the Fine Art School in Uyeno Park. Nearly all the principal artists of Tokyo were present, and during the course of the evening Mr. Hashimoto Gaho, whose picture of an autumn scene gained the first prize at the Industrial Exhibition of last year, made three Indian ink sketches which he presented to Mr. Hart. The following evening Mr. and Mrs. Hart dined with Dr. Nagayo Sensai and the officers of the Sanitary Bureau at the villa of Mr. Okura, at Mukojima. An exceptional treat had been prepared for the visitors, choice examples of painting and lacquer having been selected from the collections of many of the best known amateurs in Tokyo and entrusted to Mr. Wakai, who displayed them one by one before the favoured guests. On Monday evening Mr. Hart is to be entertained at the Koyokan, Shiba, by the medical faculty of the capital.

GOLD MINE IN IWATE PREFECTURE.

THE *Mimpo* says that gold has been discovered at Naganoyama, of Kotomo-mura, in Iwate Prefecture. The vein is said to be about four miles in length, and an analysis of the ore gives 0.4 per cent. of pure gold. Permission to work the mine has been applied for. If this story be true, a deposit of very exceptional value has been found. An analysis in the laboratory would, of course, give a greater percentage of gold than the quantity obtainable by ordinary mining machinery. But a yield of a quarter of an ounce per ton—or one part in every one hundred and forty thousand, approximately—is considered sufficient now-a-days to justify the working of a gold mine, and, compared with this, four parts, or even one part, in a thousand is something altogether out of the common. It will be interesting to learn some further particulars about the Iwate vein, if, indeed, it has any existence in fact.

THE BLIND MEN OF TOKYO.

THE first lecture meeting ever held by blind people in Japan, is said to have taken place on Sunday in the Matsuoka-ro, Shinagawa. The occasion was the formation of a society to promote a system of self-government among the blind, and the promoters were Messrs. Hirano Bannosuke, Shirakawa Masaki, and Odaki Doshin. Hitherto the chief occupations of the blind in Japan have been music and shampooing. Nearly all the great performers on the *koto*, the *shichiriki*, the flute, and the violin are men or women who have lost their sight or been born blind. As for the shampooers, that race of professionals who probably contribute more than any other class of experts to the comfort and health of the nation, ninety-nine out of every hundred are blind, and in some respects their infirmity renders them better fit for their work. Presumably the idea now mooted is to form a huge association of all the blind in Japan, and to draw up a system of control and direction applicable to them only, and applied by themselves.

EXPORT DUTIES.

THE discussion raised by Mr. Taguchi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, as to the advisability of abolishing export duties, has elicited some singular sentiments. Mr. Taguchi himself appears to think that duties levied upon Japanese products and manufactures sent out of the country, are paid by the Japanese themselves. Such, at least, is the impression conveyed by his speeches and writings, though we can scarcely believe that so clear a thinker and sound economist would fall into the misconception of imagining that charges or taxes upon any class of goods ultimately come out of any pocket except that of the consumer. Probably Mr. Taguchi's intention has hitherto been to direct attention only to the history of exports before they leave the country, but even from that point of view he should have noted that as the foreign resident merchant is the channel through which the great bulk of Japan's productions and manufactures pass on their Westward path, export duties must in the first place be defrayed by the foreign local merchants, who afterwards recover them from consumers in Europe and America. His seeming misconception, however, is a trifle compared with another doctrine now advanced, namely, that the *whole* benefit of a reduction of export duties would be reaped by foreigners, and that writers advocating such a reduction are mere theorists, with no sound knowledge of practical details. We have examined the process of reasoning by which this remarkable conclusion is reached, but we remain as much in the dark as ever. It is true, indeed, that the foreign consumer and the foreign export merchant would be saved from the necessity of paying the duties, but that does not appear to be the point of the Japanese argument. What the new school of objectors claim is that by abolishing export dues the European and American merchants engaged in the trade would be the sole gainers, no advantage accruing to Japan herself. They might as well pretend that if Japan could produce her tea and silk at materially diminished cost, and place these staples in Western markets at figures much below what she is obliged to charge at present, no advantage would result to her in competition with the tea and silk produced by other countries. No one, we presume, would be foolish enough to advance such a proposition as that. The object of Mr. Taguchi's suggestion is beyond all question. He seeks to lighten the charges on Japanese manufactures and products in Japan, so as to enable them to be offered to foreign consumers at more tempting rates. The natural result of such a policy would be to increase the demand for these article. The principles of protection seem to be gaining ground in Japan at present, a fact at which we cannot be surprised, though we greatly regret it. Protectionists, however, should be the last to deny the advantage of reducing or abolishing export duties, since it is by precisely the converse process that they seek to exclude foreign staples from the home markets.

THE "KOKU-HON" ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE DIET.

THE *Koku-Hon* echoes the sentiment of the public in general, when it expresses satisfaction with the first session of the Diet. The Diet, especially the House of Representatives, is certainly open to a charge of having occasionally betrayed a marked lack of wisdom and dignity, but nothing can be less just than criticisms condemning the Legislature, as if it had perpetrated blunders and errors only. If it was unable to achieve much in the way of legislation, there is at any rate the consolation that the contests between the Moderates and the Extremists induced the Executive to agree to a reduction of as much as 6½ million *yen*. The former Senate represented the legislative section of the Government, but despite its struggles to be independent, it could not stand against the power of the Cabinet. The Diet, however, has fully established its position as an independent legislative machine. Apart, too, from the merely pecuniary aspect, the reductions effected, are the earnest of very important reforms, since they may be regarded as an effective step towards the achievement of an end which has baffled the efforts of successive ministries during the last ten years, namely the dismissal of incapable and superfluous functionaries. Last, but not least, the first session of the Diet has been useful in dispelling illusory notions entertained by the present Cabinet as to its policy of *chô-sen shugi* (keeping aloof from parties). Thus the Tokyo periodical is on the

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whole satisfied with the result of the first experiment of constitutional Government in Japan. But, in common with the *Jiji Shimpo* and some other leading papers, the *Koku-Hon* regrets that the members of the Diet showed unpardonable indifference to the interests of the business section of the community, and hopes that hereafter they will direct their attention more to the development of the national resources, the growth of industries, the encouragement of trade and commerce, and the promotion of emigration and colonization.

RUDYARD KIPLING.

RUDYARD KIPLING'S new book, "The Light that Failed," will be a sore disappointment to his admirers. The critics compared his genius to that of Bret Harte, and the comparison was apparently not unjust. Both succeeded in a marvellous manner with the short story which pointed certain phases of life in out-of-the-way situations, and both have shown their inability to cope with longer themes requiring more sustained effort. But whereas even in the latter we always find gleams of the peculiar power that brought Bret Harte into notice, "The Light that Failed" is utterly devoid of the humour, pathos, and satire which charmed the reader in Rudyard Kipling's earlier works. Perhaps the following is the only sentence in the book that betrays the writer of "The Drums of the Fore and Aft," and "The Gadsbys." "There is more joy in England over one soldier who insubordinately steps out of a square to rescue a comrade than over twenty generals slaving, even to baldness, over the gross details of transport and commissariat." The tale throughout is sordid to a degree. The hero is an insufferable prig, and worse. And the great calamity that ultimately falls upon him, instead of evoking sympathy, only engenders a feeling of relief that his capacity for evil is cut short. The heroine is an impossible woman, while the other characters possess neither individuality nor interest. Had Rudyard Kipling deliberately set about the blasting of his own reputation, he could not have succeeded more effectually than by attaching his name to "The Light that Failed." It is an incomprehensible fiasco.

A JAPANESE DISCOVERY.

WE take this from a San Francisco journal, where it appears under the date of March 6th, at Chicago:—"The Takamine Ferment Company, organized by the Whisky Trust to exploit the new process of whisky-making invented by the Japanese chemist, Takamine, has increased its capital stock to $10,000,000. The salient point in the process is the microbe or ferment cell of superior power produced from the fungous growth on rice. Its use permits the completion of fermentation in forty-two hours, as against seventy-two heretofore, besides greatly cheapening it and enlarging the volume of the production from a like quantity of grain. The calculation, based on the output of maltsters, brewers, distillers, and others using ferments, makes the yearly value of the discovery equivalent to $23,000,000." The fortunate adapter of this process, Mr. Takamine, is a well known resident of Tokyo. He is married to an American lady, and has always been a zealous expert.

FISH IN LAKE CHIUSENJI, NIKKO.

FIGURES have been published showing the attempts to populate the waters of Nikko's beautiful lake of Chiuzenji with food fishes. From these we learn that in 1873, mountain trout (*iwana*) to the number of 2,200 were introduced; in 1874, 20,000 carp (*koi*); 2,000 *funa*, 150 eels (*unagi*), and 500 lamprey (*dojo*) were set free. The subsequent additions to these numbers were:—1876, trout (*akahara uo*) 300; 1882, prawns (*yebi*) 15,000; salmon spawn 83,000; salmon trout (*amé masu*) spawn, 80,000; in 1883, salmon spawn 40,000, and salmon trout 80,000; in 1884, salmon spawn 60,000, and salmon trout spawn 152,000; in 1887, mountain troutspawn 30,000, salmon spawn 50,000, salmon trout (*masu* and *ame masu*) spawn 20,000, American salmon trout 8,000; in 1888, salmon spawn 50,000; salmon trout (*masu* and *ame masu*) spawn 20,000, mountain trout 35,000, and trout (*yamame*) 300; in 1889, salmon trout (*masu* and *ame masu*) spawn 120,000; in 1890, salmon trout (*masu* and *ame masu*) spawn 30,000, and mountain trout spawn 70,000. The quantities caught within recent years were:—1886, 26 salmon weighing 47½ lbs.; 1,022 salmon trout (*masu* and *ame masu*) weighing 1,533 lbs.; 5,916 mountain trout, weighing 9,637¾ lbs., and one carp weighing 3 lbs., an annual catch of 6,965 fish, weighing 11,221¼ lbs.; 1887, 1,068 salmon trout (*masu* and *ame masu*) weighing 1,424lbs.; 34 salmon, weighing 65½lbs.; 10,950 mountain trout, weighing 19,318$\frac{8}{12}$lbs.; 905 *akahara uo*, weighing 91 lbs.; and 62 carp, weighing 298½lbs., or an annual catch of 13,019 fish, scaling 21,197⅝lbs.; 1888, 68 salmon, weighing 124⅜lbs.; 866 *masu* and *ame masu*, weighing 2,020⅜lbs.; 8,939 mountain trout, weighing 13,305½lbs.; 12,718 *akahara uo*, weighing 2,031$\frac{1}{16}$lbs.; 24 *koi* and *funa*, weighing 110lbs.; in all a catch for the year of 22,615 fish, weighing 17,592$\frac{1}{16}$lbs.; 1889, 21 salmon, weighing 39½lbs.; 515 *masu*, weighing 856¼lbs.; 198 *ame masu*, weighing 1,500⅝lbs.; 9 carp (*koi*), weighing 30⅝lbs.; 62 *funa*, weighing 11$\frac{11}{12}$lbs.; 5,678 mountain trout, weighing 7,373½lbs.; 27,079 *akahara uo*, weighing 422½ lbs.; showing a total take for 1889 of 33,562 fish, and a total weight of 13,384$\frac{7}{12}$ lbs.

MR. BRADLAUGH.

THE day before the last mail left London, Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, M.P., died at his well-known rooms over the music shop in Circus Road, St. John's Wood, and it appears to be the opinion of English newspapers of all political shades of opinion that his death leaves English public life considerably poorer. Just ten years ago he was fighting his great battle with the House of Commons similar to that which Wilkes had fought a hundred years before. His name was pronounced with execration by a large and respectable section of the British people. In the end he triumphed over the House of Commons as Wilkes did; only three days before his death the resolution expelling him from the House was unanimously expunged from the records, and men of both political parties vied with each other in expressing their sense of the services which Mr. Bradlaugh had rendered since he took his seat. Like many other combative men, the violent hostility which he aroused by his writings and speeches disappeared on personal contact. It is now more than twenty years since the present writer first saw Mr. Bradlaugh. It was on a bitterly cold Sunday evening in the Hall of Science in Old-street St. Lukes, where the then famous secularist was in the habit of lecturing every Sunday. There was to be a discussion between Mr. Bradlaugh and a young clergyman with more zeal than discretion. The subject of the discussion has long passed from memory. The room was thronged with those curious weedy youths with pinched, sharp, intelligent faces who are always ready to speak at a moment's notice, and who seem to form the bulk of the militant secularists of London. In physical as in mental characteristics Mr. Bradlaugh was the antipodes of his followers. He was about 6 feet 2 inches high and broad in proportion, and his fine figure was well set off by the black frock coat which he always wore (he invariably wore black). With his powerful looking well set head, the clean shaven face and the protruding upper lip, he was the picture of energy, fight, and tenacity. His enemies, seizing on the curious projection of his upper lip, constantly characterized him as a sort of bull dog; and perhaps, after all, it would be difficult to find a more apt comparison in the animal world. It was this dogged tenacity of his that carried him through a long succession of litigations; that helped him to live down, in large part, hatred of which he was the object; that bore him into parliament; enabled him to beat the House of Commons, and finally gained him the position which he held in public esteem when he died. To his other gifts he added perhaps the most powerful voice for platform speaking of any man in England. When Mr. Gladstone rises to some of his highest flights and when his voice is tinged with emotion, it sounds clear and sweet like a soft bell and can be heard all over the largest room; but much of this is due to the hushed expectant state of his audience. Mr. Bradlaugh's resonant voice, with its complication of h's, and his total elimination of final g in words ending in *ing*, could be heard above a storm. It was not a coarse, strident voice that grated on the ears like the tuning of a violin; but a strong manly voice coming evidently from capacious lungs and a healthy throat. Years afterwards the present writer saw him addressing one of his monster meetings in Trafalgar Square. There was less hair on his head than in the old days of the Hall of Science, and what was there was whiter, but he had the same energetic gestures, powerful, far-reaching voice, and fighting attitude. In his later days it was his fortune to be denounced as a Tory because he did not believe in the Socialist nostrums of recent times, and because he steadily inculcated the doctrine that a working man must better his own lot by his own right hand for governments could do nothing for him. He was as staunch a believer in freedom of contract, in the right of man to settle for himself how many hours he will work, as the older school of whigs. He would have nothing to do with the attempt to limit the hours of labour of adult men by legislation, and only two years ago he went to a Trades Union Congress, which was permeated with modern socialistic ideals, and told the members that they should have no help of his in their pursuit of what he regarded as an *ignis fatuus*. Readers of Edna Lyall's Broad Church novels, and especially of "We Two," will remember Luke Raeburn, the Secularist lecturer, who is, in fact, Mr. Bradlaugh idealized by the novelist. Mr. Bradlaugh was not an attractive personality in any sense of the term; he was eager and aggressive. In his younger days he assailed the cherished faith of millions in a manner which was both brutal and blasphemous, but he possessed *mens æqua in arduis* in a very high degree. He was ready to fight and suffer for his opinions, and he is entitled to all the credit due to courage and consistency. Just as he was beginning to enjoy a little of the sunshine of peace, his life of struggle and turmoil terminates.

AN EXPLODED CANARD.

A SHORT time ago we reproduced from a San Francisco journal a marvellous story, purporting to be told by an eye-witness of the events described. Its gist was that batches of young Japanese girls are constantly brought to San Francisco, and being there put up to auction, are sold to the highest bidder. We now find the following in the *Washington Post* of March 3rd:—"Some two weeks ago, a statement was published to the effect that a number of Japanese women were recently sold at auction in San Francisco, presumably for immoral purposes. The Japanese Minister here at once directed the Consul at San Francisco to make a thorough investigation of the matter. A report has just been received by the Minister that the story is absolutely without foundation in fact."

POLITICS AND TREATY REVISION.

THE attitude of the various political parties towards Treaty Revision is summed up in an interesting article published by the *Jiyu Shimbun*. It will be remembered that when Count Okuma's programme had been before the country for some time, public opinion divided itself with regard to it on very definite lines, which were clearly indicated in the columns of the vernacular press. We are inclined to think that, even at this early date, a similarly distinct division has taken place, and that the *Jiyu Shimbun's* statement furnishes a tolerably clear idea of the situation. Our contemporary founds its analysis on the various items of the programme of Revision, as it is now generally surmised. We follow the Tokyo journal in this respect, premising, however, that we by no means desire to be understood as endorsing its account of the bases of Revision. With regard to Consular Jurisdiction, in the first place, it says that the Go-

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vernment's proposals point to the abolition of this after five years, during which period it would remain as before within the Settlements. Of this scheme the National Radicals (*Kokumin Jiyu-to*) and the *Kyodo* Club are said to approve, but our contemporary seems to suggest that the Radicals (*Jiyu-to*), Progressionists (*Kaishin-to*), Conservatives and National Economists (*Kokka Keisai-kai*) advocate the immediate and complete restoration of Japan's Judicial Autonomy. We venture to doubt this, however, for it seems to us incredible that such an attitude should be taken by the *Kaishinto*, considering the policy followed by their leader and emphatically endorsed by them in 1889. The second point is the employment of foreigners in a judicial capacity. This guarantee the Government is said to have withdrawn *in toto*, and of course all the parties support the withdrawal. Thirdly, we have the Naturalization Law, which the Authorities are represented as entrusting altogether to the Legislature. The only section of politicians opposed to this are the Conservatives, who claim that foreigners should not be allowed to become naturalized in Japan under any circumstances. The fourth item is mixed residence, which the Government permits, simultaneously with the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. The official intention is approved by the National Radicals, a section of the Radicals, the Independents, and the Progressionists; while arrayed on the other side are the National Economists, a section of the Radicals, and the Independent Conservatives. With regard to the ownership of real estate, which constitutes the fifth item, the Government's programme is said to withhold this privilege, except in respect of the lands now occupied by foreigners within the Settlements, concerning which a final decision has not yet been arrived at. All the parties are said to approve of withholding the privilege in the case of property outside the Settlements, but as to property within the Settlements, great differences of opinion exist. Customs duties come next on the list. The Government's proposals are said to contemplate a maximum impost of eleven per cent. ad valorem, the duties on *saké*, tobacco, and soy, however, to be the same as the internal taxes imposed on the same articles. Here the Progressionists and the Radicals are united in opposition, both parties claiming that the Diet should have power to impose whatever duties it pleases. As for the other parties, their attitude is said to be still unsettled. The seventh item is the coastwise trade, which is to be closed against foreign vessels. In regard to this point, also, political opinion is not fixed. Finally, we have the question of the Codes, in relation to which the Government's proposals are said to embody no engagement whatever. What this analysis shows, in the main, is that the day is past when any scheme of Revision, short of the complete abolition of all Japan's national disabilities, can obtain the general approval of the Japanese people.

THE INDO EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

THE Indo-European telegraphs are of the utmost importance to all Europeans in the East, as they form the real connecting link between the European and Asiatic systems. The Administration report for last year hardly shows so favourable a record as usual, expenditure having increased by Rs. 94,345 to Rs. 10,97,568, and receipts having declined by Rs. 69,910 to Rs. 10,97,332, of which Rs. 10,60,400 constitute the message revenue. This, however, is less a falling off from the normal business of the Department than a return to average proportions, there being no diversions of traffic this year on account of breakdowns on other systems; while the increased expenditure is due almost entirely to extensive renewal of cables. The net revenue for the year was Rs. 49,764, or a dividend on capital of 0.44 per cent. This is a small return; but Colonel Mallock points out that while the traffic remains normal, a more satisfactory result cannot be expected until the extensive renewals of the cable now in progress are completed and until the reinsulation of the lines in Persia has also been accomplished. "Unlike the Indian Telegraph Department, the operations of the Indo-European Telegraph Department are necessarily mainly confined to carrying the traffic tendered at the termini, and this work the Department, although not at present a financial success, has done admirably." The interruptions to traffic on the Turkish route during the year were much below the average, being under thirty-two days, as against 51¾ days last year, 59¾ days the year before, and 109½ and 129½ days in 1887 and 1886 respectiveiy. The total interruptions on the Company's line between Lowestoft and Teheran aggregated under nine days. The number of messages transmitted was 106,702, containing a total of 1,558,695 words, and producing a revenue of Rs. 11,24,014. The number of press-messages transmitted by the Indo-European cable during 1889-90 was 3,104, a total of 123,893 words, as against 2,384 messages and 105,587 words last year, and 1,079 messages and 52,572 words in 1887-88, a noteworthy illustration of the increasing importance of news between Europe and the East. Of this total 120 messages, consisting of 72,630 words, were sent last year to *The Times* alone, as against 126 messages of 78,454 words last year, and 97 messages of 73,282 the year before. The average length of commercial and private messages is 12.6 words, an increase of 0.1 since the previous year. The average speed of transmission from England to Calcutta *vid* Teheran was 1 hour 5 minutes, and *vid* Suez 2 hours 21 minutes. From England to Kurrachee the average speed *vid* Teheran was 59 minutes, and *vid* Turkey 12 hours 14 minutes. This latter is a great improvement on last year's record, when the speed was 19 hours 28 minutes. Accuracy of transmission counts 99.402 per cent.

THE FUKUZAWA UNIVERSITY.

THE Tokyo News Agency reports that the second year students in the Political Economy Section of the Mita University have applied to Mr. Obata, the President, for a new foreign lecturer, claiming that the present occupant of the post is not satisfactory. Being answered that no change could be made until the college was in a more flourishing condition, they are said to have intimated that unless their demand were complied with they should retire *en masse*. Our own information is different from the above. Even as told by the Japanese newspapers the story seems inconsequential, since it attributes to Mr. Obata the reply that no such application could be entertained until the resources of the College should have grown sufficiently to warrant increased expenditure, whereas evidently no additional expenditure would have been incurred in a mere change of Professors. The fact is that the students applied, not for a change of their Professor, but for an additional Professor qualified to deliver a course of lectures on the practical phases of Japanese taxation and finance. It is obvious that no foreigner could undertake to speak authoritatively on the special problems presenting themselves in a country with which foreigners have only a rudimentary acquaintance. Possibly the students' request was to some degree prompted by a feeling of rivalry, the other departments of the University being more liberally supplied with Professors than their own. But even without recourse to any such hypothesis, their application explains itself, since there must be a natural desire on the part of all intelligent Japanese youths to learn exactly what is going on in their own country, and to hear what are the actual facts of its fiscal condition. The President of the University, finding himself unable to make the desired addition to the staff, answered the students in that sense. They, however, not disposed to abandon their project lightly, insisted that the proposed step must be taken, the alternative being their own withdrawal from the college. By this time, in fact, they had organized one of those combinations only too frequent during recent years at Japanese educational institutions, where a matter originally more or less trivial is ultimately perverted into a romantic test of the young men's independence and individuality. They begin by fighting for a concrete aim and end by doing battle for an abstract principle. The President, of course, had no choice but to remain firm, and the students, on their side, deeming that their honour was at stake, undertook to demonstrate their obduracy by absenting themselves from the lectures on finance, a course of which had just been announced for commencement by the foreign Professor. This method of procedure involved the foreigner also in the trouble, though in point of fact he had no real connection with it. Ultimately the students, nineteen in number, left the college, and there the affair seemed to have ended. But in a few days the seceders appreciated the thoughtlessness of their conduct and applied for re-admission, all except the two ringleaders, who had the grace to refrain from condemning the President to the unpleasant necessity of refusing to receive them. We believe that no further notice will be taken of the matter. It has probably taught the students a wholesome lesson. There is far too much disposition among Japanese youths to dictate to their elders. The causes of the tendency are not difficult to explain, but they are decidedly difficult to eradicate.

THEATRICALS IN TOKYO.

THE Amateur Theatrical Representation in behalf of the Orphan Asylum at Kanda, took place on Wednesday evening in the Rokumei-kan, Tokyo, and was a signal success. No one room suited for such a performance is to be found in the building. It was necessary to use a suite of three chambers in the upper story, and though by this arrangement sufficient space became available, a portion of the audience had to be seated in positions very inconvenient for both seeing and hearing. This drawback was rendered more palpable by the dimensions of the audience, which far exceeded any assemblage previously witnessed in Tokyo on a similar occasion, a large number of Japanese being present, in addition to all the principal foreign residents of Tokyo and Yokohama. The stage occupied the eastern end of the room. It was simply but tastefully arranged, the decoration being almost entirely floral. At a few minutes before 8 o'clock, the Imperial Band played—excellently as usual—the Wiener-Blut valse, and the curtain then rose upon one of those admirable little pieces so essentially French in the perfect art of their conception. Simply a dialogue between two young people who would have loved each other had they not imagined that they were intended to do so, and who immediately did so when they discovered that they were not intended, it delighted the audience. *Germaine's* part was taken by a lady who acted as charmingly as she looked, and as for *Gaston*, his performance belonged to quite a high order of histrionic art. "Women's Rights," a farce of much humour, came second on the programme. In this the chief performer, *Mr. Carberry*, who had to play a trying and lengthy rôle, showed remarkable talent. His perplexity on finding himself suddenly introduced to the topsy-turveydom of a society where men and women have changed places; his frenzied and fitful attempts to rebel against the tyrannical exactions of *Mrs. Badger;* his transformation from a bluff, independent Bostonian, coming home after years of Oriental residence with money in his pocket and the world at his feet, to a tremulous, timid victim of bewildering and embarrassing circumstances; the genuineness of his love for a most loveable and delightfully natural little lady, *Miss Victorine Wigfall*—all these were very finished efforts, quite above the amateur level. *Miss Victorine*, indeed, might have contributed inspiration to any company. Her part suited her exactly. From first to last every gesture and every tone, a plaintive protest against the unsexing doctrines and processes of the time, was exquisitely genuine and artless. We have seldom seen a prettier bit of acting. *Mrs. Wigfall*, her mother, also succeeded admirably as a prim, pompous Judge, wearing her ermine and her equally superficial dignity even in the domestic circle, but retaining all the while

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a dash of feminine petulance and perversity that made her sacrifice the majesty of the law to the malicious delight of thwarting her husband. The scene where the superlatively hen-pecked *Mr. Wigfall* constitutes himself a gallery of one to turn his wigged and gowned wife from her stern purposes by sheer force of applauding them, merited and received great praise. *Mr. Wigfall's* rôle was of a minor character, but he managed to throw much force into it, his by-play especially being irresistibly comic. *Miss Wolterine Griffin* had to take one of the most difficult parts, and took it with wonderful spirit, figuring at one moment as a ranting, demonstrative and repellant pedant, the next, a lady of thoroughly feminine foibles, fancies, and proclivities. And to no one, perhaps, is more praise due than to *Mrs. Badger*. The exigencies of the piece do not suffer her to betray any traces whatsoever of femininity. She has to remain throughout an overbearing, despotic, scheming caricature of a female, more terrible to *Carberry* than even the husband-hungry *Wolterine*. Into this most uncongenial part she threw herself with self-sacrificing courage, achieving an artistic result at the cost of an appalling costume and a menacingly masculine manner. All these ladies were word perfect, and as a consequence the piece swung along without a check. The French vaudeville of "La Grammaire" concluded the programme. Of this we cannot speak too highly. *Caboussat* was truly a treat. His talents are altogether exceptional. Nothing could have been more exquisitely comical than his rendering of the witless ex-rustic, elevated by vapid ambition, depressed by a sense of orthographical deficiencies, aiming at high offices yet saved from perpetual humiliation by the watchful aid of his lovely daughter, *Blanche*, who also played her part with charming artlessness. The soft-brained antiquary, *Poitrinas* solemn, pedantic, and silly, found an able exponent, as did the minor rôles of *Machut* and *Jean*. The whole performance, even to the preparation of the stage furniture and shifting of the scenes, showed the greatest care, was marked throughout by talent recalling professionals, and gave memorable pleasure to the communities of Tokyo and Yokohama.

THE "JAPAN FOR CHRIST."

The energetic band of workers connected with the Central Tabernacle, in Haruki-machi, Tokyo, have commenced the publication of a periodical called *Japan For Christ*. It is an unpretending little paper of eight pages, neatly printed and altogether attractive in appearance. We can find no announcement showing whether it is circulated privately or whether it is offered for sale after the fashion of every-day journals, but inasmuch as it contains secular advertisements, we presume that subscriptions will not be out of place. Doubtless the chief writer and editor is the Rev. Dr. Eby, whose untiring hand cannot know many moments of idleness from year's end to year's end. The number now before us—the second of the series—opens with a brief account of the Central Tabernacle, showing how and for what objects it was built, and what indebtedness has still to be discharged on its account. Indeed the periodical contains more than one appeal on behalf of the Tabernacle, a thousand *yen* being greatly needed to complete the furnishing and pay off the liabilities unavoidably incurred in finishing the work. Urgently as funds are required for these purposes, the request for them is accompanied by an intimation, couched in an admirable spirit, to the effect that the projectors and present supporters of the Tabernacle distinctly disclaim any desire to divert into their own direction funds which would otherwise find their way into ordinary missionary channels. The articles and notes are, we need scarcely say, almost entirely of a religious character, and doubtless the little periodical will gradually develop into a faithful record of the progress of Christian propagandism in this country. The times are not encouraging for Christian Missionaries. The rapid advance for which they looked a few years ago has received a check due partly to the fact that the superstitious aspects of Christianity have come to be scanned too closely for their wide acceptance, partly to the general reaction against wholesale denationalization, and partly to the strong discredit into which the nations professing Christianity and the secular representatives of the creed have fallen in their intercourse with Japan. It is scarcely possible, we think, to doubt that the nation will gradually, though perhaps slowly, turn its face to the moral light of the West, as it has already turned it towards the material, but for the moment Christian Missionaries have to encounter difficulties of a discouraging character. They are confronted in this country not by uncivilized and ignorant people to whom any teaching is instructive, but by a refined, intelligent, and strongly patriotic nation, the best educated portion of which long ago revolted against the supernatural and miraculous elements of religion, while the masses will not, without evident reason, agree to exchange the superstitions of Buddhism for the to them not more credible superstitions of an alien faith. There is a pause to-day, but there is not, and cannot be, permanent retrogression. The Missionaries understand the situation, and it may well be that from them will eventually come the impulse to renew the forward movement. In *Japan for Christ* we find an interesting article on the subject:—

> In a small gathering of Christian ministers, one of the most talented and clear-sighted Japanese Pastors in the city of Tokyo, made some interesting remarks on this subject which are so true to facts that we produce them here, for we believe that a knowledge of the truth is much better than the delusion of a false impression. There is no doubt that there is a complete change from the enthusiasm of two or three years ago, and that the Christian Church in Japan is in the midst of a trying period of semi-stagnation. There are indeed many instances of undoubted progress and success, but on the whole it is a period distressing to any who are looking for the speedy evangelization of Japan.
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> The cause he traces to two different streams of influences, the external and the internal. Externally, the whole Empire is passing through a crisis; the spirit of the age is full of reaction against foreign importations, whether in politics, literature, ethics, or religion; the effort being made by certain societies to revive a reverence for everything Japanese in meeting with a hearty response and more or less encouragement among all classes of people. The time was when it seemed generally accepted that there could be no genuine civilization adopted to the present age, that would bring this country shoulder to shoulder with the lands of the West, without the Christian religion. But the flood of educational influences from other quarters has almost swamped those of missionary teachers, who have also been gradually removed from among the schools and their places taken by anti-Christians. Aside from this Buddhist hierarchy has awakened to a new era of activity, not so much on the line of former antagonism to Christianity, as on that of borrowing Christian methods and even to a certain extent its teaching, blending it with their own and putting forth colossal efforts for the upbuilding of their threatened cause.
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> The High Priests meet with success and enthusiasm amongst noble and titled ladies; lectures both numerous and erudite appeal to the philosophical and popular tendencies of the people, while the lowest orders are urged by the simple *hoku to* he true to their country and empire by remaining good Buddhists. The third element is in the political furore aroused by the granting of the Constitution and the opening of the Parliament, which has awakened universally in the breasts of young men an unquenchable political ambition. Young men now desire to become schooled in literature, political economy and law, so as to mingle in the new political life of the nation. This is the reason why the Theological schools are depleted, and very few Christian young men are desirous of entering the ministry.
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> On the other hand, internally the Church has been affected by the reaction without; men who a few years ago were prominent and influential, have now got largely in the background. A great proportion of the churches are left without stated pastors; in one of the Presbyteries it was stated that "out of twelve churches, eight were without pastors, many being supplied with incompetent young men, while many had done without pastors altogether."
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> Another thing is that the ordinary preaching of the native Christian pulpit does not suit the minds of the young men of Japan; there is altogether too much of an apology for Christianity rather than the direct preaching of Christian truth on a level with the awakened intellect of the day. The result is that when the citadel of orthodoxy is assailed by so-called Liberal Christianity and other forms of antagonism which aim at undermining the faith of the church, the leaders are simply thrown on the defensive with very little of aggressive energy to lead to success. Finally, the fact was that too many of those who have thus far undertaken the preaching of the Gospel, have themselves been more Christian in intellect than in heart, have preached their own intellectual ideas of Christianity and have been themselves without the experimental knowledge of its spiritual power, so that they could not make known to others the deeper truths and hidden spiritual depths of the Christianity of the Lord Jesus Christ, through which alone true and permanent success could be expected.

ARMOURED TURRETS FOR LAND BATTERIES.

The *Temps* of Feb. 4 has the following in reference to turrets for land batteries, which are being adopted in new defences now in course of construction at several places on the Continent: "The Belgian Government has just given orders to Messrs. Schneider & Co. for armoured turrets of the same pattern as the one which was tested last October on the Creusot's Polygon before the Belgian Commission and a great many officers of other countries. We are not surprised at the decision arrived at, after what has been written by our special correspondent, who was present at the trials and therefore able to verify the superior arrangement and working of the machinery and the accuracy of the fire. Before deciding upon the pattern of armoured turret to be placed in the new forts, the Belgian Government waited for the completion of the trials made by German and French competing manufactories, with the result stated above, and this decision has brought the Creusot turret very prominently to the front."

AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN JAPAN.

According to news received by the last mail, the post of United States Consul-General at Kanagawa has been conferred on Mr. W. D. Tillotson. We have no information about Mr. Tillotson's antecedents. It is thought probable in well informed circles that Mr. Blair, who was recently appointed United States Representative in China, may be transferred to Japan. Another politician regarded as a possible candidate for the Legation in Tokyo is Mr. Estee of California, who is now seeking election to the Senate. Should he fail to reach the Senate—and his chances of success look decidedly problematical at present—he may wish to come to Japan. His influence is certainly sufficient to secure the latter post for him, should he seek it earnestly.

MR. F. A. SATOW.

H.E. Count Yamada, Minister of State for Justice, and the officials of the Judicial Department, gave a farewell banquet at the Ountai (hall of cherries and clouds) in Uyeno Park, on the evening of the 31st ultimo, to Mr. F. A. Satow, who is about to leave Japan. Among the guests were Messrs. Boissonade de Fontarabie, Kirkwood, and Lönholm. The banquet was furnished by the celebrated restaurant Yaozen, and a large number of the most skilled *danseuses* of Tokyo delighted the party by their charming performances. Few foreigners have made so many and so close friends in Japan, among all nationalities, as Mr. Satow. His personal qualities have endeared him to all, and his high abilities have added to the lustre of the name which his cousin, Mr. Ernest Satow, placed at the head of all sinologues and zealous students in the East.

A MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST DIET.

It has been decided to erect a monument in Uyeno Park, on the high plateau called Sakuragaoka, to commemorate the opening of the first Japanese Diet. In Japan, when people think of setting up monoliths, the character and shape of the stone to be employed receive the greatest attention. It is counted but a poor performance to erect a square block of granite, unless indeed its dimensions be exceptionally imposing. A stone so prepared by Nature as to suit the purpose exactly, and at the same time so comely in proportions as to constitute a striking object, is the ideal. Two such stones are said to exist in Inai-mura, Rikuzen province. They have long been celebrated in that locality as the chrysanthemum stones (*kikumei-seki*), but for what reason this name attaches to them, we do not know. The problem is, however, how to get them to Tokyo. In other times great feudal chiefs and men of wealth thought nothing of transporting huge rocks by sea and river from distant parts of the country to adorn their gardens. There is not in Tokyo a park or pleasure ground where one may not find *akami-seki*, brought all the way from Sado; *mikage* that came from Osaka; *ao-ishi*, with blue and white dappling and veining, that journeyed to the capital from Izu; *iso-ishi*, deeply pitted and gnarled by the waves of the Odawara sea; *kuroboku* from the base of some volcanic mountain; huge, flat blocks of *nebukawa* quarried a hundred miles away, and many another rock never placed by nature in the plains of Musashi. But men have become unaccustomed to this kind of extravagance; or perhaps it would be more correct to say that the great supplies of garden rocks accumulated in the capital by the nobles who, under the Tokugawa régime, were compelled to spend every alternate year in Yedo themselves and to leave their families there at other times, have hitherto been found sufficient for the needs of the present generation. At all events people talk now-a-days when a big stone

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has to be transported from a distance, whereas formerly they transported it and said nothing. The "chrysanthemum" stones of Rikuzen will probably require a special boat to be built for them, it is said, and possibly their transit to Tokyo may involve as many difficulties and as much delay as befel the great bronze *torii* at the Shokonsha Shrine. Each stone is 33 feet in height, and when raised upon the group of fifty rocks piled together to form their pedestal, they will tower 71 feet above the ground. On one stone are to be inscribed the Emperor's name, and the names and titles of the members of both Houses of Parliament. H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa is to write the ideographs for the carvers to copy. The other stone is to carry on both faces inscriptions composed by Count Ito, the caligraphical task being entrusted to a celebrated penman, Mr. Miya-no-koji Yasubumi, a native of Dazaifu in Chikuzen. The monument will thus be noble in proportions, aristocratic in associations, and classical as to its legends.

THE TROUBLES OF THE "JIYU SHIMBUN."

THE *Jiyu Shimbun* is the organ of the Radical Party. It was started by Count Itagaki, and when retiring from the leadership of the Party in February, he announced that he should henceforth devote himself to the newspaper and its concerns. The public therefore learns with some surprise that the *Jiyu Shimbun* has just been made the *corpus vile* of proceedings recalling recent incidents in the history of *United Ireland*. The details, which we take from the *Jiji Shimpo*, are these:—Owing to some causes not yet fully explained, differences lately occurred between the shareholders and the editorial staff of the paper, and on the 29th ultimo one of the principal shareholders, Mr. Mogi Torajiro, addressed a letter to the editor, Mr. Kurihara Ryoichi, and to some others of the editorial staff, informing them that their services would not be required after the 1st instant. It appears that the communication to Mr. Kurihara was sent to his residence during his absence, and opened by his wife. Immediately on receiving it, she proceeded to Count Itagaki to seek an explanation. The Count, not less startled than she had been, declared himself unable to comprehend the affair, and set out to seek Mr. Mogi. The latter took high ground. Without entering into particulars, he simply said that, having acted with the concurrence of the other shareholders, he saw no reason to account for what he had done. Count Itagaki was greatly annoyed. Whatever veiws the shareholders might entertain, he said, they had no business to take any conclusive step without consulting him, the founder of the paper, to whom they had pledged themselves to entrust everything connected with the editorship; and they were acting altogether in excess of their legitimate power when they went to the length of dismissing the chief editor. Mr. Mogi does not appear to have made any resolute attempt to controvert Count Itagaki's views. He took his departure quietly, having doubtless arranged beforehand as to his future course, for early the following morning, in company with Mr. Yagiwara Hanshi, of the National Radicals, and some thirty others, he proceeded to the office of the *Jiyu Shimbun*, and, taking possession of the premises, set about the work of editing and composition. Of course an animated colloquy soon ensued between the old and the new staffs. The former proposed that the publication of the paper should be suspended for a day in order to arrive at a settlement, but Mr. Yagiwara would not hear of this. It was next suggested that if the publication must proceed, the copy should pass through the hands of the old staff, but this idea also was rejected. Mr. Kurihara, the former editor, and his collaborateurs then declared that since their moderate proposals met with no response, they must insist upon the intruders vacating the office, but of course this solution did not command assent, and by degrees the two parties proceeded to such extremities that it became necessary to summon the police, who with difficulty restored calm. Each side asserted its right of ownership with equal pertinacity, and retired from the field in possession at any rate of an unabated resolve to oppose the other's claim. It has been arranged that the publication of the paper shall be suspended for a week, in order to evolve some understanding. So far as we can judge, the complication is simply an attempt to obtain control of the paper in the interests of a section of the Radicals opposed to Count Itagaki's leadership. The Party cuts a very poor figure at present, but we presume that these internal ebullitions are ■ more or less unavoidable preliminary to strong and permanent solidarity.

NEWS FROM CHINA.

THE port of Chung-king has at length been declared officially open to foreign trade, though the measure is somewhat limited in its effects by the provision prohibiting steamers and sailing ships other than those of "Chinese type" from ascending above Ichang. The interpretation of the restriction imposed on sailing vessels may, however, in the opinion of the *Chinese Times* "prove sufficiently elastic to admit of some improvements being made, for the Mother of Invention would doubtless find some way of reducing the casualties in the navigation of the river, if the trade should prove to be worth it." * * * Some trouble appears to have taken place in Tientsin over the levy of wharfage dues. All Chinese importations for some years past, that is to say nineteen-twentieths of the import trade of the port, have, we learn from our Tientsin contemporary, been subjected to a small tax, which is collected at the Foreign Custom House for account of the local Board of Works, an institution charged with the making and up-keep of the city and suburban roads. Recently, however, an ingenious foreign firm came to an arrangement with certain Chinese importers to pass their goods for them, evade the wharfage dues, and, we suppose, divide the spoil. This was naturally felt as a grievance by the body of native merchants, who paid the wharfage dues and who were thereby placed at an unfair disadvantage, and ■ general protest was made to the Hai Kwan Taotai and the Commissioner of Customs, the merchants demanding that in either collecting or not collecting the dues, all should be at least placed on an equal footing. As a result of the dispute the aggrieved importers refused to remove their goods from the Bund, and that locality was for some days crowded by cargo, which overflowed into the side streets. The foreign firm, on perceiving the bad consequences of their action, very properly withdrew from the position taken up, and the whole matter was at length arranged. * * * The silting up of the Peiho is a circumstance fraught with deep anxiety to residents of Tientsin, and many theories as to the cause, and propositions for remedy, have been brought forward from time to time. The latest contribution to the discussion is from a nautical correspondent, who advances the view—not by any means ■ novel one we fancy—that the silting arises from the absence of a regular supply of head waters, and suggests as a scheme of prevention the cutting of a canal from some point in the lower river to Tientsin. * * * The Prefect of Tientsin, acting on the advice of the Provincial Chief Examiner, has taken a very laudable step: he has issued a proclamation against "cribbing" in an approaching examination for the first degree. Many wealthy scholars, says the worthy prefect, have been known to hire others to represent them in their examinations, and he has determined to discourage the practice, for if literary degrees are to be procured by wealth, poor scholars will be shut out, the *literati* ruined, and the nation dishonoured. Every candidate therefore for the examination must have some one to vouch for his ability and integrity, and if notwithstanding this precaution any scholar is able to indulge in dishonest conduct he will be debarred from all future examinations. * * * * The Tartar soldiery forming the garrison at Chinkiang do not appear to hit it off with the local Chinese officials and their motley attendants. Knowing how perilous would be their position in the event of a faction fight, the foreign residents feel far from happy and in consequence of ■ request from H.B.M. Consul, the *Linnet* was despatched from Shanghai on the 20th ultimo to reassure British and other nationals. Later news report a quieter state of affairs. * * * English residents of Shanghai have resolved in public meeting to hold a St. George's Ball on the 23rd ultimo. * * * The lines of the Shanghai Tugboat Company (Ld.) do not appear to have fallen in very pleasant places during the year 1890. At the annual meeting held on the 24th ultimo, it was stated that the net earnings for the year were Tls. 14,453, against Tls. 5,964 in 1889 and Tls. 16,825 in 1888, the first complete year after the incorporation of the company. The first mentioned sum, representing 14½ per cent on the capital, would have shown a very handsome profit on the year's working, but the shareholders were not fated to participate in it. Inheriting from their predecessors the dreadful legacy of a law suit, the directors found themselves mulcted in the sum of Tls. 12,453, and the remainder of the total amount at their disposal (swelled to Tls. 19,625 by the addition of a sum brought over from the previous year) was accounted for by depreciation and legal expenses. As if this were not bad enough, two of the company's tug-boats, the *Fuhlee* and the *Fairy* must needs run up against each other in the end of 1890, the *Fairy*, which the directors had been desirous of selling for a couple of years on account of her unsuitability for their service, proving the justice of their views by going to the bottom—a loss of Tls. 15,000, for it does not seem likely that she can be raised. * * * The accounts of the Shanghai Gas Company show ■ net profit for the year to 31st December last of Tls. 40,947, of which Tls. 12,000 was paid as dividend for the half year to June 30th and a similar sum for the period to 31st Dec., Tls. 10,018 written off for depreciation, and Tls. 5,500 carried to the reserve fund, now amounting to Tls 100,000. * * * The arbitrators' award in the *Kobe Maru-Telemachus* collision case has been given, and both steamers are declared to blame, which means that the total cost of the repairs will be borne equally by both sides. * * * Applications for shares in the Bank of China, &c., are said to be very considerably in excess of the number held on the Shanghai register. * * * From a report by the Director of Mines, translated in the *N.-C. Daily News*, it appears that the Company engaged in working the Yünnan Copper Mines has had to appeal to the Government for assistance, work having been stopped for two months in consequence of incessant rain, which visitation was followed by an epidemic among the workmen. To avoid shutting up the mines altogether and throwing the five or six thousand miners idle, the company gave them food and shelter on the premises, and now appeals for a loan of Tls. 300,000. As Tls. 700,000 have already been sunk in the undertaking, the Director of Mines has advanced the amount asked, on condition that it be repaid in yearly instalments.

COMBINATION AMONG FOREIGN FIRMS.

IT seems a pity that people should not take the trouble to ascertain the facts of a case before they set about discussing it in the local press. What could be more opposed to the truth, for example, than the following assertion, made apparently with complete conviction, by a correspondent of a local English contemporary:—"If merchants unite strongly on this, or any other, question, they are so thwarted, and perhaps reviled, by the *Japan Mail*, whose office compels him to draw the sword for the people of his adoption, that not a few of the Hongs prefer to suffer in silence." Truly such a statement suggests the idea that some people in this Settlement have *Japan Mail* on the brain, and are determined to imagine themselves opposed where in reality they are supported. The subject discussed by the correspondent from whom we have quoted is the failure of Japanese dealers to take delivery of goods imported to their order by foreign firms, and he recommends a combination among the latter for the purpose of checking the laxity

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of the Japanese. Now it happens that exactly the same recommendation has been made over and over again by us. "Recommendation" is perhaps, a misleading term to employ. Merchants know their own business too well to need advice from journalists, and we have confined ourselves to expressing regret that no possibility of effective combination seemed to exist. The very day before this correspondent's accusation appeared, we said, in a leading article:—"It is distinctly regrettable that foreigners on their side, cannot enter into some agreement, pledging themselves to insist upon certain conditions in their dealings with Japanese;" and we concluded with the words:—"We venture to hope that the occasion may be seized by foreign merchants to counteract the decidedly baleful influence of such ill-judged interference" as that of the Japanese Guild. In that we are entirely at one with the correspondent who expects to be "thwarted and reviled" by us, and though he seems so anxious to have us for opponents, we really cannot gratify him on the present occasion. As for Hongs "suffering in silence" rather than brave the thwarting and perhaps reviling of the *Japan Mail*, the notion is extremely comical.

A DEFAULTER.

LAST Thursday Mr. Uyeno, a Japanese merchant of whom we spoke when referring to the trouble between Messrs. Thomas and Company and the local Japanese Guild, took delivery of parcels of goods from several foreign firms in this Settlement, paying for them by cheque. The amounts, fortunately were not large—from one to two thousand *yen*, we believe. The following day being Good Friday, the cheques were not presented for payment until Monday, and it was then found that no assets were forthcoming to pay them, and that Mr. Uyeno had disappeared. The whole proceeding looks very like a deliberate fraud. With what feelings, we wonder, does the Guild now regard the action taken by it in behalf of Mr. Uyeno, who deemed it a hardship that such an one as he should be required to submit to written conditions providing against the contingency of a broken contract? The Guild, of course, is not responsible for this last disgraceful performance, but we cannot help thinking that if it employed its influence and strength to prevent irregularities, rather than to support their perpetrators, men of Mr. Uyeno's stamp would be scarcer.

ANTI-NEWSPAPER MEN IN NEMURO.

IT was hoped that further particulars would have been received on Thursday of a disturbance in Nemuro, telegraphically reported in Tokyo on the 1st instant, but up to last evening nothing further had been learned. The telegram said that, on the 31st instant, a number of the *Tonden-hei*, or militia settlers, broke into the office of the *Nemuro Shimbun*, and set themselves to destroy the type and machinery. Being opposed by the editor, Mr. Watanabe, and several others of the staff, a fight ensued, with the result that not a few wounds were inflicted. A number of the rioters are under arrest, but nothing is said as to the origin of this outburst against the newspaper.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE BUREAU.

MR. SONODA YASUKATA, hitherto Assistant-chief of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police, was on Thursday appointed Chief, in succession to Viscount Tanaka. Mr. Sonoda has also been raised to the rank of a second-class *chokunin*. The post is considered important, and its occupants have almost invariably been officials of Satsuma extraction, a rule confirmed in the case of Mr. Sonoda. The salary attached to it is 4,000 *yen* annually. Mr. Sonoda comes into office simultaneously with extensive reorganizations of the Bureau. These were officially announced the day before Thursday, and we shall describe their leading features in a future issue.

DEPARTURES.

IN the German steamer *General Werder*, which sailed on Wednesday from Yokohama, two very old residents of Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Knipping, left a country where nearly two decades of their life had been passed. Mr. Knipping worked chiefly in the meteorological line. He organized the Japanese meteorological system, and rendered immense service by thoroughness and ingenuity very far above the average. The same steamer carried off the Rev. W. Spinner, a German missionary, who during five years of the most zealous labour won an exceptional measure of love and respect from all classes. We may hope, perhaps, to see Mr. Spinner return in the course of a year, but to Mr. and Mrs. Knipping Japan has probably said goodbye forever.

BARON DORNBERG.

MUCH pain has been caused in Tokyo by the news that Baron Dornberg, formerly Secretary of the Imperial German Legation in Japan, died at the German Embassy in St. Petersburg on the 15th of February. The circumstances of his untimely decease—he was only 37 years of age—are not known. Baron Dornberg had made many warm friends during his stay in the Japanese capital, and when he was transferred to another post less than three years ago, the hope of his return at some future date was entertained by numbers of all nationalities. It is sad that a career so full of promise should terminate so prematurely.

JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS.

VISCOUNT NOMURA YASUSHI, a Privy Councillor, is gazetted to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to France. Viscount Nomura is well know to many of the Foreign residents of this Settlement, having been Prefect of Kanagawa prior to Mr. Oki Morikata. The Japanese Legation in Paris has been vacant since the return of Viscount Tanaka last year to Japan.

VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

WE understand that Mr. Fenton has been engaged as assistant master for the Victoria Public School. Mr. Fenton is said to be a certificated teacher of considerable experience and ability, having very successfully managed a school at Kobe for about twelve months, and has been several years engaged at Mr. Fukuzawa's School in Tokyo.

DR. KOCH'S LYMPH.

A SMALL quantity of Dr. Koch's lymph having been received in Japan, experiments are now being made with it by Dr. Nakahama. It is said that the announcement of the discovery has caused much excitement in the country districts, and that constant applications for lymph, and for information as to the results of the experiments, are received in Tokyo.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

IT is confidently stated that, in addition to the large reductions just made in the staff of the various Departments of State, an important measure of administrative reform will be promulgated and carried out within a few days. This is the reform which the Government pledged itself to make in deference to the wishes of the Diet.

ELECTION IN SHIGA PREFECTURE.

THE election of a member to fill the vacancy in the representation of Shiga Prefecture, caused by the resignation of Mr. Sugiura Choko, has resulted in the return of Mr. Kawashima Uichiro, who obtained 1,225 votes, against 471 cast for his rival, Mr. Tanizawa Ryozo.

MR. P. MAYET.

WE regret to learn that, in connection with the economies dictated by the Diet, Japan is likely to deprive herself of the services of Mr. P. Mayet. Mr. Mayet has spent many years in this country, and has given valuable advice to the Administration on many occasions.

MR. ERNEST HART AND THE TOKYO MEDICAL FACULTY.

ON Monday afternoon Mr. Ernest Hart delivered a lecture before the medical men of Tokyo at the Koyokan, Shiba. The lecturer's object was chiefly to describe the aims and working of the British Medical Association and the Medical Providence Society, but the address also dealt with a few of the results of Mr. Hart's observations in the capital. Surgeon-General Takagi occupied the chair and interpreted Mr. Hart's speech into Japanese. Mr. and Mrs. Hart were afterwards entertained at a banquet. They start for Nikko following day.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Radical Party (*Jiyu-to*) is now at a critical period of its existence. The election of Count Itagaki to the leadership, instead of restoring union and harmony, seems to have been the means of creating fresh discontent and ill-feeling between the various factions composing the party. The districts said to be dissatisfied with the new arrangement are the North-East, the Kwan-to, and the Kyushu regions, especially the first and the last. The representatives of the Kyushu section will hold a general meeting at Nagasaki in May next, when they propose to finally determine their attitude towards the new leader and his party. The principal ground of the dissatisfaction felt by their section lies, not in the personal qualifications of the newly re-appointed chief, but in a belief that Count Itagaki's return to the leadership will inevitably lead to an undue preponderance of Tosa influence, and that the ascendancy of the Tosa folks would be prejudical to the ultimate amalgamation of all the progressive parties. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* denies that there is any general discontent in the party, and asserts that the majority of the Kyushu section are not ill affected towards the new organization. But Mr. Kajiki, writing in the *Hochi Shimbun*, strongly traverses the allegations of Count Itagaki's organ. He is of opinion that until the time arrives for the amalgamation of all the progressive parties, the best policy is to unite the various sections of the *Jiyu-to* on the principle of federation, leaving each section free to manage its own local affairs. He, consequently, holds it unwise to appoint a leader with almost despotic powers, as was recently done at the Osaka meeting. He advises the dissatisfied sections to sever their connection with the *Jiyu-to*, if they find themselves unable to change the organization of the party. The *Mimpo* offers similar advice to the Kyushu and the North-East sections. It is evident from these circumstances that the *Kaishin-to* desires to draw away from the *Jiyu-to* whatever local bodies are in favour of amalgamating the progressive parties, and that its wishes are not at all unlikely to be gratified, according to the present aspect of affairs. The *Kaishinto-to*, in short, concluding that it can never work with the mass of the *Jiyu-to*, wants to attract to itself a considerable portion of the latter.

* * *

The question of Treaty Revision continues to occupy the attention of the vernacular press. As stated in our last weekly summary, there are indications that the parties opposed to the Ministry will adopt a more or less hostile attitude. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, after giving a summary of the alleged proposals of Viscount Aoki, observes that the Opposition will not be in favour of these proposals; the Conservatives disliking mixed residence and the Liberals insisting on the immediate abolition of extra-territoriality. Thus our contemporary thinks that the Minister for Foreign Affairs will have to face the opposition of certain foreign Powers as well as of a large section of his own countrymen. To suspend the negotiations once more would be to add to the humiliations which the country has repeatedly sustained in connection with the question. The *Yomiuri* therefore advises Viscount Aoki to obtain the approbation of the Diet, and then to approach the Treaty Powers with the whole weight of the country behind him. The *Kokumin Shimbun* offers similar counsel. The plea of secrecy, observes that paper, ought not to apply in the case of treaties which directly

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affect the economic concerns of the country. Should Viscount Aoki comply with the general demand of the people and ascertain the views of the Diet, he will be in a fair position to attain his objects, for then he will have the support of the whole nation. The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing on this subject, deplores the fact that public opinion on Treaty Revision is disfigured by unreasonable conservatism. Long centuries of seclusion have accustomed the Japanese to be conservative and suspicious in their relations with foreign nations. The old spirit still remains active in certain quarters, and never fails to influence public opinion at every opportunity. The *Jiji* recommends its countrymen to be more tolerant and courageous in their foreign policy. It writes in a general manner, but is plainly in favour of giving large rights and liberties to foreigners in Japan on the revision of the treaties.

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimpo* ridicules the unreasonable position taken by certain advocates of equal treaties. They clamour for perfect equality, and yet they do not seem at all prepared to support the only policy that can insure the attainment of their demands, namely, the policy of blood and iron. Without courage and means to adopt such a policy, our contemporary thinks it impossible to revise the treaties on a basis of perfect equality. On the other hand, give and take being the common practice all over the world, it will not be derogatory for Japan to recover her natural rights by making adequate concessions to foreign Powers. The *Tokyo Shimpo* hopes that its countrymen will essay all means to effect the solution of the problem in a peaceful manner.

* * *

The *Shogyo Shimpo*, continuing its articles on the subject of Treaty Revision, strongly rebukes Conservatives opposed to the opening of the country for mixed residence. There are, the *Shogyo* says, certain general conditions universally recognized as essential for the commercial intercourse of nations. The more important of these conditions are stated to be as follows. The nationals of either of the contracting parties should have, in the territory of the other, (1) liberty to come and live, and own property, real and movable; (2) liberty to engage in commerce and industry; (3) the right to be treated in the same way as people of the country in matters of taxation; and (4) a title to enjoy the same privileges and facilities as natives in respect of legal tribunals or public offices. The *Shogyo* declares it utterly impossible to conclude a commercial treaty with any foreign country without recognizing these conditions. Still it recommends that certain restrictions be imposed on the ownership of land, and would exclude all foreigners from the coasting trade and the fisheries. It further claims that Japan ought to give special advantages to countries that are the chief purchasers of her products, namely, the United States, France and China. Fortunately for Japan, she has little or no occasion to apprehend competition on the part of those countries in industry and commerce. Next on the list come Korea and the South Sea Islands. With these Japan should endeavour to arrange a conventional tariff, so that Japanese goods may enter their ports as cheaply and conveniently as their goods enter the ports of Japan. The United States may not agree to such an arrangement; so, in the case of that country and of all other Powers similarly situated, Japan should fix a general tariff imposing higher rates than those stipulated for in the conventional tariff. In short, the whole contention of the *Shogyo Shimpo* resolves into this, that the Treaties should be revised in whatever manner seems most beneficial to the development of the country's foreign trade.

* * *

The Korean question still engages the attention of the Metropolitan papers. The *Mimpo* disagrees with some other journals which think that China, and not Russia, is the originator of the present crisis, if, indeed, there be a crisis, in the affairs of Korea. No indication exists that Russia has in any way become aggressive or threatening towards the peninsula. Yet the *Mimpo* strongly doubts whether China is really resolved on taking decisive steps for the annexation of the Korean Kingdom. The Chinese Ministers of State are the last persons in the world to agree on any definite policy. And even if they have come to an agreement, China would be reluctant to take such a bold step without consulting England. But the *Mimpo* doubts whether England would consent to give China any material help for the consummation of such an object. Did any Ministry in England promise help to China, it would at once expose itself to violent attacks from the opposition and might even be obliged to resign. It is thus extremely unlikely that China will be able to obtain the co-operation of England in any aggressive designs on Korea. But supposing that China decided to carry out her long cherished policy of aggrandizement in Korea, and supposing that Japan resolved to prevent anything of the kind, even at the point of the bayonet, the *Mimpo* doubts whether China could accomplish her object in defiance of the just protests of Japan. The maintenance of the independence of Korea being essential for the peace of the East, our contemporary advises the Japanese Government to pursue a firm and unyielding policy towards Korea, which advice, we (*Japan Mail*), have been reading in Japanese newspapers for the past nine years.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* alludes to a rumour that the Chinese Government has sent a despatch to Korea, demanding the abdication of the King in favour of his son, China's object being to appoint the Tai Won-kung Regent of the Kingdom, and thus to control its internal affairs. The *Jiji* hopes that the rumour may prove groundless, but says that if it be true, such a proceeding cannot be disregarded by Japan, since it would be tantamount to an unequivocal declaration of sovereignty over the peninsular kingdom. China, continues the *Jiji*, cannot support any such claim, as she has recognized the independence of Korea by suffering her to conclude treaties with foreign countries. China must, therefore, be called to severe account, if she has really taken the step attributed to her by rumour.

* * *

The approaching visit of the Russian Prince Imperial receives increasing attention from the press. Popular interest in the visit has been heightened by a rumour that Saigo Takamori and a few of his confidential generals are coming back in company with the Prince. For some inexplicable reason this incredible story seems to be believed by a large number of people.

* * *

The *Choya Shimbun* tells its countrymen not to regard the approaching visit of the Russian Prince Imperial with any uneasiness or suspicion. Such an attitude would be highly disrespectful to the august visitor and to the Throne of Russia. The *Choya* advises that he be received with all possible marks of respect and good will. In another article, the *Choya* recommends the Japan Tea Company to show special hospitality to the Russian Crown Prince, as Russia is likely to become a most important customer of Japanese tea.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing on the same subject, calls upon the members of the Municipal Council of Tokyo to appoint a committee for the entertainment of the Russian Crown Prince. As on the occasion of the visit of General Grant, the Prince and his party might be invited to witness the performances at the *Kabuki-za* or *Shintomi-za*, or they might be entertained at a grand ball. At any rate the *Jiji* urges the municipal authorities of the capital to take up the matter speedily, for their example will certainly be followed by other towns throughout the country.

* * *

Depression of trade in Tokyo, according to the vernacular press, is becoming very great. The *Toyo Shimpo* publishes a conversation which its editor had with a wealthy clothier in Nihon-bashi, who told him that the present depression in Tokyo has no parallel in modern times, except the depression at the time of the Restoration. The same merchant assured the editor that among his own acquaintances there are seven or eight *ton-ya* who have suffered severe losses on account of the inability of their customers to make payments, and that nearly seven hundred dealers in rice were declared bankrupt towards the close of last year. Suffering among petty tradesmen, artisans, and day labourers, is said to be extreme. Carpenters, who usually receive from forty to fifty *sen* a day, are willing to work for from fifteen to twenty *sen*. The immediate and principal cause of this depression is to be sought in the panic caused among officials by the Diet's reduction of the number and salaries of public servants. The *Tokyo Shimpo* mentions three other causes; first, recent failures of companies, the majority of the shareholders of which are inhabitants of the capital; secondly, the long continued rise in the price of rice; and thirdly, the withdrawal of a large amount of capital from Tokyo in recent years, owing to the purchase of land in the provinces by wealthy merchants and noblemen of Tokyo. An instance is given of one man buying cultivated land in Echigo amounting in value to about 400,000 *yen*. In order to give relief to the distressed people of Tokyo our contemporary recommends the suspension of the work of city improvement. The inhabitants of the capital are yearly taxed to the extent of more than 400,000 *yen* for the prosecution of these works. They are advised to urge upon the municipal authorities the advisability of a temporary suspension of the undertaking.

* * *

The *Kokkwai* observes that a period of political activity has always been followed by a period of business depression in Japan. According to that journal, the present depression is attributable to the excessive political agitation of last year, and also to the withdrawal of more than six million *yen*, now in the Treasury vaults, from circulation in the country.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* remarks that business depression prevails more or less throughout the country, but nowhere is it so acute as in Tokyo. The price of rice cannot account for this, since rice was far dearer last year than at present. The cause must be sought in the fact that Tokyo is on the eve of an important change in its business arrangements. Hitherto tradesmen depended for custom upon the official class, but owing to the reductions voted by the Diet, the official class has become far more chary of expenses. A large number of dismissed officials intend to withdraw to their native provinces, while those still remaining in Tokyo can no longer afford to maintain their former standard of living. Our contemporary advises tradesmen of the capital to seek customers in quarters other than official.

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The *Kokkwai* writes on the necessity of paying more attention to nautical education. The *Mimpo* draws attention to the importance of infusing the spirit of the old *samurai* into the business men of the present day. The *Kokkwai* speaks highly of the character of English merchants, who, it says, have many noble qualities similar to those possessed by the old *samurai*. The *Choya Shimbun* urges the expediency of protecting the fishing interest off the coast of Chishima (the Kurile Islands). The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is still engaged in reviewing the history of the first session of the Diet. The *Nippon* has commenced a series of articles on the question of currency under the *Meiji* Government. The *Kokumin Shimbun* regrets that the rising generation among Choshu men do not seriously enter into the popular movement of the present day, while the young men of Satsuma are very active in acquiring influence outside the Government. The *Jiyu Shimbun* has temporarily stopped publication, owing to difficulties that have arisen among the proprietors of the paper.

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MR. MAYEJIMA.

A VERY characteristic incident has just occurred in Yokohama. On the 20th ultimo the *Mainichi Shimbun* published an editorial note, lauding the services of the retiring Vice-Minister of Communications, Mr. MAYEJIMA, and converting his retirement into a weapon for attacking the Communications Department directly, and the Government indirectly. The special charge preferred by the *Mainichi* was a rumour that about a hundred thousand *yen* had unlawfully come into the pockets of high officials of the Department —contracts to the amount of half a million *yen* having been placed with their relatives—and that Mr. MAYEJIMA'S resignation was in consequence of his having disclosed these transactions so that they became the subject of questions in the Diet. This rumour was eagerly snapped up by a local English journal—the *Japan Gazette* —which, under its present management, appears to have deliberately chosen for itself the rôle of seeking out every scrap of anti-Governmental scandal or pro-Opposition abuse appearing in the columns of the vernacular press, and reproducing these malicious items with strong asseverations of its own faith in their truth, and mysterious references to confirmatory testimony of the vaguest character. In the case of Mr. MAYEJIMA, the *Gazette*, writing on the same day of the *Mainichi's* publication, and with only that journal's "rumour" before it, did not hesitate to speak of news having reached it that the Department's "unrestrained corruption was the cause of the resignation of a man who might be said to be the father of postal and telegraphic communication in this country;" adding its "belief that no foreigner had any conception of the amount of corruption allowed in the Communications Department," and its conviction that "publicity was the only cure for the hoard of corrupt practices which the present Government had inherited." Now, unlike many stories circulated with a special object, this slander carried its own refutation. Mr. MAYEJIMA appeared as Government Delegate for the Communications Department in the House of Representatives. His nomination to that office took place some time previous to the meeting of the Diet, so as to enable him to acquaint himself thoroughly with every detail of the Department's affairs, and be in a position to answer any questions put by the Representatives in connection with its expenditures. Long before his turn arrived to discharge the function of Delegate, it had become perfectly plain that there existed in the House a strong party determined, if possible, to fix some stigma upon the Government, and that every Delegate would be subjected to a cross-examination of the most searching, if not vexatious, nature. Mr. MAYEJIMA deliberately faced this ordeal, and endured it with conspicuous ability. His Department was not singular in being made the subject of injurious insinuations and damaging suggestions in the House, but these, one and all, he met boldly and repelled with scorn, leaving on the minds of the Diet and the public an impression not only that he understood every detail of his business, but that he had, with convincing directness and talent, guaranteed the integrity of all his Department's transactions. We are writing plain history—facts prominently recorded in past issues of the very journals now fanning the slander, and, most stange to say, actually recalled by them in the context of the slander itself. See, then, what the public is asked to believe. It is asked to believe that Mr. MAYEJIMA, knowing his Department to be disgracefully corrupt, knowing that its transactions would not endure honest inquiry, nevertheless deliberately undertook to stand sponsor before Parliament for the integrity of that Department and the honesty of those transactions; nay more, that he presented himself before his inquisitors, having previously made revelations which should furnish materials for breaking down his own defence, and convicting him of false advocacy. This is the kind of folly dished up for the edification of the Yokohama community. An official, lauded to the skies for ability and probity, is declared to have fled from the corrupt practices of his Department, immediately after having vindicated its reputation before the world against every imputation of crooked dealing; and is, moreover, said to have privately denounced its corruption to those before whom he was on the eve of appearing at its earnest guarantor.

Let us pass for a moment to the subsequent history of the incident. The morning after the publication of the *Mainichi's* slander, there appeared in the columns of the same paper an official communication from a Secretary of the Department of Communications, declaring the story to be "groundless" and calling for its withdrawal. The *Mainichi* complied by withdrawing it. But the *Japan Gazette* took not the slightest notice of the official contradiction or of the withdrawal. It suffered its orginal article to stand on the basis of a solitary rumour which had elicited official denial. Two days' silence having demonstrated its resolve to maintain this unscrupulous reserve, a letter was addressed to it, categorically denying the abuses attributed to the Department of Communications, and emphatically declaring that the reason alleged for Mr. MAYEJIMA'S resignation was not the true reason. To this the *Gazette* replied that "the contradiction having proceeded from the parties accused, and not from the accusers, in the eyes of the public, both Japanese and foreign, it possesed not an iota of value as moral evidence." Such was the delirious bias of this extraordinary journal that it thrust out of Court, as utterly unworthy of credence, any and every testimony about the Government's affairs unless that testimony was supplied by the Government's enemies. The *Mainichi Shimbun* is the organ of the *Kaishin-to*. Mr. MAYEJIMA is a prominent member of the *Kaishin-to*. Last December, when the Budget was submitted to the Diet, the *Kaishin-to* members in the Lower House organised and headed a combination the proximate purpose of which was the rejection of the Budget, and the ultimate object the overthrow of the Cabinet. The attempt failed just when it had been carried within sight of success. Mr. MAYEJIMA resigned; the *Mainichi Shimbun* published its rumour, and the next day inserted a distinct official contradiction. Thereupon the *Japan Gazette*, crassly ignorant of Japanese politics, except in so far as its gleanings of scandalous scraps instruct it, and entirely without access to any but tainted sources of information, steps into the breach and magniloquently announces that "the testimony of the overwhelming majority of disinterested persons pronounces the cause of the resignation of Count (*sic*) MAYEJIMA to be corruption in the Department which he left." It is impossible not to admire the splendid imagination that converts a contradicted rumour into "the testimony of the overwhelming majority of disinterested persons." As for Mr. MAYEJIMA'S reputation, never could it be more foully besmirched than by the giddy folks who depict him standing in Parliament for two days to defend, against all assailants, the reputation of a Department which he knew to be "unrestrainedly corrupt."

OWNERSHIP OF REAL ESTATE BY FOREIGNERS.

THE question of Treaty Revision having been again brought forward by the vernacular press, various rumours are circulated about the ownership of real estate by foreigners. It appears to be now pretty generally understood that the Japanese Government is disposed to withhold this privilege, in deference to the clearly expressed wishes of the people. Of course the manner of dealing with the lands now held by foreigners within the Settlements demands and will receive special consideration, it being pretty certain that the Japanese Authorities have not the least desire to enforce, or the Foreign Representatives the smallest disposition to accept, any arrangement unfair or illiberal towards the foreign land-renters. But what interests the far-seeing section of the public is the problem whether, by withholding from foreigners the privilege of owning real estate in the interior, the development of the country may not be checked. The removal of existing restrictions upon trade, travel, and residence is not likely to be quickly followed by any radi-

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cal change in the manner of conducting the empire's foreign commerce. It may indeed be reasonably hoped that when the foreign settlements cease to be an entirely distinct part of Japan, the rings of monopolists now said to environ them will be broken, and Western merchants will find greater freedom of action. What the merchants themselves wish, there is some difficulty in determining. At one time, as when the memorial of 1884 was presented, they aver that they suffer considerably owing to present restrictions; at another, as when the protest of 1886 was forwarded, they profess themselves very well satisfied with the old groove. Perhaps the truth lies between the two statements. Thirty years have crystallized into tolerable usages methods not intrinsically perfect, and three decades of familiarity have reconciled foreigners to agents whom they cannot regard with abstract satisfaction. Thus, were the interior thrown open and the boundaries of the settlements abolished, many people might still go on doing just as they have hitherto done. Others, again, might endeavour to establish more direct relations with consumers and producers, or with leading Japanese merchants of old standing, not one of whom—and the fact is very significant—has yet attempted to penetrate the fortresses of the Settlements. We do not pretend to forecast these issues. Nor, indeed, does there appear to be the smallest occasion to forecast them. As plain folks we are content to note the plain fact that restrictions cannot fail to be more or less injurious to commercial growth, and that, whether the degree of benefit to be derived from removing restrictions be easy or difficult to estimate, their removal is the obvious duty of wise statesmen. But though the present channels of trade might not be greatly altered, at all events for several years, the opening of the country would certainly encourage one result, namely, combinations of foreigners and Japanese for purposes of industrial enterprise. There are folks who deny that anything of the kind would happen. They may be right, but for our own part we are unable to entertain any doubt on the subject. Noting the great dividends paid by all the banks throughout the empire, we draw the obvious deduction that money commands here a price far in excess of anything obtainable for it in Great Britain, and are convinced that there must be openings for foreign capital and foreign enterprise under such circumstances. To take advantage of such openings partnerships between foreigners and Japanese are essential, and the question arises, would partnerships be practicable were the privilege of owning real estate denied to the foreign partner. Count OKUMA, a thorough believer in the wisdom of offering every inducement to foreign capital, foreign enterprise, and foreign organizing talent, sought to place foreigners on precisely the same footing as Japanese in the matter of real estate, and the commercial aspect of this liberal policy was so strongly urged in reply to its opponents, that undue importance probably came to be attached to it. Fully as we applaud Count OKUMA'S view, and unable as we are to discover any tangible reason for the prejudice entertained by the Japanese people against the ownership of real estate by foreigners, we fail to see that the prospects of commercial development would be much, if at all, marred by withholding the privilege. Long leases are not inferior, practically, to titles in fee-simple for purposes of industrial enterprise. If a foreigner may hold lands and houses for, say, fifty years, it does not materially matter to him, as a partner in a business, whether his name is entered in the Great Ledger as actual owner. Such leases would, presumably, be legal, and under them shrewd foreigners would experience no difficulty in investing their money and finding outlets for their enterprise.

ANOTHER THREATENED BOYCOTT.

UNDER the heading "Unjust Demands of a Foreign Merchant," we find the following paragraph in the *Tokyo Shimpo*: "A dispute having arisen between the firm of Messrs. THOMAS & Co., No. 49, Yokohama, and the firms of Messrs. KIMURA and UYENO, in consequence of difficulties connected with transactions in yarns, Mr. OKAMURA TERUHIKO was employed as a go-between to settle the matter, but the demands advanced by Messrs. THOMAS & Co. were so unjust that, on the 24th inst., Messrs. HIRANUMA SENZO, SATSUMA JIMBEI, and four others, acting as representatives of the Japanese merchants (*torihikisho*), held an investigation at the rooms of the Guild of Traders (*Boeki kumiai Kaikan*), and decided that if these unjust demands were insisted upon, there would be nothing for it but that the Japanese merchants should stop all transactions with the firm in question. The principal demands of the firm are, first, that if delivery of goods be not taken at the time agreed upon, a forfeit of one-third per cent. per diem must be paid; secondly, that godown rent must be paid; thirdly, that insurance must be effected; and fourthly, that the firm will not be responsible for any damage or shortage. There are various other points entirely at variance with previous custom."

Such is the *Tokyo Shimpo's* account. In one respect it bears out what we have often written about transactions between foreign and Japanese merchants in the settlements, namely, that the Japanese trader, being in a position to tell his own story to his countrymen, absolutely without contradiction, naturally establishes his case to their satisfaction, and is guaranteed against losing face under any circumstances. To be thus relieved from the restraint of public opinion is to be freed from one of the strongest checks upon chicanery. Even taking the *Tokyo Shimpo's* case as it stands, however, we are astonished that it can be gravely put forward as a Japanese grievance. For it will be observed that the conditions said to have been imposed by Messrs. THOMAS and Company, apply solely to the contingency of a Japanese merchant's failing to fulfil his contract. If delivery be not taken within the time orginally agreed upon, then, and then only, the Japanese who ordered the goods becomes liable for interest and other charges. We may mention here that the Tokyo journal's statement of conditions, is incorrect. A printed copy of the foreign firm's announcement lies before us, and from it we learn that the rate of interest to be charged upon goods of which delivery has not been taken in due time is, not one-third per cent. daily, but one per cent. monthly. What Messrs. THOMAS & Co. have done is simply to try and introduce a healthier tone into business transactions between foreign importers and Japanese dealers. What the Guild appears to be doing, according to the *Tokyo Shimpo's* story, is to interfere in the interests of men who fail to observe their engagements. The two Japanese merchants with whom difficulties are said to have occurred, Messrs. KIMURA and UYENO, entered into contracts of considerable magnitude last year with Messrs. THOMAS & Co., but suffered intervals of from three to twelve months to elapse before taking delivery. From what we have been able to learn, the transactions were only recently brought to a conclusion, the foreign firm obtaining no consideration whatever on account of interest, warehousing, insurance, and other costs which would not have been incurred had the procedure of the Japanese merchants been in accordance with agreement. It is plainly impossible to conduct business on such terms. The conditions that Messrs. THOMAS & Co. now propose are intended to afford legitimate protection against irregularities with which no upright trader can sympathise for a moment. They are not new conditions. Similar terms have always been understood to apply to every contract, though probably it has not been the custom to reduce them to writing. Neither is it sought to give them any retrospective effect: their operation is to be purely prospective. In other words, a Japanese merchant entering into a contract with a foreign firm, will be asked to subscribe to the perfectly fair and proper stipulation that, in the event of failure to take due delivery of goods contracted for, the expenses inevitably resulting from breach of contract will be borne by the person breaking it. If a merchant fears to pledge himself to such an engagement—that is to say, if he cannot look forward with reasonable certainty to fulfilling his promise—then he is not the sort of person

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with whom sound foreign traders desire to deal, and Messrs. THOMAS & Co. politely intimate to him that he may carry his custom elsewhere. Why the Japanese Guild should think of interfering in such a matter we are quite unable to conceive. There are Japanese merchants in Yokohama who carry out their engagements with scrupulous regularity, and who deserve and receive trust. To these men the proposed conditions will suggest no terror, and it is to men of this stamp that the Guild should give its support. But if we must judge from present appearances, the Guild is offering itself to be the tool of merchants who deserve no consideration. What we should hope from the action of an association of leading Japanese local merchants is that it would assist to differentiate the upright trader from the unscrupulous, and thus not only to raise the general standard of commercial morality, but also to place trade upon a sound, and therefore a progressive, footing. Precisely the opposite result seems likely to ensue, if the *Tokyo Shimpo's* account be correct. The Guild steps in and threatens to boycott the foreign merchant if he seeks to append to an agreement conditions entailing no manner of inconvenience unless the agreement be violated. Briefly speaking, the Guild, instead of espousing the cause of upright and scrupulous dealing, is converting itself into an instrument for the use of men who have already brought discredit on their country. Of course in speaking thus, we do not allude to Messrs. KIMURA and UYENO. Our reference is to the general consequences that must ensue when combinations are formed to preclude the enforcement of conditions imposed in the interests of good faith. It is distinctly regrettable that foreigners, on their side, cannot enter into some agreement pledging themselves to insist upon certain stipulations in their dealings with Japanese. The invariable answer to such suggestions is that competition is too keen. Instead of resenting the irregularities of Japanese traders, the foreigner, as we have been publicly told by competent authorities, shuts his eyes to all improprieties of which he has not himself been the victim. Every encouragement is thus given and every opportunity offered to the unscrupulous class of Japanese traders, whereas the object should be to weed these out, and to confine the business to men—of whom happily not a few exist—conscious of the sacredness of an engagement and desirous of fulfilling their pledges to the letter. Neither in the case of Messrs. TUSKA and Company nor in that of Messrs. THOMAS and Company does the Guild appear to have exercised its influence in the cause of integrity and sound commerce. Honest buyers would not be placed at any kind of disadvantage by subscribing to the conditions proposed by Messrs. THOMAS & Co. The only inference deducible from the objections urged against reducing these conditions to writing is that the absence of a documentary engagement is preferred as promising greater latitude for evasion and irregularity. The position taken by the Guild seems to us quite indefensible, and we venture to hope that the occasion may be seized by foreign merchants to counteract the decidely baleful influence of such ill-judged interference.

SIR JOHN POPE HENNESSY, K.C.M.G., M.P.

IN whatever part of the world Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY has been he has left some staunch and faithful friends and many enemies. The mass of mankind who are neither friendly nor inimical, and who always are satisfied with half-judgments, and with what is called taking things in the rough, would probably sum up their views of Sir JOHN compendiously by describing him as too clever by half. We believe it is correct to say that the prevailing impression of those who know nothing of the brilliant governor, who are too lazy or careless or indifferent to form their views at first hand, is one of distrust; not a reasoning distrust, for they can give no grounds whatever for the faith that is in them, but the feeling is none the less deeply rooted on that account. "POPE HENNESSY," they will say on hearing his name, "rum sort of fellow is'nt he? Made a frightful row in Australia or somewhere, did'nt he? Of course they never again will give him an appointment; he is so quarrelsome." This is the judgment of the average man whom the late MATTHEW ARNOLD has dubbed "the man in the street." But neither friends, nor enemies, nor "the man in the street" will deny that Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY is always interesting. He may be an angel from heaven, or he may have come in the opposite direction. His policy may be divinely inspired, or it may be an emanation from the pit. He may be as true as steel, or utterly untrustworthy. But he is, at least, always interesting. Apart from his extremely brilliant gifts and his almost superhuman cleverness in getting out of what might appear a deadly scrape, there is about him that keen interest that always attaches to the unknown and unguessable. No one can tell what he will be up to next. He is like the DAVENPORT Brothers; there is the box on the stage; there is the performer tied up with all manner of apparently secure knots; there is the door shut and locked; but the audience knows that the performer will get out, and then there is the fearful pleasure of wondering where he is going to turn up; will he shout from the gallery, or will it be in the pit? Will he pop his head from out of one of the boxes? Or will he make his bow from the orchestra? No one knows; all that is certain is that he will turn up somewhere, and the most likely place for him to do so is where he is least expected. To ordinary men Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY is a paradox, and has been so all his life. He entered Parliament at a time when Irish members with popular leanings were Whigs, and had been since the days of O'CONNELL. But the young Civil Service Clerk from London boldly proclaimed himself a Tory and a Nationalist as well. He defended his position by quoting the saying of Mr. DISRAELI that the POPE was the head of the conservatives of Europe. He persuaded the priests of King's County that he was right, and thereafter sat in parliament as a nationalist, but a follower of Lord DERBY and Mr. DISRAELI, while every other member from Ireland with a trace of Nationalism sat on the opposite side of the House. He was a Nationalist member and a nominee of the priests, but he distinguished himself in the House as the friend of the EMPEROR of the French, and of the Poles, about whom the Irish priests cared as little as they did for Kamschatka. Indeed, there is some reason to believe that at one time he undertook a very delicate and dangerous mission on behalf of the EMPEROR through the Polish provinces of Austria, Prussia, and Russia. In 1865 he had to stand the brunt of an election petition on the ground of clerical intimidation. In those days election petitions involved an expenditure of tens of thousands of pounds. POPE HENNESSY'S purse would not run to it. The Carlton did not appear desirous of coming to his assistance, and accordingly he retired. Provision had to be made for him, and at this point occurred what he has always regarded as one of the misfortunes of his life. The Governorship of Bombay was vacant, and in accordance with the usual practice three names were submitted to HER MAJESTY, Sir SEYMOUR FITZGERALD being the first and Mr. POPE HENNESSY the second. Sir SEYMOUR was at the time travelling for his health in out-of-the-way parts of Spain, and communication with him was exceedingly difficult. Weeks passed by, and nothing was heard of the Governor elect. It was urgent that somebody should be sent to Bombay, and Mr. POPE HENNESSY was directed to hold himself ready to go, when, at the last moment, Sir SEYMOUR turned up, and, nothing else being vacant but Labuan, Mr. POPE HENNESSY was sent there to try and get the finances in order, and to prepare the way for the withdrawal of the Imperial troops.

Of his colonial career it is unnecessary to speak. Labuan was followed by the West coast of Africa immediately prior to the Ashantee war, and we are unable to say how he got on with his countrymen there. Certain it is that the negroes to this day have a feast in their Calendar which they call the HENNESSY festival. Then fol-

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lowed Barbaboes, where the series of squabbles commenced which ended in Mauritius. The Governor himself is accustomed to say that the confederation question out of which all the difficulties arose was forced on him against his will by Lord CARNARVON, and that he suggested over and over again that it was desirable to wait until the minds of the people were prepared for this measure. But from Barbadoes he was promoted to Hongkong. Of the hostility which his measures excited there, and which he appears to have taken very little pains to assuage, it is unnecessary to speak. His policy was carried out in all important respects, in spite of an opposition which, save for the high character and position of those who led it, might reasonably be called virulent. On his return home the whole face of affairs was altered. In place of animosity and bitter criticism, he was received by deputations congratulating him on his policy. Various sections of Exeter Hall, or of those philanthropic movements which are compendiously described as Exeter Hall, turned out to greet him and to congratulate him as if he were a conquering hero. Then came Mauritius. We all know what took place there. An outcry of the usual kind, an investigation by the Senior Governor of the Colonial Service specially dispatched for the purpose in one of HER MAJESTY'S vessels of war, and the deposition and disgrace of the Governor. Here, if ever, it might have been thought that his official career was ended. But the event was very much otherwise. He went to London, overturned speedily the whole proceedings of Sir HERCULES ROBINSON, returned to the Colony, and was received with acclamation by tens of thousands. We have still a very vivid recollection of the accounts given by the Mauritius papers of his reception. Such a day was never known in Port Louis. The people who came from a distance had, many of them, to sleep the night in the open. The Chinese had their dragon hundreds of feet long. The Arab merchants, their gaily decorated dhows. In the Cathedral the Archbishop and Clergy sang the *Te Deum Laudamus*, as if they were greeting the hero of a hundred fights. A few months later Sir HERCULES ROBINSON gave up his Government of the Cape, delivered a furious speech against HER MAJESTY'S Government, has sulked ever since, and is even said to have become a Home Ruler out of opposition to the Government who treated him so badly in the Mauritius affair. In the fulness of time Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY returns home, obtains the pension which he would have received had he been the mildest and most peaceable of Governors, and lays himself out once more for politics. And then, mark his extraordinary luck! If he had been elected in the ordinary way in Ireland on Mr. PARNELL'S "ticket" he would, for a time at any rate, have been a "mere item" like the other items that composed Mr. PARNELL'S host. He would have been on exactly the same level as the TANNERS, and the HEALIES, and the REDMONDS. But fate had other things in store for him. There came the proceedings in the Divorce Court against Mr. PARNELL, and the series of extraordinary events which followed. No man, scarcely even Mr. PARNELL himself, or Mr. GLADSTONE, was more profoundly affected by these than the ex-Governor. At first, those who knew him believed that he was in a tight place. Then the Irish hierarchy pronounced against Mr. PARNELL, and no one could doubt what Sir JOHN'S course would be. But when he threw in his lot with his old friends the priests, it was generally supposed in England that he had committed political suicide. He suddenly became the most talked-of man in the United Kingdom. The eyes of the civilized world were fixed on him, and on the contest in which be was engaged in a hitherto obscure corner of Ireland. Since the election of O'CONNELL for Clare proclaimed the dawn of a new era in Irish politics, no election in that country has attracted a tithe of the attention bestowed on that for North Kilkenny. Sir JOHN came in, as we know, at the top of the poll by an enormous majority, and sprang at once thereby into a foremost position in the Irish party. The wrangles and internecine quarrels now going on are all playing into his hands. The possible leaders of the Irish Party are being used up. Mr. PARNELL says that a large portion of the party is impossible; Mr. MCCARTHY and Mr. SEXTON say that Mr. PARNELL and his following are impossible; and meantime Sir JOHN, like Brer Fox in the story of the "Tar Baby," "lays low and says nuffin." Well, as to all that, we shall see what we shall see, but it is very clear, so far as the indications go now, that the HENNESSY star is in the ascendant. He is a man of great experience. He is on good terms with the leading members of both political parties, and is not, like so many other Irish members, a social outcast. He was an Irish Nationalist when many of his fellow-members were in their cradles, and, above all, he has the staunch support of the Irish bishops and priests. We shall not be surprised to find him one of these days taking a leading position in the Irish party. He seems to us marked out for it by his own qualifications, not less than by the strange circumstances of the time.

The brilliant *flâneur* who delights London every Sunday morning during the parliamentary session by his parliamentary sketches from the cross benches in the *Observer*, hits off Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY as RIP VAN WINKLE. He tries to picture what the new member thought when he first walked up the floor of the House to renew his oath. There was much externally to remind him of the House as it was when he had walked out of it nearly a quarter of a century ago. There were the gas-illumined roof, the same benches on either side, with men old and young lounging about. Before him was the same table with its brass-bound boxes, the same recumbent mace, and the same deadly volumes of *Hansard*. Three clerks in wig and gown, diligently writing, were at it as before. The canopied chair was there, and in it sat the usual stately gentleman in wig and gown. Everything was these save the old familiar faces, and of these there was only one to bid him good evening and wonder where he had been all these years. The new member for Kilkenny, says Mr. LUCY, in spite of his manfold services to mankind, has preserved unto this last a certain air of mature youthfulness. He has acquired for state occasions a certain dignity of mien worthy of the traditions of our Proconsuls. It is an ordeal for a new member to enter the House of Commons, and new members do it in many more or less awkward ways. But Sir JOHN fell into no errors. It fault were to be found with his manner, it might be objected that it was a little haughty. He made his way between the introducing members with head erect and shoulders squared as if he were approaching the cannon's mouth. He was not unmindful of the dignity of the House, or of what was due to the Speaker. But long habit learned in Labuan, fostered in the Bahamas, developed in the Windward Islands, cultivated at Hongkong, and, finally, matured in the Mauritius, had thrust its fibres deep. The Imperial Mantle was not at a moment's notice to be lightly cast aside like an old cloak. Much was due to the Speaker, but something to the Governor of a succession of Colonies; and the Proconsul whose dignity is now merged in the Membership for Kilkenny disdained to lower his crest even in the presence of the mace. And then the writer goes on in his light way to say that when Mr. POPE HENNESSY represented the King's County *he* was the Irish party. Since that date there have been several editions of the same great work. Mr. BUTT is ancient history, and he was seven or eight years after Mr. POPE HENNESSY. The last time the member for Kilkenny had approached the Treasury Bench he found Lord PALMERSTON sitting there, with Mr. GLADSTONE, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord JOHN RUSSELL looking after Foreign Affairs, Sir CHARLES WOOD at the India Office, and Sir ROBERT PEEL as Irish Secretary, meditating his resignation because he found the post a sinecure. And then Mr. LUCY gossips pleasantly about Sir JOHN'S old cronies who, with him, formed the original Fourth Party, Mr. FREDERICK LYGON, now Earl BEAUCHAMP (whom the American lady lately congratulated on the character of his pills!) and Mr. CAVENDISH BENTINCK. "RIP VAN WINKLE, coming back to the old scene and looking on the furrowed brows

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and the strangely scanty hair of his old companions, feels that his sleep must indeed have been prolonged." However, the main point is that the old Parliamentary hand is back again at Westminster, that he is once more a member of the Mother of Parliaments. The question now is what will he do with it. Who can say?—we cannot.

SHANGHAI INFORMATION.

IT must be presumed that the Shanghai community takes some interest in Treaty Revision since the leading journal of that settlement devotes an editorial column to the subject. If this hypothesis be correct, there is room to regret that the "Model Settlement's" sense of curiosity is not satisfied more accurately. The *North-China Daily News*, a year or two ago, was misled into declaring that Treaty Revision did not receive any consideration from the bulk of the Japanese nation, being simply a sensational hobby of the official class. The Shanghai journal borrowed this very ill-considered statement from a Yokohama contemporary, which knew as much about the sentiments of the bulk of the Japanese nation as it knows about the other side of the moon. Now, however, the *N.-C. Daily News* abandons the rôle of copyist and starts upon an original route. The result is disastrous. Reading fragments of the proceedings of the Diet, the Shanghai journal discovers that since the Session ended without any promise about Treaty Revision being extorted from the Government, or any irreducible minimum of demands imposed upon it, the nation is evidently indifferent on the subject. Unacquainted with the fact that, by the Constitution of Japan, the treaty-making power is vested entirely in the EMPEROR, the *North-China Daily News* fails to perceive that any such action as it suggests would have been distinctly *ultra vires* on the part of the Diet. It is, perhaps, a little exacting to require that an English journal published in China should study the Japanese Constitution before discussing parliamentary procedure taken under it. But since the whole question turns on the doings of the Diet, to consult these briefly might, at any rate, have been considered an essential preliminary. Plainly the Shanghai journal gave itself no such trouble. "So little interest," it gravely tells us, "is really felt in Treaty Revision that Viscount AOKI, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, did not reply until the 5th of March to the questions addressed to him on the subject by Mr. MISAKI KAMENOSUKE and others on the 24th of December." The writer of this paragraph was obviously ignorant of six facts which greatly effect the value of his comments. He was ignorant, first, that the Diet adjourned the day after Mr. MISAKI'S questions were formulated and did not reassemble until January 8th; secondly, that immediately on re-assembly the Budget Committee's Report was submitted, and that the debate on the Budget, then and there commenced, did not come to a close until the end of February; thirdly, that Mr. MISAKI'S questions were the sequel of a debate on Treaty Revision on December 17th; fourthly, that on December the 19th, *i.e.* four days after the Diet had commenced business, a series of questions on the same subject were addressed to the Government by a section of the House of Representatives; fifthly, that these questions were answered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in a long speech on December 17th; and sixthly, that the House of Peers, after an animated debate, submitted to the Government a Representation about Treaty Revision on December the 19th. If all this indicates that either the Peers or the Representatives of the people showed any indifference with regard to Treaty Revision, it would be interesting to know what steps should have been taken to demonstrate a zealous mood. Critics who claim that the nation is apathetic in this matter probably attach no value to anything short of popular tumult; but statesmen of quicker intelligence will doubtless conclude that the problem of Treaty Revision had better be solved before its discussion is carried into the sphere of vulgar agitation and ignorant prejudice.

Turning to discuss the terms of Revision indicated by the speeches of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the *North-China Daily News* is even less fortunate. It finds in the columns of the *Hyogo News* a *resumé* of these terms, taken nominally from the *Osaka Asahi Shimbun*. This *resumé* indicates that foreigners will only be permitted to trade at certain ports, whereas the speech on which the *resumé* is founded did not, as reported in the *Japan Mail*, point to any such restriction. What conclusion does the Shanghai journal draw from this discrepancy? "We are obliged to think," it says, "that the report of the *Osaka Asahi Shimbun* was cooked up for the benefit of the country folk, to show them what a very patriotic and determined person Viscount AOKI is." Here again the comprehensive ignorance of the *North-China Daily News* invites detailed exposure. It does not know that Viscount AOKI'S speeches in the Diet were delivered in Japanese, and reported in all the leading Japanese journals. It does not know that there is an *Official Gazette* in Japan which published verbatim reports of the speeches the morning after their delivery. It does not know that the proceedings of the Diet were public, in so far that a certain number of reporters from the whole vernacular press of Japan had seats in the gallery. It does not know that the *Osaka Asahi Shimbun* was represented in the reporters' gallery. It does not know that the English versions printed in Yokohama papers were translations of the versions given by the Japanese press, to which the whole nation had access. And it does not know that the *Osaka Asahi Shimbun* is among the most violent of the anti-Government newspapers. "We are obliged to think that the speech was cooked up," says the shrewd Shanghai journal. Why is this irksome obligation imposed on it? Why should it be obliged to imagine that the Japanese Government is so extremely silly as to try and throw dust in the eyes of the "country folk" by "cooking up" in the columns of an Osaka journal a speech differently reported in all the other journals of Japan? Why should it be obliged to imagine that a very uncompromising opposition journal would lend itself to such a ridiculous device? And why should it be obliged to imagine that the Japanese Government is so clumsily unprincipled? Instead of submitting to this disagreeable necessity, the *North China Dily News* might have apprehended the very palpable alternative that the telegraphic summary published in the Osaka journal was not perfectly accurate, and might also have detected the quaint mistake made by the *Hyogo News* which imagined that exclusion from the coasting trade meant exclusion from the privilege of trading at places along the coast other than those already fixed. If the Japanese nation draws a natural and obvious inference from the alacrity shown by foreign journals to discover trickery and dishonesty in everything lying beyond the the range of their own knowledge or intelligence, foreigners will have to thank themselves for the character ultimately attributed to them. But we cannot greatly blame the Shanghai newspaper. Its English contemporaries in Japan, with incomparably fuller opportunities to obtain information, and incomparably more cogent reasons to publish it, display even less regard for accuracy and fairness.

THE BRIDGE.

VISCOUNT AOKI'S "bridge" to cross the channel that separates Japan from judicial and tariff autonomy has provoked some comment. The *North China Daily News*, for example, writes in a tone distinctly laudatory of the fact that such a structure is to be provided. The recognition of the necessity for a bridge is said to indicate "a feeling of responsibility that becomes a Minister" and a sense that certain "proper procedure has to be gone through to effect such a great work" as Treaty Revision. These conclusions are very just and satisfactory. It is true that they might have been reached long ago, but they are none the less welcome as an indication that the truth is beginning to dawn upon some horizons. There are various ways of recognising one's error. There is the frank, ingenuous acknowledgment, and there is the more comfortable

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device of occupying your opponents' camp, and endeavouring to prove that you have been there all the while. The latter fashion is incomparably the commoner of the two. How often it has been practised in connection with the subject of Treaty Revision, we should be afraid to estimate. Since that problem entered the field of practical politics, ten years ago, our general position with regard to it has been unvarying. We have steadily advocated Revision with conditions. In the days when we began to write in that sense, the idea of Revision on any terms was denounced by our opponents. They claimed that nothing could be gained and that much might be lost by any change of existing arrangements. Little by little, however, they recognised, first, that Revision was dictated by justice; secondly, that it was demanded by expediency. But as they found themselves thus coming over to our views, they covered their retreat from ultra-conservatism by misrepresenting our position so as to exaggerate the distance that still separated them from it. At one time we were accused of advocating the complete and immediate abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. At another, it was charged against us that our aim was to procure the unconditional surrender of the exclusive privileges enjoyed by foreigners under the present treaties. Over and over again we denied both allegations, and quoted passage after passage from our writings proving that we had invariably recommended compromise and deliberation. But what mattered facts? The other side continued to caricature our views in order that their resemblance to its own altered mood might not be detected. We cannot wonder that people at a distance should be perplexed to discover the truth amid so much misrepresentation. Thus the *North China Daily News*, referring to Viscount AOKI'S "bridge," writes:—"The anti-unconditional-revisionists in Yokohama will see with pleasure that the Japanese Government does recognise the necessity for this bridge, for the great meeting of last year was called because its promoters had learnt that the British Government was about to agree to revision without any bridge; and it was because they insisted that a bridge was necessary that the *Japan Mail* attacked Mr. LOWDER and his fellow-promoters of the meeting so mercilessly." Now there can be no doubt that our Shanghai contemporary desires to place facts not fiction before its readers. We invite its attention, therefore, to the following extracts from two articles published in the *Japan Mail* last September, immediately after the celebrated meeting:—

> The first resolution consisted of two parts, to one of which the meeting's unanimous consent was natural and proper—namely, that "the time has not arrived when questions in regard to rights, whether of property or person, arising between subjects and citizens of Foreign Powers in the dominions of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, can be unconditionally and safely subjected to the jurisdiction of Japanese tribunals." This decision, we say, is precisely what any body of Englishmen might have been expected to formulate. * * * Anybody, even Mr. Lowder, the proposer of the resolution, can claim that Treaty Revision without guarantees may not inconsistently be opposed by advocates of Treaty Revision with guarantees. * * * * If the first resolution—which, after all, is the only one that has any bearing on the general question—had been confined to a declaration that, in the opinion of the meeting, the time had not arrived when the persons and properties of British subjects residing in Japan could with safety be placed unconditionally under the jurisdiction of Japanese tribunals, Her Majesty's Secretary of State might have accepted it as a reasonable and proper protest, and could have promised to give it favourable consideration. It is true that the resolution would have been superfluous, Lord Salisbury's opinion, and indeed the opinion of everyone engaged in the negotiations, being already emphatic as to the prematureness of unconditionally abolishing consular jurisdiction. Still the resolution in that form would have been a moderate plea for due caution, and would have strengthened the hands of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs without embarrassing him.

Such were the opinions we expressed when commenting on the proceedings of the meeting. Nothing could have been more explicit than our declaration of absolute agreement that unconditional Revision would be premature and unwise. In so far as concerned that part of the meeting's protest, we were entirely and avowedly at one with it. Yet we are now accused of having mercilessly attacked the promoters of the meeting because they insisted that a "bridge" was necessary. In short, having ourselves declared the peril and prematureness of Revision without conditions, it is pretended that we denied the necessity of conditions. However, this is an old story. We long ago learned the futility of expecting to be credited with the opinions which we ourselves express, rather than with the opinions attributed to us by our opponents. Had the resolution submitted to the meeting of last September been confined to a protest against unconditional Revision, it would have been simply a repetition of the sentiments unvaryingly declared by this journal during the past ten years. But it went a great deal farther. Its second clause embodied a declaration which, if interpreted according to the plain sense of its language, signified that, in the opinion of the meeting, negotiations for Treaty Revision must be postponed *sine die*. The framer of the resolution subsequently declared that he had not intended it to bear any such signification, and he and his friends have since steadily alleged their sense of the justice and expediency of revising the Treaties conditionally as soon as possible. But they unfortunately betrayed the meeting into voting a resolution involving an attitude of uncompromising hostility to Revision. This error was the main point criticised by us.

There is, however, a more important consideration connected with Viscount AOKI'S "bridge"—a consideration which we ourselves have not hitherto advanced, preferring to let it come from the other side. The *North China Herald* now notices it, and since the Shanghai journal's article has been reproduced without comment by the organ of the promoters of the meeting, we presume that they are in accord with its sentiments. "The anti-unconditional-revisionists," we read," "will see with pleasure that the Japanese Government does recognise the necessity for this bridge, for the great meeting last year was called because its promoters had learnt that the British Government was about to agree to revision without any bridge." Now a very remarkable feature of the "great meeting" was the fact that no one who attended it could give any definite explanation of its proximate cause. The only reason forthcoming was a vague announcement that information, obtained from a nameless quarter, pointed to the British Government's immediate intention of "conceding the demand of the Japanese Government that British subjects should come under the jurisdiction of the Japanese Courts without any of the safeguards that had hitherto been considered necessary to their protection." Was this information correct? Then, as now, Viscount AOKI held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and his amended proposals for Treaty Revision, formulated some months previously, have never undergone any change. Did he put forward the "demand" referred to in the manifesto calling the meeting? If he did not, then how came any such demand to be advanced by the Japanese Government? But if it was not advanced, how could HER MAJESTY'S Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs have been induced to concede it?" One of three things must be true: either the apprehension that prompted the convening of the Meeting was unfounded; or the British Government had volunteered to do for Japan a great deal more than Japan herself had proposed; or else Viscount AOKI'S "bridge" did not exist last year. The promoters of the Meeting, owing to some unexplained and inexplicable cause, refrained from the simple and natural course of placing themselves, at the outset, in communication with HER MAJESTY'S Representative in Tokyo. Had they done so, they would have learned that they were about to do battle with a mere chimera, since the danger they apprehended did not exist in fact. But without full information, and acting upon the strength of what now appears to have been an unauthenticated rumour, they organised a demonstration that will hereafter be found to have contributed more than anything else to bring about the very consummation they desired to avert. No occurrence since the opening of the ports has so seriously interfered with the chances of a satisfactory compromise in the matter of Treaty Revision as the meeting of last September. It divided the two sides at once into hostile camps; withdrew the problem from the region of calm discussion and mutual concession into the arena of popular agitation and international jealousy; and roused among the people of

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Japan a force of sentiment by which any Cabinet seeking to satisfy foreign scruples, must find itself seriously hampered. Our uncompromising condemnation of the whole affair earned for us much local animosity, but time, so far from weakening, has steadily strengthened the convictions that prompted our criticism. Accepting, in full, the subsequent explanations of the promoters, and crediting them with the most liberal desire to see the Treaties promptly revised on reasonable bases—a desire shared by all the better class of British subjects—we still say that never did well-intentioned men work a greater mischief than they accomplished last September.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"MISSION COMITY."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir:—I have read the recent letter from Rev. Geo. T. Smith on "Mission Comity." Also his "Explanation" in to-day's *Mail*. As the representative of the Universalist Church in Japan, I might be expected to take some notice of his references to Universalism. This, however, I shall decline to do, until I shall find that his spirit is shared by some *representative* man among the missionaries. While it seems pitiable that even *one* narrow minded man who cares more for sectarianism than for human salvation should be sent to Japan, yet it would seem still more pitiable to violate the sweet spirit of the circular recently received on "Mission Comity" by entering into theological controversy with such an one.

Yours respectfully, G. L. PERIN.

Azabu, Tokyo March 23rd, 1891.

A MARE'S NEST.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—My attention has just been called to a funny paragraph in the *Japan Herald* of Wednesday, the 18th inst., wherein an attempt is made to correct perfectly good English. I never knew before that it was not permissible in English to "*reason with* extravagance." Shakspeare asks us to "reason with life," and to "reason with the worst that may befall." And the simple-minded editor actually supposes that *de educated* was carelessly used in place of *uneducated!*—a word which would have conveyed quite a different meaning. How fastidious, too, daily papers in the Settlement are becoming, when they object to *whose* being employed with an impersonal antecedent. I must confess to doing this on all occasions when need arises, and fail to see the sin of it.

I am, yours, etc.,

The Writer of the Article.

GENERAL SHERMAN AGAIN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Was General Sherman a Roman Catholic, and yet too much of a presidential candidate to acknowledge it? Your San Francisco correspondent says he was. Writing of General Sherman's funeral his words are as follows:—

"The only curious feature of the occurrence was the announcement by the General's son, the Rev. Father Sherman, that his father died, as he had lived, a good Catholic. *The secret had been faithfully kept in view of the possibility that at some time or other General Sherman might become an available candidate for the Presidency.*"

General Sherman's son may have made this statement, but the word of your correspondent is not sufficient proof of it. Even if the statement was made it would still be a question whether a formal connection with the Church was intended or not. It is known that a Roman Catholic priest was called to minister to General Sherman just before his death. Concerning this act, and the General's religious views, his brother, Senator Sherman has written:—

Your reporter intimates that advantage was taken of my temporary absence to introduce a Catholic priest into General Sherman's chamber to administer the rite of extreme unction to the sick man in the nature of a claim that he was a Catholic. It is well known that his family had been reared by their mother, a devoted Catholic, in her faith, and now cling to it. It is equally well known that General Sherman and myself, as well as all my mother's children, are, by inheritance, education and connection, Christians but not Catholics, and this has been openly avowed on all proper occasions by General Sherman, but he is too good a Christian and too humane a man to deny to his children the consolation of their religion. He was insensible at the time, and apparently at the verge of death, but if he had been well and in the full exercise of faculties, he would not have denied to them the consolation of the prayers and religious observances for their father of any class or denomination of Christian priests or preachers. Certainly if I had been present, I would, at the request of the family, have assented to and reverently shared in an appeal to the Almighty for the life here and hereafter of my brother, whether in a prayer or extreme unction, and whether uttered by a priest or a preacher, or any other good man, who believed what he spoke, and had an honest faith in his creed.

But what shall we say of the sentence in your correspondent's letter that I have italicized? What shall we say of the man who follows to the grave an old and honoured soldier—one of whom President Harrison has said, "No living American was so loved and venerated as he"—with the utterly gratuitous assertion that he concealed his life-long religious beliefs lest they should injure his candidacy for the presidency?

As an American citizen, and as one who followed his country's flag for more than three years during the late Civil War, I cannot but protest against these statements of this nameless and reckless defamer of American public men and American Society.

Yours faithfully, M. L. GORDON.

Kyoto, March 23rd, 1891.

JAPAN "BACK TO BARBARISM."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Last evening I noticed in your daily issue of the 19th inst. an extract from an American paper of Denver, Colorado, under the above caption.

You suggest to the missionaries that it devolves upon them to answer the exceedingly untruthful statements in that purported cablegram to the Denver journal. Fortunately a friend sent me by the last mail a complete refutation, made by a gentleman there on the ground, four days after the unjust article appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News*. Enclosed please find this reply, taken from the *Daily Republican* of February 14th,—the official paper of the city, and quite universally read by the educated and religious classes of Denver.

Hoping this reply will find a prominent place in your columns, even at this late date, and that the vernacular press will kindly print this answer by "Philojapanicus," if they have published the previous article.

I am Sir, yours sincerely,

FREDERICK J. STANLEY.

Tokyo, March 25th, 1891.

THE JAPANESE.

A gentleman who knows them defends them.

To the "Republican."

Two days ago your morning contemporary published a sensational half column respecting Japan and the Japanese. Allow me a few lines of criticism.

First as to the astonishing head lines: "Back to Barbarism," etc., etc. The Japanese are not and were not barbarians. This is a cruel and ignorant insult to fling upon a sensitive proud people, such as no American should be guilty of promulgating.

Secondly, that half column is said to be a special cablegram and is dated Yokohama, February 10 (the day of publication in Denver). I reply that there are no cables direct from the Japan to San Francisco; that messages have to travel through Europe, and that it is a physical impossibility for the *News* to obtain a telegram from Yokohama within the time. Further, I am positive that this article is not a cablegram, but a hash-up of some letter sent from Japan a month or more ago. To call it a cablegram is a bare-faced imposture.

Thirdly—The Christians in Japan are not in danger. The one grain of truth lying at the heart of this monstrous fabrication is that the people of Japan are just now reasserting their national genius against the recent tendency to slavishly imitate the customs of the West. If they conserve their own civilization they will be happy. One fears, however, that the protest comes too late. Whether tardy or not, this nationalist movement does not affect Christian missions. There are thoughtful and highly educated men among the native pastors, and some of these are anxious to have a New Testament type of Christianity rather than the ecclesiastical type to which our churches are too closely attached. There will be a distinctively Japanese Christianity; but surely we ought not to regret so healthy a movement. It will not be a state religion, but it will be more and more the national religion.

I do not criticise the exquisite English of the *News'* correspondent, or "cablegrammist," as when he beautifully says: "And now they (the missionaries) are not even to have the gratification of seeing the religion they have planted grow into a mustard tree;" but I do venture to protest against the transparent sham of the so-called cablegram, against the insult offered to the Japanese, against the assertion that Christianity is in danger, and against the slur cast upon the work of the missionary. This is the second time lately that the same paper has published as a cablegram undigested scraps of letters a month or six weeks old; but I should think that game hardly worth the candle.

Yours truly. PHILOJAPONICUS.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 12.

"THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have just finished reading the "Light of the World." It seems to me that Sir Edwin Arnold is more at home in Hindoo philosophy than in Christian theology. This is apparent from the whole tenor of the poem. Whenever he can get an opportunity, he turns his eyes longingly towards the meat-pots and onions of India:—

> The Buddh again
> Appeareth, or some Buddhisat of might,
> Arising from the West, who shall set right,
> And serve and reconcile.*

I quote this because it is the first line in the book indicating the predilections of the author. It is surprising, to me at least, why an author who has such a divine personality for a theme still should make digressions which reflect unfavourably on and minimize the awe-inspiring majesty of the person. Sir Edwin Arnold's present poem is a great work of art; but unfortunately it reminds me of the famous painting of the Scotch artist of the "Last Supper," who, instead of directing attention to the person of the Master, created so many other points of equal attraction that the real ideal was not realized in the painting. What became of the painting? I take it for granted that the reader knows.

From a literary standpoint it seems to me to be a consummate work of art; and by no means a work of genius. It has a large abundance of lines flat and common-place; but it has also places where he soars high, almost approaching the high soaring eagle of genius. No genius in the history of humanity has kept soaring perpetually. The summit is reached from the valley, and Sir Edwin is not an exception to the universal law. The hand which has introduced so many prosy and tedious lines into the poem, the same hand has also penned:—

> But, then, ah, then!
> I faltered, paltered, yielded, Claudia!
> Yea,
> I played worse traitor to my Roman soul,
> Than aught e'er done to Cæsar.

These lines and many following pages are sublime. Still the poem as a whole is far inferior to the "Purgatorio," "Paradise Lost," and "Faust."

The theology of the poem, as expected or rather anticipated, is less dogmatical than humanitarian. I cannot help quoting the following lines, which I wish Sir Edwin had clothed in still stronger language:—

> When He sate saying: 'Blessed the peace makers!'
> In rage and hatred host with host has clashed,
> Then when He taught 'Love ye your enemies!'
> Banners which bore His cross, have mocked His cross,
> Scattering His land with slain; till now, at last,
> Truly the sword, not peace, is what He brought!

I wish every blind sectarian under whatever shade of thought, would ponder and digest these lines; especially those who claim to being His disciples in advancing His Kingdom in this country.

Finally, as a matter of course, the two "Lights" will be compared together from a literary standpoint. It is more than five years now since I looked into the "Light of Asia," but from what I remember it seems to me the "Light of Asia" is very much like the physical light of Japan, piercing whenever it is at its glory. Now darkened by the impenetrable clouds of pessimism, now again peeping with a smiling, childish face through the clouds which threaten to destroy it instantly. While the "Light of World" is like a uniform climate where the sun of righteousness shines with untarnished brightness. Instead of self-destroying and suicidal Buddhism, here we have:—

> Peace beginning to be,
> Deep as the sleep of the Sea.
> * * * * * *
> Love which is sunlight of peace,
> Age by age to increase,
> Till Anger and Hatred are dead
> And Sorrow and Death shall cease:
> Peace on Earth and Good-will!
> Souls that are gentle and still
> Hear the first music of this
> Far off, infinite, Bliss.

It has not been from a presumptuous spirit of criticism that I have penned these few lines. I confess my inability to praise or censure the productions of great minds, while my own mind hitherto has been sterile. To criticise other's works is not a very hard task. But I advise adversely criticised authors to reply to their critics as Mohammed replied to his: "If you don't believe in my Koran, *then produce one like it!*" A critic who cannot produce anything better than the object which he criticises, had better remain dumb. I hope I shall always follow this rule faithfully.

ISAAC DOOMAN.

Nara Eiwa Gakko, March 24th, 1891.

* The Light of the World, page 47.

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REITERATED MISREPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your San Francisco correspondent has been called to account a number of times recently for his injustice to certain public men in America. I have been looking for some word to be said in defence of the American people. I refer to the constant and reiterated misrepresentation of the social life of America which is pictured in your San Francisco correspondent's letters. If that life were such a pool of filth and horror as he depicts it, it is hard to see how any decent man could be content to remain in it. Yet your San Francisco correspondent gives no sign that he wishes to move out. One is forced to the conclusion that the following words are as applicable to him as to the person to whom they were applied in a recent editorial of yours. I beg leave to quote from the current number of the *Mail*:—"There are men who in their progress through life come in contact with vice alone. Virtue is repelled by them. They create about themselves an atmosphere of grossness not permeable by any ray of purity. * * * The impressions they gather are marred and distorted by the prurient medium through which they pass. * * * is evidently such a person; he has moved in circles suited to his moral calibre." This could not have been said better. Your San Francisco correspondent would better beware of his own reputation.

No one who knows American life doubts for an instant that acts as vile and dastardly as your San Francisco correspondent reports, happen in America, but the object of the foreign correspondence of a respectable journal is to convey a correct idea of the country from which it comes. These letters of which I speak do *not* convey a correct idea of American social life. The slightest attempt to note any of the signs of improvement in American social life would call for much leniency, but with all your San Francisco correspondent's political sagacity, he seems to have no sense of any movement in moral lines.

It is especially unfortunate and unfitting that such letters should appear in a journal which is notable for its high tone and its fairness in recognising the good side of men and things.

I remain, yours most respectfully,

WILLIAM H. NOYES.

Maebashi, Joshu, March 29th, 1891.

[The letters referred to will not appear any longer in these columns.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE PROBLEM OF MORAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I notice in the *Japan Gazette* of the 28th ultimo a criticism of an article which I recently contributed to your columns on the above subject. I feel much reluctance to notice the criticism, for its whole tone is so violent and hostile that I doubt very much whether there is any possibility of conducting a controversy with the critic in a calm and friendly manner. But the subject being one of considerable importance, I beg your permission to say a few words by way of reply.

Before proceeding to particulars, let me draw attention to the fact that the editor of the *Gazette* seems to confuse entirely distinct ideas. He apparently confounds Christian dogmas with the Christian system of ethics, and considers that missionary education is synonymous with foreign education. He states that my article "represents the whole situation of moral education in Japan in precisely an opposite way to what I know to be the truth," and that "the anti-Christian spirit throughout the country is stronger in the 24th year of Meiji that it has been for ten or fifteen years." Is there such an "anti-Christian spirit throughout the country"? It cannot be denied that there is at present a general cry of "Japan for the Japanese" and that in some respects the cry takes an anti-foreign tone—a state of things brought about by Japan's successive failures to receive justice at the hands of the Western nations; by the over-bearing attitude of foreign residents towards the Japanese; and in a more general manner by the gradual dawn of a constructive period in the history of Japanese progress, a period strongly marked by a desire to develop a purely Japanese civilization and to assert the natural rights of the country. Simultaneously with the rise of the new nationalistic spirit, Buddhism began to recover something of its old energy and power, and Christian propagandists now find themselves confronted by a large body of active rivals, the rank and file of the original priesthood of the country. Recent instances of open hostility to foreign missionaries are all traceable to Buddhist priests, and it is further remarkable that such occurrences have been almost always connected with foreign missionaries; the Japanese pastors being suffered to continue their preaching of the gospel without molestation. The truth is that little hostility exists towards Christianity itself among any class of the people, except the Buddhist priesthood.

Whether Mr. Sugiura still is or is not a member of the Diet is immaterial. My reference to him was in his representative character; a character not foreited by his resignation. If there ever was a "minor point," this surely is one.

As to the attitude of Mr. Fukuzawa, Professor Toyama and ex-Senator Nakamura, the *Gazette* writes:—"Mr. Toyama's latest utterances on Christianity, an epitome of which will be found in an article we published in January last, are in deadly opposition to Christian education." Now Professor Toyama's so-called "utterances on Christianity" refer to an essay which he contributed in January last to several of the Tokyo papers to show the unwisdom of abolishing the Higher Middle Schools, a measure then advocated by a powerful section of the members of the Diet. The Professor did not say a word about either Christianity or Christian education. What he did say was that he "could never approve the entire abandoning of the education of Japanese youths to institutions supported by foreigners, however good such institutions might be." He objects to the present missionary schools, not because they inculcate the Christian system of morality, but because, being under the sole control and almost sole support of foreigners, they cannot be expected to give the Japanese a thoroughly national education. It is not Christianity, but the method of instruction and the system of management, that have turned away so many Japanese students from these schools to institutions under Japanese control. Professor Toyama is not alone in his opinion about missionary schools. Not a few Japanese Christians entertain similar views.

"Mr. Fukuzawa and Mr. Nakamura," continues the *Gazette*, "have both repeatedly asserted that no system of morality founded on miracles can succeed in the schools." Precisely. Have I, or has any one else, ever made a contrary assertion. Have I said that these eminent men believe in the feasibility of Christian superstitions being sustituted for Japanese in Japanese schools? What I said was that Mr. Nakamura and Mr. Fukuzawa are of opinion that a system of ethics founded on the teachings of Christ is superior to any other system that can be adopted in Japanese schools. My whole article was directed to deny precisely what the *Japan Gazette* accuses me of asserting. Translator of Smiles' "Self Help," Mr. Nakamura is eminent among those who have most aided to introduce to the notice of Young Japan the noble traits of character developed under the influence of Christian teaching. His attitude towards Christianity has been so free from prejudice and so favourable, that he was at one time believed to be a convert to that religion. Further, Mr. Fukuzawa's views about Christianity are well known to be anything but unfavourable. Although the public understands that there is no direct relation between Unitarianism and Mr. Fukuzawa's University, where the foreign instructors are almost entirely Unitarian, the public also perceives clearly that no prejudice exists on the part of the head of that institution towards the Christian influence of his foreign teachers. The whole writing of the distinguished educationalist of Mita during the past ten years amply bears this out.

As to the significance of Japanese subscriptions to Christian educational institutions, surely it is inconceivable that men of intelligence and high standing should subscribe thousands of *yen* to an institution in the prosperity of which they take no interest? The *Gazette* asserts that to infer sympathy with the aims of an educational institution on the part of men who subscribe to its support, is as though one should attribute belief in Roman Catholic doctrines to the sceptics who subscribe to Roman Catholic charities. I think, Sir, that I am not required to deal with such logic as that. It is more comical than convincing.

I shall not occupy your valuable space with any notice of the contemptuous manner in which the editor of the *Gazette* regards the efforts of Japanese Christians to think for themselves. I do not seek to quartel with anybody. If the editor of the *Japan Gazette* thinks it one of his Christian duties to indulge in scorn and abuse of the Japanese, with whom he once associated intimately, and who were formerly glad to regard him as a friend, he is free to do so to his heart's content. With us Japanese, there is a motto that he who abuses another brings disgrace on himself only.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

The Japanese who contributed the Article on the Problem of Moral Education in Japan.

Tokyo, March 31st, 1891.

ON KIGENSETSU.

Our conspicuous country stands stately on the eastern ocean; the mountains and waters were never stained by foreign insults. The inhabitants upon it are loyal, filial, brave, and manly. And he who governs them is the Emperor of the only one line for ever.

I solemnly reflect that, since Jimmu Tenno took the crown, it is two thousand five hundred and fifty-one years to the present. During this interval, once a traitor intended to seize the throne; some soldiers privately took possession of the real power of the country. To speak the worst, there was a day in which His Majesty incurred disgrace, and another when a dense war cloud covered the royal palace. All such things ought to stir up the high blood, the fierce lamentation and severe indignation of patriots. Thus he who killed the traitor himself; he who engraved his sincere words upon the white cherry-tree; he who offered his whole family to the mercilessness of sword and arrow; he who met his death without complaint; all these throw uneffaceable light on our history.

O, the sky clouds and then clears! So, in the world, prosperity and ruin follow each other. When the sun is closely enveloped by thick clouds, how can the people see its light? Under such circumstances, notwithstanding the ruins of his walls, and the lack of the necessities of every-day life, His Majesty owed to himself only all the misconduct of his subjects: and for his cause so many patriots in all ages bent their utmost energies. Then the clouds, however dense, must scatter; the sun, spotless, must shine; then it is a matter of course, that the sacredness of the crown remains the same through eternity.

Who founded the Empire? I solemnly look at the history. When Jimmu Tenno succeeded to the great line, consulted with his chief officers, and was marching eastward with his honourable army; and when his great undertaking was almost done, great chiefs and villain gods declined to obey his commands and made war against. Thereby his older brother sunk to earth by a stray arrow, and his whole army lay senseless on the ground from poisonous exhalations. In this hard and desperate moment, it was, indeed, beyond the power of an ordinary sovereign to lead his and only his army forward amid foes; to have every man make an effort for him; to extend his bounty, to show his authority; to have his powerful opponents, laying down their weapons, obey him heartily; and then to lay the foundation of the Imperial Capital, and to extend farther his sovereignty: although he was aided by Daijin's mysterious energy, and by the loyalty and bravery of his subjects. Thus he founded the Empire; and, once founded, it never shook again. It is obvious then, that the virtues and authority of His Majesty influenced every man's mind, and could never be uprooted. Then it is, indeed, not accidental that the sacredness and sublimity of the Crown remain the same through eternity, and that the Empire did never submit to a foreign yoke.

See the beautiful mountains and waters which His Majesty trod and examined, the conspicuous country which he planned and established! So difficult was its founding, and so sacred is the Crown! Yea, all under the bounty of the Crown ought to think night and day about the cause of their peace and joy. And why can our Empire stand stately on the eastern ocean to-day? Because the Emperor of only line for ever keeps sway upon it, and a loyal, filial, brave, and manly people dwell there.

[The above composition was written by a school teacher, first in Japanese, and then translated into English. Only the flagrant errors have been corrected: many of the queer expressions have been permitted to remain. It stands now as an example, not merely of Japonicized English, but also of the tenacity with which some well-educated Japanese cling to their mythology. *Yamato-damashii!*—C.]

March 23rd, 1891.

THE TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS.

A profitable year's work—the capital of the company to be increased.

The shareholders of the Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, held their first annual general meeting at Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., Mr. William Keswick (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles H. Campbell) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said—In moving the adoption of the report, which, if you approve, we shall take as read, I have not much to add to it, but a few

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words of reference are necessary in connection with some of the subjects mentioned in it, and in consideration of this being our first annual meeting, and the report and statement of accounts being the first that have been submitted to you. In the first place, I may mention that it was on December 6th, 1889, that the company was registered, and that the allotment of shares took place a fortnight later. The instalment of 25s. in all per share and the premium of 10s. per share were in every case promptly paid. The expenses, preliminary, in forming the company were, fortunately, very moderate, and out of the £50,000 received as premium the board have been able to carry £45,000 to reserve fund. You will understand that in establishing our head office with a competent staff, in opening branches at Hongkong and Shanghai, and supplying them with suitable managers, in appointing agents elsewhere, and in generally preparing for the proper conduct of the business, a considerable time was necessarily occupied, and that consequently, the working period of the company covered by the accounts falls considerably short of 12 months. You will notice that that in order to be in a position to place before you as early in the year as possible a statement of the position of the company, it was necessary to close accounts in the East on October 31—a date which will be adhered to in future, but which will then, of course, imply twelve months' working in the East, so that, as on this occasion, you may be informed early in February every year how business prospers. Under the circumstances, therefore, that I have mentioned, the directors feel confident you will share with them the satisfaction that the accounts presented to you to-day show such profitable results, and so emphatically confirm the opinion we have held of the promising character of the business the company was organised to undertake. The net profits slightly exceed £87,000; and out of this sum the directors recommend that £55,000 should be carried to reserve fund, an appropriation which, with the £45,000 previously mentioned, will bring that fund up in the first year of the company's existence to the respectable figure of £100,000—(cheers)—and I need not point out the importance of the fund being strengthened continuously, when it is borne in mind that the shares of the company are not fully paid up. In mentioning the result of last year's operations, I should not omit to tell you, gentlemen, that, in realising the profits we have made, circumstances favoured us not a little at the time the company was established, and that the dearness of money for a considerable period of last year, and also the fluctuations in silver, enabled the board to make good disposition of the capital and of other funds at their disposal in carrying out operations and in making investments in India and the Straits, and in China and Japan, where, on mortgages on real estate and advances on solid securities, we have been able to find satisfactory employment for money. It is in the last almost exclusively that we have found a field for our operations, and it may interest you to know that we have not a penny piece invested in any shape or form in South American securities.—(Hear, hear.) Our advances are so arranged that, as assets, we can count upon them becoming liquid in a certain order, in a manner that will enable us to enforce the margin we may deem it essential should be maintained. I come now to an important recommendation which your directors have made in favour of an increase to our subscribed capital. They regard it as necessary, in order that the company may be strong enough to take full advantage of the business they have reason to believe it can command, that a new issue of 100,000 shares of £10 each should be made. This would make the subscribed capital £2,000,000, and, by calling up 25s. per share, as on the first issue, a paid-up capital of £250,000 would be obtained, and with a premium of 25s. per share £125,000 would be added to our reserve fund. With these elements of strength our deposits, already very satisfactorily large, will greatly increase, and with the way prepared for the company by recent events, your directors have confidence in recommending you to make the company a powerful financial institution, capable of occupying, to the advantage of all concerned, the great and expanding sphere of its operations. To give effect to these recommendations an extraordinary general meeting will be held at the conclusion of the present ordinary meeting, and at it the necessary resolution will be submitted to you. At the same time a resolution will be proposed to change the name of the company into that of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, a change of designation that will more appropriately indicate the financial character and general scope of the objects of the company. As mentioned in our report, the change of name does not imply a change in the intended business of the company, and no alteration in the articles is necessary on that account. It is not the object and it is not the intention of the company to interfere with the business of banking establishments in the East, with which the board have worked in most friendly accord, and your directors will continue to aim at working in perfect harmony with existing institutions. The resolution which I have to propose is: "That the report and annual statement of accounts and balance-sheet be, and are hereby, received and adopted." When this is seconded, and before it is put to the meeting, if there are any questions to be asked or any information desired, I shall be happy, as far as I can, to satisfy inquirers.

Mr. DAVID MCLEAN seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I have now to propose: "That a dividend on the ordinary shares be declared at the rate of 16 per cent., and a dividend on the founders' shares be declared of £8 per share, payable respectively on the 13th inst."

Mr. H. D. STEWART seconded the motion.

Mr. BARROW—May I ask if that is free of income-tax?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes; free of income-tax.

The motion was then agreed to.

Dr. JOHNSON proposed that Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Weise, Bishop, and Clarks be re-elected as auditors of the company for the current year, and that their remuneration be fixed at £105.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. HARDCASTLE, and carried.

The meeting was then made special, when

The CHAIRMAN said—From the remarks I have already made, gentlemen, you will understand the object with which these resolutions are submitted to you in extraordinary general meeting, and it will be unnecessary for me, after what I have said, to make any further remarks on the subject. I will, therefore, read the resolutions, which I now beg to propose:—(1) "That the capital of the Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, be increased from £1,000,000 to £2,000,000 by the creation of 100,000 new ordinary shares of £10 each, upon which £1 5s. per share is to be called up during the year 1891, and which shares are to be issued at the premium of £1 5s. per share." (2) "That the said new ordinary shares shall, in the first instance, be offered in such manner as the directors shall prescribe for that purpose to the members, in the proportion of one new ordinary share for every ordinary share of which on March 9th they shall respectively be the registered holders, and that any new ordinary shares not accepted by the members within the time named by the directors for that purpose be disposed of, and allotted by the directors in such manner, and at such price, as in their discretion they shall think best in the interests of the company." (3) "That payment of the sum of £1 5s. per share, and of £1 5s. for premium per share, making together £2 10s. per share for each of the said new ordinary shares, shall be made as follows, namely, 10s. on application, including 5s. premium; 15s. on allotment, including 7s. 6d. premium; and £1 5s. on June 30, including 12s. 6d. per share premium." (4) "That the holders of new ordinary shares shall, from the respective dates of the payment of of such instalments, rank as regards dividends subsequently declared in proportion to the amount of capital paid up on such shares with the holders of the other ordinary shares of the company." (5) "That all moneys received from premiums on such new ordinary shares be, after deducting the expenses of the new issue, added to the reserve fund." These, gentlemen, are the resolutions I have the pleasure to propose.

Mr. S. WELLYS POMEROY seconded the resolutions, which were agreed to without discussion.

The CHAIRMAN—The next resolution I have to propose has reference to the name of the company, and is: "That the name of the company be changed to 'The Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited.'"

Mr. ADOLF VON ANDRÉ having seconded the resolution, it was carried nem. con.

The CHAIRMAN—The next resolution relates to Articles 56 to 59 in the present Articles of Association. These articles have reference only to the issue of debentures by the company, and as the company has no intention whatever of issuing debentures, it is thought desirable that these articles should be cancelled. I, therefore, beg to move: "That the Articles of Association be altered in manner following: Articles 56 to 59, both inclusive, shall be cancelled."

Mr. EGBERT IVERSON seconded the resolution, and it was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. KING—I beg to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors. This is the most silent meeting I ever attended in my life. We are assembled at the end of the first year's operations, and the accounts disclose the splendid result of about 75 per cent. profit on the year's operations. I think the chairman and directors are to be congratulated upon this splendid achievement, and I hope the meeting will not pass off entirely as a Quakers' meeting, but that we shall at least show them that we are sensible of the obligations we are under to them of the great success with which they have made their début, and I, for one, hope they will continue to maintain that position for many years to come.—(Applause.)

Mr. DAVID REID—I have the greatest possible pleasure in seconding the resolution. The results of the company since its inception are simply marvellous, and almost unparalleled, and the best thanks this meeting are due to the directors for the great tact and ability they have displayed in conducting our affairs. It is said, "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;" and our directors have taken advantage of that tide. There were, no doubt, circumstances very much in their favour, to commence with, when they began business, but they have displayed singular tact and judgment in dealing with them. Knowing, as I do, all the directors—that they are gentlemen of large experience of business connected with the East, and that they have all resided in China, the Straits, and Japan—I think we may rest perfectly satisfied that the ability they have shown in the past will still go on, and continue for the future.—(Applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—There is some difficulty in knowing how to express adequately the thanks which I feel are due to you, and which I am sure my brother directors equally feel are due, for the kind manner in which you have spoken, and the meeting has received the words of the gentlemen who proposed and seconded this resolution. It is for the work we have done, and for the result we have obtained, and which, I assure you, is very welcome, and which we receive with very great pleasure. Naturally, in the conduct of a business such as we have had under our care, there have been matters which required very serious consideration, and which involved taking some responsibility; but, knowing our course, and seeing what was before us, we have endeavoured to the best of our judgment to utilise the funds, the capital, the credit, and the responsibility of the shareholders to their very best advantage; and it is a matter of great satisfaction to us that we have been able to place before you the results which to-day we have submitted.—(Applause.) I think that the prospects before the company justify the words that I have already used in my introductory remarks, and I am very hopeful that when we meet again to pass accounts and to receive the report of the directors, we may be favoured with an equally unanimous vote of thanks; for I can assure you that the efforts of the board of directors, equally with the efforts of every-one, and we must not forget our able manager and our agents throughout the East—(applause)—I am sure that their efforts, as well as ours, will be to merit a continuance of your satisfaction.—(Applause.) I would mention, just before we separate, that on March 2nd there will be a meeting here at 3 o'clock. It will be a formal meeting, but it is necessary to confirm the resolutions which to-day have been unanimously passed.

The proceedings then terminated.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 28th.

Many members of the Newfoundland Assembly, as a protest against Imperial harsh treatment, have refused the Governor's summons to attend the House.

The Queen has arrived at Grasse, where she was received with extraordinary enthusiasm.

[The place referred to in this telegram is probably the prefectural town of Grasse, in the province of Var, France, about twenty miles south-west of Nice.—ED. *J.M.*]

London, March 29th.

The influenza is raging in Chicago, where there are not less than 10,000 cases, and the Pittsburg hospitals are crowded. There is great mortality attending the epidemic.

A conspiracy has been discovered among the Police at Buenos Ayres, and a quantity of rifles have been seized. Several arrests have been made.

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London, April 1st.

The Italian Minister to the United States has demanded his passports, in consequence of being unable to effect an adjustment of the New Orleans difficulty.

Congress will meet immediately.

The Earl of Granville is dead.

Later.

The New York press regard Italy's action as hasty. No serious complications are expected to arise.

London, March 30th.

The Court of Enquiry into the loss of the steamer *Utopia* found that her captain had committed a grave error of judgment.

The Irish Delegates to the United States are meeting with small success.

FOR SLEEPLESSNESS USE HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

Dr. HENRY HARLAND, M.R.C.S., Tunbridge Wells, says:—"I have prescribed it in cases of nervous debility and chronic insomnia, with highly beneficial results."

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 3rd.
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Wedn'day, April 8th.*
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 5th †
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 5th ‡
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Tuesday, April 14th.§
From Hongkong.	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, April 7th.‖
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, April 20th.¶
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 12th.

* *City of Peking* left San Francisco on March 21st. † *Djemnah* left Kobe on April 3rd. ‡ *Thibet* left Hongkong on March 27th. § *Batavia* left Vancouver on March 27th. ‖ *China* left Hongkong on April 2nd. ¶ *Oceanic* left San Francisco on April 2nd.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 7th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 11th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 12th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, April 17th
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, April 23rd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 28th March,—Hakodate 25th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 29th March,—Hongkong 24th March, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Mongkut, British steamer, 858, Anderson, 29th March,—Vancouver, B.C., 5th March, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, ——, 29th March,—Takao 21st March, Sugar.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 29th March,—Kobe 28th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 30th March,—San Francisco 10th March, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, Seymour, 30th March,—Hongkong 21st, Nagasaki 26th, and Kobe 29th March, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Aglaia, German steamer, 1,663, Christiansen, 31st March,—Hongkong 25th March, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 31st March,—Hakodate 28th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 31st March,—Kobe 30th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ching-Wo, British steamer, 1,556, Perrelle, 1st April,—Kobe 31st March, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 1st April,—Hakodate 30th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monocacy (6), U.S. paddle-cruiser, Captain M. L. Johnson, 2nd April,—Kobe 31st March.

Piccola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 3rd April,—Nagasaki 31st March, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 3rd April,—Kobe 1st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Melbourne, French steamer, 3,847, Vimont, 29th March,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 29th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bentensan, American schooner, —, Pierce, 30th March,—North Pacific, Ballast.—Langfeldt & Mayers.

Mongkut, British steamer, 858, Anderson, 30th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 31st March,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 31st March,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Walter, 31st March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 31st March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 1st April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, G. W. Pearne, 1st April,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Inishowen Head, British steamer, 1,988, Thompson, 1st April,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 1st April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Strathleven, British steamer, 1,588, Connak, 1st April,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Remus, German steamer, 1,722, Simonsen, 2nd April,—San Francisco, General.—Ahrens & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 2nd April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ching-Wo, British steamer, 1,556, Perrille, 3rd April,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 3rd March,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong:—Mr. G. W. Macondray, Miss T. Foster, Miss J. Allen, and Miss J. Sherwood in cabin; 1 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. S. Baldwin, Rev. and Mrs. H. Mansell, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Sands, Rev. C. C. Jeremiasson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wolf and infant, Mrs. M. M. Speigel, Mr. A. Tyson, Miss M. Wolf, Mr. Sui Hum Hing and servant, Miss J. Kletz, Mr. Carl Rothenburg, Mr. A. Sedgewick, and Mr. S. Hinsel in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. R. Sakamoto, Bishop Hare, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Irvin, and Mr. C. C. Bethune in cabin. For Kobe: Rev. and Mrs. Simeon Shaw in cabin. For Hongkong: Messrs. Hugh Chiene, Chew Chong, and Thos. Brown in cabin.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Wotherspoon, Mr. E. H. Little, Mr. and Mrs. Dodds, child, and maid, Miss Lee, Miss Willcox, Mr. and Mrs. Strachan, Mr. C. P. Bennett and servant, Mr. Chang Chuck Tong, one Japanese lady, Miss Gregory, Mr. B. H. Chamberlain, Mr. Boag, and Mr. J. Rickett in cabin; 6 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. John Revilliod in cabin; 51 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. K. Sakurai and K. Sakagami in cabin; 49 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. J. Buchanan and C. T. Dunster in cabin; 18 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Blair, child, and servant, Baron de Yuneburg, Messrs. Robt. Y. Gilman, Jas. W. Richardson, Jno. Shaplan, Lee Mek Sang, B. Shimakawa, N. Aoki, N. Takahara, S. Shozo, J. Yoshitsume, Y. Shogo, H. Yasaku, S. Kakushiro, Malavralle, and Mrs. Hickmann in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. W. W. Campbell, W. L. Watkins, and E. T. Stork in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Rev. and Mrs. S. Shaw, Mr. R. T. Freeman, Mr. Sakamoto, Miss Thomas, Master R. Kirby, Messrs. Mawari, Nilson, and Bell in cabin; Mr. Ooka, Mrs. Uyehara, Messrs. Mori, Uyehara, Nara, Hasegawa, and Makino in second class, and 16 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Thorne, 3 children, and servant, Mrs. Shepherd, Messrs. Whitall, Fujita, N. Indo, T. Masuda, Rev. Mr. Spinner, Mr. and Mrs. E. Knipping and 5 children, Mr. Arai, Mr. T. Shirakami, Miss E. Hunziker, Mrs. Wm. R. Boyle, Mr. D. Graham, and Mr. and Mrs. Yee Hing in cabin; 21 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—Mr. J. Schlosser, Captain W. Grant, Mr. L. Strauss, Mr. W. W. Till, Mr. W. H. Taylor, Miss Wood, Mr. C. J. Barnes, Mr. A. J. Ferguson, Dr. and Mrs. Reeves Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Tod, Miss Tod, Mr. F. J. Tod, Mr. E. T. Nicholas, Mr. Edward Smith, Mr. W. Bolton, Mr. W. S. Flack, Mrs. D. R. Churchill and Japanese servant, Mr. H. A. Whitmore, Rev. Dr. Sheshadri and son, Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Woods and 2 children, Miss B. Duffield, Rev. and Mrs. Meigs and infant, Miss Searles, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Laughlin and infant, Mr. S. W. Douglass, Mr. Lui Hum Hing and servant, Rev. C. C. Jeremiasson, Mr. J. Wolder, Mr. T. Larsen, Mr. A. Baldasse in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France 1,058 bales; Waste Silk for France 160 bales. Treasure for Shanghai $5,100.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $1,860.00.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama.....	189	266	333	788
Hongkong.....	127	—	—	127
Total	316	266	333	915

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	160	—	160
Hongkong	—	155	—	155
Yokohama.....	—	1,039	—	1,039
Total	—	1,354	—	1,354

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Hakodate the 25th March at 2 p.m.; had light southerly winds and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Oginohama the 26th at 2.20 p.m. and left the 27th at 5.30 p.m.; had light southerly winds and fine weather; passed Inuboye at 9.30 p.m.; Noshima the 28th at 5 a.m., with moderate northerly winds and cloudy weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 28th March at 9.20 a.m.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left Hongkong the 24th March at 6.56 a.m.; had moderate monsoon and cloudy weather to Turnabout; thence to port strong easterly winds and head sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th March at 1.41 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sakata Maru*, reports:—Left Takao the 21st March; had strong N.E. monsoon through the Formosa Straits, with rain and dirty weather with easterly winds to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th March at 3.15 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 28th March at noon; had light variable winds with smooth sea to Oshima, which passed at 8.30 p.m.; thence gentle N.W. winds with fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th March at 4.45 p.m.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain Walker, reports:—Left San Francisco the 10th March; had moderate wind and sea during the entire passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th March at 11.20 p.m. Time, 18 days, 14 hours, and 11 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Hakodate the 28th March at 2 p.m.; after passing the Head experienced dense fog to Kurosaki; passed Kinkasan the 29th at 2.40 p.m. Arrived at Oginohama at 4.20 p.m. and left at 5 p.m.; thence to port moderate to light S.W. winds and fine weather. Time of arrival at Yokohama the 31st March at 8.45 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 30th March at noon; had light variable winds and fine weather; experienced light wind from E.N.E. to S., with smooth sea and fine weather during the voyage. Arrived at Yokohama the 31st March at 6.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 1st April at noon; passed Oshima at 9.40 p.m.; had moderate breeze from the eastward and fine weather, continuing throughout the passage; passed Rock Island at 2 p.m.; Cape Sagami at 6.37 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 2nd April at 9 p.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The past week has been much disturbed by a defaulting dealer who paid a number of cheques without having the necessary funds at the bank to meet them, and this has taken by surprise a number of foreign firms who had shown confidence in the defaulter's integrity. Apart, however, from that, business has not undergone any improvement and transactions have not only been few, but small, and at low prices. Yarn sales for the week amount to about 400 bales only, being almost entirely composed of English Spinnings. Shirting sales only amount to about 1,500 pieces, whilst of Fancies, Italians, and other Piece-goods there have been no sales worthy of record.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

		PER PIECE.	
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
		PER YARD.	
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.15
		PER PIECE.	
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb.	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

		PER PICUL.	
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$26.75	to	27.75
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.75	to	28.75
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.75	to	29.75
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.25	to	29.75
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.75	to	31.25
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.25	to	32.50
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.50	to	37.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.50	to	36.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	36.00	to	38.50
		PER BALE.	
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	79.50
No. 16s, Bombay	72.00	to	78.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

The Easter holidays were the excuse for a slack market at the beginning of the present week; and even now buyers do not seem to be at all lively. Quotations as before.

		PER PICUL.	
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80	to	2.85
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.85	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.70
Tin Plates, per box	5.70	to	6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.40	to	1.45

KEROSENE.

Market quiet and unchanged. There are no fresh arrivals from the States, but our stock both of American and Russian Oil is ample for all purposes.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.65	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

A steady business both in White and Brown, the latter having given rise to some sales "to arrive" at from $4 to $4.20 according to quality.

		PER PICUL.	
Brown Takao	$4.00	to	4.20
Brown Daitong	3.20	to	4.00
Brown Canton	5.25	to	6.25
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	5.00	to	7.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 27th March; since that date settlements in this Market amount to 1,778 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 20; *Filatures*, 1,389; *Re-reels*, 342; *Kakeda*, 27. In addition to these figures Japanese have shipped 99 bales, making the total export business of the week equal to 1,878 piculs.

The great activity noted in our last continued for a few days, and prices were still further advanced. The rush was only checked by holders retiring from the Market and refusing to offer their wares. The consequence of this has been that during the last three days the daily settlements have much diminished, although prices are considered strong at our quotations given below.

Exchange, as well as Silk, is also advancing, and for the moment this has a discouraging effect upon shippers.

Arrivals from the interior are very small and our stock is now down to 4,500 piculs. Even with the restrictive business of the last few days settlements exceed arrivals, and there is every prospect that from now onwards stock will steadily diminish.

The recent business has been fairly well divided between Europe and America, the latter country having the larger share. At the same time the amount of silk going to Europe is noteworthy, especially as it is continually reported that the Markets for Italian silk are underselling Japans. For extra *Filatures* of fine size some very high prices have just recently been paid.

It will be noticed that our stock of *Filatures* is very much reduced, while *Hanks*, *Kakedas* and *Oshu* sorts are very scarce indeed; in fact more than half of the total stock consists of *Re-reels*, which holders refuse to sell except at prohibitive prices.

There have been two shipping opportunities, the American and German Mails both taking silk; the former, *Belgic*, had 1,039 bales for the States; the latter, *General Werder*, had 40 bales for Zurich. These departures bring the present export figures up to 26,833 piculs, against 34,953 last year and 37,687 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Only two small sales, consisting of extra *Shinshu* at $540 for Europe.

Filatures.—After our last was written the large business continued at steadily advancing prices, and $15 over last week's rates was freely paid. In coarse sizes one parcel of *Matsushiro* silk was booked at $610; but this seems to have been the top notch, for prices are now easier without being quotably lower. In fine sizes $635 has been paid for very best *Oshu* and *Usen* sorts for Europe.

Re-reels.—Small amount of business in these owing to the firmness of holders, who insist on keeping their good brands at prices which are out of all proportion to Filatures. Ordinary good *Joshu* have been done at $580, while a lot of inferior and coarse silks have passed the scales at prices ranging from $550 to $500.

Kakedas.—Very small trade in these; present stock is small and undesirable, and anything pretending to be good quality commands a good price.

Oshu.—Nothing done either in *Sendai* or *Hamatsuki*, and the stock is down to very small dimensions.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	$530	to	540
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom. 530	to	535
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom. 520	to	525
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom. 520	to	525
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom. 510	to	515
Hanks—No. 3	Nom. 500	to	505
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom. 480	to	490
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	630	to	640
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	610	to	615
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	610	to	615
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	600	to	605
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	585	to	590
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	585	to	595
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	570	to	580
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	550	to	560
Re-reels—Extra	620	to	630
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1	610	to	620
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	590	to	600
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	580	to	585
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	570	to	575
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	560	to	565
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	520	to	540
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.		—
Kakedas—No. 1	570	to	575
Kakedas—No. 1½	560	to	565
Kakedas—No. 2	550	to	555
Kakedas—No. 2½	530	to	540
Kakedas—No. 3	520	to	525
Kakedas—No. 3½	510	to	515
Kakedas—No. 4	500	to	505
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	520	to	530
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	530	to	540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	510	to	520
Sodai—No. 2½			—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 3rd April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	11,452	14,547	19,364
America	14,797	19,948	18,007
Total	Bales 26,249	34,495	37,371
	Piculs 26,833	34,953	37,687

Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 29,500	Piculs. 35,150	Piculs. 37,650
Stock, 3rd April	4,500	2,150	3,450
Available supplies to date	34,000	37,300	41,100

WASTE SILK.

Transactions in this branch are 268 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 153; *Kibiso*, 107; *Neri*, 8.

Arrivals during the week have just kept pace with sales, and the quantity of stock remains unchanged. Quotations are steady at late rates, and may even be called strong, for shippers would gladly pay the prices asked if they could find good quality.

There have been two shipping opportunities, the French and German mails both taking waste; the former, *Melbourne*, had 171 bales for Marseilles, and the *General Werder* 125 bales for Genoa and beyond, these departures making the present export figures 27,802 piculs, against 25,143 last year and 28,441 at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No movement of any kind, and nothing to say.

Noshi.—Small dealings in *Joshu* at $85 for best and $70 for common. Small parcel of *Bushu* was weighed up at $125 with *Shinshu* at $106.

Kibiso.—A few bales of *Filatures* done at $100; ordinary *Oshu* $46½, with *Low Curlies* at $34. Beyond these no sales have been made.

Sundries.—*Tama-ito* has again been done at $210, with some small parcels of *Neri* at from $12 to $14 according to quality.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 3rd April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	26,515	22,953	25,963
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	27,802	25,143	28,441
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 28,900	Piculs. 27,200	Piculs. 29,700
Stock, 3rd April	3,700	6,100	4,000
Available supplies to date	32,600	33,300	33,700

Exchange is now strengthening daily, and present rates are as under:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3⅞; Documents, 3/3⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅞; Documents, 3/3⅞; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $79; 4m/s. U.S. $79½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.13; 6m/s. fcs. 4.15.

Estimated Silk Stock, 3rd April, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	80	Cocoons	320
Filatures	1,700	Noshi-ito	830
Re-reels	2,320	Kibiso	2,260
Kakeda	310	Mawata	140
Oshu	85	Sundries	150
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	4,500	Total piculs	3,700

TEA.

A few retail sales have been made in *ultra* Common leaf at previous rates. Spring weather has thus far been favourable for the growing crop.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has been looking up, and is tolerably firm at rates:—

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.04
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.15
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	½ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On San Francisco—Private 10 days' sight	79
Silver	45

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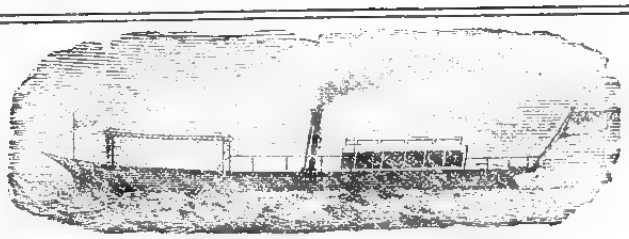

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1891.

MARRIAGE.

On the 8th instant, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., EDWARD CHARLES, second son of Benjamin Hannen, 4, Pembridge Place, London, W., and of Ouseleys Wargrave, Esq., to MARY FANNY, younger daughter of Nicholas John Hannen, Judge of H.B.M.'s Court for Japan.

DEATH.

On the evening of the 10th instant, at No. 239 Bluff, Yokohama, HELEN GEORGINA, relict of the late James Martin. The funeral will take place from the late residence at 10 a.m. on Sunday, the 12th inst. Friends will please accept this notice.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A TELEGRAM from Fukui reports that snow fell there on the 7th instant.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO left the capital, on the 4th instant, for Shizuoka Prefecture.

DURING the week ended the 3rd inst. 8,606 persons visited the Fine Art Exhibition at Uyeno.

COUNT YOSHII, a Privy Councillor, who had been suffering from illness for some time, has improved considerably.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL paid his respects to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress on the afternoon of the 6th instant.

THE grand festival of the Toshogu Shrine in Shiba Park, Tokyo, will be held for three days, commencing on the 16th instant.

THE receipts of the Tokyo Tramway Company during last month were *yen* 17,392.16, which shows a decrease of *yen* 6,083.93 against the same period of last year. During the latter half of last year the number of passengers carried by the Company was 3,649,408, from whom *yen* 78,574 was realized by the sale of tickets.

DR. KOCH'S lymph has been injected into a number of patients in the Daigaku Byoin, a hospital attached to the College of Medicine in the Imperial University at Hongo.

RESIDENTS of Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, have under consideration the erection of a monument at Naritayama, Kofu, in memory of the late Prince Sanjo.

MR. NISHI, President of the Supreme Court, who expired on the 6th instant, was raised on the same day to third class, first grade, by special order of the Emperor.

MR. KIYOURA KEIGO, Chief Commissioner of the Police Bureau in the Home Department, who proceeds on a foreign tour shortly, sent in his resignation of his post on the 5th instant.

THE total number of cases of matches exported from Kobe to foreign countries during last month was 14,226, showing an increase of 6,061 as compared with the previous month.

A MEETING of members of the Central Sanitary Association will be held on the 8th instant in the Home Department to discuss the proposed Regulations for the application of Dr. Koch's lymph.

THE buildings for the hospital of the Japan Red Cross Society at Shibuya, Minami-Toshimagori, Tokyo, have been completed, and the occupation of the new premises by the staff will take place shortly.

THE total number of public elementary schools in the Bonin Islands is at present 21, in which 1,360 boys and 175 girls are educated, the number of teachers being 52 (including 31 assistant teachers).

PRINCES MORI MOTONORI and TOKUGAWA IYESATO, with other noblemen, attendants of the *Jakonoma* and *Kinkeinoma*, had the honour of dining with the Emperor on the 7th instant at the Akasaka Detached Palace.

A DOCK, which for some time past has been in course of construction at the naval port of Kure, has been completed, and the opening ceremony will take place shortly. H.I.H. the Prince Imperial will be present on the occasion.

THE ceremony of presenting certificates to graduates of the Seiritsu Female School took place on the 3rd instant at the Oyu-kan, Asakusa. More than five hundred persons attended the ceremony, among whom were Count Nambu and Professor Shigeno. In the course of the proceedings Professor Shigeno gave a congratulatory address, to which Miss Koide Tei replied on behalf of the graduates.

THE ceremony of erecting a monument at the Tomoye Castle, Tawaragori, Mikawa, Aichi Prefecture, to the memory of Watanabe Kazan took place on the 3rd instant. A large number of persons attended the ceremony. Among those present were Viscount Miyake, Lieutenant-General Baron Kurokawa, Commander of the Third Division (Nagoya), Colonel Kojima, and a number of military and civil officials.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 7th instant, and was attended by Counts Yamagata, Saigo, Yamada, and Oyama, Viscount Kabayama, and Mr. Yoshikawa, the proceedings lasting from ten in the forenoon till four in the afternoon. Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister for Home Affairs, Baron Makimura, President of the Administrative Court, Viscount Nomura, Count Toda, Mr. Kiyoura, Chief Commissioner of the Police Bureau in the Home Department, and Mr. Hamao, Director of the Bureau of Special School Affairs, were also present.

AN aëronaut named Suzuki Magoichiro, will give a performance on the 17th instant in Uyeno Park, and has notified the Authorities of his desire of exhibiting his skill before the Russian Prince Imperial, who is expected in the capital about the end of next month. He also intends to give his performance in Yokohama, Aichi, Osaka, and Nagasaki, and proposes to proceed afterwards to Shanghai.

A MEETING of the Standing Committee of the Japan Seamen's Aid Society was held on the 4th instant, and was attended by Viscount Fujinami Kototada, and Messrs Seki Yoshiomi, Kimotsuki Kaneyuki, Fujikura Kentatsu, Murakami Keijiro, Fukuya Yasusada, Matsuda Cho, Kanzaki Katsumi and others. Marquis Nabeshima, Vice-President, and Counts Date and Hayashi Kiyoyasu, Advisers, were also present at the meeting.

FIRE broke out on the night of the 31st ultimo in a house at Imamachi, Minami-kambaragori, Niigata Prefecture, and destroyed 53 dwellings, 13 godowns, and 4 shrines, 3 houses being partly damaged. On the same night an outbreak of fire took place in a house at Oshinomura, Ishikawagori, Ishikawa Prefecture, and destroyed 57 houses and 4 godowns, eight persons being burned to death, and 2 women severely injured.

THE small change in the aspect of the Import trade is in the right direction, though nothing like a revival is even indicated. Dealers are making enquiries, and from what can be gathered in regard to the trade in the interior there is doubtless a slow improvement going on, which may, in view of the present crop prospects, ultimately result in future prosperity. English Yarns have been taken to the extent of 1,000 bales, though prices show a further slight decline; Bombays, however, owing to competition with the productions of Japanese mills, are slow of sale and difficult to move. Shirtings have been sold in small quantities, as have also T.-Cloths and Victoria Lawns, but Fancy Goods and Woollens have been entirely neglected. The Metal market has improved somewhat, and a fair amount of transactions have been put through at late rates. There have only been small sales of Kerosene, but the market is steady. Fresh arrivals keep up the large stock, which is now close upon 700,000 cases of all kinds. The Sugar trade is quiet, and Brown sorts are rather lower in value, though holders all by no means weak. The Silk trade has again been active, and the stock has been further reduced by nearly 2,000 piculs. Prices continue to advance as the best chops get scarcer, and unless there are arrivals to come in the stock here will be about cleared off before the new season has commenced. The prospects for a heavy growth of mulberry are good throughout the Silk districts generally, and there will probably be food enough and to spare for all the *kaiko* that will be hatched. Waste Silk has been in fair demand. Stocks are much reduced in desirable fibre, and full prices are paid for suitable parcels. The result of the Tea trade is that over 30,000 piculs more have been exported this season than last. The weather continues suitable to the coming crop, and new Tea will probably be shipped in sample quantities a fortnight hence. Exchange has been steady, but closes weak with indications of a decline.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE FINE ARTS EXHIBITION AT UYENO.

THE usual spring exhibition of fine art objects in the gallery of the Bijutsu-kai, Uyeno Park, is gradually becoming more and more a display of modern manufactures, and less and less an occasion for bringing together representative specimens of the work of former eras. For many reasons this is doubtless inevitable, principal among them being the fact that private collectors shrink from sending their treasures to be ranged side by side with specimens furnished from the rooms of dealers or the work-shops of artizans. This is emphatically a regrettable prejudice, because juxtaposition of the old and the new in such a gallery seems better calculated than anything else to fulfil the purpose of the Society, namely, to afford artists and art manufacturers an opportunity of comparing the achievements of the great masters of former times with the efforts of their successors in the present age. However, collectors are, on the whole, a selfish class. They prefer to think that their own treasures are inimitable, and will not readily lend themselves to the idea that any progress can bring modern artists within comparable reach of the old. They have especial reason to exclude this hypothesis in Japan, for it is beyond all question that many of the objects now produced in the domains of lacquer, carving in wood and ivory, porcelain, metal work, textile fabrics, and so forth, are not greatly eclipsed by the *chefs-d'œuvre* of other generations. Collectors may well hesitate to expose their treasures to a comparison the issue of which is often doubtful.

* * *

The Exhibition is entered through the picture gallery. A fairly large collection of pictures by celebrated masters has been brought together, but not many among them merit notice. Three paintings of female figures by Shosai Settei, an artist of the present century, are the first to attract attention. Fairly representative of the *Ukiyo-ye* school, they show grace of outline and delicate management of colours, but the figures are as flat as though they had been cut out of cardboard. Near them on the same line are two exquisite little paintings of monkeys by Mori Sosen, hanging side by side with an interesting pair of the same kind, one by Mori Sosen himself, the other by Mori Shuhō, his brother. Mr. Iwasaki Yanosuke sends from his extensive collection two fine pictures, the first a landscape, in Chinese style, by the renowned but ill-fated Watanabe Kazan; the other a study in subdued tints by Gyokuraku, a pupil of the celebrated Kano Kohogen. A heron and a plum-tree by Joki, and a landscape by Tanyu, the former from the collection of Count Matsudaira Naoaki, the latter from that of Marquis Mayeda Toshitsugu, are worthy examples of the two masters. So, too, is a painting of a cock by Tanyu, which Count Matsukata sends. Tanyu's pictures never seem to fail, rare as genuine specimens ought to be. One of the most beautiful and evidently authentic efforts of his brush we have ever seen, is a collection of small sketches of the goddess Kwannon, bound into an album and exhibited by Mr. Isobe Tarobei. The delicacy and firmness of Tanyu's touch are eminently displayed in these little pictures. Another contribution of a cognate character is sent by Mr. Yasuta Katsutomo. It consists of a number of miniature designs by Hokusai, intended to be copied in metal work, as on the hilts of swords or the clasps of tobacco pouches. It is interesting to compare with these a scroll by a Chinese artist of the Ming dynasty, which is also an exceptionally fine example. Another scroll that attracts much attention is a series of pictures depicting scenes from the Mongol invasion of Japan nearly six centuries ago. Takezaki Gorobei, one of the Japanese Generals who took a leading part in expelling the invasion, commissioned two artists of the Tosa School, Nagataka and Nagaakira, to make these paintings, and they did so, probably spending several years over the task, and executing it in faithful observance of all the traditions of the Tosa Academy. The scroll came into the market last summer, and was acquired by the Imperial Household Department.

* * *

Fortunately for the modern artists, the rooms where their productions hang are separated by the longest possible interval from the gallery of ancient masters. Even thus softened, however, the contrast is painfully striking. The men who exhibit on these occasions seem, with very rare exceptions, to have lost all the spirit and retained only the conventionalities of the genuine Japanese school. Their works show no redeeming feature, being at once hopelessly out of touch with the time, and mere caricatures of former fashions and motives. The very few pictures to which this criticism does not apply in its full severity, scarcely rise above the level of uninteresting mediocrity. Of course the display is not truly representative of modern Japanese pictorial art. The best men seldom send to these periodical exhibitions. Baison, one of the most promising young painters of the day, does indeed contribute a picture illustrating his power of brush, but so infelicitous in the management of the subject as to be altogether unpleasing. Artists like Gaho, Watanabe, Giyokusho, Kasan, Tambi, and so forth are conspicuous by their absence. The pure Japanese school has fallen upon hard times, and is probably approaching its final demise.

* * *

Of lacquered wares some beautiful old specimens are exhibited. In this branch fine examples never fail, for in every Japanese family of the upper classes a certain number of good pieces are preserved. Marquis Mayeda sends several grand specimens, notably a box with the *ishidatami* pattern in gold on a black ground, the decoration being carried over every part of the piece, both inside and outside. Another beautiful example is a writing-box by Yasuchika, with the *hashigui* pattern, also in gold on black. Equally noteworthy are two boxes of very old lac, the one having butterfly decoration, the other an *uguisu* with a verse of poetry. But the modern lacquerers succeed, on this occasion, in holding their own fairly well, or at any rate in showing that their capabilities need only encouragement to reach the old level.

* * *

In the same section with the lacquerers are a few tolerably fine wood-carvings, a full and valuable collection of sword-furniture—*menuki*, *kogai*, and *kozuka*—by the various generations of the Goto family, and several interesting porcelains. Chief among the last is a noble pair of old Imari jars with covers, contributed by Mr. F. S. James of Yokohama. Such grand specimens of this type are scarcely ever to be found in Japan. This particular pair was doubtless made to order, and exported by the Dutch from Deshima—for the fortunate possessor acquired them, we believe, in Europe. The Museum of Antiquities sends some excellent pieces, notably a bowl of middle period *Ao-Kutani*, and an *Ao-Bizen* censer. In the same case are a beautiful dish of enamelled Nabeshima ware, one or two rich examples of Awata faience, and some charming blue and white plates from the Arita kilns. A plaque of *Hirado* porcelain forming a tiny screen, exhibited by Marquis Kuroda, is also very fine. As usual, however, this section is disfigured by the admission of several spurious specimens, the descriptions appended to which are in comical contrast with the truth. Scarcely one of the numerous pieces labelled "Old Satsuma" is genuine; Nomura Ninsei is insulted by having attributed to him a flower-vase of worthless, modern manufacture, and other travesties are gravely paraded before the eyes of an astonished public. Unless it be intended to convert the whole affair into a burlesque, we are unable to comprehend the reason for giving a place to such specimens.

* * *

Among the modern exhibits a considerable space is devoted to articles of jewelry, including combs, hair-pins, and so forth, and to the *kamiire* and tobacco pouches which constitute such an important item of a Japanese lady's outfit. Some of these are very beautiful, showing that the old taste of the designer and skill of the worker in metals remain unimpared. An admirable display is also made of flower-baskets and artificial flowers, in the manufacture of both of which the Japanese excel. The most interesting articles in this section, however, are the porcelains. Makuzu of Yokohama and Seifu of Kyoto are the chief exhibitors. Two or three pieces by the former, with finely incised surfaces and rich red under the glaze, are really first-rate productions, but in every case the prices are absolutely prohibitive. It is difficult to fathom the design of Makuzu in asking for his work prices that no sane person can be expected to pay. If his keramic achievements were unique, there might be some excuse for such suicidal exorbitancy. But they are not unique. Seifu is an even greater artist, and Seifu's prices, when compared with those of Makuzu, look ludicrously small. Among the contributions of the Kyoto master to the present exhibition are two vases—one a coral red monochrome, the other a canary yellow with reserved medallions in blue under the glaze—that might have come from the hands of the Chin-te-cheng potters. Seifu is unquestionably a genuis. Whether his mantle will fall upon his son or pupils, we cannot yet know, but if not, every piece manufactured by him now will have a high value hereafter.

HOKKAIDO.

THE following figures show the agricultural productions of Hokkaido, with the areas under cultivation and the increases or decreases in each case, for the year 1889, which appears to be the latest included in the detailed statistics:—

Crop.	Area in *cho* (1 *cho*=2½ acres).	Produce in *koku* (1 *koku*=5.13 bushels).	Increase or Decrease as compared with 1888.
	cho. *tan.*	*koku.*	
Barley	315 2	25,666	+66 *cho* 5 *tan* −5,224 *koku.*
Millet	1,484 1	11,890	+65 *cho* 1 *tan* +619 *koku.*
Buckwheat ...	2,538 6	14,733	
Rape	248 2	2,443	
White beans (*daizu*) ...	3,527 7	26,159	+444 *cho* 6 *tan* +92 *koku.*
Beans (*shoru*)	3,480 8	20,877	+513 *cho* 9 *tan* −3,081 *koku.*
Indian corn...	678 3	11,407	+92 *cho* 6 *tan* +1,628 *koku.*
Rice	1,988 1	9,280	+84 *cho* 8 *tan* −5,096 *koku.*

From these figures it appears that the total area under cultivation in 1888 was 14,261 *cho*, or 35,652 acres, approximately; and that the total produce was 122,375 *koku*, or 627,783 bushels; also, that whereas the area under cultivation increased by 1,267½ *cho*, as compared with the preceding year, the produce diminished by 12,493 *koku*, this last fact being attributed to exceptionally unfavourable climatic conditions. We recently published statistics showing that the total extent of arable and pasture land in the northern island is estimated, according to surveys just concluded, at 2,389,000 acres, and that the area under cultivation at the close of 1889 was 41,955 acres, from which it would appear that the increase of the cultivated area during 1889 was 6,303 acres, against 3,168 acres in the preceding year. Thus the success achieved up to the present in respect of land cultivation is altogether insignificant, only one fifty-seventh part of the available area having been placed under crops up to the present.

* * *

These figures go to confirm the justice of the remarks contained in a recent issue of the *Choya Shimbun*, namely, that the wealth of Hokkaido lies in the sea rather than in the land, and that persons emigrating thither should turn their attention to the former in preference to the latter. We are well aware, writes the *Choya*, that Hokkaido is extensive enough to produce an abundance of crops, and that it also possesses large deposits of coal. But after all, looked at on the map of the world, it is a very tiny spot, and though its land may be fit for tillage, its climate is too rigorous to encourage agricultural effort in the interior. But in respect of marine products, the island may safely be said to have no rival in proportion to its size. Situated between the Arctic and the Pacific oceans, and having

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a coast line exceptionally indented, the place offers a pleasant home to fish of all kinds. Western folks are thoroughly acquainted with the sources of wealth offered by the seas about Hokkaido, but the Japanese themselves seem comparatively indifferent to them, eagerly and industriously as they fish the waters nearer home. A number of foreign vessels—we still quote the *Choya*—engage in the business of hunting seals and otters in the seas adjacent to Hokkaido. It was stated that, in order to put a stop to these unlawful proceedings, the Government intended to despatch war ships to Hokkaido, but the duty of protection would have been exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, owing to the prevalence of heavy fogs and stormy weather, which enable vessels to elude pursuit and expose guard-ships to constant danger. The *Choya* concludes by recommending that instead of spending money on the extension of agriculture and the reclamation of land, the Government should seek to develop the marine industries of Hokkaido.

SAIGO TAKAMORI.

An extraordinary story has recently been circulated to the effect that Saigo Takamori was not killed before Kagoshima in 1876, but escaped to Russia, whence he had just returned, or was on the point of returning. It seemed unnecessary to repeat the tale, for those who were in Japan at that unhappy time remember well that no doubt existed, or could possibly exist, about the death of the great *Samurai*. Saigo, having carried resistance to the extreme limits of courage and endurance, fell by his own hand, and his head was hidden by his followers so that it might not come into the possession of the Imperialists. Very soon, however, it was discovered and identified by a number of men who knew the Satsuma leader well, among them being Counts Yamagata and Kawamura, Saigo's beloved comrades. There was not the smallest room for uncertainty in the matter. Count Kawamura himself washed the head of his old friend and sometime teacher, and to this day cannot allude to the incident without strong emotion. Yet there are people foolish enough to credit the rumour of Saigo's escape to Russia, and several Tokyo journals think it necessary to enter into detailed contradictions. The rumour, as before stated, doubtless had its origin in the unexpected return of Mr. Ogata Fuman, a member of Saigo's staff, who was believed to have perished in the rebellion, but who has now come home to Kagoshima, safe and sound. The circumstances connected with Mr. Ogata's escape, and with his absence during fifteen years, are not yet known.

FINE ART EXHIBITION IN YOKOHAMA.

A treat was afforded to lovers of Fine Art on Saturday and Sunday by the well-known Yokohama firm of Matsuishiya, through whose instrumentality a number of high class *kakemono* and screens, the work of famous artists and now in the possession of various connoisseurs, were collected and exhibited at the Chitose-ro in Sumiyoshicho, Yokohama. Owing to the limited space available only some hundred and thirty of the objects contributed could be accorded a place, and in all probability a supplementary exhibition will take place later on. Among the gentlemen whose collections have been drawn upon on the present occasion are Count Matsukata, Messrs. Go Junzo, Ono Mitsukage, Mogi Yasushige, Mogi Sobei, Hara Rokuro, Hara Zenzaburo, and Yoshida Kobe, H.E. Mr. Asada, Governor of Kanagawa, Messrs. Yamada Matsusaburo, Komatsu (President of the Yokohama Law Courts), &c. Among the *chefs d'œuvre* of the exhibition are four *kakemono* from the brush of Okiyo; one, a beautiful specimen, showing masterly treatment of the famous Arashiyama at Kyoto (contributed by Mr. Yamada); another, subject "Stork and Young," sent by Mr. Hara Rokuro; a third, the figure of a tiger, shown by Mr. Ono; and the fourth contributed by Mr. Yamada Matsusaburo. A small gold screen, by Korin, was sent by Mr. Minota Chojiro; two volumes of studies of flower sprays and of the praying mantis and other insects, by Chinzan, came from Mr. Kimura Riyemon; Mr. Asada sent two fine *kakemono*, of *Take* and *Ume* by Goshun; Mr. Komatsu contributed a couple of masterly sketches by Kazan, and a *kakemono* of *Kamo* by the same master; two of Chinzan's large works —*sansui* scenes—came from Mr. Minota; Yosai was represented by three beautifully executed *kakemono* from Mr. Go, and a pair of magnificent screens all ablaze with colour, from the collection of Mr. Mogi Sobei; and a pair of *kakemono* by Toyohiko, *sansui* studies in pale and subdued tints, were contributed by Mr. Ono Mitsukage. The exhibition was visited by many art lovers, both Japanese and foreign, during the two days that it remained open.

THE OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The new Chamber of Commerce at Osaka has been officially opened. Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, attended at the opening ceremony, and delivered the following address, which we translate from the *Choya Shimbun*:—"Gentlemen—It gives me sincere pleasure to join with you to-day in opening this Chamber. Osaka is one of the most important tradal centres in Japan, and its citizens, taking the lead of all others, established a Chamber of Commerce in order to increase the profits on trade and industry, and have for many years contributed materially to improve the economical condition of the country. And now I cannot but admire the enterprise displayed in erecting this structure, and re-organizing the Chamber. In the administration of affairs relating to agriculture, commerce, and industry, progress is made by competition between practical men, but it is essential that competition should not be carried to such lengths as to inflict injury on the competitors. To avert this evil, and to discharge administrative functions properly, the Authorities, apart from the use they make of the machinery of local government, look to Chambers of Commerce and Agricultural Societies, where the representatives of practical experts form associations, and consult as to the methods of profitable competition, in due accord with the objects of each enterprise; and where, with regard to undertakings to be hereafter carried out, ideas may be collected and formulated which shall receive the utmost possible consideration from the Government. This Chamber of Commerce is most necessary, therefore, because of its bearing on national economic functions, and I venture to express the earnest hope that you, gentlemen, by the aid of your knowledge and experience, will devise enterprises of practical profit, and assist to improve the economic condition of the country."

KOBE LIGHTERAGE AND DRAYAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The first ordinary general meeting of the Kobe Lighterage and Drayage Company was held at the Municipal Hall, Kobe, on the 5th instant, when the following report was taken as read:—"The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the company, and balance sheet for the four months ending 31st December last. The net profits for that period amount to $938.38 for appropriation. From this sum the Directors recommend writing off the amount at credit of preliminary expenses, which will extinguish the account and absorb $921.50. The balance of $16.88 to be carried to new profit and loss account. Contracts have been signed with the Yokohama Engine and Iron Works Co., Ld., for the construction of a steam tug and three cargo lighters, and with Messrs. E. H. Hunter & C. for three cargo lighters, and work thereon is proceeding satisfactorily, under the supervision of Mr. J. Ellerton, to whom the specification and tenders were submitted for approval. In accordance with Clause 61 of the Articles of Association Messrs. R. Hughes and Alf. Woolley retire by rotation, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. S. Ralston and L. D. Abraham, who retire, and offer themselves for re-election. The remuneration of Auditors will have to be fixed for the current year." Commenting on the report, the *Hyogo News* says:—"Shareholders in the Kobe Lighterage and Drayage Co. have every reason to be satisfied with the result of the first four months' working. There is no doubt that the company has had great difficulties to contend with both in its initial stages and in its later development. Fortunately these have all been overcome, and if its prospects are to be relied upon it is on a fair way to commercial prosperity. Few companies can show such progress in so short a period, and this progress has been due, in a great measure, to the energy displayed by the Chairman, Mr. A. Woolley."

MARRIAGE OF MISS M. F. HANNEN.

On Wednesday the marriage of Miss Mary Fanny Hannen, second daughter of Mr. Justice Hannen, to Mr. Edward Charles Hannen of London, took place at Christ Church, Yokohama. The Church, profusely decorated with snow-white blossoms of various kinds, never received a larger or more representative assemblage of the Yokohama and Tokyo communities, the affectionate interest felt in Miss Hannen and the sincere esteem and regard in which her parents are universally held, attracting residents of all nationalities from the Capital and the Settlement alike. The bride's elder sister acted as bridesmaid, assisted by two beautiful children, Miss James and Miss Fraser, and the service was performed by the Rev. E. C. Irwine. A reception subsequently held at the residence of the bride's parents was numerously attended, among these present being nearly the whole of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique. Mr. J. A. Fraser, in a graceful speech, wished all happiness to the newly married couple in the name of the British Community, assuring the bride that the kindest and most loving sentiments should never cease to follow her from the countless friends whose lives she had brightened by her presence in Yokohama.

THE KEIOGIJIKU UNIVERSITY.

We have received the following unsigned letter, which we nevertheless publish, having reason to know that it is a *bond fide* communication. In justice to ourselves, however, we must note that the statement referred to was explicitly given on the authority of the Tokyo News Agency, that we were in no respect responsible for it, and further that the correct facts were subsequently published in these columns:—

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I herewith beg to correct the statement in your issue of the 31st ultimo with regard to the disorderly behaviour of the students in one of the departments of this University.

I greatly regret that such a mistaken report should have found access to your columns, and beg to say that the students have never had any cause for complaint whatever, their foreign teachers having invariably shown great kindness to them, and the students have never expressed a wish to the faculty that any of their teachers should be dismissed.

Hoping that you will kindly insert this correction in your paper,

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully.

EXPORT DUES AND THEIR INCIDENCE.

In a recent issue we alluded to the campaign against export duties, inaugurated by the editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, and said that while fully sympathising with the objects of the crusade, we must nevertheless take exception to the doctrine enunciated by the editor, namely, that such taxes come out of the pocket of the Japanese producer or manufacturerer, whereas in truth they come out of the pocket of the foreign consumer. The *Keizai Zasshi* now claims that we misinterpreted the lecturer's statements, and explains that his reference was to the evil effect of these duties when imposed upon articles competing with similar staples in foreign markets. In offering this explanation our financial contemporary is so kind as to teach us a very simple object lesson. Suppose, it says, that the *Japan Mail* had to pay a tax of so much per sheet, while its competing contemporaries were not exposed to any such impost, could the *Mail* recover the tax from its subscrib-

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ers? We answer, with equal simplicity, that if the *Mail* could not recover the tax from its subscribers, then the only course left would be to cease publication, when the payment of the tax would also cease. But of course the *Keizai Zasshi's* ultimate meaning is precisely the same as our own. The only difference is that while we spoke of direct results, the Tokyo periodical discusses indirect. If Japanese silk has to pay an export duty on its way to the market where it comes into competition with Italian silk, then although the purchaser of the silk actually pays the tax, the producer may be the greater sufferer, seeing that the burden of the tax may drive his staple out of the market altogether. There is no occasion to devote space to these discussions. Everyone is practically agreed about them. We, assuredly, are entirely at one with the editor of the *Keizai Zasshi* in his crusade against export duties. Bad as all customs dues are, export dues are the worst, for while protection furnishes a lame plea for taxes on imports, not the most shadowy defence can be set up for a tax on exports. In the former case a nation offers costly encouragement to the development of its own industries; in the latter, it endeavours to keep the products of its own industries out of foreign markets. Therefore we sincerely hope that Mr. Taguchi and his fellow-thinkers will succeed in their campaign.

MORTALITY CAUSED BY WILD BEASTS AND SNAKES IN INDIA.

A RETURN in a recent issue of the official *Gazette of India* deals with the number of wild animals and venomous snakes destroyed throughout India during 1890, and with the destruction of human beings and cattle by wild beasts and snakes in the same period. The total number of persons killed by animals in India during the past year was 2,724; by snakes, 22,480. The number of cattle killed by animals was 65,757, and by snakes 3,793. The number of tigers killed was 1,312; the number of leopards 4,179; the number of wolves, 4,930; of "other animals," 2,542; and of snakes 577,770. The rewards paid for killing animals during the past year amounted to Rs. 1,19541, and for snakes Rs. 23,321. These figures show that one person in every 72,882 of the population of British India was killed by wild animals during the past year. The aggregate mortality recorded from snake-bite during the past eleven years is 219,367, that is, about 20,000 a year. The mortality from snake-bite tends to increase, and this is most serious in Bengal and in the north-western provinces. This is an awful story, and we are not surprised that it has caused much searching of heart amongst official persons. The Government of India, in consultation with Local Governments and Administrations, has recently had under examination the question whether it might not be possible to organize some better means for the destruction of wild animals and snakes, and has considered whether the establishment of a public organization for the purpose of destroying wild beasts would be likely to be advantageous. An experiment of this kind was attempted in Madras some years ago, but was found to involve great expenditure, and the results achieved did not justify any trial of the plan elsewhere. Moreover, the larger carnivora are not gregarious, nor are they very numerous, and the adoption of any such system would inevitably end in causing the existing agency for destroying them to disappear. The Viceroy has therefore, according to the official resolution on the subject, determined to maintain the system now generally in force of granting rewards for the destruction of wild animals. He desires that particular attention should be paid to the following points, viz.—(1) all possible facilities, consistent with due precautions against fraud, should be afforded to those who kill wild animals for obtaining the authorized rewards: (2) shooting parties, which engage to submit to the required precautions against injury to the forests, should be encouraged, for the destruction of tigers and other dangerous carnivora in reserved forests: and (3) licenses under the Arms Act should be granted freely to agriculturists located in the neighbourhood of forests and jungles for the protection of themselves and their cattle against wild beasts. He also thinks that more liberality might be shown in offering regards for the destruction of man-eating tigers. The system of granting rewards for the destruction of snakes has effected no reduction in the mortality from snake-bite. Indeed, the system of rewards has led, in many places, to the breeding of snakes. Recent enquiries have satisfied the Government that no system of granting rewards for the destruction of snakes is likely to have any appreciable effect on the mortality from snake-bite. Snakes exist in such numbers that it is hopeless to expect to exterminate them, and there can be no reasonable doubt that large numbers of those for which rewards have actually been paid have been really harmless snakes. No satisfactory means exist in most parts of the country for ascertaining whether a snake for which a reward is demanded is really venomous or harmless, for the native officials in the interior of a district rarely know the difference themselves, while a villager who has killed a snake does not think it worth while to take it into headquarters in order to obtain the small reward offered, even when the distance is not so great as to render it impossible to get the snake there before it has decomposed. If the rewards for killing snakes are raised to an amount which renders people willing to claim them, snake-hunters immediately begin to breed snakes in order to secure for themselves a livelihood. Moreover, so long as the people persist in walking in the dark with bare feet near their houses, where undergrowth, débris, and filth, the hot-beds of disease, provide cover in which venomous snakes can live and breed, deaths from snake-bite must continue to be numerous, for it is in such places that snakes are most dangerous, and not in the jungles where, though they exist in immense numbers, they can keep out of the way of human beings. The most effective way of reducing mortality from snake-bite is to destroy the cover afforded for snakes in or near villages. The Government of India does not believe that any general injunctions will produce much effect, and a system of exhibiting the statistics in totals and averages only serves to conceal the places most in fault. Local Governments and Administrations are therefore to direct their subordinates to find out and attack villages within their respective jurisdictions which show the greatest number of deaths from snake-bite, and insist on these officers paying personal attention to the organized cleansing of the surroundings of such places and reporting how these organized measures affect the mortality from snake-bite. If such a system were carried on year by year, the worst neighbourhoods should be in time appreciably relieved, and it would be interesting if the reports showed to what extent the destruction of venomous snakes and their eggs is carried out simultaneously with the cleansing of the villages, and how the removal of undergrowth or filth affects the mortality from cholera, fever, and other diseases, as well as from snake-bite. The extraordinary thing is that while the rewards increase in the aggregate year by year, meaning increased destruction of snakes, the mortality from snake-bites is also increasing. Obviously therefore the system of rewards is a failure to a great extent, and it is time that some more effective means be adopted.

A MODEL JUDGE.

THE *Spectator* takes Lord Hannen as an ideal Judge, and writes of him as follows:—"No better example of the qualities which ought to win judicial office and judicial promotion can be found than those which belong to Lord Hannen. To say that as a Judge he is just and impartial, is not enough, for that, we are glad to think, may be said of very Judge on the Bench. In addition to these qualities, the absence of which would have meant disgrace, he possesses powers of mind and character which are exactly those demanded by his office. Lord Hannen has always shown himself, in the best sense of the word, a man of the world. Not a superficial cynic or a disillusioned critic of human action, but one of those men of the world who, in Byron's phrase, "know the world like men,"—a man, that is, who is capable of looking deep into human motives, and, through experience and observation, of giving them their proper value. The man of the world who knows the world like a man, is one who knows it thoroughly, who does not flinch from giving things their true names, and who makes use of no mental evasions to hide from his own eyes facts that are personally repellent, or that do not coincide with some preconceived view. He is, in fact, the man of large knowledge, the man capable of the sympathy of comprehension as of the sympathy of approbation, who understands as clearly that of which he disapproves as that of which he approves. Lord Hannen has this gift, the supreme gift for the Judge, and one which is seldom possessed by any but persons of great intellectual power. In him, too, it is tinged with real human kindness, and with a sense of the true import of human action. The standpoint from which men are regarded as struggling animalculæ, who bite and are bitten, but whose vagaries are of little real moment, should not belong to a Judge; yet it is one that the atmosphere of the Divorce Court is likely enough to produce. Lord Hannen, however, never hardened under the influence of his work. It was impossible to hear his judgments or charges to juries, in the ordinary matrimonial suits that came before him, without seeing that from his mind had been eliminated all such refracting cant, and that he saw the facts as they really were. This large-mindedness, coupled with a deep knowledge of the law, will render Lord Hannen's presence in the final Court of Appeal peculiarly valuable. It is true he will now deal only at a distance with human actions, but his keen judgment and well-balanced intellect will find ample scope in the discussion and settlement of the important legal problems with which the House of Lords is concerned."

MR. HOLLAND.

WE learn that Professor T. S. Holland, of Oxford University, recently spoken of as coming to Japan in the service of the Japanese Government, has not been engaged, and we are not in a position to say whether he is likely to be engaged. This opportunity may also be taken to correct an inference drawn by one of our local contemporaries from the rumour of Mr. Holland's engagement. The circumstance was spoken of as "indicating a change of policy in legal matters by the Japanese Government." It is scarcely necessary to point out that the employment of an English expert in the capacity of adviser to the Japanese Cabinet on questions of international or constitutional law, can have no connection with a Governmental change of policy in legal matters. The inference is particularly singular in the present instance, seeing that an eminent English barrister filled that very post in Japan until the end of last February.

NEW COMPANIES.

THE *Keizai Zasshi* gives an interesting list of new companies established in Japan during the five-year period 1885-89, inclusive. The names of the companies are not recorded in detail, but only their numbers, and total capitals according to localities. The list is as follows:—

Place.	Number of Companies.	Aggregate Capital, Yen.
Hokkaido	39	11,639,845
Tokyo	185	45,049,050
Kyoto	44	3,499,800
Osaka	140	11,553,700
Kanagawa	37	1,617,500
Hyogo	77	19,524,960
Nagasaki	45	603,113
Niigata	57	1,022,640
Thirty-nine other Prefectures	982	21,150,820
Total	1,636	115,661,428

* * *

How many of these companies, we wonder, are now in a flourishing state. Probably at no time during the past twenty years has the country suffered from severer industrial depression than at the present moment. Everywhere we hear of properties offered for sale at prices that

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are only a fraction of their original cost. Large manufactories with expensive plants of machinery, started in recent years under apparently promising auspices, are said to be running at a loss, their owners anxiously seeking capitalists to relieve them of these unprofitable ventures. What relief might be brought to the country if investment of foreign money were possible. Beyond a doubt many of the industries now reduced to a languishing, if not a moribund, condition, might be resuscitated and carried on prosperously if foreign capital could be employed and foreign organizing experience utilized. It seems to us very singular that in the face of such circumstances there should be found men desirous of excluding foreign capital and interdicting the ownership of real estate by foreigners. Japan, we are persuaded, has no worse enemies than these selfish or short-sighted conservatives.

A PETRIFIED CORPSE.

THE stories coming to us occasionally of late from Europe and America, about the bodies of buried people turned to marble in their graves, find a parallel in Japan. The *Kokkai* says that in the Mukayejima-nakatsu district of Saga Prefecture, there lives one Suyeyoshi Kumakichi, a merchant, whose grandfather Sobei, born in the year 1806, died in 1878, and was duly interred, the corpse being placed in a pine-wood coffin one inch thick. On the 11th of March, this year, it became necessary, for some unexplained reason, to remove the body to another place. The grave was opened for that purpose, when it was found that about one half of the coffin had become decayed from immersion in water that had drained into the grave. A part of the corpse thus exposed looked curiously white and undecayed, and felt as hard as stone. The exhuming folks, much astonished, removed the lid of the coffin—presumably a tub in which the corpse had been placed sitting, after the ordinary Japanese fashion—and saw old Sobei just as he had appeared thirteen years previously, the day after his death, a chaplet of beads about his neck, and his body perfectly intact, except that it had turned to stone, and seemed as though cut out of solidified lime. After long wonderment, the removal of the corpse was proceeded with, but ere it could be transported to the new burial ground, crowds of people assembled to witness the strange spectacle, and Suyeyoshi found it expedient to give the neighbours a few days to satisfy their curiosity before re-interring the petrified body. Some of those who came to look are said to have worshipped as if in the presence of a miraculous manifestation, From the waist downwards the corpse was blackened by the action of the water in the grave, but the upper part was quite white.

THE NEW ORGANIZATION OF THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF POLICE.

THE re-organization of the Metropolitan Board of Police, effected by Imperial Ordinance No. 34, promulgated on the 1st instant, was a necessary consequence of the large reductions voted by the Diet in the appropriation for the Board. Apart, however, from purely financial reasons, it had for some time been known that changes must be introduced in the original organization of May, 1886. The organizations of all the Departments of State and special Bureaux and Boards were more or less amended in the first half of last year, but the organization of the Metropolitan Board of Police remained unchanged, a difference attributed—though for our own part we fail to trace the connection of ideas—to the fact that Viscount Tanaka, former Head of the Board, was Chief Secretary of the Cabinet under which the scheme of re-organization was first elaborated. The principal feature of the present amendments consists in a reduction of the number of functionaries in the Board. Under the former organization there was a Vice-Inspector-General of Police, but that position has now been abolished. Similarly Assistant Police Sergeants, the Assistant Chief Police Physician, the Assistant Director of the Bureau, Assistant Governors of Penitentiaries, and so forth, have all been dispensed with in the new organization. Further, the number of Police Inspectors has been fixed at 36, the total number of higher officials, including the Inspector General of Police, being put at 40. The aggregate number of Police Sergeants, clerks, and other subordinate officials is fixed at 416. The former organization did not contain any provision limiting the number of functionaries. The new organization further provides that, within the limits of the appropriations for subordinate officials, special experts may be engaged at the discretion of the Inspector General of Police. In case of the temporary inability of the Inspector-General of Police, he is to be represented in his functions by the Chief of the Constables Headquarters Bureau, the highest official in the Board next to the Inspector-General. The disposition of bureaux, divisions, and sections, has been thoroughly changed. Here we need only mention the arrangements provided in the new organization, without wearying our readers by comparing these arrangements with those of the former organization. In the Office of the Inspector General of Police, there are to be two divisions, each sub-divided into several sections. All confidential correspondence, statistics, and all matters relating to higher police, are to be conducted in the Office of the Inspector-General. All other affairs of the Board are to be taken charge of by the following offices:—the Bureau of Police Affairs, the Bureau of Accounts, the Bureau of Medical Affairs, the Constables' Head-quarters, the Office of the Fire Brigade, and the Penitentiary Office. Each of these different offices are in turn divided into sections, but of the latter it is not necessary to speak here. Such are briefly the principal features of the amendments just introduced into the organization of the Metropolitan Board of Police.

* * *

Simultaneously with the issue of the new organization above described, another Imperial Ordinance was promulgated relating to the salaries of the officers of the same Board. Under the former system, the Inspector-General of Police received a salary of from 3,600 *yen* to 5,000 *yen* per annum, according to his official rank. But the new organization fixes the salary at 4,000 *yen*, though it is provided that under special circumstances it may be raised to 4,500 *yen*. The Chief of the Staff is to receive 2,400 *yen*. All the other officials of the so-called higher grade receive from 700 to 1,500 *yen* annually. It is scarcely necessary to add that the new standard of salaries is much lower than the old.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Mainichi Shimbun* publish identical accounts of the programme to be followed in Tokyo on the arrival of His Imperial Highness the Russian Prince Imperial. Reaching in Tokyo by special train, the Prince will be welcomed at Shimbashi station by His Majesty the Emperor, and will proceed in the carriage with His Majesty to the Palace of Prince Arisugawa which is now in course of preparation for the Imperial visitor's reception. The same day the Prince will be received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, with whom he will dine. On the following day the Emperor will visit the Prince at his residence, and visits will also be exchanged between the Prince Imperial and the Japanese Princes of the Blood. That evening the Prince will be entertained by H.I.H. Prince Haru at the Akasaka Detached Palace. One afternoon will be devoted to a purely Japanese entertainment at the Emperor's Palace, when dancing of various kinds and a performance of Japanese music will take place, the Ministers of State, the Foreign Representatives, and officials of the higher grades being present. There will also, on another day, be a grand review on the Aoyoma plain, where the Emperor and the Prince Imperial will ride to the ground in the same carriage. The Imperial guest will also be entertained by H.I.H. Prince Komatsu, Japanese polo, fencing, and other sports being prepared for his amusement. There will be a ball at the Palace occupied by the Prince, an entertainment by Prince Arisugawa Taruhito at the Shiba Detached Palace, and a ball at the Palace of Prince Kitashirakawa. One day will be spent visiting Yenoshima and Kamakura, and the Prince will pass a night at the latter place, proceeding the following day to Yokosuka to witness a naval review, at which the Emperor also will be present. Thence the Prince will go to Hakone and Miyanosh'ta, passing one night there, and proceeding the next day to Atami, where also a night will be spent. Returning to Tokyo, His Imperial Highness will be received in farewell audience by the Emperor and Empress, dining with their Majesties the same evening. On his departure from Tokyo the Imperial visitor will be accompanied to Uyeno station by the Emperor.

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The *Tokyo Shimpo* says that the Russian Prince Imperial is expected to arrive at Nagasaki on the 28th or 29th instant, but that he will not land officially until the 4th or 5th of May, at the conclusion of Lent. His Imperial Highness will then proceed to Kagoshima, where he will be entertained by Prince Shimazu, representative of the House of Satsuma. Returning to Nagasaki after a very brief stay at Kagoshima, the Prince will embark for Kobe, arriving there about the 8th of May. There being nothing to invite delay in Kobe, a start will be made the same day for Kyoto, whence the Prince will visit Lake Biwa, Nara and Osaka, getting back to Kobe about the 13th, and reaching Yokohama by sea on the 15th. He will make no stay in Yokohama, but proceeding at once to Tokyo, will remain there ten days, and afterwards continue his journey viâ Nikko, Sendai, Matsushima, Shiogama, and Morioka to Aomori, reaching the last named place about the 30th of May.

ANCIENT PICTURES.

IN the province of Higo, at Oguni-mura, there is a temple called Mangan-ji, which was built in the year 1274 by direction of Hojo Tokisada. In its cemetery are buried Tokisada himself, as well as a number of *Samurai* who fell in the wars of the *Bunyei-Koan* eras (1265-1287), and among its treasures have been preserved, during six centuries, portraits of Tokimune and Tokisada. The latter came to Kiushu in 1255, and was appointed to the high office of *Chinzei Bugyo*. No image or portrait of him was generally known to be in existence prior to the announcement of the Mangan-ji heir-loom, but Tokimune is supposed to be represented by a wooden figure kept at Kamakura. The strong inclination displayed of late by the Japanese public to preserve the country's antiquities has apparently extended to Kiushu, for a movement was set on foot some time ago to obtain subscriptions to repair and support the old temple of Mangan, and the abbot, Mr. Ado Bemmei, has now come to Tokyo, bringing with him the two pictures. They are to be submitted for the inspection of His Majesty the Emperor. Already they have been viewed and highly praised by Viscounts Hijikata, Sugi, and Tani, Mr. Kuki, Barons Takasaki and Shigeno and others. Portraits dating from the thirteen century are unique treasures.

IMPERIAL VISIT TO COUNT KAWAMURA.

THE *Official Gazette* announces that His Majesty the Emperor will visit the villa of Admiral Count Kawamura, a Privy Councillor, on the 11th instant. This, if we are not mistaken, is the first occasion when such an honour has been paid to an official not a member of the Cabinet, and Count Kawamura's many friends will be highly pleased that the exception should be made in his favour. Count Kawamura directed naval affairs from 1871 to 1885, when he retired, owing to a divergence between his views and those of the Cabinet in respect of naval policy. But his ability and experience remained at the service of the Department over which he had presided so long and so successfully, and each subsequent holder of the portfolio constantly sought and profited by his counsels. His villa at Mamiyana, a graceful and handsome edifice in

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foreign style, over-looks Shiba Park and Tokyo Bay on the east and south, and commands a grand view of Fujiyama on the west, and we need scarcely add that it is surrounded by the beautifully laid out grounds without the solace of which no Japanese gentleman deems his life complete.

AN OLD JOKE RE-TOLD IN JAPANESE.

A JAPANESE correspondent sends us the following, for the truth of which he vouches, remarking also that it affords a pretty good illustration of the difficulties Japanese have to surmount in mastering English. We print the communication almost unaltered :—A certain lady, having occasion to send her maid to a grocer's to get some jam, feared, not without reason, that the woman would forget the name of the article, and therefore advised her in that case to call to mind a pock-marked face, the Japanese term for pock-marked being *jami*. Full of confidence the girl set out on her errand, and soon reached her destination. But poor thing! She had entirely forgotten the name of the delicacy she was sent for, just as had been feared by her mistress. 'I want to have some ——,' she stammered to an apprentice of the grocer's, but she could not recollect the all-important name. At last after a good while she cried '*Abata! abata!*' (*Abata* is another Japanese term for pock-marked, only a little more polite than *jami*). "I see!" said the apprentice, "you want some butter." Presently he gave her some butter, and she carried it in triumph to her disappointed mistress."

SPEAKING FROM THE TOMB.

THE public is occasionally startled by ebullitions of that curiously strong feeling which the Japanese of former days used to designate *Yamato-damashii*; a species of patriotism always capable of impelling men to acts of fanatical self-sacrifice. A case is reported by the vernacular press. Staying temporarily at the house of his parents in Nishikata-machi, in the Komagome suburb of Tokyo, was a youth aged twenty-seven, by name Ohara Bukei. His career had not been marked by any unusual event. A soldier by profession, he had been attached to the militia infantry of Hokkaido, and had attained the rank of lieutenant. Obtaining leave of absence, he came home recently, and after spending some time in Tokyo, left his home on the 1st instant, announcing to his parents and friends that he was about to return to Hokkaido. During the following two days his movements are unknown, but on the 3rd instant, he went to the temple of Saitoku, in the Shitaya district of Tokyo, and, repairing to the cemetery, proceeded to commit suicide according the prescribed method of the Japanese *Samurai*. With a dirk he opened his abdomen by vertical and longitudinal incisions, and then, turning the weapon against his throat, inflicted a severe wound. The dimensions of the cuts are said to have been four inches long by a quarter of an inch deep in the case of the abdomen, and five inches by half an inch in the case of the throat. Neither injury was of a fatal character, however, and when the priests summoned the police, who quickly arrived with medical aid, the youth was still living. He had endeavoured, apparently, to carry the weapon backwards through the stab in his throat, but strength had failed and he had sunk down fainting. When consciousness was restored, it appeared that the wound in the throat rendered speech impossible. By repeated gestures, however, Ohara seemed to entreat the guardians of the law to make an end of him, while they, on their side, applied themselves to the more prosaic task of ascertaining his name and address. When he had written these, the Military Authorities were communicated with, and the young man was ultimately conveyed to the Hospital of the University, where medical examination showed that his injuries were not likely to prove fatal. Of course the first idea was that the attempted suicide had been due to madness, and indeed until the line between sanity and insanity is more distinctly traced, it will be difficult to decide how such a case is to be classed. For though the statement of reasons written by Ohara on the eve of his intended self-destruction, betrays what some would call inability to balance cause and effect, it nevertheless indicates also that he was capable of clear reflection, and that he had deliberately chosen the traditional method, fully recognised in former days, of emphasizing his opinions by sacrificing his life to propagate them. It appeared, on inquiry, that he had long been in the habit of lamenting the state of national affairs. The tendency of the country to recast its political institutions in Western moulds, and the aggrandizing disposition of foreign States had filled him with anxiety. Russia especially seems to have been a constant nightmare to him. Her proximity to Hokkaido suggested all sorts of disquieting contingencies, and it appears to be thought that he considered the eve of the approaching visit of the Prince Imperial a suitable occasion to sacrifice himself on the altar of morbid patriotism. His valedictory document, addressed to men of public spirit among his countrymen, ran as follows :—"First, the investigation of affairs relating to Hokkaido; secondly, the necessity of inquiring into the affairs of the hostile country adjoining Hokkaido; thirdly, the increase of the militia; fourthly, the stationing of militia and drilled whalers on the Chishima islands; fifthly, the importance of developing commerce with China, and the importance, also, of commerce with Russia; sixthly, the revival of Shintoism and Buddhism. For the accomplishment of these objects I have laboured during eleven years, but without success, and to-day I am hopeless. Instead of living a useless life, it is better, dying, to convey the truth to the public-spirited men of the empire. General Nagayama and others have made every effort on account of the Hokkaido question, but very few among the people pay attention to them. Above all, the newspapers of Hokkaido devote themselves entirely to exposing the defects of the newly reclaimed lands, instead of seeking to interest people in the place. It is a most lamentable state of affairs, and I have resolved to die. I pray that these facts may be widely published by the press, and that while men laugh at my madness, public spirited persons may be led, for the sake of our country, to devote their strength to the accomplishment of the six objects enumerated above. The terrible Russians!"

* * *

This writer of this methodical document cannot be called insane, in the ordinary sense of the term, although a duly balanced Occidental mind would scarcely entertain the idea of acting as he acted. He represents a type supposed to be gradually disappearing before the new civilization, and yet the attitude of the Japanese public towards every similar instance during recent years in no degree authorises such a supposition. The old creed still holds that nothing has so much power in the ears of the living as a voice from the dead, and that if a man, faithfully believing in the public importance of his views, nevertheless fails to obtain respect for them, his honourable duty is to die. We cannot measure how much, if any, additional value life has acquired in the eyes of an educated Japanese since he was relieved, twenty years ago, from the necessity of holding it at the beck of his feudal chief. But the procedure of this youth of twenty-seven in the cemetery of the Saitoku temple shows that resolute disciples of the ancient creed are still to be found.

THANKS.

THERE is published in Yokohama, under the auspices of the Printing and Publishing Company, a French newspaper called *Le Japon*. It made its appearance on the 1st of January. A few days ago it produced a very pretty eulogy of the amateur charity theatricals at the Rokumeikan. With true international courtesy and a fine sense of proportion, a column and a half of panegyric was devoted to the performances of the French amateurs—whose acting certainly merited every word of the praise bestowed on it—while the English performance received the following notice :—"Nous allions oublier de dire que la soirée a été coupée par une petite pièce anglaise. 'Women's rights or the lady of the future :' qui a peut-être eu le tort de durer pendant trois actes, ses interprètes se sont du reste montrés pleins de verve et d'entrain."

THE NEW SERVICE OF JAPANESE STEAMSHIPS TO AUSTRALIA.

WE take the following from the *Sydney Herald*:—

Since last September arrangements have been in progress for the opening of a new steam service, with its head-quarters at Tokyo, Japan. First the *Musashi Maru*, then the *Tokyo Maru*, and other vessels belonging to the most important steamship company in the "Far East," the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Mail Steamship Company of Japan, were named as to commence the new service, but a series of misfortunes happened and the pioneer boat, the *Miike Maru*, finally received orders to leave Hongkong on the maiden trip of the new venture. Captain J. B. Macmillan, formerly in the E. and A. Company's service, is entrusted with the honour of first visiting Sydney in a Japanese-owned merchant steamer flying the white flag with the red ball. He expected to be here on Sunday evening, but some very bad weather was met with off the Queensland coast—some very wild weather indeed, and the voyage was prolonged until yesterday. Upon entering the port the vessel proceeded to the Quarantine Station, where her water tanks were emptied out and the other regulations compiled with. The work occupied a very considerable time at the quarantine ground, and it was late—after dark indeed—ere the steamer came up to the Tasmanian Company's Wharf. A word or two as to the high standing of the line to which this pioneer boat belongs will be found of interest in view of the opening of the service to these colonies. The Japan Mail Steamship Company, or Nippon Yusen Kaisha, possess a fleet of 52 first-class large and full powered steamships, fitted with the latest improvements for the comfort and convenience of passengers. These steamships, carrying the Imperial Japanese mails, sail weekly to and from Shanghai and Yokohama via Nagasaki, the Inland Sea, and Kobe, and run a tri-weekly service between Nagasaki, Korean ports, Chefoo, Tientsin, and Vladivostock. The home service comprises almost daily communication between the chief ports of the Empire, for all of which foreign travellers may procure passports, without difficulty or expense. The capital of the company is about £2,000,000 and the company is subsidised by the Government to the extent of about £145,000 annually. The president is Mr. M. Morioka, vice-president Mr. Y. Yoshikawa, and the directors are Messrs. K. Uchida, M. Asada, R. Kondo, M. Kato, and A. Macmillan. The company's head-quarters are, as stated, at Tokyo, with branches at the principal ports of Japan. From this account it will readily be gathered that the line holds a good position. On the coast of Japan it holds a premier place, and its steamers on the Australian line will call at China ports and the Straits Settlements. There are, as is known, two lines of first-class steamers now running in the China-Australian trade, and the directors of the Japanese line have received such promises of support as have induced them to enter the field. The total net registered tonnage of the fleet is in round figures 50,000 tons, and there are 22 of the steamers whose tonnage range between 2,000 and 1,500 tons net register—a handsome fleet. The name of the company is associated with that of good management, handsome treatment of its masters, and crews, and the best possible treatment of its patrons. The largest of the passenger steamers are described by those who have travelled by them as being unsurpassed in any part of the world. They are all British built, and from the best yards; all costly ships, and all commanded and officered by Europeans. The *Miike Maru*, which arrived here last evening, though about the largest tonnaged of the fleet, is not regarded as a specimen ship of the line, being designed more for cargo than for passenger service. She was not constructed specially to the company's order, but in an emergency was purchased on the stocks. Though not having the gracefulness of proportion which the generality of the fleet possesses, the pioneer has good lines and her steaming capacity, says Captain Macmillan, reaches 13 knots, and as much as 313 miles were covered in a day's run on this trip from China. She is a steel screw boat of 3,308 gross register, 2,382 tons net, rigged as a brigantine, and straight stemmed, with an elliptical stern and a whale-back or turtle back aft. Forward is a top-gallant forecastle 37ft. long, and amidships a bridge 70ft. in length, under which are the officers' quarters, pantry, galley, &c. Aft is a deck-house containingt he saloon, a nicely-furnished apartment containing state-rooms for a dozen passengers. There is every comfort on board, as the passengers who arrived yesterday from Singapore fully attest. The steamer was launched three years ago at Sunderland. She was built by R. Thompson and Sons, and her full dimensions are—Length, 327ft. 3in., 42ft. 2in. beam, and depth 19ft. 8in. The vessel is divided into six watertights, and is built on the cellular double-bottom principle for carrying water ballast. Her engines are by J. Dickenson, of Sunderland, and are on the triple expansion principle, the diameters of the cylinders being respectively 25in., 40in., and 60in., and the stroke 45in. The boiler

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pressure is 150lb., and the nominal horse-power 219. The daily consumption is but 30 tons of coal, and the vessel has a carrying capacity of 4,500 tons. The officers with Captain Macmillan are Messrs. Thomas, Horton, and Dabelle, and the machinery is in charge of Mr. Jordan. The purser is Mr. Yashisuye. In point of order and cleanliness the *Miike Maru* is quite up to the mail boat standard, decks, deck fittings, and all aft being scrupulously well looked after. Her engine-room, also, is a picture, and though the steamer has just finished a 30 days' voyage her engines might from appearances be taken to be brand new. The cargo for Sydney consists of some 400 tons general, and 4,000 bales kapok, and 300 logs of teak wood. For Melbourne, to which port she proceeds, there are 3,000 cases of general, and 2,500 bales kapok, and 300 logs teak. After discharging the Melbourne portion, she will go up to Newcastle, and return to Sydney, proceeding hence towards China, via ports. Of the run down from China Captain M. Millan reports:—We left Hongkong at 6 a.m. on January 9, and arrived at Singapore at 1 p.m. on the 14th; left Singapore at 5 p.m. on the 16th, cleared Gaspar Straits early on the 18th, and arrived at Samarang at noon 19th; left Samarang at 1 p.m. on the 21st, anchored off the pilot vessel at Sourabaya at 5 a.m. on the 22nd, waiting for high water. Moored off Sourabaya at 5 p.m. same day, left Sourabaya at 10 p.m. on the 24th, passed Banjowangie at noon on the 25th, Goode Island at 6 p.m. on February 1, Cooktown at 9 a.m. on the 3rd, and arrived at Townsville at noon on the 4th. Landed passengers and cargo, and proceeded at 6 p.m. same day, arriving at Sydney Heads at 2 p.m. on the 9th. From Hongkong to Singapore had moderate N. E. monsoon and thick rainy weather; Singapore to Goode Island variable winds and rainy weather; Goode Island to Cooktown fine weather, but hazy; from Cooktown to Whitsunday Passage heavy rain and thunderstorms, thence to Smoky Cape strong S.E. gale and heavy sea, and thence moderate variable winds and fine weather to port. The Sydney agents of this line are Messrs. Wm. Howard Smith and Sons, Limited.

THE "YOMIURI SHIMBUN" ON TREATY REVISION.

Among the various utterances recently published by the vernacular press on the subject of Treaty Revision, one of special interest appears in the columns of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. It derives its interest from two facts; first, that it treats current opinions in a broad, liberal manner; secondly, that it appears in a newspaper regarded by the public as a principal organ of the *Kaishin-to*. The article is not to be taken wholly as an expression of the *Yomiuri's* views. On that point the editor is careful to guard himself. But he admits his agreement with certain parts of it, and we may fairly assume that the general line of argument is not opposed to the programme of the party, otherwise the *Yomiuri* would not have offered itself as a medium of publication. The article runs thus:—"It has been already stated in these columns that in order to accomplish Treaty Revision, harmony must be established between the views of the various political parties and those of the Government. Past experience has taught us that no useful decision can be arrived at unless public opinion is consulted in the first place. The programmes of Counts Inouye and Okuma failed simply because public opinion became too powerful to be controlled by those statesmen. On the other hand, public opinion has not hitherto succeeded in imposing itself on the Government. The sum of its accomplishment in the year 1887 was to suspend the scheme of Revision advanced by Count Inouye; and similarly in 1889, the union of five political parties only achieved the arrest of Count Okuma's plans. It is to be regretted that politicians contented themselves with these destructive results, instead of proceeding to elaborate terms of Revision really suitable to Japan's condition. The most earnest investigation ought now to be undertaken by political parties, in view of the fact that Viscount Aoki, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, is about to re-open negotiations for Treaty Revision. If politicians aim at nothing more than preventing the Government from achieving anything, grave national injury will be the only result. Japan will be discredited and despised in the eyes of Foreign Powers, while at home the consolidation of public opinion will be impossible, and the spirit of patriotic sacrifice will be extinguished. The members of political parties should not be contented with negative results, but should endeavour to formulate practical and positive views, beneficial to the country. A word now about the terms of Revision. Since Revision has a strong bearing on the interests of foreign countries, what is proposed by us is often disapproved by them. To be sure, then, of accomplishing Revision we must be prepared to fight in case our proposals are completely rejected. On the other hand, since to invite war in this enlightened age would be discreditable, we must employ every means to attain our object without bloodshed. To one thing, in connection with this, attention should be drawn. It is that the Japanese ought to endeavour to secure the respect of foreigners, instead of submitting to be despised by them. Strange to say, some of our nationals fear foreigners so much as to be opposed to permitting mixed residence or the ownership of real estate by foreigners, great as is the desire to accomplish Revision. These objectors merely expose their weakness to foreigners. We proceed now to consider what is said to be the draft of Viscount Aoki's proposals. The points which he is reported to make the subject of negotiation are the advisability (1) of allowing mixed residence; (2) of giving to foreigners the privilege of possessing real estate; (3) of permitting foreigners to engage in the coast-wise trade; (4) of bringing foreigners under Japanese jurisdiction, except within the Settlements for a fixed term of years, some say three, some five, and some until the new codes shall have gone into operation; and (5) of omitting the taxes on alcoholic beverages, tobacco, soy, oil, and so forth, and of raising the general tariff to 11 per cent. With regard to the first point, mixed residence is a necessary condition of Treaty Revision. Not only is it the price that we have to pay for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, but if we do not allow foreigners to reside freely in the interior, they will say that the Japanese are too timid and too weak to associate with them. That there was little opposition in respect of this point either in the time of Count Inouye or in that of Count Okuma, is to be attributed to the fact that the public appreciated the necessity of mixed residence. We believe that the immediate sanction of mixed residence would not involve any change in our social and economical state, since, even now when mixed residence is interdicted, foreigners reside wherever they please, influenced by tradal conditions, by beautiful scenery, or by religious considerations. Things being in this state, we can only pity the persons who oppose mixed residence. Besides, asking in one breath for equal treaties and in the next forbidding mixed residence, they contradict themselves flagrantly. They claim indeed that many dangers are involved in extending the privilege of mixed residence to Chinese, but in point of fact our treaty with China, being different from our treaties with Western Powers, entails no such necessity. If our treaty with China be revised on the basis of allowing the Chinese to trade, travel, and reside wherever they please in Japanese territory, the same privileges must be granted to Japanese in Chinese territory. This we believe to be impracticable. We cannot be content to place our countrymen under Chinese laws, neither is China prepared to extend to us the privilege of mixed residence. This question, therefore, would not enter into any negotiation for revision of the treaty between Japan and China. * * * * The opponents of mixed residence apprehend that, were it permitted, Japanese merchants and manufacturers would be ousted by men from the West, coming here with their wide experience and their newly invented machines. We deem such apprehensions quite groundless. If foreigners enter the interior, they will bring capital and machinery, and the results will be only beneficial to Japan. It is also asserted that though the Japanese possess capital and machinery, they have not the knowledge to utilize them, and would be at a disadvantage compared with foreigners. This is a weak contention. The Japanese, if they please, can employ foreign advisers and foreign engineers. Moreover, Western folks trading in Japan would have to sell their merchandise at higher prices than those demanded by the Japanese, the style of living of the former being much more costly than that of the latter. The same timid folks assert that, were mixed residence allowed, the number of marriages between Japanese and foreigners would increase and the Japanese race would finally become extinct. Apparently these people place the Japanese in the same category with the aborigines of North America and the Ainos of Hokkaido, and think that their extinction in the presence of a higher civilization is inevitable. It is extravagant to compare a thickly populated country like Japan with America as it was at the time of its discovery. The Japanese, too, have their own distinct traits as Europeans and Americans have theirs. If we examine into the circumstances of mixed marriages that have taken place thus far, we find that almost all Japanese who have married Western women are ardent admirers of Western civilization, while the Japanese women who have married foreigners, gave their hands, not because they loved, but because they were attracted by the pecuniary circumstances of their husbands. Experience indicates that the number of mixed marriages would not increase after mixed residence was permitted. If they did so increase, the result would be a strengthening of the Japanese race. From every point of view, the contention of the opponents of mixed residence is far less weighty than that of its advocates.

A NEW WORK ON JAPANESE ART.

The experts of the Museum of Antiquities in Tokyo are busily engaged compiling a work that will mark an era in Japanese art. It is to be a profusely illustrated history of the country's fine arts (*Nippon Bijutsu Rekishi*), and will consist of about twelve volumes, two of which will probably be published next year. Mr. Kuki, President of the Imperial Museum and Director of the Museum of Antiquities, is interesting himself keenly in the preparation of the work. Of course all the pictures, lacquers, porcelains, carvings, and other remarkable objects in the possession of the Museums or of the principal private collections will be available for purposes of illustration, but a feature of even greater interest will be the reproduction of the finest heirlooms in the keeping of all the ancient temples throughout the empire. These were photographed during 1888 and 1889, and great piles of exquisitely finished pictures are now lying in the Museum at Uyeno, the best and most remarkable of which are to appear in the book. Unfortunately it will be in Japanese only. We understand that the subsequent publication of an English edition is contemplated, but that it will not make its appearance for a considerable time after the Japanese original is in the hands of the public. This seems a great pity. There ought not to be any serious difficulty in issuing an English edition simultaneously with the Japanese, since intelligent translation is alone required. The compilers naturally desire to appeal first to their own countrymen, but it has to be remembered that the cost of such a work must be very high, and that, in all probability, a much larger number of purchasers could be found in Europe and America than in Japan. If the plates have to be subsequently reproduced for the purposes of an English edition, the proceeding will involve large additional outlay, whereas the striking of extra plates at the time of original publication would be comparatively inexpensive.

SURPLUS REVENUE.

There appears to have been some anxiety felt in certain quarters about the consequences of surplus revenue being shut up in the Treasury vaults. During 1888 and 1889, by clever financia management, the incomings of the State exceeded the outgoings by an aggregate sum of over 7,800,000 *yen*. The disposal of this surplus was provided for in the last Estimates, but as it is to be applied to the building of ships and railways and the construction of telegraphs, it cannot go into circulation for some time. On the other hand, the result of the economies suggested by the Diet will be a surplus of 6,400,000 *yen* approximately in the Budget for this year, and it was assumed by some financiers that

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a total amount of about fourteen million *yen* would thus be withdrawn from circulation and looked up in the vaults of the Treasury. But this is now declared to be a baseless apprehension. The fact is that the collection of each year's public income is a much more tedious business than its expenditure, and that the Treasury is invariably obliged to issue exchequer bills to a large amount in order to keep the machine of State moving. These bills will not have to be issued during the present year; or at any rate they will be issued in greatly reduced quantity, and the interest they would carry need not, consequently, be paid. This interest, say some critics, will be the only difference between the amount of money put into circulation during the present year by the Treasury and the amount usually put into circulation. But we do not entirely follow this reasoning. Exchequer bills are either money—*i.e.* discharge all the functions of money—or means of putting money into circulation. When issued in small sums, so that they pass from hand to hand for the purpose of making payments or discharging debts, they are undoubtedly money. But when, as is the case in Japan, and commonly in Western countries also, they are of large denominations and bear interest, their circulation is plainly retarded. For as the weight of interest accumulates towards maturity, the bills gradually pass out of circulation, and become ordinary investments. Even in the latter case, however, their issue or non-issue must have a distinct effect upon the money-market, since they enable the Government to obtain access to funds which presumably would not otherwise find employment. To put the matter more plainly, inasmuch as the proceeds of taxation do not come to hand until after a great part of the outlay has been made on account of which the taxes are imposed, it follows that the Government, when its actual outgoings and nominal incomings are nearly balanced, must be able to draw upon some surplus subsistence fund in order to pay its way. To keep such a fund in reserve would be bad economy, and exchequer bills are accordingly resorted to as means of obtaining from the banks whatever sums are needed to meet current expenses from time to time. The banks, on the other hand, thus obtain for their reserve notes an outlet not otherwise available, and the issue of the matter is that so much additional money is put into circulation. Of course, with a large surplus lying in the Treasury from 1888 and 1889, recourse need not be had to exchequer bills. But that is beside the question. The point is that, the Government's expenditure being reduced by some six million *yen*, while its collection of revenue remains unaltered, a certain amount of money must of necessity remain idle, which, under ordinary circumstances, would find its way into circulation. Probably the difference caused by the one-sided legislation of the Diet will not be so great as to affect general prosperity, but there will certainly be a difference.

THE "JIYU SHIMBUN."

THE difficulty between the shareholders and the editorial staff of the *Jiyu Shimbun* remains unadjusted, and does not seem at all likely to be adjusted. Messrs. Horikoshi, Mogi, and Sato, the most prominent protestors against the former management, have refused to entertain any scheme of compromise. It was at one time proposed that Mr. Kurihashi, the old editor, should resume his functions, Count Itagaki undertaking to exercise a general supervisory control. But the *Kwanto-ha*, as Messrs. Horikoshi, Mogi, and so forth are called, seem to entertain a special objection to Count Itagaki's directorship. In fact the revolt is against Tosa influence, of which the principal representative, Count Itagaki, naturally becomes an object of dislike. The recalcitrant shareholders have no very large pecuniary interest in the paper—the sum is stated at two thousand five hundred *yen*—and it ought to have been easy to buy them out, but for some reason that solution was impossible. It is now stated that Count Itagaki has resolved to separate himself and start another daily newspaper, calling it the *Jiyu*, and leaving the *Jiyu Shimbun* to its own devices. The publisher is to be Mr. Sogawa Yasuma, and the necessary steps have been taken to register the paper. These disputes augur badly for the future of the Radical Party, as previously constituted. The split in its ranks appears to grow wider daily.

* * *

The unexpected issue of the disputes among political leaders and their followers may possibly be the recognition of the *Kaishin-to* as the true Liberal Party of Japan. The extreme position taken by the *Kaishin-to* in respect of the Budget, and its consistent maintenance of that position to the end, have attracted the attention and stirred the admiration of Japanese "stalwarts," and the party stands high in public favour to-day. Its roll of members contained only four thousand names when the Diet was prorogued, but several hundred have since been added. We find no incident in modern Japanese politics more curious than this. The *Kaishin-to* in former times were conspicuous for moderation and solidity. Any intimate union between them and the frothy, violent Radicals seemed as improbable as the mixture of oil with water. Even at the time when combination became the mania of the moment, additional zest being imparted to it by official prohibition, it was found hopeless to attempt any association of the Radicals and the *Kaishin-to*. Yet so soon as a question arose dividing the House of Representatives into Moderates and Extremists, the *Kaishin-to* occupied the camp of the latter in closest company with the most uncompromising agitators among the *Jiyu-to*. And now, when another convulsion in the ranks of the Radicals, has thrown off Count Itagaki and many of the soberest men in the Party, the *Kaishin-to* are found not with them, but with the uncompromising and uncongenial remnant.

MANUFACTURE OF FOREIGN PAPER IN JAPAN.

THE manufacturers of foreign paper in Japan are now in great distress. The growth of the industry has outstripped the demand for its products. The *Keizai Zasshi* has an interesting article on the subject. From it we learn that there are at present nine manufacturers—eight private and one Government—of foreign paper in Japan. The object of the Government factory is to supply the demands of the various Departments of State, the paper produced in excess of official requirements being placed on the general market. The following table shows the quantity of foreign paper manufactured by the eight private companies during the 11 years between 1880 and 1890, inclusive:—

Year.	Quantity. lbs.	Year.	Quantity. lbs.
1880.....	3,084,907	1886.....	6,430,463
1881.....	3,968,375	1887.....	6,756,810
1882.....	4,250,919	1888.....	6,442,666
1883.....	4,600,130	1889.....	6,778,149
1884.....	5,264,104	1890.....	5,711,841
1885.....	5,022,584	(First Half)	—

The figures for the first half of 1890 do not include the manufactures of a few companies such as the *Kobe Seishi Kaisha* and the *Senju Seishi Kaisha*, while the output of the *Yokkaichi Seishi Kaisha* is calculated only for five months, and that of the *Fuji Seishi Kaisha* for two months. Taking these circumstances into consideration, the actual quantity manufactured during the first half of last year is estimated by our contemporary at about 11,200,000 lbs. As a consequence of the industrial or speculative mania prevailing throughout the country during the last few years, several new companies for the manufacture of foreign paper were projected, and such of them as developed into genuine concerns began to work their mills from last year. The result was a sudden and large increase in the quantity of foreign paper during the first six months of the year. The quantity of foreign paper actually required in Japan is estimated by the *Keizai Zasshi* at about 16 million pounds annually. Thus, taking the aggregate manufacture of last year at 22,400,000 pounds, there remain 6 million pounds in excess of the demand. Great distress among the manufacturers has necessarily ensued. The following table shows the average annual price of foreign paper manufactured in Japan during the last ten years:—

Year.	Price. per 100 lbs. yen.	Year.	Price. per 100 lbs. yen.
1881.....	14.020	1886	6.852
1882.....	12.720	1887	6.675
1883.....	10.850	1888	7.039
1884.....	9.280	1889	6.713
1885.....	8.204	1890	6.194

With increasing manufacture, the prices thus steadily fell. On the other hand, while home production grew so rapidly, the quantity of paper imported from abroad also increased yearly, as may be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Import. lbs.	Year.	Import. lbs.
1880	483,913	1886.....	1,149,086
1881	418,105	1887.....	2,411,636
1882	1,251,170	1888.....	6,584,814
1883	548,749	1889.....	2,613,905
1884	277,978	1890.....	2,695,913
1885	422,986	(First half)	—

Japanese manufacturers are not only subjected to keen competition at home, but have also to contend against the produce of foreign mills. They claim, according to the *Keizai Zashi*, that they are placed at a great disadvantage in the struggle with their Western competitors, because they have to import costly machines and plant from a great distance, and because they pay a much higher rate of interest on their capital than Western manufacturers do. Further they are inexperienced and unskilful. For these reasons, they argue that they are entitled to tariff protection against the imported article. The Tokyo journal, however, advises them not to rely on any such hope, for, apart from the theoretical aspects of protection and free trade, Japan is at present unable to carry out a protective policy even though conducive to national interests. Without relying on such a measure, the Japanese manufacturers ought to think of helping themselves in some other way. They may, for instance, try to manufacture note paper, drawing paper, and paper used for book-keeping, in addition to the ordinary printing paper which at present forms the only kind manufactured in Japan. And they may, as we (*Japan Mail*) think, fairly claim that the Government factory be closed, since the only excuse for conducting such work under official auspices is that private enterprise cannot undertake it. Two years ago an agitation was set on foot aiming at the closing of the Government's mills, but it was then claimed that the paper made there, being intended for special purposes, required special machinery and could not be supplied by private mills. The explanation is valid, so far as it goes. But if the *Keizai Zasshi's* information be correct, it appears that the Government factory does not confine itself to special papers, since its surplus production is sold every year in the open market. The point calls for investigation.

THE DEADLY "HIBACHI."

ONE man was killed and three others narrowly escaped death by asphyxiation yesterday morning on board a large new coal barge belonging to the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company. The men, who are smiths by trade, had been employed till a late hour in various jobs connected with the completion of the barge, which lies in the Creek at Maeda-bashi, and went to sleep shortly before three in the morning in a small hold or tank in the bows of the vessel. They had with them to heat the place a charcoal brazier, and as a final measure they drew the scuttle over the small opening giving access to the place, and then went to rest. The fumes of the charcoal of course very soon overpowered them. About seven o'clock a man coming with food for the workers called on them, but receiving no answer opened the scuttle and found the men in an unconscious state. It is stated that this man was so frightened by what he saw that he fled, believing that the seemingly dead people were the victims of cholera, and thus the rescue of the men was needlessly delayed. So far as we can learn, however, the information in the possession of the police shows that little delay took place, and that soon after the men

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were discovered Japanese doctors were at work trying to resuscitate them. Dr. Hall also arrived on the scene, and half an hour later, so successful were his efforts that three of the men were breathing more or less easily. In the case of one man, however, rescue had come too late, and his lifeless body lies covered by matting close to his more fortunate comrades.

THE CASE AGAINST THE "NIPPON."

Our readers will probably remember that the editor of the *Nippon*, Mr. Ota Yoshiji, and the publisher, Mr. Nakamura Tanekichi, recently gained an appeal made by them against a judgment of a Court of First Instance, by which they had been sentenced to a month's minor confinement and a fine of 25 *yen*, in consequence of having published an article which was declared to be subversive of the laws of the empire. The Public Procurator, dissatisfied with the verdict of the Appeal Court, carried the case to the Supreme Court, where judgment was on Monday delivered by Mr. Justice Kitamura. The Court, declaring that the verdict of the lower tribunal, by which the implicated article had been regarded as subversive of the laws of the empire, was illegal, ruled that the case must be re-heard by the Nagoya Court of Appeal. The *Nippon*, therefore, has not yet escaped, but it has the consolation of reflecting that its article was sufficiently skilful to give the law a great deal of trouble.

MR. NAGASAKI.

The departure of Mr. S. Nagasaki, a Master of Ceremonies, for Kagoshima, has been stated by the press to be in accordance with instructions from the Government, and for the purpose of making preparations to receive the Russian Prince Imperial. But it appears that this is not correct. The Prince, while in Satsuma, is to be the guest of Prince Shimazu, the former chief of the Great Southern clan, and the latter is naturally anxious to receive and entertain the illustrious visitor in strict accordance with all the rules of Western etiquette. But as this is the first visit of a European Prince Imperial to Kagoshima, there is, of course, some uncertainty about the details of the reception, and Mr. Nagasaki, himself a native of Satsuma, has obtained permission to be absent for a time from his official duties in Tokyo, in order to proceed to Kagoshima and give his assistance to Prince Shimazu.

RECEPTION AT THE FRENCH LEGATION.

On Thursday afternoon at the French Legation in Tokyo was held the usual spring Reception by Madame Sienkiewiez. This Reception has come to be looked forward to as one of the pleasantest incidents of the season of cherry bloom, and yesterday's event was not the least successful exercise of the hospitality for which the French Legation has always been conspicuous. The weather was perfect, and the garden, with its brilliant masses of blossom, looked very lovely, an additional charm being lent to the scene by the presence of about fifty children, foreign and Japanese, making fête with all the good-will in the world. Everybody who is anybody was present, from Ministers of State downwards. Music and a sumptuous cold collation helped to augment the enjoyment, and sunset was close at hand when the large assemblage, slowly and with evident reluctance, took its departure from the happy scene.

A TREATY-REVISION FANATIC.

The *Mimpo* tells a strange story of a youth who appears to have conceived the idea of emulating the example of Kurushima Tsuneki. An assistant in the dispensary of Dr. Okamura, in Hakozakicho, this lad, by name Yukiba Zenichiro, has been for some time in the habit of speaking in an angry discontented manner. A few days ago, he informed a friend that it was his intention to kill Viscount Aoki, in connection with the subject of Treaty Revision, and as he appeared to be taking measures to obtain money for his purpose and was moreover in possession of a written promise sealed with blood, information was given to the police, with the result that they arrested him on the 1st instant as he passed before the Shrine of Suitengu.

THE AFTERGLOW.

If one should seek your door some hapless day,
With white and trembling lips, and face all pale,
And tell you, dear, that I was lying dead,
I would not have you start, or shriek, or wail,
Or shroud your form in weeds of rayless black,
Or shed for me one bitter, fruitless tear;
For know that, save for your beloved sake,
I drop earth's load without a sigh or fear.
But could you stand above my place of rest,
With calm eyes overlooking all the past,
And feel my life an influence to lift
Your own to purer, nobler heights at last,
My dust, like blossoms at the breath of morn,
Would thrill with joy at thought so strangely sweet,
Would wake to almost conscious life once more,
And tremble into flowers beneath your feet.

WILLIAM SHIELDS LISCOMB.

NEW FOREIGN EMPLOYÉS.

An Imperial Ordinance has been published, in connection with a law passed by the Diet, authorizing the Treasury to contract various engagements, the expenditures involved falling partly or wholly to the charge of the current fiscal year. From this Ordinance we learn that it is proposed to engage three more foreigners, one in the Nemuro Agricultural College at a salary of 3,350 *yen* annually; one in the Military Academy, at a salary of 612 *yen* monthly, including allowances; and one in the Naval Academy, at a salary of 350 *yen* monthly. It is pleasant to learn that the reductions in the foreign staff of the Government are to be compensated in some degree at all events.

COMPENSATION TO SUFFERERS IN THE SATSUMA REBELLION.

The *Official Gazette* intimates that a sum of ten thousand *yen* is to be paid—in accordance with Imperial sanction granted on the 31st ultimo, and in consequence of an application made by the Minister of State for the Interior—by way of compensation to persons whose dwellings were burned during the campaigns of Kagoshima and Kumamoto in 1876. It seems strange that a payment of this kind should be made after such a long interval, but presumably the claims could not previously be established. It is also conceivable that the idea of seeking compensation did not occur to the sufferers, for assuredly no such notion would have been entertained in pre-Restoration times.

VISCOUNT AND MR.

When the news was received in America that Viscount Kuki had died, people confused the deceased with Mr. Kuki, formerly Japanese Representative in Washington, and it is said that many letters of condolence were addressed to Mrs. Kuki. The confusion is increased by a local English contemporary, which persists in speaking of Mrs. Kuki as "Viscountess Kuki," and of her husband as "Viscount Kuki," though in point of fact the former Minister to Washington and present Director-General of the Imperial Museum has no title of nobility, but is plain Mr. Kuki.

THE KIUSHU RAILWAY.

The section of the Kiushu Railway between Moji and Takase, a distance of about 100 miles, was opened for traffic on the 1st instant. The takings during the first three days were as follow:—1st instant, 1,195.95 *yen*; 2nd instant, 1,303.50 *yen*; and 3rd instant, 1,443.69 *yen*. The distance to be still completed in order to carry the line to Kumamoto is only 11 miles, and it is expected that when the connection is made, the traffic receipts will be largely increased. The prospects of the line are evidently very encouraging.

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT.

On Monday morning Mr. Justice Nishi Shigenori, President of the Supreme Court (*Daishinin*), died in Tokyo. Mr. Nishi had been ailing for some time, but we have not yet learned the nature of his malady. He was one of the oldest occupants of the Japanese Bench. Having served as a Judge of the Supreme Court up to the year 1886, he was promoted to be President of the Court of Appeal, which office he held until last year, being then raised to the highest position open to a Japanese Judge, namely the Presidency of the Supreme Court. He was a native of Shizuoka.

U. S. NAVY.

Squadron Circular No. 4, dated on board the Flagship *Alliance* at Yokohama on April 3rd, and issued over the signature of Rear-Admiral Belknap, contains the following notification:—"Commanding Officers are notified that by a cablegram received this date from the Honourable the Secretary of the Navy, under date of Washington, April 2, 1891, the following are values fixed for the quarter beginning April 1st, 1891:—Imperial Japanese *yen*, Silver, 79.2; Mexican, 80.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

At the meeting of shareholders to be held this month the Directors will recommend a dividend for the half-year ending 31st December last at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, placing £50,000 to reserve fund, which will then be £300,000. This, coupled with the fact that the Bank's capital is on a gold basis, is very satisfactory.

LORD CONNEMARA.

Lord Connemara, who is described by latest China papers as being entertained on a magnificent scale by the compradore of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., at Foochow, will, we learn, according to present arrangements arrive at Kobe about the first week of June. During his stay in China he intends to pay a visit to the gorges of the Yangtsze River.

JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.

Viscount Nomura Yasushi, recently gazetted Japanese Representative in Paris, has received the additional appointments of Minister Resident in Spain and Portugal. Also, Mr. Tateno Gozo, Japanese Representative in Washington, has been appointed Minister Resident in Mexico.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The vernacular press is much exercised at present about probable changes in the Cabinet. On the evening of the 9th instant, the curiosity of the news-reading public of Tokyo was roused to a high point by handbills distributed throughout the city by the enterprizing *Choya Shimbun*, announcing its intention of making a startling political revelation in its issue of the next morning. The revelation proved to be a report, alleged to be entirely trustworthy, that Count Yamagata had declared at a recent meeting of the Cabinet his resolution to resign his post of Minister President of State. Our contemporary states that Count Yamagata expressed a wish to go out of office just after the prorogation of the Diet, but that there being no statesman willing to succeed him, he was obliged to remain at his post. Not even now has he found a successor, but his idea, according to the *Choya*, is that, if he shows his irrevocable resolution to resign, the gravity of the situation will certainly induce his colleagues to prevail on some statesman to accept the post, as the Count himself was prevailed on under similar circumstances seventeen months ago. As to his probable successor, our contemporary points to Count Saigo. Count Saigo is said to be extremely reluctant to become Minister President, but the *Choya* belives that he will not be proof against the persistent request of his colleagues. There is a rumour that in the event of the above change, Count Matsukata will succeed Count Saigo at the Home Office, but the *Choya* professes itself unable to put any faith in the report. It is more

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probable it says, that Count Saigo will combine the office of Minister President with that of Minister of Home Affairs leaving the business of the latter post to the Vice-Minister, Mr. Shirane.

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It is a noteworthy fact that the majority of the papers are inclined to desire the continuance of Count Yamagata as Minister President of State. Their disposition is explained by two circumstances; first, that the nation, though recognizing the defects of the Count as a constitutional statesmen, is thoroughly assured of his disinterested patriotism and honesty; and secondly, that just now no statesman seems willing to succeed him, should he resign his post. Count Ito is generally counted among the probable occupants of the position, but there appears to be little ground to expect his speedy return to power. The same is true of Count Inouye.

* * *

The question of Treaty Revision more and more engages the attention of the journalistic world. It is as yet premature to forecast the attitude that will be adopted by the various parties towards Viscount Aoki's supposed programme. The details of the programme are not yet known, and the public has nothing tangible to go on. There is, however, reason to believe that the opposition, if there actually be opposition, to the programme of the present chief of the Foreign Office, will not be marked by that intense party feeling which characterized the opposition to Count Okuma's scheme. It is a remarkable circumstance that the Liberal organ, the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, and the *Kaishin-to* organ, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, both protest against Treaty Revision being made a party question. The articles in the *Yomiuri Shimbun* are contributed by Mr. Hikita, and the editor states that the writer's views are not shared by him in every respect. But there is no doubt that the editor approves of the general spirit of the essay. The series of articles is not yet concluded, but from what has thus far appeared, it is evident that the writer is not opposed to the reported programme of Viscount Aoki.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* refrains from declaring itself on the subject of Treaty Revision until the details of the present Minister's scheme are known. But it advises Count Okuma—whose programme, its editor, Mr. Tokutomi, supported in 1889—to give every support he can to Viscount Aoki, if the latter's scheme be found worthy of support. The Count is strongly warned against suffering his followers to place obstacles in the path of the present Minister of Foreign Affairs.

* * *

The *Mimpo* urges the importance of studying the question of Treaty Revision, and ridicules the consistency of Liberals who, influenced by conservative considerations, ally themselves with Conservatives. In another article, the same journal observes that the Government is bound to consult the opinions of the Diet as to the commercial and financial aspects of the scheme of revision.

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The papers unite in advising the Government to take an early opportunity of making the details of the new programme known to the public. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* avers that it would be extremely dangerous to publish the details of the new treaties just on the eve of the completion of the negotiations, for public opinion would be liable to be swayed by prejudice and passion. It consequently advises Viscount Aoki to make known his programme at once.

* * *

The reduction in the number of officials recently effected by the Government, has not given entire satisfaction to the Metropolitan press. The *Kokkwai* advises the Authorities to amend the organization of the various Departments of State in such a manner that it may not be necessary every year to cause a panic in the ranks of public servants. The *Hochi Shimbun* regrets that the recent reductions were not made in such a manner as to infuse new activity into those who escaped. Reforms carried out in such a faint-hearted manner are not likely to lead to beneficial results. In order to make them effective, the *Hochi* thinks it necessary that the Ministers of State should themselves offer examples of industry and economy. Thus and thus alone, can subordinate officials be induced to mend their present lazy habits.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* writes in a similar strain. The dismissal of a few hundred officials of the lower classes cannot give entire satisfaction to the advocates of public economy; whose primary motive is hatred of the extravagance of Cabinet Ministers and other high dignitaries of State. The people, avers the *Jiji*, are thoroughly sick of these luxurious officials, and as long as they continue in their present courses, a popular cry for retrenchment of public expenditure will never cease to agitate the political world. The Ministers of State are advised to sell their magnificent villas, abolish their splendid official residences, and return to the simplicity of former days.

* * *

The Korean question still continues to excite general interest. The *Kokkwai*, alluding to the critical situation of Korean affairs, draws attention to some circumstances, relating to the relations between Korea and Russia. First, though Russia has not resorted to any open territorial encroachment on the border of Korea; yet the increasing emigration of Koreans into Russian territory, and the increased facilities of commerce and navigation which Russia recently obtained on the Korean frontiers, have really brought the two countries into closer contact. Secondly the Russian party at the Court of Sōul is said to be steadily growing more and more influential, the King and the members of the Ming family being reported to be particularly well disposed towards Russia. Thirdly, the Treaty (of 慶興) gives Russians the privilege of navigating the river 豆們 as far as the commercial town of 慶興. Fourthly, Mr. Weber, the Russian Representative at Sōul, now a very influential man, follows the policy of seeking to estrange Korea from China. And fifthly, Russia is as ever desirous of obtaining a naval station open throughout the whole year. Our contemporary entertains no doubt that Russia is determined to obtain such a port in Korea. As to the policy that ought to be pursued in Korea, the *Kokkwai* thinks that the wisest plan would be to place the peninsular kingdom under the joint protection of Japan, China, England, and Russia. In another article, the same journal recommends the appointment of Mr. Mutsu to the post of Japanese Minister at Sōul. It thinks him the only statesman in Japan able to maintain in Korea the honour of his country in the present critical condition of affairs.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun*, in an article said to embody the opinions of a certain distinguished personage in the Government, observes that China may possibly entertain suspicions about the real motive of the Japanese Government in the latter's relations with Korea. China, however, ought to recognize the wisdom of assisting Korea to be an independent and progressive country. The united support of the Middle Kingdom and of Japan would be sufficient to ensure the safety of the peninsular kingdom. The question of the abolition of the Tientsin Convention of 1885 receives much notice from politicians. There are two rumours; one that China has intimated to Japan her desire to terminate the treaty; the other, that the Japanese Government, anticipating China's desire, contemplates opening negotiations with the Peking Government on the subject. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* declares itself opposed to any such action on the part of this empire, if the object in view be simply to please the Chinese Government. But if Japanese statesmen wish to terminate the treaty on account of its provisions being inconvenient to Japan's freedom of action in the peninsula, the *Jiyu* will not oppose the step. The rescinding of the treaty would leave China free to pursue a militant policy in Korea, and in that event Japan, in the opinion of the Tokyo journal, must be prepared to protect the independence of Korea, even by appealing to force. "A country in a period of growth and development" says the *Jiyu*, "must sometimes adopt an aggressive policy. Such a policy may even be necessitated as a means of self-defence. Japan is now in a state of youth and development, and in order that her growth may be healthy, she ought to have spheres wherein she can move freely and without restriction."

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimpo* exposes the misconceptions entertained about the Tientsin Treaty. It does not pretend to say whether there is really any desire on the part of either the Japanese or the Chinese Government to terminate the treaty, but it denies that the treaty is inconvenient to either Japan or China. By the treaty, either country, if desirous of sending troops to Korea, must previously make a communication to the other country to that effect. It is supposed in certain quarters that "communication" means asking consent. But though the party receiving the communication is certainly entitled to protest against troops being sent, in the absence of such protest the party making the communication is not bound to wait for the approval of the other. Japan, according to our contemporary, has no territorial design upon Korea, and consequently cannot be much inconvenienced by the provisions of the Treaty. Regarding Korea as her dependency, China may feel rather inconvenienced by the treaty, but she cannot justly demand its termination, because at the time of its conclusion between Count Ito and Earl Li, the object of the contracting parties was to maintain the independence of Korea.

* * *

The approaching visit of the Russian Prince Imperial continues to furnish food for comment. The *Choya Shimbun* reproves those people who circulate disquieting rumours as to the ulterior object of the visit. Their allegations are denounced as disrespectful to the august personage who does Japan the honour of paying her a special visit. Men prone to believe such absurd stories betray a lamentable want of confidence in the strength of their country. They are assured that Japan need not be afraid of Russia, for the former is ready to put sixty thousand troops in the field within ten days, whereas it would take Russia at least fifteen days—even after the completion of the Siberian railway—to send out to the East an army of ten thousand. Some people busy themselves in circulating such rumours, being desirous of seeing Japan fight with Russia. The *Kokkwai* takes them roundly to task, and also censures the conduct of Japanese who spread the story that Saigo is returning home in the Russian war vessel that carries the Russian Crown Prince. For Saigo, despite his otherwise noble career, is a traitor to the present Government, and, even supposing him alive, the Russian Crown Prince would be the last person to carry him to Japan. To circulate such a story is, the *Kokkwai* says, an insult to the Crown Prince.

* * *

All the papers unite in calling upon the Japanese nation to receive the Imperial visitor with every possible mark of respect and good-will. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* censures the tardiness of the municipal authorities of Tokyo in making preparations for His Imperial Highness' reception, and urges upon them the importance of taking prompt action. The *Jiji Shimpo* invites merchants of the capital to take advantage of the visit to bring Japanese manufactures to the notice of the Russian people. The merchants are advised to prepare a special fair for the occasion. Dealers in objects of art are particularly recommended to abandon their suicidal, if not disgraceful, policy of charging foreign customers fabulous prices. On the whole, judging from what has appeared in the press, the Japanese nation seems determined to give a thoroughly hospitable reception to the Russian Crown Prince.

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COMBINATION IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES.

IF unanimous testimony have any value, it is distinctly established that great irregularity exists on the part of Japanese traders in their dealings with foreign merchants. There may be question whether the abuses practised here are fairly representative of Japanese commercial morality. We ourselves believe that there are just grounds to doubt the fact, not because we pretend to know much about the morality of Japanese tradesfolk in general, but because we have no difficulty in detecting the existence of special conditions in Yokohama which have distinctly tended and do distinctly tend to encourage laxity, and because we reasonably infer that in the absence of such conditions a more rigid code would of necessity be observed. These conditions have so often been explained in our columns that we may be pardoned for not recapitulating them. What seems quite certain is that an almost unlimited amount of forbearance is shown by the foreign merchant towards the Japanese. So long as the latter does not absolutely abscond, he can always, apparently, count on obtaining credit and being treated as a substantial person. A correspondent of a local contemporary speaks of goods ordered years ago by Japanese, and yet lying to this day in the godowns of foreign merchants, who are compelled to act as unpaid warehouse-men for their *nonchalant* Japanese clients, and he adds that expenses amounting to thousands of dollars are annually incurred in this way by some foreign firms. Now, can this possibly be regarded as a wholesome state of affairs? However favourably disposed one may be towards the Japanese, there is no room to doubt that their moral attitude in respect of tradal affairs is distinctly casual. The reproach attaching to them on that account is by no means as strong as it would be had they a different social history. One of the plainest propositions in the primer of ethics is that men do not live above the estimate persistently formed of them by their fellows. If society unvaryingly treats one of its sections as worthy of contempt, the members of that section will end by becoming despicable. Trade was the least reputable of recognised professions thirty years ago in Japan. The mere fact of descending to earn a livelihood by barter, deprived a man of a portion of the respect of his fellows and weakened his self-respect correspondingly. He easily learned to regard his engagements in a light, airy fashion, not being expected to treat them with the austere punctiliousness of the *Samurai*. Thus was developed a give-and-take system, fatal to the growth of credit as interpreted and observed in the West. An engagement was something to be kept or postponed according to convenience, and where all traders took this volatile view of their obligations, a little extra levity did not entail serious consequences. But trade on its modern pedestal of Occidental refinement, trade to which credit is now as the very breath of its nostrils, cannot exist in such a tenuous atmosphere, and if trade is ever to prosper and grow in this country, the principle which, with foreigners, has been crystallized into an instinct, must be grafted by their efforts on the defective morality of the Japanese. There is no innate viciousness to overcome, but only a habit of mind educated by peculiar circumstances. Is this very desirable consummation likely to be promoted by the exceeding leniency said to be shown by foreign merchants towards defaulting Japanese in Yokohama? There has been, we are told, a distinct elevation of the Japanese standard during recent years. Men are now to be found who observe their engagements rigidly. If that be so, surely these men are ill rewarded and little encouraged when they see that to be lax costs their competitors nothing, and that the sin of broken faith is not punished by loss of custom. If foreign merchants in combination devised and applied some system tending to eliminate untrustworthy Japanese traders, and to confine the business of the port to the trustworthy only, Yokohama, ceasing to be the haunt of men looked down on by their own countrymen, might become a leavening centre of commercial morality. Time and the contact of wholesome habits, attended by visibly advantageous results, can alone accomplish the desired regeneration. It is distinctly retarded by indefinite tolerance of old abuses; by perpetually allowing men to escape the penalties that ought to attend breaches of faith. The British merchants have the bulk of the import trade in their own hands. They should be able to combine for the purpose of placing it on a sound footing. Competition is referred to as a fatal obstacle to combination, but if the objects of combination were perfectly fair and reasonable, competition could attract only those whose custom is neither safe nor desirable.

THE TROUBLE BETWEEN ITALY AND AMERICA.

THE city of New Orleans possesses a large Italian element in its population. In this respect it is conspicuous among all American cities. Last year the Italians residing there were estimated to aggregate at least twenty-five thousand. Many of them are industrious and prosperous citizens. They have practically monopolized the fruit trade, two of their firms owning no less than twenty-one steamships which ply between New Orleans and Central America. But among them there are also to be found numbers of degraded, lawless persons, who freely resort to the dagger and the pistol to avenge their wrongs or promote their schemes. During the period of 35 years from 1856 to 1890, twenty-seven assassinations occurred in the city, the victims being Italians in twenty-three cases. In no instance did it prove possible to convict the assassins, their fellow-countrymen invariably refusing to testify against them. In May of last year, however, a disposition to assist the course of justice was exhibited for the first time. The occasion certainly sufficed to arouse indignation. Two rival firms of stevedores, the PROVENZANOS and MATRANGOS, had long competed for the business of loading and discharging the vessels engaged in the Central American fruit trade, but finally the former firm was ousted from the business by the latter. A feud therefore sprang up between the two. The PROVENZANOS claimed that they had been deprived of the work owing to secret threats addressed to the shipowners by the MATRANGOS, who, they alleged, had announced their intention of enlisting the aid of a Secret society known as the Mafia, unless the shipowners acceded to their demands. This Mafia Association enjoyed an exceedingly bad reputation in New Orleans. Exterminated in Italy by recourse to the most rigorous measures, it had been resuscitated in America, its chief purpose being to levy blackmail, and its proceedings often leading to the perpetration of bloody crimes. Conspicuously active in seeking to suppress the Mafia and in collecting evidence against it, was Mr. DAVID HENNESSY, Superintendent of the New Orleans police, who seems to have been a man of great courage and activity. When the quarrel between the two firms of stevedores reached an acute stage, serious complications being apprehended, HENNESSY called together the leading members of the firms, and having warned them in strong terms against resorting to violence, induced them to pledge themselves to keep the peace. A few nights afterwards, as six of the MATRANGOS were driving home in a large waggon, they were attacked by a party of men, who fired about fifty shots into the waggon, severely wounding three of its inmates. Then for the first time the police found Italians willing to assist the course of justice. The wounded MATRANGOS gave up the names of their assailants, and offered evidence against them in Court. This unprecedented incident seems to have loosed the tongues of many Italian merchants who for years had silently submitted to be blackmailed by the Mafia. They subscribed a large sum of money, employed detectives to assist the authorities, and engaged eminent Counsel to conduct the prosecution. A conviction was obtained, but on a legal quibble another trial had to be granted. In collecting testimony for this trial Superintendent HENNESSY made himself particularly active. He procured information from Italy, and it was generally understood that when placed in the box he would furnish evidence showing up the

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whole organization and murderous rascality of the Mafia. But he did not live to come into court. On the night of October 16th, 1890, he was waylaid by two parties of assassins, while returning to his house, and literally riddled with buckshot and slugs, being fired upon from both front and rear. He died the next morning, having denounced the Mafia as his murderers. A number of arrests were quickly made, and great excitement prevailed. Threats to lynch the prisoners and to drive out the whole Italian colony were so freely uttered, that the Authorities deemed it necessary to make preparations for calling out the militia. Thirty years previously the city had risen *en masse* against the Italians, in consequence of the attempted murder of the clerk of the criminal court. On that occasion the head-quarters of the Italians were surrounded by a mob, and twenty to thirty of these strangers lost their lives, being either shot down or driven into the river to drown. Happily, however, no repetition of such violence occurred last year. The citizens were content to leave the matter in the hands of the City Council, which summoned a meeting and appointed a Committee of fifty to investigate the existence and methods of the Mafia and to suggest measures of suppression. It is worth noting, in connection with recent developments, that the *Italo Americano*, the organ of the New Orleans Italians, urged its nationals to cöoperate in bringing the assassins to justice, and protested against the respectable Italian residents being confounded with the Mafia, whose doings and purposes they abhorred. The police showed themselves very active, effecting a large number of arrests and ultimately detaining some twenty-five men against several of whom strong testimony had been obtained. Meanwhile steps were taken by the Italian citizens of New Orleans to obtain diplomatic protection. Nine days after the murder of HENNESSY, Baron FAVA, Italian Representative in Washington, applied to the Secretary of State, declaring that the respectable Italians would lend every assistance to bring Superintendent HENNESSY'S murderers to justice, but protesting against holding the whole community responsible for the act of a few assassins. Thenceforth the excitement seems to have gradually cooled. Nineteen Italians were held for trial, but five months elapsed before sufficient evidence could be obtained to bring the case into court, and then the accused were acquitted. Public opinion, however, did not acquit them. It was generally believed that the Jury had acted under the influence of threats addressed to its members by the Mafia, and the people, surrounding the jail where the prisoners, for the sake, doubtless, of their better protection, were still confined, lynched seven of them. Of what ensued thereafter we have no accurate information, but it is certain that diplomatic representations were made by the Italian Minister in Washington, and that, as a telegram dated April 1st says, failing "to effect an adjustment of the affair," he demanded his passports, the American Government on its side summoning a special session of Congress.

Such is the history, so far as we know, of an affair that has assumed the dimensions of an international difficulty, threatening to involve the United States and Italy in war. We are at a loss to comprehend the action of the Italian Government in the matter. A violent demonstration against the Italian residents of New Orleans, *qua* Italians, would assuredly have called for diplomatic remonstrance. But nothing of the kind appears to have occurred. The fury of the mob was directed entirely against a few prisoners, who seemed likely to escape the consequence of the crime attributed to them. It was not an anti-Italian demonstration in any sense. Moreover, it is difficult to conceive what step the Government of the United States can be expected to take. Louisiana has its own laws, and its own organizations for preserving order. The central authorities cannot interfere with the States except in cases of a special character, which this assuredly is not, since lynchings occur frequently, American citizens being the victims in almost every instance. It is probably safe to conclude that no blows will be struck. Neither Power is in a position to do the other a serious injury, and an exit from the difficulty is pretty sure to be discovered.

THE OPPOSITION IN EMBRYO.

IF we do not frequently translate and lay before our readers articles and notes from the vernacular press on the subject of Treaty Revision, our reticence must by no means be interpreted as signifying that the Japanese newspapers are silent on the subject. On the contrary, ever since the Diet was prorogued, numerous and copious references to this much hacknied topic have appeared. Indeed, at no time since Revision entered the field of practical politics has public opinion shown itself more active, except in the months of keen excitement immediately preceding the fall of the KURODA Cabinet. It would appear that while the Diet was in session people looked to it for a thorough ventilation of the matter, and that they have now taken it up on their own account. But despite this constant comment and discussion, we have not perceived any occasion to refer at length to the contents of our vernacular contemporaries' columns, inasmuch as their information, whenever it travels outside grooves already familiar, appears to be more or less incorrect, and inasmuch, also, as they reflect, not a decided, but a wavering and uncertain attitude. Speaking broadly, the difference between public opinion, thus far expressed, in 1891, and public opinion as recorded in 1889, is that whereas at the latter epoch the *Kaishin-to* organs stood alone as pronounced supporters of the Cabinet's programme, all the rest of the press being either covertly or overtly hostile, there are as yet no distinctly inimical demonstrations against what are supposed to be Viscount AOKI'S proposals, while several of the newspapers, though preserving a circumspect tone, allow it to be seen that they approve the proposals. Further, no attempt is made any longer to conceal that the question is distinctly influenced by party politics. We know that in Count OKUMA'S time the indiscreetly expressed exultation of the *Kaishin-to* when they witnessed their able leader's seemingly imminent success, provoked a spirit of opposition among men of different political views, with the result that the problem was seriously complicated. In those days, however, people were not willing to admit that the course of a distinctly national question could be influenced by party politics, whereas now there is plainly less delicacy. The men who were against the Government in the Diet make no pretence of concealing that they are against it in the matter of Treaty Revision also, and everybody admits that these politicians oppose for the sake of opposition. Much to be regretted as is this state of affairs, to look for anything else would be foolishly sanguine. Were the solution of a similar problem undertaken by a British Cabinet, and did the proposed solution leave a margin for wider national assertion, the opposition would behave just as the Japanese opposition behaves to-day. The interesting points, then, are: what is the distribution of the various political parties in respect of the question, and what are the conditions to which exception is taken by the opposition. With regard to the former, it will be easily understood that no absolutely hard and fast line can yet be drawn. A fairly accurate analysis is possible, however, and it shows us, in the first place, that the division which fatally weakened the ranks of the Government itself in 1889 has nearly, if not altogether, disappeared to-day. The discontented Privy Councillors and officials who publicly or privately added their voices to the outcry against foreign judicial experts and against the ownership of real estate by foreigners, are now either neutral, or supporters of a programme from which both of these conditions are understood to be expunged. An element of strength is also added by the fact that three Ministers of State being Plenipotentiaries, the credit of achieving Revision cannot accrue to one alone, and jealousy is thus, in some degree, disarmed. As to political parties, the supporters of the Government's programme appear to be the *Kyodo* Club, the Independents (*Taisei-kai*), the section of the Radicals known as the *Kokumin Jiyu-to* (National Radicals), and the *Jichi-to*

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(Self-government Party). The declared opponents are the Kwanto section of the Radicals, and Viscount TORIO'S Conservatives; while seated on the fence are the Kiushu and Tohoku (north-eastern) sections of the Radicals, the *Kaishin-to*, and the Independent Conservatives of Viscount TORIO. The *Kaishin-to's* position is difficult. Responsible themselves for attempting to negotiate a treaty distinctly less favourable, from a Japanese point of view, than the supposed programme, they ought not, consistently, to be in the camp of the opposition. Yet we gather from stray utterances that they are preparing the way to take a hostile stand, on the ground that the country has changed since 1889, and that what suited it then is not sufficient now. Of course the *Kaishin-to* in alliance with a majority of the Radicals and the Conservatives would constitute, numerically, a powerful opposition. But their strength must depend, to a great extent, on the nature of their platform, and it is difficult to conceive first, that the nation will go with them in respect of the three counts advanced by Mr. OI KENTARO and his brother-extremists; and secondly, that there can be any genuine solidarity among the opposing elements themselves as to these counts. The counts are understood to be, that mixed residence must not be allowed; that Consular jurisdiction must be abolished at once and unconditionally; and that an absolutely free hand must be given to the country in tariff affairs. The *Kaishin-to* is, as we think, utterly precluded from endorsing the first of these propositions, and the third is sufficiently extravagant to be condemned by all reasonable folks. With such propositions, however, the vernacular press and party politicians are toying in an uncertain, tentative fashion, after the manner of men who require to familiarise themselves with a sin before they can set about committing it in earnest. They even ask for a special session of the Diet, though it was prorogued only a month ago, though no new development has occurred since its prorogation, and though the matter to be submitted to it is distinctly reserved as an Imperial prerogative. In short, so perplexed are they to discover a popular basis for their opposition, that they revert to the cry raised by Viscount TANI and his followers in 1887. It seems scarcely necessary to reproduce these echoes of unreasoning discontent. We are unable to believe in the sincerity of Japanese whose faith in the capacities of their nationals is so small, and whose pride in the progress made by their country during the Meiji era is so superficial, that they dare not face the ordeal of allowing foreigners to reside in their midst and to trade with them on equal terms. Such pusillanimity, such lack of self-confidence, contemptible under any circumstances, becomes absolutely ludicrous when exhibited by a people who, in the same breath, claim that they have qualified to stand shoulder to shoulder with the foremost States of the world in the comity of nations. Mr. OI KENTARO, the chief exponent of this cowardly doctrine, is called a leader of the Liberals, but should in truth be recognised as a conspicuous slave to the worst traditions of mediæval seclusion. Neither does it appear that serious treatment ought to be accorded to Japanese who, at this period of their national history, insist upon a degree of freedom not enjoyed by the proudest countries of Europe in tariff affairs. Every European State is bound by a conventional tariff more or less comprehensive. Japan cannot be humiliated by voluntarily submitting to what those States endure voluntarily. Finally, as to the immediate and unconditional abolition of Consular jurisdiction, there is just this to be said, that they are not sane persons who seek to make a compact without considering the other party at all. If Japan be determined to sweep away the present system incontinently and unconditionally, she is merely trifling with herself and others when she talks of negotiating. There can be no negotiation where one side takes everything and gives nothing. Evidently these issues have not yet been maturely considered. The malcontents angling with their three counts, will catch, so far as we can see, only poltroons, farceurs, and fanatics.

EDUCATION IN INDIA.

IN view of the questions that are continually arising on the subject of Education in Japan, some notes upon Education in India, by one who recently made his way here across that country, may not be without interest.

The Education question in India was obviously rendered intricate by various difficulties which do not arise in Japan. The vast extent of country—nearly a million square miles, peopled by many different races, speaking different tongues and professing different religions; the immense school-going population—the total number receiving education in 1889 was 3,544,000, and this was but a percentage of 11.2 upon all who might have done so; the difficulty of the secluded life of the girls—only 290,000 were attending school in 1888; all these combined to make the problem before the Government exceedingly abstruse.

Education in India may be obtained (1) at a Government school; (2) at an aided school; (3) by private instruction. Class (2) contains the Missionary Schools, as to which, in order to clear the ground, we may say that as a general rule there is one hour's religious education given daily, either by the missionary or by a native teacher. There the direct religious influence practically ceases; except (so far as I know) at Delhi, where the members of the Cambridge Mission spend their whole mornings in teaching, thus presenting the ordinary subjects of examination from a Christian point of view. The number of converts made in the schools is very small, the scholars in many cases receiving no encouragement in the direction of conversion, lest the non-Christian parents withdraw their children.

Of classes (1) and (2) by far the largest number are "Public" schools; that is, schools in which the course of study is prescribed by the Department, and which are inspected by the Department, or present pupils at the public examinations. These are far more satisfactory in every way than the "private" schools, the percentage of passes at the Universities being considerably higher. The "Public" schools are primary and secondary. At the primary school, reading and writing, and such arithmetic and mensuration as a peasant might require, are taught. Of these there are 87,500, with 2,560,000 pupils; there are also 31,600 private elementary schools, with 416,000 scholars: about 84 per cent. of the entire school-going population is thus satisfied with elementary education.

In the secondary schools, an advanced knowledge of the vernacular and a substantial knowledge of English are imparted. Of these schools there are 4,700, with 533,000 students (14 per cent.) From a secondary school, the young aspirant passes to one of the 124 colleges, which contain 13,950 students, give direct preparation for the Universities, and thus control the mass of the higher and secondary education of India. These colleges are (1) Arts Colleges; (2) Professional Colleges, where instruction in engineering, etc., is given.

India possesses 5 Universities: Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, the Punjab University, and Allahabad; which last held its first examination in March, 1889, and it is satisfactory to notice an increase of 40 per cent. in the number of students under instruction in college classes in the last five years. At these Universities, 19,746 students presented themselves for examination in 1889, of whom 5,250 passed, while 1,734 degrees were given, the vast majority in arts and sciences.

These are simply examining Universities, on the same principle as that of London. We may take Calcutta University to illustrate the University course.

The entrance examination may be undergone at any one of 39 centres; the subjects being English (various books of battles, lives of eminent philanthropists, short pieces of poetry, some repetition); one of sixteen languages; elementary mathematics; and the outlines of the history of England and India. Next comes the examination for F.A. (First Arts): English (extracts from SCOTT, GOLDSMITH, MILTON, GRANT, GREEN): one of nine languages—Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Hebrew, French, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Armenian: but we may

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say at once, that very few students take any language but Sanskrit, Persian, and Urdu; and as it would probably be vain to give the names of the books required in these languages, the Greek and Latin books used shall serve to show the standard. In Greek, a book of HERODOTUS, and a play of EURIPIDES; in Latin, a book of VIRGIL, and a dialogue of CICERO, are the set books. In addition, Mathematics, Elementary Physics, History, and deductive Logic must be offered.

The B. A. Examination may be taken with or without Honours. The subjects are the same as for F. A., with the addition of Philosophy: here is the list of books for 1888 :—

ENGLISH—PASS.	ENGLISH—HONOURS.
Shakespeare, 3 plays;	Add, Spenser, Bk. i.;
Milton, 3 books;	Tennyson, Princess;
Dryden's Essays;	Mat. Arnold, Essays on Criticism;
Golden Treasury of Songs;	Milton, Areopagitica.
Life of Dryden;	
Burke, selections.	
GREEK—PASS.	GREEK—HONOURS.
Sophocles, 2 plays;	Add, Thuc., one book;
Demosthenes—De Corona;	Euripides, one play;
Æschines—In Ctes.	Plato—Phaedo.
PHILOSOPHY—PASS.	PHILOSOPHY—HONOURS.
McCosh—Loquitive powers;	Add, Ueberweg vol. ii.;
Sully—Outlines of psychology;	Schwegler's Hist.
Calderwood—Handbook of moral philosophy;	Martineau, Study of Religion.
Sidgwick—Essays.	

The historical course includes the histories of England, India, Greece, and Rome: the Mathematical, in Honours, Analytical plane geometry, and the Integral and Differential Calculus.

For the examination for M.A., one of seven languages must be taken (the Sanscrit books required number 13), with the constitutional history of England, and a special period: Indian or European political philosophy, and political economy; mental and moral philosophy, including logic, psychology, ethics, natural theology; mathematics, and one of six branches of natural science. The English books are as follows :—SPENSER, "Faerie Queen" (one book); SHAKESPEARE (5 plays); MARLOWE, FAUSTUS; DRYDEN (3 poems); SHERIDAN, GOLDSMITH, DE QUINCEY, various biographies; philological grammars, history of literature, &c. In Greek, "Iliad" i.—xii.; PINDAR; AESCH., SOPH., EURIP. (three plays each): ARISTOPHANES (four plays); HERODOTUS (two books): THUCYDIDES (three books); DEMOSTHENES (three orations); PLATO (two dialogues); ARISTOTLE, Politics; besides grammar, history of literature, &c.

It would lengthen to excess an already long article, were I to try to give the subjects more completely. It only remains to speak of the cost of this great system, and to give a superficial view of its results.

In Bengal, the yearly cost of a student in a Government College is 233 rupees, of which 140 falls upon the State. In the elementary schools the cost of each pupil is 12.2 annas (16 annas in a rupee). The total expenditure of the country in 1888 on Professional Colleges, was 67,500 tens of rupees; on Art Colleges, 185,000 tens; secondary schools, 891,000 tens; primary schools, 850,000 tens; total, 2,709,232 tens of rupees. Valuing the rupee at 1s. 7d. and the *yen* at 3s. 2d., this gives the cost of Indian education, for 3,544,000 students, as 54,184,640 *yen*. The results, statistically, are encouraging. In 1867, there were at Calcutta 1,058 candidates, of whom 477 were successful, for entrance; in 1889 the numbers were 5,883 and 1,452. For F. A. 163 candidates, 94 passes, compare with 2,467 and 709; for B. A. 39 and 15 compare with 1,165 and 440; and the progress has been steady and rapid, year by year. The number of girls who are being brought out from their lifelong imprisonment is also a hopeful sign. But the percentage of children attending school (11.2) is still extremely small.

On the other hand, from the point of view of the moral growth of the people, men are doubting whither all this will lead. Young India is examination mad: the gems of the English poets are simply crammed for examination purposes, and philosophy appears to flow in at one ear and out at the other, as soon as the examination is done with. One embryo GERVINUS, having had SHELLEY'S "Ode to the West Wind" explained to him, asked "What did he write it for?" Such a question, and I am told it is a typical one, tells its own tale.

One difficulty is, as to what is to become of these lights of the examination room. It is amusing to be told that every degree, from "F.A. (failed, 188—)" to "M.A." has its value in the marriage market; every young genius also who attains to a degree expects to find a place in some Government office. If he fails to get this, and the number is necessarily limited, he will perhaps betake himself to the vernacular press, and earn his bread by denouncing the British tyrants, oppressors of the people, &c.

But the great drawback is, that a little knowledge seems likely to prove a dangerous thing. Education has sharpened, while it has not morally improved, the native character; and the law courts daily prove the truth of this. It is hard to see what system of justice the Government could have imposed other than the present one, which we owe in its most surprising fulness, to Lord MACAULAY, and which is founded, as would appear to us reasonable, on trial by evidence. But the native mind turns its ingenuity, sharpened by Britain-given education, to account, by concocting the most elaborate schemes of trickery for the courts of law. These schemes at times take the utmost ingenuity to unravel, and at last leave an unsatisfactory impression that something was wrong. In fact, the British Government (if I may say so without casting any slur upon a nation) found a people in ignorance, if not in innocence, and runs the risk of turning them into knaves. It almost goes without saying that the old religions of the country, with their ideals of righteousness and moral sanction, go by the board; and a system of morals manufactured to order cannot take their place. Such are the fears men express. The British Government is doing its very best to deal fairly and justly by the immense dependency committed to its keeping: it has set in motion gigantic forces; and whether it can turn them and guide them aright, or whether this will prove a task beyond its powers, time alone can show. H.M.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EASTERN CHURCHES AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

THE opening of the Orthodox Cathedral on Surugadai the other day seems to offer the opportunity for a few remarks on the relation of the Anglican Church to the Orthodox Eastern Church, of which the Russian Church forms a large and important part.

It must not be forgotten that the English Church, as such, has never formally separated from the Eastern branch of the Catholic Church. As all readers of history are aware, the separation of the Eastern and Western Churches was completed before the end of the 11th century, the grounds of which division it is not necessary to mention here. The English Church, being a portion of the Western branch, was naturally included in the Western side of the breach. Since the Reformation, however, the English Church has taken an altogether independent line from that of Rome, and, having thus more distinctly asserted her individuality, it would be natural to suppose that she would on her own responsibility, as soon as the opportunity offered, seek for re-union. Such we find to be the case.

In proof of this let us refer to the following extracts (the italics are ours) from the report of "the Committee on the Eastern Churches" at the last Lambeth Conference in 1888, signed by the Bishop of WINCHESTER as chairman :—"Your Committee regard the friendly feelings manifested towards our Church by the orthodox Eastern Communion as a matter for deep thankfulness. These feelings inspire the *hope that at no distant time closer relations may be established between the two Churches.* Your Committee, however, are of opinion that any hasty or ill-considered step in this direction would only retard the accomplishment of this hope. Our expectations of nearer fellowship are founded upon the friendly tone of the correspondence which the Archbishop of CANTERBURY *and his predecessors* have held from time to time with Patriarchs of the Orthodox Church, and upon the cordiality of the welcome given by the Heads of that Church to Anglican Bishops and Clergy, such as the Bishop of GIBRALTAR, who have travelled in the East. Additional grounds of hope are furnished by the visit of Archbishop LYCURGUS (of Syra and Tenos) to England in 1870, by

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the conversation which passed between him and the present Bishop of WINCHESTER at Ely, by the words which Archbishop LYCURGUS used at the conclusion of the second Conference held at Bonn; and by the request which the Orthodox Patriarch of JERUSALEM recently addressed to the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, that the Anglican Bishopric in Jerusalem should be reconstituted, and that the head-quarters of the Bishop should be placed in that city, rather than at Beyrout or elsewhere." The Conference practically adopted this report in its Resolutions.

Attention may also be called to Appendix D of Bishop BICKERSTETH'S *Pastoral Charge* for Lent, 1889, in which is given at length the letter of congratulation sent by the Archbishop of CANTERBURY to the Metropolitan of KIEFF on the 900th anniversary of the conversion of Russia, together with the speech in reply of the Procurator of the Holy Synod. The terms in which both are couched manifest the most kindly feelings and mutual respect, and testify to that gradual tendency of the two Churches to draw nearer to one another which has been spoken of above.

It may be added that distinguished ecclesiastics of the Eastern Church, such as Archbishop LYCURGUS and the Metropolitan of CYPRUS, during visits to England, have taken part in the services of the English Church, and, on the other hand, the Orthodox Patriarch of JERUSALEM has set apart the celebrated "Chapel of Abraham" in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in accordance with Anglican rites.

From another point of view, the welcome accorded by the English Parliament and people, notwithstanding the opposition of a small fanatical minority, to a Russian Princess, who now for many years has made her home in their midst, has tended to promote a similar good understanding between the two Churches.

From these facts it will be seen that the hindrances which are felt on both sides to reunion are becoming more and more likely, through mutual discussion and understanding, to be at any rate so far reduced as to make some kind of inter-communion, if not actual reunion, possible at no distant date. Meanwhile the best feeling is being maintained between the two Churches, and the presence of priests of the Anglo-Catholic Communion at the Consecration of the Orthodox Cathedral on March 8th was only what was fitting and natural in view of the present attitude of each Church to the other. In Tokyo, where the work of the Russian Church under that truly Apostolic man, Bishop NICOLAI, has so entirely won the admiration and good wishes of all, it was only natural that members of the Anglican Mission would gladly seize the opportunity afforded them by the Bishop's invitation to show their deep sympathy with his work. ANGLICANUS.

THE MISSIONS OF THE JAPANESE NATION.

A PAMPHLET of much interest dealing with the natural missions of the Japanese nation has just been published in Tokyo by Mr. MIYAKE, editor of the *Nippon-Jin*.

No epoch in the history of Japan and probably of any other nation has been richer in materials for psychological study than the last two and a half decades of this country's progress. Europe and America can show States that have undergone more disturbing convulsions, social and political, but it is now a mere truism to say that no other people were ever brought so suddenly and thoroughly into contact with a civilization essentially different from their own. In proportion to the novelty of the phenomenon is the interest of analysing its effects upon the minds of the Japanese. One of these days, philosophers will devote themselves to an exhaustive examination of this distinctly memorable chapter of Oriental annals. Here we only allude to it briefly in connection with our immediate subject. Naturally, the first and general effect of contact with the new civilization was to awaken sentiments of keen curiosity and profound admiration. A more important and more interesting result, however, was that not a few Japanese youths of reflective temperament began to ponder whether they and their compatriots were morally qualified to hold their own in the struggle for existence against the pushing races of Europe and America: in other words, whether the Japanese nation had any rôle to play in the drama of human progress. To the naturally high spirited and hero-worshipping Japanese people, nothing could be more galling and unbearable than the idea of being permanently doomed to a secondary function in the progress of human development. No wonder, then, that the question of the future destiny of the Japanese race should have received anxious attention from the ambitious and proud children of the Land of the Rising Sun. Plainly, Mr. MIYAKE, the author of the pamphlet before us, is one of those who have eagerly pondered this question of the nation's future. A conspicuously original thinker and interesting writer of the nationalistic school, popularly called *Kokusui Hozon-ha*, his name has been so prominently before the public for the past few years that his last publication will assuredly appeal with peculiar force to the imagination of the rising generation. The work is divided into five chapters. In the first chapter, the writer propounds, in general terms, the proposition that each nation, like each individual of the human race, has its own special gifts, and that to develop and profit by those gifts is its mission in the scheme of the universe, for thus alone can there be possibility of building up a perfect temple of humanity. "Now," observes Mr. MIYAKE, "if while one Asiatic nation after another has declined and fallen, Japan, a little island Empire in the Far East, still continues to maintain her proud independence, the exception must have some deep significance. It indicates clearly that the Japanese nation is charged with some important mission in the destiny of humanity." Having laid down this general proposition, the author proceeds, in his second chapter, to deal with the natural capacities of the Japanese nation. We shall not refer to this portion of the subject at any length, for Mr. MIYAKE'S views have already been reproduced in our columns from an article in the opening number of the *Nippon-Jin* for the current year. We may note, however, Mr. MIYAKE'S firm conviction that the Japanese are not morally inferior to the nations of the Aryan stock. He supports this contention by copious reference to the history not only of Japan but also of China, for he maintains that whatever has been accomplished by the latter is surely within the capacity of the former, under similar conditions. As an object lesson in his comparison between Japanese and Europeans, he instances the case of the foreign employés of the Japanese Government. These gentlemen, he says, have been in most cases men of good education and respectable standing in their own countries, but their opinions and counsels have not always been entitled to admiration. Some assert that the Japanese are merely imitative, and not capable of original ideas and inventions. Mr. MIYAKE indignantly repudiates the charge. Men who create new schools of thought, he observes, are few and far between in any country. NEWTONS and DARWINS only appear at intervals of centuries. Only twenty years having elapsed since the introduction of Occidental science and philosophy into Japan, it is surely premature to expect the evolution of any new doctrines or opinions of importance on the lines of that science or civilization. On the other hand, the manner in which the Japanese formerly assimilated and digested Indian theology and Chinese philosophy, plainly indicates, in the author's opinion, that they are not naturally inferior to Western nations in their capacity to prosecute scientific and philosophical investigations.

In the remaining three chapters Mr. MIYAKE considers the natural missions of the Japanese nation. He discusses them under three headings, namely, *Truth*, *Justice*, and *Beauty*. To each a chapter is devoted. Under the first heading, he includes philosophical and scientific research. We are told that in this domain it is the special mission of Japanese scholars to investigate the history, literature, language, religion, political systems, the flora, and fauna, not only of Japan but also of China and the other countries of the Far East. Speaking of Japanese history in particular, the writer remarks that its study

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cannot fail to be productive of valuable philosophical results, for the Japanese nation having developed along exceptionally homogeneous and continuous lines, its annals furnish valuable materials for the investigation of historical cause and effect. As for Chinese philosophy, he remarks that, although some of the Chinese classical works have been translated by European scholars, the task of collecting and systematizing the whole treasures of that ancient literature is not to be expected from Europeans, who are impeded by the extreme difficulty of thoroughly mastering the subtleties of the Chinese language, whatever study they devote to it. On the other hand, educated Japanese understand the written language of China as completely as that of their own country. It thus becomes the duty of Japanese scholars to bring to light all the hidden treasures of the unexplored mine. As to the means of realizing this great object, the author suggests that a really representative Oriental Academy be established in Japan, and that highly educated philosophers, scientists, and literati be despatched to the neighbouring empire at the public expense. Passing on to his second theme, *Justice*, Mr. MIYAKE considers the function of the Japanese nation as a factor for promoting justice among the nations of the world. To discharge this function, it is, of course, essential that the country be strong enough to defend itself in case of necessity, and strong enough, also, to secure the respect of other nations. In this context he compares the military and naval armament of Japan with that of other Asiatic Powers, and earnestly recommends its augmentation. Armaments, however, require money, so Mr. MIYAKE devotes the rest of this chapter to a statement of reforms that ought to be introduced in industry, agriculture, pisciculture, and so forth.

The last chapter deals, under the heading *Beauty*, with the mission of the Japanese in the sphere of fine arts. Their physical surroundings have made them an essentially artistic people. Their houses, their gardens, their furniture, even their domestic utensils are distinguished by exceptional artistic taste. It may perhaps be claimed, in Mr. MIYAKE'S opinion, that in respect of Art the Japanese are not very much behind the ancient Greeks. In support of this theory he instances the development of metal-working, painting, lacquering, and architecture. In the demain of pictorial art, he asserts that Japan can show men capable of supporting comparison even with the great masters of mediæval Europe. KOSE-NO-KANAOKA, MINCHO and SHUBUN, MOTONOBU and TANYU, OKYO and YEI I'CHO are names of which any nation might be proud. The distinctive characteristic of Japanese artists, according to Mr. MIYAKE'S view, is graceful simplicity. The history of every branch of art in Japan proves this. Sculpture, for example, when first introduced here from the Asiatic continent, was chiefly distinguished by imposing grandeur, but it subsequently lost this quality and acquired new characteristics of simplicity and grace. The same is true of every other branch of art, painting among the rest. The future of Japanese art lies in developing the national characteristic. Mr. MIYAKE is not opposed to the study of foreign art: he rather recommends it, laying stress, however, on the necessity of developing the special tendencies of Japanese genius.

The interest of this pamphlet for foreign readers lies in the fact that it may be taken as a fair indication of the sentiments entertained by the younger generation of the Japanese nation, and endorsed by the elder. Self-confidence is essential to success. Indomitable faith in his own capacity to overcome difficulties has always been the strongest factor in the progress of the Anglo-Saxon. A similar faith evidently inspires the Japanese. And what is still more noteworthy is that this faith is beginning to re-assert itself, after a quarter of century of contact with Western civilization. Twenty-three years ago, a Japanese *Samurai* of marked ability—who unfortunately died before the promise of his talents could be fulfilled—being asked to describe the impression left upon his mind by close examination of Occidental civilization and Occidental ways, quoted in reply the first three lines of a well known couplet:—

Kite mireba
Sahodo ni mo nashi,
Fuji no yama,

Familiarity, in his case, though leaving admiration undisturbed, had not bred respect. His dictum seems to have been in some degree prophetic.

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT.

ONE of the most remarkable features of the Meeting held in Yokohama last September to protest against the rumoured action of HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S Government in respect of Treaty Revision, was that no reasons whatever were advanced in support of the first and principal resolution. The proposer of the resolution, influenced by some consideration which he significantly refrained from formulating, dispensed with all explanation, and the Meeting applauded his reticence. Subsequently, however, this silent attitude was abandoned. The Citizens' Committee, appointed for the purpose of representing the Community in matters relating to Treaty Revision, drew up a Statement of reasons and forwarded it to the China Association, and this Statement is now in the hands of the public. It bears date "January, 1891:" in other words, an interval of some four months separated the passing of the original resolution and the enunciation of the reasons on which it was based. A delay so strikingly inconsistent with the magnitude of the interests concerned, and with the sweeping character of the declarations embodied in the resolution, called for explanation. The Committee offer three explanations; first the excitement prevailing among the Japanese; secondly, "the difficulty of drawing up a concise yet ample and forcible statement covering such a wide area as that presented by the whole question of the Revision of the Treaties;" and thirdly, "the condition of uncertainty, not to say ignorance, in which the residents found themselves, in regard to the actual point at which the negotiations had arrived, and the measure of support their views might meet with at home." It will be felt that any one of these reasons might have been advanced with sufficient force, but the three are unfortunate in conjunction. The Committee, appreciating the strength of the international umbrage engendered by the ill-judged meeting, and fearing to increase that umbrage by any public statement of reasons distasteful to the Japanese, might prudently and properly have postponed the preparation of such a statement. That would have been a dignified and conciliatory explanation. But when the delay is in the same breath referred to the "difficulty of drawing up a concise yet ample and forcible statement," as well as to "uncertainty, not to say ignorance, in regard to the actual point at which the negotiations had arrived, and the measure of support the views of the residents might meet with at home," we are driven to speculate in what proportions the interval of four months is to be divided between these three explanations. They remind us—if we may be pardoned the comparison—of the young person who declined to undergo an examination in French because she considered examinations unladylike, and also because she had never studied the French language. If the Citizens' Committee experienced so much difficulty in marshalling arguments to support the action already taken by the Meeting, we begin to discover a new reason why those arguments were not laid before the Meeting, and to appreciate the justice of the inference drawn at the time, namely, that the Meeting acted on impulse and sentiment rather than on calm reflection and logical deliberation. Wholly inexplicable, too, is the last assertion, namely, that the Committee were restrained by "the uncertainty in which the residents found themselves as to the measure of support their views might meet with at home." The object of the Committee's appointment as well as the purpose of the Meeting, was to sway home opinion towards a waiting policy in respect of Treaty Revision. The Committee now assert, in effect, that they hesitated to pursue this object, being uncertain as to the reception their efforts might obtain at home.

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Surely that was a somewhat perfunctory view to take of their duties.

We dwell upon this phase of the matter because nothing has excited more comment and surprise than the silence observed at the Meeting of last September, and subsequently maintained by the Citizens' Committee, in regard to the reasons for postponing Treaty Revision. That a strong feeling existed among the foreign residents against abolishing Consular Jurisdiction was a fact needing no further public declaration. Every intelligent person recognised the presence of such a feeling, and understood that due weight must be given to it in negotiating any workable scheme of Revision. But a sense of dissatisfaction, and even of indignation, had grown up under the immoderate and cruelly unjust methods adopted by persons professing to represent foreign local opinion, and it was confidently hoped that when the community took the affair into its own hands, a logical and fair exposition of views would replace and efface the unsightly manifestoes of the past. Correspondingly great was the disappointment experienced, when the Meeting of September 11th, accepting everything on trust, voted a sweeping resolution by acclaim, and when the representative Committee appointed by it refrained from offering any explanation of the Meeting's radical protest. It is easy to understand that the promoters of the Meeting were reluctant to give public utterance to reasons which could not fail to hurt Japanese national pride. But if their appreciation of the delicacy of the situation counselled a course so injurious to the cause they advocated, consistency required a complete modification of their whole procedure. The Meeting, as organized and conducted by them, was purely a sentimental demonstration. Not only were no reasons given for the principal resolution, but it was not even thought necessary to explain this singular reticence, and from first to last not a word was uttered indicative of sympathy with Japan's aims or showing approval of the efforts she had made. If the mover of the resolution had embodied in his speech some kindly references to Japan's progress, some expression of the goodwill which all true Englishmen must feel towards a country struggling to recover its independence; if he had explicitly avowed his desire to avoid embittering controversy, and had relied simply on the perfectly natural hesitation of Europeans and Americans to submit their persons and properties to tribunals and laws with the working of which they are not yet familiar, is it at all likely that the people of Japan would have been stirred to any serious excitement? But the projectors of the Meeting and the movers of the resolutions went about their work with absolute indifference to Japanese feeling. They organised a demonstration that could not fail to excite intense national umbrage, and when they found themselves confronted by umbrage, some of them sought to lay the blame on the shoulders of the *Japan Mail* because it had ventured to condemn their methods, not their motives or their purposes. We are sorry to see that the Committee have so little sense of dignity as to descend to similarly unjust recrimination. "The immediate outcome of the meeting," they write, "was an unusual amount of excitement among the Japanese in Tokyo and elsewhere; and the native press, led on by a foreign paper, which holds a brief from the Japanese Government, teemed with articles of a more or less violent character, upbraiding the foreign residents for presuming to interfere in the smooth course of Treaty negotiations, and daring to raise a protest in defence of their own interests." The imputation contained in this paragraph is unworthy; the implication, untrue, and the tone, vindictive. No article in any degree deserving the epithet "violent" appeared in the *Japan Mail*. It has never been even hinted in these columns that the foreign residents have not an undeniable title to interfere in the course of Treaty negotiations, nor have we at any time advanced the silly proposition that they must not "dare to raise a protest in defence of their own interests." That such assertions should be embodied in a statement compiled by sober business men for a public purpose, is extremely discreditable. We say nothing of their unfairness, nor need we do more than direct very brief attention to the curious mood of men who infer that a newspaper disapproving of their methods must be paid to oppose them. When these disfiguring phrases find their way into a document of the character of the Committee's Statement, the only reasonable conclusion is that its compilation was entrusted to persons who allowed feelings of personal rancour to overcome their sense of what was due to their representative functions. Our contention last September was, and our contention to-day is, that if a protest were deemed necessary in the interests of the community, it should not have been placed on record by means of a public meeting, but should have been forwarded in the shape of a memorial, as was done by the Kobe residents. To the latter course no just exception could have been taken, nor would it have roused any excitement among the Japanese. There may be some who set small store by the latter consideration. In our eyes, however, it is of the greatest importance. Every year, nay every month, that Treaty Revision is postponed, adds to the force of Japanese public opinion and correspondingly enhances the difficulty of solving the problem in a manner satisfactory to foreigners. In Count INOUYE'S time we could easily have obtained terms that will not be listened to now. When Count OKUMA assumed the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, the country was resigned to a settlement that has not a single supporter to-day. Each postponement, whether due to the nature of foreign demands or to the growth of Japan sentiment, has led the nation to a higher level of self-respect and self-assertion. It is with public opinion in Japan that the negotiators have to reckon, and whatever tends to excite public opinion is distinctly opposed to foreign interests. The promoters of last year's Meeting did not think of this. They did not observe that while their own Government, on the one hand, was labouring to obtain the best possible terms for them, the Japanese Government, on the other, was willing to carry its concessions to the extreme limits prescribed by national sentiment. A demonstration like that of September weakened the chances of a favourable compromise by just so much as it strengthened the umbrage of the Japanese public. It is a singular mistake to denounce as enemies writers who point out these things, their demonstrations being confirmed by events from point to point.

In another article we shall examine the important conclusions and recommendations set forth by the Committee. With much that the Statement contains all will doubtless agree, but in some respects it invites discussion too lengthy to be undertaken here.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Knowing that public opinion in Japan when aroused to the fact of existing evils is ever most active in mitigating them, I venture to call your attention to that remnant of barbarism that is still so prominently and persistently thrust before one when encountering sundry lines of omnibuses and street cars. Any person with any sensibility must actually dread meeting with most of the specimens of that noble animal, the horse, in the service of these conveyances; but when to swollen joints and scarred, uncurried hides, we add hip bones lacerated and the blood trickling from open sores, while the lash from the coach-box ceases not its painful flourishes; when in an outing of less than half an hour, two *basha* were encountered with the poor animals thus disfigured by bleeding sores, and a third had one of its horses actually staggering and almost lying upon its companion, from weakness, we feel certain that we are *far from home*, and that civilizing influences have yet to work changes in the humane characteristics of our Japanese kindred. The old adage, a merciful man is merciful to his beast, has its equivalent in the Japanese language, but, it needs practical demonstration.

I am all too well aware that men toil here and pull loaded waggons when totally unfit for the task. Compassion and indignation must often be awakened by these human "beasts of burden" who are of far more value than the noblest blooded quadruped; but this unjust expenditure of human strength does not for one moment mitigate the dehumanizing influences of goading suffering animals into labour when their condition is revolting to any person of refined feeling.

I have read or heard that somewhere in some city or province of this island empire there is a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, but it is surely not in Tokyo, and it is a blot on the boasted civilization of this representative Government that such sights are familiar and of daily occurrence.

On the minds of the young the influence of such wanton cruelty and disregard of suffering is degenerating, blunting as it must the higher, finer feelings of pity and tenderness, and encourag-

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ing brutalizing propensities, or at least indifference to suffering, which, being in no wise akin to bravery or courage or heroic endurance, should not pass uncondemned. A new line, spoken of as "those red cars" has already won admiration and patronage, because of the healthy, well-cared-for appearance of the horses, so that this appreciation is but proof of the protest in the minds of the people against the evil I here disclaim.

Yours, etc., A FRIEND OF MAN AND BEAST.

Tokyo, March 26th, 1891,

MR. BRADLAUGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The brief account of Mr. Bradlaugh which appeared in your columns a few days ago, though no doubt intended as a kindly criticism of the deceased statesman, yet contains several references to his character, his work, and his followers which are certainly incorrect and misleading. For instance, the writer speaks of going one Sunday evening to a debate between Mr. Bradlaugh and a young clergyman at the Hall of Science; and while the subject of the discussion is not remembered, and, it may be added, the writer's memory is probably at fault with regard to the discussion taking place on a Sunday—at least, with a good many years' intimate acquaintance with Mr. Bradlaugh's work I cannot recall any instance of a formal debate taking place on that day—yet the writer remembers the room to have been "thronged with those curious weedy youths with pinched, sharp, intelligent face who are always ready to speak at a moment's notice;" upon which slender basis of doubtful facts it is inferred that such "seem to form the bulk of the militant secularists of London." Now these youths, if holding secularist views, made a curious mistake in going to the Hall of Science in order to acquire practice in speaking, seeing that no speech-making by members of the audience is there permitted unless in opposition to the views of the lecturer occupying the platform. To describe the majority of the attendants at the Hall of Science as youths is sufficiently absurd—at any rate, in the course of a large number of attendances at that Hall I have seldom seen any present under twenty years of age, and friends who have occasionally accompanied me have frequently remarked on the large number of grey heads among Mr. Bradlaugh's auditory—but to describe his adherents as "weedy" is still more ludicrous. The British workman, from the skilled and educated ranks of which came the majority of Mr. Bradlaugh's adherents, is not generally regarded as particularly "weedy," and no one who had ever seen Mr. Bradlaugh giving his stalwart "marshals" and "stewards"—almost to a man "militant Secularists"—final directions previous to one of his great meetings could ever have made such a remark.

The writer again falls into error in saying that two years ago Mr. Bradlaugh denounced socialism at a Trades Union Congress "permeated with modern socialistic ideals." It is doubtful whether Mr. Bradlaugh ever in his life attended a Trades Union Congress—certainly not for the last twelve years—nor is it even correct to say that any Trades Union Congress until that of last year was to any extent permeated with Socialism, the passing by a small majority at the last Congress (where the "Unionism" was first represented) of a resolution with so mild a socialistic flavour as the "legal eight hours" scheme coming near to cause the secession of an influential minority of the representatives of the old Trades Unions.

These are, however, minor points, and are only worth calling attention to as showing that the writer has not such an intimate acquaintance with the subject of his remarks that he can be regarded as an authority in certain other sweeping criticisms made by him, such, for instance, as that Mr. Bradlaugh assailed the "cherished faith of millions in a manner that was both brutal and blasphemous." Mr. Justice Stephen long ago pointed out that according to the law of England as it at present stands on the statute-book, any speech, writing, or publication against the Bible or the Christian religion, no matter how expressed, is liable to punishment as "blasphemy," and in this sense of course Mr. Bradlaugh's speeches and writings would be open to the charge; but if the writer uses the word in its ordinary sense, as joining it with "brutal" he apparently does, then he certainly speaks without knowledge of Mr. Bradlaugh's method of propaganda or of his numerous writings. The use of the term "brutal" as fairly descriptive of either his speeches or writings against Christianity shows even greater ignorance, unless by "brutal" is meant "straightforward" argument. From several other remarks it is clear that the writer of the article imagines Mr. Bradlaugh an uncultured demagogue who by sheer tenacity forced his way to the front, whereas those who knew him are aware that he was perhaps the most widely read man of his generation, as his library of 7,000 volumes, his only personal "hobby," testified, while his intimate acquaintance with more than one Continental language and his ability to discuss a knotty point in Hebrew with Hebrew scholars proved him to possess a vastly superior education to many whose pronunciation of "ing's" and "h's" is immaculate.

The most absurd statement of all is that "Mr. Bradlaugh was not an attractive personality in any sense of the term," which seems based on slanders circulated by unscrupulous opponents, and could only have been written by one totally ignorant of his private life, and with but little knowledge of his public career. I venture to say that no man of his generation, aye, of his century, had a larger *personal* following than the deceased statesman—followers who would have risked their lives in his cause, and who proved their loyalty by the many sacrifices made in order that "the lad," as the North-countrymen affectionately called him, might not be overborne in the fight. Such love and devotion as he continually met with are never inspired by men without an "attractive personality" or possessing an unlovable disposition. The scene at the graveside was of itself sufficient refutation of such a criticism, when strong men wept as they laid to rest the man who had given up fame and fortune that he might champion the oppressed; the man who with all his multifarious work was never too weary to assist poor suitors with his vast store of legal knowledge, and almost whose last words were of others—that he only wished to live some years longer because "there is no one quite who will do my work. No one understands how that market business affects the food supply of the poor. It's a dull looking thing, and no one will take the trouble to work it out." If the unselfishness shown by such a man throughout his whole life does not of itself constitute an "attractive personality," one wonders what does.

Yours, etc., SECULARIAN.

Kobe, April 5th, 1891.

"DISCRETION THE BETTER PART OF VALOUR."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Whoever read my article referring to the cruelty of Universalism, will remember that I spoke in terms of praise of the advocates of that doctrine. In reply, Rev. G. L. Perin, instead of argument, strictly limits himself to calling me odious names. In that he can have the field to himself. I have not so learned Christ. It is presumable that Mr. Perin will not claim originality in disposing of arguments which cannot be met, by saying that I am not a representative man, as the same plan was used by the Pharisees, Jno. 7.48; in reference to the proofs of the Deity of the Son of God, they said that the fishermen of Galilee were not representative. As it must yield my discreet friend a certain amount of subjective satisfaction to arbitrarily classify me among the lowly, I would fain add to that grim pleasure by stating that as I am an intense lover of books, I have not any ambition for distinction among men. If I can, however humbly, be a representative of the teaching of the Nazarene, I am ready to pray with Queen Matilda of Denmark: Oh, "keep me innocent, make others great." I would rejoice to know that every one of God's missionary workers in Japan knows more, has more ability, and is more useful than I. When one of such humble attainments can so effectually preclude an argumentative answer to the proofs that Universalism is cruel, what *would* become of the system if a representative man were to take hold of it? I advanced no theory of my own. To show that the teaching of universal salvation is cruelty, I assumed that God is loving, wise, and merciful, and any teaching which contradicts the plain meaning of his words is cruel. I simply copied the words of the Master to show that Universalism annuls or contradicts. As it is not my teaching, it follows that the choice epithets "sectarian," "narrow minded," by which the representative man tries to extinguish me are mere empty words, or they apply to the Author of the teaching which I quoted. I wrote that sectarianism is sin, and ought to be abandoned; that all Christians in Japan ought to be united: that does not seem to be a defence of sectarianism. As to being narrow-minded, if to wish to believe Universalism to be true, and to be unable to do so because the Son of Mary stands across the way declaring that all roads *do not* lead to heaven is to be narrow-minded, I plead guilty. I am as narrow-minded as Jesus of Nazereth. I can, however, differ radically from a man, and yet not allow the amenities of social intercourse to be impaired. Now I think that a narrow-minded man would not write as I did, "the believers of that doctrine are very kind-hearted and liberal-minded." "With profound respect for the Christian graces and self denial of those who advocate this theory." Rather he would try to transfer the odium which belongs to error to its misguided advocates, and would call ugly names. If any who read this have felt a relaxation of zeal under the delusive hope that the incorrigible wicked may find in the penal sufferings of the next world a power to move them to repentance, which the tears and blood and dying love of the Redeemer could not effect, I respectfully commend to their perusal the article "An explanation," in the *Japan Mail* of 23rd ult. The summary of Jesus' teaching there given can never be set aside. It is neither wise nor kind, neither righteous nor merciful to teach contrary to the Infinite and Peerless "One," as we shall all fully understand in the last day, when the fabric of Redemption shall have been completed, the scaffolding torn away, and the lost, in comparision with the redeemed, seen to be but a speck in the universe.

GEO. T. SMITH.

Hongo, Tokyo, April 6th, 1891.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE.

The following Imperial Ordinance was issued on the 2nd instant:—

With the consent of the Imperial Diet, we hereby create authority for entering into various engagements, apart from the Budget, which involve charges upon the National Treasury, and direct the same to be carried out.

(Imperial Sign-manual.)
(Great Seal.)
(Signatures of the various Ministers of State.)

ENGAGEMENTS, APART FROM THE BUDGET, INVOLVING CHARGES UPON THE NATIONAL TREASURY.

1.—The power to make an agreement promising an outlay of 700 *yen* annually for a period of five years from the 24th year of Meiji, inclusive, by way of subsidy on account of maritime communication to the various islands of Okinawa Prefecture.

2.—The power to conclude an agreement securing the services of a foreign instructor in the Agricultural School at Nemuro, Hokkaido Administration, for a period of three years, from the 1st month of the 25th year of Meiji to the 12th month of the 27th year of Meiji, at a salary of 3,350 *yen* annually.

3.—The power to issue a Notification authorizing the payment of a total sum of 25,856.516 *yen*, during a period of two years commencing from the 24th year of Meiji, inclusive, by way of subsidy towards the construction of a road between Nobuoka, in Miyagi Prefecture, and the boundary of Oita Prefecture.

4.—The power to issue a Notification authorizing the payment of a total sum of 30,344.182 *yen*, during a period of five years commencing from the 24th year of Meiji, inclusive, by way of subsidy towards the construction of a road between Kumamoto Prefecture and the boundary of Fukuoka Prefecture.

5.—The power to conclude an agreement securing the services of a foreign instructor at the Military Academy for a period of three years commencing from the 24th year of Meiji, inclusive, at a monthly salary of 500 *yen*, with a monthly allowance of 100 *yen*, and 12 *yen* per month for forage, and a sum of 1,000 *yen* to defray the travelling expenses on the return journey at the conclusion of the agreement.

6.—The power to conclude an agreement securing the services of a foreign instructor at the Naval Academy for a period of three years, commencing from the 19th day of the 5th month of the 24th year of Meiji, at a monthly salary of 350 *yen*, with an allowance of 697.30 *yen* to defray travelling expenses on return at the conclusion of the agreement.

7.—The power to re-engage three foreign instructors at the Imperial University the periods of whose engagements have terminated, namely:—

One instructor, from the 8th day of the third month of the 25th year of Meiji to the 7th of the 3rd month of the 28th year, a period of three years, at a monthly salary of 400 *yen* with an allowance of 400 *yen* for travelling expenses to return to his country at the conclusion of the agreement.

One instructor, from the 22nd of the 10th month of the 24th year to the 21st of the 10th month of the 26th year, a period of two years, at a monthly salary of 350 *yen*, with an allowance of 714.50 *yen* for travelling expenses to return to his country at the conclusion of the agreement.

One instructor, from the 12th of the 2nd month

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of the 25th year of Meiji to the 11th of the 2nd month of the 28th year, a period of three years, at a monthly salary of 200 *yen*, with an allowance of 650 *yen* for travelling expenses to return to his country at the conclusion of the agreement.

8.—The power to re-engage six foreign teachers employed in the First Upper Middle School, the periods of whose engagements have terminated, namely, four teachers, from the 11th of the 7th month of the 24th year of Meiji to the 16th of the 7th month of the 25th year, a period of one year, at a salary of 200 *yen* per month; one teacher for the same period at a salary of 150 *yen* per month, and one teacher for the same period at a salary of 100 *yen* per month.

9.—The power to re-engage one foreign teacher, employed in the Fourth Upper Middle School, the period of whose engagement has expired, from the 21st of the 7th month of the 24th year of Meiji to the 20th of the 7th month of the 25th year, a period of one year, at a monthly salary of 150 *yen*, with an allowance of 50.80 *yen* to defray travelling expenses at the termination of the agreement.

10.—The power to re-engage one foreign teacher, employed in the Fifth Upper Middle School, the period of whose engagement has expired, from the 8th of the 5th month of the 24th year of Meiji to the 7th of the 5th month of the 25th year, a period of one year, at a monthly salary of 200 *yen*.

11.—The power to engage one foreign teacher, employed in the Yamaguchi Upper Middle School, the period of the present teacher's engagement having terminated, from the 25th of the 7th month of the 26th year, a period of two years, at a salary of 200 *yen* monthly, with an allowance of 235 *yen* to defray return travelling expenses at the termination of the agreement.

12.—The power to re-engage one foreign teacher at the Tokyo School of Music, the period of whose engagement has expired, from the 2nd of the 9th month of the 24th year of Meiji to the 1st of the 9th month of the 27th year, a period of three years, at a salary of 400 *yen* monthly, with an allowance of 1,300 *yen* to defray return travelling expenses at the termination of the agreement.

MITO BELL LITERATURE.

The present town bell of Mito is more than 200 years old. It was set up in the period of Kwambun [1661-1672] by Mitsukuni, Prince of Mito, and contains an inscription by Shu Shunsui, a Chinese *savant*, who found a refuge in the Mito *han*, and was the honoured instructor of the afore-mentioned prince. This inscription is not considered remarkably good as a composition, and it proved extremely difficult to translate. But, by the kindness of a native friend, I was favoured with the following translation, which at least gives the general idea of the inscription:—

"A bell is a thing that warns against the indulgence of princes and subjects, and stimulates them to diligence. When the big bell tolls, its sound reaches near and remote places. The Emperor and his feudal lords haste to put on their morning robes, and to inquire about their governments; the chief ministers and lower officers are ready to dress in their official garments and to call their riding-horses. If there is a bell, the wise princess has no chance to complain of the late attendance of her husband [at court]; if there is a bell, the common people have no need to hear the 'red-cap' who cries out, 'the cock crows.' How great its benefits are!

"Therefore, beginning with the Imperial metropolis, in all feudal provinces of all countries, and even in hamlets, we always find a bell. Mito is a large province; of course, a bell is required. The prince of Mito, a Councillor (*Sangi*), loves learning, and is rich in knowledge of history and antiquity. Thinking that a bell is necessary, he has melted good metals, has moulded a bell, and has hung it in the castle. By this he intends to warn persons of rank, to warn lower knights and common people, and to warn himself also. Though the length, size, and sound of the bell do not exactly correspond with the old style, there was no need to bring in a bell from another country.

"The future good of the bell is beyond doubt. The stanza (*mei*) is as follows;—'When the sky and the earth dawn, this bell begins to toll. All gales become silent when its sound solemnly rolls. The prince dresses in the twilight, and the tinkle of the carriage-ring is heard. The prince asks about his subjects; the officers tell the state of the administration. The bell-cord rubs off constantly; but the bell sounds more and more deeply. Having sought to be made, the bell's work is now completed. Its wise plan is the model for ever; and its grand name lives to eternity."

One or two references may need a little explanation. It appears, for instance, that there was a custom, originating during the Han dynasty in China, for an officer wearing a red cap to go about to announce the dawn. In the closing sentence the "wise plan" of the bell refers to its "warning" influence. There are also one or two points for which I could obtain no satisfactory explanation.

The bell also contains an inscription giving the names of the prince and his heir; the date (which, however, does not correspond with positively established dates in Mito local history); the names of three councillors (*Karo*) of the prince; and the name of the bell-moulder. The fact that the inscription was written by a Chinaman adds, of course, to its interest as an antiquarian relic of Mito.

April 4th, 1891. CLEM.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A general meeting of the Asiatic Society was held on Wednesday at the Society's Rooms. Rev. Dr. Amerman presided, and there was a fair attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were held as read.

The RECORDING SECRETARY (Dr. Knott) announced the election of Rev. G. L. Perin.

A paper by Mr. A. H. Lay on "Burial Rites in Japan" was then, in the absence of the author, read by Dr. KNOTT. The following is a résumé of the paper:—

The most ancient mode amongst the Japanese of disposing of their dead was, so far as can be judged, burial, the word *homuru*, to bury, being a modified form of one of the oldest words in the language. The *moya* or mourning house, in which the body was laid until all the preparations for the interment were completed, was a feature from the earliest times—as were also music and funeral laudations (*shinobi-goto*). Stone coffins date from about the beginning of the Christian era; but about 670 A.D., they fell into disuse, the Emperor Tenchi considering that the construction of sarcophagi entailed too much loss of time, money, and labour.

The very ancient custom of immolating human beings to supply attendants for service in the future life reached a climax in the year B.C. 1, on the occasion of the interment of Prince Yamato Hiko. On the suggestion of a courtier, Nomi no Sukune, the Emperor proclaimed that the sacrifice of human life must be stopped, and clay images used instead.

The introduction of Buddhism had a distinct effect upon most of the ceremonial institutions of the country; and in the matter of funeral, its effect was most apparent in the mode of disposing of the body. Cremation was first practised in 701 A.D., and came into general use early in the ninth century. Casting the body into the sea or river, or abandoning it in unfrequented places, were also practised during the 8th century—the Buddhistic idea being that the body was worthy of honour only when animated by the spirit. The last method was put a stop to by Imperial edict after the fierce epidemic that visited Kyoto in 809 A.D. The *ihai*, or wooden memorial tablets, were also of Buddhist origin. Most of the mourning customs, however, were Shinto, and may be traced to the doctrine of the defilement by contact with a dead body. Feudalism, again, is responsible for the revival of the custom of *junshi*, following one's lord into the next world. This differed from the ancient cruel practice in so far as it was voluntary, and was intended to exhibit fealty in the highest degree. In this form it came into vogue in the 13th century; but in 1664 the *Bakufu* promulgated an edict forbidding it under the worst penalties.

With the introduction of the *ihai*, the *urabon* or festival for the souls of the dead was established, but did not become general till the time of the Shogunate. It is still a great Japanese festival and is held on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of August.

With the revival of Pure Shinto towards the end of the 17th century came the discountenancing of many Buddhistic rites. At the Restoration, which was itself a part of the general movement, Shinto was re-established as the State religion. The funeral ceremonies of the Imperial family and of the upper classes are now conducted with pure Shinto rites; but the bulk of the nation still cling to their old Buddhistic methods. A noteworthy difference exists between the Shinto and Buddhistic modes of washing the dead. In the former the body is washed with the same gentleness as would be shown to a living man; in the latter the corpse is handled without overmuch ceremony. The paper gave full details as to the mode of preparing the body, and described at length both Buddhist and Shinto funeral processions with the religious services held in the house and at the cemetery; and after a short discussion of the cremation of the present day, concluded with a reference to the probable effect which the growth of a Japanese Christianity might ultimately have upon the funeral ceremonies of the country.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure the meeting would accord its thanks to Mr. Lay for his interesting paper, and to the Recording Secretary for reading it.

Mr. CLEMENT said in regard to the abolition of the custom of *junshi*, he believed that Mitsukuni, the second Tokugawa Prince of Mito, might claim the honour of being one of the earliest, if not himself the earliest, to discontinue the practice. At the time of his father's death Mitsukuni, anticipating that the practice would be followed, gave strict orders against it. It was also singular that the Mito Princes and people, though they had very little sympathy with Buddhism, retained the Buddhist ceremony of burial. There was another custom—he did not know whether it was peculiar to Mito—that of burials taking place at night, which was said to have been ordered by Nariaki, the leader of the *joi* party in the present century, the intention being that funerals should be conducted with as little pomp and expense as possible.

In reply to the Chairman,

Mr. CLEMENT said he could give no reason why the Buddhist funeral ceremony had been retained in Mito.

Mr. DIXON pointed out that the custom of burying the dead at night had a parallel in former times in the interment of famous men in England. Addison, for instance, was buried in Westminster Abbey at night.

Mr. CLEMENT said he had somewhere heard a remark about the Japanese being Shintoist in life and Buddhist in death.

Dr. DU BOIS then read a short paper descriptive of the *Gekkin*, and of the two modes, the *Honcho-shi* and the *Ni-agari*, which comprised the tunes played on that instrument.

Dr. KNOTT followed with a longer paper, elaborating and supplementing Dr. Du Bois's conclusions. He objected to the statement recently made by Mr. Piggott that the frets of the *Gekkin* could be represented on the piano; it was impossible to do so, owing to the presence on the *Gekkin* scale of flattened notes. The true way to deal with the *Gekkin* tunes was to regard them as belonging to the Dorian mode, which, he remarked, was an old ecclesiastical mode, to be found in Scotch tunes, one of which was the "Braes of Balquhidder" and the psalm tunes "Bangor" and "Martyrs," which ended on *re*, to use a tonic sol fa term. To illustrate the resemblance here referred to, Dr. Knott sketched the following table of comparison by beats:—

Niagari.	Major.	Dorian.
100	100	100
111.7	112.5	111.1
121.8	125	118.5
133.3	133.3	133.3
148.9	150	148.1
162.4	166.7	166.7
177.7	187.5	177.8
196.9	200	200

The *Ni-agari* scale of the *Gekkin* thus, he pointed out, more nearly resembled the Dorian than the Major.

At the close votes of thanks were accorded to Dr. Du Bois and Dr. Knott for their interesting papers, and the meeting adjourned.

MR. ERNEST HART AND THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF TOKYO.

Mr. Ernest Hart lectured before, and was afterwards entertained at a banquet by, the medical faculty of Tokyo at the Koyo-kan, Shiba, on Monday the 30th ult. Surgeon-General K. Takagi presided, and interpreted Mr. Hart's remarks, and among those present were Dr. S. Nagayo (member of the House of Peers); Dr. K. Ikeda, (Chief Physician of the Imperial Household); Professors H. Miyake and M. Ogata (of the Medical College, Imperial University); Dr. K. Osawa, (Dean of Faculty, Medical College); Dr. Y. Saneyoshi, (President of the Naval Medical College); Professors S. Kimura, S. Suzuki, B. Oka, J. Ishikawa, and T. Miyake, and Assist-Professor J. K. Kimura, (Naval Medical College); Dr. S. Miyahita (President, Miyahita Opthalmic Hospital); Dr. T. Hasegawa (Member of the House of Representatives); Professor M. Sasaki (Medical College); Dr. T. Sasaki (President, Tokyo Medical Society); Drs. H. Ito, and J. Iwase (Imperial Physicians); Dr. H. Sewaki (Director, Tokyo Hos-

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pital); Dr. H. Kawamura, (Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets); Dr. S. Kumagawa (Secretary, *Seiyikai*); Drs. T. Ando, and R. Shinzo (Councillors, *Seiyikai*); Dr. T. Matsuyama (Vice-President, *Seiyikai*); Drs. K. Futakami, and T. Harada (Editors of the Tokyo *Medical News*); and Dr. K. Okakura.

A letter was read from Surgeon-General T. Ishigmo, President of the Bureau of Military Surgery, regretting his absence on account of official engagements, but offering, in case Mr. Hart should wish to visit the Military Depots at Osaka, Nagoya, or Sendai, to facilitate in every way possible his inspection and observation of medical affairs.

Dr. TAKAGI, in introducing Mr. Hart to the meeting, assured that gentleman that he had given them great pleasure by accepting their invitation to meet the medical men of the capital, and also by promising to address them on the subject of the British Medical Association and the Medical Providence Society. They anticipated the highest benefit and advantage from the lecture to which they were about to listen.—(Applause.)

Mr. HART said—Gentlemen, I will ask you first to allow me to say a word or two of prefatory introduction, expressing to you my impressions on one or two points of what I have seen during the short time that I have had the privilege of being in your beautiful country. First of all I must express my pleasure at meeting so many of the heads of the medical profession in the Far East. Let me offer my heartfelt acknowledgments of your kind reception. It is always a delight to find oneself in an assembly of medical colleagues. There we exchange mental impressions; we make and renew friendships; we add to knowledge; we find new inspiration in the fresh thoughts and original observations of men of learning and experience, and we strengthen the impulses to self-devotion and higher effort, which are the accepted aims of our profession throughout the world. Those are the main objects for which we have established the periodical meetings of the British Medical Association, and we find that the organization of a great association with branches, properly administered, tends to promote unity, affection, respect and the growth of knowledge in each part of the empire and throughout the whole profession. But before describing to you that organization, let me say a few words special to this occasion. I feel this to be an occasion of peculiar interest. This beautiful Land of the Rising Sun saw the early dawn of a civilization stretching far back into the records of time. It possessed and enjoyed an intellectual culture, an art culture, of a very abstract metaphysical and refined kind, in past ages when many European countries such as my own were rude, barbarous, and uncultivated. Your records, and still more, your preserved monuments of art, such as the mural paintings of the temple of Horuji, dating a thousand years back; the spiritual religious paintings of Kanaoka, dating 800 years ago, your vigorous statues; the exquisite lac, and the elaborate embroideries of the Royal Treasury at Nara, all testify to an advanced art in Japan, as do the writings of the priests to a highly developed system of thought and philosophy at a time when in Britain and in Gaul all was yet primitive and undeveloped. As centuries passed on your peculiar arts and your refined philosophies underwent some new developments, but were untouched by the innovations of the then rapidly progressing nations of Europe. From the 15th down to the 18th century your feudal system maintained peace and favoured the growth of a series of art products and conceptions which compare with those of a corresponding period of time in Italy; but it was at the cost of an isolation which shut you off from modern thought in the West, and which helped to crystallize existing knowledge in Japan, but to arrest progress. Forty years ago the barriers fell, and with the restoration of the Imperial power of the Mikado came the entrance of Japan into the comity of nations of the West. She has taken her place in the great Councils of the World, never we may hope and believe to derogate or depart from it. Chief among the rapid and enormous changes that have occurred within these few decades has been the rapidity with which you have acquired and assimilated European science, social organizations, and law, and have applied technical and industrial procedures. Since I have been here His Imperial Majesty the Emperor has launched an ironclad ship of war, complete, and equipped according to the latest requirements of the terrible science of war, built in your own dockyards and by your artizans, and efficiently manned by native seamen and this is only the latest of a series so built; and I have the high authority of Captain Ingles, R.N., for saying that it would be difficult to discover any point of inferiority to a high European standard, whether in ships or men. The telegraphs and telephones which traverse this vast and ancient city of Tokyo, in which I am speaking; the railways, the tram-cars, the electric lighting testify to an eagerness for modern study, a power of rapid assimilation and an executive facility which is without precedent in Asiatic history, and in respect to the rapidity and completeness of the transformation has certainly no parallel in the history of the world. This is a country and a city of strange contrasts. None more striking than on the day last week when I passed from the tombs and the memorial shrines of the Tokugawa Shoguns to the Imperial University. On one hand at Shiba were the gorgeous and silent shrines, resplendent with lac, and gilding, and colour, but fading and ill cared for; the forest of colossal lanterns whose light has departed for ever; and despoiled by the vigilant hand of the furtive robber of some of their most valuable accessories. There was the majestic seated image of Iyeyasu, who moulded the feudal system with so strong a hand and such far-seeing despotic will. All was eloquent of a day which has but just passed away, but which was vitally continuous with the Japanese civilization of centuries ago and which reflected with precision the elaborate art, the regal splendour, but the arrested knowledge, the distorted philosophies and the suppressed individuality of by-gone days. Thence I came to the University buildings, themselves seated in the broad-acred park of the castle enclosure, till lately occupied by the great *Daimyo*, the Prince of Kaga. A modern building strictly English in its utilitarian ugliness, with a board room which might have been in Cheapside, and with an organizagation compiled of types selected in England and in Germany—it is a true University, with its Colleges of Law, Medicine, Engineering, Literature and Science each with its full staff of professors and equipped with laboratories, libraries, workshops, hospitals, and museums. In the Faculty of Medicine I found a staff of fifty-five professors and assistant professors, many of whom have followed their studies for several years in the great centres of medical knowledge in Europe and some of whom have graduated with high distinction in foreign universities. The arrangements for five years preliminary study in languages and in physical science, and for a four years, compulsory professional curriculum of strictly professional education, were of the most approved standard, and are more than we have yet been able to enforce in Great Britain. The teaching combined the best features of the English and German systems. The practical laboratory teaching in such departments as those of Professor Osawa in Physiology, of Professor Yoshikyo Koganei in Anatomy and Histology, of Professor Miura in Pathology, Professor Takahashi in Pharmacology, &c., was, I found, up to the latest scientific knowledge and on the best practical methods. They are well planned and efficiently carried out. The work which I saw being done, much of the physical and microscopical researches by the Japanese students of Japanese professors, would be a credit to any students of to-day in any university, and reflect the highest honour on both professors and students. You have favoured me with a series of monographs and published articles and pamphlets containing the results of original research in the most important departments of medicine and the allied sciences. These I shall study, and I shall hope to communicate some information derived from them to the medical profession in England. Many of them are, however, known and esteemed by the best scientific men in Europe. The specimens which have been put aside for me of new active principles derived from Japanese drugs by Professor Takahashi, I propose to hand to Professor Fraser of the University of Edinburgh, whose name and researches in kindred subjects are, I find, familiar to you. Your hospitals with all their departments for medicine, surgery Gynekology and Opthalmology have greatly interested me. Finally I shall be able to report to my colleagues at home that Japan has raised herself as it were by one leap from the deep valleys of the old Asiatic medical superstitions to the upper level of advanced medical science and practice, and that by no superficial methods but by thorough-going, sound and real study and good work. Let me say a word or two by way of passing observation and suggestion grounded on our British experience. We have not always found that merely University teaching suffices to turn out students well armed to cope with the daily requirements and constantly varying exigencies of practice. We are studying now how to avoid too encyclopœdic and minute detail of study for the ordinary student and for the general medical practitioner. You may likely find that something less elaborate may be needed for the mass of practitioners, and that a difference may usefully be made in the field of study and limits of examination for those who are graduating for professorships and consulting practice, and for those whose life will be passed in ministering to the daily needs of the poor and of the general population. Not all are called upon to be familiar with histological refinements or to practice chemical research. Deductive knowledge too exclusively pursued becomes a snare, and theory is often insufficient if practical skill and resource have not been developed. I may venture also to express a hope that the Government liberality which has been so wisely and generously exercised may be extended further. The Museums will soon, nay indeed do now, require more space and better fittings; and the University Hospital has not yet been supplied with all that is needed to satisfy a severe critic in its buildings or its fittings. Your training system of nurses is according to European ideas, good, but to secure a high class of women the salaries appear to be inadequate. Bathing is so great and so important a part of your domestic institutions that I was a little surprised not to see more complete and better bathing arrangements in your hospitals. They do not compare with those in European Hospitals at present; and I may also venture to add that whereas in Japanese homes nothing is more striking and delightful to the European eye than the extreme cleanliness and neatness which become in itself a beauty, I have not always observed the same cleanliness and neatness in the hospitals, nor have I seen that custom of making the hospital ward more beautiful, giving it colour, introducing pictures and flowers and adding newspapers, which we in England have come to regard as a valuable addition to the equipment and which is supplied by the liberality of kind patrons and in the case of pictures by the artists themselves. Let me add, as I am speaking among medical men, and for medical ears, that I observed that in those hospitals that I have seen which were under thoroughly medical control, the administration was better than in those which were administered by laymen or by lay directors. I observed with great pleasure the part which women are beginning to take in administering hospitals here; and I saw with admiration how greatly the munificence of Her Majesty the Empress of Japan has contributed to set an example which ought to be fruitful not only amongst the ladies of Japan but also among the men, for with us the hospitals, as you know, are mainly supported by private and voluntary contributions, and it is to private and voluntary contributions that the whole of the great hospital system of London, which forms one of its greatest glories, is due. It was formerly the custom here for men of wealth and for nobles to devote large sums to keeping up shrines, memorial temples, and tombs. That time is to some extent passing away, and if, following the example of the Empress they should contribute out of their means largely to the foundation and the maintenance of hospitals and Universities, they would be doing that which in Europe has been customary now for some centuries, and has greatly contributed to the public welfare. Pardon these few words of friendly critisism where there is so much to admire. There are many things on which we may look to you for valuable contributions to our further knowledge. Among them, if I may be allowed to enumerate, there are the etiology and communicability of leprosy, which some among you find strong reasons to doubt, and the question of its prevention and treatment; the pathology and prevention of what we call *beri-beri* and you call *kakké*, as to which your specially appointed committee is conducting researches for the result of which we are looking with much interest. Your experience will be very valuable to us. As to the influence of prolonged lactation—over from one year to three years according to Japanese custom—first on the health and longevity of the mother, second on the diminution of infant mortality, which is I believe very small in Japan: and, thirdly, its influence on the rate of increase of population—for that purpose we should require to have careful statistics of the average number in a family—and whether there is any other cause than prolonged lactation which increases or diminishes the number of children in one family. The habit of prolonged lactation does not exist in Europe and its influence would be very important for us to know. Then we should like to know something exactly and scientifically of that remarkable experience of yours of the comparative immunity of your people from scarlet fever, and of the alleged rarity with which it spreads. I am informed by experienced physicians here that this, which is with us the most contagious disease by personal contact, is here hardly to be considered contagious from person to person. We want specific details as to the variations of the disease, its incubation, and its results upon the kidneys—in fact an accurate record clinically and scientifically in order to determine whether it be specifically identical or whether it differs in any way from the scarlet fever which we know. Then it would be very in-

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teresting to us to have from some of your experienced surgeons complete information as to a curious form of what we know as the senile gangrene, occurring here apparently among adults of middle age otherwise seemingly in ordinary physical condition, such as some of the cases Dr. Takagi pointed out to me in going round his wards. Then you could communicate to us observations which would be important as to the influence of those very hot baths which your population are in the habit of taking, a habit which is contrary to European experience, and as to which we have little information on the precise difference of the physiological effect of a bath at 95 Fah., and one at 105 to 120. Baths at 120 are unknown to us in Europe, and information as to the influence on health and disease would be most welcome. I am told by Dr. Baelz that the treatment of infantile pneumonia by very hot baths at 105 is with him very successful. This would be at once a field for interesting information if it were communicated by us to your physicians. There are other points, such as the hemorrhages in typhoid fever, which with us are the worst possible prognosis; they mean most commonly a very serious case and have a very bad diagnosis. I am told that here, on the contrary, hemorrhages in typhoid fever are common and are comparatively benign. That also points to a difference of type on which comparison and information would be very valuable to us. Massage or shampooing, is with us a comparatively recent introduction: with you it is an ancient and long practised art. What have you to tell us of the value of massage in medical cases, and of its real value—not in the hands of the uneducated *amma* but in the hands of the educated physician, carefully and methodically carried out as we are beginning to carry it out in Europe? These are among the subjects on which we should be pleased to offer you the hospitality of our medical periodicals, and as to which we should be glad to receive communications at the meetings of our British Medical Association. Speaking as the editor of the *British Medical Journal*, which is the journal of the Association, and speaking also as one of its members holding an official position, I may say we should heartily welcome everything which would bring the members of the Japanese profession into more frequent and more direct communication with the British medical profession, and which would allow us an opportunity of seeing them from time at our meetings and to read their communications in our pages. The British are very sympathetic towards the Japanese, and we have the vanity to speak of you as the English of the East, which, knowing that we have not as bad an opinion of ourselves as we might have, you will understand is in our minds an unforced and voluntary compliment. Now if you are disposed to think of following one precedent which we have in England in our Medical Association I shall briefly summarise some of its features, and I shall place in the hands of your seniors here all the documents and papers which may be necessary to give you such detailed information as you may subsequently require. The British Medical Association owes its origin to an eminent provincial physician, then Dr., afterwards Sir Charles, Hastings, who founded it some fifty-six years ago. Its declared objects then were, and they have never been departed from, first of all the elevation of the standard of professional knowledge and the improvement of medical education; secondly, the collection of information from all parts of the empire as to local prevalent diseases and the best means of treating diseases according to locality; of studying epidemics and of considering local conditions so far as they might affect the public health; and thirdly,—and this is amongst its most important and its always most valued objects and results—the cultivation of a sentiment of friendship and unity amongst all the medical men of the empire and the raising of professional ethics and of conduct towards one another to the highest standard of professional duty and courtesy. The British Medical Association is essentially a representative institution. It is one in which for purposes of association, and of meeting, the members of the profession, however humble in pretention or however great in position, meet for the time on an equal footing. Each must meet the other as a friend and a brother, each making his contribution to knowledge or to the general unity and power of the profession. It is an institution founded in the first instance, as you see, by a provincial practitioner, with the object of extending not from the centre to the periphery, but from the periphery to the centre, so that every medical man, in however remote a district or colony, may feel himself a member of the whole body, and may have an opportunity of communicating with the centre. The arrangements are such that the whole body of men have the opportunity of periodically meeting at convenient times and places in their own locality, forming there a committee for their own self government, according to a common and general pattern and sending from each local centre a representative who comes every three months to form one of a central committee, and to meet his colleagues from the other parts of the kingdom. Each of these local bodies, which have arranged themselves by a sort of natural growth according to geographical necessities, constitutes what we call a Branch. Each Branch has a set of bye-laws formed not with absolute uniformity, but modified to suit the necessities of each locality. Before the branch can be recognised these bye laws must be approved and accepted by the General Committee. The funds of the Association are supplied by an annual subscription from each member. That subscription includes a small contribution required for carrying on the work of local organization, and the general expenses of the central committee and of their publications. I need not trouble you with the details of its growth, but I will tell you that at present, at the end of 50 years, our position is this. For the annual subscription of £1 or $6, each member has all the privileges of attending the great general meeting, which takes place every year in a different part of the country by invitation, the medical men and the authorities of each town vieing with each other from year to year in inviting the pleasure and the honour of meeting the Association, and giving to their professional brethren a hearty welcome at this annual gathering. On these occasions not only do the medical men themselves, so far as the resources of their homes permit, invite their medical visitors to stay with them in their houses, but the principal inhabitants of the town take pleasure, at the suggestion of the medical men, and knowing the event is to happen, in extending similar hospitalities to the medical practitioners who assemble. The total number of members of the British Medical Association, all of whom must be British subjects, is upwards of 16,000, so that it has grown to be a great organization starting from small beginnings. Its branches have each their local meetings at such times and places as are most convenient to themselves — in some places where there are not many medical practitioners they meet rarely. Where the district is extensive the place of meeting is changed from time to time, and arrangements are made for local meetings at which papers are read, cases are shown, discussions are held, and probably a friendly dinner takes place afterwards. So great is the power of numbers and of union that the influence of the Association is now very considerable, and its funds have grown to a great point. The total income of the association is £17,500 from subscriptions. The *British Medical Journal*, which is supplied to the members for their subscription of a guinea, is a weekly journal which has grown now to 120 or 140 pages weekly, constitutes in fact a volume in itself, and gives the members information from every part of the world on medical subjects, and it supplies in virtue of its great circulation, an income of eighteen to nineteen thousand pounds a year from advertisements. So that the association is able not only to supply this great mass of literary matter, but also in virtue of its prosperity to put aside a sum of £2,000 a year, which it assigns in donations and studentships for scientific research to assist medical men who desire to carry on medical research. It is collecting also a valuable library, and it is able to defray the expenses of a Parliamentary Committee which exercises great influence over the welfare of the nation in respect of sanitary questions and over the welfare of medical men in all public departments. Being so numerous it is in a position to study all sanitary questions; all questions of public law, and all questions of the organization of army and navy medical officers, and to make representations to Parliament which, coming from such a great body of men —a large proportion of whom are able to influence local members of Parliament—are always listened to with respect. I need not trouble you with the enumeration of the questions—but on points of sanitary law, the health of the people, drainage, water supply, the organization of the Poor Law medical service, the condition of Army and Navy medical officers—on all these as they arise the Government finds it an advantage to be able to hear from such a highly organized body what their views are, and the medical men find it of great advantage to express, by organized means, to Ministers, to departments, or to Parliament what they think about questions affecting the public welfare. These duties are largely carried out by the Parliamentary Committee, of which I have had the honour for many years to be Chairman, on which every branch of the Association is represented by one member, so that this Central Committee is always in touch with the local branches, and on the other hand the local branches are all represented on the Parliamentary Committee. It only remains for me to say that we shall be happy to afford any information or assistance to you if you should at any time think of adopting an organization of the sort—of course with such modifications as may be suited to the genius and customs of your nation. We shall be glad to send copies of our journal to your libraries, and otherwise to do that which will show our brotherly feelings towards the faculty in Japan. A word or two now of a much younger institution, in which I learn that you are much interested, and which has also proved itself to be most useful to medical men. It had long been felt that it was exceedingly desirable that some means should be provided to enable medical men, —whose very living depends upon their good health, and whose means of livelihood often cease if their health fails—to provide against sudden calamities of sickness or accident. The merchant or official has in times of illness the income of his business or of his office still going on, even if temporary disablement should overtake him. When the doctor himself falls ill, however, his income often and sometimes permanently ceases. In that respect he resembles the artizan or the barrister: he lives by the daily work of his brain just as the artizan lives by the daily work of his hands. How then to provide something which should put the doctor at ease in his mind when times of sickness suddenly overtake him without his having been able to put by money adequate to provide for them. That is a difficult problem, which has more than once engaged the attention of thoughtful men; and which it has always been found very difficult to solve on account of the complexity and costliness of the machinery necessary to control the demands on such a fund, and to carry it out in a thoroughly trustworthy and reliable way on a sound financial basis. An effort of this sort was made in England some years ago and failed by reason of its difficulty. But a few years ago, when the subject was again raised by some of our medical men, it seemed to me that the extensive organization of the British Medical Association and the wide circulation of the journal which I edit, and our knowledge thus obtained of each other would enable me to make that effort again on a better footing, and possibly with a more successful result. And so about seven years ago after making the necessary preliminary enquiries and after getting some actuarial bases of the expectation of life of the average medical man so as to obtain accurate tables, we had a meeting at Liverpool, at which we resolved to found a society for providing an adequate weekly payment to medical men disabled by sickness or by accident, and with some provision for permanent disablement. I won't give you the figures, which would weary you, but I will tell you briefly the result. I based the whole structure upon this: that the society must be absolutely mutual, that is to say, that there should be no aiming at any other profit than the profit to the subscribing medical men themselves: that there should be no shares, no capital, no interest to be paid except to the medical men themselves. We therefore decided that we would not commence until we had a sufficient number of subscribers to this new institution to ensure a sufficiently large average for stability—which our actuary fixed at 200 medical men. By our general meeting and by making the whole facts and propositions known in the *British Medical Journal*, we were able to commence with that number. That was little more than six years ago. The whole basis of payment was accurately calculated by the proper authority whom we call an actuary, and tables were prepared showing what annual sum needed to be paid by each of the two hundred medical men in order to enable every one of them to have a claim for the payment, according to their subscription, of either £2 or £4 a weekly when disabled by sickness. The payment varied therefore according as they desired to receive £2 or £4, and it varied of course according to the age at which a subscriber entered, and therefore according to their expectation of sickness. To give you an idea of the kind of payments necessary, I may say that for the higher sum of £4 a week a man aged thirty would pay about £10 a year. If his illness lasted for six months he would be entitled to the £4 a week for the whole six months; if it went on for more than six months and permanently disabled him—if it were a case such as we often have of a permanently disabling illness or accident, he would be entitled after the first six months to half that amount, £2, a week for the rest of his life. We have already had three such permanent claimants on the fund in the course of the first six years, who joined in perfect health, and they have been receiving and will receive that sum for the rest of their lives. We find that an average of, I think, 10 per cent., of the members are disabled by sickness or accident each year. Medical men

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were found to be exceptionally liable to accident. The sick members receive their payments every week on receipt of a certificate from the medical man attending them, showing that they are disabled by illness from attending to their practice but in no case is any payment made except upon such certificate, which must be renewed every week. Every man who desires to retire after having been a member for twelve months can do so with the approval of the Committee, and on doing so receives nearly 75 per cent. of the money which he has paid in, 25 per cent. being forfeited by his retirement, and representing the risk incurred and insured against while a member. The same payment entitles every man, whether sick or well, to a pension of £50 a year from the time of his attaining the age of 65, and by a slight addition to the annual payments his family become entitled to a sum of £200 at his death. That institution has been found to be so useful that at the end of six years we have over 1,000 members. The result of the actuarial enquiry at the end of the first five years has been to show that we have made a profit, that is to say the receipts have been in excess of the requirements, to the amount of £3,000, which was put in reserve to diminish the future payments of members. We have accumulated to meet future demands £40,000, which is invested, the property of the members, and every year the sphere of usefulness of the Society improves and the number of its members increases. I think my brief account of that Society might perhaps be suggestive, and useful to my colleagues here in Japan. Of course all our tables and regulations and calculations and other documents are entirely at your service, if at any time in the future they may be useful to you. In conclusion, gentlemen, I thank you very sincerely for the kind attention you have given to me.—(Applause.)

Dr. TAKAGI, in the name of the meeting, thanked Mr. Hart very heartily for his address, and expressed the pleasure with which they had listened to his most interesting and instructive remarks.—(Applause.)

Subsequently the President of the Medical Society of Tokyo, Dr. T. Sasaki, requested Mr. Hart to forward sets of the documents relating to the two Societies described, and in the name of his colleagues of that Society invited Mr. Hart to meet them at a banquet, at which the hospitalities of the Society might be tendered, and the subject further discussed on his return to Tokyo at the end of the month, after visiting Kyoto, Nara and Osaka.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart were afterwards entertained at a banquet.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The next ordinary meeting of the Society will be held at the New Masonic Hall, No. 60, Yokohama, on Friday, 17th inst. The principal object of the meeting is the exhibition of the prints made on bromide paper presented to the Society for competition by Mr. S. Cocking, who offers prizes for the best, second best, and third best prints. Members of the Committee may exhibit, but do not compete for prizes. The exhibition of the pictures will begin at 1 p.m. The public are invited, and the prizes will be awarded to those who gain the greatest number of votes from those viewing the pictures. There will also be exhibited the results of various flash light exposures that have been made at different meetings of the Society. Besides this members are invited to send, for exhibition, anything that they think may be of particular interest to photographers. There will be a regular meeting of the Society at 8 p.m. A demonstration of a modified silver printing process will be given by Mr. W. K. Burton. The portfolio of photo-engravings recently presented to the Society by Dr. P. H. Emerson will be handed round for criticism. Mr. Kajima will attempt a photograph of the meeting by flash light. Those who intend to exhibit are requested to send their work to either of the secretaries, at his house, before the day of the meeting, or to send it to the Masonic Hall early on the morning of the day of meeting. Prints should be mounted, but need not be framed, although the Committee prefer that they should be.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

A Brain and Nerve Food, for lecturers, teachers, students, clergymen, lawyers, and brain-workers generally.

SHAKESPEARE IN FRANCE.

A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE LITERARY SOCIETY OF YOKOHAMA, ON THE 3RD APRIL.*

It is well known how strong a hold our national poet has always had upon the Germanic mind. Recent researches have made it clear that Shakespeare's dramas were played in Germany during his lifetime, and that in the first half of the 17th century not merely translations, but the actual English originals, were rendered by actors at various German Courts. The great literary revival in Germany at the close of the last century, the period of illuminism as it has been called, was marked by a keen and close study of Shakespeare. Goethe's famous novel, "Wilhelm Meister," is largely a study of the character of *Hamlet*. So deep an impression did this creation of Shakespeare's make on German thought that one critic exclaims, "Hamlet is Germany," and has written a poem with the theme as subject.[1] But this was in the days when Germany was still divided, and was largely given over to dreaming. His reproach is no longer applicable:—

> He ponders, dreams but at this need
> No counsel comes, firm purpose granting,
> Still for the prompt, courageous deed
> The prompt, courageous soul is wanting.

To attempt to estimate the influence of Shakespeare upon German thought would be no slight undertaking, far exceeding the limits of a short half hour's paper. But when we come to France, where the study of foreign literatures, not classical, is of quite recent date, the survey is much narrower and the task far easier. The romantic movement in Germany was not hampered by any previous native literature having the immense prestige of the Louis Quatorze drama. Racine and Corneille remained all powerful influences in France for nearly a century after their deaths, and their sway was not easily to be broken. Very few Englishmen of letters in the first half of the 18th century, and no French savants, but regarded the London theatre of 1700 A.D. as an immense advance on that of 1600 A.D. They looked down patronizingly upon the Elizabethan drama, while allowing the existence in the plays of isolated passages of great beauty. From this period of French ascendancy in literature we date the expression, "The Beauties of Shakespeare." Such is the attitude of Pope, of Addison, and of Goldsmith, names which were mentioned with respect and approbation in Parisian circles. It was in 1761 that Voltaire made the boast that he was the first to introduce Shakespeare to French readers. Perhaps it was a mere second introduction, for there is reason to believe that Shakespeare was known in French literature as early as 1604. He did not estimate his protégé very highly. To French critics of that day, the undoubted blemishes and crudities which find a place in every one of Shakespeare's dramas, and greatly disfigure some of the less finished of his productions, were intolerable barbarisms which, like flaws in a jewel, reduced their value to almost nothing. Seven years later Voltaire published at Geneva his "Théâtre Complet," in which his views are stated pretty plainly. He calls the tragedy of "Hamlet" a vulgar and barbarous drama which would not be tolerated by the vilest populace of France or Italy. His description of the plot is sufficiently contemptuous. "*Hamlet*," he says, "becomes crazy in the second act, and his lady-love becomes crazy in the third; the prince slays the father of the young lady under the pretence of killing a rat, and the heroine throws herself into the river; a grave is dug on the stage, and the grave-diggers talk quodlibets worthy of themselves, while holding skulls in their hands; *Hamlet* responds to their nasty vulgarities in silliness no less disgusting. In the meanwhile another of the actors conquers Poland. *Hamlet*, his mother, and his father-in-law carouse on the stage; songs are sung at table; there is quarrelling, fighting, killing—one would imagine this piece to be the work of a drunken savage. But amidst all these vulgar irregularities, which to this day make the English drama so absurd and so barbarous, there are to be found in "Hamlet," by a *bizarrerie* still greater, some sublime passages, worthy of the greatest genius. It seems as though nature had mingled in the brain of Shakespeare the greatest conceivable strength and grandeur with whatever witless vulgarity can devise that is lowest and most detestable."[2] Voltaire's estimate was acquiesced in by several of our leading English writers. Hume, who was largely under French influences, speaks of Shakespeare in much the same terms as the great Frenchman. An English lady, the first of our noble army of blue-stockings, Mrs. Montagne,[3] was inspired, more by a laudable patriotism than by any competent knowledge of the subject, to take up the cudgels on behalf of her countryman. Some time after the publication of her essay, an insignificant dramatist produced a play, which Mrs. Montague admired so much as to exclaim in its praise, "I tremble for Shakespeare." *Apropos* of which Dr. Johnson, to whom the remark was repeated, growled out in his downright way, "Shakespeare is in a bad case, when he has such a rival and such a defender." In the year 1772 appeared an adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" for the French stage by M. Ducis, who was to perform other and still more remarkable work of the same kind before the close of the century. Ducis's "Romeo et Juliette" took striking liberties with the original. The simple story of love, with its natural evolution of events—admirable features in Shakespeare's art—must give way to that drama of surprise which is pitched upon so much lower an intellectual scale. After his father's banishment the infant *Romeo* is received into the household of his hereditary enemies, the *Capulets*, his true name and birth being concealed. Old *Montague*, after living in hiding for many years, suddenly returns and rallies his partisans. In the struggle which ensues young *Romeo* hesitates between filial duty and the affection which he bears to his patron and his patron's daughter, with the latter of whom he is in love. The affection of the two, instead of being the centre and pivot of the play, is made a mere episode in the bloody story of a vendetta. Twelve years later Ducis, who by this time was in the French Academy as Voltaire's successor, performed a similar operation on "Macbeth," mutilating and patching up that noble tragedy. He cuts out the prediction of the witches, a very important element in the whole drift of the story, particularly in its bearing on *Macbeth's* moral deterioration. These fateful women come on the stage as in a pantomime, recite six lines, and then disappear. Here again M. Ducis must have his mystery and his Jack-in-a-box surprises. The son of the murdered *Duncan*, educated under an assumed name by a Highlander, grows to manhood. His kind protector officiously goes to *Macbeth's* court to claim the throne for the prince; and *Macbeth*, the assassin, the blood-stained usurper, in an outburst of Rousseau-like sentimentalism *very* characteristic of a Scotchman, falls on the old man's neck and yields up his ill-gotten throne. And then, afraid perhaps of a certain lecture from *Lady Macbeth*, he commits suicide. But it is in "Othello," published in 1792, that we find the highest outcome of M. Ducis's genius. He begins by changing *Othello's* complexion. "I have thought fit," he remarks in his preface, "to dispense with the hero's black face, departing in this particular from the usage of the London theatre. It seemed to me that a copper tint, while equally characteristic of an African, would have the advantage of not revolting the eye of the public, and, above all, of the ladies. This brown complexion would permit the audience to take greater delight in all the scenes, to enjoy the full force of their charm—the variety and the play of passion which overspread the mobile and animated face of a young actor, radiant with enthusiasm and intoxicated with jealousy and love." Ducis, in changing *Othello's* complexion, leaves him his name, a compliment which he pays to none of the other characters. *Desdemona* becomes *Hédelmone*, *Iago* is *Pézare*. And the circumstances of the final catastrophe are altered to suit his idea of French taste. *Hédelmone* is not smothered to death; she is dispatched with a stiletto. "On the English stage," he remarks, "it is not with a dagger that *Othello* kills his wife; he smothers her in bed with a pillow, pressing upon it repeatedly until she dies. Now a French audience would find the brutality of this scene intolerable. A tragic poet," (it is to be remembered that Ducis's translation is in French heroic verse), "is obliged to conform to the character of the nation before which his works are represented; an incontestable dictum, since his first duty is to please. So, to satisfy several of my spectators, who have found my denouement of pity and terror altogether too harrowing, I have, by a slight change, been able to substitute an ending which will spare their feelings. The original denouement, nevertheless, apears to me to be much more suited to the nature and moral truth of the subject. But as I have printed both denouements, directors of theatres will be at liberty to choose whichever appears most suitable to them." And so M. Ducis left it to the discretion of theatrical managers how far they might trespass on the sensibilities of their audiences. It was an age of sensibility, when tears flowed, in drawing-rooms and public halls, and even on the highway, at the

* The publication of this lecture has been delayed in order to insert the author's corrections.

[1] "Freiligrath," 1844.

[2] "Théâtre Complet," Vol. II. 201, 1768.

[3] "Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakespeare," 1769.

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slightest provocation. M. Ducis was wise in taking this precaution against an excessive stimulation of the lachrymatory glands. Ducis also adapted "Hamlet," this play preceding "Roméo et Juliette" by three years, and made a serious omission—he omitted *Hamlet!* Do not suppose, however, that the proverbial allusion to "the play of 'Hamlet' without *Hamlet*," comes from the cruel mutilation of M. Ducis. It is the elder *Hamlet* whom he omits—the ghost! In the French play the spectators do not see the ghost, the fact of its appearance being communicated to the audience by the ghastly look on the Prince's face. Talma, the great tragedian, made a deep impression by his rendering of this scene. "Certainly," said Madame de Staël, "when in the midst of a calm and melancholy conversation he all at once sees the spectre, we follow its every movement on the eyes which look upon it, and we find it impossible to doubt the presence of the phantom when such a look bears witness to it." With all his shortcomings, to Ducis belongs the credit of having made French audiences acquainted with the wonderful genius of Shakespeare. His dramas had the signal fortune of securing the services of a first-rate actor. Talma, the greatest of French tragedians, was thoroughly conversant with the English language and its literature, passed some years in London, and was a friend of John Kemble's. He rendered the stiff and monotonous lines of French tragic verse with a new force and vigour, throwing into them some of the sparkle and variety of Elizabethan blank verse. He also conformed the stage costumes to the dress of the period with which the play dealt. The new school of dramatic reform made rapid strides. It was a fresh and stimulating draught to the jaded Parisian palate. Madame de Staël, who was intimate with Schlegel, Schiller, and others of the German romanticists, interpreted the movement to her countrymen in the pages of "l'Allemagne," and was the precursor of Victor Hugo and the anti-classical revolutionists of 1826. Before the close of the century the first complete French translation of Shakespeare's works appeared—that of Le Tourneur, in 1779. It is customary to speak slightingly of French translations of Shakespeare, and most of them are undoubtedly wanting in exact scholarship and adequate rendering of particular phrases, but still they have their merits. It is easier to derive pleasure from the perusal at a single sitting of one of Shakespeare's dramas in a French dress, than if we take up a more elaborate German rendering. The one occasion on which I can remember having finished a play of Shakespeare without a break, was one evening when I took up a French translation of "Romeo and Juliet." The drama as a whole, the evolution of the story, the swiftness of the action, the pathos of situations, are placed simply before us in clear and flowing language. "People," says Matthew Arnold, in his essay "On Translating Homer," "praise Tieck and Schlegel's version of Shakespeare: I, for my part, would sooner read Shakespeare in the French prose translation, and that is saying a great deal." One sometimes hears these French translations spoken of as if their authors perpetrated all sorts of absurdities. We are told, for instance, that one will find in them the term *Monsieur* prefixed to names where the effect is most bizarre. For instance the line "Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff," is rendered, "M. Macbeth! M. Macbeth! M. Macbeth! donnez-vous garde de M. Macduff." But this was a trick of that mischievous spirit, Voltaire, perpetrated with the design of rendering the dramatist ridiculous. Fancy *Madame Gertrude, Mademoiselle Ophélie!* as Voltaire has dubbed these unfortunate ladies in his travesty. In the same spirit he translates:* "Not a mouse stirring," by "Pas un souris qui trotte!" It was not, however, the pure spirit of mischief which impelled him. The unconventionalities of Shakespeare, his flagrant disregard of court etiquette, his exposure on the stage of princes and heroes in undress, with the tragic air completely doffed, revolted Voltaire's sense of propriety. Louis XIV. expected to be put to bed like a prince, and to rise like a prince; the ways of ordinary mortals were too commonplace and vulgar for his Majesty. This was the national ideal, carried out with the uncompromising national logic; once a prince, always and on all occasions a prince. There must be no mingling of the sacred and profane, of the heroic and the vulgar. Chateaubriand was, after Voltaire, the next eminent Frenchman who tried to interpret Shakespeare to his countrymen. The Vicomte, whose "Sketches of English Literature" appeared in 1837, is distinctly unsympathetic in his whole treatment, though recognizing much of the superlative genius of the dramatist. With his classical tastes and fastidious mind he found it a wearisome task to get through the thirty-six dramas, "a pious but tiresome duty," as he calls it, "paid to departed genius." His grasp of the language seems to have been somewhat deficient, and he often misses the force of a remark or argument. One peculiarity of Shakespeare's, a peculiarity which perhaps the dramatist shares with his countrymen, is the very matter-of-fact way in which he deals with the ugly processes of death and the grave. A person of English race does not shrink from this treatment, as one of another nationality is apt to do. Scarcely a French writer, treating of the grave-yard scene in "Hamlet" but expresses his disgust at the introduction in such surroundings of so repulsive an object as a skull. Equally obnoxious to criticism seem *Romeo's* reflections in the churchyard. To a Frenchman's ear the mention of rottenness and worms is a barbarism and an impertinence. Since the days when Chateaubriand was all powerful a complete change has passed over French criticism. A wave of romanticism, of which, as we have said, Mme. de Staël was the precursor, swept over French literature after the restoration, and its prophets have not failed to do Shakespeare full justice. The career of Victor Hugo, not remarkable for political consistency, shows in his literary sympathies a no less striking mutability—or perhaps we should say mobility of progression, for the literary change was all in one direction. Nothing could be more Voltairean than Hugo's judgment of Shakespeare at eighteen years of age. "We have never understood," says he, "the distinction which people seek to establish between the classic style and the romantic style. The plays of Shakespeare and Schiller only differ from the plays of Corneille and Racine in that they are more faulty. That is the reason why, in the former, recourse must be had to greater scenic pomp. French tragedy despises such accessories because it goes straight to the heart, and the heart hates whatever disturbs its interest." Five years later the whole spirit of his criticism is changed; he has burst the bonds of classic tradition; he has begun to view the drama as the painting of actual life, in which the tragic and the comic, the noble and the degrading, the beautiful and the ugly, should find a place side by side. This theory of the juxtaposition of the beautiful and the ugly, Hugo was destined to carry to a point far in excess of what is necessary to justify Shakespeare's dramatic art. In 1827 Shakespeare is already to Hugo "the highest poetical altitude of modern times." Later on in life he ceases to criticize Shakespeare, he deifies him. His "William Shakespeare," published in 1864, is not a criticism, it is a rhapsody. The rise of the romantic school in France was marked by strenuous efforts to introduce Shakespeare unadulterated on the French stage. In the autumn of 1822 a company of English actors visited Paris and gave a Shakespearian representation; but they were not well received. Cries of "Speak French," "Down with Shakespeare; he is an aide-de-camp of Wellington," and other unfriendly taunts greeted them. Before many years were over, however, a different reception was granted to a distinguished English company, which numbered among its members one of the Kembles and a pretty Irish girl named Henrietta Smithson. Shakespeare and Miss Smithson became all the rage, and the lady finally married a distinguished French musical composer, Berlioz, himself an enthusiastic romanticist and admirer of Shakespeare. A few months afterward the great Edmund Kean appeared in Paris, and took his audiences by storm with his powerful impersonations of *Richard III.* and *Shylock*. He came near scoring badly on his first appearance by arriving late and drunk, but the ill-humour of the audience melted before the actor's wonderful power of enthralling them. It is doubtful how much of Shakespeare's popularity at this time was due to real appreciation, and how much resulted from the unconventionality of the situations. Certainly all the enthusiasm must not be ascribed to permanent causes. Since then Shakespeare's place as a master poet and dramatist has been assured in all French literary circles. The "divine Williams," as a Gallic admirer once fantastically called him, is no longer introduced with apologies. Many of the most appreciative and excellent criticisms that have been penned of late years have came from French sources. There has been a gradual *rapprochement* between French and German canons of criticism. "Hamlet" is the play which in France and Germany is indissolubly associated with Shakespeare's name and genius, and, as a distinguished German commentator has remarked, "Through 'Hamlet' the German mind has penetrated into French literature, which has already begun to modify its character. The influence is, however, a mutual one; the Germanic mind is already no longer like 'Hamlet,' any more than the French mind is its opposite."† Among French translations of the century may be noted the complete translation of Guizot, first published seventy years ago, and now in its seventh edition. More than fifty years ago the masterpieces of Shakespeare, as they are termed, "Othello," "Hamlet," and "Macbeth," appeared in a French dress, with imitations in French verse by de Vigny, Deschamps, and other leading littérateurs of the time. And almost simultaneously with the "William Shakespeare" of Victor Hugo there came forth from the press a complete translation of the dramas by his son, François Victor. To a Belgian, M. Lacroix, we owe a masterly survey of Shakespeare's influence on the French drama, published at Brussels in 1855. It was followed six years afterwards by the work of Professor A. Mezières, "Shakespeare, his Works and his Critics," an excellent and able treatise. Of all French criticisms perhaps Taine's is the best known to English readers. It is suggestive and appreciative, but is scarcely to be termed nicely-balanced or satisfactory. His descriptive remarks are much more applicable to the drama of horror which preceded Shakespeare, and of which Marlowe and Ford may be taken as representatives. "Startling imagination, furious velocity of exuberant ideas, passion let loose, rushing upon death and crime, hallucinations, madness, all the ravages of delirium, bursting through will and reason," are not exactly the terms which we should consider befitting the plays that are really Shakespeare's very own creation. Taine's verdict is not by any means to be taken as representative of the French criticism of the time, which sees much more art and repression in Shakespeare than Taine would allow. Taine's theories and his exuberance of words frequently run away with him. The later French criticism of Courdaveaux and Gomont leaves little to be desired. The classical spectacles through which French critics used to regard everything literary, have been thrown away once and for all. Alfred de Musset sings the dirge of the combatants, and hails the new era of a broader and more generous criticism, which recognizes the excellence both of classic and romantic masterpieces:—

Racine, rencontrant Shakespeare sur ma table,
S'endort près de Boileau, qui leur a pardonné.

* Bernardo. Have you had quiet guard?
Francisco. Not a mouse stirring.

† Professor Karl Elze. "Essays on Shakespeare." 1865.

STATEMENT OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON THE TREATY REVISION.

The Japanese Government seek to obtain full and complete jurisdiction, civil and criminal, over the persons and property of foreigners resident in Japan, such jurisdiction to be exercised solely by native judges and according to the laws of this country; to annul the covenants under which foreigners hold land in the settlements, and to subject such land to the native law of tenure; and to obtain tariff autonomy, with power of levying tonnage, harbour, and light-house dues.

In the month of September last, it was understood that Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Japan was about to concede these demands, the concession to take effect after the lapse of a given period of time; and it was for the purpose of protesting against such action, that the meeting of the foreign residents of Yokohama was held on the 11th of that month.

The immediate outcome of the meeting was an unusual amount of excitement among the Japanese in Tokyo and elsewhere; and the native press, led on by a foreign paper, which holds a brief from the Japanese Government, teemed with articles of a more or less violent character, upbraiding the foreign residents for presuming to interfere in the smooth course of Treaty negotiations, and daring to raise a protest in defence of their own interests.

Unfortunately the matter did not end here, and it is a matter of regret to the Committee to have to state, that threatening letters were sent to several of the residents who had taken a prominent part in the meeting, necessitating their being placed under special police protection, a condition of affairs which has not yet been terminated.

The Standing Committee appointed at the Public Meeting, in view of the excitement then prevailing among the Japanese, decided that, beyond transmitting by telegraph the resolutions passed at the meeting, it would be better not to follow them up with a written statement in support, but to confine their action to a formal confirmation by mail of the telegram sent, accompanied by a newspaper report of the proceedings at the public meeting.

It was felt that the reasons to be alleged in support of the resolutions were of a more or less invidious character, calculated, doubtless, to give farther umbrage to the Japanese, in the not un-

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likely event of their being published, and so to increase the feeling of ill-will towards foreigners which had been engendered.

Other reasons suggesting delay in the matter were, the difficulty of drawing up a concise yet ample and forcible statement covering such a wide area as that presented by the whole question of the Revision of the Treaties, and also the condition of uncertainty, not to say ignorance, in which the Residents found themselves, in regard to the actual point at which the negotiations had arrived, and the measure of support their views might meet with at home.

Hence the decision taken by the Committee to do no more at the time than formally confirm the telegraphic transmission of the Resolutions, but, as this action on their part seems to have been misconstrued into an inability to adduce arguments in support of their contention, they now proceed to state their reasons in as brief and concise a form as possible.

The meeting has been called an Anti-Revision meeting; but so far from being opposed to Revision, there is not an intelligent member of the community who does not admit that Japan is entitled to demand some relaxation of the terms of the present treaties. The progress she has made in various directions is recognised with sincerity and admiration, and her aspirations are regarded with sympathy; but the most persistent advocates of her cause are obliged to admit that she has not yet proved her right to claim unconditionally the promise of unrestricted judicial control over us, and it is an undoubted fact that there are many among the Japanese themselves who share their opinion. It will therefore be understood that the term Anti-Revision, as applied to the meeting, and those taking part in the resolutions arrived at, is entirely misleading.

On the subject of the Tariff the Committee are of opinion that it may be modified to meet the wishes of the Japanese Government; but that it should be regulated by Commercial Treaties with the Powers interested, as is done in European countries. This would guard against sudden changes and the imposition of excessive duties, which might ruin certain important branches of trade. The levying of tonnage, harbour, and light-house dues might in the opinion of the Committee, reasonably be conceded.

On the question of Jurisdiction, the first of the resolutions of the 11th September accurately and precisely expresses the unanimous opinion of the foreign community. That opinion is based on the fact that the native judiciary is not yet fitted by education, knowledge, or practice, either to understand or to administer the Codes of law that have recently been compiled from foreign sources; and that the Codes themselves, which are not to come into force for two years, have not been subjected to that practial test without which it is impossible to form an opinion in favour of their adequacy. It must be borne in mind that the laws contained in these Codes are not indigenous, but imported, not to satisfy an acknowledged want, but for the attainment of a political object, namely, the Revision of the Treaties and the abolition of extra-territorial jurisdiction. In order to show that the community are not alone in their opinions, we append hereto a report of a speech of Mr. Masujima, a Barrister-at-law of the Middle Temple, and one of the leading practitioners in the native Courts, on the subject of the proposed new Commercial Code of Japan (a bill for the postponement of the operation of which to 1st Jan., 1893, has recently been carried in the House of Representatives by 189 to 67, and in the House of Peers by a 2/3 vote on the ground that the Code is of foreign importation and totally opposed to the mercantile and business customs of the Japanese); also an address by the same gentleman, read before the Asiatic Society of Japan on the 18th June last, on the subject of "Modern Japanese Legal Institutions;" and an extract from a local paper of a speech in the House of Representatives made on the 20th December, by Mr. Kato Hiroyuki, on the subject of the promulgation of the Commercial Codes; papers which cannot fail to be read with interest and advantage in understanding the questions at issue. We may also call attention to the fact that drafts of portions of the Codes found their way into the hands of the public some two years ago, the language of which was so highly technical as to be almost unintelligible to the lay mind, and not easily to be understood by scientific lawyers. For a large number of the expressions used there are no Japanese equivalents, and words have therefore had to be coined, which convey absolutely no meaning whatever to educated Japanese, some of the Judges themselves having acknowledged their inability to understand them. The Committee agree with the conclusions of the writer of a letter to *The Times*, under date the 20th December, 1889, to the effect that the British and other foreign merchants in Japan who have created the foreign trade as it exists at present, which amounted in 1888 to 21¼ millions sterling, and who are the persons chiefly concerned in the proposed new arrangements, heartily approve the cautious and prudent policy pursued by Lord Salisbury's Government down to the end of the year 1888. They do not view with confidence or satisfaction the prospect of being placed under Japanese laws and tribunals, for they have no faith in either. It is true certain branches of law have been codified, but, as one eminent foreign Minister said in regard to these Codes, they are mere books; the foreign merchants and residents want to see the Judges who are to read and interpret these books. Such men are not produced in a single generation; they do not exist in Japan now. The wisest laws, in the hands of incompetent or corrupt Judges, may be instruments of tyranny and injustice, while even bad laws are shorn of many of their terrors in the hands of upright and capable administrators. Besides, it is too often forgotten that Japan is the first Oriental state which has claimed the abolition of Consular jurisdiction; Turkey has acquiesced in the system for centuries; it exists in China, Morocco, Siam, and elsewhere; it is about to be created in Persia. In all these countries British commercial interests are of the greatest magnitude, and it therefore behoves her Majesty's Government to be slow and wary in creating and shaping a precedent; to obtain guarantees and securities before permiting British subjects to pass from the control of their own magistrates and under that of Orientals, who, however intelligent and interesting they may be, are, in this respect at least, absolutely on their trial. No one can say what the result of the experiment may be, but one thing is quite certain; there can be no retracing of the path; it may be, and is, an experiment to place foreigners under Japanese jurisdiction but, if it should turn out to be a failure, we cannot return to the *status quo ante*. Once give up Consular jurisdiction, and whether we have done well or ill, it is abandoned for ever, which is all the more reason why we should do so with caution and hesitation, and why we should surround the persons and property of foreigners in Japan, if it be decided to hand them over to Japanese tribunals, with all reasonable safeguards. This, the men who have created, and who now maintain, the foreign trade of Japan, have a right to expect of their Governments.

It is possible that time may show the new Codes to be all that is claimed for them by the Japanese, and the Judges competent to administer them; but, in the opinion of the Committee, it is impossible to predict what length of time may be necessary to test the efficiency either of the laws or of their administration; and to promise that foreigners shall be subjected to them on the expiration of a given period of time, whether that period be five or ten years hence, would be as unwise as to make the concession at once. What the Committee would recommend would be an undertaking to abandon extra-territorial jurisdiction as soon as the Codes shall have been a sufficient time in force to afford practical proof of their efficiency, and the administration has been shown to be satisfactory, without attempting beforehand to determine a limit of time which, from the circumstances of the case, must necessarily be based on mere guess work; and if the Japanese Government are not content to await the result of this probation, then that their demands should be conceded only on condition of the interposition of some such safeguards as have hitherto been admitted on all sides, and notably by the Japanese Government itself, to be necessary.

To meet the argument now put forward that the appointment of foreign experts to the Judicial Bench, which was the solution offered by the Japanese Government and acquiesced in, in principle, by the Treaty Powers, is no longer possible, owing to constitutional difficulties, a suggestion has been made which, in the opinion of its author, would, if conscientiously and intelligently carried out constitute a reasonable guarantee for foreigners while not in any way involving a breach of the Japanese Constitution, though it would necessitate an amendment of the laws of the country. The suggestion is that it should be provided by treaty, that any foreigner whose life or liberty is brought in question before a Japanese Court shall have the right to demand a jury *de medietate linguæ*, and if necessary to enable him to exercise that right, to change the *venue*; and that in civil cases he shall, on the same principle, have the right to demand either a mixed jury, or that the Court be aided by experts, sitting as assessors or associates; the verdict in all cases to depend upon unanimity in the tribunals thus formed. The Committee are of opinion that this suggestion is worthy of the serious consideration of the various Governments interested in the question of Treaty Revision; and they would add that they consider a radical amendment of the police and press laws and the law of public meeting as at present administered a *sine qua non* to the entertainment of the demands of the Japanese Government.

It will be seen from the foregoing that no factious or unreasonable opposition is entertained by the community to the principle of the demands of the Japanese Government on the question of jurisdiction; but on the contrary, that there is an earnest desire to comply with their wishes as soon as this can be done with safety. In short, the foreign residents would not be reconciled to the abandonment of their extra-territorial rights and privileges until ample time shall have been given to test the new Codes, nor until they have acquired confidence in the ability of the Judiciary, unless some satisfactory safeguard can be interposed between them and the native tribunals.

But though acquiescing conditionally in the principle of the Japanese demands with regard to the recovery of tariff and judicial autonomy, the Committee are quite unable to recognize the justice of those put forward in respect of land held by foreigners in the settlements. By the treaties Japan undertook to lease land in the open ports to the subjects and citizens of Treaty Powers for residential and business purposes; and by subsequent arrangements and conventions, leases in perpetuity have been granted, conditional only upon the payment of a fixed annual ground-rent and the observance of certain formalites with regard to transfer. Many hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent in improving the lands so acquired. It is now proposed to call in the existing title-deeds and issue others in their stead, and it is argued that foreign landowners will be the gainers, inasmuch as the land-tax payable by Japanese is lighter than the ground-rent payable by us. Even if this were so, there is no guarantee for the future; but the argument is fallacious, as it ignores the house property tax which would at once become payable in addition to the land tax. But in any case a compulsory alteration of the conditions of land-tenure created by solemn covenant, is considered by this Committee to be *ultra vires*. Foreigners are quite content to continue to pay the present ground-rents, and to observe the conditions of the title-deeds, retaining the privileges and immunities attaching to their tenure, and they do not desire the propose change. They quite understand the object of the Japanese Government, which is arbitrarily to abolish an exceptional tenure, created by convention, and ratified by covenant, and by compulsion to obtain more favourable terms for themselves. In short, the land now held by foreigners is required by the State, and it is sought to confiscate it without their consent to the terms offered in palliation of the act of confiscation. This is the grave injustice complained of in the second resolution of the 11th of September; and the Committee cannot too strongly protest against any action on the part of the Treaty Powers which would deprive foreign landholders of their rights without their concurrence. If the land is required for State purposes, it needs no argument to show that the consent of the landholders is a condition precedent, and that they should not be compelled, by Treaty or otherwise, to make any sacrifice of the rights and privileges they have acquired, without due and ample compensation. The only way to adjust this question would be by the appointment of delegates, or a Commission armed with full powers to negotiate a settlement.

The question has been asked, what does the Japanese Government propose to give the Treaty Powers in return for the concessions it asks of them? To residents in Japan, it looks as if a great deal were being demanded of Foreign Powers and very little offered them in return.

The bait which is apparently being held out, and which to the uninitiated seems a tempting one, is the throwing open of the whole country to foreign residence and trade, and no efforts are being spared by the Japanese and their partisans in this matter, to impress on European Governments, as well as on merchants and Chambers of Commerce at home, the belief that a large and valuable internal trade, hitherto beyond the reach of foreign traders in the Treaty Ports, will at once become available to them, and that great results may be expected.

Now in the opinion of the great majority of those who have been longest engaged in business in this country, there can be no greater fallacy than this, and whatever hopes might be formed of seeing a material increase or expansion of the trade

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in foreign imports, would certainly be doomed to disappointment.

It is hardly to be supposed that foreign goods have not, in the course of the past thirty years, found their way to every part of the country, and it is precisely this work of distribution to consumers in the interior that can done more economically, and to better purpose, by the native merchants or middlemen, than by any foreign traders, were the country thrown open to-morrow unrestrictedly. Turning to the subject of Exports, it is hardly necessary to point out that there has been a steady and continuous growth in the volume and importance of the trade in them for many years past, and there seems no good reason to suppose that the opening of the country would effect any beneficial change in the conditions under which business has been conducted in the past.

It is possible we might see foreigners engaging in mining and industrial enterprises of various kinds, either in concert with Japanese, or otherwise, provided laws were passed under which they could hold land and other property in the interior, and associate themselves securely with the natives in such transactions; but even in this direction, it may be doubted whether foreign capital would at once be ready to lend its aid.

The Committee do not wish the conclusion to be drawn from what is here stated, that the opening of the country would not, in itself, be a desirable measure, but they strongly combat the notion that it can be in any respect looked on in the light of an equivalent for the unconditional surrender of Consular jurisdiction.

Yokohama, January, 1891.—*Japan Herald.*

OUR "SPECIAL" TELLS THE STORY OF FELIX HOLT SECUNDUS.

IN THREE SECTIONS.—BY A. M.

Section I.—On the Plains.

It was at once a simple and a beautiful idea and in 1886 a perfectly feasible one. The notion was to form the shipmasters into a United Society and the ship's officers into another and by means of delegations from the bodies so organized to federate with the F.S.U.A. which is cabalistic for Federated Seaman's Union of Australia. This of course would have meant perfect solidarity in the labour of those who go down unto the deep in ships, and the owners shivered in their slippers when they got wind of the scheme. It had been conceived in the silent watches of the night, and for the best part of nine months its gestation had been a secret. Then somehow or other whispers of the approaching birth got bruited around among the capitalists, and when the baby did appear it was next door to still-born. Not still-born altogether though; it would be more correct to say that the Plutocrats, Hera-like, sent snakes to strangle it in its cradle, and that the creeping things succeeded in their mission. It was a pity, because, as said before, it was a plan that would have gone through at that time if all the Unions had been in earnest. Brisbane and Adelaide were, but Sydney and Melbourne were not, and of course we have high authority for prognosticating the speedy collapse of a structure divided against itself. So the project miscarried, and the Adelaide and Brisbane men got smitten hip and thigh, not with the jawbone of one solitary ass, but with a perfect chorus of donkey-brays from the whole Plutocratic Press of the Continent. Now this was nothing short of a calamity for all concerned. Of course the notion *has* to go through ultimately,—there is no doubt about *that*. If well engineered it would have become *un fait accompli* then without any very considerable amount of friction, or of industrial waste and wear and tear. It didn't; and so both sides organized for a battle royal and after a three years' interchange of lying expressions of mutual regard and politeness, issue was joined in 1890. The result was very expensive to both sides and glorious to none of them, but that has nothing to do with story at present.

It was Will Hawkston that was at the bottom of the '86 plot, and if he had got his way then, Australia would be a good many mile-stones further on the road to Social-Democracy than she is to-day. He felt the miscarriage keenly—far more so than I ever fancied he could feel anything. He had worked like an intellectual Hercules in piecing the thing together and in trying to run it through, and the breakdown of the concern seemed to break him down utterly. It is true that he was in a very ricketty state physically,—his wasted frame and cadaverous cheeks were suggestive at once of Will Langland, William III., and zymotic disease,—especially of zymotic disease. The only thing to be thought of was a "spell," and I told him as much in the plainest Anglo-Saxon I could muster for the occasion. He delighted me by admitting that I was right, and that furthermore he had taken steps to get one. It seems that an old Oxford chum of his was then philandering about in the Colonies, and Hawkston had run across him at the Club. The chum in question was a real live Japanese nobleman—a thoroughly good sort too, in spite of the unfortunate handicap of having to go through life with a brummagem prefix in front of his name. He evidently saw that Hawkston was in a bad way. He told him he wanted an English teacher for his former retainers, and asked Hawkie to undertake the job as a favour. "Barkis was willin," and so when I ventured to open my mind to Hawkston on the matter of a spell he took me utterly aback by informing me that he was to sail for Japan on the next day but one. I was glad of course, but yet in some ways my sorrow was much greater than my joy at the turn events had taken. For Hawkie had been my closest friend for the last twelve months, and I didn't at all like losing touch of him. I took a day off and spent the four and twenty hours previous to his departure in his company. We had much to talk about, but of course only a small part of that enters into this story. Among other things Hawkie gave me a few fat M.S. volumes bound in black and closely packed with his own crabbed hieroglyphics. For Hawkston's copy is with one exception the worst I ever set eyes upon, and that exception is my own.

"Look here, old man," he said "Gibson (that was the crack Brisbane specialist on throat diseases) "tells me that it is merely a toss up as to whether I shall be thrown overboard or buried in a Buddhist Cemetery, and I'm half inclined to believe him. Now there are some things I know of that nobody else does, and it is just as well for the Cause—a Capital C. of course,"—(here he smiled sarcastically) "that some one should be able to use the knowledge if need be. You'll find them all there in black and white, and some of them will have to be acted upon before six months are over. There are other matters besides that are purely private. But I'm without father or mother or sister or brother or chick or child or any relation whatsoever, and you may just as well have these volumes as anybody else. If I get better and come back, let me have them again; if not—then good and well, do with them even as you list."

His prospects of recovery struck me about being on a par with those of a Queensland wild-cat mine after the directors and promoter shareholders have succeeded in unloading every shred of their scrip on a gullible London public. I would have taken any odds against the chances of his coming back,—that is if I had been callous enough to put money on such a contingency. When I said good-bye to him he was the sickest socialist I ever saw,—those batoned in Trafalgar Square by a gallant and courageous police force not even excepted. But as matters turned out, there was a lot of vitality in him after all—just as is the case with Social Democracy itself.

Well, I set to work on the volumes, as in duty bound and found them not at all unlike the earliest attempts at literature we possess, in the variety of subjects dealt with. They constituted a sort of diary, where "impressions" of slums jostled with sarcastic etchings of high life; while ethics, and politics and economics were mixed up together in a jumble that would have delighted the innermost cockles of the heart of Moses or Confucius, or of the author of the Laws of Manou. Then there were notes on the dodges and tactics of the capitalists and a scheme for the Universal Federation of Labour in Australia cheek by jowl with real live lyric poems, and scraps and figures that might have some far off connection with the Integral Calculus or the Fourth Dimension. Of course all this with the single exception of the last item, was interesting. But there was even better in the note-books than the sum total of everything above mentioned. Running through the tangled skein of the text was what I scarcely ever dreamt of in the case of Hawkston—a first class Romance. After I had extracted the political tips that might be of special value at the time, or in the near future, I set to work upon the personal factor in the notes, and soon with a little editing and a few interpolations, I succeeded in piecing together a story that would have brought me sundry shekels of silver, if I only had had the luck to be christened Wilkie Collins.

I propose to jot down the first part of the yarn in the style of the "Woman in White," being partly persuaded to this course by the original sin of inherent laziness, and partly from being wishful to let the man speak for himself.

There are two classes of entries; those of 1884 and those of 1886. In the case of the former the scene is England, principally Oxford and the little village by the Thames with the brace of contradictories "Commerce and Christ" for a trade-mark; in '86 the Southern Cross must be supposed to be shimmering down upon the love-making such as it was. The only prologue necessary to the comprehension of the piece is that Hawkston was a Queensland native, born on the slopes of the ranges just where they sweep up and spread out into the plains. It is a hot-blooded impetuous brood mostly that is reared in those quarters,—a generation not over much given to unbonneting to shoddy dignities or kowtowing to the conventional lay-figures of respectability and vested interests. Every child there born of woman is brought up to ride and to shoot and to stand sauce from no one; most of the males add to these rudiments of a liberal education, the further accomplishment of hitting straight out with the left and getting in with the right when a chance offers. Hawkston learned all that at Toowoomba Grammar School, and then he went to Sydney University and afterwards to Oxford to get an inkling of what was utilitarian in the learning of the Egyptians and to put on the top-dressing that is as very bird's lime in catching a well-bred mate in the drawing-rooms. In Oxford he was a success, came out with a first in Lit.-Hum. and another in Modern History, and was looked upon as surely booked for an All Soul's Fellowship in spite of his low and disreputable Radical views. For be it remarked it was not after all such a very serious drawback to flirt with Radicalism in Oxford in the early 'eighties, if it was but a mere flirtation. But there is a big difference between a mistress and a mésalliance, and respectable Dons were more than scandalized to find that Hawkston's intentions regarding Radicalism, or as it was then beginning to be called Social Democracy, were not only honourable, but to keep up the figure, even matrimonial. That, however, did not appear conclusively until the day after the exam., while the merits of the canditates were still under consideration, with as it afterwards turned out a strong consensus in favour of the brilliant Oriel man, Hawkston to wit. Then he needs must outrage Decency and Respectability by inviting to dinner at the Bachelor's table in Hall, not the Devil himself—that would have been pardonable perhaps—but an individual to whom the Devil and and his Angels and eke their heavenly adversaries were all so many effete symbols and negative ones at that. When the Member of Northampton—for it was the redoubtable Bradlaugh no less that was the guest of the evening—walked into the place, it was as good as a play to watch the commotion at the Don's table as soon as the word went round that that lineal descendant of the eldest of the sons of Belial was in their midst eating the college salt and drinking the college brew. But the indignant fluttering of their academical robes did not seem to discompose Bradlaugh in the slighest. He looked upon the episode as a good joke and so did Hawkston. But the latter did not look at the occurrence in that light two days later when the result of the Fellowship election came out. He found himself passed over, and another—and a very weak vessel indeed that other was—appointed to the vacancy at the common-room table of All Souls. It is at this point that the Diary as edited—begins.

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September 1st.—'This is a fix and no mistake. It is as good as being "bushed" in a lantana-scrub. Scholarship run out; no show of a Fellowship after that Bradlaugh business now. A mastership in any of the "respectable" schools,—Eton, Harrow, Rugby and so forth, is not to even be dreamt of. And I don't want to leave England just yet a while. Wherefore I purpose to join myself unto a citizen of this country who will send me into his fields to feed swine *i.e.*, into his classrooms to cram dunces with the husks of word-mongering.

September 4th.—What a glorious country this is for a man with no money! With this blessed competition-wage system there is a lot of inducement to be honest. Dick Whittington and his Cat and Hogarth's Two Apprentices sound very, very funny indeed, at this time of day. Society is mainly divided into plunderers and plundered, exploiters and exploited. There are still a few relics of fossil probity left us by our industrial individualism. But that is all. The thing itself, as a living entity, is extinct as the Moa. Of course there is a big difference in the connotations of honesty and of keeping out of jail. *Probitas laudatur et alget*—gets praised in the abstract but goes with an empty stomach in the very flesh.

The above reflections are neither new nor profound. But notwithstanding they are true—and that's a lot more than can be said of the orthodox economic theories. They are prompted by the fact that I find that £90 per annum for eight hours' work a day is all that two firsts in

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Finals in Oxford bring in the competitive scholastic mart. A Queensland stockman gets as much and he dresses in moleskins, a Crimean shirt and a cabbage-tree, and has no struggle with the incidentals of broad-cloth, un-creased unmentionables, white shirts and collars and all the other miserable appurtenances of British Philistine respectability engaged in the pitiable game of keeping up appearances! For cheapness and a general spirit of nastiness there is nothing like industrial competition! It is a grand thing, a holy thing, a blessed thing! Therefore let us put our necks under its yoke and lift up our voices in its praise in a bovine chorus of heartfelt thankfulness for nothing! That is those of us who have qualms about turning licensed foot-pads and scrambling up atop of our neighbours and then kicking down the ladder we mount by! Body and soul must be kept together somehow; and so Respectability on £90 a year let it be! Anyhow there is still time left for the propaganda. The Fabian Society is beginning to get a hold. It is giving me enough to do and to spare.

October 25th.—We are making headway. At least the "classes" show signs of taking an interest in us. We had a bumper house in Bermondsey last evening. John Burns, Champion, and one or two others spoke. I was sitting on a bench in the back of the hall when I noticed something peculiar about a woman rigged out in rather frayed and weather-worn and unfashionable raiment. I couldn't for the life of me make out where the attraction came in. Then she shifted in her seat and I saw at a flash what it was. It was her pose, *and the way she carried her rags*. They sat upon her like the robes of a Duchess. Her companion seemed to be a flash got-up costermonger, "seemed," I write advisedly. I looked at his fists; there was far too little real estate about his well-trimmed nails for one of the "'orney 'anded."

Just then the speaker concluded with a few telling shots, and was cheered to the echo. As the applause died away I caught one or two sentences the pair were exchanging under cover of the whirlwind of shouts.

"These people are no fools" she remarked. "Who could have fancied that a speech like that would have taken with the mob? That man spoke better than most in St. Stephen's."

"Humph! Too much school-board hath made them mad," answered the other, with a contemptuous ring in his tone.

It needed no great insight to twig that they were masqueraders. I fancied it would be just as well to know all about them. So I kept my eye on the twain and kept stride with them when they left. After getting clear of the crowd they hailed a four-wheeler and I got up behind and took a ride out of Jarvey for nothing. It was as I thought. The man is a member of the shop that misgoverns a *free* people by hereditary right; the female is his lawful spouse. I got a glimpse of her features,—hers is a face that a man who looks upon it once will not readily forget.

November 5th.—This talk of an unholy alliance between the Nihilists, the Irish Dynamiters and ourselves is all so much fudge. There is nothing to justify the Fenians in their madness; they have the means of constitutional agitation. With the Russians it is different. The Bureaucrats of Czardom seemed determined to sit on the safety valve of Constitutionalism. If the boiler bursts they can't legitimately complain. That little Russian woman is a wonder. A regular Perovskaia and a Vera Sassulitch thrown into one. She is not La Pucelle though. Jeanne d'Arc gave her life for France; if what is told is true Lisa has sacrificed more than that for the propaganda. To raise funds for the Centre to which she belongs—as likely as not they are wanted for some infernal piece of nitro-glycerine devilry—she has parted with what is incomparably more precious to a virtuous woman (she is one too, if I am not a fool) than life—her *honour*. She is not beautiful till she speaks. Then a glow of spirituality lights up each one of her features, and she shines out more resplendent than a Vittoria Colonna. What wonderful things those Russian folk's songs are she sings! The pace is trying me a bit. Eight hours dance-driving by day and as much speaking and writing and plotting and conspiring by night are getting too telling altogether.

January 19th, 1885.—So that was the meaning of it! Czaricide no less! Poor Lisa! She is to be executed next week!

March 10th, 1886.—So it is good-bye to "Hold Hingland." Poor wretched caste-ridden mammon-driven old country! Marx and Saint Matthew Arnold to the contrary, I cannot help now and then taking a desperate view of your social problem. But there's hope for you in Democracy and the Schoolmaster after all. Anyhow I've done my share of the day's work. The medicine-man after ten minutes ominous spirit-rapping on the sackful of bones that used to be my chest, tells me my only chance is the nerving air of the Austral land. So I'm off "'ome." 'Tis seven years since the Heads faded into mist behind me, and these years have wrought changes. I go back to a home where there are neither kith nor kin to welcome me more.

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June 20th, 1886.—Here I have been vegetating for the best part of two months. I am content and I don't like the situation, but I think that has been said by some other fellow before—by Goethe, I fancy. He has the unhappy knack of filling up all the lacunae in the quotation line accidentally left by Shakspeare and the Bible. Between the three of them there is now very little show left for the coining of original epigrams and aphorisms. But to "reshume" as my Hibernian friend, O'Hara, the overseer, would put it. I am content because I have been pulling up famously. When I came up here I was like a piece of lathe, mounted on a pair of churchwardens—(pipes, I mean of course). O'Hara assured me that I must be a "man av no mane courage to vinture on such outrajisly tinder shupports." But O'Hara is plump and rotund, not to say obese, with short stumpy overgirthy understandings that would be a disgrace to even an Esquimaux or an ancient Etruscan. Symmetry is certainly not his strong point, and so his criticism must not be taken too seriously. But the fact remains that I *was* thin, when I came up from Brisbane. I am just six and twenty pounds heavier than when O'Hara passed judgment on me, and yet I scale a full stone under my Oxford rowing weight. But at this rate I shall not be long about putting on the extra flesh. That is the effect of the bright sunlight, the free out-of-door life and the whispering breezes that sough among the wattles and the gum-trees. Another month of it and I shall be as fit as a fiddle. But I don't like it notwithstanding. It is too slow and monotonous; too frightfully calm and smooth, altogether too materially comfortable. I ought to be down below in the towns among the workers—although I might do something here in knocking together a Shearer's and Bushman's Union and getting the beggars to organize. At the same time, if discontent and disquiet and unrest would only let me, I shouldn't be very sorry to grow gray in the midst of this eucalyptic cloisterdom. But what modern man since Petrarch can calmly make up his mind to dream away his life in a hollow Lotos-land?' For in spite of occasional dingo hunts and wild dashes after breaking cattle and Homeric feeds of mutton and damper and tea by the flashing camp-fires on the ranges, sweetened by sweat, yet this existence savours altogether too much of 'the Gods reclining on the hills together, careless of mankind.' There is a pleasure, a keen and thrilling pleasure in warring with evil—Tennyson's Choric song to the country, and here there is little chance of a good stand-up set-to with either Chaos or the Devil.

This station—cattle principally—is just fifty miles off from its nearest neighbour. The buildings are about thirty miles from the limit fence, measure in whatever direction you please. That means about 3,000 square miles of country, one-half of it freehold, most of it got by a wholesale process of "dummying" which is just a euphemism for doing the Government in the optic. And as the freehold commands all the water-holes on the run, the rest of the squattage is safe—from a squatter's standpoint of course. That signifies that it will never be resumed by the authorities, since no settler in his sober senses would ever dream of selecting where there's no water to be had, unless he's prepared to pay more for it than for custom-house whiskey. In my position of store-keeper and book-keeper and general rouse-about I see a good deal of the "hands,"—we have imported this choice piece of nomenclature from the humane English factory system,—and something of the "boss" and his family. He is English and aristocratic, a younger son, and a possible member of the House of Fossils; that is if his eldest brother drinks himself to death before he marries, and friend Bradlaugh does not succeed in turning the Alpheus through that Augean stable of Respectability and Vested Interests. It is amusing to get him on the string about Democracy and the Masses, as I see I can do every time the mail comes in. He is not a fool by any means, yet he does not seem to know what way to take me and my remarks. Wouldn't he be horrified to discover the social fire-brand he has imported to weigh out his flour and tea and sugar to his boundary riders? (The metaphor is mixed, but never mind.) He will discover it some day not very far off, and then I promise myself no inconsiderable amount of amusement. But he is not at all objectionable in some respects. To those within the pale of his caste he is hospitality personified. The "swagmen," though, curse him roundly, and more than once have taken their departure vowing in their own lurid vocabulary to bear him in mind. This of course is a covert threat to fire his run, in spite of the £100 reward offered by the Pastoral Association "for evidence leading, &c. &c.," or to cut his fences. And twice within the last month these gentlemen have been as good as their word.

His wife the Hon. Mrs. Wingfield is just the average "goodless ill-less" matron of the English Upper classes. She might have been a woman worth knowing but for the blighting influence of a devastating attack of Mother Grundy at an impressionable age. She is kind-hearted, "lady-like" in her manners (of course), pudding-faced and conventional. There are two olive branches, regular wild, untamed blue-blooded devils. I have succeeded in winning their heartiest respect. They tried a bit of hazing on me, and were a trifle astonished when I caught them and rapped their thick skulls together in the presence of their lady mother and then dismissed them with a blessing and a kick apiece rearwards.

I hear our loneliness is to be relieved by the proximate advent of visitors,—a pair of new chums, of assorted sexes.

June 25th.—She came upon me as I was cutting up a sheep in the shed; evidently she was pleased with me after a fashion,—finding me a picturesque object in a romantic landscape. That evening at dinner—Sturgis the *paidagogus* of the establishment is my informant—she remarked that she had found a companion to George Eliot's picture of Adam Bede at his bench! Hey diddle-diddle! but this waxes amusing!

I knew her at a glance; no less than the *inconnue* of the meeting in Radcliffe Highway, Bermondsey, who was patronizingly pleased to admit that the Democracy did really possess some culture! Of course this is an opportunity to trot out the stock commonplace that the world is a very small place after all.

She is a clipper though! The lines of the Venus da Milo and the head and the poise of the flashing-eyed goddess Athena. These Aristocrats are really fine in their way. And why should they not be? They have had the show for generations. When *we* get *our* innings we will turn out products like her, not by the score, but by the nation. She—but why the Devil should I trouble myself to waste paper and ink on her?

June 27th.—More arrivals to break the monotony of our eucalyptic cloisterdom. We have all the elements of a second-rate symposium without Socrates or Aristophanes to make away with the liquor. An itinerant Anglican Bishop and his chaplain represent the church militant. Then there's Dutton, the Minister for Lands, to expound Henry George and to run him as a kind of Universal Social Painkiller or St. Jacob's Oil. Next we have a Bank Inspector to rave on the sacredness of "proputty" and the right divine to collar the unearned increment of corner allotments. To complete the list we have an infernal Manchester carpet-bagger on the outlook for pastoral and mining investments for his syndicate. He is said to be making sheep's eyes at the "widdey," for she lost her little lordling of a husband two years ago. It was he no doubt that was her escort at the meeting. Since then she has been travelling—very much interested in social problems. Humph! She doesn't look much like the orthodox blue stocking though.

June 28th.—To-day I was amused. I had just finished a thing on Nihilism for the *Bulletin*, and was sitting on a log looking over it before I dropped it into the mail-bag. Possibly what psychologists call "contiguity," set me a-humming that little Russian air I learned from Lisa. Suddenly—it must have been about four in the afternoon, the shadow of a sunshade and a woman's body was thrown over my shoulder, and I looked round.

"That is a weird melody," she said—it was *she* of course—"It sounds like Russian music."

"It is Russian." I answered.

"Indeed! That is very interesting. Where does it come from?"

I told her it was a folk's song I had heard from a friend. She caught sight of Tourgenieff's *Otsi i Dietsi* lying on the grass, and *sans ceremonie* took it up and looked at it.

"You read Russian?" she asked with the slightest elevation of her pencilled eyebrows.

I said I knew a little of it.

She then asked what I thought of Tourgenieff. Then before I knew where I was I was subjected to a cross examination about Poushkin, Learmontoff, Gogol and Goncharoff. After that she began to put "feelers,"—leading questions the lawyers call them—which I did't like a bit and shunted them as politely as I could. She was a lady down to her finger tips and so she dropped them at once. I could see that she fancied that there was something incongruous between a Crimean shirt and a critical know-

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ledge of Sclavonic literature. I was at once amused and irritated at her. Why will these people coddle themselves with the notion that we Democrats are uneducated boors?"

June 30th.—What next? Are the streams about to flow back to their sources after all? I have been invited, and ultimately begged, to dine at the "boss's" table to-morrow evening. First the cubs came; then the boss; and then "mamma," as pleasant and as soft and as wheedling as you please. A station-hand at the Wingfield's table, with an itinerant bishop, a Minister of the Crown, a lady of title, a syndicate-manager, a bank-inspector, and in the poetical vernacular of the auctioneers a variety of other articles too numerous to mention! Verily we are broadening down with a vengeance!

July 2nd.—In the low cant of thiefdom, I am afraid I blew the gaff upon myself last night. But it was past human endurance to stand them all sitting up on end and airing their pretty air-bubble theories. I kept in the back-ground as long as I could. In the course of the talk Her Ladyship must needs trot out her account of the Radcliffe Bermondsey episode and cap that with her criticism of the attainments of the crowd. I couldn't endure that quite, so I remarked that I was somewhat astonished at the courage of the party. When a dozen pair of eyebrows went up interrogatively I went on to say that it needed a pretty bold individual to venture on challenging the claims of Lassalle concerning the irresistible equipment of Social Democracy in point of Culture after he and Marx had, with Ricardo in one hand and Hegel in the other, turned all the heavy guns of the philosophers and economists on private property in land and the means of production and knocked it into match-wood. I spoke very quietly, but notwithstanding the assembly started as if some one had let off an infernal machine under the mahogany. They were all upon me like a mob of garrotters, but I think I came out of it decently. I expect to get my walking-ticket soon though. One thing galled me shrewdly. Her ladyship thrust the discussion on to moral qualities, and in the course of it declared that after all it was blood that told, and that the boasted Democracy could never show what she called patrician courage. She asserted that in a race for instance, a plebeian could never do the impossible, while an aristocrat certainly could and would. The phraseology was somewhat enigmatic, but I fancy I grasped her drift. She looked at me meaningly, as I thought, when she said that. But why in the name of peace should I allow that woman to "ruttle" me in the way she does?

July 4th.—I don't like that carpet-bagger a bit. To-day he came down to the sheds with *her*, and some young squatters that have come over from the neighbouring runs to pass the time of day. I had taken a fancy to shoe Shylock, and was sawing away at his hoofs when the procession came on the scene. It seems the c. b. fences a little. He caught sight of a pair of single-sticks crossed on the wall, and nothing would serve him but a chance to display his accomplishments. So he took them down, whisked one of them whistling through the air and issued a comprehensive challenge to the neighbourhood. Now the saving grace and the savour of the salt of Australian life lies in sport. If anything can save the immortal soul of the future Republic it will be the courage that is born of the thrill of pig-skin 'twixt one's knees in front of a five rail fence, or the crush of a Rugby scrimmage. So although the youngsters knew nothing about the sticks, they put on the masks and buckled to readily enough. The c. b.'s science, however, was altogether too much for their untutored native pluck, and the Johnnies got warmed all over their persons. Just about this time I finished rasping the last shoe of the four and sauntered over to see the fun. I was more than astonished to find myself singled out by the Manchester man. I think I know the reason of the sneering ring in his words, and the mocking look on his phiz when he addressed me in the fashion of Severus to Maximin: "Thracian, art thou disposed to wrestle after thy —— horse-shoeing." It meant that he wanted if possible to score the impudent working-man who had scored off him somewhat extensively two evenings before. I saw that he felt morally cock-sure of having his revenge by basting my ribs if I should be venturesome enough to tackle him. Which I did. Now I had passed the long vac. of '83 I think it was, in Naples with San Martelli and knew pretty well how to take care of myself when it came to sabres. The Carpet Bagger had one frightfully weak point; he exposed his elbow. So I just contented myself with rapping his "funny-bone" as the boys call it, twice or thrice not over gently, and he threw down the stick with a twinge and what sounded as twin-brother to a curse. I caught *her* eye at the end of the performance and mischief glittered in its unfathomable depths.

July 4th.—I wish to Heaven that old beast Sturgis had told me sooner! What a muddle-pated clown of a paidagogus it is, albeit a thoroughly good-hearted fellow. So I was haled into the feast because, forsooth, she wanted to see a typical Australian working-man! Did she wish to amuse herself by seeing me eat peas with a knife, I wonder. Confound them, if I had but guessed! Their patronizing remarks anent me after my departure, *Sturgis teste*, are something to be humbly grateful for! I think it is in Kenilworth that Scott paints Leicester as doing immortal honour to Will Shakspeare by tossing him his bridle to hold, or something equally condescending. We've now got a little beyond that; it seems the Australian Plutocrat's way of acknowledging Democratic talent is to invite its possessor in with the pudding. How kind of the modern Philistines to call for Samson—Demos I mean,—from the prison house where he does grind that he may make them sport when their hearts are merry!

July 5th.—The Sydney Labour folks have sent for me. I am about all right again, and I mean to up swag and off.

July 10th.—This afternoon there was a mild bit of excitement. These aristocrat women have no end of pluck—and why shouldn't they? They have every possible chance to foster and develop the quality. At the same time, *barring the brains*, they are as fine in their way as the Renascence females. It is a sight to see *her* on horseback. She has a seat and hands too that the best stock-rider on the plains might be proud of. But she tackled what was altogether too "kittle" for her when she insisted on getting on Bonnibel. She is a brute, a regular out-and-out-brute, as her dam was, and her grandsire before her. She comes of a strain that has turned out more devils, and killed more grooms and jockeys than any other at the Antipodes. The "boss" protested when she made the proposal, I'm told, but what was the use? When he went off to the out-station after lunch, she came out and ordered the mare to be saddled. It was none of my business to interfere of course, and I didn't. But I thought I'd take Shylock out for a canter in the direction I was pretty sure she would follow. He is the only horse on the run that can outpace the mare, either in a spurt or a long course. I had got on to the stretch of open beyond the scrub that belts the station clearing when I saw a floating cloud of dust tearing along the back road like a comet with a woman on horseback for its head. I guessed what had happened. The brute had bolted; and saw, and saw and saw as she might, the woman could no more touch that rock-callous mouth than she could hope to rasp through a capstan bar with a darning-needle. Now it so happened one of the station niggers was coming along the track and he threw out his arms and shouted. This simply sent the mare off her course, and away she rushed to the right like a snorting whirlwind. I knocked the spurs into Shylock, for there was good need to. About six hundred yards off was a gulch with a bottom of whinstone rock and sides as sheer as a castle-wall, making fully a hundred feet of a drop. The brute was going straight in a bee-line for that; and going with the spin of the winner of the Melbourne Cup. She had a start too, and I knew, without taking much time to consider, that I just *might* catch her a yard on this side of eternity. How the gum-trees flitted behind the thunder of the four pair of hoofs! It was like the Erl King in a night-mare! I got up level with her just as we had the brink in sight. It was no use reaching for the rein, we should have all gone over then in a regular family party. So I let the mare go and confined my attention to the woman. I got hold of her and swept her on to the saddle in front of me, and yelled like an Indian, swinging round to the near side at the time. Shylock was the best cutting-out horse on the run, and round he came like a fork of lightning bent on business. It was a lucky thing that I had shod him a few days before. He struck all his hoofs into the turf at once and tore it up as if a shell had burst upon it. Just then I heard a ghastly "thud" in the gulch below and when I looked round I saw a long score on the brink and then over it,—the marks of the infernal beast when she saw that she was getting her own accursed skin into a pickle and wanted to charge her route. Then I jumped down and lifted "Her Ladyship" from the saddle. I went to the brink and peered over. Atop of the whinstone lay a bright-coloured mass *very still*. From it little rills of trickling red oozed out of sight in the crannies.

She took the thing very cooly—not in the least flustered or excited—she only paled a trifle,—that was all. Then her clear-cut face flushed like the morn when the sun's first kiss brushes the ranges, and she looked at me with a smile and said quite simply

"That was a gallant thing, Mr. Hawkston!"

Then, like a cad, I needs must have my fling at her.

"It wasn't the impossible quite, perhaps, but if the Patrician *had* gone over that ledge, the Plebeian would have been in at the death a good second."

"I know what you mean," she answered very quietly, "and no doubt circumstances justify the retort. But I don't know if I am wrong after all though. It is not every working-man that reads Russian, quotes Æschylus, and rides to the death like a Centaur or a Paladin, is it?"

"Possibly not, but to how many do you give the chance? Give us a show and you'll find a good many Hervé Riels among us, and ten thousands of men better than I."

"With your leave well postpone the discussion to another time. Meantime I won't attempt to thank you. I have found—"

"A very interesting specimen no doubt." I interrupted, for now I felt a most unreasoning anger against her, and at the same time a feeling I have never felt in the presence of woman before. "But please leave me alone in future, and don't get me any more invitations to dinner."

She saw that I knew all about it. At first her head went up haughtily; then her features softened and she put her hand gently on my sleeve. (How that touch thrilled me! I felt the blood run jumping and leaping in my veins!)

"I ask your pardon," she said gravely—"you have the right to speak as you do. But I meant no offence, and I am more than sorry for what has happened."

"Don't mention it, only it is true that the people feel as keenly as you Aristocrats, though perhaps you don't fancy so. But let us get stationwards."

Of course there was a lot of talk about the incident, although I said as little as possible.

July 14th.—I thought she was at the bottom of it. A fine plan truly! Yesterday the boss asked me to undertake the management of Jimboomba station with a salary of £1,000 a year and a share in the profits. To-day Paidagogus informed me that Her Ladyship had bought it. A very nice plan indeed!

July 15th.—*She* came herself and asked me to undertake the post. When I said "no," she pressed me for reasons. I put her off gently at first. When she insisted I talked "straight." I told her I meant to keep below with the crowd and not raise myself on their shoulders.

"Ideal Felix Holt nonsense is it?" She said with more warmth than I ever marked in her speech before.

At that remark—the tone of it more especially, I kindled.

"Nonsense, if you please," I answered. "But Felix Holt is my ideal and I don't like to hear him sneered at. You know an ideal is at once the strength and the weakness of Democracy, and in stabbing at that you touch me in the raw. Do you fancy you and your caste have a monopoly of *noblesse oblige*? I am of the people and I intend to remain among them to the end of the chapter. You mean kindly no doubt, but you are only trying to bribe me to make *il gran refuto*."

She looked at me with a trace of wonder in her face. I fancied I saw something else there also. Then she turned, and swept away proud, erect, and stately.

I must get out of this. She wants to amuse herself with me, evidently—to make me a winter plaything and then cast me off with her furs. I fancy I see the whole stretch of the comedy with all its lame and impotent conclusion. Supposing her in earnest—which is a gigantic suppose!—it would not work. It would be glorious to be known as Lady ——'s husband! No, no! Will Hawkston! *Uxori nubere nolo meæ.*

July 16th.—To-morrow I am off for town. Things look black in the Unions there; I'm afraid were in for a big strike,—if the thing is well engineered it will be a nail in the coffin of Plutocracy.

July 17th.—As I went off I saw a copy of Tennyson lying on the bench in the bush-house. It had her name on the title-page. I looked up *Lady Clara Vere de Vere*, and turned down the leaf after initialling the bottom of the page. She is a most accomplished woman, but she has yet an odd thing or two to learn. Among which ranks not least the fact that Democrats also have pride!

December 8th.—So it is virtually all over,—the defection of the Sydney and Melbourne branches has doomed the move. It would have gone through easily, if they only had stood fast. I had no idea I could feel anything so much. Never mind though. "*Bear up my heart: thou hast suffered even doggier things than this.*" But I'm sadly

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run down again,—in mining vernacular well-nigh "petered out."

And just when my immortal soul is a-hungered the Devil disguised as an aristocrat in petticoats must needs start up at my elbow tempting me with bread. It is odd. I had seen her and the carpet-bagger in the streets several times and once or twice on the lawn of Government House. But I had carefully kept my distance, though twice I saw she wanted to speak to me. Of course the syndicate man may run her down, but I have my doubts. If he does he will find a bit in his mouth before he is much more aged.

Of course in view of the news from the South, at the mass meeting I put forth all my power to stop these fellows here ruining themselves in a bootless and hopeless forlorn hope. They were plucky though and meant fight right up to the hilt. However, I had my way. I made an ass of myself through sheer physical weakness. As far as I can make out I dropped in my tracks as I left the platform.

That evening friend Gibson came. I fancied he had just dropped in for a chat. I soon saw though that some one had sent for him, and I asked him who it was.

"Well," he answered, "I fancied it was your precious self. I got this note just as I was setting down to dinner."

He showed me the paper. It was simply a few lines requesting him to call on Mr. Hawkston at such and such an address without delay. My heart gave a thump when I saw the handwriting. I then remembered that I had seen a woman thickly veiled on the back benches in the hall, when I was on the platform, and my mind at once flashed back to the Bermondsey episode. I thought a minute and then told Gibson I was'nt sorry he had come, although it wasn't I that had spoiled his dinner. He and I are *friends* in the true sense of the word,—on the score of my being a 'Varsity man he will never accept fee or reward from me. "Dog doesn't eat dog" he remarks curtly when I try to remonstrate. So I spoke out plump, because I knew he can keep as quiet as the grave. I begged him if any money came to him on my account or in an envelope in the handwriting of that note, ■ send it back to so-and-so. He looked somewhat surprised and so I told him why and wherefore. He said he would as a matter of course, but at the same time he made a few remarks about Pride that would have sounded very well from an evangelical pulpit.

Two days later the medico told me he had seen her and that he had followed my instructions. He also took the liberty of holding forth once more on Foolish Pride. I told him he was a chip of the old block; his father being a Scotch Presbyterian minister.

To-day I met her in the Botanical Gardens. She sat down beside me on a bench under a clump of bamboos. It is odd how certain bits of scenery get painted indelibly on one's mental retina. In front, the great tawny stream, with countless craft swaying and swinging as the ebb tide began to sweep seaward, gurgling against their hulls and moorings as it waxed in force apace. Beyond, the huge trailer-clad granite cliff topped with its line of chalets and bungalows, and little spired chapels. Then the smoke-wreaths sweeping up in clouds against the russet-veined scaur where the channel turns off abruptly to the left. And over all a great flood of crimson violet light flushing the bunya-bunyas, the palm-fronds and the bamboos now swaying and rustling and whispering in the breeze which was now kissing the surface of the reach into tiny ripples and sighing forth love secrets overhead. I shall carry that scene with me for ever. Possibly the overpowering force of the impression was due to physical weakness, possibly because I was so wretchedly morbid. And then her presence; the supple lines of her body, the curve of her swan-like neck, the pose of her head, and a subtle odour of something that may be set down as magnetism —that word will do to shroud my ignorance of what it really is as well as any other, perhaps—all this set my blood tingling and my heart thumping in a way that was weakness itself. She tried to tempt me again, begged me to get better and then take charge of her station. But I steeled myself and said no. I closed the interview by telling her that there could be nothing possible in common between us, that she looked at life and its problems from one side and I from another entirely opposed; and that between our points of view there was a great gulf fixed. I told her as before I meant to keep down among the crowd; it would be better for her to keep with *her* people and to leave me alone. By this time the closing-bell had rung and we separated at the gate of the Gardens. She invited me to call upon her on the 11th. On that day I shall be steaming northwards for Japan!

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE FROG OF ÆSOP'S FABLE.

There was a frog of fabled fame,
Which in a pond resided,
And on its pomp and circumstance
This froggy often prided.

A solemn cow in meadow green—
By some mischance decided—
Trod on a brood of little frogs
And may of them die did.

One only little frog escaped
To tell the sad disaster,
Diaculum would never prove
Regenerative plaster.

Off to the pond in haste he went
In panting perspiration,
And to the frog maternal made
The pitiful narration.

O mother, quoth the little frog,
In solemn tones to warn her,
It was a big square-bodied beast
With four legs, one each corner.

How big, replied the mother frog,
I'll be as big as he.
Not if you burst, the child replied,
Could you swell to his degree.

But mother frog sat on a log
In the pond where she resided
And thought she'd emulate the cow,
And finally she tried it.

The cow looked on in solemn mien,
At froggie's marked attentions,
And viewed with wonder and alarm
It swell to her dimensions.

With oxygen and hydrogen
Its little form adjusted
The frog expanded, swelled, and then
Unfortunately busted.

F. STANILAND.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, April 3rd.

The British revenue surplus amounts to £1,300,000.

Mr. Thomas Baring is dead.

London, April 4th.

Serious disturbances through strikes have occurred in Pennsylvania, the strikers at one place making an attack upon coke-works, where the police, firing upon the assailants, killed and wounded forty-nine. Great excitement prevails, and troops have started for the scene.

London, April 6th.

The conference of Colonial Representatives at Sydney for the purpose of preparing a draft convention, has agreed upon a Bill embodying the principles of a federal constitution, the title of the federated colonies to be the Australian Commonwealth of the Crown.

[This telegram has reached us in a somewhat incomprehensible form.—ED. *J.M.*]

London, April 7th.

The Treasury Department of the United States has arrived at the decision that all tea imported into the United States from European countries must bear marks that shall indicate the country in which the tea so imported has been grown.

London, March 8th.

The President of the United States has refused to sanction the negotiation of a commercial treaty with Canada. It is believed that he resents the Canadian electoral attacks upon the United States.

[FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS."]

London, March 19th.

The convention at Sydney has passed resolutions for a Customs Union between the federated Colonies; the federal forces will be combined under one command. The members of the federal Parliament, Senate, and Chamber, will be elected under different systems.

London, March 20th.

Lord Knutsford has presented a bill to revive the lapsed powers of an Act of George the Third empowering Naval Commanders on the Newfoundland Station to enforce the execution of the treaties to which Great Britain is pledged.

London, March 21st.

The Newfoundland Chambers have petitioned the House of Commons to postpone the bill recently introduced by Lord Knutsford.

LOSS OF THE "QUEEN ELIZABETH."

No report of the Court of Enquiry into the loss of this steamer appears in the *Rising Sun*, which gives only the finding, but the following is taken from the particulars of the disaster supplied to the Nagasaki paper by one of the officers:—

The steamer *Queen Elisabeth*, of Glasgow, was owned by Messrs. Thos. Dunlop and Sons, of that port. She was built in 1888, by Messrs. Alex. Stephen and Son, of Glasgow, and was 1,628 tons register, and 250 horse-power. The vessel left Karatsu at 4.30 p.m. on the 20th March, with a full cargo of coal, amounting to, including bunkers, about 4,000 tons. The evening closed in very thick, and with heavy rain; but all went well till about half-past eight, when she struck on a sunken rock. The engines were only going half-speed at the time of the occurrence, otherwise the calamity might have been greater. She was backed off, but it was found that water was making its way rapidly into the fore-hold. The pumps were set to work, but were unable to cope with the influx of water, which now gained rapidly. It having been decided that it would be dangerous to proceed further, in her then state, the captain thought it advisable to make for some safe anchorage, where he could wait for daylight; and it was in making for this desired haven, that the unfortunate ship struck for the second time. This time she could not be got off, having a heavy list to starboard, so much so that it was feared she would go over altogether. It was then resolved to make for the shore, and there await daylight. Throughout the whole time, perfect order was maintained; and the boats left the ship about one o'clock on the morning of the 21st, amid a deluge of rain. The beach where they landed was of a very rocky nature, and afforded but little shelter to the eight and twenty shipwrecked persons. When daylight broke on the scene, a visit was paid to the ship; but as her position was worse than ever, and water making in her stoke-hole and engine-room, it was decided that nothing could be done with her. Meantime the Japanese began to come down to the beach in numbers, and very soon kindled large fires of brushwood, as the rain had now ceased. In the afternoon shelter was found in the fishing village of Kadzumoto, where two large houses were placed at the disposal of the officers and crew. The Japanese of this village were most kind to the castaways, and their stay was made as pleasant as possible under the circumstances. On the morning of the 24th the Japanese men-of-war *Nisshin-kan* and *Banjo-kan* arrived, and the former took off the ship-wrecked crew. The grateful thanks of the officers and crew of the *Queen Elisabeth* are due to the officers and crew of the *Nisshin* for their very kind treatment whilst on board.

The Court of Enquiry was held on the 25th and 28th ult. at the British Consulate, Nagasaki, before J. C. Hall, Esq., H.M.'s Consul; Captain S. J. C. Parsons, Master of the steamer *Zambesi*; and Captain R. Meikle, master of the *Swanhilda*. The following is the finding of the Court:—

1.—That the ship was not properly supplied with charts for the voyage on which she was then engaged.

2.—That the course shaped at 7.30 p.m. on the night of the 20th, viz., W. by S. ½ S., was not a safe one; considering the state of the weather and the darkness of the night.

3.—That proper soundings with the deep sea lead were not taken, and that after obtaining soundings with the hand lead, at 14 fms., the ship should have been hauled off the land.

4.—That the master, in shaping his course, should have made allowance for a possible current setting the ship to leeward.

5.—The Court, therefore, orders that the master's certificate be, for the omissions and mistakes of judgment aforesaid, suspended for six calender months from this day. In consideration, however, of the fact that this is the first accident which has happened to him during the 13 years for which he has been in command of ships, and of his general good conduct and character, the Court recommends the Board of Trade to issue him a First Mate's certificate during that period.

6.—The Court commends the chief officer for having, previous to the casualty, expressed his opinion to the Captain that the ship was too close to the land, and ought to be hauled off. The conduct of the other officers and crew was free from blame.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 17th.
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Tuesday, April 14th.*
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, April 20th †
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 12th.‡
From Hongkong.	per C. P. M. Co.	Sunday, April 19th.§
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, April 18th.‖

* *Batavia* left Vancouver on March 25th. † *Oceanic* left San Francisco on April 2nd. ‡ *Ancona* left Nagasaki on April 9th. § *Empress of India* left Hongkong on April 7th. ‖ *Tanjore* (with French mail) left Hongkong on April 9th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 11th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 12th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 14th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, April 17th.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, April 18th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, April 23rd.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8.58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri*.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri*.)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TOKYO-SHIOGAMA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UENO (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 9.57 a.m. and 3.04 and 6.11 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (down) at 8 a.m. and 12.34 and 5.42 p.m.; KORIYAMA (down) at 9.24 a.m. and 1.53 and 7.01 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (down) at 7.30 and 11.35 a.m. and 3.48 p.m.; and SENDAI (down) at 6.15 and 10.25 a.m. and 2.35 and 6.45 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE SHIOGAMA (up) at 6.50 and 11 a.m., and 3.10 and 7.20 p.m.; SENDAI (up) at 7.30 and 11.40 a.m., and 3.50 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (up) at 6.40 and 10.23 a.m. and 2.36 p.m.; KORIYAMA (up) at 8.28 a.m., and 12.15 and 4.26 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (up) at 6.30 and 9.45 a.m., and 1.35 p.m.; and UTSUNOMIYA (up) at 6.15 and 9 3 a.m., and 12.20, 4.18 and 6.30 p.m.

FARES.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6.45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Ueno.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen*, third-class, 25 *sen*.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.03, 4.42, and 6.09 p.m., and 12.08 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.05, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1.10, 4.35, 7.10, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.35, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11 55 a.m., and 2.44 6, and 9 20 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 10.26 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OFU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.55 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, and 6.03 p.m., and 12.33 and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, and 7 p.m., and 1.25 and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, and 7.29 p.m., and 1.54 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 3.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 8 43 a.m., and 3.59, 7.01, 8.57, and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.40, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.50 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.30, and 11.08 p.m., and 5.36 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 12.36, 8.18, and 11.12 p.m., and 7 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, and 9.30 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, and 10.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 4.34 p.m., and 12.15 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, and 5.19 p.m., and 1.10 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, and 6.59 p.m., and 2.41 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3 05 a.m.; OGAKI at 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OFU at 9.01 and 11.53 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 5.57, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11.50 a.m., and 6.02 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.08, 7.17, and 9 43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TÔKYÔ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6, 8.50, and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.45 p.m.

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE SHINJIKU, TOKYO, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m.; and HACHIOJI (up) at 5.25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

FARES—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60; third-class *sen* 30.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.50 and 9.25 a.m., and 2.20 and 5.15 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.25 and 10.10 a.m., and 2.05 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

TAKETOYO-OFU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OFU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6 and 9.55 a.m, and 1.15 and 5.30 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 7.50, and 11.48 a.m., and 3.08 and 7.23 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 5.45 and 9.40 a.m., and 1 and 4.25 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 6.47 and 10.42 a.m., and 2 02 and 5.26 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1 98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 69.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.: and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—FARE, *sen* 20.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 3rd April,—Handa 2nd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 3rd April,—Shanghai and ports 27th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Djemnah, French steamer, 2,200, Bonnefoy, 4th April,—Hongkong 26th, Shanghai 30th March, and Kobe 3rd April, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 4th April,—Hakodate 1st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 4th April,—Yokkaichi 3rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomsen, 5th April,—Niigata 1st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 5th April,—Kobe 4th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigelthal, 5th April,—Fushiki 2nd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Mitamura, 5th April,—Yokkaichi 4th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Thibet, British steamer, 1,676, W. S. Brown, 6th April,—Hongkong 27th March and Kobe 4th April, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 6th April,—Yokkaichi 5th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dardanus, British steamer, 1,507, T. Purdy, 7th April,—Kobe 5th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 7th April,—Hakodate 5th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Angers, British steamer, 2,087, Pinkham, 7th April,—Shanghai 2nd April, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 7th April,—Yokkaichi 6th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 8th April,—Hongkong 2nd April, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 8th April,—Handa 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 8th April,—Kobe 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,448, Okuma, 8th April,—Hakodate 5th April, General.—S. Asano & Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomsen, 8th April,—Yokkaichi 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 8th April,—Hakodate 6th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 148, J. T. Harrison, 9th April,—Guam 16th March, Copra.—Jardine, Matheson ■ Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Miri, 9th April,—Sakata 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceana, German steamer, 1,628, G. Peterson, 9th April,—Hongkong 2nd April, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,129, R. R. Searle, 9th April,—San Francisco 21st March, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Idzumo Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Hayashi, 9th April,—Kobe 8th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 9th April,—Kobe 8th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 10th April,—Yokkaichi 9th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

J. B. Walker, American ship, 2,178, Geo. Wallace, 10th April,—New York 1st November, Oil.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,082, Allen, 10th April,—Hongkong viâ Kobe 9th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner,

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11th April,—Shanghai and ports 5th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gerard C. Tobey, American bark, 1,390, Gibbs, 11th April,—New York 3rd November, Oil and General.—Captain.

Breconshire, British steamer, 1,648, Jackson, 11th April,—Kobe 9th April, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Moyune, British steamer, 2,640, J. S. Hogg, 11th April,—Kobe 9th April, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 856, Trenut, 3rd April,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 3rd April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 596, Mitamura, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 4th April,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Endeavour, British steamer, 1,640, Thompson, 4th April,—Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 4th April,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 4th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 4th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aglaia, German steamer, 1,668, Christiansen, 5th April,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 5th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Piccola, German steamer, 875, Nessau, 5th April, —Nagasaki, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 5th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomsen, 6th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Spiegalthal, 6th April,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alliance (6), United States cruiser, Captain H. C. Taylor, 7th April,—Shanghai.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 7th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 7th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 7th April,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saratoga, Norwegian ship, 1,398, Zernichow, 8th April.—Puget Sound, Ballast.—Captain.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 8th April,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 8th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 8th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Angers, British steamer, 2,087, Pinkham, 8th April, —Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 9th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thompsen, 9th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Miru, 10th April,—Hachinohe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 10th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dardanus, British steamer, 1,507, T. Purdy, 10th April,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 11th April,—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Thibet, British steamer, 1,676, W. S. Broun, 11th April,—Kobe, Nagasaki, Hongkong, and Bombay, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Miss Clara Howard, Miss Orth, Mr. Orth, Mr. Frank Ronalds, and Captain W. G. Forbes in cabin; Mr. Shiraishi in second class, and 55 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Djemnah*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Feldman, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Messrs. Harris, Hunt, de Soliveus, Miss J. Fanny, Mr. Lecomte, Captain and Mrs. Gerrard and child, Mrs. Clarke and 2 daughters, Dr. Geo. Goodall, Captain A. Goodale, Messrs. Shibuya, Trumont, R. de Lavisory, Takada, Mr. and Mrs. Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. Weber, Messrs. R. Field, Stephenson, W. Rathbone, P. Rathbone, Field, E. Ware, Major-General Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. Prentice, Miss Birmingham, Misses B. and M. Gray, Mr. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Mathewson, Mr. S. Kynett, Mr. R. P. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Messrs. Thelche, Robertson, Rev. Mr. Crosby, Mr. A. Rathbone, Mr. Stone, Dr. Ellis, Count Greppi and servant, Mr. Fraser, Rev. M. Arthur, Messrs. Birmingham, P. A. Rossell, C. Rossell, Dr. Fisher, Dr. Bonar, Messrs. Gardner, Hawes, Bethell, Percival Lowell, Ross Curtis, Miss Cornell, L'Abbé Sutter, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, Mr. Elwes, Sir W. and Lady Ffolkes and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Moller, Mr. and Mrs. Hong, Miss Lee, Mr. Petsaly, Mr. and Mrs. Mallaivre, Miss Debay, Messrs. Bernard Meivesta, and Herve in cabin; 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—Miss Webb, Messrs. E. S. Bell, E. R. Woodman, James Williams, S. Kobano, and R. Koidzumi in cabin; 42 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Dardanus*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Weatherstone and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Heath in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Bouton, Messrs. N. S. Bouton, A. J. Averill, Fraser, Scoville, Barney, Olger, D. S. Lasder, Percy Percival, A. H. Ough, Smith, Joy, Mrs. Burgess Watson, 2 children, and maid, Mr. Houlton, Mr. Rodriguez, Miss Graham, Commander H. C. B. Hulbert, R.N., Mr. G. H. Wood, Mr. Ralph Smith, and Mrs. Robbins in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. Liebes and Mr. Pace in cabin; 11 passengers in European and 180 in Chinese steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. Yendo, Mrs. Sonoda and 3 children, Mr. H. Henson, Miss Platty, Messrs. R. Asada, S. Ijiri, R. Mizushiri, and Miss Sasada in cabin; 39 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. D. Pricol, C. D. Livierato, C. W. Collier, C. B. Bernhard, W. D. Gerke, E. H. Kenney and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Ogle, Messrs. M. Bolles, M. Baggally, M. Gillingham, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pattison, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Montell, Mr. F. K. Muramatsu, Mrs. M. P. Storey, Lieut. and Mrs. Smith, and Mr. B. Hyde Pearson in cabin. For Hongkong: Messrs. Geo. Haubart, M. Purriz, J. Stewart Happer, Mrs. X. Hill, Mrs. H. H. Paxton and Miss Paxton, and Mr. T. B. Cunningham in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. O. P. Bland, Misses Sutton, Thomas, Bishop Williams, Count de Llorente, Dr. Scranton and family, Dr. and Mrs. Wainwright, Messrs. Kirby, F. da Roza, O. Vinals, T. Winkler, C. F. Strome, W. Lebetoff, J. H. Armstrong, J. L. Pereira, J. T. Cole, E. Volke, Fr. Neck, M. Revilliod, Borbes, and W. A. Wilson in cabin; 11 Japanese and 4 Chinese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Miss Flora M. Bristowe, Mr. Nelson and son, Messrs. T. B. Clarke-Thornhill, Bennett, Goodison, and C. W. Arnould in cabin; 4 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. N. Foot, Geo. Sale, A. Barnes, Revilliod, H. S. Freese, R. Hamilton, Kato, L. Ridout, J. G. Holt, Lieut. L. Wood, Miss A. Parker, Miss S. M. Burnet, Miss E. MacRae, and Mr. and Mrs. Hashiguchi in cabin; 34 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for Hongkong:—Mr. C. S. Moore in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 783 bales; for London 32 bales; total 815 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 27th March at noon. Arrived at Nagasaki the 29th at 5 a.m. and left the 30th at 5.30 p.m. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 31st at 6 a.m. and left at 10.30 a.m. Arrived at Kobe the 1st April at 8 a.m. and left the 2nd at noon. Arrived at Yokohama the 3rd April at 4.30 p.m.; had light to moderate winds and fine pleasant weather throughout the passage.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Hakodate the 1st April at 2 p.m. Arrived at Oginohama the 2nd at 1.15 p.m. and left the 3rd at 4 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 4th at 6.40 a.m.; had fine weather all the passage.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Kobe the 4th April at noon; had fine weather and light winds to Oshima, which was passed at 9.35 p.m.; thence to Omaisaki had strong E.S.E. winds and head sea; passed Rock Island the 5th at 3.10 p.m.; thence to port light variable airs and calm. Time of arrival at Yokohama at 9.45 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 4th April at 2 p.m.; rounded Shiriya-saki at 5.30 p.m.; had light to moderate southerly winds with fine weather and smooth sea. Arrived at Oginohama the 5th at 1 p.m. and left the 6th at 5.30 a.m.; had moderate northerly winds and cloudy dull weather; at noon wind freshening to moderate and strong north gale with thick rainy weather and tremendous head sea; passed Inuboye at 7 p.m.; at 11 p.m. weather and sea moderating; rounded Noshima the 7th at 1 a.m., had strong to fresh north wind up to port. Time of arrival at Yokohama 6 a.m.

The American steamer *China*, Captain Seabury, reports:—Left Hongkong the 2nd April; had strong N.E. monsoon with foggy weather through Formosa Channel; easterly winds across eastern sea; from Lunschoten group hard gales from N. to N.N.E. blowing with hurricane force during the night of the 6th; from noon of 7th to report fine weather with moderate northerly winds.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate the 6th April at 2 p.m.; had light breeze and overcast sky; when passed Shiriya-saki wind hauled to N.E. strong breeze and thick, with snow and sleet, remaining so until Cape Riore was passed; then, weather clearing and moderating, had moderate winds from N.W. to S.W. to Noshima, when wind hauled round to north; off Sagami passed British schooner *Esmeralda* beating up. Arrived at Yokohama the 8th April at 10.45 a.m.

The British schooner *Esmeralda*, Captain J. T. Harrison, reports:—Left Guam the 16th March for Yokohama viâ Northern Islands of the Mariana Group; lost trade winds in lat. 20° N.; light winds and calms to the Bonin Islands; thence to port frequent heavy gales and very high sea. Arrived off Noshima light the 6th April at 3 p.m., but had to put to sea again for a very hard gale from the N.N.E. Arrived at Yokohama the 8th April at 7 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain Searle, reports:—Left San Francisco the 21st March; had fine weather with variable winds throughout with exception of last two days, during which we had strong winds from S.E. to N.W. with rough cross sea and heavy northerly swell; crossed meridian 33.43. Time 17 days, 20 hours, and 31 minutes.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There has not been much change in the general aspect of the market during the past week; dealers have been about, and from all that can be learned respecting the condition of trade in the country it may be gathered that a slow improvement is going on and that if crop prospects continue favourable trade will benefit accordingly, but it will take a long time to re-establish prosperity. Sales of English Yarn amount to about 1,000 bales; prices show a further decline on nearly all counts. Bombays have been very dull, owing to the competition of the Japanese mill productions, which are being offered freely at low rates. Sales of Shirtings amount to about 2,000 pieces, T.-Cloths 3,300 pieces, and Victoria Lawns 5,000 pieces, but there has been almost nothing doing in Fancies or Woollens.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.10
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches...	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	1.40	to	1.90

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Cotton—Italians and Sattoons Black, 32 inches	per yards	0.07	to 0.15
Turkey Reds—1¼ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per piece	1.07½	to 1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches		1.27½	to 1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches		1.87½	to 1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches		4.50	to 6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches		0.50	to 0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches		1.35	to 2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches		$4.00	to 5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best		0.24½	to [illegible]
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium		0.20	to 24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common		0.16	to 20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches		0.11½	to 0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches		0.30	to 0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches		0.47½	to 0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches		0.30	to 0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb,	per lb	0.30	to 0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary		$25.00	to 27.50
Nos. 16/24, Medium		27.75	to 28.25
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best		28.50	to 30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse		30.00	to 32.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary		29.00	to 29.50
Nos. 28/32, Medium		29.75	to 31.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best		31.00	to 32.50
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best		35.50	to 36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold		34.00	to 35.50
No. 42s, Two-fold		36.00	to 38.00
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay		70.00	to 78.00
No. 16s, Bombay		70.00	to 77.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

A fair amount of sales at last quotations, but dealers will only pay current rates for "spot" cargo, offering lower prices for anything "to arrive."

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ¼ inch		$2.80	to 2.85
Flat Bars, ½ inch		2.90	to 2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch		2.85	to 2.95
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted		2.90	to 3.00
Sheet Iron		3.00	to 3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets		6.20	to 6.40
Wire Nails, assorted		4.40	to 4.70
Tin Plates, per box		5.70	to 6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3		1.40	to 1.45

KEROSENE.

Small sales of American Oil at quotations. Market is called steady, but without much business doing. Nothing done in Russian. The *Endeavour* landed 50,000 cases here, and took the balance of her cargo to Kobe. There have been some arrivals, and present stock is close upon 700,000 cases of sold and unsold Oil.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.65	to 1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to 1.65
Devoe	1.60	to 1.62½
Russian	1.55	to 1.60

SUGAR.

Market quiet, and Browns have dropped in price. Takao is nominally $3.90, but holders will not part at this price. White quiet and unchanged in value.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$3.90	to 3.95	
Brown Daitong	3.10	to 3.95	
Brown Canton	5.00	to 6.00	
Brown Java and Penang	5.30	to 6.00	
White Refined	5.00	to 7.75	

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 3rd April; since that date settlements on this Market amount to 1,870 piculs divided thus:—*Filatures*, 1,163; *Re-reels*, 466; *Kakeda*, 238; *Oshu*, 13. Direct shipments have been nothing during the present week; consequently the total export business remains at the above figures—1,870 piculs.

The great activity noted in our last continued, and prices were still further advanced, the top price paid for best *Shinshu* filatures being $655. This was the turning point; buyers refused to go on at these extreme rates, and after two days quiet Market holders gave way to some extent. A fresh amount of business was done at our quotations given below, and the Market closes quiet with a tendency towards ease.

Exchange has been fairly steady with a very slight fluctuation, and has had practically no effect on our Market either one way or another.

Arrivals from the interior are very scanty and present stock list is down to 3,100 piculs. There are some further supplies in the country, but they are not of any great moment, and it is not likely that we shall see further arrivals of any great consequence during the present season.

The Spring weather seems very favourable for vegetation in most districts, and consequently there is at present no reason to fear for the coming crop. Holders are getting slightly anxious in face of the advanced point of the season at which we have arrived; at the same time they will not reduce prices very much although they can well afford to do so having regard to the large quantity of silk they have lately sold at very high figures. As before noted stocks of all kinds are very much reduced with the single exception of Re-reels; in this class holders remain very firm especially for chop silks, and thus stand in the way of business being done.

There has only been one shipping opportunity during the week, the English Mail of the 5th inst. This vessel, the *Verona*, took 815 bales for Europe and the present export figures are 27,649 piculs, against 34,980 last year and 38,364 at the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Nothing done; holders are strong and ask $530 for 50 bales of *Shinshu Hanks, Shimare*, grading No. 2½. Same price is wanted for some *Chichibu Hanks*, of fine size but poor in colour and quality.

Filatures.—The large business noted in our last went on, prices rising daily until $655 was paid for some best *Shinshu*, fine size, for Europe. In coarse sizes $625 was paid and the remaining stock of best chops was at once held off the Market for $640 or over. At one time *Shunmeisha* asked this figure ($640) for his silk, but after trying the market in vain he reduced his pretensions to $630 and $620, finally selling about 100 piculs at $610. For the moment this last may stand as the representative quotation for this class of silk. Good quality and well known marks are now very scarce and are likely to be so until new silk comes round again. *Koshu* filature, *Yajima*, has just been done at $605.

Re-reels.—Comparatively small business in this class owing to the firmness with which holders keep their stock off the market. *Koriyama* have been done at $595, with second quality at $575; *Joshu* 1½ at $575; *Chichibu* $580; but no business passing in any of the well known recognised *Joshu* marks.

Kakeda.—Considerable purchases at an advance in price and present stock is down to 100 piculs.

Oshu.—One parcel of *Sendai* has passed the scales, and that brought $550 per picul.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1½	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$530 to 540
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	530 to 535
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	520 to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	520 to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	510 to 515
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	500 to 505
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	480 to 490
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		640 to 650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		630 to 635
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		610 to 630
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		615 to 620
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		600 to 610
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		600 to 610
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		580 to 590
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		560 to 570
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		585 to 595
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		570 to 580
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		550 to 555
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520 to 540
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1		575 to 580
Kakedas—No. 1½		565 to 570
Kakedas—No. 2		555 to 560
Kakedas—No. 2½		545 to 550
Kakedas—No. 3		525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 3½		515 to 520
Kakedas—No. 4		505 to 510
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		540 to 550
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 10th April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	12,267	14,575	19,705
America	14,797	19,948	18,328
Total { Bales	27,064	34,523	38,033
Total { Piculs	27,649	34,980	38,364
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,400	35,150	38 000
Stock, 10th April	3,100	2,150	3,300
Available supplies to date	34,500	37,300	41,300

WASTE SILK.

Settlements in this branch are 381 piculs, namely: *Noshi*, 71; *Kibiso*, 294; *Neri*, 16.

Arrivals are now very light and even with the small daily sales stock is decreased 300 piculs on the week. The quality still runs down, and although quotations still [illegible] buyers would gladly pay [illegible] better quality.

The expo[illegible]URE, AND ART.

consisti[illegible]

am[illegible]

br[illegible] 遷信省編纂 [illegible] [illegible] to 27,919

pic[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 29,342 at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—The larger portion of our stock has been returned into the interior for use in home consumption. The export season for this produce may be considered closed.

Noshi.—Small dealings in *Joshu* are from $72 to $82. The assortment on offer is now very poor and unattractive.

Kibiso.—Considerable business done in *Low Curlies* at from $25 to $35. A few bales *Filature* at $118, *Shinshu* at $65, $48 and $37. Some inferior *Oshu* passed the scales at $42½ and $35.

Mawata.—No transactions, the stock being old and undesirable in quality.

Sundries.—Another sale of *Tama-ito* at $210, and some small purchases of *Neri* at from $10 to $15, according to quality.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—
Noshi-ito—Hushu, Good to Best	130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to 8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 10th April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	26,632	23,882	26,864
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	27,919	26,072	29,342
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	29,300	27,600	29,950
Stock, 10th April	3,400	5,850	4,000
Available supplies to date	32,700	33,450	33,950

Exchange has been fairly steady throughout the week; closing as under with a probable tendency downwards in the near future:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3½; Documents, 3/3⅝; NEW YORK, 30 d/s. U.S. $78½; 4m/s. U.S. $79½; PARIS, 4m/s. fcs. 4.10; 6m/s. fcs. 4.12.

Estimated Silk Stock, 10th April, 1891:—

Raw.	piculs.	Waste.	piculs.
Hanks	80	Cocoons	100
Filatures	1,050	Noshi-ito	950
Re-reels	1,814	Kibiso	2,000
Kakeda	102	Mawata	140
Oshu	49	Sundries	150
Tayasaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	3,100	Total piculs	3,400

TEA.

Nothing doing; no stock; season closed. Settlements to date 217,250 piculs against 184,000 piculs last year. All quotations withdrawn. Weather is good for the crop, and some sample packages of new Tea should go forward by the *Belgic* in a fortnight's time.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has been fairly steady during the week, but there are symptoms at the close of a weakness that indicates a decline.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2⅝
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.02
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.12
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78½
Silver	44⅜

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[illegible]y, American bar[illegible]
11th April,—New York 3rd Nove[illegible]
General.—Captain.

Breconshire, British steamer, 1,648, Jackso[illegible]
April.—Kobe 9th April, General.—Adam[illegible]

[illegible]eamer, [illegible] S. Hogg, 11th

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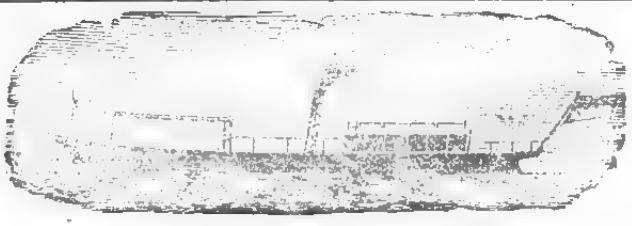

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"PAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated bye th name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1891.

BIRTH.

On the 11th inst., the wife of J. N. SEYMOUR of a Daughter.

DEATH.

In Hongo, Tokyo, Monday, April 13th, from disease of the brain, URIEL LHAMON SMITH, aged 21 months, son of Geo. T. and Candace L. Smith.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE peach trees on the banks of the Rikugogawa, Kawasaki, are now in full blossom.

THE *Kongo Kan* and *Hiyei Kan* arrived at Singapore on the 13th instant, *en route* for Japan.

THE HON. MRS. SWIFT, wife of the late American Minister, will start from Japan on the 23rd instant for home.

THE Russian Minister will start from the capital on the 22nd instant for Nagasaki to receive H.I.H. the Czarewitch.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL proceeded on the 11th instant to the Imperial hunting preserves at Minamitoshimagori, Tokyo.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA TAKEHITO will proceed to Nagasaki about the 17th instant to receive the Russian Prince Imperial.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Tea Export Company will be held on the 22nd instant, in the capital.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO and his family left the capital on the 11th instant to visit their villa at Numazu.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Kyushu Railway Company will take place about the 28th instant at Monji, Buzen.

THE receipts of the Horonai Railway in Hokkaido, during the three months ended March last, were *yen* 56,298.177, showing an increase of *yen* 16,708.457 as compared with the same period of the previous year.

VISCOUNT TANUMA NOZOMU, ex-Chief of the Kokubo clan, Kazusa, was elected a member of the House of Peers on the 10th instant.

THE daily average receipts of the Kyushu Railway Company are at present over *yen* 1,357, which shows an average of *yen* 13.10 per mile.

A DRAWING of Seven per Cent. Capitalized Pension Bonds amounting to *yen* 3,000,000 will take place on the 28th instant at 10 a.m. in the office of the Bank of Japan.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR proceeded on the 10th inst. at 1.30 p.m. to the residence of Count Kawamura, a Privy Councillor, returning to the Palace in the evening.

THE receipts of the Kabuki Theatre, Kobikicho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, during the 15 days ended the 28th ultimo, were about *yen* 20,000, making a daily average of over *yen* 1,333.

THE *Chiyoda Kan* arrived at Yokosuka on the 11th instant about 5 a.m. Viscount Kabayama, Minister of State for the Navy, proceeded thither the same afternoon and visited the ship.

A FINE ART EXHIBITION will be held by members of the Meiji Art Society in the former buildings of the Nobles' Club at Uyeno for about 30 days, commencing on the 11th of next month.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 14th instant, at which there were present Counts Matsukata, Yamada, Saigo, and Goto, Viscount Aoki, and Messrs. Mutsu and Yoshikawa.

THEIR MAJESTIES THE EMPEROR and EMPRESS will proceed to the Hama Detached Palace on the 24th instant to view the cherry trees in the enclosure of the Palace, which will then be in full blossom.

THE fifth general meeting of members of the Red Cross Society of Japan will be held on the 21st inst., at the former Suisan Kan, or Marine Products Hall, in Uyeno Park. H.M. the Empress will, it is expected, be present on the occasion.

DURING the month of February last the Sanyo Railway Company carried 77,390 passengers, from whom *yen* 12,343.67 was realized by the sale of tickets. During the same period 7,400 tons of freight were carried, realizing *yen* 2,512.27.

MESSRS. UNO HOGARA and Sasaki Masakichi, Professors, and Yamagiwa Katsusaburo, an Assistant Professor of the College of Medicine in the Imperial University, were ordered on the 14th instant to proceed to Germany with the object of investigating Dr. Koch's invention.

DURING last year 495 fires occurred in the city of Tokyo, by which 4,501 houses burned. Of the above figure 200 fires were incendiary, the remainder being caused by the upsetting of lamps, or by accidents in connection with *hibachi* or furnaces.

MEMBERS of the Kanagawa Prefectural Assembly elected from the city of Yokohama and a number of members of the Yokohama City Assembly met on the 13th instant at the Machigaisho, and conferred as to the presentation of a petition to the Government asking that Mr. Asada, Governor of Kanagawa, should not be removed.

MR. NUMATA MASAYOSHI, who sent to the *Nippon* a copy of the letter supposed to be forwarded from Mr. Tei to Lord Li, the present Chinese Minister, is now on trial at the Tokyo Local Court. On the 13th Messrs. Tei Yeinei, Tei Yeiho, and Tei Yeikei, Mrs. Numata and her sister, and Mr. Matsuno Shinjiro were summoned as witnesses.

DURING the week ended the 10th instant 4,079 persons visited the Fine Art Exhibition in Uyeno Park. From the opening of the Exhibition up to the 10th instant 13,199 visitors were registered, of whom 74 were distinguished, 1,438 special, and 10,926 ordinary visitors, the remainder being members of the Fine Art Society, and students of the Tokyo Fine Art and Tokyo Technical Schools.

THE trial of Matsumoto Kyuichi, who threw from the gallery of the Lower House a quantity of horse-dung wrapped up in paper, and his instigators Asai Yoshio (aged 24), a *shizoku* of Wakayama Prefecture, and Kubota Shunosuke (aged 25), a *shizoku* of Miyagi Prefecture, has been concluded, and judgment was given on the 14th instant in the Tokyo Local Court. Asai was sentenced to 10 months' major confinement, and a fine of 20 *yen*, Kubota to 5 months' major confinement and a fine of 15 *yen*, and Matsumoto to major confinement for 2 months and to pay a fine of 10 *yen*.

THE Japanese Consul at San Francisco reports that the total amount of the trade between Japan and San Francisco during the month of January last was $898,824, of which $37,069 represented exports from San Francisco to Japan, and $861,775 imports. The values of articles forwarded to the Eastern States of America through San Francisco during the period amounted to $303,098. The following are the values of imports and exports over $5,000 during the month:—Imports, $9,937 coal, $9,742 rice, $21,164 mats, $759,102 raw silk, and $22,387 tea; exports, $7,443 wheat flour, $14,114 leather, and $5,612 provisions.

THE Import trade is without much alteration, and what Yarns have been taken went off at prices in buyer's favour generally, in some instances at a reduction of 50 cents per picul. Grey Shirtings and Italian Cloth have been taken in small quantities, but prices are almost nominal. The Metal market is not brisk, and rates are about the same. Buyers, however, make low offers for parcels to arrive, but importers do not catch on. Kerosene is quiet, and prices unaltered. The heavy stock has been further increased by the arrival of two cargoes from New York. The Sugar trade is not active, and as Browns are still coming in a large stock is accumulating. The Silk market has not been so brisk, though, with the paucity of high qualities now on offer, this is a natural condition of the trade. The stock is very much reduced, and many parcels now on the market are not suitable for export, and will be used up by Japanese manufacturers. Arrivals are very light, and what comes is not first class, in fact all the tip-top Silk has been cleared off, and so far as the best chops are concerned the season is practically at an end. The mulberry is reported healthy and abundant, and the early worms will be out in a week or ten days. Waste Silk has been dull, the assortment being now very poor, and the stock left is not large. Nothing unfavourable has occurred with regard to the new Tea crop, and no frost is reported from any quarter. A check to growth, however, has probably taken place on account of the fall in the temperature, but this is not looked upon as a drawback to quality, though it may slightly retard early production. Exchange has not been subject to much variation, and is weak at latest quotations.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE TEI AFFAIR.

THE public has heard nothing for some time about the Tei affair, which caused such keen excitement in Tokyo when it was first known. It will be remembered that the *Nippon* newspaper published a letter communicated by a person giving the *nom de plume* of "Untosei." The letter purported to be a copy of one addressed to His Excellency Lord Li, the present Representative of China in Tokyo, and the description given of himself by the writer clearly identified him as Mr. Tei, formerly Japanese *Chargé d'Affaires* in Peking. The sender of the letter did not give his real name and address to the *Nippon*, but the latter nevertheless departed from the usual journalistic custom by inserting the letter in its columns. The *Nippon* went so far as to point out that the internal evidence furnished by the letter indicated Mr. Tei as the author, and for a time the latter was branded as a black traitor to his country. Mr. Tei immediately instituted proceedings against the *Nippon*, and the result of the suit was awaited with curiosity. Evidently, the discovery of the person who sent the letter to the *Nippon* constituted the most important link in the evidence, but it seemed scarcely likely that this could be found out, as "Untosei" had not afforded any apparent clue to identification. The *Jiji Shimpo*, however, now alleges that the original of "Untosei" has been traced, and that he is a *Shisoku* of Tokyo, by name Numata Masanobu. The evidence of identity is said to have been procured by a Chinese, but our contemporary passes over this part of the business in a very cursory fashion, merely remarking that the discovery of "Untosei" will enable the mystery to be cleared up.

CHANGES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

A NUMBER of changes in Local Governments are announced in the *Official Gazette* of yesterday. The list is as follows:—

NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	FORMER POSITION.
Mr Koteda Yasusada	Prefect of Niigata	Prefect of Shimane.
Mr. Matsudaira Masanao	Prefect of Kumamoto.	Prefect of Miyagi.
Mr. Funakoshi Mamoru	Prefect of Miyagi	Prefect of Ishikawa.
Mr. Oki Morikata	Prefect of Shiga	Retired List.
Mr. Uchiumi Tadakatsu	Prefect of Kanagawa.	Prefect of Nagano.
Mr. Iwayama Kaneyoshi	Prefect of Ishikawa.	Prefect of Miyazaki
Mr. Asada Tokunori	Prefect of Nagano.	Prefect of Kanagawa.
Mr. Chida Teigyo	Prefect of Wakayama.	Prefect of Niigata.
Mr. Iwazaki Kojiro	Prefect of Oita	Prefect of Shiga.
Mr. Tatemori Mao	Prefect of Kagawa.	Retired List.
Mr. Nakamura Motoo	Prefect of Gumma.	Chief of Taxation Bureau in Finance Department.
Mr. Nishimura Ryokichi	Prefect of Tottori	Prefect of Oita.
Mr. Shinozaki Goro	Prefect of Shimane.	Retired List (formerly Prefect of Niigata).
Mr. Nagamine Yakichi.	Prefect of Miyazaki.	Secretary of Osaka City Government.

* * *

The following are placed on the Retired List:—

NAME.	FORMER POST.
Mr. Tomioka Keimei	Prefect of Kumamoto.
Mr. Shibawara Wa	Prefect of Kagawa.
Mr. Sato Yozo	Prefect of Gumma.
Mr. Ishikawa Chiuryo	Prefect of Wakayama.
Mr. Takei Morimasa	Prefect of Tottori.

* * *

Mr. Uchiumi Tadakatsu, who becomes Prefect of Kanagawa, moving there from Nagano, was formerly Prefect of Hyogo, and while in that position earned great popularity among the foreign residents. The post of Prefect of Kanagawa is now regarded as the most important local appointment in Japan, after the Governorship of Tokyo and Osaka.

* * *

Two new members of the House of Peers are also nominated by the Emperor. They are Mr. Tomioka Keimei, hitherto Prefect of Kumamoto, but now placed on the Retired List, and Mr. Kyoura Keigo, Chief of the Police Bureau in the Home Department. Mr. Tomioka became Prefect of Kumamoto sixteen years ago, when it was among the least easily governed districts in the empire. When the Satsuma rebellion broke out, he was besieged in Kumamoto Castle with Viscount Tani, and in consequence of a severe wound then received, he more than once sought to retire from active life, after the suppression of the rebellion. His resignation was not accepted, however, and only now, at the advanced age of 72, is he enabled to retire to the comparative ease of a member of the Upper House.

THE JIYU SHIMBUN.

THE complications connected with the editorship and control of the *Jiyu Shimbun* culminated in a *fracas* on the 11th instant. At 7 o'clock in the morning, Messrs. Mogi and Sato, attended by a couple of youths described as *soshi*—every "gentleman at large" is a *soshi* now-a-days—made their appearance at the office of the paper. They found Mr. Nakanishi in charge, who told them that he was there as the representative of Mr. Naohara, and that they could not be admitted. After some altercation, Messrs. Mogi and Sato retired, saying that they should consult Mr. Naohara. Soon afterwards they returned at the head of about twenty *soshi*. Mr. Nakanishi asked whether they had obtained Mr. Naohara's permission, to which Mr. Mogi replied that there was no occasion to consult Mr. Naohara, and at once began to force his way in. Resistance being offered by Mr. Nakanishi, the *soshi* fell upon him. He defended himself with a chair, and received two wounds on his head, but nevertheless managed to seize two of his assailants and hand them over to the police, who arrived upon the scene in a few minutes.

COUNT YAMADA.

THE *Official Gazette* announces the promotion of H.E. Count Yamada, Minister of State for Justice, to the First Grade of the Second Rank. This very unusual promotion attracts much attention. No other member of the present Cabinet occupies a higher position than the Second Grade of the Second Rank, and Count Yamada is consequently placed by the present promotion above the heads of all his colleagues. By some the honour paid to the Minister of State for Justice is referred to the successful compilation and promulgation of the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure, and there can be very little doubt, we think, that this is the proximate cause. But the elevation of one member of the Cabinet above the heads of his colleagues, in official rank, though his services may justify the measure, is not unlikely to prelude his retirement or removal to another post, and in that light the announcement of yesterday is regarded by many.

WATANABE KAZAN.

WE described, last autumn, the festival held in Tokyo to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the well known painter, Watanabe Kazan. The people of his native place in Mikawa province have now followed Tokyo's example, by setting up a handsome monument to his memory on the site of the old castle of Tomoye. On the 3rd instant a great ceremony was organised in honour of the completion of the work, wrestling, fireworks, and other features being all present. A colossal green arch, erected at the entrance of the road leading to the monument, was decorated with the flags of all nations, in memory of the fact that Watanabe had made a painting of the various national ensigns of the West and sent them to the *Kuge* of his time. The monument was a single slab thirteen feet high and 6½ feet broad. The superscription had been written by the late Prince Sanjo; the inscription, composed by Professor Kawata, and written by Mr. Cho Sanshiu, a celebrated caligraphist, formerly tutor to His Majesty the Emperor. The most interesting feature of the affair was an exhibition of Watanabe's pictures. No less than three hundred had been brought together, several being invaluable masterpieces.

THE CABINET.

RUMOURS about Cabinet changes continue to fill the air. A short time ago, it was only Count Yamagata who contemplated resigning. Now the Count is resolutely bent upon retiring from the Presidency of the Cabinet, while Count Oyama, Viscount Aoki, and Mr. Yoshikawa are all determined to divest themselves of their portfolios. The Tokyo News Agency is so confident about the truth of this information, and of the supplementary statement that the retiring Ministers will become members of the Privy Council, that it has taken the pains to inquire into the circumstances of the latter body, and now records the result of its inquiry, namely, that although the number of Privy Councillors is not complete, the appropriation for their maintenance is entirely absorbed by the present establishment, and if any additional Councillors are appointed, they will have to go without salaries until next year. We imagine that this forecast of changes considerably exceeds the limits of probability. Count Yamagata's retirement in favour of Count Saigo would not surprise us. The present Minister President never, we believe, contemplated a protracted tenure of office. He accepted the leadership of the Government at a time of great difficulty, and he held the reins with remarkable judgment throughout the first session of the Diet, a period within which the fall of his Cabinet had been confidently predicted by many politicians. The prediction came within very close range of fulfilment. Probably very few know how severely the proceedings of the Diet in December and January tested the strength of the Cabinet's cohesion. Had the combination between the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* accomplished its purpose in respect of the Budget, it is hard to see how Count Yamagata could have remained in power. Well-informed persons said openly, at that time, that Count Okuma had one hand on the presidential chair, and that the secession of the twenty-five Radicals saved the Government. It was most fortunate for the smooth working of parliamentary institutions in Japan that such a crisis was not precipitated during the first session of the first Diet, and the Minister President deserves much credit for his skilful steering. But Count Yamagata is not an ambitious man. His tenure of office was never likely to outlast the period dictated by public expediency, and he apparently thinks that the period has terminated now. It is not given to outsiders to understand his reasons for such a conclusion, or to apprehend the arguments in favour of his replacement by Count Saigo. However, things seem to point in that direction. But that a change of Minister President would be accompanied by any large alteration in the other members of the Cabinet, we do not believe.

* * *

One thing must strike every observer of Japanese politics, namely, that the present period is a species of interregnum. Government by party has not become an accomplished fact, but is undoubtedly in the air. The Cabinet, though nominally unaffected by the action of the Diet, could scarcely have survived the success of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* combination in the House of Representatives. It was saved by a defection from the ranks of the latter, which is only another way of saying that it survived in consequence of an addition to the strength of its supporters in the House. The principle of party government was thus virtually established. No leading statesman who looks to play a prominent part in the future politics of the nation can be willing to accept the post of Minister President to-day. The obvious course of every far-seeing man is to wait until he finds himself at the head of a party sufficiently strong to command a majority in the Lower House. Measures necessary for political organization cannot easily be taken by Cabinet Ministers, who, according to the present theory of Government, are supposed to stand aloof altogether from party affairs. What we may expect to see is that the reins of Government will be held for the nonce by men whose popularity and prestige compensate their lack of political influence.

THE CABINET.

MONDAY was a day of some excitement in Tokyo, the public being generally persuaded that a definite decision would then be reached as to changes in the Cabinet. It is well understood that no reason exists for Count Yama-

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gata's retirement from the post of Minister President except his own desire to be relieved of office, and it is equally well known that his colleagues are very anxious to keep him in. We should not be safe in concluding that since the consultation of Ministers on Monday did not result in any decision, so far as is generally known, the contemplated change has been indefinitely postponed. Every day's delay, however, suggests that a fresh understanding may have been come to. Count Saigo is certainly not solicitous to become Minister President, and no other candidate offers at present, so that in addition to the personal character of Count Yamagata's wish for rest and the desire of his colleagues to keep him in office, there is the difficult of finding a successor just at this time. Possibly things may fall again into their old groove without any alteration.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH.

We pray for rain. We pray for the sick. We pray to be delivered from battle, murder, and sudden death, and we pray for those in peril on the sea. But while we importune the Deity to be good to us, each in his own special interest, it has never occurred to us to pray that the Divine influence might be brought to bear upon the judgment of members of Parliament. A Japanese has the credit of originating that idea and acting upon it. Unfortunately his name has not been published, but the story is that when the trouble in the Diet with reference to the Budget was at its height, and when everything seemed to indicate a serious collision between the Government and the representatives of the people, he proceeded to the temple of Reiun, at Yushima, Tokyo, and, addressing himself to the chief priest, explained that he did not side with either party, the Extremists or the Moderates, in the Lower House, but he found it impossible to look on calmly while a struggle was in progress which might lead to serious trouble between rulers and ruled. He therefore begged that prayers might be addressed to Heaven for the wise direction of the issue and for a peaceful termination of the dispute, presenting at the same time a sum of a hundred *yen* to the temple to pay for incense and litanies. The priest, struck by this earnestness, sought his name, but the other refused to give any information, describing himself simply as an anonymous patriot. It will probably be regarded as a curious coincidence that the member of Parliament whose motion disintegrated the opposition and opened the way to a final settlement of the trouble, himself an ex-priest, attributed his success to the influence of Hotoke, doubtless unaware that a pious peace-lover had already paid a hundred *yen* to secure that influence. Might it not be advisable to offer up prayers in the churches of the British realm for the softening of the hearts of the wicked Parnellities? After all, that result would be of at least as great public benefit as a day's rain in a time of drought.

ATHLETICS.

From an outsider's point of view, the Yokohama Athletic Club had a most successful meeting yesterday afternoon on the old Rifle Range. Strolling along that way after tiffin it was a most pleasant surprise to see over a hundred Japanese youths and boys enjoying themselves in friendly contests. The number of people there, and the bunting displayed with the Club flag, the Government ensign with a Y in the centre of the Sun, first attracted attention; also arms, rifles, with sword bayonets, but mostly of the toy order, piled, and quick-firing guns, of the same description, unlimbered. At the assembly call they fell into line, Companies A and B facing each other; and after addresses from respective captains they were dismissed. Then commenced the Obstacle Race, run in heats, most amusing and well contested; the obstacle being a strong rope netting, with meshes sufficiently large to get the head through easily, pegged down to the grass. Under this they crawled like rats, some, however, getting entangled owing to their heads going through instead of under. Some of the running was very neat, the winner of one heat appearing so satisfied with the result that he threw a double somersault. Short races, blindfold races on all fours, wrestling, fencing, foot-ball, tug-of-war, and other sports followed. An amiable *Hyacinth* Jack who happened to be there was for a time the centre of attraction to a few foreign children, and a large circle of Japanese, who listened eagerly to his chat about the rifle and the machine gun, bugle calls, etc. At five o'clock the prizes—a large terrestrial globe, books, handkerchiefs, etc., were presented, obstacles, flags, posts, and other impedimenta were packed, and what must have been to many a very pleasant gathering, closed.—*Communicated.*

SHIPBUILDING IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1890.

The official record of shipbuilding for the past year in all the centres of the industry throught the United Kingdom shows that the output during 1890 amounted in round numbers to close on 1,271,000 tons, or about 30,000 tons less than the previous year. The Clyde as well as the other Scotch yards show a positive increase, while from the Tees and Hartlepools similar indications of prosperity are reported. The greatest decline has taken place on the Tyne and the Wear, and Belfast, Barrow, and the Mersey have also shared in the downward movement. The following table shows precisely how this stands:—

	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
Clyde	349,995	14,794	—
Tyne	235,567	—	46,143
Wear	197,482	—	19,852
Tees	127,741	17,305	—
Hartlepools	99,847	13,972	—
Belfast	66,783	—	16,220
Mersey	30,577	—	5,196
Barrow	24,665	—	2,182
Dundee	24,494	8,183	—

The output for the whole of Scotland during the year is 416,617 tons, as compared with 395,841 in 1889, or an increase of 20,776 tons, and the tonnage of the north-east ports of England, which reached 695,357 last year, has fallen this year to 660,637, a decrease of 35,720 tons. Besides taking its usual place at the head of the shipbuilding list, the Clyde has contributed the largest quantity of shipping put into the water by any one firm in the country. This position, which was occupied in 1889 by Palmer's Company on the Tyne, is now held by Messrs. Russell, of Greenock and Port Glasgow, with the enormous amount of 70,370 tons. Sir William Grey of Hartlepool, is second, with 62,000 tons; Messrs. Harland and Wolff, of Belfast, third, with 48,000 tons; and Palmer's only fourth with 45,000 tons. The fluctuations of the trade are indicated in other ways. In 1889 the increase on the Clyde over 1888 was more than 55,000 tons; now the proportional increase is under 15,000. The Tyne again, which had an increase in 1889 over the previous twelve months of as much as 68,000 tons, shows this year a decrease as compared with 1889 of upwards of 46,000 tons. It is easier to mention these fluctuations than to account for them. Perhaps the best reason that can be assigned is that labour disputes have barred progress on work to a greater extent on the Tyne than on the Clyde. The remarkable fluctuations in British shipbuilding industry are shown by the following table for the past decade:—

Total production.

Year.	Tonnage.
1881	1,600,000
1882	1,200,000
1883	1,250,000
1884	750,000
1885	540,000
1886	473,000
1887	578,000
1888	903,687
1889	1,300,933
1890	1,271,110

From these figure it appears that the great year of 1883 was followed by a period of severe depression, that the revival did not commence in earnest until 1888, and that the new "boom" attained its height in 1889. The industry is now again on the down grade, and it is impossible to say how far it may go. It is true that 300,000 tons of shipping still remain in the hands of the shipbuilders of Scotland, and that double that quantity is in process of construction at other centres of industry. But freights are in such a condition that many owners feel compelled to lay up their boats. New orders are few and far between. Nearly all the tonnage which has been booked is already on the stocks, and at the rapid rate of building now in vogue will be completed before many months are over. The chances are, therefore, supposed to be that unless some new development occurs in shipping operations, the glut in vessels afloat will cause depression in the building industry.

THE HARBOUR WORKS.

The Yokohama Harbour Works have more than once afforded food for gossip to people who were either ignorant or interested. The latest story about them appears in the vernacular press. It is to the effect that sixty-one thousand six hundred men are to be employed upon the works from next month until March, 1892. The reason assigned for this noble outburst of energy is that the Diet asked questions, indicating an idea that the works were not making proper progress, and the Authorities accordingly determined to put their shoulders to the wheel in unmistakable earnest. The tale goes on to describe the difficulties connected with the gathering together of such a large force of workmen, and the necessity of special arrangements for their control, details that enhance the artistic effect of the *canard*. We do not find the story by any means as wonderful as the fact that people sufficiently simple to believe it could be discovered in Japan.

THE FOUR HEAVENLY KINGS.

"Viscount Tanaka, Chief of the Metropolitan Police," writes the *Kokkwai*, "has resigned and accepted a sinecure. Mr. Inouye Ki has retired from office. Mr. Kyoura Keigo, Chief of the Police Bureau in the Home Department, has resigned and is going to travel abroad. Thus Count Yamagata loses three of his most important assistants. Further, Mr. Su Kohei, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, is expected to resign in a few days. Inouye, Tanaka, Kyoura, and Su, these four gentlemen are the Four Heavenly Kings (*Shi-Tenno*) that guarded Count Yamagata. They served the Count as feet and hands. He cannot intend to remain long in office now that they are gone." This forecast is confirmed by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which says that the Count sent in his resignation on the 7th instant.

RECENT WORKS ON SHAKESPEARE.

Shakespeare enthusiasts cannot complain of any want of attention shown at the present time to the dramatist. A journal in America, *Shakespeareana*, is exclusively devoted to research in this one department. The magnificent Variorum Edition of Mr. Furness, issued from the London and Philadelphia press of Messrs. Lippincott, was begun in 1876, and will form when complete an unrivalled commentary, thoroughly worthy of the subject. Indeed, one finds it difficult to characterize the work in too high terms. A few months ago the last number of the "Henry Irving Shakespeare" brought that fine edition to completion, and now a new edition of the "Cambridge Shakespeare" is promised by Mr. Wright, the sole surviving editor. An illustrated edition of Shakespeare, entitled "The International," and having a claim to that name inasmuch as its illustrations are from the pencils of continental as well as English artists, is now in progress, and promises to be of very high merit. Several school editions, some of them being those terrible compilations intended to meet the requirements of particular examinations, put forth their parts from month to month. Macmillan's series for Indian students is increasing in number, the last volume being "Richard II." under the able and experienced editing of Mr. Deighton. A noteworthy book as marking an endeavour to rescue the school-room treatment of Shakespeare from the purely verbal and barren method fostered by the Clarendon Press edition, is Professor Ransome's

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"Short Studies of Shakespeare's Plots." It is an attempt to stimulate the youthful mind to appreciate the great dramatist as a literary artist, and to postpone verbal criticism until an intelligent interest in the play as a whole is awakened. "In our study," says Mr. Ransome in his preface, "we will not at first occupy time in researches either into etymology or mythology, into various misreadings or curious interpretations, but taking the plain text as our guide, will endeavour to follow the plays as they must have been followed by the audiences of Shakespeare's own day." The work is from the press of Messrs. Macmillan & Co. and is of the excellence which we expect in works issued by that firm.

INGENIOUS.

HERE is a clever statement which we translate from the *Yomiuri Shimbun*:—"The opponents of Count Inouye's Treaty Revision Scheme were outside the Government. The opponents of Count Okuma's Scheme were partly inside and partly outside the Government. The opponents of Viscount Aoki's Scheme are officials. This is the latest discovery of a certain politician. The opposition, he alleges, to Viscount Aoki's programme is small. It centres upon the question of mixed residence. The chief opponents of Revision say, if Revision can be effected without granting mixed residence, all right; if not there is nothing for it but to leave extra-territoriality alone. They ask the Cabinet to postpone Treaty Revision unless it can be accomplished without allowing mixed residence. Treaty Revision is very apt to shorten a Cabinet's life. It is about the most difficult problem that could be offered for solution to the present Cabinet. The opponents of Revision, knowing well that it cannot possibly be accomplished without granting mixed residence, nevertheless prefer this demand to the Cabinet, their evident desire being to put a stop to all steps toward Revision, so that the Cabinet's life may be lengthened. Plainly men pursuing such a course must belong to the Government's party."

SENTIMENT.

WE find a very singular article in the *Tokyo Shimpo*. "Russia," the writer says, "having set about building her Siberian Railway, England has devoted herself to shorten the distance between the mother country and her Eastern colonies by constructing the Pacific Railway and by subsidizing a new line of steamers. The railway is already finished, and three large steamers, built so as to serve as mail steamers in times of peace and as cruisers in times of war, have left the docks and travelled many miles on their voyage eastward. One of them is called the *Empress of India*, another the *Empress of China*, and the third the *Empress of Japan*. What are we to think of these names? We may regard them with indifference merely as paltry matters of ships' nomenclature, having no connection with international relations. We may treat the thing, again, as an evidence of desire to show respect to Japan, on the ground that, ships being of the feminine gender in the English language, the selection of the names of the English and Japanese Empresses is a compliment. On the other hand, these ships have been built as a part of England's Eastern policy and with a Government subsidy. The word "Empress" may be translated by *joko* (female sovereign) or *kogo* (consort of an Emperor). The first of the ships is called *Empress of India*. Now in international phraseology Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of England, is actually the Imperial Ruler of India. If, then, we choose to take a suspicious view of the matter, the argument may be pushed to the point of discovering an *arrière pensée* that the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India may come to be called also Empress of China and Empress of Japan. We do not deem this an unreasonable suspicion."

* * *

This criticism has not been altogether unanticipated, though we did not expect to find it in the *Tokyo Shimpo*. Scarcely any incident in every-day life is incapable of being adapted to an evil meaning if the spirit to so adapt it be sufficiently strong. The *Tokyo Shimpo*, it must be confessed, takes care to place before its readers the benevolent as well as the malicious interpretation of this question of ships' names, but the trouble is that it extends a sort of half-hearted endorsement to the malicious view. Yet a newspaper of such standing ought to know very well that the names of the three big steamers were chosen by the company to which they belong; that the choice was subjected to no official direction whatsoever, and that the sole idea in selecting such titles was to pay a compliment to the countries after whose Sovereign consorts the vessels are called. The *Tokyo Shimpo* has the clue in its hand, but fails to follow it. The steamers, it says, are sister ships (*Shimai-sen*). That is precisely the point. Their names were chosen in the sense that the Empress of India, the Empress of China, and the Empress of Japan are sisters. The graceful idea that the three august ladies belong to the same family circle, and have a sisterly community of interest in widening and cementing the relations between the Orient and the Occident, has been marred by an unsightly and unworthy suspicion which we are disappointed to find in the columns of an eminently intelligent and respectable Japanese journal.

* * *

Evidently the *Tokyo Shimpo* was in a particularly captious mood on the 7th instant, for it extends its criticism to the Chinese Minister because, in issuing Japanese invitations for a ball, his Excellency wrote "the 18th of next month, according to the Western calendar." The Tokyo journal denies the propriety of this term "Western calendar." It asserts that though Japan has adopted the scientific principle of Occidental reckoning, her calendar ought not to be officially spoken of as the "Western calendar;" or rather, that references to dates in the body of invitations addressed to Japanese and written in the Japanese language should be distinguished either as according to the "Japanese calendar," or according to the "solar calendar." It is a nice point of etiquette, and the triviality of the question is admitted by the *Tokyo Shimpo*. But these little incidents serve to indicate the trend of Japanese thought. There shall be no distinction of East and West, so far as Japan is concerned, says the Tokyo journal in effect. The same sun shines on all alike, and a calendar calculated in accordance with his motion is no more Western than Japanese.

* * *

In the sequel of these criticisms the *Tokyo Shimpo* writes as follows:—"When Mr. Hoshi Toru was Superintendent of Customs, he got into great trouble with the then British Minister, Sir Harry Parkes, because he translated the word "Queen" of Great Britain by *Jo-o* (女王). He maintained his point and resigned his post, but ever since that time the Japanese written title of the British Sovereign has been *Kotei Heika* (Her Majesty the Empress). Similarly, objection was taken by the Russian Minister to the fact that *Rokoku* (Russia) was written with the ideograph (魯) signifying "foolish." This, too, was consequently abandoned, and *ro* is now written with the ideograph 露 (dew). These changes were not made because Japan is a small State, while Russia and England are Great Powers, but because the honour of a country must not be touched in the most infinitesimal degree. We are well aware that in these matters of the ships' names and of the calendar there was not the smallest intention of giving offence. Knowing this, we do not say that corrections must be sought at the point of the bayonet. But we do think it necessary to direct English and Chinese attention to these matters. What do our countrymen think?"

DISTINCT DISAVOWALS.

IN view of the assertion that the term "anti-Revisionists" was "invented for the sake of the stigma supposed to be conveyed by it," there is some interest in recalling the fact that the Meeting of 11th September was first publicly described as "the Anti-Revision meeting" by the *Japan Gazette* of Sept. 13th; the term "anti-Treaty Revision" being applied again on the 15th of September, and on subsequent occasions, till one of the chief promoters of the meeting protested against its use, on which the *Gazette* discontinued the practice. Further, the *Japan Herald* adopted the phrase "Anti-Treaty Revision," as applicable to the meeting, on the 20th of September, and became so enamoured of it that when the protest already mentioned was published, the *Herald* roundly called the protestor names, and declined to desist. "The object," we are now told, "of employing the term was no other than the creation of a hostile feeling among the Japanese." "We are glad to observe," says the newspaper which invented the name, "that the Statement distinctly disavows the name it is the fashion of opponents to give to the party represented by the Committee, for the sake of the stigma that is supposed to attach to it—anti-Revisionists." The Statement, then, distinctly disavows a name which one of its organs invented and another organ employed, such invention and employment being for the sake of the stigma supposed to attach to the name, and with the object of creating a hostile feeling among the Japanese. May we take it that the Statement also "distinctly disavows" the inventor and employer of the name which has caused so much trouble? As for the *Japan Mail*, which the accurate organ of the agitators imagined that it was abusing when it began to discourse about this subject of nomenclature, the fact is that the *Mail* was the one paper which avoided any such term. Our two leading articles, written within the first week after the Meeting, were headed respectively "The Treaty Revision Meeting," and "The Effect of the Treaty Revision Meeting." These subtle critics ought to manage their weapons more circumspectly. To sting oneself is generally the prelude to a larger catastrophe.

"IVANHOE" AS AN ENGLISH OPERA.

THE greatest musical event in England for some years back has been the production of "Ivanhoe" as an opera by Sir Arthur Sullivan, in a "New English Opera House" erected in Shaftesbury Avenue by Mr. D'Oyley Carte. It has proved an enormous popular success, which is all the more satisfactory in that, while Sir Arthur Sullivan's genius for light comic opera has been unquestionable for years, there were doubts whether he would be eqally fortunate in a serious work such as the present one. The libretto is by Mr. Julian Sturgis, and it is interesting to see how he has turned the familiar classic story to stage purposes. Normans and Saxons are living in almost open enmity. King Richard, who should control both, is thought to be still away in foreign lands; his brother John plots for the crown. In these doubtful times Cedric the Saxon lives in his old home, and guards his ward Rowena, who is of Royal Saxon blood, and whom he hopes to mate with the Saxon heir to the throne. So he has driven away his only son, Wilfred of Ivanhoe, who dared to love Rowena. Wilfred has gone to the Crusades with King Richard. But both Ivanhoe and the King are back in England in disguise. Ivanhoe, in the garb of a palmer from the Holy Land, comes to his father's house. There he meets the Templar Brian de Bois-Guilbert, who, with Maurice de Bracy, has come for a night's shelter on his way to the great Tournament of Ashby-de-la-Zouche, and in the name of the absent Ivanhoe the palmer accepts the Templar's challenge to mortal combat. There too, he sees Rowena again, and learns that she loves him; and thence he carries off Isaac the Jew, whom the Templar would plunder on the road. Isaac, in gratitude, lends him a horse and armour, and with these he unhorses the Templar in the lists at Ashby. But, though victorious, he is wounded; and when he kneels before Rowena, who has been chosen Queen of Love and Beauty, he faints. Rowena recognises him, and Rebecca, daughter of Isaac, who has met him as the saviour of her father, supports him in her arms. King Richard, disguised as

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the Black Knight, has also appeared at the Tournament; but on the second day departs, afraid of detection, and answering the taunts of the jolly Friar with a promise to visit him in Sherwood Forest and fight him there. So he becomes the Friar's guest; but from such sports he is summoned by Locksley, who bids him rescue Cedric and Rowena, who have been captured on their journey from the Tournament by Maurice de Bracy and the Templar, and brought prisoners to Torquilstone. De Bracy would become the husband of the Saxon heiress; but the Templar has reserved for his peculiar prize the Jewess Rebecca, who has been captured too, with her father and Ivanhoe, whom she has nursed since his wound, and whom she loves, and hopelessly loves. But the great courage and nobility of the Jewess bends even the Templar from his purpose; he is called from her by the first summons of the Black Knight and his army of outlaws. On the next morning Ulrica brings Rebecca to nurse the wounded Ivanhoe, while she makes ready to burn the castle, where she has lived too long in infamy. Then the attack is renewed; and suddenly Rebecca sees that Torquilstone burns. The Templar comes back to save her from the burning castle; Ivanhoe tries to stop him, but, weak and wounded, is hurled down; and the Templar carries her away. The castle falls and burns; over the ruins swarm the Black Knight and his outlaws; and Ivanhoe cries out that it is the King. On the top of the tower is seen Ulrica, torch in hand; and, with a last savage song, she sinks among the flames. In the wood near the ruined Torquilstone, King Richard does justice at his ease. His prisoner, De Bracy, expecting death, is pardoned and sent hot-foot to Prince John to demand his prompt submission. Cedric, too, is induced to pardon his son, and to allow his wedding with Rowena. But this fair meeting of the faithful lovers is interrupted by Isaac, who brings news that Rebecca has been condemned by the Grand Master of the Templars to be burned for bewitching Brian the Templar, that she has claimed a champion, and that Brian himself has been named to fight the champion. Rowena nobly bids her lover go, and he flies to save Rebecca. Brian the Templar is torn with contending passions. Even when the torch is about to fire the pile, he prays Rebecca to let him save her yet; but her only answer is a prayer to Jehovah. Then Ivanhoe, weak and weary, rushes in as her champion. Brian attacks him furiously and beats him down, but just as he would slay him he himself feels death; his overcharged heart can bear no more—he falls dead. The Templars recognise a judgment; and Rebecca is set free. She turns to Ivanhoe, but even in that moment he sees Rowena, who, with Cedric, has come fast upon his track. He goes gladly to Rowena, and Rebecca turns away. Isaac comes timidly and touches her hand. And so King Richard enters with his men, bids the Templars begone, and the royal banner of England is raised above their walls.

A NAME.

THE hubbub made by the promoters of last September's Meeting and their zealous advocates about the name applied to them, strikes us as being a trifle exaggerated. The latest declaimer on the subject asserts that the term "Anti-Revisionists" was "invented for the sake of the stigma that is supposed to attach to it; that "no one pretending to write accurately would think of applying such a term to the promoters of the Yokohama Meeting," and that "the object of employing the term was no other than the creation of a hostile feeling among the Japanese." This is strikingly ingenuous and manly. The meeting was organized and held for the distinctly avowed purpose of protesting against and opposing the settlement of the Treaty problem then supposed to be imminent. The principal proposer declared in his speech that they would have protested against and opposed Count Okuma's settlement had they not believed that there was no chance of its acceptance by the British Government. Therefore, by their own showing, the promoters of the meeting were opposed to the only two solutions that had seemed possible to the negotiators since 1887, and yet they cry out when they are called "Anti-Revisionists." Their manifesto, prepared after mature deliberation, advances as many reasons as possible to prove that the Japanese are not fit to exercise judicial autonomy. One of the principal objects of the Japanese in seeking Revision is the recovery of judicial autonomy. Yet the promoters complain when they are described as Anti-Revisionists. So far as this journal is concerned, we are perfectly willing to humour their whim. Indeed, we have carefully done so ever since the protest on the subject by the principal promoter, a week after the Meeting. But the Japanese press has never shown any disposition to alter its description of the affair. To this day it continues to call the Meeting *hi-joyaku-kaisei-kai* (Anti-Treaty-Revision Meeting), and will call it so to the end of the chapter. It adopted the name long before a syllable appeared in these columns with respect to the Meeting, yet now, with fine respect for truth, the latest champion of the promoters accuses us of having invented the term.

* * *

We have now a new and very pretty explanation of the delay that occurred in the preparation of the Citizens' Committee's Statement. The Committee held its hand because "it was considered desirable to allay as much as possible the agitation which had been raised and fanned by a local English journal among the Japanese." We really cannot but express our hearty acknowledgement of the handsome compliment paid to us by these good people. They hold a big meeting. They apply high-sounding adjectives to it. They declare that its influence outside Japan has been deep and wide. They aver that all sorts of signal results have ensued from it. And then in the same breath they tell us that if this journal had not written about the affair, no notice would have been taken of it by the Japanese nation. Truly we had no idea that our humble efforts in the newspaper line attract so much attention. If we are such influential folks, surely the syndicate of last year made a mistake in not addressing itself primarily to us. We are freely accused of being terribly mercenary, and of perpetually carrying our conscience in our pocket. If the syndicate believes this, and believes also in our potency, why did it not try us with some of those tens of thousands of *yen* that it longed to invest in the purchase of an organ last year?

AMATEUR THEATRICALS AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

THE amateur theatricals given at the Rokumeikan in Tokyo the other day were repeated on Monday in the Public Hall before a large and delighted audience. It is unnecessary to refer again at length to the three pieces played, or to the acting of the players. It may briefly be said, however, that all three went capitally, the performers being perfectly at home in their various parts. *Gaston* and *Germaine* in "L'Obstacle" and *Blanche*, *Caboussat*, *Poitrinas*, *Machut*, and *Jean* in "La Grammaire," were personated by actors who amply justified their allocation to those characters; while in "Woman's Rights, or the Lady of the Future" one felt at a loss which the more to admire—the modest simplicity of *Victorine Wigfall*, or the husband hunting voracity of *Wolverine Griffin*; the judicial solemnity and dignity of *Mr. Wigfall*, or the business like alertness of *Mrs. Badger*; the miserable domesticity and the tender solicitude towards his squalling offspring of *Mr. Wigfall*, or the expression of crushed, vacuous, and hopeless despair which *Mr. Carberry* was able to assume when brought to bay by the man-hunting *Griffin*. During the evening the band of the *Monocacy* played various airs, including the overture to "Zampa" by Herold; a selection from "Fatinitza," a march, "Continental Guards;" the waltz "Donau Wellen" and a gavotte by Trempler, "Jubilee." The hall was very prettily adorned by many flowers and dwarf trees and shrubs sent free by the Gardener's Association at Nakamura, which also on the same condition supplied the floral decorations of the stage. The proceeds, which are considerable, go to aid in the erection of a Charity Hospital.

MURDER IN TOKYO.

A STRANGE affair occurred at the official residence of His Excellency Count Saigo on the 10th instant. It appears that the Count had gone to spend the day at Count Kawamura's, on the occasion of the Emperor's visit to the latter's residence. During their master's absence, the cook and a youth who lived in the house, went to see the cherry blossoms at Mukojima, where a dispute arose as to the manner of spending the evening. The cook declined to fall in with his comrade's dissipated plans, and the pair returned home. In the evening the argument was renewed, and the cook ultimately retired to bed, shutting the door of his room. By and by the youth forced the window, cutting his hands severely in doing so, and, leaping in, attacked the cook with a heavy oak cudgel, inflicting a terrible wound on his head. Medical assistance was quickly procured, but the injury was fatal, and the cook expired the following day. No further details are known, but unless some deeper motive than the above inspired the murderous attack, there can be little doubt that the youth was not in possession of his senses.

THE VENDORS' GUILD.

THE long dispute between Messrs. Tuska and Company and Messrs. Takifuji and Company appears to have been at length adjusted. The *Mainichi Shimbun* says that the Guild of Porcelain Dealers of Tokyo acted as go-betweens, and after much negotiation succeeded in bringing the affair to a peaceful settlement. The same paper gives a copy of a document bearing the signature of Messrs. Tuska and Company, and purporting to contain the terms of settlement. We translate it as follows:—

A difficulty having arisen between Messrs. Takifuji Company, a Yokohama vendor, and this Firm, the whole circumstances have been inquired into by the Guild of Porcelain Dealers in Tokyo, and the following terms of settlement have been agreed to:—

(1) The present difficulty having arisen without this Firm's having full knowledge of the agreement existing among the members of the Yokohama Vendors' Guild, and we being now aware of that agreement, will, in the event of any business dispute arising hereafter, enter into careful consultation with the Guild upon all points.

(2) In future, when this Firm gives an order to a Yokohama Vendor, the terms shall be embodied in a written agreement, of which each party shall have a copy. The agreement shall be in Japanese.

(3) Receipts shall be given by this Firm for all articles received by it from a Yokohama Vendor. If the Vendor desire, the receipt shall be entered in his Seal Ledger (*Hantori-cho*).

(4) Should this Firm have need of any samples brought by a Yokohama Vendor, it shall pay a reasonable price for them. This shall not apply, however, when the owner of the samples does not seek to be paid.

(5) This Firm will make immediate examination of any articles received from a Yokohama Vendor. And the system of payments on regularly prescribed days shall be carried out.

The above terms shall be observed by us in relation to Yokohama Vendors, and in witness of the agreement we hand this document duly signed by us, to the Tokyo Porcelain Dealers Guild, by whom the Settlement has been made.

(Signed) Messrs. TUSKA & COMPANY,
No. 194, Settlement, Yokohama.

(Countersigned)
THE TOKYO PORCELAIN DEALERS GUILD
(Go-betweens).

* * *

The *Yiji Shimpo* states that a special meeting of the Yokohama Miscellaneous Dealers Guild was held on the 11th instant. Seventy-two members attended, and Mr. Morita Chiubei took the chair. The object of the meeting was to receive an account of the proceedings hitherto taken in connection with the dispute between Messrs, Tuska and Company and Messrs. Takifuji and Company, and to determine the future policy of the Guild. The President explained that a settlement of the Tuska trouble had been

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arrived at, the goods to be delivered and paid for by the 25th instant. A discussion was raised as to the most effective manner of preventing foreigners from going into the interior to purchase goods, a practice which the members of the Guild seemed to consider common. The decision of the meeting was that steps should be taken to enter into an agreement with the miscellaneous dealers in the various localities, and that the Standing Committee of the Guild be instructed to that effect. It was further agreed that a union between the Guild and all the miscellaneous dealers throughout the Empire would be desirable, and that relations might be established with the *Seinen-kai* of the *Boyeki-shonin*. A vote of thanks was directed to be conveyed to the Tokyo Porcelain Dealers' Guild and its Committee, for their efforts in connection with the Tuska affair. Another point raised was the advisability of concerting measures with all the Japanese merchants concerned in the foreign trade in order to put a stop to levying of large commissions by Chinese bantos, but concerning this no decision was reached.

NATURALIZATION OF FOREIGNERS.

It appears to be imagined by some of those who discuss political questions in this Settlement that the naturalization of foreigners in Japan is connected with Treaty Revision. One of our local English contemporaries evidently labours under this misapprehension, for in a synopsis recently published, professing to set forth the views of the Japanese public in regard to the Revision problem, it took Naturalization for one of its topics. But in point of fact Naturalization has nothing whatever to do with Treaty Revision, except in the sense that after extra-territoriality is abolished, there will be no technical obstacle to the enactment of a law enabling foreigners to be become naturalized in Japan. Writers who gravely tell us that Japanese opinion is divided in regard to Revision, since some people claim that the problem of Naturalization should be left entirely to the Legislature, while some would have it settled by the Administration, might just as relevantly talk about hay-making or beer-brewing. They are quite off the track; a condition, for the rest, not unusual with them.

T. NODDY.

The solemn simpleton who thought that people must be in grim earnest when they talked of a Japanese newspaper directed by Prince Bismarck, published by Sir Charles Dilke, and edited by Count Ito, nearly rises to the level of his precious performance in some remarks about prayers for the better guidance of truculent parties in Parliament. A pious Japanese having conceived and acted upon the original idea of paying a good round sum to have litanies chaunted and incense burned in order that Heaven might be induced to interfere favourably in a parliamentary crisis, we noted the new departure and suggested its adoption as a precedent in the Occident. Then up rises Mr. Thomas Noddy, talks of our "pious unction," presumes that our suggestion will fill holy folks with "seraphic rapture," and actually finds another Bœotian to criticise the *Mail's* ignorance of the Church of England Liturgy which "includes a supplication on behalf of 'the High Court of Parliament.'" Dear brothers Noodle, "wind up the watch of your wit": it strikes with a somewhat muffled sound.

SMART JOURNALISM.

On Wednesday the 11th of March, the New York *Sun*, which is published every morning, contained an excellent portrait of the Hon. J. F. Swift who had died the preceding evening at 7 o'clock in Tokyo. This was a remarkably quick feat of journalism, though of course the great difference in time between Tokyo and New York must be taken into account. Something similar, though less striking, was accomplished by the *Choya Shimbun*. Its present editor, a gentleman of exceptional attainments and ability, visited the United States Legation in the afternoon of the day succeeding Mr. Swift's death, and asked for a photograph of the deceased Minister. No copy was available, however, and the editor had to go in search of one elsewhere. He succeeded, for in the *Choya* of the following morning a capital likeness of Mr. Swift appeared, accompanied by a full account of his life.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The amounts of convertible notes and reserves in the Bank of Japan for the week ended the 11th inst. were as follows:—

Convertible Notes.	Yen.	Reserves and Securities.	Yen.
Notes issued	99,350,736	Gold coin and bullion	24,993,710
		Silver coin and bullion	18,353,302
		Public Loan Bonds	33,470,450
		Treasury Bills	—
		Government Bills	22,000,000
		Other securities	6,027,593
		Commercial Bills	13,606,731
	99,350,736		99,350,736

Of the above total issue of notes, the sum of *yen* 6,025,394 is in the treasury of the Bank, 22,000,000 has been transferred on loan to the Government, and *yen* 71,325,342 is in actual circulation, the latter showing a decrease of *yen* 756,466 as compared with *yen* 72,081,808 at the end of the previous week.

THE BEHRING SEA DISPUTE.

Monday the 13th instant was the day fixed for the hearing by the United States Supreme Court of the appeal made by the owners of the *Sayward* against the judgment of confiscation delivered by the Alaska Local Court. It is therefore probable that by the end of this week we shall have telegraphic intelligence of the judgment. Our own belief is that the Supreme Court, following a precedent quoted in these columns some time ago, will decline to pronounce any verdict in respect of a matter actually forming a topic of international dispute. It will doubtless interest our readers to examine the British Government's view of the issue which the Supreme Court has to consider—if it consents to consider it at all. The last despatch—dated February 21st, 1891—of Lord Salisbury to Sir Julian Pauncefote contains a very clear presentation of the case:—

"The claim of the United States to prevent the exercise of the seal fishery by other nations in Behring Sea rests now exclusively upon the interest which by purchase they possess in a ukase issued by the Emperor Alexander I. in the year 1821, which prohibits foreign vessels from approaching within 100 miles of the coast and islands then belonging to Russia in Behring Sea. It is not, as I understand, contended that the Russian Government, at the time of the issue of this ukase, possessed any inherent right to enforce such a prohibition, or acquired by the act of issuing it any claims over the open sea, beyond the territorial limit of three miles, which they would not otherwise have possessed. But it is said that this proposition, worthless in itself, acquired validity and force against the British Government because that Government can be shown to have accepted its provisions. The ukase was a mere usurpation, but it is said that it was converted into a valid international law, as against the British Government, by the admission of this Government itself.

"I am not concerned to dispute the contention that an invalid claim may, as against another Government, acquire a validity which in its inception it did not possess, if it is formally or effectively accepted by that Government. But the vital question for decision is whether any other Government, and especially whether the Government of Great Britain, has ever accepted the claim put forward in this ukase. Our contention is, that not only can it not be shown that the Government of Great Britain, at any time since 1821, has admitted the soundness of the pretension, put forward by that ukase, but also it can be shown that it has categorically denied it on more than one occasion."

To sustain this contention Lord Salisbury quotes from a letter (January, 1822) from Lord Londonderry to Count Lieven, the Russian ambassador in London, a reservation of British rights to the navigation of the waters described in the ukase, and also from a note by the Duke of Wellington to Count Nesselrode (October, 1822) refusing to admit Russia's right to exclude foreign vessels for 100 miles from the coast.

"It is evident, therefore, that so far as diplomatic representation went, the King's Government of that date took every step which it was in their power to take in order to make it clear to the Russian Government that Great Britain did not accept the claim to exclude her subjects for 100 miles from the coast, which had been put forward in the ukase of 1821.

"Mr. Blaine does not deal with these protests, which appear to her Majesty's Government to be in themselves amply sufficient to decide the question, whether Great Britian did or did not acquiesce in the Russian claim put forward by the ukase. He confines himself mainly to the despatch under consideration, to the consideration of the treaties which were subsequently made between Great Britain and Russia and Ameri a and Russia in 1825; and especially that between Russia and Great Britain. This treaty, of which the text is printed at the close of Mr. Blaine's despatch, does not contain a word to signify the acquiescence of Great Britain in the claim recently put forward by Russia to control the waters of the sea for 100 miles from her coast. There is no stipulation upon which this interpretation can be imposed by any process of construction whatsoever. But there is a provision having in our judgment a totally opposite tendency, which indeed was intended to negative the extravagant claim that had recently been made on the part of Russia; and it is upon this provision that the main part of Mr. Blaine's argument, as I understand it, is founded. The stipulation to which I refer is contained in the first article, agreeing that the respective subjects of the two nations shall not be molested in the navigation of or fishing in any part of the Pacific Ocean.

I understand Mr. Blaine's argument to be that if Great Britain had intended to protest against the claims of Russia to exclude ships for 100 miles from her coasts in Behring Sea, she would have taken this opportunity of doing so; but that in confining herself to stipulations in favour of full liberty of navigation and fishing in any part of the ocean, commonly called the Pacific Ocean, she by implication renounced any claim that could arise out of the same set of circumstances in regard to any sea that was not part of the Pacific Ocean. And then Mr. Blaine goes on to contend that the phrase 'Pacific Ocean' did not and does not include Behring Sea.

"Even if this latter contention were correct, I should earnestly demur to the conclusion that our inherent rights to free passage and free fishing over a vast extent of ocean could be effectively renounced by mere reticence or omission. The right is one of which we could not be deprived unless we consented to abandon it, and that consent could not be sufficiently inferred from our negotiations having omitted to mention the subject on one particular occasion. But I am not prepared to admit the justice of Mr. Blaine's contention that the words 'Pacific Ocean' did not include Behring Sea.

"I believe that in common parlance, then and now, Behring Sea was and is part of the Pacific Ocean, and that the latter words were used in order to give the fullest and widest scope possible to the claim which the British negotiators were solemnly recording of a right freely to navigate and fish in every part of it and throughout its entire extent. In proof of the argument that the words 'Pacific Ocean' do not include Behring Sea, Mr. Blaine adduces a long list of maps in which a designation distinct of 'Pacific Ocean' is given to Behring Sea; either 'Behring Sea' or 'Sea of Kamschatka' or the 'Sea of Anadir.'

"The argument will hardly have any force unless it is applicable with equal truth to all the other oceans of the world. But no one will dispute that the Bay of Biscay forms part of the Atlantic Ocean, or that the Gulf of Lyons forms part of the Mediterranean Sea: and yet in most it will be found that to those portions of the larger sea a separate designation has been given. The question whether by the words 'Pacific Ocean' the negotiators meant to include or exclude Behring Sea depends upon which location was esteemed to be the correct usage at the time. The date is not a distant one, and there is no ground for suggesting that the usage has changed since the Angl-Russian treaty of 1825 was signed. The determination of this point will be most satisfactorily ascertained by consulting the ordinary books of reference.

"I append to this despatch a list of some thirty works of this class, of various dates from 1795 downward, and printed in various countries, which combine to show that in common parlance the words 'Pacific Ocean' do include Behring Sea.

"If, then, in ordinary language the Pacific Ocean is used as a phrase including the whole sea from Behring Strait to the Antarctic circle, it follows that the first article of the treaty of 1825 did secure to Great Britain in the fullest manner the freedom of navigating and fishing in Behring Sea. In that case no inference, however indirect or circuitous, can be drawn from any omission in the language of that instrument to show that Great Britain acquiesced in the usurpation which the ukase of 1821 had attempted. The other documents which I have quoted sufficiently establish that she not only did not acquiesce in it, but repudiated it more than once in plain and unequivocal terms, and as the claim made by the ukase has no strength or validity, except what it might derive from the assent of any power whom it might affect, it results that Russia has never acquired by the ukase any right to curtail the natural liberty of her Majesty's subjects to navigate or fish in these seas anywhere outside of territorial waters. And what Russia did not herself possess she was not able to transmit to the United States. Her Majesty's Government have, in view of these considerations, no doubt whatever that British subjects enjoy the same rights in Behring Sea which belong to them in every other portion of the open ocean; but it is nevertheless a matter of sincere satisfaction that the President is willing to refer to arbitration what he conceives to be the matters which have been under discussion between the two Governments for the last four years.

M. BIGOT.

An album has just been published by a French artist resident in the capital, bears the title *La Journée d'un Policeman à Tokyo*. The English word in a French title, when the subject matter is Japanese, has a realistic oddity about it characteristic of the whole performance. M. Bigot, the artist, possesses a skilful pencil, and he can draw upon a familiarity with native scenes and manners that is perhaps unequalled. The sketches are delightfully sympathetic and suggestive, few indeed of the faces in a whole squad of Tokyo "bobbies," as depicted by the artist, being without an individual character. The "Lost Child" is a very neat little sketch in whith the figures of the *enfant perdu* and the *chasan* at its side are particularly well rendered. As for the final sketch, twice repeated, it will be certain to call forth from English people who turn over the

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album, those exclamations of 'Shocking!' which cause so much amusement to our Gallic friends. The figure of the polite policeman who shows the way to a girl with a child on her back, is perhaps less to our mind than almost any other of the sketches: the attitude is too Parisian.

TRY AGAIN.

We find it very amusing and not uninteresting to watch the perplexed attempts of our busy critics to convict this journal of inconsistency. The gentleman who chiefly devotes himself to the task just now, is doubtless highly qualified to discharge it, seeing that his own writings are conspicuous for accuracy, elegance, and good taste. He did not succeed very well, it is true, when he attempted, some time ago, to prove that we had been guilty of various contradictions in discussing Treaty Revision schemes. For among three schemes the glaring discrepancy of which he volunteered to demonstrate, it turned out that his attention had been diverted from the details of the second, and that he had no knowledge whatever of the third. It is essential, however, to the journalistic *raison d'être* of this critic that he should adhere to the hacknied habit so diligently adopted by those who, finding themselves quite unable to answer our arguments, are driven to the device of calling us names. It is essential to show that the *Japan Mail* is always unfriendly to its own countrymen, always ready to attack those on whose support it depends, and always labouring to present an over-roseate view of Japanese affairs. Unless these things can be demonstrated, what claim to public tolerance would our gentle critic possess? We recognise the cruel necessity that drives him to play such a part, and are not disposed to resent his attacks very vehemently. Besides, his difficulties command our sympathy. He is required to convict the *Mail* of tergiversation. He sets about the task bravely, if not rashly; indites the title of a leading article, "The *Volte-face* of the *Japan Mail*," and then, after weary research and comparison, discovers that his proposed feat is a fiasco. These articles, he cries in his trouble—these articles of the *Mail's* "are in tone and leading features antagonistic to each other; yet so cleverly are the subjects handled, so cautiously have the sentences been grouped, that it is impossible to discover any contradiction in the actual wording." Ingenuous critic, did it not occur to you that until you had overcome this impossibility, you were a little previous in denouncing the *Mail's* "*volte-face?*" Did it not strike you that to confess yourself unable to discover any discrepancy between articles which you declared contradictory, was not quite consistent with the triple-ply honesty in which you so ostentatiously wrap your journalistic person?

NEWS FROM CHINA AND THE SOUTH.

Singapore papers publish particulars of the recent fighting in Acheen. It seems that on the morning of March 9th, "about a quarter past six, continued firing was heard in the direction of Lamara near Ketapang Dua. Later on the news came that Captain N. C. Van Heurn, the Military commander of Ketapan Dua, and Lieut. Ostreig had gone out in the morning and taken the stockade at Kandang by surprise. Lieut. Ostreig was the first inside the stockade. Afterwards a number of Achinese so hemmed in the place as to stop communication with Ketapan Dua. Lieut. Ostreig and two brave privates left the stockade under a heavy fire from the enemy, and were fortunate enough to reach Ketapang Dua without being hit. From there they signalled by telephone to the Commander for assistance. This was attended to immediately and at eight o'clock the 14th battalion of infantry, two companies of the third, two companies of the twelfth, some cavalry, and a battery of artillery were sent out to Ketapang Dua, whilst the Commander of the fort at Landjamoe marched to Kandang at the first signal. When the detachment from Landjamoe arrived at a point about five hundred yards from the stockade they were fired on by the enemy and unfortunately the Captain received a wound in the abdomen from which he died in hospital half an hour afterwards. The troops coming up later drove off the enemy. On this occasion there were five killed, including the Captain, and nine badly wounded. The General, his staff and some of the troops returned to Kota Radja in the evening." * * * H.M. twin screw cruiser *Archer*, 6 guns, 1,770 tons and 3,500 horse-power, Commander J. Ferris, arrived at Singapore on March 30th on her way from the Cape to the China Station. * * * The steamer *Devonhurst*, which collided with the *Strathendrick*, has arrived in Singapore to be over-hauled in dry-dock and have her bows re-plated. We learn that "the breach in her bows measures about twenty-five feet from the point at which she struck the *Strathendrick* to her keel, and is between ten and twelve feet deep. The collision took place, according to the little verified information available before an impending Court of Inquiry, at 1 a.m. on the 7th March about 50 miles off Sourabaya. The *Devonhurst* came foul of the *Strathendrick* just abaft the foremast; and the fact of the latter being deeply laden with about 3,000 tons of coal accounts for the depth at which the former struck her. The base of the breach resembles a mass of crumpled paper, so violently does the concussion appear to have rolled up the three-quarter inch plating of the *Devonhurst*. By means of packing a quantity of canvas, cement, and planking into it the water was kept from flowing too fast into the hold, and the vessel was taken slowly into Sourabaya where her cargo was shifted aft as much as possible. It is unfortunately true that the second engineer of the *Strathendrick* went down in that vessel." * * * The Singapore Syndicate which has in hand the proposal to construct a railway across the Malay Peninsula, has received an offer on behalf of private bankers and other financial men in London, who are desirous of taking over the Kedah-Singora railway concession. * * * The steamer *Pilot Fish*, engaged in the local coasting trade, was towed into Singapore on March 27th with screw shaft broken. * * * Penang has followed the lead of Singapore in protesting against the increased military contribution required from the Straits Settlement by the Home Government. * * * The Czarewitch arrived at Hongkong on the 4th instant, in the *Pamiat Azova*, escorted by the *Wladimir Monomach*. The Prince Imperial, who was received on landing before noon by the Governor, was accompanied by Prince George of Greece. On the morning of the 5th the Prince left for Canton, intending to return to Hongkong on the 8th and to leave on the 9th for Foochow, whence he was to proceed to Hankow. * * * A census of the population of Hongkong and its dependencies is to be taken on the 30th instant. * * * Consequent on the departure of Mr. A. B. Johnson, Crown Solicitor of Hongkong, on four months' leave, Mr. A. M. Stokes has been appointed Acting Crown Solicitor. * * * The *China Mail* reports the death at Canton under strange conditions, of a Mr. Sills, a Government cadet from Singapore. "It appears that some months ago Mr. Sills came to Canton to study Cantonese. Some weeks since he started on a trip into the country and proceeded some two or three days' journey up the West river. One day he wandered into the country and lost his way. Being unable to get back to his boat, he passed the night in a Likin station. During the night a noise in his room attracted attention, and on some one entering his room he was found to be dead or dying, and his bed saturated with blood, and a revolver by his side. Considerable time was allowed to elapse before the Chinese authorities brought his body to Canton. Perhaps they were afraid that trouble might arise, and they desired to make as full enquiries as possible. His clothes, money, &c., were all brought to Canton. The cause of his death was a wound in the top of his mouth caused doubtless by a shot from the revolver. Whether the shot was fired by himself or some other person will probably remain a mystery." * * * There is plainly some hitch in connection with the opening of Chungking. By the Chungking Convention the port was to be opened to foreign trade on the 13th of January last. "Two months later," says the *N.-C. Daily News*, "the new system could not be worked, though the port was nominally opened on the 1st and 2nd of March, because the British Minister still withheld his approval of the necessary regulations. No explanation of any kind is forthcoming; Sir John Walsham appears to simply treat the matter with silent contempt. We do not like to characterise this neglect as it seems to deserve, because Sir John may have some reason for it, of which we have not heard; but it seems to us that the Chamber of Commerce here, which is the one most interested in the extension of foreign trade at Chungking, should ask for some explanation, or make some representation before long." * * * The German squadron, consisting of the frigate *Leipzig*, flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Valois, and the cruisers *Alexandrine* and *Sophie*, arrived at Woosung on the 2nd inst. and were to proceed to Nanking on the following day. * * * The last of the farewell dinners to Sir Richard Rennie took place on the 2nd inst. at the Shanghai Club, where the retiring Chief Justice was entertained by the members of the Bar, the chair being taken by Mr. H. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate. * * * Picnics in the neighbourhood of Shanghai cannot be said to lack that element of peril which is so fascinating to most people. On the 15th instant a party of thirty-five foreigners arranged to tiffin near the Pagoda "on a piece of ground that had been hired for the purpose." Hiring a piece of ground in order that it might be tiffined upon strikes us as the very essence of precaution in the matter of legal qualification; if a man cannot have his tiffin in peace after hiring a piece of ground on which to enjoy it, there must surely be unreasonable people about. Well, the picnic party, which included all ages and both sexes, found when half through the *al fresco* meal that a mob of about two hundred Chinese had surrounded them—a mob, too, which very clearly indicated its wish to share in what was going on. Incidentally it threw mud, and then, probably becoming impatient when it found that the foreigners would not be scared away from their repast,—it threw stones, so that the picnickers at length made it convenient to leave the remains of their tiffin and all their dishes, &c., on the piece of ground which had been hired for a much different purpose. These did not go far in a crowd of Chinese, but they seem to have been satisfactory to this extent, that the pleasure-seekers were allowed to depart in peace. Picnicking at Bokenji seems a tame and spiritless affair compared with an outing of this kind. * * * The annual inspection of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps was made on the 4th inst. by Major Tottenham, appointed for that duty by the officer commanding at Hongkong. * * * The annual meeting of the Shanghai Rowing Club was held on the 6th inst. The Club now has 81 members, and is a very satisfactory condition—as the Captain, Mr. D. Glass, remarked, it never had so many members, or so much money coming in, or so much money going out. * * * H.E. Fü-K'un, a Minister of the Tsung-li Yamen, has had, we learn from the *Shenpao*, a somewhat unpleasant experience with robbers. While on his way to the Palace early one morning, he saw several thieves perched on the city wall. Exactly how the Minister was able to decide that they were thieves, we are not told; the circumstance that they were perched upon a wall is hardly enough to show their nefarious character; the only justifiable deduction, indeed, from the Minister's observation might be that they were occupying a position with which the Minister and his colleagues are supposed to be fairly familiar,—sitting on the fence. Be that as it may, however, the Minister ordered their arrest, for which ceremony the strangers did not wait. Next evening a party of men entered the Minister's house. After loading themselves with plunder, we are told in the *N. C. Daily News* translation, "they made their presence known with lighted torches and glittering swords." They pointed a gun at the Minister, and, having thus

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secured an undivided monopoly of that gentleman's attention, they told him to remember their looks and not forget them. They then with a shout broke open the main door and escaped. We should fancy that if H.E. happens to meet again any of the leaders in this little escapade, neither lighted torches nor glittering swords—leaving pointed guns entirely out of the case—will be necessary to awaken the interest of that official. * * * It is stated that the present Chinese Consul at Singapore is to be succeeded by Whang Taotai, who has been Secretary of Legation in London, and Consul-General at San Francisco. * * * At a meeting the other day, of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, a paper was read by Mr. Fraser on the "Fish-skin Tartars," or Orotches, a tribe who are described as poor relations of the Manchus who now rule the Chinese empire. * * * The *N.-C. Daily News*, writing of the Postal Subsidy Bill which was passed by Congress on 2nd March, and of the results in the form of increased and faster steamer communication with the United States, expresses the hope that considerable improvement will be made in the mail service to Shanghai. It is no advantage to Shanghai that "the new steamers will run from San Francisco to Yokohama in twelve days or less, if the mails are to lie in Yokohama four or five days waiting for a steamer to Shanghai, and are then to be sent by a Japanese mail steamer, which stays at least a day at each port on the way. The interests of Americans in Shanghai are at least as large as they are in Hongkong, and it is only fair that their mails should be delivered to them here as quickly as in Hongkong: whereas it still sometimes happens that the American mail reaches here *viâ* Hongkong earlier than from Japan. The outward Canadian mail is to come regularly to Shanghai on its way to Hongkong, and there is no reason why the San Francisco steamers could not do the same, and then perhaps by degrees the expedient will be adopted of sorting the mails on board the steamers, and Americans will not have to wait 6 or 12 hours or more after the steamer arrives before they can get their letters."

NOW THAT WE ARE UNDER A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT DO NOT CAUSE THE CRY OF "EXPULSION OF THE BARBARIAN" TO BLAZE OUT AFRESH.

In a leading article with the above title, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* of the 15th instant discusses the opposition to Treaty Revision which is now being raised on the point of the opening of the country. "Treaty Revision," says the writer, "having now again engaged the attention of the political world, political parties are using the question as a weapon to further their several views. There can be no objection to persons opposing Treaty Revision or favouring it according to their political points of view, but if the question be discussed unreasonably and blindly without due examination of facts, there is reason to apprehend that the result may be startling, and what we more especially fear is a resuscitation of the anti-foreign cry. Certain politicians are constantly proclaiming the disadvantages which will ensue from the admission of foreigners into the interior, and they even go so far as to say that it is better to continue extra-territoriality than to open the country. These politicians do not, we presume, make these statements because they are animated by a bitter hatred of foreigners and wish to stop intercourse with them; their opinions are probably based on an estimate of the advantages and disadvantages which will follow upon the opening of the country, but we cannot be certain that many of those who listen to their statements and applaud their views will not misapprehend their real sentiments, and, regarding foreigners as enemies of the country, consider mixed residence with them as the same thing as living with wild beasts. There is therefore ground for apprehension that the old feeling which was manifested in the isolation of the country and the cry for the expulsion of the barbarian may be revived. To regard other races as enemies is a natural feeling in all countries. This feeling has always existed, and the more uncivilized the country and the less intercourse it has with the outside world the more strongly is this feeling shown. We in the course of many centuries of isolation came to look upon all foreigners as enemies, and before the Restoration the words 'Reverence the Emperor and expel the barbarians' were the watchwords of every *Samurai*, just as in these days the cry of every politician is 'liberty and right,' and had even more effect upon the people. The persons who used the former cry in those days to stir up the people might be perfectly well aware that the thing they advocated was an impossibility, but this knowledge did not hinder them from using it on every occasion, and the fact that it was used and with effect may be taken as a proof of the universal feelings of the Japanese of those times towards foreigners. . . . We cannot assert that this anti-foreign feeling died out entirely with the Restoration; on the contrary, it is more than possible that it has only been concealed and lying dormant to be awakened with fresh activity when the impulse is given." The writer goes on to point out that the wave of foreign civilization which swept over the county after the Restoration left the nation no time to think of anything else but the progress to be made, but that the reaction against foreign influences of all kinds which has lately set in tends to revive the old anti-foreign feeling which formerly existed, and he urges his countrymen not to be carried away by these reactionary tendencies, and, instead of fearing and disliking foreigners, to endeavour to attain a position in which they will be able to cultivate closer relations with them upon a footing of equality.

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA."

A large number of residents availed themselves on Thursday of the opportunity of going on board the Canadian Pacific new steamer *Empress of India*. By favour of Messrs. Frazar & Co., the local agents, the steamer *Spindrift* ran between the vessel and the shore, conveying sightseers, and a band played a number of selections on board during the afternoon. The first *Empress* of the line is undoubtedly a splendid vessel. Her voyage out was not marked by any incident of note. The only occasion when she was driven at full speed (but without forced draught) was on the trip from Hongkong to Shanghai when at about 75 revolutions she ran mostly at a speed of about 17 knots an hour—of course in favourable weather. On this the *N.-C. Daily News* remarks:—"The *Empress of India* made the run from Hongkong to Gutzlaff in under 48 hours, the previous best time being the *Oriental's*, 49 hours, 5 minutes. She arrived at Woosung at 3.45 p.m., making the run from Hongkong to Woosung in 2 days, 3 hours, an average speed for the whole distance of just under 16 knots." She left Kobe at midnight on Monday being then well down by the head. Strong north-westerly winds were experienced and the ship, though with all 4 double ended boilers going (a total of 32 fires) was not driven, her average speed being about 12 knots. With a clipper, fiddle-bow and under light schooner rig, (three masts) the *Empress of India* looks a very pretty ship. She has a top-gallant forcastle and a full poop, wells intervening between these and the saloon deck, on which the state-rooms, smoking room, etc., are situated. Of the capacity of these rooms an idea may be gained when we say that with her 51 feet of beam the visitor certainly does not get the impression that the open deck space is very great. The accommodation for saloon passengers is suggestive rather of a large first class hotel than of an ocean steamship. Perhaps the least attractive part of the ship—next to the Chinese steerage—is the engine room, and yet this is certainly the most wonderful portion of the great structure. A longitudinal bulk-head, carried up to a height almost level with the main deck divides the engine room into two, connection between which is supplied by a door-way which can be closed in case of emergency. Here the visitor, descending by various stages to the starting platform, may view the maze of cranks, of pistons, of cylinders, of pumps, and the countless other mechanism which goes to make up the modern marine engine. The stoke-hole is not longitudinally separated like the engine-room, but is a deep well between thwart-ship bulkheads. Aft from the engine-room is the tank,—for so we can only describe the space which the exigencies of latter day engineering allow and which is the hottest place on the ship—in which are the engines driving the electric system of the vessel, and the Linde's British Refrigerator engine, the refrigerating chamber itself being aft. From the engine also there run aft the shaft tunnels, probably the most spacious compartments in this part of the ship, and it is interesting to note that, as our detailed account sets forth, no brackets are required to support the twin shafts which emerge easily from the run of the ship. On the upper or saloon deck, next to the exquisitely decorated cabins, that feature of the steamer which most specially claims attention is the huwe scale of the fittings. Large iron life-boats hang on massive davits; the gigantic funnels are surrounded by a thicket of great ventilators to provide fresh air to the workers in stoke-hole and engine-room, and the forward funnel carries a couple of steam whistles the larger of which might be a funnel, and a siren which would prove a very respectable ventilator, for the *Spindrift*. It has hardly been decided yet, we suppose, whether the *Empress* will carry her white paint henceforward. The colour suffers dreadfully from that unavoidable process, coaling, but, unlike black paint, may be patched without showing the patches. We cannot help hoping that the new ship may retain her colour, which is distinctive, and, even in these non-tropical climes, grateful to the eye.

THE DISTURBANCE IN NEMURO.

Some particulars of the disturbance in Nemuro on the 31st of last month, which has already been briefly reported, are to hand. It appears that at about 11 a.m., a number of the local militia settlers came to the office of the *Nemuro Shimbun*, and the leader, giving his name as Hayashi Nobuhisa, asked to see the second editor, Mr. Watanabe Shigeki. As Watanabe was acquainted with Hayashi he did not hesitate to present himself, whereupon he was immediately asked to give up the name of the person who had written in the newspaper an article headed *Masa-yume* (a true dream). Watanabe declined to give the name, alleging that to do so would be a violation of rule as well as of journalistic custom, but the intruders pressed him, and declared that they felt grossly insulted by the article. Alleging that he wished to confer with the editor, Mr. Sato Kiyokichi, Watanabe withdrew, but was quickly followed by Hayashi's party, who at once set themselves to smash everything they could find, including the windows, the lamps, and the printing presses. No resistance appears to have been offered by the staff of the newspaper, which was probably fortunate, as the intruders drew their swords at an early stage of the proceedings and used them freely to break up the furniture and plant. Mr. Watanabe was attacked in the street after he had left the office, and severely though not fatally wounded. A number of the employés of the paper fared similarly, and for a time the disturbance was very serious. It is supposed that some reason, other than mere offence in consequence of the incriminated article, was at the bottom of the affair. The leaders of the truculent militia-men have all been arrested, it is said.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

We learn from exchanges that the following are the resolutions submitted to the Australian Federal Convention, which met in Sydney last month:—

1st.—That the powers and privileges and the territorial rights of the several existing Colonies, shall remain intact excepting in respect of such surrenders as shall be agreed upon as necessary

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and incidental to the power and authority of the Federal Government.

2nd.—That the trade and intercourse between the Federal Colonies, whether by means of land or coastal navigation, shall be absolutely free.

3rd.—That the power and authority to impose Customs duties, shall be exclusively vested in the Federal Government and Parliament, subject to such disposal of revenues thence derived as shall be agreed upon.

4th.—The Military and Naval Defence of Australia shall be entrusted to the Federal forces under the one Commandant.

5th.—That subject to these and other necessary provisions this Convention approves of framing a Federal Constitution to be established as follows:—

1st.—A Parliament, consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives, the former to consist of an equal number of members from each Province, to be elected by a system which shall provide for the retirement of one-third of the members every (blank) years, but securing to the body itself perpetual existence combined with definite responsibility to the electors. Said Parliamentary representatives to be elected by districts on the basis of population, and to possess the sole power of originating and amending Bills, appropriating revenue and imposing taxation.

2nd.—A Judicature, consisting of a Federal Supreme Court of Appeal for Australia, under the direct authority of the Sovereign for the time being, and whose decision shall be final.

3rd.—An Executive, consisting of a Governor-General and such persons as may from time to time be appointed by him and his advisers, such persons being selected from those sitting in Parliament, and their term of office depending upon the confidence of the House of Representatives as expressed by vote of the majority.

ADDRESS BY BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

We publish elsewhere an address delivered by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Bickersteth at the third biennial Synod of the Nippon Seikokwai, which was held on the 4th instant in Osaka. The Synod, which sat during a week in Osaka, consisted of the Bishops and of an equal number of clerical and lay delegates. Japan is divided, for missionary purposes, into four districts, Tokyo, Osaka, Kumamoto, and Hakodate. Each district is entitled to send to the Synod ten clergy delegates—Japanese or foreign—and an equal number of laymen. Only Tokyo and Osaka are as yet in a position to send the full number. Among those present at the Synod just concluded, was Bishop Hare, of South Dakota, who has been deputed by the American House of Bishops to come to Japan for six months, to exercise during that time all episcopal functions devolving on a Bishop of the American Church in Japan. Bishop Williams, hitherto the head of that church in this country, resigned a year and a half ago, and no successor has yet been appointed. It will be observed that Bishop Bickersteth alluded in strong but subdued language to the beautiful life and noble work of Bishop Williams during thirty years in this country. Bishop Williams is in truth one of those perfectly good men, rarely to be met with in this small world. His life has been a perpetual sermon, more eloquent than any words, more effective than any precepts. Bishop Bickersteth most happily summarized the record of his thirty years' devotion when he said, "only the day of God will reveal the results of his life and example." *Acta deos nunquam mortalia fallunt.*

NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE THAT WILL NOT SEE.

It is very plain that journalistic discussion in this Settlement will never help to elucidate the international problems discussed. When there is a confirmed objection, or confirmed inability, on one side to understand the plainest statements advanced by the other, it results inevitably that time and space which should be devoted to profitable argument, are wasted in explanations and repudiations. No one reading, with any degree of sincerity and attention, our recent comments on the Citizens' Committee's Statement, could arrive at the conclusion that we "denied the assertion it contained respecting the competency of the native judiciary." We did nothing of the kind. Our contention, on the contrary, was that foreigners are not in a position to pronounce a sweeping verdict—as the Committee's Statement did—on the competence of the Japanese Judiciary to administer Codes not yet in operation; and that further, this emphatic judgment of the Committee's was inconsistent with its equally emphatic assertion that the competence of the Judiciary could only be tested by future practice. Surely if we deny the right of the Committee to settle, completely and immediately, the qualifications of Japanese Judges, it is not likely that we should venture to claim that right for ourselves. What we have pointed out is simply that judgment should be suspended until materials to form it are forthcoming. That is a proposition to which every moderate and fair-minded man must assent. But the Committee does not suspend judgment. It announces as a fact that "the native judiciary is not yet fitted by education, knowledge, or practice, either to understand or administer the Codes of law that have recently been compiled from foreign sources," and that "the Judges who are to read and interpret these books do not exist in Japan now." By committing itself to these wholesale and as yet unwarranted assertions, the Committee, or rather the compilers of the Statement, convict themselves of precipitancy and prejudice. The attitude of deliberation which they urge so strongly upon the foreign negotiators, is not exemplified in their own manifesto. Surely it does not follow that in pronouncing the Committee's verdict premature in one direction, we must be taken as pledging ourselves equally prematurely to a verdict in the opposite direction. That would be as though one should say that a man who denied the possibility, at the present stage of scientific research, of declaring the non-existence of an unfrozen space about the North Pole, had committed himself to asserting the existence of such a space.

* * *

To the same category of false accusations belong the charges that we have pronounced any general opinion about the character of the new Codes, and that it is an opinion opposed to "the testimony of hundreds of our fellow-countrymen and of the Japanese themselves." The strangely exaggerated character of this accusation needs no demonstration. The newspaper preferring it asserts, in one breath, that "no intelligible translation of the Codes has been made," and in the next, that "hundreds of foreigners" have testified to their faultiness. Where did these "hundreds of foreigners" obtain their knowledge? It is by such manifest hyperbole and gross inaccuracy that the foreign community is misrepresented and its attitude about Treaty Revision brought into ridicule. We have never ventured to pronounce any opinion about the new Codes, for the simple reason that we have had no opportunity of perusing them. It might be well if our traducers observed a similar reticence.

* * *

Count Yamada's instructions to the Committee of Revision, as described by Mr. Murata Tamotsu, are perpetually re-produced, by way of proving that these bodies of law were compiled solely in the interests of Treaty Revision. The disingenuousness of this argument is evident when we remember that the work of compiling the Codes had been completed long before Count Yamada became head of the Committee appointed to revise them. The facts about the Codes are perfectly simple and well known. Up to the close of 1885, the Japanese proposals about Treaty Revision did not extend beyond the recovery of a very limited portion of jurisdiction over foreigners, and did not involve the necessity of giving any pledge about the New Civil and Commercial Codes. The enactment or non-enactment of these bodies of law was in no sense directly essential to the success of the Japanese programme. Yet their compilation had been commenced years previously, and a draft of the Commercial Code was already in print. How can it be pretended, under these circumstances, that the work of compilation was undertaken solely for purposes of Treaty Revision? Thereafter the negotiations assumed wider scope, it having been found quite impossible to elaborate any practical system of divided jurisdiction, as proposed by Japan. In the new programme some engagement as to the nature of the Codes was required by the Foreign Plenipotentiaries, and the difficulty of giving such an engagement figured conspicuously among the causes that wrecked the negotiations. The Japanese then understood that their case would be immensely simplified could they lay the completed codes on the conference table, and the work of revision—that of compilation had already been concluded—was therefore pushed forward with all possible celerity. There never was any secret as to the reason of the expedition urged on the revisers. Everybody understood it, but we may assume that intelligent people did not make the mistake of supposing that because the last stages of the undertaking were hastened in the interests of the Treaties, its inception and original purpose were also political. Nothing seems to us harsher or more unjust than that, after Japan has been urged by Foreign Powers to devote her energies to the speedy compilation of civil laws consistent with the principles of Western jurisprudence, in order to qualify herself for international recognition, she should now be censured by foreigners themselves for the rapidity of her efforts. Mr. Murata's contention was that sufficient time had not been given to revise the laws. Yet he had himself taken part in the task and endorsed its completeness. If it subsequently suited his convenience to range himself with the opposition, and for political purposes to take advantage of the reactionary spirit against foreign innovations, the value of his statements should be discounted by all sober-minded observers. These are facts which any careful student of modern Japanese history can verify easily. Men who plunge into the Treaty Revision controversy at the eleventh hour, without instructing themselves about the incidents of the early part of the day, should not be too ready to accuse others of "ignoring inconvenient facts," of "consummate deceit," of "insincerity," and so forth.

DEATH OF MR. D. J. JENKINS.

The *Overland Mail* has the following notice of the death of the owner of the "Shire" line of steamers:—We regret to announce the death last night at Torquay, on board the steamer *Flintshire*, on which he was cruising for his health, of Mr. David James Jenkins, who represented Falmouth in the Beaconsfield Parliament of 1874-80, and was the proprietor of the fleet of steamers known as the "Japan Line." An accident which occurred to Mr. Jenkins while swimming, in the autumn of last year, necessitated an operation which, after a prolonged illness, led to his death. At an early age Mr. Jenkins, who was of an exceptionally active and vigorous temperament, went to sea, and after going through the various stages, arrived at the command of a vessel, and made himself conspicuous in the Liverpool and New York trade as a skilful and daring navigator. Foreseeing the development of steam navigation, he came ashore for two years and qualified himself as an engineer. When the Crimean War broke out Mr. Jenkins was in command of the *Brandon*, at that time an exceptionally fast steamer, of which he was part owner, and which was taken up by Government as a despatch vessel to run between Buyukdere and the British camp near Sebastopol. Subsequently, Mr. Jenkins commenced business in the City of London, and eventually built and established the fine line of steamers named after the Welsh counties, which are now know as the Japan Line. In politics Mr. Jenkins was a Liberal, and was returned to the House for Falmouth within a few days of the election of his nephew Mr. Edward Jenkins for Dundee. His brothers, the Rev. John Jenkins, D.D., late of St. Paul's Church, Montreal, one of whose daughters is the wife of Mr. H. S. King, C.I.E., M.P. and the Rev. E. E. Jenkins, a distinguished Wesleyan Methodist minister, survive him. Mr. Jenkins married twice, and has left a widow and a large family.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS.

It is now definitely fixed that the exhibition of Mr. J. Varley's paintings, in aid of the Tokyo Charity Hospital, will be opened to the public

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on the 26th instant, at 1 p.m. Some of the important pictures painted by Mr. Varley during his stay in Japan have already been sent to London for his proposed exhibition in Bond Street, but there remains a large collection of oils and water colours, about 83 in number, we believe. Of course the pictures will not be seen to the best advantage as the framing will have to be done in a temporary manner, but the exhibition will be a treat such as we seldom have an opportunity of enjoying in Japan. Mr. Varley comes of a race of artists. His father and grandfather were both distinguished painters, the latter being known among artists as the father of water colours; while Mulready, the Royal Academician, and Copley Fielding, of the Royal Water Colour Society, each of whom stood at the head of his profession, were his great uncles. Mr. Varley himself has studied in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and other places, and has devoted some fifteen years to painting in various parts of the East, Egypt, Asia Minor, Morocco, and so forth. It is probably owing to this long familiarity with Oriental scenery that he succeeds so admirably in the colouring and atmospheric effects of his pictures.

COUNT YOSHII.

THE stroke of paralysis by which Count Yoshii, of the Privy Council, was attacked on the 27th ultimo, threatened to have immediately fatal results, but yielded to medical treatment sufficiently to inspire hope that recovery was not out of the question. Within the past few days, however, there has been, we regret to say, a relapse, and the Count's state is now very critical. Special inquiries have been made from the Palace, and on Saturday a sum of a thousand *yen* was sent in the names of the Emperor, the Empress, and the Empress Dowager, to defray medical expenses, according to the old Japanese custom. The patient has lost the power of swallowing, and it has become necessary to feed him by means of a tube. We fear that, at his advanced age and considering that this is by no means his first seizure, the chances of a rally are very slender.

SHAKESPEARE IN YOKOHAMA.

MESSRS. KELLY AND WALSH inform us that they have received intimation from the manager of the dramatic company recently performing in Hongkong and the south of his intimation to visit Japan, Mr. Miln in his communication stating that the company may be expected here about the middle of May, after a visit to Shanghai. From accounts in the papers, Mr. Miln appears to be able to produce Shakespeare's plays in their entirety, and to the satisfaction of the critics, but the audiences have not been large. We hope the enterprising player will not suffer loss through his visit to Japan, and he may possibly just pay expenses if he does not remain too long, as was the case apparently at Singapore.

RICE.

THE *Nippon* says that the production of rice in Japan last year was 43,040,811 *koku*, and that the area on which it was cultivated measured 2,747,797 *cho*, or 6,869,482 acres. Compared with the figure for 1889, this yield shows an increase of 30.3 per cent., and compared with the figure for 1888, an increase of 11.3 per cent. It is also 23.6 per cent. above the average of the past ten years. If the *Nippon's* statement about the area under cultivation be correct, the yield averaged 6.26 *koku*, or 32 bushels, per acre over the whole empire; an extraordinary figure.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S SCOTCH RETREAT.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—Last summer when in Scotland I was spending a few days with a friend who has a place on the Gareloch. One afternoon we drove past the head of the lock, and crossed the neck which separates it from Lock Long. In a little nook below lay a small fishing village, with one or two cottages for summer residents in and about. "Who do you suppose comes and spends his summers here?" asked my friend. "A well-known political character, who does a great deal of good in the community and is a favourite with the fisher folk." I failed to guess the right name, and was then informed that the politician visitor was no other than Mr. Bradlaugh, who was passionately fond of the rod and line. His memory is likely to linger long in this quiet spot.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR has nominated eleven new members to the House of Peers. Their names and former positions are as follow:—

Mr. Gu Junzo	Formerly Vice-Minister of Finance.
Mr. Miyamoto Koichi	Former Senator.
Mr. Iwamura Sadataka	Former Senator.
Mr. Nagayama Moritaru	Former Senator.
Mr. Hashiguchi Kenzo	Former Senator.
Mr. Ohoshi Kan	Former Senator.
Mr. Kanai Yukiyasu	Former Senator.
Mr. Iwaya Shu	Former Senator.
Mr. Terajima Junuke	Former Senator.
Mr. Kawasaki Yumei	Chief of Army Bureau of Superintendence.
Mr. Miyake Shu	Medical Professor in Imperial University.

These nominations, together with the two announced a few days ago, bring the number of Imperial Nominees in the Upper House to 72. According to the present composition of the House, it is competent for His Majesty to nominate 101 members in all, so that only 29 vacancies remain.

IN MEMORIAM "CHINESE TIMES."

"TUNG CHIA" in the *N.C. Daily News* chants the dirge of the *Chinese Times*, which ceased publication at the end of March:—

"More light"*—it was thy watchword and thy will,
Thou gallant beacon on this rocky shore!
Alas; thy helpful rays shall guide no more
Through fog and stormful night—henceforward still
Thy clarion note of caution and of cheer.
Thy days are done,—the swift encroaching tide
Of ignorance and littleness and pride
Rolls darkly o'er thy place; now doubt and fear
Resume their ancient hold. Yet not in vain
Nor thankless all thy toil—brave ships to-day
Sail the wide seas that learned from thee the way
Through treacherous shallows to the open main.
Therefore adieu! Not darkly falls the night
Since thou hast been, and being, brought "more light!"

TUNG CHIA.

* "Mehr Licht" the motto of the *Chinese Times*.

COUNT YOSHII.

COUNT YOSHII continues to linger on in a semi-conscious condition. On Tuesday evening it was supposed that he had only a few hours to live, but by the aid of powerful stimulants his physicians have succeeded in prolonging his existence up to the present. Recovery is said to be out of the question, however. It is impossible not to speculate on the uselessness of maintaining such a fruitless struggle with death. Certainly the most merciful course to the patient himself would be to let him expire quietly. He gains nothing by remaining in his present state, so far as we can see, though possibly the pain of parting may be lessened for his family and friends.

"AVE ATQUE VALE."

THE outgoing American mail on Saturday carries away from Japan Mr. F. A. Satow, who was for four years in the service of the Imperial Judicial Department, where he rendered valuable aid in the compilation of the Civil and Commercial Codes and the Code of Civil Procedure. No one has ever won such a host of genuine friends in so short time in Japan as Mr. Satow. His departure leaves a blank in the lives of many, and he will always be remembered in Tokyo and Yokohama as one of the truest-hearted and most sterling men that have ever visited this country.

MRS. T. A. LARGE.

MANY of our readers will be interested to hear that Mrs. T. A. Large, of the Toyo Eiwa Jo-Gakko, Tokyo, who was obliged last year to seek rest and change in Canada under circumstances of great sadness, still fresh in the memory of the public, intends to sail for Japan on August 10th, to resume her work in Japan. Mrs. Large will be accompanied by her sister Miss Spencer. Her return to the school over which she presided with so much ability during several years, will be a welcome event.

MUSICAL SOIRÉE AT THE GERMAN LEGATION.

A PLEASANT variety in the social entertainments of the capital was inaugurated at the German Legation in Tokyo on Wednesday evening, when a large party, including all the notables of Tokyo and several Yokohama residents had the pleasure of listening to some excellent music, vocal and instrumental, by German and English amateurs. After a programme of considerable length, every item of which was capitally rendered, a sumptuous supper terminated a most enjoyable evening.

LAND AT OTARU.

THE Tokyo News Agency states that land at Otaru in Hokkaido is now worth ten *yen* per *tsubo*, and that Viscount Yenomoto and Mr. Kitagaki Kunimichi, who are joint owners of a considerable tract in that locality, are taking advantage of the state of the market to sell their property for a hundred and eighty-five thousand *yen*. It seems scarcely credible that such a price should be obtainable for land in the northern island, especially in these times of general depression.

THE MINISTER PRESIDENT.

THE fact that H.E. Count Yamagata has left the capital for Kyoto, where Count Ito is now staying, gives rise to many conjectures. People now talk of Count Ito's assuming the leadership of the Cabinet, instead of Count Saigo, whose acceptance of the post was generally regarded as certain before Count Yamagata's journey southward. We do not believe, however, that Count Ito will consent to return to the Cabinet at present.

THE RADICALS.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun* says that Count Itagaki, as leader of the *Jiju-to*, has appointed the following six members of Parliament to be the heads of Sections for inquiring into various political affairs:—Messrs. Kawashima Jun, Matsuda Masahisa, Kono Hironaka, Suzuki Shoji, Sugita Tei-ichi, and Arai Shago.

DEATH OF MR. BRYCE DOUGLAS.

NEWS has been received by telegram in Tokyo of the death of Mr. Bryce Douglas, the well known designer of ships. A noble specimen of Mr. Douglas' ability is now in Yokohama harbour—the *Empress of India*.

MR. HOLLAND.

WE learn that in the event of Mr. T. E. Holland, Professor of International Law at Oxford, being engaged for service in Japan, he will take the place of Dr. Hermann Roesler, who desires to return to Europe.

APPOINTMENT.

BISHOP BICKERSTETH has appointed the Rev. C. F. Warren to be Archdeacon of the Church of England in Osaka and Central Japan.

TRINITY CHURCH, TSUKIJI, TOKYO.

ON Sunday, April 19th, Morning Prayer at 11 a.m. and Sermon by Canon Tristram, D.D., F.R.S., of Durham Cathedral.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Rumoured changes in the Ministry constitute the principal topic of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press. Count Yamagata seems unmoved in his resolution to resign the post of Minister President. It is stated that, on the point of leaving the capital for his native Province a few days ago, he was dissuaded from taking such a rash step by Count Saigo. The latest report is that the Emperor has telegraphed to Count Ito—now staying at Kobe—to return to the capital. The papers doubt very much whether Count Ito will accept the post, but predict that it will be offered to him on his arrival in Tokyo. The general journalistic opinion seems to be that no persuasion or pressure will induce the Count to take a leading part in politics at this juncture. Count Saigo, too, is said to be firm in his refusal to succeed Count Yamagata. The next statesman

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thought of in connection with the post of Minister President is Count Matsukata, but there seems to be opposition to him in a certain influential section of the Government. It is even rumoured that he is desirous of resigning his present post of Minister of Finance, the ventilators of this rumour alleging in support of it that he has vacated his official residence in Nagatacho, and referring his resolve to the ground that his dealings with the House of Representatives on the question of the Budget gave some offence to the rest of his colleagues, though in what way offence was given or taken is not clearly stated. Count Oyama is also living at his private house at Aoyama, and he, too, is said to have decided to resign, his probable successor being General Takashima. Mr. Yoshikawa, again, is represented as being determined to resign the portfolio of Education, in the event of the retirement of his patron, Count Yamagata.

* * *

The situation being thus hopelessly uncertain, the Metropolitan papers all unite in advising the Ministers to effect a speedy arrangement for the formation of a new Cabinet. Until some time ago, the leading journals tried to dissuade Count Yamagata from resigning, but now they seem to think that there is no hope of inducing him to remain. They argue that the people have become entirely sick of the time-serving changes in the *personnel* of the Ministers of State, and urge the necessity of a new departure by creating a Cabinet capable of lasting for some years. Equally with the Ministers, however, the journalists of the capital appear to be at a loss to find a suitable successor to Count Yamagata, should he really resign his post. Usually when a Minister President is reported to be going out, the newspapers experience no difficulty in indicating some proper and probable successor, but in the present instance all are plainly perplexed.

* * *

The question of Treaty Revision engages the attention of the vernacular press, especially the organs of the *Kaishin-to*. The attitude of that party towards the reported programme of Viscount Aoki is a question of considerable interest. As stated in a former weekly summary, the *Kaishin-to* organs are evidently preparing the way for their party to assume, if necessary, even a hostile attitude in conjunction with the *Jiyu-to* and other progressive parties. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, generally regarded as one of the organs of the *Kaishin-to*, states that the party has not yet held any conference for the purpose of determining the course of policy to be adopted. But according to a conversation which the editor of the paper had had with leading members of the *Kaishin-to*, the latter did not all approve the scheme of Count Okuma. Messrs. Ozaki Yukio and Shimada Saburo are cited as the most noteworthy non-contents. They were in Europe at the time, and if they did not oppose Count Okuma's proposals, it was because they believed that the negotiations had already reached such a point that to suspend them or introduce any large modifications would be injurious to the national reputation of Japan. The *Yomiuri* states in conclusion that the leading members of the *Kaishin-to* are opposed to the programme of Viscount Aoki, and that the policy of the party will be decided upon ere long.

* * *

Judging from the utterances of its organs, the *Kaishin-to* seems determined to oppose chiefly that portion of Viscount Aoki's programme which relates to tariff autonomy. The *Mimpo* observes that Viscount Aoki, inheriting the erroneous policy of his predecessors, seem to regard an increase of customs duties as equivalent to the recovery of tariff autonomy. So long as Japan is bound to consult the convenience of the Treaty Powers before making any change in the rate of the duties, she cannot be said to enjoy her full right of fixing the tariff at will. If it is necessary to agree to a conventional tariff, then its provisions ought to be reciprocal. Our contemporary prefers to have the tariff determined by the Japanese Government with the consent of the Imperial Diet, according to the provisions of the Constitution, so that Japanese subjects may have the duty of paying taxes as directed by law.

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The *Yomiuri Shimbun* writes on the importance of effecting an alliance of political parties on the question of tariff autonomy. Like the *Mimpo*, it thinks that although the conclusion of treaties is a prerogative of the Crown, it is not an absolute prerogative, and that any treaty bearing on the taxation of people ought to be submitted to the deliberation of the Diet. According to the *Yomiuri's* information, the Authorities are determined not to submit the new commercial treaty to the Legislature, on the ground that customs duties are different from ordinary taxes, partaking more of the nature of special fees. Such a procedure is evidently unconstitutional, and our contemporary invites the various parties to combine on this question, so as to compel the Government to lay before the people's Representatives such portions of the proposed treaties as bear on the question of tariff. Alliance for this purpose is said to be very easy, the point at issue being simple and clear, and the subject having little in it to suggest those outbursts of party animosity and ill-feeling which have too often disfigured the discussion about judicial autonomy. Once combined on this point, it would not be very difficult, we are told, for the allies to extend their union to other points involved in the question of Treaty Revision.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* writing under the heading "English Villages in Japan," remarks that although Chinese are condemned on account of their incurable tendency to form a separate community wherever they go, the same tendency is manifested by Englishmen in the East, especially in Japan. The foreign settlements in this country contain people of all nationalities, but the English element preponderates so much that they may justly be regarded as so many English Villages. At first sight, it might be thought that Englishmen would be the first to sympathize with Japan's efforts to get her treaties revised; for Englishmen, together with Americans, are held in the highest esteem by the Japanese, and of all foreign literatures and languages, the English literature and the English language are most extensively studied in this country. Modern history furnishes many instances of noble chivalry displayed by the English people in their relations with foreign nations, notably in the cases of Greece and the helpless fugitives from down-trodden Poland. How different is the conduct of English residents in Japan in regard to the question of Treaty Revision? It was they who opposed most strenously the programmes of both Count Inouye and Count Okuma, and now it is they who oppose the programmes of the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. There are doubtless several causes for so strange a departure from the magnanimous dealings of the Anglo-Saxon race, but one of the principal is stated to be their existence as separate and isolated communities in the midst of the people of the country. Our contemporary, consequently rebukes those Japanese who object to mixed residence, for the effect of the policy they advocate is to keep Englishmen eternally prejudiced against Japan.

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The changes recently effected in the *personnel* of the Governors of Cities and Prefectures are not very popular. Five of these officials were put on the *hishoku* list, and five were newly appointed from among ex-Senators and officials in Tokyo, while nine were removed from one locality to another. The *Hochi Shimbun* alone among the leading dailies in Tokyo does not openly condemn the changes. On the contrary, it hopes that the Government will make further changes. All other papers of importance unite in frankly stating their disapproval. They recognize the vital importance of radical alterations in the Governors of *Fu* and *Ken*. Many of the present Governors, they say, are not fit for their posts under the régime inaugurated by the carrying out of the Constitution, and the new system of local self-government. Those recently put on the *hishoku* list are not, according to the vernacular press, particularly the type of men who ought to be shelved; neither are the five new Governors distinguished by any talents or accomplishments. The Tokyo papers, therefore, declare themselves at a loss to understand the reason why these changes were at all necessary. The *Mimpo* even goes so far as to observe that their only result will be to create new centres for propagating the influence of a few Ministers of State.

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The Korean problem still exercises the minds of a certain section of the public. The *Nippon* is one of the papers that pay most attention to this subject. A writer signing himself "Kyôkyô-sei" discusses the question of the alleged attempt to force the King of Korea to abdicate his crown in favour of his son. The writer mentions several circumstances in support of the allegation. A little more than a month ago, an extraordinary civil service examination was held at Sôul. It was formerly customary in Korea to hold an extraordinary examination whenever an expensive state ceremony was going to be celebrated, for the purpose of collecting the necessary money in the form of examination fees. The revival of the almost forgotten custom caused much surprise among the inhabitants of the Korean capital, and their astonishment was increased when they found that the fees collected for the examination were to be employed in celebrating the ceremony of coronation. The writer goes on to state that Li Chungtang is the originator of the scheme. He sent a letter on the subject to the Korean Prime Minister Chin Shun-taku (Japanese pronunciation), who, in conjunction with the Minister of the Left, Tei Bôko, and despite the opposition of a loyal courtier named Li Yûyoku, managed to follow the instruction of the Chinese Viceroy so far as to make the Crown Prince Regent of the kingdom. The reason why China desires to get rid of the present king is stated to be that he is too well disposed towards Russia. The writer argues that there is no difference between Chinese dictation and Russian dictation. If China be really careful of her own interests and the interests of Korea, she must, the writer argues, join Japan and other Powers in supporting the independence of the peninsular kingdom.

* * *

The *Kokwai*, writing on the Tei affair, observes that, trivial as the matter is, it may very possibly lead to some bitterness of feeling between the Japanese and Chinese nations. Our contemporary hopes that such a result may not ensue, and draws the attention of its countrymen to the circumstance that China is the largest purchaser of Japanese marine products. In regard to tea and silk, Japan has several competitors, but in marine products she has no fear of foreign competition, and further, in this sphere her resources are almost inexhaustible. The *Kokkai* consequently thinks that the most valuable trade for Japan is that in marine products; and inasmuch as China is her principal customer for such things, it is of paramount importance for Japan to be on intimate terms with her western neighbour. Moreover, apart from commercial considerations, the two nations ought to be mutually friendly, as they belong to the same race.

* * *

The question of foreign emigration is beginning to attract public attention. The *Jiji Shimpo* writes on the importance of giving state protection to enterprise of this nature. There are three classes of people whose emigration should be encouraged; first, wealthy and influential men of business; secondly, poor working men, and thirdly, young students without occupation. The emigration of wealthy men of business is stated to be important for creating new centres of Japanese influence throughout the world. To people of this class, it is not necessary to grant any direct aid, but every indirect encouragement should be given them. In the case of men of the second and third classes, it would be advisable to afford a reasonable degree of assistance out of the public funds. It is not apparent to what cause the opening of this question is attributable.

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THE STATEMENT OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

IT is doubtless fresh in the memory of our readers that when the agitation caused by last September's Meeting began to assume large proportions, the promoters of the Meeting publicly protested against being called Anti-Revisionists. They claimed to be, on the contrary, Pro-Revisionists and insisted that their objection did not extend beyond Revision without conditions. Unfortunately this avowal had little weight with the Japanese. They continued to apply the term *hi-joyaku-kaisei* to the whole affair, and to this day they preserve the same nomenclature. It is greatly to be desired that a different view of the demonstration should be inculcated, since the aim of all educated foreigners is to obtain Japanese friendship, and since the object of revising the Treaties is, not to create international umbrage, but to cement closer relations of amity and commerce. We deem it, therefore, a matter fo sincere congratulation that the Citizens' Committee have inserted in their statement the following unequivocal declaration of goodwill and friendly sympathy :—

> The meeting has been called an Anti-Revision meeting; but so far from being opposed to Revison, there is not an intelligent member of the community who does not admit that Japan is entitled to demand some relaxtion of the terms of the present treaties. The progress she has made in various directions is recognized with sincerity and admiration, and her aspirations are regarded with sympathy; but the most persistent advocates of her cause are obliged to admit that she has not yet proved her right to claim unconditionally the promise of unrestricted judicial control over us, and it is an undoubted fact that there are many among the Japanese themselves who share their opinion. It will therefore be understood that the term Anti-Revision, as applied to the meeting, and those taking part in the resolutions arrived at, is entirely misleading.

This frank recognition of what Japan has achieved and of her title to more liberal treatment represents the mood of all intelligent and reasonable foreigners. We have for years insisted in these columns that such was the sentiment of the better classes of British subjects, and that their disposition must not be interpreted by the rancorous, vindictive, and palpably unfair utterances of writers who pretended to be their champions but were in reality their defamers. The Japanese press is presumably anxious to lead its nationals to a clear and just understanding of the Yokohama community's temper, and to remove this great question from the arena of bickering and recrimination into the higher atmosphere of intelligent and amicable discussion. We trust, therefore, that the vernacular journals will give wide circulation to the above extract from the Committee's Statement, and will recognise it as a genuine expression of the sentiment entertained by the representative men of the foreign community. In the course of this long battle to open Japan to free intercourse with the civilized world, it was inevitable that the clashing of private interests and the heat of intemperate controversy should generate some rancour and umbrage. But since the chief ends to be attained are the obliteration of racial distinctions and the removal of all restrictions upon free and friendly intercourse, bitterness and recrimination are wholly out of place. Whatever publicity has been given to the unhappily misleading aspects of last year's meeting, should now be given to the frank and kindly declaration of the Citizens' Committee.

Following this declaration is a résumé of the considerations which, in the Committee's opinion, weigh against the unconditional submission of the persons and properties of foreigners to Japanese jurisdiction. The résumé comprises some statements open to criticism and some, also, that seem regrettable. We do not propose, however, to examine it here in detail. Different minds reach the same goal by different routes, and all of us acknowledge the truth of the conclusion embodied in the Committee's summary, namely, that opportunity has not yet been afforded to acquire full faith in the competence of Japanese judicial officials to administer laws of a more or less unaccustomed and complicated character, and that foreigners consequently hesitate to submit their persons and properties unconditionally to Japanese jurisdiction. That view of the case is not to be controverted, and no reasonable Japanese should find fault with foreigners for entertaining it. Faith is a plant of slow growth. It cannot be forced, but must be fed and nurtured with solid materials. The Japanese have succeeded in all the experiments made by them hitherto. Through numerous stages of adoption and assimilation they have risen, without check or failure, to the summit of political civilization, representative institutions. In their past history every thing justifies confidence that the legal experiment upon which they have now entered will form no exception to the record of successes. But, as the Committee point out, the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction would be an irrevocable step. For good or for evil, once taken, there could be no going back. Caution, therefore, is a natural and proper mood on the part of those asked to take the step, and the present Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs fully recognised this when he said, in the House of Representatives, that the results of the working of the new Codes must be offered to foreigners as a guarantee. The position, then, as defined by the Committee, is this: that Japan is entitled to demand some relaxation of the terms of the present Treaties, but that further practical proofs of her competence are required before foreigners can willingly place themselves under her jurisdiction. Now it has been clearly shown by past experience that no partial surrender of Consular Jurisdiction is possible. We must either submit to Japanese jurisdiction altogether or maintain the present system. The Committee fully understand this. They make no suggestion of any partial measure, but pass at once to the logical and inevitable conclusion that the only way to reconcile justice with expediency, is to make some promise the fulfilment of which shall take place at a future date. They formulate their proposal thus :—

> What the Committee would recommend would be an undertaking to abandon Extra-territorial jurisidiction as soon as the Codes shall have been a sufficient time in force to afford practical proof of their efficiency, and the administration has been shown to be satisfactory, without attempting beforehand to determine a limit of time which, from the circumstances of the case, must necessarily be based on mere guess work; and if the Japanese Government are not content to await the result of this probation, then that their demands should be conceded only on condition of the interposition of some such safeguards as have hitherto been admitted on all sides, and notably by the Japanese Government itself, to be necessary.

It is obvious, of course, that the Committee, in offering this suggestion, did not attempt to mould it into the form of a possible basis of practical negotiations. An engagement on the part of foreign Powers to strike off Japan's fetters as soon as they themselves consider her competent to walk without restraint, would simply mean that she placed her case absolutely and unreservedly in their hands, to be dealt with whenever and however they might please. Her present position is that she became entitled to demand a revision of the Treaties nineteen years ago. The Committee's recommendation would deprive her of that title, and pledge her to an engagement surrendering her autonomy *ad infinitum*. The Committee understand very well that anything of that kind is out of the question. But they were compelled to abide by the unfortunately worded resolution voted last September. We showed at the time that the resolution, literally interpreted, meant nothing more or less than the abandonment of all negotiations, inasmuch as it vetoed the only conceivable basis of practical negotiation, namely, the giving of some promise to be implemented at a fixed future date. For pointing this out we were severely taken to task and roundly accused of misrepresentation, the mover of the resolution himself leading the attack upon us. But the Committee's Statement now affords us ample justification, since the only basis suggested is that the Powers should intimate their willingness to restore Japan's judicial autonomy at some date to be determined hereafter in obedience to their own independent judgment. Japan received such an engagement years ago. She received it on the day when the foreign Powers first consented to enter into negotiations for the restoration of her judicial autonomy. To embody it in an international agreement now would simply deprive her of all initiative, wholly subserve the satisfaction of her national claims to the volition of Western States, and reduce her, at one stroke, to the level of Korea, who, in her Treaty with Great Britain concluded eight years ago, received precisely the engagement which the Citizens' Committee would now offer to Japan

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in satisfaction of her deserving efforts and earnest aspirations. It is quite plain, therefore, that in advancing this proposition the Committee did not formulate an irreducible minimum of concessions. Prudent negotiators, they left themselves a margin within which some satisfactory compromise might be found. The spirit of the recommendation, rather than its precise terms, is consequently important, and so far as the spirit is concerned, Japan has nothing to complain of. The Committee not only admit her title to a modification of the Treaties, but also intimate in the clearest manner that, so soon as her "Codes shall have been a sufficient time in force to afford practical proof of their efficiency, and the administration has been shown to be satisfactory," the foreign residents will be prepared to place themselves under her Jurisdiction. These are most significant and liberal admissions. They should have the effect of removing any unfavourable conception of the foreign community's attitude. It only remains for the negotiators to discover a compromise which shall take due note of the proper caution of foreigners, without imposing any condition offensive to Japanese national sentiment.

THE "STATEMENT" AS TO TARIFF AND LAND.

THE first authoritative manifesto issued by the representatives of a large body of the Yokohama foreign residents, calls for more detailed notice than it has yet received at the hands of the press. We have extracted and emphasized its liberal and sympathetic portions, but its arguments and conclusions remain to be considered.

The document discusses three questions, the cardinal points of Treaty Revision. The first is the Tariff. Concerning this the Citizens' Committee says:—

> On the subject of the Tariff the Committee are of opinion that it may be modified to meet the wishes of the Japanese Government; but that it should be regulated by Commercial Treaties with the Powers interested, as is done in European countries. This would guard against sudden changes and the imposition of excessive duties, which might ruin certain important branches of trade. The levying of tonnage, harbour, and light-house dues might in the opinion of the Committee reasonably be conceded.

It is not quite clear whether this declaration is designed to embody a protest. The language, by intention or by accident, is perplexingly vague. Thoroughly well aware that the tariff arrangements contemplated by the negotiators of the Revised Treaties have received mature deliberation at the hands of the foreign merchants themselves, and have been accepted by them as within the bounds of reason, the Committee need not have touched this phase of the problem at all. If they intend to suggest that a general promise should be exacted from Japan, pledging her perennially to levy upon her foreign trade no duties other than such as shall have been included in conventions, they propose something obviously preposterous and impossible. If they do not intend to suggest this, with what purpose do they claim that the Tariff "should be regulated by Commercial Treaties?" It is to be regulated by a Commercial Treaty, and the Committee are well aware of the fact. But no Tariff Convention is of interminable operation, and when the period of the proposed Convention expires, arrangements to replace it must be the subject of entirely new negotiations. The Commmittee cannot mean to lay down the proposition that Japan is to be bound by some special promise in perpetuity; and if their language has reference to a terminable Convention, then they merely advise what is actually contemplated with the consent of all parties, the foreign merchants themselves included. They speak of "guarding against sudden changes and the imposition of excessive duties," from which it would seem that, moved by some undefined apprehension as to what might happen were Japan's hands free, they entertain a vague hope of seeing her tied up for all time. But in the same sentence they say that the Tariff should be regulated by "Commercial Treaties with the Powers interested, as is done in European countries." Now in European countries, as the Committee most well know, tariff conventions are reciprocal. Do they suggest that Western States should negotiate reciprocal conventions with Japan? This particular clause of the statement, compiled by the representatives of a Commercial Community, ought surely to convey a distinct and unequivocal meaning, instead of being as it is, a veritable conundrum.

The second question—for convenience of discussion we change the order chosen by the Committee—relates to the tenure of land without the limits of the settlements. Concerning this point very strong language is employed by the compilers of the Statement. They set out by exempting the problem from even their qualified acquiescence in Japan's demands with regard to tariff and judicial autonomy. Of her proposals about the land they declare themselves "quite unable to recognise the justice," and they sum up their verdict in the following singularly intemperate terms:

> The Committee quite understand the object of the Japanese Government, which is arbitrarily to abolish an exceptional tenure, created by convention, and ratified by covenant, and by compulsion to obtain more favourable terms for themselves. In short, the land now held by foreigners is required by the State, and it is sought to confiscate it without their consent to the terms offered in palliation of the act of confiscation. This is the grave injustice complained of in the second resolution of the 11th of September; and the Committee cannot too strongly protest against any action on the part of the Treaty Powers which would deprive foreign land-holders of their rights without their concurrence. If the land is required for State purposes, it needs no argument to show that the consent of the land-holders is a condition precedent, and that they should not be compelled, by Treaty or otherwise, to make any sacrifice of the rights and privileges they have acquired, without due and ample compensation. The only way to adjust this question would be by the appointment of delegates, or a Commission armed with full powers to negotiate a settlement.

The impression conveyed by this protest is that the foreign land-renters are threatened with an iniquitous act of spoliation. The word "confiscation," which signifies appropriation as a penalty to the use of the State, is gravely employed, and the Japanese Government is spoken of as behaving "arbitrarily," and as "obtaining by compulsion more favourable terms for itself." It is difficult to understand how sober, calculating men like the members of the Committee, could allow themselves to be betrayed into such an abuse of language. A moment's reflection should have told them that the perusal of this part of their Statement must immediately discredit them in the eyes of the British Foreign Office as the victims of a vertigo, and the commonest prudence ought to have induced them to refrain from a suggestion implying total incompetence on the part of the plenipotentiaries to whose conduct the negotiations for Treaty Revision have been entrusted. To charge the Japanese Government, on the one hand, with seeking to effect an act of arbitrary injustice, and to declare, on the other, that special delegates alone can adjust a question which is already under negotiation by duly appointed plenipotentiaries and of which no settlement lacking the approval of Western Governments can be final—such a charge and such a declaration will certainly be regarded as at once extravagant and impertinent. There has never been any disposition on the part of the Japanese Government to treat the privileges of foreigners arbitrarily and unjustly. There has never been any disposition on the part of the Foreign Ministers to sacrifice the interests of their nationals. The Committee were ill-advised when they set themselves to formulate groundless insinuations against the good faith of the Japanese Government, and to alienate the sympathies of their own official representatives by pronouncing them untrustworthy. As for the facts of the question, they are very simple. The present holders of land in the settlements derive their titles from leases specially granted under a terminable Treaty. There is no need to consider here the quality of the leases, since the project is, not to revoke them, but to replace them by title deeds conferring permanent ownership. So far from "confiscating" the lands, they are to be secured to their present holders in fee simple. But, being thus placed on the same footing as Japanese subjects with respect to right of property, the foreign holders would be liable to the same taxes on real estate as those paid by Japanese. It is here that the difficulty arises. Some holders would gain, others lose, by the change. The Committee advances the astounding assertion that in calculating the results of the change only one kind of tax—the land tax—has been taken into consideration by the negotiators, the house-tax being ignored. What singularly inefficient folks the

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Foreign Representatives and the Japanese statisticians must be in the eyes of the Committee. Need we say that the most minute and comprehensive tables have been compiled, showing exactly the difference between the present ground-rents and the taxes that would be substituted for them when the leases were exchanged for titles in fee simple? Speaking pecuniarily, the Japanese Treasury would lose by the alteration, so far as concerns Yokohama, at any rate. But the main points are that the interests of the foreign land-renters are in the hands of their own Representatives, that the Japanese Government has not the smallest disposition to treat them lightly or unfairly, and that any arrangement elaborated will have to receive the endorsement of Western States. These guarantees ought to be amply satisfactory to reasonable people. It is a pity that the Citizens' Committee allowed themselves to treat this land question in a manner calculated to impair the credit of their entire statement.

THE "STATEMENT" AS TO JUDICIAL AUTONOMY.

THE third question discussed by the Statement is that of jurisdiction. We showed in a previous article that the ultimate attitude of the Committee in respect of this is eminently moderate. They frankly concede the only essential points of a practicable and mutually satisfactory basis. Their position is that the proper working of the new Codes and the competence of the Judiciary to administer them, must be demonstrated by practice, and that simultaneously with the completion of the demonstration, Consular Jurisdiction may be abolished. There can be only one test applied in this matter, namely, the test of time. After the Codes have been in smooth operation for a certain number of years, their suitability and the competence of their administrators must be taken as fairly established. Thus a simple and rational basis of negotiation is indicated.

But in reaching this conclusion the Committee make some assertions that cannot be left unchallenged. The first of these is that "the native judiciary is not yet fitted by education, knowledge, or practice either to understand or to administer the Codes of law that have recently been compiled from foreign sources." This assertion is purely conjectural. The Committee have no grounds, for it, and cannot have any grounds seeing that, the Codes not being yet in operation, the competence of their future administrators has not been put to the test. What do the Committee mean by alleging, in one breath, that the operation of the Codes can alone demonstrate the character of their administration, and in the next declaring that the Japanese judiciary is unfit to administer them? It would be perfectly just and logical to say that we possess no data for gauging the competence of the Japanese Judiciary to administer the new Codes, and that such data can be furnished only by the results of actual administration. But to set out by denying the competence of the Judiciary *in toto*, and then to claim that its competence cannot be estimated until the Codes go into operation, is a contradiction that might easily have been avoided in a document compiled after four months' cogitation. If it be true that the men upon whom will devolve the duty of administering the new Codes, have neither the knowledge nor the education to administer them, what is the sense of talking about time being "necessary to test the efficiency either of the laws or of their administration"? By placing on record this sweeping condemnation of the Japanese Bench, the Committee merely lay themselves open to a charge of prejudice.

Still graver and more indefensible is the next allegation in the Statement:—"The laws contained in the new Codes are not indigenous, but imported, not to satisfy an acknowledged want, but for the attainment of a political object, namely, the Revision of the Treaties and the abolition of extraterritorial jurisdiction." It is difficult to understand the impulse that impelled the Committee to place these extraordinary assertions on record. They deliberately deny, in the first place, that Japan had any need of new laws, and they distinctly assert, in the second, that during the past twenty years she has been legislating entirely for the sake of international politics, and not at all for the sake of her own needs. The Committee gravely ask us to believe that Japan was never in want of new laws; that she might have gone on very well with the old had she not been ambitious of achieving Treaty Revision. Let us hear what M. BOISSONADE had to say on this subject a year ago:—

> In Japan the civil judges, lacking the aid of an ancient system of jurisprudence, and being unable, for the most part, to rely on customs fixed and certain and to some extent general, are to-day obliged to solve difficulties by the principles of natural law which they find formulated in some foreign codes that constitute, to a certain extent, the common law of the Occident. Does not this prove that the need of a fixed and positive system of legislation is imperative for the country? * * The other objection made to codification is that it is inspired by foreign laws, not by Japanese customs. Here, too, I believe the criticism ill-founded. The critics do not seem to know that the provisions affecting matters in which Japanese customs have most precision, are exactly those that have been reserved for legislation more or less in the future. Thus the new Civil Code does not yet include the chapters on Persons, or on the law of Succession, of Donations, of Wills, and of Marriages as bearing on the property of the married couple. These, in fact, are matters which have always been governed in Japan by traditional customs well-nigh fixed and tolerably general, evidently adapted to the wants and sentiments of the country. * * * It cannot be charged against the authors of the new Civil Code that they have sacrificed secular customs. * * * There are very few such customs, and such as there are have been treated with the utmost respect whenever they are reconcilable with the general principles of the new law. Moreover, the law declares, with regard to many points, that its provisions shall not be applicable except in the absence of fixed local usage.

Since M. BOISSONADE wrote these words the Civil Code has been promulgated, and the Code of Civil Procedure has gone into force. It has never been alleged against either of these bodies of law that their provisions are at variance with Japanese customs. Only with regard to the Commercial Code has this objection been advanced, and there is not a member of the Citizens' Committee who does not know perfectly well that the Commercial Code is urgently needed, and that the one valid reason for postponing its operation was the expediency of putting it into force simultaneously with the new Civil Code. Do the Committee pretend to assert that Japan has no need of these new Codes, or of laws consistent with the principles of Western Jurisprudence? If they do mean to make such an assertion, then what excuse is there for all the talk of the past twenty years about the incompleteness and imperfection of Japanese laws? If they do not mean it, what is the sense of alleging that the Codes are not intended to satisfy an acknowledged want?

Above all, must it not be regarded as a most regrettable fact that a Committee elected by the community of Yokohama should have deliberately applied themselves to the task of discrediting the legislative reforms of the Japanese Government by publicly alleging that their motive has been purely political? Immediately after the abolition of feudalism Japan undertook the task of revising her laws so as to bring them as closely as possible into harmony with her new civilization. She has not yet completed the work, and of late it has been not a little impeded by the conservative reaction of the time, declaring itself in the form of an unreasoning prejudice against the new laws simply because foreigners took a leading part in their compilation. To strengthen this prejudice we now find the Citizens' Committee of Yokohama contributing all the aid in their power. A stranger episode in the history of foreign relations with Japan could scarcely be conceived. The compilers of the Statement seem to have entirely ignored the fact that their duty went beyond the preparation of a specious plea; that they represented the majority of the foreign community, and that the arguments and allegations advanced by them must be absolutely free from every taint of prejudice and exaggeration. They forgot this in the instances we have alluded to, and they forgot it when they said that the postponement of the operation of the new Commercial Code by the House of Peers was because "the Code is of foreign importation, and totally opposed to the mercantile and business customs of the Japanese." Where is this "total opposition"? Partial opposition has indeed been alleged, but it remained for the Citizens' Committee to resort to

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an exaggeration not at all conducive to the validity of their argument. And if the Committee failed in a sense of the gravity and dignity of their functions, they certainly did not lack assurance when they undertook to teach a lesson in high politics to HER MAJESTY'S Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Lord SALISBURY need not come to this Settlement for instruction as to his proper policy towards Siam, Turkey, China, Morocco, and Persia. He is not incompetent to judge for himself to what extent circumstances alter cases, and his attitude towards Japan has never been of such an illiberal and unstatesmanlike nature as to suggest that he fears to acknowledge her progress lest countries with no comparable claim should importune him for similar concessions. It would be interesting to know whether the Committee differentiated themselves for the purposes of this Statement. Otherwise Lord SALISBURY had the pleasure of receiving counsel as to British policy in Morocco, Siam, Turkey, and so forth from a party of gentlemen comprising Germans, Frenchmen, Italians, Dutchmen, Portuguese, and a sprinkling of other nationalities.

The composite character of the Committee also imparts a peculiar aspect to their statement that "they consider a radical amendment of the police and press laws and the law of public meeting, as at present administered, a *sine quâ non* to the entertainment of the demands of the Japanese Government." It may be reasonably doubted whether the Committee have any knowledge of the Japanese Police Regulations, against which they now prefer the first complaint ever formulated publicly; but it is quite certain that several of the nationalities whose representatives signed this ultimatum ask more from Japan than they are in a position to claim in their own countries. If the British element of the Committee have the assurance to require freedom of speech, of the press, and of public meeting as an essential preliminary to putting themselves under Japanese jurisdiction, the American, French and and Swiss elements might with equal propriety ask for republican institutions, and the Italian take their stand on universal suffrage.

It does not appear, too, that the Committee saw any reason to explain the striking contradiction between their attitude in respect of Treaty Revision in 1889 and their attitude in 1890. In 1889, the United States of America, Germany, and Russia actually signed, and France was on the point of signing, a Treaty by the provisions of which foreigners outside the settlements would have been brought under Japanese jurisdiction from February 11th, 1890, and all foreign residents without exception would have come under that jurisdiction from February 11th, 1895. The provisions of the Treaty were public property. A fairly accurate copy of the document found its way into the local foreign press. Nobody could have been in any doubt about its scope and significance. Nevertheless the foreign community made no protest whatsoever, nor advanced any objection. On the contrary, judged by every available indication, the general feeling was one of acquiescence. The Treaty fell through, and in the following year fresh proposals were made by the Japanese Government. According to these proposals a number of years must elapse before any foreigner, whether inside or outside the Settlements, should come under Japanese Jurisdiction, and the date of the abolition of extra-territoriality would have been relegated to a much later period than that contemplated by Count OKUMA'S Treaty. Yet against this progromme two or three agitators succeeded in urging the great majority of the community to unite in a strong demonstration. The agitators pleaded, it is true, that in 1889 they had relied on Great Britain's obduracy. This only showed their ignorance, for Great Britain was on the point of accepting the Treaty. They asserted, also, that Viscount AOKI'S scheme included a proposal to extend Japanese jurisdiction at once to foreigners outside the settlements. This again showed their ignorance, for nothing of the kind was contemplated. But, granting for a moment that ignorance of the programme against which they undertook to lead an assault may be advanced as an excuse for the excitement of the English agitators in 1890, and that ignorance of what was really imminent may be similarly put forward in palliation of their apathy in 1889, what shall be said of the Germans and Americans who assisted in the compilation of, and appended their signatures to, this latest protest? Did they, attaching no importance to the action of their own Governments in 1889, rely solely upon the prudence and conservatism of HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to safeguard them against the rashness and precipitancy of the Cabinets in Berlin and Washington? Had Count OKUMA'S Treaty gone into operation, as agreed by America, Germany, and Russia, the position at the time of the September meeting of 1890 would have been this—foreigners outside the Settlements whould have already been under Japanese jurisdiction for nearly nine months, and foreigners inside the Settlements would have been within fifty-one months of coming under it. The American and German Governments had actually agreed to this in 1889, yet their nationals never uttered a syllable of protest, reserving their demonstration until 1890, when nothing of the kind was imminent. How can such a fitful and contradictory ebullition be treated seriously? As for the English agitators, their action throughout this affair has brought much ridicule on themselves and on the portion of the community that followed them. If they are sincere now, their inaction in 1889 cannot be explained. Then, if ever, they should have organised a demonstration. They claim that they relied on Great Britain's prudence. But they did not even take the trouble to ascertain whether their confidence was well placed. They did not even reflect that the indifferent, if not acquiescent, demeanour of the community in 1889, was little calculated to confirm Great Britain's resistance to proposals in which three of her principal colleagues, Germany, America, and Russia, had already acquiesced. The suddenly developed keenness of their solicitude for public interests in 1890 is quite irreconcilable with their passive trustfulness in the presence of a much more pressing danger a year previously, and their qualifications to lead the community are not enhanced by their erroneous and perfunctory interpretation of Great Britain's attitude in the former year, or by their incorrect statement of Japan's proposals in the latter. It cannot fail, too, to strike any intelligent observer as very singular that the unbounded trust which these gentlemen reposed in HER MAJESTY'S Government in 1889, under circumstances of great trial, should have been suddenly replaced by a mood of profound distrust in 1890. Lord SALISBURY, according to their view, could be implicitly relied on to guard the community's privileges against the united assault of America, Germany, Russia, and Japan in 1889, but in 1890, with only Japan for *vis-à-vis*, he was no longer worthy of reliance. And now, to cap the blundering Resolutions of last September—Resolutions which exceeded in one direction by as much as they fell short in another—we have a statement so disfigured by inaccuracies and exaggerations that the excellent case which its compilers had to advocate is seriously weakened by their carelessness and want of moderation. A perfectly calm and simple exposition of the natural and reasonable reluctance of foreigners to place their persons and properties under the provisions of laws not yet in operation; and under the care of a judiciary which has not yet proved its competence to administer such laws, would have been unanswerable and convincing. Common prudence requires that the efficiency of the new Japanese Codes and the ability of their administrators should have been established by the test of actual practice before the final and irrevocable step of abolishing Consular Jurisdiction is taken. The Statement of the Committee does not, in reality, go beyond this, but instead of a plain aud dignified presentation of a case strong enough to stand immovable on its own merits, they have resorted to exaggerated language, weak special pleading, unsightly errors, and unwarranted assumptions. We doubt whether, while undertaking to arraign the policy and prudence of HER MA-

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JESTY'S Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the promoters of this agitation will have succeeded in impressing his Lordship with a sense of their own impartiality, accuracy, and moderation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE "GEKKIN" SCALE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In your report of the last meeting of the Asiatic Society, Dr. Knott is correctly reported as having said that the Scotch tune "The Braes of Balquhidder" ends on *ray*, in this following the Dorian mode which approaches so closely to the *Gekkin* scale. A member at the time demurred to the statement, when the answer was given that there were two tunes. But he seems to have been right, for the tune evidently referred to does not end on *ray* but on *me*. "The Broom o'Cowdenknowes," quoted by Dr. Knott, but not mentioned in the abstract, "Lassie wi' the Lint-white Locks," "My Boy Tammie," "Jenny Dang the Weaver," are true instances in point.

I am, yours, etc.,
CAMLACHIE.

Tokyo, April 13th.

THE "LIGHT OF NARA."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—"I have just finished reading," in the correspondence column of the weekly *Mail*, a most entertaining critique on Sir Edwin Arnold's latest work.

"No genius in the history of humanity" (what a sublime sweep of thought!), "has ever kept roaring perpetually" (how pathetic the idea!). Yet it is evident that some geniuses keep flopping perpetually, or, if not perpetually, so very frequently that the effect on a long-suffering public is scarcely less excruciating than a perpetual flopping would be.

I do not know whether this literary luminary of Nara, who has so good naturedly volunteered to enlighten the readers of the *Japan Mail* on all moral and literary topics, and who adorns all that he touches—with choice lore from the *Penny Cyclopedia* and the *Book of One Thousand Anecdotes*—I do not know, I say, whether he cares in the least for the effect produced on the aforesaid long-suffering public by his efforts to "keep roaring," or whether he writes solely for the purpose of avoiding an explosion of his cranium, by a too great pressure of accumulated ideas therein. In the latter case, he would perhaps be willing, if requested, to use some less public means of relief than the columns of a newspaper.

As he is evidently a benevolent man (witness his excellent and disinterested advice to all the blind sectarians), it is not without hope that I humbly offer this mild remonstrance for his consideration.

It would appear, from his remarks anent "The Light of the World," and from the general drift of his writings, that he loves peace and righteousness, and indeed has an impression that his eloquence in print tends to advance the cause of Christianity in Japan. One would think that the very pertinent, but as yet unanswered, questions that were elicited from two or three sources, by some remarkable propositions in physics, etc., lately put forth by him, to say nothing of the sound (and not undeserved), literary cudgelling administered by "Secularian," would have aroused some misgivings in this gentleman's mind as to the effect, on non-Christians, of his particular style of Christian exhortation. Surely he must have seen that, whatever his intentions, his methods do not tend to convince opponents, nor to further the cause of "peace."

As he, however, calmly proceeds with his performance, there seems to be room for a dreadful suspicion with regard to him. It is, that *he actually believes that he speaks for the missionary and Christian public of Japan*, and that *they* admire his profound observations, and gaze with rapture on the effulgence of his moral and intellectual glory, even if the "literary Jezebels" and their friends do not.

Mr. Editor, this is an awful mistake. Probably no class of readers would be more pleased if this doughty volunteer champion of Christianity would strictly confine his energies to his place of residence, than the Christians themselves. I know that this is true of some, at least.

The concluding paragraph of his remarks on "The Light of the World" might be taken as affording ground for hope that he contemplates retirement on half-pay—or otherwise—had it been written by any one less destitute of all sense of the inconsistent and ridiculous than the Light of Nara appears to be. He says:—"I confess my inability to praise or censure the productions of great minds, while my own mind has hitherto been sterile." This confession is pretty good, coming from one who has just perpetrated a column of "praise or censure"—unless, indeed, it is intended as a left-handed compliment to Sir Edwin Arnold! To say that "my own mind has hitherto been sterile," is hardly polite to the readers of the *Japan Mail*, unless we are to infer that a sterile mind can produce essays that are not sterile—which seems doubtful. "A critic who cannot produce anything better than the object which he criticises had better remain dumb." Then what is the inference from the Light's failure to "remain dumb"? "I hope I shall always follow this rule faithfully." Mr. Editor, as one of his many victims in the past, I do sincerely hope he will!

I am, &c.,
KINOUYE.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Regulations relating to the substitution of Elementary Schools of private establishment for similar schools of city establishment, are hereby prescribed according to Art. 35 of the Law for Elementary Schools (Imperial Ordinance No. 215, issued in the 10th month of the 23rd year of Meiji).

Dated the 30th day of the 24th year of Meiji.

YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,
Minister of State for Education.

Art. 1.—In the event of a city desiring to substitute a private Ordinary Elementary School within its jurisdiction for a part or the whole of an Elementary School of city establishment, such city shall receive the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, after obtaining the agreement of the founder of the private Elementary School in question.

In case a Town or Village School Union wishes to substitute a private Ordinary Elementary School within its jurisdiction for a part or the whole of an Elementary School of town or village establishment, such Town or Village School Union shall receive the approval of the *gunchō*, after obtaining the consent of the founder of the Private Elementary School in question.

Art. 2.—As a general rule, items calling for consent or agreement according to the foregoing article shall be as follows:—

(1). The term of substitution.
(2). The extent of the districts from which children are to be admitted to the substituted Elementary School.
(3). The fixed number of children to be admitted to such substituted Elementary School.
(4). The question of whether a subsidy shall or shall not be allowed to such substituted Private Elementary Shool, and of the amount of such subsidy.
(5). Other items deemed necessary by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

In case any alteration is desired in one or more of the items requiring consultation, after receiving the approval referred to in Art. I., the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall be obtained for such altered items.

Art. 3.—The term of substitution shall not exceed twice the length of the course of study in any private Ordinary Elementary School that is to be substituted for a City Elementary School. At the expiration of such term such private school may be used in substition for a City Elementary School.

Art. 4.—No private Ordinary Elementary Schools shall be used in substitution for City Elementary Schools, excepting those in the case of which a period of three years has elapsed since their first establishment, and which have been shown to possess the necessary amount of educational merit.

Art. 5.—The founder of a substituted private Elementary School shall, in the following cases, obtain the consent of a City, Town, or Village, or of a Town and Village School Union:—

(1.) In case any alteration is desired in the length of the course of study of an Ordinary Elementary School, according to Art. 11, clause 3, of the Law of Elementary Schools.
(2.) In case of obtaining permission under Art. 11, clause 2, of the Law of Elementary Schools.
(3.) In case of changing the organization of a graded school to that of an ungraded school.
(4.) In case of altering the site of a school.
(5.) In case of other items deemed necessary by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. 6.—The founder of a substituted private Elementary School shall, in the following cases, obtain the consent of a City Council, of *Chōchō* or *Soncho*, or of a Chief of a Town and Village School Union:—

(1.) In case of an addition to or omission from the subjects of study of an Ordinary Elementary School according to Art. 11, clause 1, of the Law of Elementary Schools.
(2.) In case of other items deemed necessary by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. 7.—The founder of a substituted Private Elementary School shall in the following cases, obtain the consent of *Shicho*, *Chocho*, or *Soncho*, or of the Chief of a Town and Village School Union:—

(1.) In establishing or abolishing a supplementary course in an Ordinary Elementary School according to Art. 11, clause 3, of the Law of Elementary Schools.
(2.) In changing the organization of a graded school to that of an ungraded school.
(3.) In obtaining the approval necessary for an Ordinary Elementary School according to Art. 17-18 of the Law of Elementary Schools.
(4.) In appointing or dismissing directors or teachers of schools.
(5.) In permitting children residing without the jurisdiction under Art. 2, clause 2, to be admitted to a school, provided the number of pupils does not exceed the fixed number under Art. 2, clause 3.
(6.) In case of other items deemed necessary by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. 8.—The items of reports to be made to the *Shicho*, *Chocho*, or *Soncho*, etc., by the founder of a substituted Private Elementary School shall be determined by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. 9.—Regulations relating to the tuition fees of a substituted Private Elementary School shall be framed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

In case of any person objecting to the mode of collecting the tuition fees of a substituted Private Elementary School, such person may demand the action of *Shicho*, *Chocho*, or *Soncho*.

Art. 10.—The founder of a substituted Private Elementary School shall not, without proper reasons, refuse the admittance to the school of children within the jurisdiction under Art. 2, clause 2, provided the number of pupils does not exceed the fixed number under Art. 3 clause 2 of the Law of Elementary Schools.

Clause 2 of the foregoing article shall apply in case any objection is made to the management of the founder with regard to the admittance of children to a substituted Private Elementary School.

Art. 11.—In case the superintending official should deem the use of a private Elementary School in substitution for a public Elementary School to be unnecessary or to be injurious to educational administration, such official may cause such substitution to be discontinued.

Art. 12.—In case a City, Town, or Village or a Town and Village School Union desires to discontinue the use of a private Elementary School as its own school, such City, Town, or Village or Town and Village School Union, shall obtain the approval of the superintending official, after consulting founder of the substituted Private Elementary school. Should they be unable to arrive at an agreement, they shall apply to the superintending official for a decision.

In case the founder of a substituted private Elementary School desires to discontinue its substitution for a public Elementary School, he shall obtain the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* in the case of a city, or of the *guncho* in the case of a town or village, after consulting the City, Town, or Village, or Town and Village School Union interested.

If they be unable to arrive at an agreement, they shall apply for the decision of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, or *guncho*.

Applications for approval or decision referred in the present article shall be made three months in advance except, in special circumstances.

Art. 13.—The founder of a substituted private Elementary School shall not abolish such school without first obtaining approval for the discontinuance of its substitution for a public Elementary school.

IN CONSUMPTION USE HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

Dr. A. G. RAWSON HARRIS, L.R.C.P., and M.R.C.S., "The Elms," Pembroke, Eng., says: "I administered it with the best results in a case of phthisis, first stage. The symptoms were very unfavorable; great derangement of the digestive and nervous systems, very little sleep, and no appetite; the patient herself had lost all hope, being of a fatalistic tendency of mind, and the results were all the more gratifying."

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IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY REGATTA AT MUKOJIMA.

Foreigners who fail to be present at the annual boat-races of the students of the Imperial University, on the Sumida River at Mukojima, miss an opportunity of seeing one of the chief aquatic galas of the capital, and at the same time of witnessing a Japanese crowd engaged in its uniquely favourite occupation—viewing the cherries in full bloom. For the Boating Committee of the University have always so fixed the date of their spring regatta that it shall occur when the mile-long avenue of *sakura* trees that lines the river bank almost from the new Azuma Bridge to the University boat-house, as well as the groups that crowd the grounds of every villa and tea-house in the vicinity, have fully robed themselves in their gorgeous attire. It is not always possible to carry out this arrangement with perfect satisfaction, for even if the committee should be spared the visitation of rain, a contingency so serious as to cause postponement of the event, a strong April gale is sufficient to rob the trees of their maturest blossoms, and cover the ground with the precious pink and white spoils. The regatta and the cherry flowers combined are always sufficient to draw a vast throng of sight-seers to the Mukojima banks, and much æsthetic, and at times boisterous, custom to the Mukojima tea-houses. Rainy weather does not heighten the beauties of the neighbourhood, and the regattas usually escape this drawback, but it is not easy to secure just such conditions as show Mukojima at its best. Whether owing to the movement of the great crowds, or to the somewhat exposed position of the bank on which the cherry trees grow, we know not, but at Mukojima gala days are mostly very dusty days. Saturday was no exception to this rule. Yokohama streets respond readily enough in all conscience to the winds which visit the Settlement, for the faintest zephyr suffices to set in motion dusky whirlwinds that sorely try the temper of those who have to face them. Tokyo dust, however, seems to be even more impalpable and sensitive to the breezes, and a calm day in the capital is indeed a welcome phenomenon. The University regatta of 1891 was not blessed by any such favourable condition; but on the other hand the weather was enjoyable enough to atone for the discomfort of an occasional visitation of dust. The huge crowds were well managed by numerous constables who, detaining all jinrikisha at the Yaomatsu tea-house near Azuma Bashi, directed and controlled the two streams of pedestrians so that little disorder was noticeable. In the avenue of cherry trees each puff of wind more forceful than usual served to scatter abroad clouds of blossoms that slowly and uncertainly settled on the ground, which ere evening presented such an appearance as might have been caused by a fall of snow—with this difference, however, that while snow flakes lie as they settle, clinging to the earth in the face of all but the strongest breezes, the pink pale products of the cherry-flower storm were ever shifting and fluttering before the faintest airs. The river, too, for yards away from the bank was covered with petals shed by the trees above. Under this intermittent fall of cherry-blossoms the throng moved slowly along the avenue lined with the booths of men who sold masks, moustaches, cakes, and the hundred and one different wares that appeal to the tastes and purchasing powers of a pleasure-seeking crowd. On the river the scene was not less animated, boats of all kinds—from the picnic house boat whence came the tinkle of music, to the steam launch rocking under its load of students, shrieking forth their delight or chagrin as the varying fortunes of the races accorded or otherwise with their wishes and hopes—moving about in all directions. Opposite the boat-house these craft were most numerous, for no crew of amateur oarsmen out for a spin, thought their career of happiness complete till they had once dashed past the stand at full speed. Here too were the head-quarters of the Photographic Society, whose very small sampan bearing a very large and highly ornate flag, was a particularly noticeable feature of the scene. The stand formed by the upper floor of the boat-house was well crowded during the afternoon, not a few foreigners being present, and the music of the band, the busy spectacle on the river, the excitement of each contest, and the cheering of the multitude that lined both banks, combined to make the event a noteworthy one.

Of the races it is not necessary that we should say much. They were not distinguished by any particular skill in rowing; the Japanese student has not yet attained the measured, steady stroke which only can produce good speed; in two or three races fouls caused by careless steering took place, and the times given are not of much value. We append a list of the events:—

No. 1.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries.)
1 Green.

No. 2.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries.)
1 Purple.

No. 3.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 Green. Time, 7m. 27sec.

No. 4.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 Purple. Time, 7m. 7sec.

No. 5.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 Green. 2 Red. Time, 7m. 3s.

No. 6.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 White (Engineering College). Time, 6m. 23sec.

No. 7.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 Purple. 2 Green. Time, 6m. 25sec.

No. 8.—Third Year's Law Students (3 Entries).
(Foul between Purple and Red).

No. 9.—Professors (Engineering v. Medicine).
1 Engineering. Time, 6m.

No. 10.—Colleges (3 Entries).
1 Engineering. 2 Law. 3 Medicine. Time, 5m. 42sec.

No. 11.—Higher Commercial School (4 Entries).
1 Purple.

No. 12.—Graduates (3 Entries).
1 Law. Time, 5m. 26sec.

No. 13.—Colleges (3 Entries).
1 Engineering.

No. 14.—First Higher Middle School (3 Entries).
(Purple fouled both other boats).

No. 15.—Champion Colleges (3 Entries).

Colleges, Champion Crews.

Engineering.

F. Yendo (bow)
K. Sakuma (2)
M. Ando (3)
T. Kato (4)
K. Imaidzumi (5)
F. Yasuda (6)
F. Tanaka (cox.)
} 1

Law.

H. Takenouchi (bow)
H. Kimura (2)
K. Niho (3)
S. Ishimaru (4)
M. Shiraishi (5)
Y. Shibano (6)
N. Ichiyama (cox.)
} 2

Medicine.

Y. Yedakuni (bow)
K. Adzuma (2)
K. Nakanishi (3)
T. Kanamori (4)
Y. Ito (5)
K. Ando (6)
M. Kinoshita (cox.)
} 3

Engineering won by half a length from Law. Time, 4m. 30s.

FIRST HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL REGATTA.

The regatta of the First Higher Middle School, which took place on Sunday, was carried on under conditions somewhat similar to those of the previous day's races. Beginning like Saturday's events at an early hour in the morning, these were continued, with a slight interval about noon, till near sunset. The usual large crowds witnessed the races, which, as were those of the University, were started and umpired by naval officers. A Band stationed in the enclosure of the University Boat Club played selections during the day. The following is a list of the events:—

No. 1.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 Green. Time, 4m. 15s.

No. 2.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 Green. Time, 4m. 45s.

No. 3.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 Red. Time, 6m. 25s.

No. 4.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 Red. Time, 4m. 55s.

No. 5.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 Red. Time, 4m. 43sec.

No. 6.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 Green. Time, 5m. 22sec.

No. 7.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 White. Time, 5m. 48sec.

No. 8.—Mixed Crews (4 Entries).
1 White. Time, 5m. 45sec.

No. 9.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 Green. Time, 5m. 25s.

No. 10.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 White. Time, 5m. 17s.

No. 11.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 White. Time, 5m. 24s.

No. 12.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 Purple. Time, 5m. 21s.

No. 13.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 White. Time, 5m. 14s.

No. 14.—Higher Commercial School (4 Ens.)
1 Red.

S. Takeda (bow)
S. Oki (2)
K. Yoshikawa (3)
T. Moroi (4)
A. Masuda (5)
H. Hadano (stroke)
H. Kondo (cox.)
} 1

Time, 5m. 30s.

No. 15.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries.)
1 Green. Time, 5m. 15s.

No. 16.—Instructors First Higher Middle School (3 Entries.)

Red.

S. Goto (bow)
T. Shiwoya (2)
S. Watanabe (3)
G. Yoneda (4)
T. Suzuki (5)
M. Oshima (stroke)
K. Kojima (cox.)
} 1

Time, 5m. 21sec.

No. 17.—Mixed Crews (3 Entries).
1 Red. Time, 5m. 17sec.

No. 18.—Preparatory Class (3 Entries).
1 Purple. Time, 5m. 34sec.

No. 19.—Imperial University (4 Entries).
1 Red. 2 White.

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Matsue, April 7th.

The great event of the 24th year of Meiji in Matsue took place in the opening of the new Ohashi Bridge on the 3rd instant. As the ceremony was conducted according to the ancient customs of the province, it had a unique interest, which made it, for a stranger like myself, the most enjoyable spectacle possible to witness in a Japanese city. You may recollect that in some previous letters I related the tradition of the ancient bridge, and the difficulties encountered in making a solid foundation for the new one, over the mouth of the Ohashigawa. These difficulties were speedily overcome by a very young Japanese engineer from Hiroshima—Mr. Okuyama, of the *Doboku-kantoku-kyoku*. This was certainly quite a triumph for him—and something of a surprise to the doubters, who expected nothing short of absolute failure. While he was quietly superintending the work, naughty little boys were singing an ironical song in local dialect—

Matsue O hashi kazari-no tame ka?
Sono hashira e kairo aeyo!
Kairo-sei!
Kairo-sei!

Or, roughly translated:—"Is the Matsue Ohashi built only for ornament? Change those iron columns for something better—change for something better," etc. But the work went on under the new engineer uninterruptedly to the old Izumo chant of "*Chosaiya! Chosaiya!*"—and "*Yoiasa-no! do kusshi*" for a month. At the end of the month the bridge was ready, and probably 100,000 people passed over it on the opening day. In the meantime some funny things occurred. The curious old tradition about the man Gensuke buried under the pillar of the ancient bridge to appease some deities of Obstacles and Hindrances was very widely spread among the country-people; and during the progress of the work, many were afraid to come to town, believing that some one of them would be taken for a victim. On the great festival of Inari, when Matsue is usually full of country-people, the actual loss to local commerce, owing to this queer belief was more than a thousand *yen*. On the other hand, the barbers gained! There was a rumour that the man to be put under the new bridge would be chosen from among such of the old-fashioned country folk as wore queues; wherefore numbers had their queues cut off. Some who ventured to the city in spite of all rumours would ask those they met returning from it: "Has the victim yet been caught?" Even when the work on the bridge was quite finished, there arose a new rumour and a new alarm: it was said that the police had been instructed, after nine hundred and ninety-nine persons had crossed the bridge, to seize the one thousandth, and treat him after the manner of Gensuke. But it seems that, after all, there never was any person of the name of Gensuke sacrificed. Despite the story of the ghostly red light said to flit about the *Gensuke-bashira* be-

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tween two and three o'clock in the morning,—Gensuke was the name (corrupted by local pronunciation) of an era, not of a man.

The first bridge over the Ohashigawa was constructed by Hotio Yoshiharu, a famous general, who became Daimio of Izumo during the Keicho era; and it was reconstructed ten times by subsequent rulers. On such occasions there was always a curious ceremony. Throughout Izumo search was made for some fortunate old married couple, having not less than ten children, and never having lost one; and at the opening of the bridge these fortunate folk and their children were made to pass over it first. Dresses made especially for the occasion were given to them, together with one *hyo* of rice. But such families of thirteen were difficult to find in Izumo, and the expense of finding them was so considerable that in recent years the custom was modified. From the first reconstruction of the bridge by Kyogoku Akasanokawa Tadataka, in the 14th year of Kwanyei, to the present time, the names of all the lucky old people chosen for the opening ceremony have been preserved in local documents. The first who so crossed the first Ohashi was Inouye Rokuzaemon with his family of thirteen. Odd numbers are lucky numbers with the Japanese. The opening of the Ohashi took place with a similar ceremony. Two fortunate octogenarians having been found in Matsue—a venerable *shisoku*, and a venerable merchant—the bridge was decorated with flags and lanterns; triumphal arches were erected over both approaches; and at one end two well-executed images were placed, Benkei on the right side and Yoshitune upon the left. The morning was beautiful and cloudless. All the ships and the lake steamers were decorated; and on either side of the bridge and beneath it hundreds of boats full of spectators lay so closely packed together that one could easily have passed the Ohashi by stepping from one to the other. The crowds on the banks probably numbered at least twenty thousand—multitudes having come from the country to see the ceremony in spite of the rumour about the one thousandth. And the roofs of the houses overlooking the Ohashigawa were also crowded. Every street in the city was beautifully decorated with lanterns, flags, and bamboos; for the day of the ceremony was also the anniversary of the Emperor Jimmu Tenno. All the neighbouring cities were largely represented in the crowd of spectators. Every available vessel was in requisition; and the steamers, even after having considerably raised their fares, could not accommodate one half of the people of Yonago and other places eager to go to Matsue. At half-past eight o'clock a shower of "daylight-fireworks" from a little boat moored in the lake, opposite the river-mouth, and an artillery-salute, announced the beginning of the ceremony. The Governor of Izumo, in full uniform, accompanied by his suite, proceeded to the centre of the bridge, and read a short address,—after which the two old couples made their appearance: Hayama Iukyo and his wife, married for sixty-two years; and the grandparents of the citizen Mitsuki Tomojiro. Everybody knows old Hayama, an uncommonly tall man, whose history as a boy is cited often as a rare example of filial devotion, and whose career as a *samurai* was a model of loyalty and courtesy. The appearance of the two old men was greeted by a great clapping of hands from the house-tops, windows, and either shore of the river. Governor Koteda gave an arm to each of the aged gentlemen, and supported them across the bridge, their venerable wives walking beside them; and, following behind them, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. After they had twice crossed the bridge in either direction, amid the showering of *hanabi* and firing of cannon, another curious ceremony took place,—the distribution of *mochi*. These, enveloped carefully in straw, were thrown from the bridge to the people in the boats and on the banks, Governor Koteda himself taking part in the distribution. The immense crowd remained throughout singularly good natured: there was no scrambling, or quarreling, even during *mochi*-throwing. Then the bridge was thrown open to all; and a sort of roar, that could have been heard half-a-mile away, went up as the crowd poured over it with a clattering of *getas* like the rumbling of a cataract, all in a hurry too; for there is a belief that the first thousand to cross a new bridge will be lucky and long-lived. In the evening the bridge and city were illuminated; and the display of fireworks sent up from the lake was really fine. The new bridge is a handsome structure, somewhat American in appearance, having a length of about 470 feet and a roadway of about 20 feet in breadth. It cost only 11,000 *yen*; but most of the iron-work was made in Matsue less expensively than it could have been made elsewhere.

LETTER FROM DENVER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Denver, March 6th.

Senator Stanford's scheme for the relief of agriculturalists, by an issue of certificates on land values, has met with a check at which no one can be surprised. Now-a-days we are governed by the money-lender, and, while the farmer feeds us all, he cannot be allowed to get rich in that employment. He ought, of course, to be content with the walk of life in which the present social order has confined him, and should glory in the high vocation of feeding those great and very intelligent persons who gamble in railroads, form pools for produce and syndicates for manufactures, and he should cheerfully pay a high price for his pots and pans, his tools, his clothes and what not, for the sake of supporting and encouraging those smart men, his owners, rulers, victors. Happy he if, at last, he may till the Elysian fields and eat the fruit thereof without fear of Wall-street!

Not only is the Stanford bill a failure, but our hoped for silver legislation has apparently become a derelict, drifting hopelessly amid the shallows of the legislative session, abandoned, even torpedoed by the captains of both the great parties. Cleveland's coffin may be made of silver. He has possibly lost the South and West for his party, certainly for himself, by his declaration against unlimited coinage of American silver. And the cry all over the country is for more plentiful money, while gold is insufficient to meet the demands of trade. That cry for more plentiful money is, however, quite traditional and likely to survive even the free coinage of *brass*, which here, at any rate, would seem to be very abundant. It does its level best to coin itself every day.

We are having an epidemic of *Grippe* and another of murders. Every few days the "saloonist" or the "divist" element crops to the surface with a new tragedy. Here are two samples. A harlot parts with a drunken farmer whom she has despoiled, sees him stagger across the back-yard of an "all-night" saloon, sees a man beating him, subsequently sees him lying against a stable door, takes no notice, afterwards hears that he is dead. A few days after three lads enter another saloon, one is prankish and squirts seltzer water over the others, is asked to desist but does not, is shot dead by two pistols with a simultaneous report. Another and a very peculiar case is known as the Millington trial. A Mr. Avery dies under peculiar circumstances. His wife has been familiar with his partner, Millington. She is disliked by her husband's relatives. Very soon after widowhood she marries Millington, taking her husband's fortune with her. The dead man's family is greatly vexed, makes inquisitions into the disease that proved fatal, exhumes the body, finds traces of arsenic, and now charge Millington and his sister and wife with foul conspiracy to murder by slow poisoning. This trial is one of the pleasant attractions of the day—or rather of day after day. Murder trials here form quite the most interesting attraction conceivable; for unless the felon be a very poor man he is certain to be leniently treated. But now that I am upon a gory subject I may as well report a curious incident which occurred at Salida, in this State, but a few days ago. Coal had been missed from the siding in the "dee-po" of that town, and certain Italians were supposed to be the thieves. A young man named Briley was set to guard it, and ordered off some of the suspected Italians who were working on a train conducted by a man named Sullivan, a resident of Salida. The next night Briley takes his revolver with him, being possessed with a fear that trouble was brewing. Sure enough he hasn't long been at his post when Sullivan makes his appearance, quarrels with Briley, strikes his face, and is shot dead by the lad's gun. Briley at once gives himself up, claiming that he has but protected his own life, and, in the absence of a jail, he is incarcerated in an empty store, his feet being chained to the floor. Sullivan's friends call a meeting, hear a garbled report of the facts, rush down to the store, break it open, tear the poor fellow away from the chains, shoot at him, drag him through the town and threaten death to his brother who tries to intercede in the name of a certain old widowed mother, away back in Iowa; they smite another man who calls their conduct brutal, shoot a few more bullets into their victim, drag him down to a railroad crossing, near the scene of the former trouble, hang the mangled, limp, pitiful form to a telegraph post, shoot at it for fun, and then go back to town, with virtuous pride in an accomplished duty. Subsequently they threaten death to all and sundry who speak of bringing them to trial. The West is a very free country with the revolver.

The Grand Cañon is a wonderful piece of nature's mightiest work, matchless in grandeur, filled with an awful hush that seems to deaden the sound of the babbling river and the rattling of the railway cars. All the scenery in its neighbourhood partakes of that mysterious mightiness that almost seems to crush, to overwhelm the gazer's soul. And here is one instance of nineteenth century poetic feeling in the presence of such immensities. I simply premise that "hog-backs" are long ridges of mountain, so called from supposed likeness to that profitable quadruped:—

Swallows are already chattering around the cornices of Cañon's homes, sturdy old hens are walking around the back-yards and are exhibiting to the astonished tenderfoot their goodly broods of spring chicks, goats are sporting on the hog-backs, the cottonwoods are budding preparatory to shoot, and when the sun climbs around a little further north and lights up the bald spot on the top of Fremont's Peak, and the morning frost is misted away from the low-lands, the sky is as soft as a dude's head and as cloudless as the cerulean arch that hangs over the far-off home of the dago. Honey bees are buzzing around with red-hot exclamation points at the south end of their systems, prospecting for budding posies, flies are crawling out of our mucilage bottle and before the winter has fairly come it is gone. Fires are little needed now and open doors and windows about the city testify to the geniality of the outer air. We live in a land of wealth, health, and comfort and a paradise for bums.

No doubt the author prides himself on his humour.

Of course, you have seen the impressions of that son of the Orient, Rudyard Kipling, in Chicago, the glory of the Occident. They form good reading for Asiatics, nationalists, Ruskinites, and other folks, whoever they are, whom the march of material civilisation leaves deeply dissatisfied.

March 7th.

This morning's papers give the conclusion of yet another murder trial, in which every one expected the accused to suffer the rigour of the law. He had killed a man, from hatred, in the open street during broad daylight, right in the centre of the city. But he had wealth, it was used judiciously, and the jury found him guilty of unintentional homicide, for which nine months' imprisonment is the maximum punishment. His counsel at once moves for a new trial and secures his release on bail in the meantime. One of the jurors, with admirable naïveté, has informed a reporter that, at their first ballot, ten were for conviction and two against, but that subsequently they arrived at a unanimous verdict! Allow me to recommend this country to those gentlemen who are afraid to entrust themselves to the supervision of Japanese law. Would they prefer Salida?

AN OPENING ADDRESS

At the Third Biennial Synod of the Nippon Seikokwai.

By Edward Bickersteth, D.D., Bishop, delivered at Osaka on April 4th, 1891.

"Looking back of you also to the things of others."

Reverend Brethren of the Clergy and Brethren of the Laity:—I propose to avail myself for a few minutes of the privilege commonly allotted to a Chairman, and to address to you some remarks on the occasion and business which have brought us together. It cannot but be a regret to you, as to myself, that this duty does not devolve on my predecessor in this chair. Thirty years is a large portion of a long life, and it is not less than this that Bishop Williams has devoted to the service of the Church in Japan. No one would less desire than he that I should use many words of panegyric on his lengthened Episcopate. Yet this much I may venture respectfully to say, that only the day of God will reveal the results of his life and example. Exquisite simplicity, unflinching devotion to duty, a wide mastery of precedent and detail, and clearness of judgment have been exhibited in the highest office of the Church, and have left on its organization, in compacting which he took so large a share, as well as on the many minds which have come under his influence, impressions which will not be obliterated. There is no need for me to bespeak your prayers and hearty welcome for his successor.

Four years have elapsed since the first synod of our Church was held in this city. There seems reason for thankfulness to Almighty God for the progress which has since been made. We already at our first meeting were a Branch of the Church of Christ, by virtue of our implicit acceptance of the Catholic Creed and of the orders of the Christian Ministry. It was our business then to give expression to, and make outward claims of, this position in our Constitution, and to lay down such other laws as seemed needed for the regulation and development alike of worship and work. The interval has shown that, in the main, the canons then agreed upon were such as answer to the circumstances and needs of the Church in this country. Meanwhile, progress has been uninterrupted and rapid. Of the synod of 1887, one

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Japanese member had been admitted to the Priesthood. Now of twelve Japanese Clergy, four are Priests. Then we represented a body of less than 1,500 Christians (of whom half had been baptized during the preceding year). The interests of about 4,000 are now committed to your care. The number of Catechists was then 51. Now it is 110. The number of foreign Missionaries was then 34. Now it is 93. These rates of increase are, I believe, unprecedented even in Japan.

It is right to mention these points for encouragement and thankfulness. In doing so, I am not, however, forgetful that numbers are a very imperfect criterion of a Church's present position, or probable future. I cannot, too, allow myself to forget that while the outlook as a whole is bright, all parts of the Church's organization are not equally prosperous, or carried on with the same assiduity. Some work is still inchoate, which, with more zeal, might have been further advanced. Many are still in the darkness of unbelief, who might, had we been more zealous, have by this time been walking in the light of truth. Societies, on the efficiency of which congregations and missions alike depend, are still inadequately supported, and (shall I add) the standard of spiritual life among us, as all alike deplore, is as yet far too low to claim with confidence the unrepealed Divine Promise of Pentecostal blessing. Let me express the hope that our meeting in this synod will not pass without contributing something towards an increased spiritual earnestness, as well as to the perfecting of our ecclesiastical machinery.

For what specific purposes are we met? Are there any principles which it were well to bear in mind as fitted to limit and control our discussions?

The *Agenda* paper which is in your hands, without my dwelling on it, is a sufficient answer to the first of these questions. I may occupy your attention very briefly with some reply to the second.

Let me say, then, that there are three things which, as it seems to me, if duly considered, will supply the needful limitations, as well as a main guidance, of our action.

Of these, the first is the fact to which I have already alluded, that we are a Branch of the Catholic Church. As such, we are the depositaries in our Faith and Orders of a great trust with which we have no right to meddle. To retain it, and to hand it on unimpaired to the generation which shall succeed us, is our highest privilege. It is the profession of the Christian Faith, witnessed to by Holy Scripture and enshrined in the Creed, which alone makes us to be Christians, while the organization of the Ministry, which is of God's ordering, not of human contrivance, links us with the Church of the past and with contemporary Churches in other lands. These things are not brought into debate among us. They are, if I may borrow the language of geometry, the axioms and postulates which lie at the basis of our discussions. No small part of the progress to which I have referred is due to the steadfastness of our profession in these regards. The enquirer who joins us is left in no doubt as to the character of our belief and the nature of our organization and worship.

Now this is a limitation which, as I have said, unless as a Church we would commit spiritual suicide, must always remain. Not so that which I have now to mention, which is in its own nature merely temporary. I mean the limitation which arises from our present connection with the Anglican Communion, and especially with its three branches in England, America, and Canada. Let us look at this point without prejudice. Two things are to be remembered. (1) The great majority of our Clergy are as yet foreigners, bound by the obligations of their ordination vows, supported entirely by foreign contributions and dependent on foreign Churches for their maintenance in sickness or old age, and though there would be no canonical hindrance that I am aware of—the two ministries being on the spiritual side identical—to Japanese Clergy transferring themselves to the service of the Anglican Communion, or of Anglican Clergy resigning their position in their own Church and entering the ministry of the Sei Kōkwai, yet, as you are aware, want of means in the Sei Kōkwai, and perhaps some provision of the Civil law, render this for the present impossible. This is one side of the question. On the other hand, it is plain (2) that the laws of the Church as defined by the Synod must be obeyed alike by all who minister, whether Japanese or foreign. Law would lose its fundamental character if it could be neglected by those who are especially charged with its administration.

Now what is the practical outcome of sober consideration of these two points? I conceive it to be this,—that we should exercise great caution and deliberation before making important changes in our Service Book. At present the substantial identity of the Prayer Books of England, America, and Japan anticipates and prevents alike conscientious scruples and practical difficulties. I should be sorry by precipitate action to forfeit this advantage. I am not indeed opposed to all change, even immediately. The differences of East and West—even where the Christians of the three continents are bound together by the sacred ties of a common Faith and the same spiritual lineage, render some modifications inevitable. It is true that the English Prayer Book is not the outcome of the religious thought of one nation only in any one age, but represents in an English dress the devotional treasures of many lands and centuries. Still it cannot be made entirely available here, as it is, even for immediate use. But if some changes are inevitable and desirable, let them be confined for the present to necessary curtailments and additions, and to points of order and detail, and leave the substance and fabric of the Book intact. It is too soon as yet to think of writing a new Confession of Faith outside the Catholic Creeds, even if, unlike myself, you should eventually think such to be requisite. It is too soon—we have not as yet the liturgical knowledge and skill—to recast the Prayer Book, though it may be, as has been suggested, that the substance of Greek Liturgies and the form of Shinto *norito* will prove more consonant to the genius of our language than the brief collects and suffrages of Western growth. If we were to attempt such enterprises as yet, it is more likely that we should lose what we have, than gain what we have not.

Meanwhile, the exercise of restraint in this regard will not be without its advantages. It will give opportunity for prayer and study on subjects where, if either be omitted, no good result can be expected.

Let me add one limitation more. Our action should be controlled by frank recognition that the Church must allow large differences of opinion within her pale on minor points. Every great Church, as distinguished from the sects, developes within itself individualized schools of thought. A sect is a body of men which breaks off from the historic society which Christ founded, with the view of emphasizing some particular opinions, always more or less true, on which its members have come to lay special, if not exclusive store. Owing to the presence of the truth in what it holds, the sect has a certain temporary vitality, until it be again absorbed into the Catholic Body. Now the emphasising of particular views by different sections of believers is inevitable. It is due, on the one hand, to the infinity of truth, and, on the other, to the narrow limitation of human faculties. Like other necessary phenomena, it must then be allowed for, as well as controlled, in the Church. Its true exhibition is in the formation of schools of thought, which, while all confessing the same facts of the historic Creed, contribute each their own quota towards its elucidation. Such schools are not antagonistic but complementary, not mutually destructive but ancillary the one to the other. Jew and Gentile in the first century, the Mystical School of Alexandria, and the literal interpreters of Antioch in the third and fourth, the Scotist and Dominican Schoolmen in the thirteenth—to avoid instances nearer to our own day—each in their turn contributed something to the fuller apprehension of the Faith. For the moment, they may have counted one another as foes. They were really fellow-labourers in the cause of Christ.

Now it must be evident to you that schools of thought are being formed, too, among ourselves. It is natural that it should be so for the reasons which I have assigned; doubly natural because of the character of the communion to which we owe our Christianity. It is our business to see that no attempt at exclusive or selfish legislation drives into extreme courses developments which are not in themselves unhealthy. Schools may be vehicles both of the divine grace and truth. Schisms and partisanships are sin, and too easily forfeit the one and obscure the other. Let there be among us, then, liberty for such varieties of teaching as are not inconsistent with a common Faith, and for such developments of ritual as do not conflict with a common Order. Here, if anywhere, the lessons of the past may come to our assistance. Who can read without deepening sadness the later religious history of the countries of Central Europe which accepted the Reformation of the 16th century? The movement was in itself inevitable and might have been fraught with unmingled blessings. But the sacrifice of common Order and the unbalanced assertion of individual opinions have gone far to extinguish the Faith itself in the countries which witnessed it. On the other hand, many of the Churches of the further East have, in past times suffered from the imposition, alike in practice and doctrinal statement, of a rigid and unreasoning uniformity. Let us accept the warning for ourselves. They who know that their teaching and worship are built upon Apostolic foundations need not aim at a featureless sameness, whether of doctrinal statement or ritual practice. Those with whom liberty at any time shows risk of developing into licence, will feel it needful to fall back on common order and principle. Two Apostolic words from the same Epistle, both addressed in the first instance to the assertors of unqualified liberty, may serve to clench the lesson both to them and equally to the maintainers of an unreasoning uniformity—"Came the Word of God unto you alone?" 1 Corinthians XIV. 36; "We have no such custom, neither the Churches of God," 1 Corinthians XI. 16.

Let me then earnestly recommend to you the recognition of these three points as fitted to regulate and control our discussions. The Church is not in search of a Faith but founded on a revelation. It must act within its terms. For the time being we are in close relationship with one of the Communions of the West. We will submit to the temporary limitation which this involves. It is neither possible nor desirable to mould all minds on one type nor to satisfy all desires by one form. We will not by minute regulations cramp a reasonable variety.

Subject to these limitations and controlled by the sense of the Divine Presence, we may adopt, I believe, such measures as seem good to us in the fullest confidence of being guided by the Spirit of God. We are now in the second period of our history. In the first, in which I personally had no share, the work, which was exclusively evangelistic, was mainly in foreign hands. That period has gone by and has been succeeded by the present, of which the duties are both evangelistic and pastoral, and, throughout which, co-operation should be the word inscribed over either field of energy. As time again goes on, the sphere of evangelization will grow smaller, and that of pastoral activity be continually enlarged, until, either in our own time or in that of our successors, the work which began in the hands of Foreigners will pass wholly into the hands of Japanese.

This, by Divine Providence, is the order of the Church's progress in every land. It may be helpful to remember where we now stand. The prospect is one of solemn responsibility and of inspiring hopefulness. It is opened to us, too, at a time when, more than at any earlier period if a foreigner may rightly judge, through the progress of political organization, the country stands in need of a solid core and centre of thoughtful men, who recognize the obligations of righteousness, unselfishness, and philanthropy, because they are implicated in their creed. It is not too much to say that representative government, if it is to be permanent, demands a religious people. If so,—for other systems of belief are dying or dead,—the future rests with the Church. I can only allude to this here.

For the Church of my baptism I could seek no greater grace, as individuals we could ask no higher privilege, than to have contributed, at a great crisis, to the establishment in this land of a branch of Christ's Holy Church united by bonds of Faith and affection only to its Western Mother—Apostolic in Order and Creed—a new Home where souls may be re-created into the image of God.

IN H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before J. Troup Esq., Acting-Assistant Judge.—Monday, April 13th, 1891.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

H. M. Pugh was charged to-day with attempted suicide.

John Henry Herring, sworn, deponed—I am a steward at the Club Hotel. At 4.15 this morning I was called by the watchman, who said the gentleman in No. 24 room was making a noise; I went there with him and found the door locked. I tried to wake him, but I could not. A gentleman in the next room asked me what was the matter, and I asked him if I might go through his room into the next one. Having obtained permission, I got some keys and opened the door, when I found Mr. Pugh lying on his back on the bed. It took me about 10 minutes to wake him up, when he told me he had taken a dose of laudanum to kill himself, and he was very much surprised not to find himself dead. The two bottles produced in Court were by his bedside, and he gave them to me at the time. He gave me the two letters produced in Court and now shown me. He told me he had written them to the manager, and asked me to read them. I asked him if he wanted anything, and he said no. I stayed with him for about an hour after, and then went away, leaving the boy there. When I came

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back at half-past six I found he had gone to sleep again, and, having woke him up, I gave him a cup of hot coffee, which seemed to revive him. I sent for Dr. Wheeler, and got Mr. Pugh out of bed. I gave him one or too more cups of coffee, which he vomited. He stayed in his room till he left to come up here, and seemed to be all right.

David Bordenal deponed—I am watchman at the Club Hotel. I was walking about in the yard this morning at a quarter to four when I heard a noise. I went outside in the street to ascertain where it came from. I at first thought it was a small dog, but afterwards found it came from No. 24 room, and went upstairs to call the boy, whom I asked what was the matter. He said he did not know. I suggested that he should come and call the inmate of No. 24 and discover what the noise was. We both called and knocked at the door for about half-an-hour, but got no answer. I could not open the door. Finding that I could not rouse the gentleman in the room, I called the steward. I did not enter the room myself.

To accused—The noise seemed like a noise in the throat or nose.

Ishikami Hatsutaro deponed—I am a boy at the Club Hotel. This morning I heard noises, a loud voice in the room No. 24. I knocked several times at the door but could not get in. I wanted to get up to the transom above the door, but not having a ladder could not get up. After about half an hour, during which I was trying to rouse the occupant of the room and to get in, I called the steward. He also tried to get in but failed, and at last having obtained permission from the inmate of the next room he got in by a door connecting the two rooms. The steward entered alone and opened the door from the inside. When the steward came out he went to his room, and I went to sleep again. Sometime afterwards the gentleman called for a boy, and on my going he asked the steward also what time it was. I was in the room for about 15 minutes after half-past six; I then went to other rooms for about an hour, after which I took Mr. Pugh a cup of coffee and some medicine. I was present in the room when Dr. Wheeler came. The doctor came after I gave Mr. Pugh the medicine.

To accused—I do not know what medicine it was that I gave you. It was in a bottle in a drawer in the night-table. I gave it to you from the larger of the two bottles shown me. The sound was really a kind of stertorous breathing—an exaggerated snoring.

To the Court—The accused himself, who was lying on the bed, asked me to give him the medicine.

Accused—There was only a drain in the bottle.

Mr. Troup said he should not proceed with the case till he had heard the medical evidence, and would therefore adjourn the proceedings till to-morrow at 10.30 a.m.

TUESDAY, April 14th, 1891.

H. M. Pugh was again brought up to-day, charged with having attempted to commit suicide.

Edwin Wheeler, M.D., deponed—I was called yesterday morning to see Mr. Pugh. I got the message a little before 8 and I saw him about half-past 8. When I went in he had just vomited some coffee and seemed in rather a distressed condition. He was then merely suffering from debility and extreme irritation of the stomach, with mental distress because as he said the laudanum had not done its work. He said—"It's no use living; I have no money, and I am sick." I had treated him previously on two occasions last month. The first visit was on the 17th March, a few days after he had arrived here by P. & O. steamer. He was then suffering from exhaustion and the after effects of a debauch. He said he had been drinking a good deal of whisky on the way up, and I think he said he had put a head on that by having some on shore. I saw him on the 18th and 19th. He had recovered on the 19th and was able to go out. On my expostulating with him about drinking, he said he could not help it; his life was so miserable he had to take something. I advised him to go to Ashinoyu as that might have a beneficial effect on the joint affection from which he suffers—rheumatic *arthretris*. I saw him again on the 24th I think. At that time his stomach was so irritable that a mouthful of water was rejected ere it could be properly swallowed. I said he had been drinking again. He said he had not been taking very much; he had only a little the day before. I think he said he had had something like eight drinks. He was in a very depressed and exhausted condition on the 24th. Yesterday morning I saw the large bottle now produced; there were then about two tea-spoonfuls left in the bottle. I tasted and smelt its contents—laudanum.

Robert Waddell Borthwick deponed—I am the manager of North and Rae, chemists. These bottles shown me bear North and Rae's labels. They have contained laudanum. The larger bottle holds 8 ounces, and the smaller bottle one ounce. They are sold according to the regulations of the British Pharmacy Act, 1868. The cork is sealed by the assistant who sells the bottle and who of course is also a qualified chemist under the Act. The landanum we sell is all of one strength—the British Pharmacopœia strength. The dose is stated on both bottles—the adult dose being 25 drops. I recognise the accused; I have seen him once before. I saw him when he asked for landanum, on the 7th of April. Of poisons sold under Schedule 1 we keep a register; but this comes under Schedule 2, and does not require to be registered. I knew his name, he had been getting medicine before, and had got landanum from one of the assistants. He had been getting medicines prescribed by Dr. Wheeler. There was no prescription for the landanum. It did not strike me then that the quantity of laudanum he received on the 7th was a large one, because he had got laudanum before in smaller quantities, for a special purpose—bathing his joints. He had it twice before.

In reply to Mr. Troup, accused said he had no witnesses to call.

Mr. Troup said it appeared to him that the evidence was sufficient to require prisoner being held over to take his trial, and then warned the accused as to any statement he might make.

Accused said he had nothing to say beyond that the evidence so far as he knew was perfectly true.

Mr. Troup then committed accused to take his trial.

JAPANESE JUGGLING AND HOW IT IS LEARNED.

How would you fit yourself to become a lawyer? By study. How would you make of yourself a physician or a painter? By study, of course. That is the way to become a juggler. Study and study alone will fit a man for the stage with his eyes so trained, his hands so skilled and his nerves so steady that he can split a potato with a sword on the bare throat of his assistant, as I do daily upon the throat of my assistant, Omene. It requires years of patient practice before he can acquire the deftness of touch to fill empty boxes with ribbons, glasses, and trinkets before the eyes of a critical audience so that the secret of his deception will evade discovery. Those who have never given the subject thought may fancy that the spinning of a square block of wood upon the rim of a twirling umbrella is a feat easily easily accomplished. But let me tell you that it takes hours of daily practice for months and months together before it is done as easily as it appears to be.

The simple spinning of a top; the causing of a bevy of butterflies to flutter gracefully in the air, hovering over a vase of flowers, now alighting for a moment to rest and now soaring high above the fan, and the rolling of an egg on the edge of a closed fan, are tricks that take more study, more application, and more patience than many a successful lawyer has ever given to the building up of his practice.

In this article I propose telling you what kind of study you need to become a juggler. If you follow my directions you may learn how the tricks are performed, but I cannot guarantee that you will ever be a an expert artist. That depends upon your natural aptitude to that kind of work. A clumsy man, slow in his movements and sluggish in thought, can never be a stage performer. The successful juggler is quick as a flash, steady as a rock, and he measures distances and positions as accurately with his eyes as a chemist weighs out poisons on his scales.

Let me first tell you how I began my stage career. I am an Italian, and my profession is that of a chemist. I have a drug store in Turin at the present time. I have always had a love for juggling. I used to practise the tricks for my own amusement. When the Shonoski Royal Japanese troupe of jugglers visited Italy I was interested in their exhibitions and when I was offered the post of manager I accepted it.

Here I had an opportunity to acquire still more knowledge of the business, and after two years of managerial work I became a performer. When I went to London six years ago I met Omene, my assistant, to whom I am indebted for much of my success. Omene is a native of Stamboul, Turkey, and is the widow of an English officer killed in the siege of Alexandria.

Our real names? That will hardly interest the public. So far as any would-be juggler who reads what I write is concerned we are Yank Hoe and Omene, jugglers. Is that not enough?

That is sufficient about ourselves. Now come with me into a juggler's practice room. Oh, yes, jugglers spend a part of the day in practice, no matter how advanced they may be. It will not do to let the muscles grow stiff or the nerves loss their strength.

The slender cord suspended from the ceilling? That is the most useful appliance the juggler has in practising the umbrella feats. This is how it is used. Do you see that shelf in the corner filled with rubber balls, square blocks of wood, plates and round bodied bottles? Did you notice that little ring in the centre of the plates and blocks? No? That is an oversight, for without attaching the cord to that ring and suspending the object in the air, the difficulty of learning these tricks would be multiplied a score of times.

Why? I will tell you. The cord is long, as you have seen. The plate hangs so low that if you are not careful you will strike your head against it in walking across the floor. After the plate is suspended the juggler opens his long, thick handled Japanese umbrella, and stooping beneath the plate so that it rests on the rim of the umbrella twiring the handle, at first slowly and them more rapidly, but all the time evenly. As the umbrella flies around the plate begins to revolve on its rim. After it has acquired this motion the juggler gradually straightens his back until a little coil of slack cord circles around the protruding point of the umbrella.

This is not learned in one day or a week or even a month, and hundreds of times in this practice the plate slips off or topples over. Now do you see the use of the cord? It keeps the plate from falling to the floor. Without a cord the learner would spend more than half his time bending over and picking it up. Practice under those circumstances would be punishment, and the cost of broken china would eat a large hole into a small fortune.

By you do not begin learning this first with a plate or block of wood. You first use the rubber ball and then take up the other articles in turn. After a while you become expert. I throw the ball into the air and catch it on the revolving umbrella. I toss the block of wood high above the top of the curtain and as it comes down the umbrella sends it spinning, end on end until it looks like the fly-wheel of a locomotive and makes a whirring sound like a bee in flight. Now it spins in one spot and now it shoots around the umbrella like a racer off for the goal. I change the movement of the handle and it stops. Then a toss and up it flies. I catch it gently and as it topples over I make my bow. The trick is done.

Now for the top tricks. They look simple enough. It almost seems like wasting time to describe how they are done. That is the way they look—from the front of the stage. If you are of that opinion try one of them. Do not let me undeceive you when you can so easily undeceive yourself. Take a large, heavy Japanese top, with a long rounded point and a thick rounded stem. Twist this stem between the palms of your hands until the top begins to hum. Even this requires practice, and days of practice, too. But the trick is not begun. You are as yet but little further than you were when you fastened the ball into the hanging cord and began to turn your umbrella handle.

The top hums. You touch your fingers to its sides and you withdraw them quickly, as if you had touched something that was very hot. Now comes the knack of picking up the top and doing so without stopping it. Gently now; one finger and a thumb are enough if you only have the skill. Lift it up quickly, before it burns, and drop the point into the palm of your hand. Now incline your hand just a trifle, and as the top drifts toward the edge catch it on the other hand. Slowly? Yes, very slowly at first, but when you are sure of yourself, when you have given to the top impetus enough to make it sing, do it quickly. Toss it up and catch and then toss it up again and again until its motion dies out on your hand, and it totters and falls on its side like a drunken man.

When you have learned to spin the top and catch it on your hand, you are ready to learn to balance it on the edge of a closed fan or a billiard cue. This requires a nicety of touch. You must be an equilibrist as well as a top spinner. Hold the fan steadily. Put the top down gently. As it slides over to the side turn the fan as slightly as possible to the other side and it slowly comes back to the centre. Do this for a month. An hour a day? Not a quarter of that time unless your muscles are made of iron and your nerves of steel. Fifteen minutes with the fan and top will make you shake as with the palsy the first time you try it.

You have it at last. Now incline your fan point downward and the top hums down toward the floor. Raise the point and it returns to your hand. The billiard cue will call into play all you have already learned and more too. The addition will be patience chiefly. To balance a top on the rounded side of a cue takes practice. To make it travel to the chalked point and back again to the

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but requires months and even years of work. But it can be done.

Let us take the cord now. This is suspended from the ceiling. Wrap it around the revolving point one turn and start the top on a trip toward the clouds. How is this done? By spinning the top to its utmost speed and by holding the cord just taut enough. It is not nearly so hard to do as the cue trick, but it has work enough about it to keep you employed for a month or two or least.

Here is a neat trick. Roll an egg end over end up and down the edge of a closed fan. This is comparatively simple. First cut a very shallow groove in the fan. Then boil your egg hard or, if you cannot do that shake it well, so that the yolk and white are thoroughly mixed. Now place it in the groove, and by giving the fan a little outward push you can make the egg roll over. Keep on with these little pushes until the egg reaches the end. Then reverse the movement, pull instead of push and it comes back to the starting point. An expert egg roller can take a perfectly round rubber ball and roll it back and forward on the fan without using a groove, but it is impossible to do it with an egg.

You have often witnessed the butterfly trick and you have probably often wondered at the skill of the performer. If you have ever left the theatre to try the experiment of keeping half a dozen tissue paper butterflies balanced in the air by the movement of your fan your wonder has been doubled. Now I am going to tell you a secret. There is a deception practised in this trick. It is not so difficult as you think it is.

When the performer comes out on the stage and cuts out of a sheet of paper his collection of butterflies he has concealed in his hand a long hair from a woman's head. It is so thin that it is invisible from a distance. He folds the end of this in his first butterfly. The second is fastened a few inches lower down and so on until all are tied together in a row. The other end of the hair is then attached to the juggler's chin or forehead by a bit of flesh colored wax. When he begins to wave his fan and send the breeze wherever he may choose the butterflies cannot soar beyond the length of their tether.

That seems simple enough, does it not? But if you want to see how hard it is just try. It is true that the butterflies cannot fly away from you, but that fact does not lessen the difficulty you will have in making the things fly at all. It requires weeks of practice to be able to start them in a natural way, and to keep them suspended in the air for any length of time takes many weeks longer. Now comes the difficult part of the trick. To make them alight on a vase of flowers and hover over a bouquet at your will takes months of time. When it is once learned, however, it makes one of the prettiest features in the juggler's repertory.

The most difficult feat that I accomplish, and indeed the most daring trick I have ever seen, is by far harder to learn than any that I have described. Before you attempt it I caution you to be more certain of your nerves, more sure of your skill than you have ever been before. The slightest mistake, the fraction too much of an ounce of power, and you are a murderer.

These are your properties:—A sword with an edge keen as that of a razor, a potato fresh from market, an assistant who does not know what nervousness means and has the most absolute confidence in your skill, and a command over your own nerves that is perfect.

First you show your audience that the potato is real by throwing it down on the floor or by letting them examine it. Next you satisfy them that the sword is sharp by cutting a playing card into pieces before their eyes, as though it were a slice of cheese. Your assistant then kneels down before you, with her neck bared. You place the potato upon the warm flesh, shield your eyes from the light, balance your sword in your hand, measure the distance of the stroke and its strength. Then 2—ip, a flash, your assistant tosses her head and the potato falls on the floor divided in the middle, cut through to the thin skin.

Still more difficult is the front cut. Your assistant lies outstretched on her back, her head hanging over the edge of a stool. The potato is placed on the throat and the thrust is made. You must not look into her open eyes. You must not look at your sword. Watch the potato and strike quickly and surely.

The way to practise this is to begin with a rubber ball resting on a table. After you have learned to strike it directly in the centre every stroke try potatoes. When you can cut through them, stopping the blade the instant the skin is penetrated, and when you can do this, not ninety-nine times out of a hundred, but every time you try it, you are ready for your living block.—YANK HOE, in the *N. Y. Herald*.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, April 11th.

The Portuguese have stopped the traffic at Pungeve until the British African Company evacuate the Massikesse territory.

London, April 12th.

The House of Commons, by a majority of 130, has adopted a motion introduced by Sir Joseph W. Pease [Member for Barnard Castle], for the stoppage of licences for growing the poppy and for the sale of opium in India.

London, April 13th.

The Italian Minister to the United States has sailed for Europe. It is declared that he has only been granted leave of absence, and that he still remains Minister to the United States.

London, April 14th.

The Government will take no action on the Opium Resolution, as the vote does not express the sense of the House.

Later.

The prospectus has been issued of the National Bank of China. The capital is one million pounds sterling, and the head office of the bank will be at Hongkong.

[FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS."]

London, March 17th.

The steamer *Voorwaarts*, from Batavia bound to Amsterdam, went on shore at Camaran in the Red Sea, on the 16th instant. All efforts to get her off have been unsuccessful.

London, March 24th.

Lord Knutsford has deferred bringing forward the Newfoundland bill until the sixteenth proximo, in order to give time to receive and examine the views put forward by the Colony.

London, March 25th.

The Secretary to the American Treasury announces that he will continue the policy of declining to furnish gold bars in exchange for coin for export.

His Imperial Majesty the Czar has conferred on M. Carnot, the President of the French Republic, the Order of St. Andrew.

London, March 31st.

Violent conflicts are daily taking place between partisans of Mr. Parnell and Mr. MacCarthy at the election campaign at Sligo.

It is reported that Prince Bismarck will accept a seat in the Reichstag should he be elected for Hanover.

The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour has been conferred upon Baron de Mohrenheim, the Russian Ambassador at Paris.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 17th.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, April 20th.*
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, April 18th.†
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 5th ‡
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Tuesday, April 21st.§
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 26th.

*Oceanic left San Francisco on April 2nd. †Yangtse (with French mail) left Shanghai on April 13th. ‡ City of Rio de Janeiro left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on April 14th. § General Werder left Hongkong on April 18th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, April 18th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 21st.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, April 23rd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 26th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, April 26th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 5th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, May 15th.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35 † 10.45, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8 58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.03, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between Kozu and Yumoto (distance 4 *ri*.) Jinrikisha may be hired between Yumoto and Miyanoshita (distance 1½ *ri*)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TOKYO-SHIOGAMA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UENO (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 9.57 a.m. and 3.04 and 6.11 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (down) at 8 a.m. and 12.34 and 5.42 p.m.; KORIYAMA (down) at 9.24 a.m. and 1.53 and 7.01 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (down) at 7.30 and 11.35 a.m. and 3.48 p.m.; and SENDAI (down) at 6.15 and 10.25 a.m. and 2.35 and 6.45 p.m.

TRAINS LEAVE SHIOGAMA (up) at 6.50 and 11 a.m., and 3.10 and 7.20 p.m.; SENDAI (up) at 7.30 and 11.40 a.m., and 3.50 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (up) at 6.40 and 10.23 a.m. and 2.36 p.m.; KORIYAMA (up) at 8.28 a.m., and 12.15 and 4.26 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (up) at 6.30 and 9.45 a.m., and 1.35 p.m.; and UTSUNOMIYA (up) at 6.15 and 9 3 a.m., and 12.20, 4.18 and 6.30 p.m

FARES.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6 45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

TAKETOYO-OFU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OFU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE SHINJIKU, TOKYO, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m.; and HACHIOJI (up) at 5.25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

FARES—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60; third-class *sen* 30.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TÔKYÔ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6, 8.50, and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.45 p.m.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Ueno.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen*, third-class, 25 *sen*.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.50 and 9.25 a.m., and 2.20 and 5.15 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.25 and 10.10 a.m., and 2.05 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 12th April,—Takao 7th April, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Innocenti, Italian bark, 902, Cuneo, 12th April,—New York 3rd November, Oil.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,882, Porter, 7th April,—Kobe 10th April, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Piccola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 13th April,—Nagasaki 8th April, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 12th April,—Kobe 11th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taichow, British steamer, 862, R. Unsworth, 12th April,—Kobe 10th April, General.—Frazar & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 12th April,—Hiroshima 10th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 13th April,—Hongkong 4th, Nagasaki 9th, and Kobe 12th April, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 14th April,—Kobe 13th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 5,700, Marshall, R.N.R., 16th April,—Hongkong 7th, Nagasaki 12th, and Kobe 14th April, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Glenmorven, British steamer, 1,988, Wright, 16th April,—Kobe 14th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsukuba Kan (8), Japanese corvette, Captain Y. Shibayama, 16th April,—Yokosuka 16th April.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,005, Pyne, 17th April,—Middlesborough 9th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 17th April,—Shanghai and ports 11th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 17th April,—Honolulu 4th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Batavia, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 18th April,—Vancouver, B.C., 27th March, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 11th April,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Djemnah, French steamer, 2,200, Bonnefoy, 12th April,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Moyune, British steamer, 2,640, J. S. Hogg, 13th April,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Oceana, German steamer, 1,628, J. Behrens, 14th April,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 14th April,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taichow, British steamer, 862, R. Unsworth, 14th April,—Vancouver, General.—Frazar & Co.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 15th April,—Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,882, Porter, 15th April,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 15th April,—Honolulu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Breconshire, British steamer, 1,648, Jackson, 16th April,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

W. W. Crapo, American ship, 1,573, Hardy, 16th April,—Yokosuka Dock.—Captain.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 16th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Piccola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 16th April,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 17th April,—Vancouver, B.C., General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 18th April,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Diana, American schooner, 75, Alex. Petersen, 18th April,—North Pacific, Ballast.—Captain.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Taichow*, from Kobe:—30 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Hiroshima:—Mr. C. J. Edwards, Miss A. Young, Miss C. Rice, and 7 Japanese in cabin; and 1,100 emigrants for Honolulu.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong via ports:—Lieut. Raymond F. Boileau, Mr. F. Powell, Mr. C. De Mornay, Mrs. Clarke, Mr. B. Shadwell, Mr. J. B. Mansen, Mrs. S. B. Stephens, Misses Stephens (2), Messrs. Stephens, Freeze, Mullar, Baron and Baroness Campbell and maid, Mr. H. Kitching, Mr. R. Stewart, Sir Francis and Lady Boileau, Mr. and Miss Boileau, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, Messrs. Brockbank, Schwabe, Steinthall, M. de Bunsen, Miss Nixon, Messrs. Perty Stindee, J. W. Morrison, J. B. Stone, B. J. Jackson, H. Weston, Charlesworth, Miss Robinson, Rev. and Mrs. Weithbretch, Captain Dundas and servant, Mrs. Valois, Mrs. Frantpuis, Mr. R. A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Mr. C. Bogler, Mr. A. Gillott, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Arnold, Captain and Mrs. Thompson, Miss Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. McKay, Messrs. J. O. Callaghan, Leong Feong, Lee Fing Shing, Kishikawa, H. Chung, and Chong Wing Teong in cabin; and 13 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. D. M. Johnstone, R. De B. Layard, Frank J. Wilson, S. Motoami, and K. Makino in cabin; 32 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Macauley, Rev. R. Torrance, Messrs. W. C. Carruthers, G. W. Bissell, Fred. Noble, Mr. and Mrs. Lancontague, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Willson, Mr. Harry Butler, Mr. G. H. Woodbridge, Major and Mrs. Foster, Dr. Fisher, Lieut. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. James Talbot Power, Mr. W. F. Loud, Mr. A. L. Ruffe, Mr. and Mrs. Burgess, Messrs. F. W. Stroh, A. B. Westerfeldt, W. B. Wilson, H. S. Griswold, R. K. Pratt, E. C. Cornwell, A. Roy, L. R. Goulding, Canon Tristram, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Hurlbut, Miss Hurlbut, Messrs. E. Hodge, R. F. Drew, W. Hailwood, Captain J. C. Bayly, Mr. W. S. Sidney, Mr. and Mrs. Aspden, Miss Shaw, Mr. W. P. Feeney, Mr. and Mrs. W. Bisset-Snell, Mr. Joseph H. Goodhart, Mr. E. G. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Goddard, Messrs. Hy. Lubbock, A. C. Clark, R. Cecil, G. W. Cutter, J. W. Hammond, C. W. Hayes, James Philp, W. Glazier, A. Blain, James Perkins, C. L. Marston, E. F. Gillette, Dr. and Mrs. Warner, and Mr. A. O. Longee in cabin; Mr. E. Afister and 5 Chinese in second class, and 349 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Takei and child, Miss Takei, Miss Graham, Messrs. H. E. Reynell, H. S. Baggallay, Asami, Tallaksen, E. Pettet, Captain Pender, and Mrs. Becher in cabin; Mrs. Kimura, Mr. Otaka Suyesaki, Mr. Chong Ching Wing, Mrs. Kennard and maid, and Mrs. Matsuda in second class, and 56 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Honolulu:—Mrs. Kaisawa in cabin; Mr. Y. C. Pus in second class, and 56 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Batavia*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—2 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe: Mr. F. S. Morse in cabin. For Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. G. Clark, Mr. J. A. Hawes, and Mr. G. E. J. Gardiner in cabin. For Hongkong: Captain Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Dodwell and family, Miss Reading, Miss Everett, and Mr. J. P. Dowling in cabin; 44 Chinese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Center, Miss Bessie Center, Mr. W. J. S. Shand, Rev. and Mrs. H. Mansell, Mr. and Mrs. N. Paustin, Mr. E. H. McFarland, Mr. Sam. Crump, Mr. Carl Rothenburg, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Bramhall and maid, Miss Cole, Mr. R. C. Donaldson, Lieut. and Mrs. E. C. Perkins, U.S.N., Rev. J. B. Porter, Dr. J. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Benton, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Benton, Miss M. T. True and native servant, Mr. F. A. Satow, Mr. P. Percival, Mr. and Mrs. R. Dross, General Stedman, Lieut. T. S. Phelps, U.S.N., Mrs. E. B. Smith and child, Rev. and Mrs. Allchin and 3 children, Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Scranton and 3 children, Mrs. M. Scranton, Commander H. C. R. Hulbert, R.N., Mr. H. Sandbach, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Buchanan, Miss Ure, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. P. Bland, Messrs. Yang Tung Chang, J. L. Mayers, W. J. Ford, Pace, and Liebes in cabin.

Per French steamer *Djemnah*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. Degron and boy, Mr. and Mrs. Orsolle Van Parys, Messrs. W. G. Payne, E. H. Browne, M. Baggallay, S. Petsaly, Miss Th. Lesueur, Messrs. M. Shitago Mizuno, U. Mare, Y. H. Hoosun, and John Pearce in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Fukuhara, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Remy and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Kumasaki and infant, Mr. W. Gilet, Mr. Graham, Rev. S. H. and Mrs. Wainwright, Messrs. W. A. Wilson, C. Volke, J. S. Happer, Mr. and Mrs. E. Roise, and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Ogle in cabin; Messrs. Kamio, Akawa, Sonoda, Kaishima, Mrs. Mizuhara, and Mrs. Yamazaki in second class, and 52 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart., Colonel Hall, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Lamb, Mr. Griffin, Professor and Mrs. Clement, Mr. W. H. Brenner, Mr. Reynolds Peyton, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Corbet, Mr. H. Binley, Mr. W. Sutter, Captain and Mrs. Gerrard and child, Mr. J. O. Johnstone, Mr. H. D. Munn, and Mr. Douglas Dick in cabin; Sir J. R. Gladstone's servant in second class. From Kobe: Mr. John Pearce in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $30,000.00.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	—	93	93
Yokohama	653	—	—	653
Hongkong	89	—	—	89
Total	742	—	93	835

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	263	—	263
Hongkong	—	195	—	195
Yokohama	—	925	—	925
Kobe	—	5	—	5
Total	—	1,388	—	1,388

Per French steamer *Djemnah*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France 530 bales; Waste Silk for France 126 bales. Treasure for Shanghai $5,100.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	300	—	7	156	463
Foochow	—	—	—	255	255
Hyogo	—	—	—	19	19
Yokohama	—	—	48	265	313
Total	300	—	55	695	1,050

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	434	—	434
Shanghai	72	—	72
Yokohama	350	—	350
Total	856	—	856

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 11th April at noon; had light southerly winds and rain with smooth sea to Oshima, which was passed at 9 p.m.; thence moderate S.S.W. winds and misty weather with moderate S.W. swell to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th April at 5.15 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Shimonoseki the 8th April. Arrived at Shimmoto at 4.45 p.m. and left the 9th at 8.30 a.m. Arrived at Hiroshima at 9.45 a.m. and left the 10th at 6 a.m.; had light winds and fine weather; passed Rock Island the 11th at 7 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th April at 1.15 a.m.; weather continuing fine to port.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 13th April at noon; had light variable winds and overcast sky to Oshima; thence to Vries Island strong E.N.E. winds and head sea; thence wind moderating. Arrived at Yokohama the 14th April at 8.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 10th April at noon; had thick foggy weather with light southerly winds and swell throughout the passage. Arrived at Nagasaki the 12th at 4.30 a.m. and left the 13th; had weather dull and rainy till midnight; thence to port encountered a furious N.E. gale and very heavy sea. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 14th at 10.30 a.m. and left at 12.30 p.m.; had fine weather with gentle breeze till 4 a.m. on the 15th; thence to port had strong to fresh N.E. winds and dull cloudy weather. Arrived at Kobe the 15th at 10 a.m. and left the 16th at noon; had moderate to fresh N.W. winds and cloudy weather; passed Oshima at 7.35 p.m. moderate S.E. swell; off Omaisaki the 17th at 6.45 a.m., encountered strong easterly winds; passed Rock Island at 9.45 a.m. strong head wind and dull cloudy weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 3.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. Wynn, reports:—Left Honolulu the 4th April at 0.45 p.m.; had light north-easterly winds till the 7th; thence unsettled weather throughout the rest of passage; made Noshima at 5 p.m. on the 17th. Arrived at Yokohama at 9 p.m.

The British steamer *Batavia*, Captain Hill, reports:—Left Vancouver the 27th March at 5 p.m.; had severe westerly gales with heavy sea throughout the greater part of the voyage; sighted Cape Inuboye the 17th April at 1.30 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th April at 2 a.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The market has been slow, and as regards Yarn prices have been distinctly in buyers' favour to the extent of nearly 50 cents per picul on some spinnings, whilst others have been sold at previous rates, amongst which have been further sales of Kingston 16/24's at relatively very low prices. Bombay Yarns have been quite neglected, and prices are more or less nominal. For Grey Shirtings there has been a very limited enquiry and sales are reported of only 3,500 pieces. Italian Cloth has been sold to the extent of some 2,600 pieces of various descriptions, but in other Goods there has been little doing, and prices are mostly quite nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 30-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	4.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.25½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb.	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$25.00	to	27.50
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.75	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.25	to	30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	32.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	29.00	to	29.50
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30.75
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to	32.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.00	to	35.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.50	to	37.50
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

Little business and no change in prices; dealers offer less for parcels to arrive, but importers are not anxious to do business on the proposed terms.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$2.80	to	2.95
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.85	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.70
Tin Plates, per box	5.70	to	6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.40	to	1.45

KEROSENE.

The market continues quiet, and prices are fairly steady, but the stock is further increased by the arrival of the *F. R. Walker* and *Gerard C. Tobey*, both from New York, with cargoes of Oil.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.65 to 1.67½
Comet	1.62½ to 1.65
Devoe	1.60 to 1.62½
Russian	1.55 to 1.60

SUGAR.

Prices almost nominal for Browns, which continue to arrive. Whites also quiet.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$3.90	to	3.95
Brown Daitong	3.10	to	3.95
Brown Canton	5.00	to	6.00
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	5.00	to	7.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 10th inst.; since that date settlements on this market have been 742 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 57; *Filatures*, 286; *Re-reels* 228; *Kakeda*, 165; *Oshu*, 6. Direct shipments during the week have been 24 piculs, consequently the total export business is equal to 767 piculs.

During the first part of the week the Market was quiet with small settlements and prices were steady without being strong. Three days ago, however, one of our exporters for the States again entered the field, buying freely and practically clearing the market of our good quality filatures. Prices at once began to turn upwards again and the market closes very strong, holders looking for still further advances.

Exchange has remained on an even keel with every slight variations, and to-day's rates are practically those of a week ago.

Arrivals from the interior are now very light, and the quality leaves much to be desired. Practically speaking our season for good silks is finished. Our stock is reduced to very small dimensions, and the quality is such that a great deal of it will be unfit for export and must be returned into the interior for use by the Native weavers.

During the last week weather has been cold and rather inclement for the Spring vegetation; there has, however, been no frost or signs of any, and it is not probable that the cold weather will have any injurious effect upon the crop beyond retarding it a little. The hatching in Koshu province is expected to commence in a week's time, and we shall doubtless have some new silk between the 15th and 20th of June.

There have been two shipping opportunities during the week, the American mail of the 11th inst. and the French mail of the 12th. The former, *China*, had 925 bales for New York, and the latter, *Djemnah*, carried 530 bales for Europe. The present export figures are therefore 29,129 piculs, against 35,046 last year and 38,786 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—Some parcels of good medium *Shinshu* have been taken at $520, and our stock is now down to very small proportions, there being less than 50 piculs on offer.

Filatures.—Market is strong under influence of recent purchases, $640 having been paid for some good *Shinshu*, 13/15 den; $635 was paid for *Tokushinsha*, with other marks in proportion. Good quality is now very scarce: all summer reelings having been apparently taken up.

Re-reels.—More business has been done in these, and high prices have been paid. *Tortoise*, Chop $610; *Shikishima*, $610 and *Tengensha*, $600. Holders of good silks are very strong, the bulk of the stock being medium and inferior quality.

Kakedas.—Our market has been cleared of these silks, and without some further arrivals from the interior no more business can be done. $590 has been freely paid for No. 1, and $580 for No. 1½, although the bulk of the trade was done at $5 less than these quotations.

Oshu Sorts.—Small business in *Hamatsuki* at $530 and $520. Stock in this class is also insignificant.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$530 to 540
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	530 to 535
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	520 to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	520 to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	510 to 515
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	500 to 505
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	480 to 490
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		640 to 650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		625 to 635
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		560 to 570
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Shinshu and Oshu) Best No. 1		610 to 620
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		580 to 590
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570 to 575
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		530 to 540
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1		585 to 590
Kakedas—No. 1½		575 to 580
Kakedas—No. 2		565 to 570
Kakedas—No. 2½		555 to 560
Kakedas—No. 3		535 to 540
Kakedas—No. 3½		525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 4		515 to 520
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		540 to 550
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		510 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 17th April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	12,797	14,622	19,837
America	15,722	19,969	18,611
Total ... Bales	28,519	34,591	38,448
Total ... Piculs	29,129	35,046	38,786

Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 32,200	Piculs. 35,150	Piculs. 38,450
Stock, 17th April	2,500	2,150	2,850
Available supplies to date	34,700	37,300	41,300

WASTE SILK.

Sales in this branch are 200 piculs divided thus: *Waste Cocoons*, 13; *Noshi*, 40; *Kibiso*, 124; *Neri*, 23.

Trade languishes on account of the poor quality of the stock which consists mostly of rejections from the whole season, pickings, and cleanings. As a matter of fact our season is practically closed, there being very little besides refuse remaining. Export during the week consists of 132 bales, which were taken by the French mail for Europe. Present export figures are 28,316 piculs, against 26,302 last year and 29,492 at the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—The only sale during the week has been in some *Waste Cocoons* of very low quality, which were picked up at $15 per picul.

Noshi.—Some few purchases of *Joshu* ranging from $72 to $85 according to quality.

Kibiso.—Two or three parcels of *Curlies* have been taken; Bushu at $30, *Mino* at $46½.

Mawata.—Nothing doing, and the remaining stock on hand will probably be used by natives themselves.

Sundries.—Nothing in *Tama-ito* but a few small purchases of *Neri* continue at unchanged prices.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—	
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—	
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—	
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—	
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 17th April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	27,029	24,112	27,014
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	28,316	26,302	29,492
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 29,500	Piculs. 27,800	Piculs. 30,350
Stock, 17th April	3,500	5,750	3,750
Available supplies to date	33,000	33,550	34,100

Exchange has remained without any great variation closing weak at last rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3; Documents, 3/3⅛; 6m/s. Credits' 3/3¼; Documents, 3/3⅜; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78½; 4m/s. U.S. $79½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.10; 6m/s. fcs. 4.12.

Estimated Silk Stock, 17th April, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	40	Cocoons	85
Filatures	1,050	Noshi-ito	1,050
Re-reels	1,330	Kibiso	2,050
Kakeda	20	Mawata	146
Oshu	55	Sundries	169
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	2,500	Total piculs	3,500

TEA.

The coming crop is receiving a check, a considerable fall in the temperature being reported from the principal districts; no frost has appeared, however, and the leaf is looking well everywhere.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has not fluctuated much this week, but is not strong at the close.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2⅝
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 2½
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.01
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.13
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	½ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78½
Silver	44⅛

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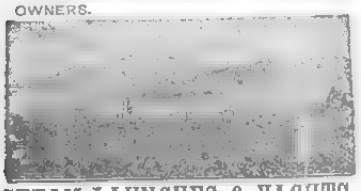

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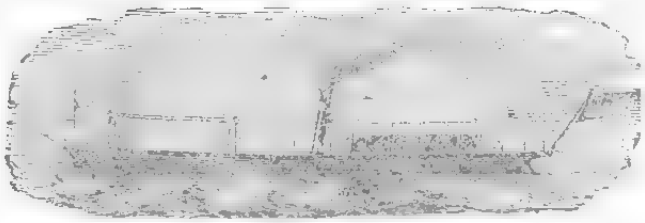

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 17.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, APRIL 25TH, 1891. 通信書認可 [VOL. XV.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated bye th name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1891.

BIRTHS.

On 18th instant, at No. 6, The Bund, Yokohama, the wife of C. G. BUCHANAN-DUNLOP of a Daughter.

At No. 39, Bluff, on the 22nd inst., MRS. CARL ROHDE of a Daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO left the capital on the 17th to visit his villa at Numazu.

MR. INOUYE SHIGEYASU, Director of the Yokohama Union Electric Light Company, has resigned.

THE Chinese Representative gave a most successful ball at the Rokumeikan, Tokyo, on the 18th instant.

H.I.H. PRINCE KITASHIRAKAWA YOSHIHISA left the capital on the 18th instant for Takasaki on official business.

THE Russian Representative left Tokyo on the 21st instant, to meet the Russian Prince Imperial at Nagasaki.

COUNT ITAGAKI and his immediate followers have started a new newspaper in Tokyo, under the name of the *Jiyu*.

THE Imperial Spring Garden Party was held at the Yenryokan on the 22nd instant, under very favourable circumstances.

THE promoters of the Hokota Tramway Company propose to extend the company's line to the harbour of Naka, Hitachi.

THE various Government Departments will henceforward be opened at 8 in the forenoon, and closed at 3 in the afternoon.

COUNT YOSHII expired at 1 p.m. on the 22nd instant, having lingered many days after the time when his decease was originally looked for.

A COMMERCIAL newspaper to be called the *Nippon Shogyo Shimpo* will be started in Kobe on the 25th instant. Mr. Majima Buichi will be its chief contributor.

THE political situation has not materially changed during the week. All eyes are now turned towards Count Ito, who is travelling to the capital from the South. It is hoped that he will consent to assume the direction of the Cabinet, but no certainty exists.

DURING 10 days ended the 10th instant the Kyushu Railway Company carried 57,577 passengers, from whom *yen* 12,804.40 was realized by the sale of tickets.

A GENERAL MEETING of shareholders of the Osaka Railway Company was held on the 19th instant. The net profit during the latter half of last year was *yen* 28,710.481.

THE doubling of the Tokaido line between Gotemba and Numazu, work on which is now going on, will, it is expected, be completed about the middle of next month.

THE Hon. Mrs. Swift, wife of the late American Representative, who has left Japan for home, was received in audience by Her Majesty the Empress on the 20th instant.

A RAILWAY accident occurred at the Shimbashi Terminus of the Tokyo-Yokohama line on the 20th instant. Two persons were severely injured and several were badly shaken.

THE peony garden of Mr. Uyebumi at Honjo, Yotsume, Tokyo, was opened to the public on the 16th instant. The plants will be in full blossom about the first Sunday of next month.

MR. UTSUMI, recently appointed Governor of Kanagawa and his family, arrived in Yokohama on the 21st instant, and occupied the official residence of the *Chiji* of the Pretecture at Isecho

THE *Kongo Kan* and *Hiyei Kan* sailed from Singapore on the 19th instant for Hongkong *en route* for Japan. On the following day the *Musashi Kan* started from Shinagawa for Nagasaki.

MR. YOSHIKAWA, Minister of State for Education, who had been confined for some time to his residence by indisposition, proceeded to Kamakura on the 18th instant, on three weeks' leave of absence, to recruit his health.

FIRE broke out on the night of the 14th instant, in a house at Kami-shitomura, Hatto-gori, Tottori Prefecture, and destroyed 19 dwellings, one Elementary School, and several other buildings before the flames could be subdued.

MR. SANNOMIYA, Vice-Grand Master of the Board of Ceremonies in the Imperial Household, and Baron Madenokoji, and Mr. Yamanouchi, Masters of Ceremonies, left the capital on the 19th instant for Nagasaki to meet the Russian Prince Imperial.

AN earthquake was felt in the capital on the 21st instant, at 10h. 49m. 7s. a.m. The duration was 3 minutes, and the direction was from N.W. to S.E., the maximum horizontal motion being 1.9 milimètre in 1.1 second. The shock was a sharp one.

THERE were in Shimane Prefecture at the end of the year 10,686 persons over 80 years of age. Of people aged from 80 to 90 years, 4,027 were men and 5,857 women; aged over 91 to 100 years, 276 men and 523 women; and aged over 101 years, 5 men and 18 women.

DURING the week ended the 17th instant 2,750 persons visited the Fine Art Exhibition in Uyeno Park. The total number of visitors from the opening of the exhibition to the 17th inst. was 15,949, of whom 85 were distinguished, 1,798 special, and 13,133 ordinary visitors, the rest being members of the Fine Art Society, and students of the Fine Art School and the Technical School.

THE total receipts of the Sanyo Railway Company during the past half year were *yen* 113,887.086, of which *yen* 55,915.314 was deducted for miscellaneous expenses, leaving a profit of *yen* 57,971.772. To this sum an amount brought over from the last account was added, and a dividend was declared at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

THE Government has granted a charter to the Kawagoye Railway Company. A meeting of promoters of the company was held on the 20th instant, at which Messrs. Yonekura Ippei, Shimizu Munenori, Masuda Chuzun, Nukiyama Saheiji, and Saito Yosoji were elected an executive committee. The survey of the proposed route of the company will be commenced on the 25th instant.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR, accompanied by Marquis Tokudaiji, Grand Chamberlain, Lieutenant Colonel T. Yoneda, Mr. T. Kataoka, and Mr. Hino, Chamberlains, Mr. Saito, Secretary of the Imperial Household, and Dr. Yamashina, a Court Physician, proceeded to Uyeno Park on the afternoon of the 20th instant to visit the Fine Art Exhibition.

ON the night of the 9th instant fire occured in a house at Tennomura, Minami-akitagori, Akita Prefecture. The flames were confined to the building where the fire originated, but three persons and one horse were burned to death. Thirty-two dwellings and one elementary school were burned to the ground on the 12th instant at Akiyama, Minami-tsurugori, Yamanashi Prefecture.

A MEETING of members of the Treaty Revision Committee of the *Rikken Jiyu* party was held on the 19th instant, to discuss methods of investigating matters in connection with Treaty Revision, at which Count Itagaki, Messrs. Sugita Tei-ichi, Hoshi Toru, Kono Hironaka, Shigeno Kenjiro, Suzuki Shoji, and Komabayashi Koru were present. The Committee are to meet again on the 23rd instant.

DULNESS continues to be the principal feature of the Import trade, particularly as to Yarns and Piece-goods, while as for Woollens there is absolutely no demand whatever. The small sales of Yarn have been mostly English spinnings, and the other business of the week is made up of Shirtings, T.-Cloths, Victoria Lawn, and Mousseline de Laine in small quantities. The Metal market is quiet, though prices remain unchanged, except perhaps for Wire Nails which are slightly cheaper. Kerosene is not in request, buyers being apparently well supplied or only buy from hand to mouth parcels, and no change has taken place in values. Sales of Brown Sugar have been made on a moderate scale at late rates, but Whites are not in demand. The Silk trade has been fairly brisk; that is to say the demand for good parcels has been made without response, very little high-class silk arriving, and the stock being nearly all cleared, much of what is left is not fit for export, and unless available parcels come in from the country there can be few more heavy transactions till the new crop is handled. Waste Silk is in much the same case as Raw. Tea is coming on rapidly, and large parcels may shortly be expected. Exchange was unaltered till two days ago, when a drop occurred, but since then a slight reaction has taken place, and rates close firm.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

EMIGRATION.

In Japan as elsewhere talk about emigration always begins to be heard at a time of distress. Ten years ago when the project of emigration to Hawaii first came upon the *tapis*, it elicited strong expressions of disapproval in many quarters. Critics urged that labour is capital, and that in parting with her able-bodied inhabitants, Japan would be depriving herself of the means of growing wealthy. This general view of the disadvantages of emigration on grounds of abstract economy is not to be denied, but after all the value of labour depends not only on ability to employ it but also on opportunities to exercise it. If the individual can go abroad, earn and save some money, and finally return home to take a better place in the social scale than he originally occupied, the result is distinctly beneficial to his country as well as to himself. This was certainly possible in the case of emigrants to the sugar platations of Hawaii, and as the fact received demonstration by practical experience, the Japanese laid aside their prejudice against suffering their people to go abroad as labourers. During the past five years there have been two emigration schemes on the *tapis* in addition to that of Hawaii. One had for its object the sending of Japanese to Australia. The details of the scheme have not been published, but it is known that the projectors' agents at this end engaged a number of labourers originally without asking the permission of the Japanese Authorities, and without ascertaining the terms, as to provision of return passage money and so forth, which the Government had determined to impose in such cases. In spite of this irregularity no difficulties were ultimately raised on the Japanese side, but owing to the delay entailed in references to Australia and to hesitation on the part of the projectors, Australia had entered her phase of anti-Oriental immigration before the scheme could be carried into practice. This was fortunate, perhaps, for all concerned. Then followed a project of emigration to Guatamala, but the Government in Tokyo required the same conditions as those observed in Hawaii for the protection of the emigrants, and as these could not be guaranteed, the enterprise had to be abandoned. The notorious silver mine in Peru was another case in point. Originally based on an idea of obtaining Japanese agricultural labour, the scheme was converted, by means not yet quite clear, into a mining programme, and a number of Japanese were carried to Peru and back again without accomplishing anything except the creation of much ridicule and a little scandal. The South Sea Islands' enterprise also falls within this category. The ship and properties used by the projectors have now been sold for a bagatelle, and in all probability the idea has been abandoned, so far as concerns the poor *shisoku* on whose account it was conceived, though possibly others may benefit by the experiences recorded and the information obtained. Then, too, we have still to hear about that vessel which sailed a short time ago on a general voyage of discovery, hoping to find some "island of the blessed" hitherto hidden from the ken of the mariner and the explorer. And while these things are projected and essayed in Japan, the neighbouring empire of China silently and steadily pours out its multitudes of busy-fingered, frugal, humble emigrants, who, locust-like, settle down wherever they find food, and locust-like are coming to be regarded as pests wherever they touch the confines of Western competition. The difference between the methods of the two nations is singular. There is a distinct flavour of romance, as well a trace of the old patriarchal spirit of feudalism, in the doings and darings of the Japanese. Theirs is the instinct of the colonist rather than of the emigrant. The Chinaman sets his face outwards, stirred solely by the impulse of bread-earning, hoping indeed that if he cannot ultimately carry his bones homeward his good friends will send them there, but in the main careless of everything except the pressing want of "bit and sup." The Japanese carries Japan with him. He wants, not raiment and victuals only, but to make a mark. The feverish spirit that drove his country's corsairs and traders, a few centuries back, to harry the neighbouring coasts and thrust themselves into the politics as well as the commerce of the lands they visited, makes its survival apparent to-day whenever an opportunity presents. So soon as things grow dull at home, men begin to talk at once of going abroad, but instead of going silently and humbly like the Chinaman, they must project explorations, exploit mines, or at any rate have the éclat of State protection. The vague talk of the vernacular press at the present juncture about Treasury-aided emigration, under circumstances quite unlike those that drive the famine-stricken Irishman to pray for the means of flying his native land, seem only an ebullition of this spirit. Whither are the Japanese to emigrate? They have under their hand regions inviting reclamation and industries calling for development, yet they talk of going abroad to seek their fortunes. Suppose that Japan were thrown open to-morrow to all the world, what would happen? Would not one result be that while the Japanese themselves are looking beyond their borders for means of sustenance and opportunities of *kudos*, the patient, poking Chinese ants would swarm into this pleasant land and convert into busy haunts many a place that lies waste to-day under the eyes of upward-gazing Japanese?

* * *

In the cheap and skilled labour of this country lies its principal source of wealth. The capitalists of other countries would gladly borrow some of this valuable factor for their own uses. Hawaii has borrowed it, with profit to herself as well to the Japanese. Australia, Guatamala, and Peru would have borrowed it. Do not these facts suggest a thought to persons who claim that the opening of the country could offer no new opportunities to Western enterprise? Is it conceivable that people whom Nature has endowed with marvellous manual dexterity and whose manner of living enables them to subsist contentedly on wages quite insignificant in the eyes of a Western mechanic—is it conceivable that these people are not capable of being converted into wealth-earning instruments? Western capital and Western organizing experience would soon alchemise such elements into precious metals. Looking from the already familiar grooves of production and distribution, it may not be possible to discern a very wide prospect, but to conclude that the capacities of the country are limited to a trade of the present fashion—a trade which has nevertheless nearly quintupled in twenty-one years—seems a very narrow and unenterprising estimate.

SOSHI IN COURT.

Having practised their physical-force tactics within the precincts of the Diet itself, there is no reason why the *soshi* should be diffident about performing in any public building throughout the empire. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that their latest ebullition has been in a Court of Law. It is doubtless fresh in the memory of our readers that in January last a number of *soshi* forced their way into the Yayoi-kan, in Shiba Park, while a meeting of the Radical Party was in progress, and administered a severe beating to Mr. Uyeki Yemori, one of the members of the Diet for Kochi Prefecture. Several arrests were made in connection with the disturbance, but the prisoners were several times remanded, owing to lack of evidence or other causes. On the 16th instant their trial finally commenced in the Tokyo Local Court. Among the *soshi* arraigned was one named Tokata, who being subjected to the usual *procès verbal*, made some reply that seems to have displeased a fellow-prisoner, Sakuma, for the latter, without a moment's hesitation, sprang up and gave Tokata a violent blow. It need scarcely be said that Mr. Sakuma has become an object of additional interest to the Public Procurator.

STORIES.

Circumstantial tales describing the signing of a Revised Treaty with Great Britain, and giving even particulars of the number of articles, the manner of lithographing the draft and so forth, have been published by the *Kokkai Shimbun*, and great has been the flutter caused by them in the journalistic dove-cot of Yokohama. The *Kokkai* is an admirable newspaper. Its proprietor is one of the very few Japanese who have succeeded in "striking pay gravel" in the journalistic diggings, and his manner of conducting the *Kokkai* entitles him to be fortunate. His paper has distinguished itself on the most approved lines on this occasion. To be sensational is half the battle. The fine touches put into this Treaty Revision picture raise it to a level of distinctly high art. The number of conferences held between the British Minister and the Japanese Government, the failure of the first papyrographs, the time taken to prepare fresh copies, and other minutiæ, render it almost sacrilegious to doubt the authenticity of the *canard*, and have deservedly secured for it large credence. To chose ground beyond the reach of final contradiction and then to occupy it with all one's forces of invention, elaboration, and embroidery, is a distinctly admirable performance, and we congratulate the *Kokkai*.

* * *

Besides, we have to thank the *Kokkai* for bringing about another of those amusing incidents which have enlivened the annals of Yokohama journalism during the past four months. Here it is:—

The Fifty-five Thousand Organ.—April 10th.

We think there is little doubt that the subject of Treaty Revision has been practically shelved. The difficulties attending it caused by the present state of Japanese public opinion and the increase of factional spirit are such as to baffle the powers of the wisest of Japan's statesmen. We hope to supply our readers with information on this subject to-morrow.

The Ditto.—April 11th.

Judicial autonomy is not a subject worth serious discussion, at any rate for the present. The indications are abundant that it has been indefinitely shelved.

The Ditto.—April 16th.

There is little doubt that a document of some kind has been prepared and that there have been meetings of the Cabinet to consider the same. It is possible that the British Minister has promised to forward the new draft to the English Foreign Office. There would be nothing extraordinary in this, as for some years the Japanese Government has been perpetually engaged in making new proposals on Treaty Revision or withdrawing old ones.

THE CABINET.

Appearances do not indicate that the reconstruction of the Cabinet is likely to be effected with ease and celerity. Count Yamagata adheres firmly to his intention of resigning, and no one seems disposed to take his place. The original expectation was that Count Saigo would accept the Presidency, but this arrangement is said to be quite impossible, Count Saigo not only refusing to fill the position, but even declaring that he too will resign should Count Yamagata retire. So, at least, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, which, in its issue of the 19th instant, takes a very gloomy view of the situation. It represents Count Oyama also as being anxious to resign the portfolio of War in favour of General Takashima, an officer who has been recognised for the past three years as one of the coming men. Further, Count Yamada is reported by the same authority to have again tendered his resignation, in consequence of Count Yamagata's retirement, but the Minister President is endeavouring to induce him to re-consider his determination, and Viscount Nomura's good offices have been employed for the purpose. The present outlook, according to the *Jiji*, is that Count Ito, and Count Ito only, can be induced to assume the direction of administrative affairs, but in that event Viscount Aoki will not consent to remain at the Foreign Office, and Mr. Yoshikawa will resign the portfolio of Education. Counts Matsukata and Goto, and Mr. Mutsu would thus appear to be the only Ministers likely to remain at their posts. Such is the *Jiji Shimpo's* account, but we do not find it possible to reconcile this wholesale disturbance with our own information. The one difficulty, if what we have heard be correct, is that no statesman of note and ambition is willing to accept the post of Minister President during this period of political transi-

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tion. All earnest politicians wish to inaugurate the system of genuine constitutional government, without dependence on clan influence, but the time for that most desirable reform is not yet ripe, nor is the machinery for effecting it prepared. If there were any reasonable prospect of accomplishing the transition without loss of credit to the last holders of portfolios under the old *régime*, there would be less reluctance to assume the responsibility of engineering the change. No one, however, can see very clearly by what steps the issue will be attained, or what degree of friction will be evolved in the process, and consequently the prominent men hesitate. Doubtless the difficulty will be overcome, and present appearances point to Count Ito as the man to overcome it; but that his return to power would be the signal for an exodus of several members of the Cabinet as now organised we do not believe; unless, indeed, the Count declines to assume control without a free hand to effect reconstruction on altogether new lines. From the moment of opening the first Diet it was morally certain that the administrative machine must be a good deal shaken and disturbed before finally adjusting itself to the new gearing. An imminent crisis was tided over last December, but the effort of averting it left some traces, and there has been since then a growing conviction that changes must come ere long. If Count Ito agrees to preside over the Cabinet again, a measure of stability may be anticipated, but unless the teachings of history be valueless, not half a dozen Count Itos—were they so disposed—could effectually divert Japan from the goal towards which she is steadily moving, government by party. It is an immense misfortune to the nation that it should have lost, just at this difficult juncture, the services of three men of whose adjusting and pacifying influence the general public has little notion. Prince Sanjo, Baron Motoda, and Count Yoshii are dead. Had they been spared a few years longer, Japan might have travelled the last stages of her modern political metamorphoses more smoothly and comfortably.

NEW AUXILIARY SCHOONER FOR THE YOKOHAMA WHALING CO.,

THE Yokohama Engine and Iron Works, Limited, have now on the stocks, and will launch about the 23rd or 24th instant, a new schooner of about 160 tons for the Yokohama Whaling Co. The vessel measures 112 feet over all, and 99 feet between perpendiculars, 23 feet beam, and over 10 feet depth of hold. Her lines are those of the *Nemo*, (lately converted to auxiliary power) but modified forward, being somewhat fuller than the original model. The frames and fittings of the new ship are of hardwood throughout, the planking of the main deck being of Oregon pine and that of the poop (which is 46 feet in length) *hinoki*. She is copper fastened, and copper sheathed to the water line, and carries above her planking at each bow a belt of hard wood 4 inches thick in places and 2 inches at the thinnest part, extending from the stem as far as the forerigging, 1½ feet above and 3 feet below the water line. The object of this belt is, of course, protection from ice. The schooner has a powerful compound engine driving a two bladed screw, and since, though a heavier ship than the *Nemo*, she has more engine power, it is expected that she will steam at a speed of about six knots. The boiler and engine room are under the poop, the cabin being aft of these. Built of nothing but the finest material, the new ship is well adapted to the purpose intended and is a credit to the enterprising company who have in hand her construction.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND TREATY REVISION.

THE perplexity of the Radicals on the subject of Treaty Revision reflects itself in their proceedings. The very first subject they began to talk about after the prorogation of the Diet was Revision, and one of the principal apparent outcomes of the great meeting in Osaka was the appointment of a Committee to consider this matter. But the eleven members of the Committee do not seem to have accomplished anything up to the present. They set out upon a *yusei*—which means, in less compressible English, a political speechifying tour—and were engaged collecting the views of the provincials and impressing their own upon them by this process, when the press in Tokyo suddenly began to write as though Revision was imminent. Therewith the principal members of the Party, resident in Tokyo, fell into a flutter, and decided that if they were to be in at the death at all, they must begin to ride in earnest. Accordingly, they held a meeting on the 18th instant, and discussed until 6 o'clock in the evening without arriving at any decision, when they adjourned until the 19th, having obtained a promise from Count Itagaki that he should attend on the latter day in the capacity of adviser.

* * *

The occupants of the two Treaty Revision camps are now called the *Danko-ha* and the *Hi-danko-ha*, or the party in favour of carrying out Revision and the party opposed to it. If the politicians in the second camp were as sensitive as some of our friends in this Settlement, they would protest against the name, for although a small section does really or nominally object to mixed residence, and would postpone Revision rather than grant that privilege to foreigners, the great majority are strongly in favour of Revision provided that it be unconditional. Similarly in Yokohama, a small section of the Community are avowedly opposed to Revision on any terms at present, while the majority favour Revision with conditions. The Yokohama folks will not, however, submit to be called *Hi-joyaku kaisei-ha* (Anti-Revisionists), whereas the Japanese do not object to the cognate term *Hi-danko-ha*. There appear to be 583 members of the *Hi-danko-ha*, and three representatives have been chosen by them, Messrs. Sasakawa Daisuke, Mizushita Sekikichi, and Shimura Tomokichi, who announce their intention of interviewing Counts Saigo and Goto and Viscount Aoki. They did not succeed up to the 18th inst.

CIVILIZATION.

THE *Scotsman*, commenting on the statement of the Citizens' Committee, says:—"Put in the smallest compass, the question resolves itself into this:—"Is the civilisation of the Japanese more than skin deep?' They are a delightful people, and in many ways deserve to be called the French of the East. But political stability is not generally believed to be the most striking virtue of the French of Europe, and an Oriental Frenchman is an object rather of delightful contemplation than for elevation to the judicial bench. It is a huge experiment, and the European, especially the Englishman, to whom in matters political 'Slow but sure' is an axiomatic truth which it is rank heresy to controvert, may be pardoned if he does not care to stake his liberty or his property on the issue." How characteristic this is of much of the writing that appears on the hackneyed subject of Treaty Revision. According to the view of a highly respectable British paper, it is doubtful whether the Japanese is fit to sit upon a judicial bench under any circumstances, and the reason of his inherent unfitness is that he partakes too closely of the nature of a Frenchman! "An Oriental Frenchman" the solemnly insular *Scotsman* calls him, doubtless very well pleased with itself for the neatness of the epithet. And then we have the old query;—"Is his civilization more than skin deep?" Civilization, indeed; who is to define civilization? The other day we overheard one of a party of travellers say to his Japanese guide in very cockney English:—"Japan has become greatly civilized, I suppose, in the last twenty years?" This very courteous representative of advanced civilization was evidently ignorant that when his own ancestors dressed in untanned skins and fed upon acorns, the Japanese wore silks and had reached a high pitch of refinement in their general mode of life. We talk much of the majesty of the law and its perfect administration among ourselves, but it is not necessary to go very far back in the pages of history to find a state of affairs that would have shamed the Japanese when we first made their acquaintance. Even to-day there are phases of our much vaunted civilization against the introduction of which this country ought to fight with all the preseverance and resolution it can command. It is a pity that Pharisaical and unjust talk cannot be refrained from in discussing this matter. The plain truth is so convincing and so simple, namely, that though Japan has succeeded in putting into efficient operation and administering her new codes of criminal law, foreigners have a right, as a matter of common prudence, to ask that proofs of similar success in regard to her civil law shall be forthcoming before they consent to entrust their properties to its sole guardianship. So long as a solution of the problem may be sought by amicable negotiation, there is not the smallest occasion to go beyond that incontrovertible and moderate assertion of the foreign residents' claim. The sweeping and unwarranted verdicts too often pronounced by shallow critics, their illiberal condemnations of the Japanese, and their silly suspicions, serve no purpose except to stir up bitterness and indignation. We do not believe for a moment that the British Government will agree to anything likely to expose Her Majesty's servants to undue risks and, so far as we know, the Japanese Government has not hitherto asked for anything of that nature.

THE NEW DIET.

WE read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that, on the 18th instant, the tenders for the building of the new Houses of Parliament were opened, and it was decided that the contract should be given to the Japan Building Company (*Nippon Kenchiku Kaisha*), whose estimate was *yen* 75,100. This includes the cost of construction and of materials, exclusive of timber. For the latter the tender of the Japan Engineering Company (*Nippon Doboku Kaisha*) was accepted, the sum being 47,900 *yen*. Thus the total outlay on account of the edifice is 123,000 *yen*, and as the appropriation made by the Diet is 180,000 *yen*, there remains a sum of 57,000 *yen* for furniture and miscellaneous expenses. Presumably the work will henceforth be carried on with expedition. The public imagined that despite the estimate of seven months given by the Government Delegate in the House of Representatives, some difficulty would be experienced in getting the buildings ready by November, but though only six months now remain, nothing has been done except to pull down the forest of chimnies that stood among the ruins, and to clear away a portion of the débris. Doubtless the authorities see their way clearly, but, considering that the conflagration took place early in January, and that we are now near the end of April, it ought to be time for resolute work.

* * *

Opposite the Diet enclosure on the north-east side, and within the Hibiya Parade Ground, two spacious edifices have been in course of erection since last autumn. They are wooden houses in foreign style, roomy, well proportioned, and precisely identical in dimensions and appearance. Many conjectures have been hazarded by foreigners about the purpose for which these edifices are erected, but the needful information has always been ideographically recorded on the gates leading to them. They are to be the residences of the Presidents of the two Houses of Parliament. Very comfortable and spacious residences too, but to be required to keep them up on a salary of four thousand *yen* annually can hardly be called kindness.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

THE *Kokkai*, which at present occupies itself conspicuously with the affairs of the Foreign Office, undertaking to instruct the public in all the minutiæ of that Department's doings, gives an interesting statement of the linguistic accomplishments of its officials. The total number of these, from the Minister himself down to the junior employé, is 99, and precisely a third of them can speak and write some foreign language. The proportions are; English speaking officials, 12; German-speaking 8; French-speaking, 7; Russian-speaking, 1; Chinese-speaking,

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4; and Korean-speaking, 1. Considering that America and Great Britain are both included in the English-speaking section, its representation cannot be called very large. On the other hand, that one man in every three, from the top to the bottom of the ranks, should be versed in some foreign tongue, is decidedly a good record. Times have changed in Japan. How easy it is to look back to an era when even the most rudimentary knowledge of English or French was a rare accomplishment, whereas, now-a-days, one experiences a sensation of mild surprise if any Japanese met in society is unable to converse in one or other of these two foreign tongues. On the foreign side, too, knowledge of the Japanese language has become more wide-spread than formerly. It would be natural to suppose that as the proportion of Japanese acquainted with a foreign tongue increases rapidly, and as the services of competent interpreters become more and more accessible, the foreign residents would refrain from the exceedingly difficult task of studying Japanese. But such is not the case. Apart from the missionaries, who of course consider it an imperative duty to acquire the language of the country, not a few residents at the open ports are now able to express their ideas more or less fluently in Japanese. Classes for the study of the language have been held of late years, and the results are sufficiently apparent. To what extent this improved and constantly improving capacity for mutual understanding has brought with it an increase of friendly relations and intercourse is, however, another question.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL IN KAGOSHIMA.

PRINCE SHIMADZU of Satsuma is reported to be making great preparations for the entertainment of his illustrious visitor, the Prince Imperial of Russia, and his efforts are seconded by the people of Kagoshima. The latter have built a floating pier with a huge *torii*, made of the giant bamboos for which Sasshu is famous. The idea, apparently, is that the Prince should land on the pier and pass under the *torii*, according to the old custom that the feet of Imperialism must never tread among the tracks of the multitude. The pier and town will be illuminated on the night of the Prince's stay, and fire-works *ad libitum* will be sent up. Among the amusements planned by the House of Shimadzu for the Prince's benefit are the dances called *bo-odori* (pole-dancing) and *musha-odori* (military dancing), together with the sport of *Inu-o-mono*, a species of equestrian archery much practised formerly in the southern province. The Imperial visitor is to be regaled with *Kamakura-ryori*, a kind of cooking that has been preserved in the House of Shimazu ever since the time of Yoritomo, in the eleventh century. It will be decidedly interesting for the Prince Imperial to see how Japanese chiefs fared eight hundred years ago, when William the Conqueror was reigning in England.

THE BEHRING SEA DISPUTE.

THE interest that would otherwise have centered on the result of the *Sayward* case, now before the Supreme Court of the United States, is to a great extent nullified by the recently acquired certainty that the Behring Sea Dispute will be submitted to arbitration. Lord Salisbury's last despatch to Sir Julian Pauncefote opens thus:—

> The despatch of Mr. Blaine, under date of the 17th December, has been carefully considered by her Majesty's Government. The effect of the discussion which has been carried on between the two Governments has been materially to narrow the area of controversy. It is now quite clear that the advocates of the President do not claim Behring Sea as a *mare clausum*, and, indeed, that they repudiate that contention in express terms. Nor do they rely, as a justification for the seizure of British ships in the open sea, upon the contention that the interests of the seal fisheries give to the United States Government any right for that purpose which, according to international law, it would not otherwise possess. Whatever importance they attach to the preservation of the fur seal species—and they justly look on it as an object deserving the most serious solicitude—they do not conceive that it confers upon any maritime powers rights over the open ocean which that power could not assert on the other grounds.

The same despatch concludes with a concise presentation of the points in dispute, and a clear statement of the British Government's attitude in respect of them, from which it appears that an agreement to arbitrate has been virtually concluded. There are the words of the despatch:—

> In regard to the questions as they are proposed by Mr. Blaine, I should say that as to the first and second no objection will be offered by her Majesty's Government. They are as follows:
>
> "'1. What exclusive jurisdiction in the sea known as the Behring Sea and what exclusive rights in the seal fisheries therein did Russia assert and exercise prior and up to the time of the cession of Alaska to the United States?
>
> "'2. How far were these claims of jurisdiction as to the seal fisheries recognized and conceded by Great Britain?'
>
> "The third question is expressed in the following terms:—'Was the body of water now known as Behring Sea included in the phrase "Pacific Ocean" as used in the treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia, and what rights if any in the Behring Sea were given or conceded to Great Britain by the said treaty?'
>
> "Her Majesty's Government would have no objection to referring to arbitration the first part of that question if it should be thought desirable to do so, but they would give that consent with the reservation that they do not admit that the decision of it can conclude the larger question the arbitrator would have to determine. To the latter part of No. 3 it would be their duty to take exception. 'What rights, if any, in the Behring Sea were given or conceded to Great Britain by the said treaty?'
>
> "Great Britain has never suggested that any rights were given to her or conceded to her by the said treaty. All that was done was to recognize her natural right of free navigation and fishing in that sea in all other parts of the Pacific Ocean. Russia did not give these rights to Great Britain, because they were never hers to give away.
>
> "'4. Did not all the rights of Russia as to jurisdiction and as to the seal fisheries in Behring Sea, east of the water boundary, in the treaty between the United States and Russia of March 30, 1867, pass unimpaired to the United States under that treaty?'
>
> "The fourth question is hardly worth referring to an arbitrator, as Great Britain would be prepared to accept it without dispute.
>
> "The fifth proposed question runs as follows:—
>
> "'5. What are now the rights of the United States as to the fur seal fisheries in the waters of Behring Sea, outside of the ordinary Territorial limits, whether such rights grew out of the cession by Russia of any special rights or jurisdiction held by her in such fisheries or in the waters of Behring Sea, or out of the ownership of the breeding islands and the habits of the seals in resorting thither and rearing young thereon and going out from the islands for food, or out of any other fact or incident connected with the relation of these seal fisheries to the territorial possessions of the United States?
>
> "The first clause, 'What are now the rights of the United States as to the fur seal fisheries in the waters of the Behring Sea outside of the ordinary territorial limits?' is a question which would be very properly referred to the decision of an arbitrator. But the subsequent clause, which assumes that such rights could have grown out of the ownership of the breeding islands and the habits of the seals in resorting thereto, involves an assumption as to the prescriptions of international law at the present time to which her Majesty's Government are not prepared to accede.
>
> "The sixth question (relating to the establishment of a closed period in seal fishing) which deals with the issues that will arise in case the controversy should be decided in favour of Great Britain would perhaps more fitly form the substance of a separate reference. Her Majesty's Government has no objection to refer the general question of a close time to arbitration, or to ascertain by that means how far the enactment of such a provision is necessary for preservation of the seal species; but any such reference ought not to contain words appearing to attribute special and abnormal rights in the matter to the United States.
>
> "There is an omission in these questions which I have no doubt the Government of the President will be very glad to repair, and that is, the reference to the arbitrator of the question what damages are due to the persons who have been injured, in case it shall be determined by him that the action of the United States in seizing British vessels has been without warrant in international law. Subject to these reservations, her Majesty's Government will have great satisfaction in joining with the Government of the United States in seeking by means of arbitration an adjustment of the international questions which have so long formed a matter of controversy between the two Governments."

A FANCY CABINET.

THE *Nippon*, which has been distinguishing itself during the present year by manufacturing sensations within the four walls of its office, gives its idea of the Cabinet likely to be formed if Count Ito becomes Minister President. The various portfolios are thus assigned:—Foreign Affairs, Viscount Okabe; Home Affairs, Mr. Shirane; Finance, Mr. Watanabe; Army, General Takashima; Navy, Viscount Kabayama; Justice, Mr. Miyoshi; Education, Mr. Kuki; Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Mayeda; Communications, Mr. Mayejima; while the Household Department is given to Viscount Shinagawa; the Presidency of the Privy Council to Count Yamagata, and the Chief Secretaryship of the Cabinet to Mr. Ito Myoji. The Vice-Ministers are Messrs. Kawase, Kyoura, Nakamura, Kawakami, Ito (Shunkichi) Kawazu, Hamao, Saito, Kurino and Hanabusa; the Vice-President of the Privy Council being Count Yanagiwara (Sakimitsu.)

BALL AT THE ROKUMEIKAN.

ON Saturday evening, the 18th instant, a ball was given in the Rokumeikan by His Excellency the Chinese Minister. An unfortunate accident had temporarily crippled Lord Li, and it was at one time feared that he would not be able to be present at the ball; but His Excellency braved the suffering of a badly scalded foot, and though not in a condition to stand, managed from his invalid's place on a sofa to discharge all the duties of a most genial host. His Excellency was admirably assisted by Madame Sienkiewicz, who, in the absence of a Lady Li, kindly played the part of hostess with all her well known sumniness and grace. The party was eminently successful. Remarkable as the first instance of a general entertainment given in Japan by a Chinese Representative, the new departure inspired good humour and satisfaction from the outset, and all seemed anxious to distinguish the occasion in the manner deemed most likely to please their hospitable host, namely, by enjoying themselves thoroughly. Whether by happy accident or skilful calculation the number of guests just sufficed to fill the fine suite of rooms without crowding them, and the dancers were consequently able to enjoy themselves in a manner very unusual at such entertainments in Tokyo. It goes without saying that the decorations were beautiful and the supper excellent. Within the very short period of his residence in Tokyo, Lord Li has earned much popularity, and for his own sake, not less than on account of the novelty of the occasion, there was a general desire that the ball should prove a success. Hitherto the attitude of the Representatives of the Middle Kingdom in Japan had been one of more or less reserve in respect of social matters, and the public, while fully recognising that good reasons might be advanced for this habit, nevertheless found it slightly out of harmony with the fashions of the capital of modern Japan. The present Minister's new departure brings his Legation into welcome concord with the times and its circumstances.

COUNT YAMAGATA.

THE *Choya Shimbun* contains a note which seems to embody a significant suggestion. The Cabinet being subject to frequent changes, any of the portfolios may be found in the hands of a man not specially indicated for the post by education or experience. Thus the War Department may at some time be presided over by an official whose speciality lies in the direction of Agriculture or Commerce. It has not been so hitherto in Japan. Ministers of War and of the Navy have always been trained officers of the services. But party government is coming in sight, and everyone knows what anomalies have resulted from party government in England, where the First Lord of the Admiralty is scarcely ever a sailor, and the Secretary of State for War is just as likely as not never to have learned how to handle a battalion. Now the affairs of the Japanese Army, says the *Choya*, lie entirely within the sphere of the Imperial prerogatives, according to the Constitution, and it would be intolerable that His Majesty should be exposed to the risk of having to consult on military matters with a Minister absolutely ignorant of such things. Therefore there is talk of establishing a Board of Military Privy Councillors, to act as advisers to the Emperor. Should the design be carried out, Count Yamagata would evidently be the very man to act as President of the Board, in the event of his resigning his present position.

THE DISPOSITION OF POLITICIANS.

HERE is the latest about political parties and Treaty Revision—we translate it from the *Jiji Shimpo*:—"The majority of the Radical Party are opposed to Viscount Aoki's programme of Treaty Revision, though some, as Mr. Kono Hironaka and so forth, do not take an adverse view. The Radical Club, the National Radicals (*Kokumin Jiyu-to*, who are said to be Count Goto's party), the Kyodo Club and the Independents seem to be in favour of the programme. But Messrs. Furusho Kainon, Oka Jirotaro, and Amano Jakuyen of the Kyodo Club, and Mr. Masuda Shigetaka of the Independents, do not like the idea of allowing mixed residence, while Viscount Tani and Messrs. Miura and Tomita in the Upper House oppose the intended arrangement as to Tariff Revision. As for the *Kaishin-to*, no one knows exactly what attitude they mean to take, and several members of the Diet are trying to bring about a meeting of the Party, in order to elicit its opinion.

AMENITIES OF PRISON IN JAPAN.

AMONG the many singular incidents of life in Japan, a very noteworthy one is mentioned by the *Jiji Shimpo*. It appears that in the Senji district of Tokyo, there is a prison called "Kosuge Kangoku." Formerly the site of the

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"Kosuge Goten," a palace of the Tokugawa Shoguns, the grounds of the prison contain some splendid cherry trees, which, in the blossoming season, present a charming spectacle. Japanese cannot possibly live in the neighbourhood of flowers without enjoying them. That would be sacrilegeous in the extreme, even where criminals undergoing sentence are concerned. It has consequently been the custom ever since the Kosuge jail was established, to grant a holiday to the prisoners when the cherry trees are in full bloom. The 19th instant was the day chosen this year, from which date we infer that the cherries are of the double order. The prisoners made the most of their respite. They got up theatrical performances, had dancing, delivered speeches, and amused themselves in other refined fashions, "feeling," says the *Jiji*, "as if heaven had come to them in the midst of hell."

COUNT YAMADA.

SPECULATIONS about Count Yamada's probable successor in the event of his Excellency's resigning the portfolio of Justice, are indu'ged in by the *Jiji Shimpo*. Three names, we read, are mentioned by knowing folks; Count Tanaka Fujimaru, Mr. Kawano Tokama, and Mr. Iwamura Michitoshi. Among these three, Mr. Kawano's prospects are not favourably regarded, his close connection with a political party being considered to disqualify him. Against Viscount Tanaka's capacity and character there is not, of course, a word to be said, his upright and benevolent disposition being universally recognised. Nevertheless the *Jiji* thinks Mr. Iwamura the most likely candidate, owing to the great popularity he has won in the Department of Justice since he became its Vice-Minister. Besides, he is supposed to stand well in the estimation of Count Ito, towards whom the eyes of the public are turned steadily at this juncture. It is all conjecture, from which we do not venture to deduce any trustworthy conclusions.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL IN CHINA.

OF the various rumours set on foot in connection with the visit of the Russian Prince Imperial to China, the majority have gone the way of all rumours, vanished into thin air. But one survives, and seems likely to survive. It is the statement that the Prince Imperial's programme in China was materially curtailed owing to the discovery that receptions of a purely provincial character, and having nothing Imperial about them, had been prepared for him. His Imperial Highness, according to the original plan, was to have visited Woosung and Chefoo, being met at the former place by the Viceroy Shên and at the latter by the Viceroy Li. Had the two Viceroys gone to these places as delegates of their Emperor, there would have been nothing to criticise. But the story is that, instead of adopting this method, they applied for leave to make an inspection of forts, timing their journeys so as to coincide with the proposed arrival of the Prince at the above named places in their districts. By this means the Emperor in Peking was to be kept in ignorance of the coming and going of the Imperial visitor, and the latter's receptions were to be of a wholly casual and unofficial nature, so far as concerned the Imperial Court. We fail to perceive what good purpose could have been served by such manœuvring, and are correspondingly perplexed whether to credit the tale or consign it to the limbo of previous canards. The reported issue is that the Russian Government, discovering the true character of the contemplated receptions, quietly changed the Prince's programme, and announced that he would not visit either Woosung or Chefoo. It is added that the scheme would certainly have succeeded but for the intractable personality of H.E. Chang Chitung, who refused to act on the instructions of the Northern Superintendent of Trade, and stood out for an Imperial edict. Repeated telegraphic inquires from the Viceroy at Tientsin are said to have failed in eliciting the true inwardness of the Prince's changed programme, the Russian Government answering with invariable uniformity that want of time was alone responsible. It is of course possible that China may have wished to allow the Prince Imperial to pass through her territories without any exchange of the courtesies customary among friendly sovereigns, and even that she may have wished to infuse new vitality into the old fiction which places her ruler above the heads of all other earthly potentates. But is it conceivable that the Viceroy Li would have lent himself to such an ostrich-like device, and above all that Russia would have been made the *corpus vile* of the experiment; Russia, the most autocratically governed Power in the West, and therefore the least likely to overlook a deliberately planned slight to her Heir Apparent? The mischief which stories of this type are capable of working when freely circulated, and their utter untrustworthiness as a rule, make us hesitate to assist in giving publicity to any of them. But men who ought to know what they are talking about affirm, with all assurance, that things are as we have set them down here. Doubtless we shall hear, by and by, that the invertebrate policy of the Foreign Representatives in Peking is responsible for this latest exercise of Chinese idiosyncracies, but if the Foreign Representatives adopted as the basis of their diplomacy the advice so kindly tendered to them by the press at the open ports, there would soon be some lively occupation for Her Majesty's soldiers and sailors in this section of the Orient.

OPIUM.

THE motion by Sir Joseph Pease in the House of Commons was as follows:—"To call attention to the Indian opium traffic, the cultivation of the poppy in Bengal, and the manufacture of opium by the Government, and its sale under Government licence; and to move—That this House is of opinion that the system by which a large portion of the Indian Opium Revenue is raised is morally indefensible, and would urge upon the Indian Government that they should cease to grant licences for the cultivation of the poppy in British India, except to supply the legitimate demand for medical purposes, and should at the same time take measures to prevent any increase in the production of the Malwa opium."

THE MEETING OF PREFECTS AND GOVERNORS.

THE usual annual meeting of Prefects and Governors is now in session in Tokyo, Marquis Hachisuka, Governor of Tokyo, sitting as Chairman. The subjects of discussion and the instructions conveyed or speeches delivered to those local officials by members of the Cabinet, are never reported in detail, but the vernacular press will doubtless furnish some information ere the session closes. The *Chiho-kan Kaigi* has always been regarded with affection in Japan, as the germ of representative institutions, but its deliberations have lost all interest in that sense now that the Diet is an accomplished fact.

SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND DUMB.

IT will be remembered by Tokyo residents that a school for the deaf and dumb was for some time located in a bare and unadorned patch of ground in the immediate neighbourhood of the great Honganji Temple, in Tsukiji. In its rooms various displays of work executed by the pupils were from time to time held, and it was here that the pictures of Mr. Theodore Wores were exhibited some three years ago. The building was a substantial brick one, its proportions somewhat out of keeping with the use to which it was put, owing to the fact that it had been originally intended merely as one wing of a considerable edifice, an intention never carried out. Now it is deserted and dark, the window panes are smashed, and the whole place has an air of desolation. The school, however, as an institution, has not been broken up, but is incorporated in the School for the Blind. A spacious wooden structure to house the joint institution is now approaching completion right beside the University Botanic Garden in Koishikawa, one wing of which will be devoted to the accommodation of deaf and dumb pupils. The neighbourhood is certainly far more healthy and attractive than the flat and swampy banks of the Tsukiji canals.

* * *

Apropos of Botanic Gardens; there is a large Botanic Garden in Shinjuku situated not far from the railway station, and connected with the Imperial Household Department. All the guide-books minutely describe its arrangements and contents and the attractions it has to offer to the public. But the public who take the trouble to visit it will be grievously disappointed. Arrived at the gate, they will find the extraordinary announcement—"Notice to Visitors—No Admittance."

COUNT YOSHII.

COUNT YOSHII expired on Wednesday at 1 p.m., at his residence in Nagata-cho. The paralytic seizure that carried him off declared itself on the 27th ultimo. From the 12th instant it was generally known that his case was hopeless, but his physicians, Drs. Baelz, Takagi, Saneyoshi, and Kashimura, succeeded in postponing the end for many days after it had first seemed imminent. On the 15th instant, he was raised to the First Grade of the Second Class by special decree of the Emperor, and Wednesday, when it became evident that death was at hand, Chamberlains were despatched by the Emperor, the Empress and the Empress Dowager to convey messages of condolence. Counts Kuroda, Oyama and Matsukata were with the dying man from 10 a.m. until the moment of his decease.

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In the *Official Gazette* we find a detailed statement of the late Count Yoshii's services, which we reproduce:—Count Yoshii Tomosane, Privy Councillor, First Grade of the Second Rank, First Order of Merit, originally an adherent of the Satsuma Fief, was born in February, 1829, and became, in February, 1865, an official of the Army Staff Office. In June of the following year, he received an annual pension of a thousand *koku* of rice for distinguished services, and in April, 1870, he was appointed Vice-Minister of the Home Office in conjunction with the Vice-Ministry of the Financial Department. In November, 1871, he became Vice-Minister of the Household Department. The following year, in October, he proceeded to Hakodate, to escort a Russian Prince. In April, 1875, he became a Senator, and in August, 1877, was appointed a First Class Chamberlain. In March, 1879, he received the appointment of Assistant Vice-Minister of Public Works, and in June of the following year was made Vice-Minister of that Department, in which post he served until 1884, when he was transferred to the same position in the Household Department. In April of 1885, he was made a Senator, and in February, 1886, he became Vice-Minister of State for the Household Department. April of 1888 saw him appointed a Privy Councillor, and in March of the present year he resigned his office of Vice-Minister of State of the Household Department, and became an attaché of that Department. In April he was raised to the First Grade of the Second Rank.

THE RUMOURS.

IT is asserted by the *Jiyu Shimbun* that Viscount Aoki, happening recently to meet Count Oki, President of the Privy Council, asked the latter to take steps to insure the better guarding of diplomatic secrets communicated to the Council, the alleged ground of the request being that the public appeared to have recently obtained information which ought to have been inaccessible. Probably this story belongs to the category of those circulated lately by a section of the vernacular press, the *Kokkai's* canard for example. The editor of the *Chuya Shimbun* provoked an outburst of considerable vehemence because he ventured to query the correctness of the *Kokkai's* microscopic account as to the signing of a revised treaty, the number of articles it contained, the circumstances of its papyrography, or so forth. But it is now very well known that all this pinnacle of fable, which the *Kokkai* has diligently endeavoured to prop up by further elaboration, rests on no better foundation than the lively imagination of a servant boy, who knew that a document

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had been papyrographed, and being able to count its sheets, conjectured its contents. The conjecture was entirely erroneous, but it furnished a grain of truth whereon to poise the *Kokkai's* structure. The *Kokkai* is one of the best and most enterprising newspapers in Tokyo, so that its error on this occasion is commiserated. The public must have sensations, however, and certain journals bow to the necessity. The *Nippon's* method is, perhaps, the safest, as exemplified in its latest tale about Korea. It declared that the Chinese Northern Squadron had taken possession of a Korean island in the neighbourhood of Port Hamilton, but it was careful to note that the island is not marked on any map. In other words, the Northern Squadron had discovered an island and occupied it. Such a story could not hurt any one seriously, and might entertain a few. But the *Nippon* should remember that it has a *Fidus Achates* in Yokohama, who accepts all its revelations as gospel, and re-issues them for the benefit of innocent readers. A responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Tokyo journal.

THE "JIYU."

THE promised new Radical organ made its appearance on the 22nd inst. It is called the *Jiyu*. Thus there are three journals of that name now published in Tokyo—the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, and the *Jiyu*. The *Jiyu* introduces itself very briefly to the public. "Alas!" it says, "the *Jiyu Shimbun* has been polluted. Some of its staff, entering into collusion with the *Kokumin* Party, would sell their liberal principles. Our love of purity renders it impossible that we should endure this upward-floating of the dregs. We have therefore resolved to reject them. The *Jiyu Shimbun* will doubtless regret it, but we carry with us the liberal policy, and open new ground to receive it. Questions of connection give us no concern. The *Jiyu* will be published daily from this, 22nd instant. It will be edited by Count Itagaki, Messrs. Kurihara Ryoichi, Yeguchi Sansei, Nemoto Sei, Ikihara Moriyuki, and Miyazaki Seiran, whose whole strength and endeavour will be devoted to it. Count Itagaki's views will, from time to time, find expression in the leading articles, which will then bear his signature. Other members of the *Jiyu-to*, when they publish their views, will sign the articles."

* * *

The *Kokumin* Party alluded to here is supposed to be under the leadership of Count Goto, but we do not understand that it has yet been officially organised as a political party. The *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* and the *Jiyu Shimbun* are both in their youth, the former having reached only its 245th number and the latter its 137th. Founded ten months ago as the organ of the Radical Party, the editorship of the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* apparently left something to be desired in Count Itagaki's opinion, for four months later he started the *Jiyu Shimbun*, in which the public understood that his views would be regularly ventilated. The *Jiyu Shimbun* has now broken from his hold, and the *Jiyu* takes its place. The abbreviation of name in each case may probably be regarded as an indication of the condition of the Count's immediate followers. It is a pity. Count Itagaki deservedly enjoys the respect of all honest, patriotic men, and we would fain see him absolute leader of the Party which he founded.

THE ORGANIZATION OF A STRONG CABINET.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* thinks the task of reconstituting the Cabinet will not be an easy one. Count Yamagata is not impelled to contemplate resignation because of failures in his policy or because he wishes to obtain another office, but because he sees troublous times before him; and any statesman who succeeds him will have to be prepared to fight many battles. Count Saigo's name has been mentioned, but the Count is too anxious to get rid of his present portfolio to think of assuming new responsibilities. Count Ito's qualifications for the office of Minister-President are great and conspicuous; and it is said the mission of the Minister of the Imperial Household to Kyoto has for its object the bringing back to political life of the Count. Though well fitted to reconstruct the Cabinet at a crisis such as the present, it is not at all likely that Count Ito will accept the office, for under present circumstances he might well think it prudent to abstain from such a post. It may be concluded, then, that if Count Yamagata resigns and Count Ito declines to succeed him, Count Saigo must, though against his inclinations, take the vacant chair. For the forthcoming Minister-President whoever he may be, to temporise with and try to reconcile the different elements in the Cabinet with the hope of prolonging his term of power, would only serve in the *Jiji's* opinion to render the situation within the Government more acute than before. Our contemporary, therefore, advises the statesman who may succeed Count Yamagata to strive to surround himself with friends, and thus to strengthen his position. Some people may think that this would excite popular discontent, but the respect attaching to the new Minister-President may be expected to neutralise any such unfavourable sentiment.

SUSPENSIONS.

THE *Chiusei Nippo* and the *Katsu-Sekai* have been suspended. They are both Conservative organs, the former being Viscount Torio's daily newspaper, and the latter a monthly magazine. The *Chiusei Nippo's* offence consisted in the publication of a series of articles the most violent we have ever read in a Japanese journal, or indeed in any journal. It is impossible to doubt that the editors of the paper deliberately made up their minds to provoke suspension when they composed and inserted such seditious tirades. Describing the present Cabinet Ministers as "wild beasts" and "venomous reptiles," the articles teemed with language calculated to excite disturbance and bring the Administration into public contempt. We do not believe in the general policy of suspending newspapers, but if ever justification existed, it was in the case of the *Chiusei Nippo*. As for the *Katsu-Sekai*, it published a letter—or rather an article in the form of a letter—addressed to Viscount Aoki, and couched in language to which no expression save brutal can be properly applied. We shall not attempt to explain the gist of the disgraceful and extravagant lucubration. The curious may read it for themselves. Suspension is not the only kind of punishment that should be meted out to the writer and publisher of such a vulgar and ferocious attack upon an individual Minister of State.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

THE annual dinner of the China Association, eaten at the offices of the P. & O. Company, Leadenhall Street, was a very great affair. Over a hundred guests were present, Sir Thomas Wade being in the chair and Mr. W. Keswick in the Vice-Chair. In the course of a long speech, to the toast of prosperity to the China Association, the Chairman made the following allusion to Japan:—

He would now pass on to Japan—a country where he thought we had even a greater advance to recognise (than that made by Hongkong) although not an advance precisely of the same kind. There was nothing like the development of commercial enterprise which we could claim for our own colony, but we could say this of Japan—that although intercourse had been forced upon her it is true some thirty-three years ago—or at all events she had accepted the fact that intercourse was no longer to be avoided, he thought it must be conceded that not in the world's history was there an instance of an Empire so determinedly exclusive as Japan had been which, in such a comparatively short period had made such extraordinary progress in the direction of outer civilisation as Japan had. He had been particularly struck by the late discussion arising out of the revision of the treaty, in which the Japanese virtually claimed to exercise their own jurisdiction over foreigners, and, subsidiarily he presumed, to resume their rights over land which may have been considered to be ceded to foreign occupants. He thought that the paper recently forwarded to the association purporting to be from the pen of a Japanese lawyer was in itself a proof of what he said of the extraordinary advance made by the Japanese. Indeed, he thought that the very claims themselves argued a very considerable advance on the part of the Japanese, even if we were unable to go the whole way with those claims. His own personal view was not quite so extreme as that of many of his countrymen who were—as he thought not at all unreasonably—disinclined to concede ex-territorial rights. He thought that the Japanese were seriously in earnest, and that was precisely the difference between them and other Orientals. He did not apprehend such danger to their liberties and rights that he would if the same powers were suggested for instance in China. As regards land he certainly should hope that in any modification of existing arrangements that might be attempted, the interests of foreigners, who had so to speak, taken land upon trust should be very carefully safeguarded. But without presuming to suggest to the Anglo-Japanese community, or to the China Association, which, in a certain sense, represented it, or to the Foreign Office, with whose progress in the negotiations he was unacquainted except what he had learned from the reply to a letter addressed to the Foreign Office by the China Association that these negotiations were still in progress, he should hope, he trusted without being presumptuous, that there might be found a means of meeting the Japanese some distance at all events, in the matter of jurisdiction. He thought that the recent correspondence suggested to them that it would right to compliment the Anglo-Japanese community upon their very great moderation, for nothing could have been more temperate in tone than their remonstrance in defence of an existing right, which it was not at all unreasonable that they should be unwilling to surrender; and he thought, on the other part, that the China Association was to be congratulated for its vigilance and the promptitude with which it came to the support of the Anglo Japanese community. He thought it was evidence of the utility of the China Association.—(Applause.)

THE GERMANS AND THE JAPANESE DRUG TRADE.

"AT a recent meeting of the Berlin *Pharmaceutische Gesellschaft*," says the *Chemist and Druggist*, "Mr. Fritz Riedel read a paper on a collection of Japanese drugs exhibited by his firm, and subsequently presented to the Museum of the young society. The paper commenced with a glowing account of the importance of Japan as a field for the export of German galenicals and a reference to the Teutonic leanings of the modern Japanese reformer. Mr. Riedel rejoiced in the knowledge that the Japanese army was being drilled and organised on a German pattern. From that one great engine for the destruction of human life on German principles, the army, the author's remarks drifted smoothly on to the medical profession. That profession, in Japan, was also imbued with German ideas, large numbers of young Japanese now practising in their native land having obtained their degrees at German universities. German pharmacy finds its main exponent in the country of the chrysanthemum in Professor Nagai, who qualified at German universities in the seventies. Professor Baelz, of Tokyo, is prominent among the German medical practitioners of high repute established in the principal ports of the country, and whose native pupils, when they become practitioners on their own accord, spread philo-Germanic views into the remotest districts of the country, and are always amongst the most eager inquirers for, and experimenters with, the new preparations that issue from German laboratories. Mr. Riedel spoke highly of the Naimusho, the department charged with the duty of applying to all pharmaceutical preparations imported into Japan the very severe tests of the Japanese Pharmacopœia. Goods falling below that standard are not allowed to enter; those proved to be adulterated are confiscated. In return for the preparations which she buys from Germany, Japan has very little to offer to her European customers in the way of materia medica. In her dominions the rhubarb, the musk, and the tea of China are wanting, and wax, galls, camphor, and a few essential oils are the main constituents of the Japanese quota to the world's drug trade. But the collection shown at the meeting consisted principally of drugs unknown, or very little known, out of Japan, although thirty-four specimens among the number represented articles in use among the Chi-

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ness, such as the root of *Scrophularia Oldhami*; the fruits of *Forsythia suspensa*, *Tribulus terrestris*, and *Quisqualis chinensis*; the seeds of *Amomum xanthioides*, *Murica cohinchinense*, &c. Among the purely Japanese drugs are seeds of *Canaralia incurva*, *Elosia argentea*, *Phaseolus radiatus*; fruits of *Stemone sessifolia*; root of *Hydrangea thunbergii*, *Nardostachys jatamansi* (formerly official on the continent as *Spica vel Nardus indica*), the rhizome of *Acorus gramineus*," &c.

THE THREE NEW BANKS.

FROM time to time during the past two years public interest has been excited by statements that the Government was on the point of establishing three new Banks, namely, an industrial bank, an agricultural bank, and a bank of movable property. It was fully expected that a Bill to give practical effect to this programme would be officially submitted to the Diet during its first session, but, owing probably to pressure of other business, the Government took no action in the matter. We now read in the *Tokyo Shimpo* that the Minister of State for Finance is giving earnest attention to the matter, being persuaded that the establishment of these banks would have a useful effect in reviving trade. A detailed scheme is said to have been prepared, and will probably be submitted to the Diet when it meets this fall. Several members of the Lower House are believed to be in favour of employing the surplus of 6½ million *yen*, obtained by the prescribed reduction of expenditure, for the purposes of the Banks. The *Shimpo's* information as to the functions of the Banks is that the Industrial Bank will advance funds on the security of real property, or against promissory notes of the Agricultural Bank or of a Municipal Government, to persons desiring to start industrial enterprises; that the Bank of Movable Property will advance against shares of a public company or other similar security; and that the Agricultural Bank will make loans to small farmers on the security of their farms. The advances will be for long periods, and at low rates of interest. With regard to the constitution of the Industrial Bank and the Bank of Movable Property, the idea is that they will be carried on as joint stock companies, and that they will have note-issuing power, the notes being guaranteed by their capital, and in part by the securities against which they make advances. They will sell their own bonds at 6 per cent., and lend their money at 7 per cent., by which means the proceeds of ten millions worth of bonds, if fully employed, would give a profit of 100,000 *yen* annually; and supposing the issue of bonds to reach fifty millions, then a profit of half a million annually would be secured. The *Shimpo* says that with a paid up capital of ten millions, bonds to the extent of fifty millions might be issued, the capital itself being lent at 7 per cent. In that case the yearly gross income would be 1,200,000 *yen*, or 12 per cent. on the paid-up capital; and allowing 400,000 *yen* on account of expenses, there would remain a profit of 8 per cent. According to this programme the Banks would serve as media for collecting money from capitalists willing to lend at 6 per cent., and distributing it among persons who could afford to pay seven per cent. for the privilege of using it in industry and trade. The statement is very crude—so crude that to criticise it would be a waste of time. We give it, therefore, for what it is worth. Our contemporary adds that the relation between the Central Industrial Bank and the Agricultural Banks in different parts of the empire, would be similar to the relation existing between the Bank of Japan and the National Banks.

CURIOUS CLAIMS.

NOTHING is easier, of course, than to make out a seemingly specious case in favour of the strange contention of the Citizens' Committee that "a radical amendment of the press laws and the law of public meeting is a *sine qua non* to the entertainment of the demands of the Japanese Government" in the matter of Treaty Revision. In discussing such a question thoughtless persons are quickly influenced by claptrap about the blessings of liberty and by frothy invectives against truckling to authority, bowing the neck of freedom under the foot of autocracy, and so forth. We, who venture to suggest that the subjects and citizens of foreign States when they come to Japan for their own pleasure and profit, have no manner of right to demand larger privileges of speech and pen than they enjoy in their own countries, or than Japan can concede with safety to herself, understand very well that we expose ourselves to accusations of truckling, toadying, and such like meanness. But to be made the target of these refined missiles does not greatly distress us. No voice has been raised more distinctly than ours in favour of freedom of speech and of the press, and we have never failed to point out that until the Japanese nation enjoys these privileges, it cannot claim to rank with the most highly civilized peoples of the West. But there is a wide gulf between this general contention and the special claim that foreign States, have a title to insist upon the practical operation of the most advanced principles of liberty in Japan, merely to suit the convenience of a few hundreds of their own nationals. Japan's first duty is to herself. The struggle made by her people to qualify for the enjoyment of privileges still withheld from the subjects of more than one Great Western Power, promises to be soon crowned with success. The event, however, is one which she must be left to shape entirely for herself. Foreigners have nothing whatever to do with it, nor would any independent country endure dictation from outsiders in matters that concern only the preservation of peace and good order within its own territories. We are not entitled to ask from Japan anything more than that her laws shall be in accord with the general principles of Western jurisprudence, and that their administration shall be reasonably competent and trustworthy. Her regulations as to the press and public meetings are entirely beyond the sphere of our interference. No doubt it would be very pleasant to import into this country the absolutely unique liberty of the subject enjoyed under Anglo-Saxon institutions, and if Treaty Revision could be safely and reasonably employed to assist in procuring this blessing for Japan, we should by all means advocate its employment. But freedom of speech and of public meeting are not in any sense capable of being dragged into Treaty Revision negotiations. They have never once in all these years found their way into the field of diplomatic discussion, and the notion that such things could possibly be regulated by international agreement is perhaps the most thoughtless and least defensible ever advanced in connection with the subject of Revision. It cannot surprise anyone to find such a claim standing in the context of that other extraordinary misrepresentation about the "confiscation" of the lands now held in the foreign Settlements, but we fail to see why a sound and simple cause should be thus needlessly disfigured by unreason and exaggeration.

THE CABINET.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* does not care who is raised to the chair of the Minister-President, but hopes that the present crisis will be promptly terminated, and that the new Cabinet will be a strong one. Though the first session of the Diet was closed in peace, it does not follow that the same conditions will attend the next session; in any case popular feeling is distinctly hostile to the present Cabinet, and the public mind bent on finding grounds for complaint against it. The prospect before it is a pretty serious one, for in addition to the subject of Treaty Revision there can be no doubt that the Korean question will confront it at no distant day. The new Cabinet, then, must be powerful enough to successfully encounter the difficulties that may present themselves, otherwise it will be impossible for the administration either to preserve public peace or to uphold the national prestige. It is idle to expect that such a Cabinet can be formed under Count Saigo, who has hitherto been satisfied with the Cabinet of Count Yamagata, and whose changes would, in all probability, be of a very trifling character. It is probable that if Count Ito were appointed to the ruling position in the Cabinet certain reforms might be effected; but the *Jiji* cannot forget that it was during Count Ito's tenure of office at the head of the Imperial Household Department that the creation of the orders of nobility took place with their accompaniment of splendid honours and extravagant money grants, and that the mania for foreign entertainments, balls, parties, &c., prevailed. It is to be expected, therefore, that his Cabinet would consist chiefly of aged scholars and representatives of the old Court families. Whether such a Cabinet could be popular is doubtful, though a statesman of Count Ito's powers might so far succeed in adapting himself to the popular tastes as to win a certain amount of public favour. His term of power might, however, be marked by sudden changes liable to injure the stability of his Cabinet, and it is a matter of fact that his action in connection with the creation of the nobility and with compulsory contributions from the people for national defence, have caused much dissatisfaction in the public mind. On the whole case, therefore, it is to be hoped that a strong Cabinet may be organized under a Minister-President competent to deal with the crisis.

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA" AND JAPANESE PASSENGERS.

THE vernacular press of on Thursday alludes in terms of evident surprise to an incident said to have occurred in connection with the departure of the *Empress of India* from Yokohama. A number of Japanese, we read, variously stated at from 30 to 38, applied to the Agents of the big steamer for steerage passage on the 17th inst. Tickets were refused, however, on the ground of want of room. The would-be passengers then made inquiries on board by means of Mr. John Hall and others, when information was received from an officer of the steamer to the effect that a private agreement existed between some Chinese in Vancouver and the head office of the Company, according to the terms of which no Japanese could be taken in the steerage. The *Kokkai's* version of the affair differs somewhat from the above. It says that the Japanese bought their tickets and sent their luggage on board, but were told by the officers of the ship that they could not be carried. Enquiries made by us in Yokohama go to show that this story is quite untrustworthy. The Agents affirm that want of room was the sole and only cause of the refusal to grant passages. They would have been delighted to take five hundred Japanese in the steerage had it been possible to accommodate them, especially as steerage passengers are about the most profitable freight a steamer can have; but it happened that the *Empress of India* had to carry a double complement of cooks, bakers, stewards, and waiters, these extra hands having been shipped in the East to take the place of Europeans who came out in the vessel, but will leave her at the other side and go home across Canada, having signed for one trip only. Space available for passengers, under ordinary circumstances, was thus taken up. This very simple explanation ought to have commended itself to the credence of reasonable folks, whereas the silliness of the tale about a secret agreement between the Company and the Chinese should be patent to every one. We may mention that Mr. J. Hall, to whom reference is made by the *Jiyu Shimbun*, had not heard a word about the affair until we addressed an enquiry to him on Thursday afternoon.

"THE CHINESE TIMES."

THE death of the *Chinese Times* is a heavy loss to journalism in the East. For five years the Tientsin weekly had been a constant source of information and pleasure to readers in China and Japan. Edited in uniform accordance with principles of true scholarship and dignified refinement, the defunct journal can boast a record entirely free from unjust censure and unkind bickering—elements that too often disfigure the careers of more ambitious sheets in the Far East. Its knowledge of Chinese affairs was unique, and its gifted editor knew how to pre-

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sent his knowledge to the public with all the charms of graceful diction and skilful marshalling of facts. When such a paper fails to obtain sufficient support, it becomes exceedingly difficult to define the causes that lie at the root of journalistic success in the East. One patent explanation, however, presents itself on the surface. Here, as in the West, the backbone of a newspaper is its advertisements. Circulation is not, indeed, a secondary question where rates of subscription are treble or quadruple of those in London, Paris, or New York; but circulation without advertisements cannot suffice. Tientsin had only a pittance of advertisements to offer, and so soon as this fact was recognised, people who understand journalistic ways and means foresaw that the *Chinese Times* could never enrich its proprietors. Whether it was originally intended to enrich them, we cannot say. Our idea is that the purpose of its establishment, as well as the spirit that sustained it during several years of straitened circumstances, were due to a higher motive than mere pecuniary profit; that it was intended to play the part of a political educator in ordinary times, and to discharge a larger function in the event of international emergencies. But it died before the public could clearly decipher these aims, and nothing remains but to mourn it. To the day of its decease it preserved the same high, calm tone, taking its failure as brave men take the ills of life, without complaint and without perturbation. We shall miss it perpetually. We shall miss those lucid, impartial leaders that threw so much light into the alleys and corners of Chinese politics and Chinese life, and we shall miss the poets' corner, where so many a gem of unsuspected talent shone for the delectation of delighted readers. It was a feature without precedent in the Orient, that poets' corner. The fingers of "Tungchia" and his—or her?—lesser fellow-songsters might never have "woke to ecstacy the heavenly lyre" had not the *Chinese Times* offered them its aid, and for this alone we owe it a debt of lasting gratitude. Farewell, true reader of the times and kindly critic of your fellows. Journalism in the East was honoured by your association, and loses heavily by your loss. We cannot more fitly send our parting greeting than by quoting the last stanzas of the beautiful poem, "Life's Pro and Cons," that graced your last number:—

We lose, but live—we win, yet die; then something men call fame
Embalms the dead, whose glory's seen best in some other's shame.—
Thermopylæ's the picture—the Persian host the frame!
And just as oft—what matters it?—approve we or condemn,
'Tis victory is mere setting—defeat's the real gem:
Humanity welds gain and loss in one grand diadem!

THE TEI SCANDAL.

THE Tei affair still awaits complete elucidation. When Mr. Numata Masanobu announced himself as the person who had sent the anonymous letter to the *Nippon*, it seemed as though the truth must be soon ascertained. But a new complication now arose, for whereas Mr. Numata stoutly insisted that he had obtained the letter, or rather a copy of the letter, from Mr. Tao Dachun, Japanese Interpreter at the Chinese Legation, Mr. Tao, with equal vigour, denied the smallest knowledge of the whole transaction. Mr. Numata has become one of the defendants of the action brought by Mr. Tei, and the preliminary investigation will take place in a few days. Should the magistrates send the case forward for trial, as they are pretty certain to do, Mr. Tao will doubtless have to appear in Court and make good his denial of having given the letter to Mr. Numata. Rumour asserts that, in view of troublesome contingencies, the Chinese Minister thinks of sending Mr. Tao away, but we should think that Lord Li will not take any step so ill-advised. Mr. Tao's departure while the case is under investigation would be construed in one sense only by the public, and the Chinese Representative must understand that very well. The *Kokkai*, which ventilates the rumour, says that one of its staff called at the Legation in Kojimachi to ascertain the truth about Mr. Tao, but that he could not gain access to the latter, and was told that any communication must be made in writing under flying seal. The same journal gives space to a tale that one of the attachés of the Legation, whose complicity in the affair had been suspected from the first, is feigning madness, or has gone really insane, and repeatedly in loud accents begs his Minister to pardon him. But these stories are, in our opinion, wild canards. What is apparently known is that Mr. Numata was a candidate for the post in the Legation obtained by Mr. Tei, and that Mr. Tao is a close friend of the former. Our own private information is to the effect that a person has been found who professes himself acquainted with the actual writer of the letter, though he declines to give the name, and that the leading counsel for Mr. Tei has probably succeeded in getting on the track of this gentlemen. It is added that should the suspicions now entertained prove correct, a surprise is in store for the public. Meanwhile, the feeling of indignation that manifested itself originally against Mr. Tei seems to be changing to one of commiseration, and we expect to see confusion soon fall upon his Japanese accusers and their foreign disciple.

FIRES IN TOKYO.

FROM statistics published by the *Jiji Shimpo* we learn that the number of fires in Tokyo during 1890 was 628, of which 408 were extinguished without causing any serious injury. The destructive conflagrations are divided as follows:—

	City.	Suburbs.
Partially destructive conflagrations	28	9
Wholly destructive conflagrations	31	99
Communicated conflagrations	43	10

The number of houses destroyed in these various fires was 4,579, the various causes being as follow:—

Cause.	Number of houses destroyed.
Incendiarism	234
Of suspicious origin	24
Fire places (eight conflagations)	All extinguished at once or only partially destructive.
Stoves (one fire)	28
Bed-braziers (ten fires)	
Lime (34 fires)	30
Fire to smoke out mosquitos (one conflagration)	43
Earthen-ware furnace (one conflagration)	
Candles (thirteen conflagrations)	
Fire-extinguishing pots (seven conflagrations)	2
Unknown (one fire)	Extinguished.
Ashes (forty-three conflagrations)	1,043
Smith's bellows (two fires	Extinguished.
Ovens (forty-four conflagrations)	2,387
Braziers (thirty-seven conflagrations)	3
Straw ashes forty-four conflagrations)	12
Bath-fires (five conflagrations	6
Caterpillar fumigations (seventeen conflagrations	13
Open fires twenty-one conflagrations)	176
Night-lights (three conflagrations)	Extinguished.
Lamps forty-nine conflagrations)	341
Matches (nine conflagrations,	Extinguished.
Oil-paper (one conflagration)	Extinguished.
Camphor (two conflagrations)	Extinguished.
Imperfectly extinguished charcoal (eleven conflagrations)	4
Volatile spirits (two conflagrations)	Extinguished.
Incense (one conflagration)	Extinguished.
Sparks (four conflagrations)	Extinguished.

The total area of the houses destroyed was 46,469 *tsubo* (about 40 acres), the number of lives lost, 2, and the number of persons injured, 138.

THE NEW WHALING SCHOONER "NARWHAL."

THE new schooner built by the Yokohama Engine and Iron Works (Limited) for the Eastern Whaling Co., a full description of which we published several days ago, was to have been launched yesterday afternoon. The tide serving at a quarter to five o'clock, the shores were removed, and the vessel, as she started towards the water, was named the *Narwhal* by Miss May Wheeler, who broke a bottle of wine on her bows. An unforeseen obstacle appeared here, however. Built on a piece of ground (adjoining the P. M. Co.'s Coal Wharf) considerably above the high water level, and the seaward side of which is faced by a breast-wall, the vessel could only be safely launched by cutting a gap in the wall and excavating a channel from the vessel's stern out till deep water was reached, the greatest depth available close to the wall being about three or four feet, whereas the ship required at least seven feet. The gap had not been dug deep enough, however, and the result was that after moving nearly a length the ship brought up. By means of jacks and other appliances she was again started and travelled about another length in the channel made for her, being supported on floating ways anchored on each side of the excavation, but another stoppage then took place, caused by some chains jamming under her heel, the result no doubt of a disarrangement of the cradle. The efforts made on land to get the ship off were supplemented throughout by the P. and O. tug, which was subsequently reinforced by the old P. and O. launch *Stork*, but it was ultimately deemed advisable to shore the vessel up and leave her for the night, the *Stork* being ordered to stand by in case of accident. A pretty hard southerly gale prevailed during the night, but this of course could not harm the new ship. The efforts to launch her were renewed this morning, but up till the time of our going to press they were not successful. There is every reason, however, to hope that the *Narwhal* will come off safely on the afternoon's tide. During the operations Mr. H. Cook, who was in charge of the launch, and under whose well trained supervision the ship was built, received a blow from a tautening tow rope leading from the P. & O. tug to the new vessel. He was on board the *Stork* when the accident occurred, and Dr. Wheeler, who had accompanied Mrs. Wheeler and their daughter to the launch, at once went off to Mr. Cook's assistance. Though suffering from a cut on the face and from some degree of shock, Mr. Cook's injuries were not considered at all serious.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

AN accident of a serious character occurred on the 20th inst. at the Shimbashi Terminus of the Tokaido Railway. The 1.50 p.m. train from Yokohama, not being checked at the proper point when entering the terminus, ran into the buffer-stops, with the result that the engine and the carriages immediately behind it were more or less broken, one passenger being severely hurt, another badly cut about the head, and several greatly shaken. The cause of this strange mishap has not yet been fully elucidated. It looks like nothing more or less than careless driving. According to the orders, trains entering the terminus are brought to a stand by means of the hand-brakes, the vacuum brakes not being employed except under special circumstances, when they are always available, or should be always available, at a second's notice. It would appear that the vacuum brakes were not applied at all same day, and that the means for averting disaster were left unused. Some explanation may possibly be forthcoming, but at present the natural conclusion is that those responsible for the control of the train exhibited a degree of carelessness very disfiguring to the excellent record hitherto made by Japanese drivers and guards.

THE EMPEROR AT THE FINE ART EXHIBITION.

THE Emperor visited the Fine Arts Exhibition at Uyeno on the 20th instant, at 2 p.m. His Majesty was accompanied by Marquis Tokudaiji and a number of Chamberlains. Viscount Sano, President of the Art Society, acted as guide, and the Emperor, in passing round the galleries, gave audience to several members of the Society. Arrangements had been made for an interesting work by way of addition to the exhibits; namely, the forging of a sword-blade in the old Japanese style, by the well known sword-smith Miyamoto Kanenori, who made the sacred sword for the Ise Shrine, some time ago, by Imperial order. Miyamoto worked under a little shed erected just before the verandah of the central room in the main building of the Exhibition. He was dressed in the garb of the skilled artisan of former days, namely, the robe called *sui-kan* and the head-dress known as *yeboshi*, his mouth being covered with white linen. The celebrated engraver, Uchida Unsui, also cut some ideographs on a crystal seal in His Majesty's presence. The blade and seal were presented to the Emperor by Viscount Sano. Among the exhibits purchased by His Majesty was a beautiful little porcelain vase, by Makuzu of Ota, having round the body a belt of clouded

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red from which a dragon emerged, the space below the belt being covered with a tessellated design in relief. This vase had already attracted much notice, but its very high price had deterred purchasers. Another Imperial acquisition was a vase of curiously mottled reddish lilac, with maple leaves in darker red beneath the glaze, by Takemoto. His Majesty remained at the Exhibition for two hours.

THE CONSERVATIVES.

ACCORDING to the *Kokkai* there is a disposition on the part of Conservative leaders to organize strong opposition to the present programme of Treaty Revision. A certain Count, as mysterious as the undiscovered island seized by the Chinese Northern Squadron, is said to have consulted with Viscount Torio on this subject at Atami, and the Viscount, returning to Tokyo on the evening of the 21st, at once placed himself in communication with the leading men of his party in order to arrange a tilt at the Government. The impalpable Count meanwhile remains at Atami working in the same cause, a species of cōoperation savouring of the action of Messrs. Tremlow and Brewer in the Veneering election campaign. It is a little unfortunate for Viscount Torio and his fellow-agitators that their organs, the *Chiusei Nippo* and the *Katsu-Sekai*, should have committed such resolute suicide at this juncture. The Conservatives are not a powerful coterie at the best of times, and the loss of their representative publications is a somewhat serious business. However, this is part of the tournay, perhaps.

A BEGGAR WHO HAS BETTERED HIMSELF.

THE *Kokkai* tells a picturesque story. A few days ago, it says, a number of beggars had collected at one of their favourite haunts in Kyoto and were basking in the spring sunshine and in hopes of imminent charity, when a highly respectable-looking individual, clothed in Western garb, presented himself among them in an excited manner, and addressed them thus:—"Fifteen years ago I was your fellow-mendicant. I left you to beg here, and it has been my good fortune to rise in the world, until I now occupy an official post in the Home Department at a salary of 40 *yen* a month. I have come to Kyoto on official business, but I could not refrain from visiting my old beggar friends, to greet them and make them a small present by way of souvenir." With these words he produced some coppers, and presented each beggar with the sum of two *sen*, a contribution the amount of which showed a fine care for his old comrades' moral equilibrium.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL IN TOKYO.

A MEETING of some of the principal residents of Tokyo was held on the 20th instant, to consider what steps should be taken by the citizens of the capital to welcome the Prince Imperial of Russia. There was talk of a ball, and also of a Japanese dinner, but the former found little support and the latter seemed scarcely feasible. The meeting ultimately decided that a theatrical performance would be most suitable. A Committee, consisting of the same gentlemen who managed the affairs of the ball given in honour of the promulgation of the Constitution in 1889, was appointed to take control of the arrangements. The names are Marquis Hachisuka and Messrs. Shibusawa, Narahara, Morioka, Ono, and Nishimura, with one other to be subsequently added. The expense of the performance is estimated at 5,000 *yen*.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Russian Minister left Tokyo by the first train on Tuesday morning, and will proceed to Nagasaki *vid* Kyoto and Kobe, to meet the Prince Imperial. According to the latest telegrams received in the Japanese capital the Prince will reach Nagasaki on the 28th instant, instead of the 29th as originally expected. Three of the largest ships of the Squadron have already entered Nagasaki harbour; the remaining five will accompany His Imperial Highness. Among the festivities in the capital during the Prince's stay will be a large ball at the Russian Legation, where a temporary ball-room has been erected for the occasion.

MARS AND THE MUSES.

A HONEY-PENNED correspondent writes to the *Amoy Times*:—I learn from U.S. Consul Edward Bedlue, that we may expect a visit from the American Squadron under Admiral Belknap between now and August. This will be pleasant news socially, as the officers of that fleet are famously hospitable, and the Admiral, known everywhere as "the incomparable Belknap," has long been a favourite in British and American Society. He deserves his popularity, which must be very great when so clever a writer as Archibald Forbes in speaking of him says, "No naval commander in the Asiatic waters since the days of Commodore Perry can compare in ability and mental power with Admiral Belknap." The Admiral has a young son, a mere boy, who like Algernon Swinburne is both an invalid and a poet. Both father and son are warm friends of Sir Edwin Arnold, the greatest bard of to-day. Lately on the occasion of his daughter's birthday, Admiral Belknap wrote her the following lines:—

TO MISS ARNOLD.

Pave after page, and line on line,
Here gems of thought in beauty shine—
The living hands and gifted powers
Of daughters fair have culled these flowers
To note the round of natal days
And crown each one with Fancie's lays.
Among such pearls of grace and fame
I count it blest to write one's name—
Imprint it mid the Orient themes
Transfigured by rare Edwin's dreams.
G. E. B.

The same day the young lady received poetic contributions from young Grafton Belknap and Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon. When the great English poet saw the book, he added this charming sentiment:—

TO MY DAUGHTER

(On receiving complimentary verses from Admiral Belknap, Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. A. Asiatic Squadron, Grafton his son, and Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon, Commanding H. M's. China Squadron.)

Oh, happy Maid! whom two great Flags conspire
To honour, blending such melodious posies;
When Admirals thyme, the Muse unstrings her lyre
And binds, in pride, their Mayflowers and their Roses.
EDWIN ARNOLD.

A QUAINT BLUNDER.

ONE of the queerest mistakes we have seen for some time is made by a local English contemporary, the *Japan Gazette*, which confounds the office of "Secretary of the Treasury" in the United States with that of "Treasurer," and mixes up in hopeless confusion the names of the past and prospective holder of the two positions. Considering that the Secretary is a Member of the Cabinet, whereas the Treasurer is a comparatively petty official, the distinction between the two ought not to be difficult to comprehend. Fancy how we should laugh at an American editor who did not know the difference between the First Lord of the Treasury and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury!

AFTER THE "GLOW" (WITH APOLOGIES TO MR. LINCOMB).

If one should knock at our front door
At midnight dark and dreary,
And say that I was "some way off,"
Quite motionless and beery;
I would not have you weep and wail,
Nor, in a raging flutter,
Go forth with servants and a sight
To fetch me on a shutter;
But let me lie and contemplate
The stars and things celestial,
To rise at morn with early mists
And odours pestilential.

深町

ANOTHER JIYU SHIMBUN.

THERE is to be a *Jiyu Shimbun* started in Kyoto on the 1st of next June. The projectors are Mr. Ito Kumano, one of the members of the Diet for Kyoto, Mr. Nishikawa Yoshinobu, a member of the Kyoto City Assembly, and others. The name "*Jiyu Shimbun*" is evidently a favourite.

NATURALIZATION.

THE idea of a Naturalization Law in Japan appears to occupy the minds of many people, probably because of the erroneous idea that the enactment of such a law has some connection with Treaty Revision. The *Jiyu Shimbun* says that a draft of a Naturalization Law was prepared some time ago and submitted to the Cabinet, but, the latter having taken exception to many of its provisions, the Department of Justice has decided that a new draft shall be prepared, which after approval by the Cabinet, will be submitted to the Diet in its next session.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

THE amounts of convertible notes and reserves in the Bank of Japan for the week ended the 18th inst. were as follows:—

CONVERTIBLE NOTES.	YEN.	RESERVES AND SECURITIES.	YEN.
Notes issued	98,838,661	Gold coin and bullion	24,903,710
		Silver coin and bullion	18,400,335
		Public Loan Bonds	13,470,450
		Treasury Bills	—
		Government Bills	22,000,000
		Other securities	7,194,998
		Commercial Bills	12,769,168
	98,838,661		98,838,661

Of the above total issue of notes, the sum of *yen* 4,486,535 is in the treasury of the Bank, 22,000,000 has been transferred on loan to the Government, and *yen* 72,352,126 is in actual circulation, the latter showing an increase of *yen* 1,026,784 as compared with *yen* 71,325,342 at the end of the previous week.

CHERRY TREES AND RAILWAYS.

THE cherry trees at Koganei have brought much grist to the mill of the Kobu Railway folks this year. On the 12th instant the splendid forest of bloom at that historical spot was in full glory, and no less than seven thousand lovers of nature travelled from Tokyo that day to enjoy the spectacle, paying to the railway more than a thousand *yen*. It is said that no Japanese railway has hitherto taken so much as a thousand *yen* in a day for a distance of 12 or 13 miles, but before admitting that we should like to see the record of the Tokyo-Yokohama line for the days of the great festival at Omori.

COAL IN HOKKAIDO.

THE output of coal from Hokkaido this year is estimated at 250,000 tons, namely, 150,000 from Poronai, 40,000 from Chibetsu, and 60,000 from Sorachi. Next year when the railway to Mororan is finished, as projected, increased facilities of carriage are expected to give a great impulse to production. An output of 350,000 tons is then anticipated, and it will be shipped to Hongkong, Shanghai, and so forth. Such at least is the account given by the *Jiji Tsu-tsin-sha*.

THE IMPERIAL GARDEN PARTY.

THE Imperial Garden Party on Wednesday, at the Venryokan, was exceptionally pleasant, owing to perfect weather and the remarkably luxuriant blossoms of the double cherries. The Emperor looked in excellent health and spirits. His Majesty graciously took advantage of the occasion to address some words of kindly sympathy to Mr. E. Dun, American Chargé d'Affaires, with reference to the sudden death of the Hon. J. F. Swift.

SILK.

THE usual spring rumours about the state of sericulture are beginning to find their way into print. We read in a vernacular paper that at some houses in the Osumi district of Sagami province, silk worms had already been hatched on the 11th instant. The same authority adds that the mulberry crop is most luxuriant this year, as much as 30 *kwan* (247½ lbs.) of leaves being procurable for 60 *sen*.

A JAPANESE LADY AT CAMBRIDGE.

MISS KIYO NISHIGAWA has just passed the junior Cambridge local examination, and distinguished herself in German. This young lady is, we believe, the first Japanese who has entered for the Cambridge course. She has now been five years in Europe, four of which she spent at Dusseldorf College on the Rhine, and one in England.

TRINITY CHURCH, TSUKIJI, TOKYO.

MORNING PRAYER at 11 a.m., and Sermon by the Rt. Rev. W. H. Hare, Bishop of South Dakota.—Evening Prayer at 7.30 p.m.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

THE question of probable changes in the Cabinet continues to occupy the most prominent place in the columns of the vernacular press. Count Ito is daily expected to arrive in the capital, in company with Viscount Hijikata, who was specially despatched by the Emperor to Kobe to bring back the Count. Some people believe that, if personally desired by the Emperor, Count Ito will not refuse to form a new Cabinet. But it generally doubted whether he will accept the offer. It is also reported that he will do his best to persuade Count Saigo to succed Count Yamagata, and that Count Saigo will ultimately yield to the persistent and united request of his friends. The papers unanimously call upon the members of the Cabinet to relieve the public from the uncertainty and perplexity of the present situation. The opposition journals, especially the organs of the *Kaishin-to*, urge upon the new Minister President, whoever he may be, the advisability of choosing his colleagues from among politicians of the younger generation. These journals believe that the time has come for the purification of the Government from abuses bequeathed as legacies from the despotic clan administration of the past twenty-three years. The present ministerial crisis, according to these papers, has been accelerated by the necessity of forming a Cabinet, better adapted to the needs of constitutional government. It is now time, says the *Hochi Shimbun*, to bring new elements into the Cabinet in order to lay a foundation for the new constitutional régime of the second Restoration. The *Mimpo* too, calls upon the organizer of the new Cabinet—supposing that a new Cabinet is about to be formed—to make a fresh departure by constructing a responsible Ministry, that is to say a Ministry responsible to the Diet.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* dwells upon the importance of forming a strong Cabinet. In the present condition of affairs, the *Jiji* recognizes the extreme difficulty of carrying its recommendation into practice. But the chief of the new Cabinet, whoever he be, must, in the opinion of the Tokyo journal, be prepared to make sweeping changes in the *personnel* of the higher dignitaries of State, so as to render the Government amenable to the direction of a single mind. In another article, the same journal admits that if Count Ito should consent to become Minister President, he will be very likely to form a strong Cabinet. It recommends him, if he should really consent to form a Cabinet, to strengthen his position by bringing together under his presidency Counts Okuma, Inouye, and Goto. The time is not yet fully ripe for Count Ito to assume office, but, on the other hand, the *Jiji* thinks that this is not by any means an unfavourable opportunity for him to show his undoubted ability as a constitutional statesman.

* * *

On the question of Treaty Revision, the *Kaishin-to* organs, as well as journals favourably disposed towards that party, are evidently resolved to concentrate public attention on the question of asking the Diet's consent to the tariff schedule of the revised treaties. The *Kaishin-to* seem determined to oppose what they believe to be the Government's opinion on this point. The *Hochi Shimbun* and the *Mimpo* traverse the contention put forth by some supporters of the Government, that, the existing schedule of customs duties having been orginally promulgated by an Imperial Proclamation, the altered schedule of the new treaties may also be proclamed by an Imperial Ordinance. These papers claim that, according to Art. 62 of the Constitution, custom's duties cannot be changed except by means of law, to which the consent of the Diet is required. They consequently propose that the portion of the revised treaties relating to customs duties should be submitted to the considerhtion of the Diet previous to ratification.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing on the subject of the recovery of tariff autonomy, observes that the principal object aimed at by Japan is not to practise protective principles, but to recover the enjoyment of rights naturally belonging to her as an independent State. After the recovery of tariff autonomy, she will raise the rates of customs duties for revenue purposes, the present rates being abnormally low and insufficient. No prohibitive tariff, however, will be imposed. The consideration of the question whether the Diet's consent ought to be sought for the determination of customs duties, our contemporary proposes to discuss in a future issue.

* * *

The *Kokkai* observes that the hesitation of the Western Powers to accede to the demands of Japan for the revision of the treaties on a footing of equality, is owing to their ignorance of the real state of things in this country. Our contemporary thinks that, in her present condition, Japan cannot hope to accomplish her cherished object of treaty revision by appealing to force. The only means by which she can do so is to make herself known to other nations. The *Kokkai* advises its countrymen to show that they are an honourable, virtuous, and chivalrous people; to furnish the scientific world with new materials by engaging in the exploration of the continent of Asia and also by studying the ethnology, national history, and social conditions of Eastern nations; to show the intellectual progress of the nation by sending copies of Japanese translations of European works to the original authors or to journals in the West; to publish original treatises in European languages; to publish periodicals in foreign languages; to furnish the Japanese Legations and Consulates abroad with representative art objects of Japan; to hold an international exhibition in Tokyo; to send out war vessels to European and American ports, taking on board a staff of competent men of science.

* * *

The approaching visit of the Russian Prince Imperial receives much attention from the vernacular press. The public has shown itself so emphatically willing to give the Imperial visitor a hearty welcome, that some of the papers now warn the people against treating him with flattery and adulation. The *Mimpo* and the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the principal exponents of this view, are of opinion that Japan ought to be on intimate terms with Russia, and they do not object to giving a hearty and respectful welcome to the Prince. But, on the other hand, they do not desire to see the people lower their own dignity as an independent nation by resorting to adulatory addresses and entertainments in order to please the future occupant of the Muscovite throne. They ridicule the journals that were at first inclined to view the approaching visit with suspicion and even ill-feeling, but now vie with each other in recommending the people to receive the august visitor with as much respect and friendship as possible.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* calls upon the people to entertain the Russian Prince Imperial as the guest not only of the Government, but, also of the nation. In 1872 Japan was honoured with a visit by a Russian Prince, who was received by the Imperial Family and the Government with every mark of respect and goodwill. At that time the attitude of the people was of little consequence, but now that the system of Government has been entirely changed, the conduct of the people towards any foreign guest of the country may have great international consequences. Our contemporary, therefore, advises the inhabitants of all important towns, through which the Russian Crown Prince will pass, to entertain him with proper respect and goodwill.

* * *

Count Goto is now the object of adverse comment on the part of some Metropolitan papers, especially those connected with the *Kaishin-to*. Some days ago, the Department over which he presides invited tenders for the carriage of mail matter. The *Nippon Yüden Kaisha* offered to do the business at the lowest price, but the choice of the Department fell upon the next lowest tender, that presented by the *Nippon Un-yu Kaisha*. It happens that the principal shareholders of the successful company are very intimately connected with Count Goto. From this circumstance and from the fact that the tender of the successful company exactly coincided with the officially estimated cost, the papers express doubt as to the fairness of the Minister of Communications in this business of public tenders. Another affair viewed with considerable jealousy by some journals is that the *Choya Shimbun* has received permission from the Communications Department to devote a portion of its space to the publication of official information relating to the Department. The paper publishing such information is entitled to receive a subscription from the Department of Communications to the extent of about 5,000 copies daily, for distribution to the post offices throughout the country. It is stated by the press that favouritism is the order of the day in the Department of Communications. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, a *Kaishin-to* organ, observes that while Mr. Mayejima retained the post of Vice-Minister, the known difference of political views between him and his chief went far to ensure that the Department should be impartial to all the existing parties, but now that the whole management of business is in the hands of Count Goto alone, public confidence in the integrity of the Department has been very much weakened. The *Hochi Shimbun* alludes to the vehemence with which Count Goto when out of office, attacked the evil practices of the clan Government, and declares itself grievously disappointed in its expectation that he, of all men, would be free from the abuses he had so loudly condemned just before his acceptance of the portfolio of Communications. The Count is advised to be more careful of his public conduct. The *Kokkai* also joins in animadverting on the alleged favouritism of the Department of Communications.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun*, after a holiday of 18 days, began to appear again on the 19th inst. From the opening article of that day's issue, we learn that the complaints of shareholders against the former editorial staff related to the tendency shown by the latter to make the paper an organ of the men of Tosa, and not of general liberalism, in the interest of which it had been originally established. The new editor recognizes the great services rendered by Count Itagaki to the cause of liberty in Japan, but strongly protests against the *Jiyu Shimbun* being employed to serve the Count's personal purposes. The article is of considerable interest, as it indicates the degree of internal dissension to which the *Jiyu-to* has been reduced. It is a misfortune that the only statesman at present qualified to take the leadership of the party should be so closely associated with a faction disliked by politicians of a liberal tendency. If things go on in this way, there seems to be little hope of the *Jiyu-to* acquiring that cohesive and effective strength which so prëeminently characterizes the *Kaishin-to*.

* * *

The question of emigration and colonization occupies considerable space in the columns of the vernacular press. A Mr. Ishigami Kimitaro writes in the editorial columns of the *Choya Shimbun* on a scheme of emigration to Mexico. He professes to be a member of a land company of San Francisco, and in that capacity he returned to Japan in the spring of last year. Since then, after experiencing various difficulties, he has been able to form a colonization society, with the support of several influential men. He does not give the details of his scheme; but confining himself to a description of the progress of European colonization in various parts of the world, he recommends his countrymen to emigrate to Mexico. Mr. Fukumoto has begun a series of articles on the subject of colonization in the columns of the *Nippon*. In the opening article he considers the question whether the Japanese are naturally adapted for the purposes of colonization, and concludes that their high spirit, their chivalry, and their courage indicate that they are well fitted for that purpose. He also urges upon the Government the necessity of fixing its policy of colonization.

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THE FIRST JAPANESE DIET.

I.

THE session of the first Japanese Diet is past, but the wonder of it remains, and the foreign public has still to pronounce judgment on the results of the novel experiment. There appears to be a certain reluctance on the part of the critics. Probably they are still more or less bewildered. It seems so strange that a country twenty-five years ago steeped to the lips in feudalism, should to-day find itself in the full swing of parliamentary institutions. People can hardly yet realize the fact. Moreover full materials for forming an opinion are wanting in the case of the great majority of foreigners. Summarized reports of the debates have, indeed, been published, but these convey only an imperfect idea how the new machinery worked and how the representatives of the people acquitted themselves in their unaccustomed rôle. Probably not half a dozen foreigners, outside the members of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique, visited the Diet during its session. The apathy shown was curious. With the future of Japanese constitutional institutions at the bar of practical trial, the foreign residents seldom thought of entering the Parliamentary buildings. Common curiosity might have inspired a wish to watch the doings of the first representative assembly in the Orient. The incalculable importance of the essay to Japan herself, with whose progress—moral, political and material—we are all so closely concerned, ought to have attracted keen attention. But no. Men who will journey to Tokyo to witness theatricals, attend an evening party, or look at the spring blossoms, would not take the same trip in order to observe with their own eyes the most momentous incident in the history of modern Japan. This general indifference was truly reflected in the columns of the local foreign press. Only the briefest and most fragmentary epitomes of the proceedings were published by two out of our six open-port contemporaries, and as if to emphasise this neglect, one of the six subsequently filled a considerable part of its columns with verbatim translations of such portions of the proceedings as seemed likely to injure the reputation of the Government. The vital questions of the fitness of the Japanese people to inaugurate representative institutions, of their capacity for legislative work, of their ability in debate, of their insight into parliamentary functions, and of their readiness to take part in administrative affairs—all these questions, the answers to which furnish unerring gauges of the nation's prospects, did not receive a fraction of the attention devoted to the task of seeking to discredit the Administration. We assume, however, that intelligent observers of Japan's progress will be glad to learn something about the Japanese Diet, and for their sake we shall devote a few lines to describing the procedure and pointing out some special features of the first representative national assembly ever held in the Orient.

Imagine nine *V's* laid side by side with an interval between each, their apexes converging on the circumference of a small circular arc; and imagine transverse lines drawn across these *V's*, parallel to the circumference of the arc. Then the transverse lines represent the members' desks and each *V* represents the group of desks allotted to a "Section." The arc is the dais. At its back is the President's seat having a rostrum immediately before it, the seat and rostrum standing to each other in much the same relation as a church pulpit to the lectern beneath it, and the height of the rostrum being so adjusted that the head of its occupant is just on a level with the President's desk. It results that the President can, if he desires, lean over and communicate with the occupant of the rostrum in a tone too low to be audible throughout the House. This, of course, has its advantages, but it has also the drawback that points of order made by the President often fail to receive the publicity desirable in the interests of discipline. Beside the President, at the same desk, sits the Chief Secretary. Frequent colloquies between the two show that the President appreciates the advantage of a second opinion in cases of difficulty. At the back of the dais a long row of seats is occupied by the Secretaries and minor officials, and in the front of the dais, flanking the rostrum, stand chairs for Ministers of State and Government Delegates. Finally, the table for the shorthand reporters is immediately under the rostrum, and spacious galleries all round the circumference of the House contain the Imperial Box, the Boxes for the Peers and the Diplomatic corps, together with seats for a large number of humbler visitors.

The distribution of the three hundred members into nine "sections" is a peculiar and interesting arrangement. It is effected originally by lot, and its evident consequence is a hap-hazard intermingling of political parties. A member of the opposition finds himself sitting cheek by jowl with a strong supporter of the Government, and a violent Radical rubs elbows with a staunch Conservative. The restraints exercised by uncongenial companionship are thus brought into full play, whatever they may be worth in assisting to preserve order. The main object of the Sections, however, is to facilitate business. Much of the work has to be done by Committees, numbering either nine or some multiple of nine. Thus each Section has its own representatives on a Committee. In voting by ballot, too, the advantage of the Section system is very conspicuous.

From the conversation rooms (*danwa-shitsu*) and Committee rooms (*iin-shitsu*) the members are summoned to the Chamber by the tinkle of the President's bell—an electric bell, of course. They enter and take their places almost without a sound. A visitor in the gallery turns his back to the Chamber, and on looking round again, finds, to his surprise, that the hitherto empty desks have all been suddenly and noiselessly occupied. Before every member lies a volume which he frequently consults. It is a pretty bulky book, containing 213 Rules of Procedure. The enactment of these rules was the House's first effort of legislation. Pending the accomplishment of the work, business could not proceed in an orderly fashion. Therefore, when the session opened on November the 25th, each member received a printed copy of draft rules which had been prepared by the Government. A Committee appointed to revise the draft completed its labours in three days, and the House passed the whole body of regulations without a query. Some critics condemned this proceeding as rashly precipitate, but there has been no reason to repent it. The rules have worked well in practice, and though there has occasionally been talk of amending one or two provisions, the volume still remains as it was at the outset. Engaged in a wholly novel task and required to adhere to the letter of 213 rules, the members, it may well be supposed, showed a certain amount of hesitation and restraint in the early days of the session. A not insignificant portion of the points raised in the House turned on applications or interpretations of the rules, and after the opening words of a speaker's address it was a common spectacle to see a universal flutter of leaves as the whole assembly looked up No. 193, or some other provision referred to, like an attentive congregation searching for the text given out by a favourite preacher. Rules, it has sometimes been said by superficial observers, are the curse of modern Japan. The thirst for rules that used to pervade all classes of inquirers, and the rigid, undiscriminating enforcement of the letter of the law by petty officials, created the impression that the Japanese are a mechanical, statute-ridden people, without much self-reliance or independent intelligence. And yet, how natural and even inevitable it is that, failing experience, men should place explicit reliance on rules. When every feature of the civilization they are adopting is new to a people, their respect for the minutiæ of each rule accompanying the novel system is likely to be in direct proportion to their respect for the system itself. Men seldom ask for rules now-a-days. The once painfully docile student is disposed to be "a law unto himself;" the staid constable begins to glory in the exercise of his own discretion, and the volume of well thumbed "Rules of Procedure" lies comparatively neglected on each member's desk. The desks themselves are not roomy, neither do they suggest great comfort, but their occupants

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appear satisfied. Fixed to the top of each desk is a solid block of wood, square in section, its sides about 2 inches and its length some 14 or 15. Attached to the desk by a hinge, it can be raised or lowered at will. When a member is present in the House, he raises this block and leaves it upright until he leaves his place, for by means of numerals painted in large white figures on its four black faces, the member's number can be read from every part of the House, and his name ascertained. It was originally contemplated that in all parliamentary references to one another, the members should use numbers instead of names, but the cold impersonality of this procedure soon made it unpopular. A trace, indeed, of the original custom still survives. A member of conservative instincts occasionally alludes to No. Fifty-five's remarks, or to No. a Hundred-and-seven's arguments, and when seeking the President's permission to speak, numbers and names are called out indiscriminately. But as a general rule members allude to one another by name, suffixing not the popular honorific *san* or *sama*, but the more refined though less respectful *kun*. This use of names, the fact that the members do not cover their heads, and a peculiar fashion of seeking to catch the President's eye, will probably strike a visitor as the most salient differences between Japanese parliamentary procedure and British. There can be little doubt that in respect of the two former points the advantage is on the side of the Japanese practice. Sitting in the House with covered head is a relic of semi-civilization, and to describe a fellow-legislator as the honourable member for "Liverpool" or "Lancashire," instead of plain Mr. So-and-So, seems a senseless piece of affectation. In Japan a cognate formula would become particularly cumbersome, since it would be necessary to say "the honourable member for No. such and such a district of No. such and such a Division." But, on the other hand, the Japanese parliamentary method of "catching the President's eye" is decidedly not to be commended. The candidate springs to his feet, grasps his numerical block, and in a loud voice calls out "President; No. 56;" or "President; ARAI SHOGO," and remains thus, repeating his call at intervals, until he or some one else is definitely recognised. It is not "Mr. President," but simply "President" (*Gicho*), and no one seems as yet to have any idea of giving way because a better man is simultaneously seeking recognition. Thus it sometimes happens that seven or eight members are on their feet at the same time in different parts of the House, crying "*Gicho*, *Gicho*," with vehement insistance proportionate to the interest of the question under consideration. The effect conveyed is decidedly disorderly, though in point of fact no idea of creating a disturbance may be entertained. Another consequence of such procedure is that a speaker's chances of indulging in a fine peroration are reduced to a minimum. The peculiar construction of the Japanese language renders it possible to recognise, almost unerringly, the opening words of the appeal which, as a point of present-day etiquette, orators are wont to make to their audience's intelligence or sympathy at the end of a speech. The form of the appeal may vary largely, but its general nature is not to be concealed. The result is that the member or members desiring to speak next, are on their feet calling "*Gicho*" before the closing sentence is half finished, and of course, under such circumstances, an impassioned or elaborate peroration becomes an absurdity. Any so-called "disorder" hitherto occurring in the House has been due to this cause. A foreign journalist recently spoke of the "rowdyism" of the Japanese Diet. It would have been difficult to choose a less appropriate term. There has been no "rowdyism," nor anything approaching such a condition. In times of excitement, several members have been on their feet together, and the President's recognition of one among them failing to be appreciated by all, it has seemed for a few moments as though no control existed But invariably so soon as it is understood that a member has obtained the President's permission to address the House, the other aspirants resume their seats. Probably the experience of this first session will indicate the advisability of interdicting all attempts to attract the President's attention by calling out to him. If the members were permitted only to rise and remain standing in silence until obtaining recognition from the chair, the only element of disorder at present visible would be removed.

II.

IT is optional with a member to speak either from his seat or from the rostrum with the President's permission, but the latter plan is always adopted in case of a speech of any length, and is often insisted on by the President as a means of restoring calm in the House. The interval occupied by the intending speaker's passage to the rostrum, and the formal character of the whole business, contribute materially to dissipate any tendency to excitement. It is in this part of the proceedings that the peculiar *aplomb* of the Japanese is most apparent. To be required to march up to a kind of pulpit, face an audience of, perhaps, six hundred people, and deliver one's opinions at length, would be a trying ordeal for persons afflicted with any degree of sensitiveness. But among the three hundred members of the Japanese House of Representatives, there does not appear to be a man incapable of going through this performance with absolute freedom from gaucherie or self-consciousness. The same enviable equanimity is observable throughout the delivery of a speech. For all the moral disturbance visible in his demeanour or to be detected in his voice, the speaker might just as well be addressing a familiar friend across a dinner-table as the three hundred representatives of his nation in the House of Parliament. Certainly such impassibility is an immense advantage in one sense: ideas are not clouded or the power of expressing them paralysed by nervousness. But, if Occidental standards are to be applied, there is loss in another direction: uniform absence of feeling and fervour sometimes conveys an impression of monotony and want of earnestness. It seems strange that this mood should prevail, seeing to how high a point the art of elocution, with all its accompaniment of gesture and vocal modulation, has been carried by religious teachers, as well as by professional lecturers of the *koshakushi* and *hanashika* order in Japan. But the present temper of the House of Representatives is decidedly opposed to oratorical displays. Graces of language and scholarly forms of expression are indeed highly appreciated. A man like Mr. TAKAHASHI TETSUSHIRO, who can speak for half an hour without uttering a single solecism, from the polished scholar's point of view, without a single repetition suggesting paucity of verbal resources, and always with an even flow of strong but delicately selected and artistically grouped words, is listened to with evident pleasure and attention. But, on the other hand, a man like Mr. MISAKI KAMENOSUKE, who aims at the most absolute directness, and who, equally by choice of brief language and quietly distinct utterance, seeks to divert attention altogether from the form, and to direct it entirely to the substance of his speech, can count on a not less favourable hearing. There is little tolerance of rhetorical flowers. Whatever time may be frittered away in discussing trivial and fruitless questions, the mode of expression adopted in the House is decidedly business-like. As a rule the addresses are short. A sitting virtually lasting only four hours offers little scope for lengthy oratorical achievements. As to the quality of the speeches, the peculiar character of the Japanese language is a distinct bar to eloquence. The well recognised rule of graceful writing or speaking, that consecutive sentences must not have identical endings or beginnings, can scarcely be observed when the structure of a language relegates the chief auxiliary verb to a terminal place, and when, moreover, the auxiliary itself has dimensions quite out of proportion to the part it plays. Another difficulty is caused by the want of a relative pronoun; a want tending to render sentences involved and obscure. Indeed this latter defect has left a marked impress on the oratorical style of modern Japan. It has produced a school of speakers who ruthlessly sacrifice grace and smoothness on the shrine of lucidity. When everything predicated about a subject has to be tacked behind it in the form of a long adjectival chain—as for example,

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the in-connection-with-your-debt-to-the-bank-I-yesterday-communicated-to you information—one or more of the links may easily drop out of the memory of a listener. To prevent this the speaker picks up again such of the links as he desires to emphasize, and rëembodies them in short supplementary sentences, where they acquire prominence at the expense of a jerky, dislocated style. Mr. SUYEMATSU KENCHO is a leading representative of this school, the members of which have, for the most part, been forced into their inelegant but lucid habit of speech by the exigencies of scientific or philosophical lectures. The provincial constituents of the House smiled audibly once or twice when being initiated by Mr. SUYEMATSU into the methods of this new rhetorical school, but they soon recovered their gravity on discovering that each loss of grace and continuity was compensated by a gain of perspicuity and precision. Parliament itself, however, promises to forge its own fashion of speech. The necessity of publicly debating subjects—many of which were not even conceived in the Japan of twenty years ago—that is to say, were not conceived under the aspects which they present to the legislators of to-day—has given, and is daily giving, an immense impulse to the growth of the language. It seems more than probable, too, that the debates in the Diet will ultimately bridge over the gulf between the written and the spoken languages, and that with political liberty Japan will also escape from the crippling fetters of a custom which requires that the thoughts of her people can only be preserved by altering the form in which they are conceived.

We have noted impassiveness and suavity as prominent characteristics of the speakers. But there are marked exceptions. Chief among them is Mr. INOUYE KAKUGORO, certainly *the* orator of the House from a Western point of view. Capable of remaining on a placid level if his subject demands such a mood, he is equally ready to climb the summit of impassioned vehemence, and to his great command of apt expression and illustration is added a natural grace of strong and suitable gesture. If he typifies the future parliamentary speaker of Japan—and if there be such a thing as a national type of orator—critics will ultimately find no difference to record between the oratory of the Orient and that of the Occident.

No part of the story of the new Diet has more interest for Westerns than the working of the Standing Orders. These consist of the Law of the Houses (*Giin-ho*), which forms an appendix to the Constitution, and the Rules of Procedure (*Giin Kisoku*), which, as explained above, were drafted by the Government and adopted by the Houses after examination by a Committee. The framers of the Japanese Constitution were happily circumstanced in one respect; they had the experience of Western countries to guide them. They saw how it had fared with parliamentary institutions in England; how, in the face of paralysing obstruction, the House of Commons had been obliged to revoke its own liberties, to narrow the limits of debate, to restrict the rights of the majority, and to throw away not a few of the safeguards hitherto deemed necessary for the preservation of the public safety. Taught by these examples, the Japanese sought to elaborate a system which should embody the liberties properly belonging to parliamentary institutions, without offering any encouragement to license. It remains to be seen how far they succeeded in realizing their ideal.

Each House of the Japanese Diet is controlled by a President, corresponding with the "Speaker" of Western parliaments. No attempt has been made to follow the example of Great Britain, where the Speaker is supposed to be an absolutely impartial officer of the House, removed entirely beyond the range of party politics. In Japan the President and Vice-President of the Lower House are theoretically partisans, being elected by the House. They derive a semblance of independence by being nominated by the EMPEROR from among three candidates elected by the House, but as the EMPEROR naturally accepts the House's choice, this provision has no practical force. Judging by the practice of the first Diet, it seems probable that the President will always represent the party commanding the largest number of adherents in the House, while the Vice-President will be a member of the party next in point of strength. The three candidates for each office are voted for on separate lists, but the indications furnished by the list for President are accepted in voting the list for Vice-President, so that the second name on the former becomes the first on the latter. It is possible, of course, that both officials may be members of the same party, since they are elected by separate ballots. But the conduct of the House thus far shows a disposition to contrive that each of the two principal parties shall see itself represented in the presidential chair. A third office of great importance is the chairmanship of the Committee of the whole House. Its occupant is elected by the House at the beginning of the Session. He sits for only one Session, whereas the President and Vice-President sit for the whole term of a Diet's life, namely, four years. Further, no emoluments are attached to his office, while annual salaries of 4,000 *yen* and 2,000 *yen* respectively are paid to the President and Vice-President. The Chairman of the Committee of the whole House is nevertheless a person of much consequence, and the procedure of the members in respect of him was watched with great interest. In his case, also, the give-and-take spirit animating the first House was conspicuously shown, for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency having fallen to the lot of the Radicals (*Jiyu-to*) and the Independents (*Taisei-kai*), respectively—Messrs. NAKAJIMA NOBUYUKI and TSUDA MAMICHI—the chairmanship of the whole was given to Mr. SHIMADA SABURO, a distinguished representative of the Progressionists (*Kaishin-to*).

III.

THE powers vested in the President of the House are large. We shall enumerate them in detail, because the question of the presiding officer's functions has become a problem of keen and pressing interest to all the friends of parliamentary institutions in the West.

The President determines the Orders of the Day (*Giji-nittei*), including in it the subjects to be submitted to the House and their sequence. In the exercise of this function he is subjected to one restriction only, namely, that the matter appearing in the Orders of the Lower House must not be under debate simultaneously in the Upper, unless such a course be specially dictated by parliamentary convenience. The Orders of the Day contain, also, the names of the members desiring to speak to any motion. Those who have sent in their names are entitled to occupy the rostrum before casual speakers, and the supporters and opponents of a measure are placed alternately on the list. If, however, the recorded names of speakers on one side exceed the names submitted on the other, it rests with the President to supplement the latter from among members rising during the debate. He also determines whether a member shall speak from the rostrum or from his seat. The general rule is the rostrum, but when the proposed remarks promise to be brief, the speaker may stand in his place. This right of direction, though insignificant at first sight, is nevertheless capable of being exercised in a manner very embarrassing to political opponents. Of course no member is entitled to speak twice in the same debate, but this rule does not apply to the introducer of a Bill or the maker of a motion, who, for purposes of explanation, may address the House several times. With the President, however, rests the power to see that the latter privilege is not abused: he must take care that an explanation does not become an argument. He is also authorized to check irrelevancy, but as yet there has been little occasion to exercise this authority, the members having almost invariably shown a strong disposition to confine themselves to their subject and to refrain from repeating any arguments advanced by a previous speaker. The President himself is not precluded from taking part in a debate, but he must announce his intention of doing so, and vacate the chair, leaving it in the possession of the Vice-President until the end of the debate. The language of the Rules seems to delegate to him considerable power to end a debate, since it is left to

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him to determine whether the discussion is concluded. But in practice he does not exercise this power. Debates are nearly always terminated by means of the closure. Any member may, at any period, move the closure (*toron shyukyoku*), and if the motion finds one supporter, it must be put to the House without discussion, the President having no such discretion in this matter as is given to the Speaker of the British House of Commons. There has as yet been no disposition to exercise tyranically the great power thus placed in the hands of the majority. The House has employed the closure as a simple instrument for facilitating procedure. Moreover, abuse of the closure is guarded against by the system of giving precedence to members who have take the trouble to intimate beforehand their intention of speaking, and by the rule that the debate must, as far as possible, he carried on alternately by supporters and opposers. After the closure has been voted, or after the President has announced that a division will be taken, no further speaking is permitted.

There are four methods of taking a vote, first, by requiring the "contents" to stand (*sansei kiritsu*); secondly, by calling the roll and requiring members to vote aloud from their places (*shimei tenko*); thirdly, by ballot without names (*mukimei tohyo*); and fourthly, by ballot with names (*kimei tohyo*). The President may decide which of these methods shall be employed. It need scarcely be said that he generally selects the first, but if a motion, having at least twenty supporters, is made in favour of any of the other three, the sense of the House is taken. The result of a vote by standing may be challenged by one member, and recourse must then be had to one of the other methods, at the President's discretion; but no objection to the vote by roll-call is valid unless it finds at least twenty supporters. In the case of written ballots, white and blue papers are employed, each member writing his name. For unwritten ballots, black and white balls are used, accompanied by the cards of the voters. The President has authority to decide doubtful points in the Constitution, the Law of the House, or the Rules of Procedure, but he may consult the House's opinion, and it need scarcely be said that he generally does so. Another important power vested in him is competence to order a recess at any moment. In the ordinary routine he can either adjourn the House at the usual hour of closing —6 p.m., the time of daily session being from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.—or extend the sitting for a special purpose. The House, too, may of course vote any change in its diurnal hours. But the peculiar power of the President is that, should the House fall into a state of excitement, or should it be found difficult to maintain order, he may either announce a recess or close the session for the day. Recourse to the latter expedient was not found necessary during the first Diet, but on several occasions short recesses were taken, and it may almost be said to have become a feature of Japanese parliamentary procedure that when the House develops a disposition to wrangle or dispute warmly, the members are sent to the Committee chambers and waiting rooms to discuss and settle the knotty point in private conclave. Over individual members the authority of the President is exercised in five ways for purposes of good order. He may either warn the offender, stop him, or direct him to retract his remarks, and if the member fail to respect the ruling of the chair, he may be either prohibited from speaking for the rest of the day, or ordered to leave the House, the President having under his direction a force of police officials provided by the Government to carry out his mandates. Nor does his power stop here. Among the Standing Committees of the House there is one called the Committee on Disciplinary Punishment. It consists of 27 members, and is competent to recommend that a member be openly repraimanded, or required to express an apology in public session, or suspended for a certain time, or expelled. Either by direct instruction of the President, or in compliance with a motion having at least twenty supporters, the Committee may be required to examine into and report upon any case calling for disciplinary punishment.

The conduct of the President in the exercise of these great powers amid circumstances where tradition, that cherished guide of feeble minds, could not afford any assistance, was watched with much curiosity and some anxiety. That he succeeded is proved by the neutral verdict of the public to-day. To preserve order and keep the machine of parliament moving smoothly, without making himself conspicuous, seems to have been his aim from the first. There were times when, to foreign observers, his methods appeared to lack firmness and dignity. Once, in the face of distinctly contumelious behaviour on the part of a member, who persisted in refusing to abide by the ruling of the chair as to the interpretation of a vote just recorded, the President ordered the offender to be removed. But while the order was actually in course of execution, the President hesitated, took the sense of the House as to the interpretation of the vote. and finding the majority against him, suffered the offending member to resume his seat. Now although the member was right in theory, he certainly erred in practice, and it was felt that the dignity of the chair suffered by the incident. On an other occasion, when the House had to consider the question of instructing the Disciplinary Committee to inquire into certain alleged irregularities of attendance on the part of the President's brother-in-law, a charge of favouritism was preferred against the President by a prominent member, but although an excited scene followed, the incident passed without further notice. Speaking cursorily, such affairs indicate a want of due firmness. The key to the situation is to be found, however, in a speech delivered from the chair early in the session, when the House seemed in danger of breaking away altogether from presidential control. In a few direct, well chosen words, delivered with perfect repose of manner, Mr. NAKAJIMA reminded the House that he was not there to rule with a rod of iron, but rather to work out, in conjunction with and by the intelligent aid of the members, the details of a procedure equally novel to all, and requiring, for its proper elaboration, the mutual forbearance and cōoperation of both sides. In short, he took the simple and straightforward view that the members and he were circumstanced alike in respect of the novelty of the situation and of the criteria available for guidance, and that their function was to evolve a system capable of general endorsement rather than to attempt to pose as finished performers. He was able to keep this fact before the House throughout, and it is impossible not to acknowledge his tact and judgment when we observe that under his manipulation the procedure of the House quietly and unobtrusively took definite and acceptable shape, and that he merged himself so completely in his office as to leave the public uncertain whether he shaped events or took direction from them. One thing is beyond doubt, that he gave no shadow of warrant for a suspicion of partisanship. His impartiality remained absolutely unimpeachable throughout, and it is certainly not the least remarkable feature of the first Japanese Parliament, that this praise must be equally accorded to the Vice-President, Mr. TSUDA, and to the Chairman of Committee of the Whole, Mr. SHIMADA SABURO. The three men, each in his own way, discharged the duties of their posts with complete independence of party ties. Perhaps their attitudes may be best and most briefly described by saying that Mr. NAKAJIMA deliberately divested himself of all subjective qualities in order to work out an ideal of neutrality; that Mr. TSUDA was so entirely absorbed by his office as to forget his party, and that Mr. SHIMADA gave a successful demonstration of what, as a leader of the Progressionists, he considered a President ought to be. But it is evident that until parliamentary practice in Japan shall have crystallized into a distinct and recognised form no President can undertake to rule the House confidently and firmly.

IV.

A GREAT part of the business of the House is discharged by Committees. There are three Standing Committees, namely, the Budget Committee, consisting of 63 members; the Disciplinary Committee, of 27,

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and the Petitions Committee, of 36. The members of these Committees are elected originally by unwritten ballots in the Sections, vacancies which subsequently occur being filled by election in the Section concerned. The work of the Disciplinary Committee is entirely casual: it has no function to perform unless the President instructs it to inquire into the conduct of an offending number. The Committee on Petitions receives petitions, examines them, and presents every week to the House a list, noting their essential points. It is not yet quite clear how far the House will occupy itself with petitions. The law does not require it to debate them, unless the Committee, or thirty members at least of the House, desire that course; but it must vote whether to entertain them for transmission to the Government, or to reject them, and in the former case it must accompany the petition with a memorial. The tendency of the first Diet was to regard itself as a medium for transmitting petitions rather than as a judge of their merits, but this disposition may have been prompted by lack of time to adopt a more thorough procedure. A three months' session, the daily hours being only from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., cannot leave much leisure for considering petitions that pour in by hundreds, and it is not improbable that, in the great majority of cases, the House will be guided entirely in this matter by the recommendations of its Committee. The Budget Committee has a function of great importance to perform. It receives the Budget immediately on the latter's being presented to the House, and examines it minutely, delegates from the various Departments of State attending throughout the Committee's session in order to furnish all required information. A period of fifteen days is allowed for this work. It proved insufficient in the case of the first Budget, for although the 63 members of Committee were divided into sections, each taking a separate Department of the Administration in the Estimates, they had much to say on this first occasion of their exercise of financial power, and party politics made themselves felt strongly in their deliberations. It had been anticipated that after the work of this large Committee, the House's attitude towards the Budget would become somewhat perfunctory. The fear was not altogether justified. Long and animated debates marked the progress of the Committee's Report through the House, and it was rejected at the last moment. Still the indications furnished by the first session are that the business of the Budget will gradually be left to the Committee alone, the House playing a secondary part. Whether the same forecast applies to the Committee system generally, as followed in the Japanese Diet, it is difficult to determine at this early stage. All Government Bills must be submitted for examination by a Special Committee before any vote is taken on them. This process may be dispensed with by desire of the Government, but is otherwise invariable. Moreover, it seems likely to be adopted generally with regard to private bills, the obvious result being that the fate of a Bill is more or less removed beyond the influence of discussion by the House itself. Thus the interval separating the Japanese procedure from that of the United States Congress is not very wide. The closure in the former case corresponds with the "previous question" in the latter; the Special Committees of Japan may easily crystallise into the Standing Committees of America, and to complete the resemblance, it would only be necessary to fix a limit of time for members' speeches. The compilers of the Japanese Constitution evidently aimed at striking a *juste milieu* between the effacement of the individual member in the American system and the excessive liberty enjoyed by him under the British. If they have succeeded, their success will mark an epoch in the history of parliamentary institutions.

Government Bills take precedence of all other measures, and it is consequently necessary to obtain the sanction of the Government before changing the Orders of the Day after these have been duly announced and transmitted to the Ministers of State and the Government Delegates. The Government thus retains the power of scotching vexatious or objectionable motions introduced without previous notice, but experience thus far does not indicate any disposition to exercise this power. Through all its stages the progress of a Government Bill is watched by Delegates from the Department under whose charge the measure is placed. These Delegates are entitled to speak at any time during a debate, provided that no member's speech be interrupted for the purpose. They must also answer questions put either by Committees or by the House, and many of them were subjected in the first Diet to an ordeal of cross-examination that showed a very earnest resolve on the part of the House to acquaint itself with the details of administrative work. Three readings are prescribed for each Bill, but one or more may be dispensed with on the demand of the Government, or on a motion by not less than ten members, provided that, in either case, at least two-thirds of the members present in the House agree. A private Bill cannot be introduced, nor can an amendment to a Bill already introduced become the subject of debate, without the support of at least twenty members. Printed copies of the Bill are, in the first place, distributed among all the members, and after a minimum interval of two days, the first reading may be opened. At this reading explanations are given and questions answered by the Ministers of State or Government Delegates in the case of a Government Bill, and by the introducer (*hatsugi-sha*) in the case of a private Bill, but no discussion takes place. Government Bills are then submitted to a Special Committee elected for the purpose, and consisting of nine members—one from each Section—or some multiple of nine. A period is allotted for the Committee's examination, and by the appointed time it submits its Report in writing—or verbally if the House sanctions that course. The Report is considered unanimous, unless at least one-third of the Committee dissent, when a Minority Report may be presented, and debated by the House. On receipt of the Report, the House discusses the general character and merits of the Bill, and votes for or against a second reading. In the case of a private Bill, the debate may be opened without preliminary examination by a Special Committee, but if the Bill be handed to a Special Committee —and the tendency is all in that direction —its subsequent treatment differs in no respect from that of a Government Bill. The second reading having been voted, an interval of at least two days must elapse before it is opened; but the House may decide to shorten this interval, or even to dispense with it altogether. The same rule applies to the third reading. At the second reading the Bill is discussed clause by clause. Amendments having the prescribed number of supporters, are either placed in the President's hands before the sitting, or introduced during the sitting. An amendment of the Committee's Report, however, requires only one supporter to become a subject of debate. The President possesses important powers in respect of the Bill at this stage. He may change the order of the clauses, group them, or re-divide them, but if a member objects, the decision of the House must be taken without debate. At the third reading, the general merits alone of the Bill are finally discussed. No amendment is permitted, unless a contradiction of terms or a conflict with the provisions of an existing law is discovered.

These comments apply only to projects of law (*horitsu-an*). The House, having no power to deal directly with matters falling within the scope of the Imperial Prerogatives, cannot embody such matters in Bills. It can, however, make its voice heard in respect of them by means of Addresses to the Throne (*joso-an*), or Representations to the Government (*kengi-an*). We have seen that a project of law in the form of a Bill, or an amendment to a Bill, requires a minimum of twenty supporters to become a subject of debate. The rule is even stricter in the case of Addresses to the Throne and Representations to the Government. These must be endorsed by at least thirty members in order to come before the House. During its first session the Diet did not avail itself of its right to address the Throne, except in reply to the Imperial

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Message at the opening ceremony; but several Representations were debated and voted, on such subjects as Treaty Revision, the postponement of the operation of the new Commercial Code, and so forth.

The privilege of questioning the Government is also surrounded by safeguards effectually precluding vexatious or frivolous action. A member desiring to put a question is required to obtain the support of at least thirty of his colleagues. He must then embody the question in a concise memorandum, which, having received the signatures of himself and his supporters, is handed to the President for transmission to the Government. A Minister of State answers the question, either immediately or at a fixed future date. An answer is not compulsory, of course; but if not given, the reasons for withholding it must be stated.

All other motions, urgency or ordinary —except a motion to amend the Budget, which requires thirty supporters—become subjects of debate if the proposer obtains one seconder. For the rest, the procedure of the House calls for no special notice. It will be seen that the Cabinet occupies a peculiar position towards the Diet, being nominally independent of its votes and having no recognised supporters among the members. The Ministers of State and Government Delegates, having the right to sit in the House and speak at any time, though not to vote, constitute the link between the Administration and the Legislature.

V.

THE Lower House consists of 300 representatives, elected by districts, the number of which varies in each prefecture according to the population. Speaking approximately, an electoral district is supposed to contain 120,000 inhabitants, but the urban districts are treated more favourably than the rural, Tokyo, with its million of citizens, returning 12 members, and Osaka, with six hundred thousand, returning 10. Within the limits of the franchise, which is very high, the composition of the Lower House consequently depends entirely on the will of the people. The Upper House, on the other hand, contains not only members of the Imperial Family and Peers, but also Imperial Nominees (*Chokuninginin*) and representatives of the highest tax-payers (*Takaku-nozei-giin*). Princes of the Blood and members of the first two orders of nobility, namely, Princes and Marquises, sit by hereditary right. The total number in this category is 41; namely, 10 Princes of the Blood, 10 Princes, and 21 Marquises. Each of the three remaining orders of Nobility elects its own representatives, subject to the condition that their number must not exceed one-fifth of the entire number of the Order. The result is 15 Counts, 70 Viscounts, and 20 Barons, all of whom, as elected Peers, sit only during a session, namely, 7 years. The nobility is thus represented by 146 members, of whom 41 sit by hereditary right and 105 by election. The Imperial nominees, who sit for life, are men selected by the EMPEROR for meritorious services to the State or for erudition. The limit of their number is fixed by a rule that, together with the representatives of the highest tax-payers, they must not exceed the total of the Peers. In each city and prefecture the fifteen male inhabitants, of and above 30 years of age, paying the highest amount of direct national taxes, elect from among themselves one representative, who, on being nominated by the EMPEROR, becomes a member of the Upper House for a session. There being 42 prefectures and 3 cities in the Empire, and the total number of Peers in the House being 146, it follows that the EMPEROR has power to nominate 101 members, independently, and that the maximum number of members in the House is 292, according to the present establishment of the Nobility. The Sovereign has not yet exercised his full power of nomination, having appointed only 74 members out of a possible 101. HIS MAJESTY'S choice has been as follows:—

Representatives of the Army (including two Army Surgeons)	11
Representatives of the Navy	1
Representatives of Learning	9
Representatives of the Law	7
Representatives of Commerce	4
Representatives of Officialdom (including former Senators)	42

Thus the composition of the House is as shown in the following list:—

Princes of the Blood	10
Princes	10
Marquises	21
Counts	15
Viscounts	70
Barons	20
Representatives of Highest Tax Payers	45
Imperial Nominees	74

It will be seen that Religion is not represented at all in this list. Japan, indeed, has no State Religion, in the strict acceptation of the term, for though a small sum is yearly appropriated by the Treasury for the maintenance of Shinto Shrines, this aid is too insignificant to establish any tangible relation such as that existing between Church and State elsewhere. There have been two or three fitful efforts by Buddhist priests to obtain representation for their order in the Lower House, but the Government has adhered firmly to the principle that a section of the population which contributes nothing to the national defence, cannot establish any valid title to the franchise. Further, the Japanese House of Peers exercises no judicial functions. It does not constitute a court of final appeal, like its British prototype, but is purely a legislative body, and its peculiar composition, consisting in equal parts of Peers and Commoners, distinguishes it radically from the Upper Chamber of the English Legislature. It is impossible to predict what form the relations between the two Houses will ultimately assume, or what degree of independence the Peers may aspire to. In theory the framers of the Japanese Constitution have evidently sought to create a body representing all those elements of the nation which, though undoubtedly worthy to take part in affairs of State, are by their nature unlikely to seek or obtain popular election. The power of the Crown to alter the composition of the House is limited. It would not be possible, for example, under the present Constitution, that the EMPEROR, on some special occasion, should appoint a number of life Peers with seats in the House, seeing that there is a fixed maximum of Imperial Nominees. Some prominent men among the Nominees showed themselves not at all friendly to the Government in the first session, evidently appreciating their independence, and being determined to exercise it.

Unlike the Lower House, the Peers have no voice in the election of their President and Vice-President, the EMPEROR choosing and nominating both of these officials. The first President of the House was Count ITO, the father of the Constitution, and one of the most distinguished among Japanese statesmen. His manner of discharging the duties of President added to his reputation. At the same time, it must be remarked that the control of the Upper Chamber proved a comparatively easy task, contrary to the expectation of many persons who predicted that as the Peers, unlike the members of the Lower House, had not received preliminary training in Local Assemblies, they would be totally at sea in the Diet. Dignified self-restraint and sobriety of language marked the debates of the House. Eloquence was not conspicuously present. A simple, straightforward, and highly courteous style seems to have been generally affected, and on no occasion did the discussions rise to any notable height of fervour or oratory.

In respect of procedure there is little difference between the two Houses. The Peers, like the Commons, are divided by lot into Sections, and each Section elects its own representative on the standing Committees. These Committees are smaller in the Upper than in the Lower House, the Budget Committee consisting of 45 members (against 63), the Disciplinary Committee of 9 (against 27), and the Petitions Committee of 27 (against 36). There is also a fourth standing Committee in the Peers, namely, the Qualifications Committee, consisting of 9 members, and having entrusted to it the function of examining into all questions relating to the qualifications of members. A curious point came up for consideration by this Committee during the first session. It had to decide whether a man qualified both to elect and to be elected, is entitled to vote for himself. The question occurred in connection with the election of a member to represent the highest tax-payers for a certain prefecture.

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According to the law, the fifteen highest tax-payers in each City and Prefecture elect a candidate from among themselves, and it happened in one instance that a candidate obtained a majority of one, through balloting for himself. He would have been elected even without this peculiar proceeding, because, where the polling is equal, the elder of the two candidates receives the preference. But his opponent appealed, and the Qualifications Committee, influenced by the consideration that unless the candidates vote for themselves or for one another the balloting is carried on, not by 15 tax-payers as prescribed by law, but by 15 *minus* the number of candidates, reported in favour of the legality of the vote. The House, however, refused to endorse this report.

The Peers are invested with precisely the same legislative functions as the Representatives. They may initiate projects of law, present Addresses, make Representations, and ask Questions. Moreover, with the exception of the Budget, Government Bills may be submitted to either House first, according to administrative convenience, and the consent of both Houses is necessary before a Bill can be approved by the Throne. A special arrangement exists for bringing the Houses into agreement in respect of a Bill. In case of complete rejection, there is no resource; but in case of amendments made by one House in a Bill reaching it from the other, if the latter does not approve of the amendments, a conference of "Managers," ten from each House, takes place. By them the Bill is adjusted, after which it re-passes through the two Houses in the original order, no longer subject to amendments but only to acceptance or rejection *en bloc*. No opportunity of testing this machinery occurred during the first session, the Bills sent from one House to the other being endorsed by the latter in their entirety. During the second session, however, it is probable that the mutual functions of the two Houses will be brought into clearer operation, especially with regard to the Budget. In Japan, as in England, Parliament is precluded from making any grants of money without the previous recommendation of the Crown through its responsible servants, though grants may be suggested by means of Addresses or Representations. All expenditures are presented in the form of a Budget, which, according to law, must be submitted to the Lower House first. A large class of appropriations in the annual Budget, namely, those required for the exercise of the Imperial Prerogatives, cannot be reduced or rejected without the Government's consent. Before finally voting such reductions or rejections, the House must seek the Government's concurrence. Thus, when the Budget reaches the Peers, they may find that it contains amendments which have already obtained the endorsement of the Government, and in respect of these items their function will probably prove more or less nominal. But for the rest the Upper House does not appear at all disposed to efface itself in financial matters. It has compiled and adopted a series of elaborate rules of procedure for dealing with the Budget, and though the operation of these was not fairly tested in the first session owing to special reasons, they indicate that the independent control usually exercised by the people's representatives in affairs of supply, will be challenged by the Peers in Japan. This tendency excites no surprise in view of the peculiar composition of the Upper House, but its consequences in practice will be very interesting.

It will be observed that in no part of her Constitution has Japan so closely adopted a foreign model as in the composition of the House of Peers. The "Herrenhaus" of the Prussian Landtag is, in several leading features, very similar to the *Kizoku-in* of Japan.

In the former, as modified by the Royal Decree of Oct. 12th, 1854, sit the Princes of the Blood, who are of age; the sixteen chiefs of the mediatised princely houses; the heads of the territorial nobility (numbering about 50); a number of life peers chosen by the KING from among rich landowners, great manufacturers, and national celebrities; eight titled noblemen elected in the eight provinces by the resident landowners; representatives of the Universities, heads of "chapters," and burgomasters of towns with above fifty thousand inhabitants, and an unlimited number of members nominated by the KING for life, or for a more or less restricted period. Here we probably have the germ of the Japanese House of Peers, though several important points of difference are at once discerned. The Japanese Princes of the Blood, Princes, and Marquises, correspond with the first two elements of the Prussian Chamber, and like them sit in their own right. But the three junior orders of the old territorial nobility of Japan send to the House only one-fifth of their number, elected by themselves; the forty-five reprentatives of the highest tax-payers take the place of the other various independent members of the Prussian Assembly, and in Japan the power of the SOVEREIGN to nominate life peers is strictly limited, whereas in Prussia no bounds are fixed. The Japanese system is at once simpler and less autocratic than the Prussian. Scarcely anything has been borrowed without modification. Thus, while the Prussian rule that Ministers of the Crown as well as state officers representing them may at any time attend and speak in the Diet, evidently suggested the Japanese arrangement as to Ministers of State and Delegates of the Government, the compilers of the Japanese Constitution withheld from the Diet the right possessed by the Prussian Landtag of demanding the presence of a Minister. Again, while the Prussian Chambers select their own Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Secretaries, we have seen that in Japan the President and Vice-President of the Lower House, though elected by the House, are finally appointed by the EMPEROR; while the same officials in the Upper House are purely Imperial nominees, and the Secretaries of both Houses are government officials. Another important difference is that, whereas in Prussia Bills, both financial and otherwise, must be first submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, in Japan this rule applies to the Budget only. These points are worth noting, because, when the Japanese Constitution was in process of compilation, an idea obtained credence that its provisions would be merely a slavish copy of German models, and many people seem to labour under that impression to the present day. The claim advanced on behalf of the Prussian "Herrenhaus" would hold with greater accuracy in respect of the Spanish Senate, the composition of which presents a strikingly close resemblance to that of the Japanese "Kizoku-in."

From the facts set down here, it will be seen that the framers of the Japanese Constitution and Parliamentary procedure borrowed from the three representative systems of the West, and adapted the results with judgment and intelligence to the conditions of their own country. They took their sectional divisions of the Chambers from Continental Europe, but at the same time greatly reduced the duties devolving on the sections. They had recourse to the United States for so much of the Committee system as is calculated to facilitate the discharge of business, but were careful to eliminate the elements that practically paralyse the debating functions of Congress. They went to England to obtain the spirit of liberty which presides—though to a diminished and diminishing extent—at the discussions in Westminster, but they endeavoured to introduce checks and safeguards capable of preventing the growth of abuses that threaten to bring ridicule on Parliamentary institutions even in the country of their birth. Thus, independently of the great interest attaching to the working of the Japanese Constitution as a test of the capacity and character of the nation, its electic nature gives it a strong title to the attention of students of representative government throughout the civilized world.

VI.

HAVING framed the Constitution and drawn up rules of procedure, Japanese statesmen had to consider a point of great importance and no small difficulty, the question of stenographic reports. In this as in other parliamentary matters Japan was exceptionally circumstanced. Herself devoid of practical familiarity with constitutional government, she nevertheless had the ripe experience of other countries to guide her. Looking abroad, she saw

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that in the great majority of cases, countries enjoying the blessing of a parliament took official care that its proceedings should be fully and accurately recorded. Great Britain, indeed, offered a singular exception. It is natural that wherever institutions spring from seed sown by the gradually developing instincts and inclinations of the people, their equipment, even in the last stages of their growth, should remain more or less beyond the pale of official regulation and control. In England, up to the year 1855, parliamentary debates were recorded entirely at private expense. The work was left to the enterprise of newspapers and the liberality of private subscribers. Then the Treasury, strongly urged by eminent statesmen, agreed to purchase five guineas' worth of copies of "Hansard" per session! Not until the great lengthening of debates that followed the re-constitution of the House after the passing of the Reform Act, when the newspaper reports proved quite insufficient, did the Government make a grant in aid to the Hansard Publishing Union, the amount varying from £3,000 to £6,000 annually, according to the number of volumes produced. This continued up to the close of the 1888 session, when the contract for the debates was put up to public tender and secured by the Hansard Union, who undertook the work without subsidy. The conditions of the contract gave discretion as to the fullness of the Reports, within the limit that no speech should be abbreviated by more than one-third. Under this agreement the debates are now recorded, practically verbatim reports being given of the leading speeches in the Lower House and of all the speeches in the Upper, and two-third reports of the minor speeches. On the third day after each debate proofs are sent to the various speakers, and two clear days are allowed for revision, the reports being finally published on the seventh day with asterisks attached to the speeches that have been revised. This is accomplished by means of six shorthand reporters in the Commons and one in the Lords, with provision for additional aid on special occasions. It will be observed that this arrangement is lacking in several respects. First, all the speeches are not reported verbatim, and, secondly, they do not find their way into the hands of the members until seven days after their delivery. An ideal system would be one which, combining accuracy with celerity, enabled every member to have a verbatim report of each day's proceedings in his hand the following morning. To the advantages of such a system British statesmen are not indifferent, but the opinions expressed by select Parliamentary Committees appointed, from time to time, to consider the question, show that doubts have been entertained as to whether the labour and expense involved would be compensated by results sufficiently superior to those obtained by the present plan. This view has, however, lost much of its force. Since obstruction began to play such a fatally discrediting rôle in parliamentary debates, the amplitude of journalistic reports has steadily diminished, and among metropolitan journals to-day *The Times* alone publishes something like a full record. It has been pointed out that whereas an almost verbatim report of Lord BEACONSFIELD'S maiden speech, on December 7th, 1837, appeared in almost all the morning papers of the time, the same speech, if delivered to-day, would be recorded in a few lines at best. Thus, though the actual practice of England, the mother of parliaments, did not encourage the Japanese to inaugurate a system of official reporting, her tendency obviously pointed in that direction, and the example of other countries was almost unanimous. It is very plain that an official report must be verbatim, because neither the discretion of a reporter nor the impartiality of a bureau could properly be trusted to condense; and that it must be uncorrected, except as to grammar, because all changes would prejudice its credit and interest. The question to be considered then was whether the stenographic resources of Japan sufficed for carrying out such a work.

A dozen years ago stenography may be said to have been born in this country. The Japanese had an immense difficulty to contend with. In the West they found systems of shorthand admirably adapted to the purely phonetic tongues of Europe and America, but how could any of these systems be adjusted to an ideographic language abounding in homonyms, and supposed to be incapable of intelligible record by a purely syllabic or alphabetic script? The question suggested so many difficulties to foreigners that they dismissed the shorthand project as incapable of realization. Not so the Japanese, however. There lived in Tokyo a certain MINAMOTO KOKI, a man of gentle birth but limited means, who conceived the ambition of supplying this particular deficiency in his nation's literary equipment. How long he worked in silence we cannot tell, but about the year 1879 the public began to hear of an institution called the *Sokki Koshu-jo* (place for practising stenography), where it was understood that certain youths were accustomed to meet for the purpose of studying and elaborating a stenographic system which MINAMOTO had devised. The enterprise did not attract much attention. Occasions to utilise stenographic skill profitably were few. Vernacular journals had not risen to the level of furnishing verbatim reports of any kind. Proceedings of Local Assemblies, cases in law courts, political speeches, and scientific lectures did not receive any lengthy notice. The outlook for students of shorthand was, in fact, most gloomy. None the less MINAMOTO and his fellow-labourers persevered, until, though no actual proofs of their skill were publicly furnished, it came to be understood that an efficient system of Japanese stenography existed and could be utilized at any moment. Probably if we could learn the details of what these stenographic pioneers had to endure before any tangible reward came within their reach, another page would be added to the interesting records of courageous perseverance so often shown by the Japanese in their struggle to atone for their country's isolation of centuries. MINAMOTO'S slender means exhausted in a long fight against the difficulties of his undertaking and the absence of recompense; the straitened and discouraging circumstances under which he received his band of co-workers at his poor dwelling in Bancho; their slow and laborious acquisition of ability, and then the ill-rewarded search for opportunities to exercise it—all these things, incidental to many a story of noble effort, deserve to be well remembered by every student of Japan's parliamentary history.

We have said that the Japanese Government resolved to organise an official system of shorthand reporting, but it should be noted that this decision was not arrived at until the return from Europe, last summer, of Mr. KANEKO KENTARO, formerly Chief Secretary of the Cabinet and now Chief Secretary of the House of Peers. This gentleman, after a most intelligent and exhaustive study of parliamentary procedure in the West, came home from England fully persuaded of the necessity of an official stenographic record, and supported by written recommendations in the same sense from eminent Englishmen. Inquiry showed that many of MINAMOTO'S fellow-students were scattered throughout the provinces earning pittances of from five to ten *yen* monthly, but that about a dozen practised their art, under scarcely more favourable conditions, in the capital. These twelve assembled, one evening last September, in a house in Hiyoshi-cho, Tokyo, by invitation of Mr. KANEKO, and there, under the leadership of their best experts, Messrs. WAKABAYASHI and HAYASHI, proceeded to record a lecture given by Mr. KANEKO on the experiences of his Western tour. Two days of this work produced most satisfactory results, finally dispelling all doubts as to the thoroughness and competence of MINAMOTO'S system. But it remained to be seen whether a sufficient number of experts could be procured. The experiment showed that to translate ten minutes' shorthand writing into longhand, fifty-five minutes were required. A basis of calculation was thus furnished at once. Six stenographers would be the minimum needed for reporting a debate, and seven would be the number dictated by prudence. Further, in view of the peculiar difficulties of phonetically recording an ideographic language, and also of the fact that immediate publication was desired, Mr. KANEKO

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concluded that two reporters should be constantly present in order to check each other's work. Thus fourteen stenographers were needed for each House, together with a reserve to provide against casualties or undertake extra work in Committee, the total for the Diet being put at thirty-six. Advertisements offering salaries of from two *yen* to three and a half *yen* daily—rewards hitherto beyond the highest hopes of Japanese stenographers—speedily brought a large company to the capital, and during the course of a month's steady practical testing, every condition being as closely as possible assimilated to the actual circumstances of the future Diet—the required number were selected, and the Authorities obtained satisfactory assurance that the contemplated undertaking would be a success. The system elaborated was very thorough. Five sections compose the whole staff of reporters for one House; namely, the Stenographic Writers (*Sokki Kiso-gakari*), 14 in number; the Stenographic Revisers (*Sokki Kosei-gakari*), three in number; the Orthographic Revisers (*Monji Kosei-gakari*), consisting of the Secretaries of the House and the Chief of the Stenographic Bureau; the Fair Copyists (*Seisha-gakari*), eight in number; and the General Officials (*Zatsumu-gakari*), six in number. Each pair of stenographic writers sits for 15 minutes in the House, and has an interval of 75 minutes to translate the result into long-hand. (For greater expedition the latter task was from the first supposed to be divided between the two experts, but they ultimately came to divide the former also.) The long-hand report, immediately on completion, is passed to the Stenographic Reviser, who is allowed an hour and a half to examine it, after which, having appended his stamp, he hands it to the Orthographic Revisers. These in turn transfer it to the Fair Copyists, from whom they again receive it, subject it to another examination, stamp it, and finally give it to the General Officials, whose business is to forward it, with proper instructions, to the printers, and to keep a record of the whole transaction. This organization worked excellently. Verbatim reports of the proceedings in each House appeared the next morning at six o'clock in the *Official Gazette*, even the very provincialisms of the speakers being accurately reproduced, to their no small dismay. It is said, indeed, that some of the members set themselves at once to study terse and polished phraseology when they saw that the stenographers were capable of transmitting exact likenesses of their oratory to posterity.

The system was maintained throughout the session without a hitch, and, on the prorogation of the Diet, it was determined to give permanent posts as chief stenographers to Messrs. WAKABAYASHI and HAYASHI, the remainder of the staff being allowed to disperse, under promise of re-assembling when the Diet meets again. The Government would fain have engaged Mr. MINAMOTO, to whose initiative, ability, and patience stenography in Japan owes its existence. But like a genuine Japanese of the old School, MINAMOTO declined to accept any office or reward. He had worked for a cause not for himself, and he preferred to keep his achievement free from every taint of selfishness.

Without the success of this stenographic effort Japan's first Diet would have left much to be desired. The historian has no keener subject of regret in the case of countries like England and America than the fact that the records of their earliest parliamentary proceedings have been preserved only in a very abbreviated and imperfect form. It has been well said that the story of a parliamentary debate resembles that of a newspaper: read eagerly the first day, it is thrown away the next, to become, after the lapse of years, worth its weight in gold. Where better than in verbatim reports of parliamentary proceedings can the annalist obtain information as to the character and career of buried statesmen, the former conditions of society, the spirit and growth of legislation, and the phases and motives of epoch-making controversies? Above all are these considerations important in Japan's case. The civilized world watches with sympathising curiosity her great experiment of constitutional government, and expects that no lacuna shall be left in the remarkable chapter which she is adding to the history of civilization. Future generations of her own people will be able to trace, behind these verbatim reports, the personalities of her first parliamentary legislators; will know the thoughts that moved the nation in this remarkable era, the temperaments on which they acted, and the diction in which they were expressed. The life of the day, with all its reality, its colour, and its variety will be stereotyped in perpetuity. Assuredly this is matter for sincere congratulation, and Mr. KANEKO had full justification for the enthusiastic terms in which he conveyed the gratitude of the country to her pioneer stenographers at the close of the Diet's session. He dwelt also upon another point of greatest interest and importance. The "Genji Monogatari" of MURASAKI SHIKIBU won the nation's allegiance to pure Japanese. The "Gaishi" of RAI SANYO led educated men to the mine of Chinese riches. The stenographic records of the Diet will, in all probability, bridge over the gulf that separates the written from the spoken language, thus conferring on literary Japan the immense boon of being able to record its thoughts in the phraseology of their conception.

OUT-DOOR GAMES FROM THE WEST.

OF the many Western games which one after another have been introduced into Japan, some are likely to remain in vogue, while others will probably in time disappear. It is astonishing what roughness is often displayed when foreign games are played in this country. It might be thought that the mild-tempered and less muscular Japanese youth would play at football and baseball in perhaps a listless and effeminate fashion. But such is by no means the case, these rough games being apt to develop a peculiar ferocity on a Japanese college campus. Perhaps the reason is to be found in the well-known dictum that the absence of reserve force and power manifests itself in a feverish display of spasmodic energy. The fiercer the ebullition, the weaker the actual force at bottom. It is not the horse which prances and caracoles most at the outset that will carry its master farthest over country. The diet and sedentary habits of Japanese students are such that it is impossible for them to be of powerful physique.

Many of our games have radical objections to their enduring popularity. Baseball and football are too violent for persons of sedentary habits, and may do far more harm than good if engaged in incautiously; but both have the merit of cheapness. Both, however, have the demerit of ceasing to be congenial at an early stage in life. Cricket, which might prove an admirable discipline in many ways, never seems to have taken root. The ancient and royal game of golf is an institution, and requires peculiar conditions for its successful cultivation; to treat of it adequately, a separate article would be required. Tennis, if played in good form, is a somewhat expensive game, and is far too heating unless due precautions in the way of change of raiment be taken. Is there any other game which possesses the merits of any of the above, without the accompanying defects?—a game that is inexpensive like baseball, good for middle age as well as for youth, like cricket and golf, and requiring but a limited area for its enjoyment, like tennis?

Archery is an ancient Japanese recreation, and has of late years been practised with considerable energy in the capital and elsewhere. A range is easily constructed in the corner of a moderate-sized garden, and there is very little waste of material as in tennis and golf. But it is so purely a question of individual skill, with little of the element of luck in struggling competition, as to provide less amusement than a real game. When one's adversary at archery makes a bull's eye, nothing one can do will oust him. The only plan is to show oneself equally skilful. At golf we may drive beyond our opponent, at cricket we may catch him out, and the glow of triumph in so doing is an exhilarating sensation not to be gained

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in any other way; triumph for one's own side superadded to satisfaction in the discomfiture of an opponent.

There is one western game which possesses particular advantages in a climate like Japan, where physical life, especially among the upper classes, has no great measure of robustness. The ancient game of open-air bowls, dating at least as far back as the fourteenth century, is not to be confounded with the alley game, in which upright pins are used. It is a sport which requires a smooth piece of lawn, about seventy feet in length, by ten in breadth, and a number of balls of the hardest wood, about six inches in diameter. The object played at is a smaller ball, known as the jack, which is movable. The players vary in number from one to four on a side, each player being provided with two or four bowls. It is the object of players to lie as near the jack as possible, and the bowls which, at the conclusion of the whole throw, lie closest, count to the side which has thrown them. Should one of the bowls strike the jack and displace it, its new position is not disturbed. One peculiarity of the game is specially to be noted. The bowls are perfectly circular only in one plane. Of the two hemispheres right and left of this plane, one is slightly flat while the other is bulged. The consequence is that the bowl, as it slows down in approaching the jack, develops more and more of a curve in its course. The peculiarity is referred to by SHAKESPEARE in "Hamlet":—

> With windlasses and with assays of bias,
> By indirections find directions out.

The jack, known as the "mistress" in the dramatist's time, is not aimed at directly. The play accordingly admits of innumerable "fine points," in the way of elaborate curves by which the jack can be reached even when invisible to the player. An obstruction causing the bowl to deflect is called a "rub," referred to in the same drama when *Hamlet* in his wonderful soliloquy exclaims: "Ay, there's the rub!"—that's the obstruction which spoils the shot!

There is no more delightful open air recreation than bowling as now played. In the north of England and in Scotland every town has its district bowling-greens, and almost every village its club. Once laid out, the green is kept up at comparatively small expense. Many town corporations have set their mark of approval on the game by the establishment of public greens. In this mild climate where, during several hours of the day even in midwinter, open-air recreation of a mild kind is pleasurable, especially if the spot be sheltered, the game might be played with advantage all the year round. The lawn could find a suitable place in some sheltered nook of a Japanese garden. A set of bowls, easily made by any carpenter, will last for a lifetime. Readers of KINGSLEY'S "Westward Ho!" will remember how, when the news reached Plymouth that the Armada was sailing up the channel, DRAKE was engaged in playing at bowls on the Hoe. He chose to finish the game leisurely, and then got on board his vessel as coolly as if nothing special was about to happen. It is only, however, within the past century and a half, since the reign of GEORGE II., that the game has come to attain widespread popularity. During the past winter probably the first set of bowls made in Japan were turned by a carpenter in Ginza. There is no reason why the game should not have a considerable vogue here.

J. M. D.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

The following Bill passed the Upper House last session, but failed to receive the consent of the Lower owing to want of time:—

January 19th, 1891.

We hereby report the amendments made upon the Registration Bill by the Special Committee.

HACHISUKA MOSHO, Marquis,
President of the Committee on the Registration Bill.

To Count ITO HIROBUMI,
President of the House of Peers.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

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[Passages enclosed in brackets [ ] are portions of the original bill struck out, and passages in *italics*, but not enclosed in parentheses, are parts inserted, by the Special Committee.]

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL RULES.

[ART. 1.—Registration means the obtaining of a document and its entry in a book under the control of a registrar (*mibun toriatsukai-ri*) in accordance with Art. 289, relating to Persons (*jinji hen*), of the Civil Code.]

ART. [2] 1.—Registration shall *be under the control of a registrar*. An original and a copy of the document of registration, in which every member of each family is mentioned, shall be prepared in accordance with the form given in the appendix.

Registrars shall compile the registration list for each municipality, town, and village, and prepare a record of the same.

ART. [3] 2.—The original registration documents shall be placed in each Registry office, and the copies deposited in rural district or island offices, in the case of towns and villages, or in city or prefectural offices in the case of municipalities.

ART. [4] 3.—Registrars shall prepare [originals and copies of] lists showing persons of permanent registration (*hon-seki nin*) and those of non-permanent registration (*hi hon-seki-nin*) in the beginning of each year, file them into books, and note in them matters essential to registration.

ART. [5] 4.—Registrars shall, on the back of the cover of each registration book, state the number of sheets contained in said book; sign their name and mention their office; append their official seal, and also stamp their official seal on each sheet.

Registrars must not register the details of registration until the foregoing conditions are complied with.

ART. [6] 5.—Registrars shall, after the last entry in the list on December 31st in each year, append a statement showing that such entry is the concluding one, and affix thereto their official seal with their name and office; shall [retain the original in their office and] deposit [the copy] *it* in the respective rural district or island office, in the case of towns and villages, or in the city or prefectural office in the case of municipalities before January [15th] *31st* of the following year.

Should the book be filled up before the date mentioned in the last paragraph, such book shall be closed in accordance with the process mentioned in the foregoing clause and a new book opened in accordance with Arts. [4] 3 and [5] 4.

ART. [7] 6.—No matters shall be entered in the registration document or in the book, except those provided for in this law.

ART. [8] 7.—The entries in the registration document and in the book must be clear and legible, and must contain no abbreviated words or arbitrary signs. With regard to numerals relating to year, month, day, time, or age the characters 壹, 貳, 參, 拾 must be used instead of 一, 二, 三, 十.

ART. [9] 8.—Each item of entry in the book must be numbered, and no blank space should be allowed to remain between such items.

ART. [10] 9.—Should any omission or mistake occur while an entry is being made in the registration document or the book, the registrar shall amend or alter the same by the side of each line, and mention at the top of the paper the number of characters so altered or added, affixing to the same his seal. Characters to be erased must only have a line drawn through them, so that after erasure they may still be legible.

ART. [11] 10.—Any one may, on payment of a fee at the Registry Office, examine the registration document or request a copy of the same. Such fee shall form a part of the revenue of the respective municipality, town or village, and the amount of such fee shall be fixed by Imperial Ordinance.

When a registrar makes such a copy he shall certify that it is a true copy, append his name and office, and affix his official seal.

ART. [12] 11.—The jurisdiction of registrars shall be similar, in respect of boundaries, to municipal, town, or village jurisdiction.

A registrar may not transact official business at any place out of [his jurisdiction] *his office*.

ART. [13] 12.—The office of registrar shall be filled by the head of the respective municipality, town or village.

With regard to matters relating to the registration of the head of a municipality, town, or village, his assistant shall discharge the office of registrar. With regard to matters relating to the registration of both the head of a municipality, town, or village, and his assistant, the office of registrar shall be filled, in a municipality, by a member of the municipal council, and, in a town or village, by a member of the town or village assembly. The same rule also applies, in the case of the inability of both the head of a municipality, town or village, and his assistant.

ART. [14] 13.—The matters essential to the registration of officers and men in the Army and Navy, who may be engaged on an expedition, shall be decided by [Imperial Ordinance] *special law*.

CHAPTER II.—GENERAL RULES FOR REPORTING TO THE AUTHORITIES.

ART. [15] 14.—Persons who have matters to report (*todoke ide nin*), as provided for in Chapter 3, shall intimate the same to the registrar of their place of permanent registration (*hon-seki chi*); but when such persons reside outside the jurisdiction of such registrar, they may report to the registrar in whose jurisdiction is the place in which they reside.

ART. [16] 15.—By place of permanent registration (*honseki chi*) is meant the place where a person's registration document is kept. In case, however, of addition, exclusion, entrance, and transfer of registration the place to which registration is transferred shall be regarded as the place of registration.

ART. [17] 16.—Matters which are to be entered in the registration document shall be reported in writing, but may if convenient be intimated orally.

ART. [18] 17.—In the case of the statement referred to in the foregoing article being made in writing, the person doing so shall state the essential matters, and the date of intimation in accordance with the provisions contained in Chap. 3; sign his family name and personal name, affix his seal, insert his age, occupation, and place of permanent registration, and shall produce the same to the registrar.

ART. [19] 18.—In the case of the statement referred to in Art. 16 being made orally, the person doing so shall attend before the registrar and state orally the matters to be reported in accordance with the provisions contained in Chap. 3; the registrar shall set down distinctly such oral statement, as well as the date of such statement, and the name, age, occupation, and place of the per-

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manent registration of the person making the same, in a document, shall read the same over to such person and shall cause him to [sign his name or] affix his seal below his name.

Art. [20] 19.—In the case of a person who is a member of a family having to report matters essential to registration, the name and place of permanent registration of, and such person's relationship, to the head of his family (*Koshu*) must be stated.

Art. [21] 20.—When, in reporting matters essential to registration, the presence of a witness is required, such witness, and the person reporting such matters, shall state their names, ages, occupations, and places of permanent registration, sign their names and affix their seals in accordance with the provisions of Arts.]18] 17 and [19] 18.

Art. [22] 21.—Should persons who have to sign their names to an intimation reside outside the jurisdiction of the place of permanent registration, the place of their actual residence must be stated in the said intimation.

Art. [23] 22.—If the places of permanent registration of two families differ, when matters relating to addition, exclusion, entrance or removal of registration of such two families are concerned, or if the place where intimation is made is not the place of permanent registration of either of such families, in addition to the original a copy must be prepared of the document mentioned in Arts. [18] 17 and [19] 18. The same procedure must be observed in the case of intimation of the transfer of the registration of a whole family.

Art. [24] 23.—If a person who has to make intimation be under incapacity, the person who exercises the power of a parent over him or her, or his or her guardian shall make such intimation. Such facts shall, however, be mentioned in the document of intimation.

Art. [25] 24.—When a person who has to make intimation cannot attend personally before the registrar owing to illness, or for some other reason, an agent with limited power (*buri-dairi-nin*) may appear.

Art. [26] 25.—Any witness or agent in relation to matters essential to registration shall be a Japanese subject [of adult age] and need not necessarily be a relative. [A disqualified person may not however, become a witness or agent.] In the case of intimation by a foreigner resident in Japan, a foreigner may act as witness or agent. He must, however, be conversant with the Japanese language.

Art. [27] 26.—In the case of a Japanese obtaining in a foreign country a document relating to his personal registration in accordance with the law of that country, a copy of such document must be produced by him before the Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary or before a Japanese Consul in that country. Should there be no Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary or Consul in such country, such Japanese shall produce a copy of the document described before a registrar within three months of his return home.

Art. [28] 27.—Japanese in a foreign country may report matters essential to registration to the Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary or to a Japanese Consul in such country in accordance with this law.

Art. [29] 28.—Copies of any document or of any letter of intimation received by a Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary or a Japanese Consul under the provisions of the two preceding articles shall be transmitted within three months by such official to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who shall in turn within five days forward the same to the registrar of the place of permanent registration of the Japanese from whom such document or letter of intimation was originally received.

Art. [30] 29.—Any person reporting matters essential to registration may on payment of a fee require a [receipt for the letter of intimation or a] certificate of intimation. Such fee, however, shall, when such [receipt or] certificate is given by a registrar, become part of the revenue of the respective municipality, town, or village; and when given by a Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary or Japanese Consul it shall become part of the revenue of the State. The amount of such fee shall be fixed by Imperial Ordinance.

Chapter III.—Matters to be Reported.

1. Birth.

Art. [31] 30.—When a child is born the fact must be reported within ten days, together with the following particulars:—

(1) The name of the child; whether the child is legitimate (*tekishutsu-shi*), legitimatized (*sho shi*), or illegitimate (*shisei-shi*); and also whether it is male or female.

(2) Year, month, day, and hour, as also place of birth.

(3) Family name and personal name, occupation and place of permanent registration of father and mother.

[Art. 32.—In case of the birth of an illegitimate child (*shisei shi*), intimation cannot be made as to the name of the child's father unless the latter admits the paternity of the child.]

Art. [33] 31.—Intimation of birth must be made by the father of a child. When the father is absent, in the case of a legitimate child, or when the child is an illegitimate one, the mother or a relative living in the same house, or a relative by marriage, or a physician or midwife present at the child's birth, or, failing these, one who has been present and assisted at the birth, shall report the birth to the authorities.

Art. [34] 32.—If the father or mother [fails to] *cannot* intimate any birth that has taken place in a hospital, a prison, or other public institution the president of the hospital, the governor of the prison, or the superintendent of such other public institution shall intimate the birth to the authorities.

Art. [35] 33.—Any person finding a foundling shall [at once deliver the child, its clothing and other property] *within 24 hours intimate the fact* to the registrar [and state the place, year, month, day, and time of finding, with other particulars.] The registrar shall state in a document of examination *the clothing and property of the child, the place, year, month, day, and time of finding and other particulars, together with* the supposed year and month of the child's birth, its sex, the name given to it, the name and locality of the hospital for foundlings where the child is to be sent; or the name, occupation, place of permanent registration or residence of the person who is to take charge of it, and attach the same to the letter of intimation.

When any change takes place in the hospital or in the person taking charge of the child, both the former and the new hospital or person shall [at once] *within 24 hours* intimate the fact.

Art. [36] 34.—Should the judgment of a law court deciding upon the father or mother of a foundling become final and settled, the clerk of such law court shall transmit a copy of such judgment to the registrar of the child's place of permanent registration within five days.

Art. [37] 35.—Should a newly born child or a foundling die before intimation of birth, or finding, has been made, the birth, or finding, and death must be reported with, in the case of a child newly born, the certificate of a physician, or in the case of a foundling the report of the police inquest upon the body.

Art. [38] 36.—Should a child be born during a sea voyage, the purser in the case of a vessel of war or other vessel owned by the Government, or the master in the case of other vessels, shall within 24 hours, before a witness chosen by him from among those on board, state in the log the various matters mentioned in Art. [31] 30, sign his name [or] *and* put his seal thereon, cause the witness to do the same, and state also the age, occupation, and place of permanent registration of such witness.

Should such vessel of war or other vessel arrive in a port of Japan first after the above procedure has been observed, a copy of the entry made as above must within 24 hours be sent to the [registrar of such port] *authorities at such port having jurisdiction over matters occurring at sea.* Such [official] *authorities* shall send such copy within 5 days to the registrar of the place of permanent registration of the parents of the child.

Should such vessel of war or other vessel arrive in a port of a foreign country first, a copy of the entry made as above must be sent at once to the Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary or a Japanese Consul in such country, who shall within 3 months transmit the same to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; and the latter shall in turn, within 5 days, forward the same to the registrar of the place of permanent registration of the parents of the child.

2. Denial of Legitimacy.

Art. [39] 37.—Should the judgment of a law court in an action relating to denial of the legitimacy of a child become final and settled, a copy of such judgment shall within 5 days be sent to the registrar of such child's place of registration.

3. Recognition of Illegitimate Children.

Art. [40] 38.—Where the father recognizes an illegitimate child, he shall intimate the fact together with the following particulars:—

(1) Name and sex of child; year, month, day and hour of birth.

(2) Should the child become a legitimate one (*tekishutsu shi*) or a legitimatized one (*sho shi*) that fact should be stated.

(3) Name, occupation, and place of permanent registration of the father.

4. Marriage.

Art. [41] 39.—[In each intimation of marriage the following particulars shall be stated.] *In case of the performance of the ceremony of marriage, the husband and wife and one witness shall conjointly report the fact within 10 days, with the following particulars:—*

(1) Name of the husband and wife, the year, month, day, and hour of their birth, their occupation, and place of permanent registration.

(2) Name, occupation, and place of permanent registration of the real as well as the foster-father and foster-mother of each.

(3) If the marriage be a *nyūfu Kon-in** or if it be a *muko yōshi engumi*† those facts should be stated.

(4) The year, month, and day of betrothal.

(5) The year, month, day, and place of celebration of the marriage ceremony.

(6) If a legitimatized or an illegitimate child has been born to the couple, previous to their marriage, the name of such child should be given.

In a case where marriage has involved the abolition of a family (*haika*), such fact must be stated; and should there be other members of the family so abolished, the name, and the year, month, day, and hour of birth, the names of the real and foster father and foster mother, and the occupation and place of registration of every such member must be given.

Art. [42] 40.—Should the judgment of a law court in an action relating to the non-existence or nullity of a marriage, or to divorce, become fixed and final, a copy of such judgment shall be sent by the Clerk of such Court to the registrar of the place of permanent registration within 5 days.

Art. [43] 41.—[When a letter of intimation is presented with regard to divorce by mutual consent, the following particulars shall be stated in such letter.] *In the case of divorce by mutual consent, husband and wife shall report the fact with the following particulars:—*

(1) Name, year, month, day, and hour of birth, occupation and place of permanent registration of husband and wife.

(2) Name, occupation, and place of registration of real and foster-father and foster-mother.

(3) Name, occupation and place of permanent registration of the family head (*Koshu*) of the original home to which the husband or wife is about to return.

5. Adoption.

Art. [44] 42.—[Letters intimating the fact of adoption must state the following particulars.] *When adoption is celebrated or accepted, such fact shall be intimated by the parties and one witness* within 10 days, with the following particulars:—

(1) Name, year, month, day, and hour of birth, and the occupation and place of permanent registration of the adopted person (*yoshi*) and of such person's foster-father and foster-mother.

(2) Name, occupation, and place of permanent registration of real father and mother.

(3) If the adoption be with a view to the adopted person becoming a son-in-law, that fact should be stated.

(4) Year, month, and day on which offer of adoption was made.

(5) Year, month, day and place of celebration of adoption ceremony.

The provisions of paragraph 2, Art. [41] 39, must be observed in the case of members of any family the abolition of which is involved in the celebration of any adoption.

Art. [45] 43.—In the case of the marriage of an adopted son-in law (*mukoyōshi*), intimation of such marriage must be made in addition to the intimation of adoption.

Art. [46] 44.—Should the judgment of a Law Court in any action relating to the non-existence or nullity or to the dissolution of adoption become fixed and settled, the Clerk of such Court shall within five days send a copy of such judgment to the registrar of the place of permanent registration.

Art. [47] 45.—[The following matters shall be mentioned in the letter intimating dissolution of adoption by mutual consent] *When adoption is dissolved by mutual consent the parties shall intimate that fact with the following matters:—*

(1) Name, year, month, day and hour of birth, occupation and place of permanent registration of adopted child and of foster-father and foster-mother.

(2) Name, occupation and place of permanent registration of real father and mother.

(3) Name, occupation and place of permanent registration of the head of the family to which the adopted person is about to return.

6. Death.

Art. [48] 46.—When a person dies the head of the family, or the person living in the family (*dōkyosha*), or failing these the proprietor or superintendent of the house or the land on which it is

* *Nyūfu Kon-in* is that form of marriage in which a man marries a widow and adopts her family name.

† *Muko-yōshi engumi* is that form of marriage in which a man is adopted into a family and married to a daughter.

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situated, shall report the fact with the following matters:—

(1) Name, age, sex, occupation, and place of permanent registration of the deceased person.

(2) The year, month, day, hour, and place of death.

Art. [49] 47.—A medical certificate as to the cause of death or a copy of the verdict of an inquest should be attached to each intimation of death.

Art. [50] 48.—No corpse can be buried without the permit of a registrar having been [obtained] *received*. In the case of a person who has died or is believed to have died from other than natural causes, a police permit must be [obtained] *received*.

Art. [51] 49.—A registrar may not issue a funeral permit unless upon the lapse of 24 hours after death. This rule, however, may for sanitary reasons be subject to special limitations.

Should a registrar consider it necessary, he may in person examine the body of the deceased or detail a doctor to do so.

Art. [52] 50.—Should *it be impossible for* the head of the family or the person living in the same family [fail] to intimate a death that has occurred in a hospital, prison, or other public institution, such intimation shall be made by the chief of such institution.

Art. [53] 51.—In the case of a person who has died from causes other than natural, or in prison, or by capital punishment, such fact shall not be stated in the letter intimating death.

Art. [54] 52.—The provisions of Art. [38] 36 shall apply in cases where persons die during a sea voyage. Where, however, all those on board a vessel—passengers as well as crew—have died by the wreck of a ship of war or other vessel, the intimation of death shall be made by the authorities that have conducted an investigation into such casualty, to the registrars of the deceased persons' places of permanent registration.

In cases where only a portion of a ship's crew and passengers have died, such authorities shall draw up a report in accordance with the oral evidence of the survivors, and transmit the same to the registrars of the deceased persons' places of permanent registration.

Art. [55] 53.—In cases where the bodies of persons who have died by calamity cannot be found, the local police shall draw up reports stating the sex, name, place of residence and places of permanent registration of the deceased and shall transmit the same to the registrars of the deceased persons' place of permanent registration, and of the place were the calamity occurred.

Art. [56] 54.—If the place of permanent registration of a deceased person be unknown, or the identity ofsuch person cannot be established, the local police shall draw up a report of the inquest and transmit the same directly to the local registrar.

Art. [57] 55.—Should, in the case mentioned in the last article, the deceased person's place of permanent registration become known, intimation of the death shall be made within 10 days in accordance with Art. [48] 46.

7. HEADS AND MEMBERS OF FAMILIES.

Art. [58] 56.—When a person becomes by succesion head of a family, he shall report such fact and the following matters within 10 days. In case of retirement (*inkyo*) the person so retiring shall report the fact conjointly with the person succeeding him.

(1) Family name and personal name, class (*shizoku, kazoku*, &c.) of family, occupation, and place of permanent registration of head of family.

(2) Name and relationship to the former head of the family.

(3) Circumstances leading to succession, and year, month, and day of succession.

When changes in the family order of succession occur in consequence of the provisions of a will a copy of such instrument must be produced.

In the case of members of a family that has been abolished by its head succeeding to another family, the provisions of paragraph 2, Art. [41] 39 shall be applied.

Art. [59] 57.—Should any person become head of a family by the separation of his original family, or by refounding an abolished or extinct family, or by establishing a new family, he shall report the fact to the authorities within 10 days, with the following matters. In the case of separation from a family, however, the head of such family shall, conjointly with the head of the new family, report the fact.

(1) Family name and personal name, year, month, day, and hour of birth, occupation and place of permanent registration of head of family.

(2) Name and year, month, day, and hour of birth of members of family.

(3) Family name and personal name, occupation and place of permanent registration of real and of foster-father and foster-mother of head and members of family.

(4) Reason why, and year, month, and day on which, head of family entered upon that position.

In case of the refounding of an abolished or extinct family, letters of concurrence must be produced from the nearest of kin of such family, and from the head of the main or the nearest collateral branch of such family.

Art. [60] 58.—If a person who has become head of a family by succession has [obtained] *received* permission to abolish such family, he shall report the fact within 10 days, with the following matters:—

(1) Family name and personal name, class of family, occupation and place of permanent registration of such person.

(2) Names of members of family.

(3) Cause of abolition of family.

(4) Year, month, and day on which permission was given by local law court.

Art. [61] 59.—Where a [member of a family] *person, who, by engaging in marriage either as husband or wife, has entered another family*, returns to his or her former and real home [under the provisions of paragraph 2, Art. 248, Part "Persons" of the Civil Code] *owing to the death of his or her consort*, or where [a junior relative (*hisokushin*) who had entered another family, is received back into his or her former and real home in accordance with the provisions of Art. 256 of the same part of the Civil Code] *such person takes to his or her present home a junior relative who has been living at his or her real parental home, or where a person, who has left his or her home of wedlock or adoption in consequence either of the nullity of marriage or adoption, or of divorce or dissolution of adoption, takes to his or her real home a junior relative who has been living in such home of wedlock or adoption*, the heads of both families, the person so received back, and any one who has been consulted as to such step shall report the fact with the following matters:—

(1) Name, year, month, day, and hour of birth, and relationship to head of family, of such person who so returns, or of such junior relative.

(2) Family name and personal name, occupation, and place of permanent registration of father and mother of person who returns or of junior relative.

(3) Family name and personal name, occupation, and place of permanent registration of heads of both families.

(4) The cause of return or of readmission.

Art. [62] 60.—Where [a real house or family opposes the return of a former member in accordance with paragraph 2, Art. 247 of the Part "Persons" of the Civil Code] *a person who has become a husband or a wife and has thus, or by adoption, entered another family without permission of the head of his or her real family, wishes to return to his or her real family*, the head of such real family shall, if he opposes such return, report the fact with the following matters:—

(1) Name of person wishing to return.

(2) Reason of opposition to such return.

(3) Year, month, and day on which the marriage or adoption took place.

8. ABOLITION AND EXCLUSION OF PRESUMPTIVE HEIRSHIP.

Art. [63] 61.—Should presumptive heirship be abolished or excluded, or should abolition or exclusion of a presumptive heirship be cancelled, the head of the family shall report the fact, with the following particulars:—

(1) Name and age of presumptive heir.

(2) Cause of abolition or exclusion or of cancelling of abolition or exclusion.

9. GUARDIANSHIP, PROHIBITION OF EXERCISE OF RIGHTS OF PROPERTY, PROVISIONAL PROHIBITION OF EXERCISE OF RIGHTS OF PROPERTY, LIMITED EXERCISE OF RIGHTS OF PROPERTY, AND PROVISIONAL EXERCISE OF RIGHTS OF PROPERTY.

Art. [64] 62.—In the case of guardianship, prohibition of exercise of rights of property, *provisional prohibition of the exercise of rights of property*, limited exercise of rights of property, or provisional exercise of rights of property, the guardian, warden, or person in temporary control shall report the fact within 10 days, with the following matters:—

(1) Family name and personal name, age, occupation, and place of permanent registration of the minor, of the person under prohibition of the exercise of rights of property, *of the person under provisional prohibition of the exercise of rights of property*, of the person under limited exercise of rights of property, or of the lunatic.

(2) Family name and personal name, occupation, and place of personal registration of guardian, warden, or person in temporary control.

(3) Year, month, and day on which guardianship, prohibition of the exercise of rights of property, *provisional prohibition of the exercise of rights of property*, limited exercise of rights of property, or provisional exercise of rights of property began.

Art. [65] 63.—Persons under prohibition of exercise of rights of property, or under provisional prohibition of the exercise of rights of property, and lunatics who have recovered from their illness, shall, on the removal of such prohibition or on such recovery, intimate the fact to the authorities within 10 days.

When limited exercise of rights of property ceases, the warden shall, in accordance with the last paragraph, report the fact.

10. ABSCONDING.

Art. [66] 64.—When judgment is given showing presumptively or actually that absconding has taken place, such fact shall be reported within 10 days by the petitioner in the action, with a copy of such judgment.

Art. [67] 65.—When the residence of the absconder has become known, the petitioner in an action relating to the absconding, or the successor of the absconder, shall report the fact within 10 days.

11. STATUS OF JAPANESE SUBJECTS.

Art. [68] 66.—Persons desirous of gaining the status of Japanese subjects [in accordance with Art. 8, Part "Persons" of the Civil Code] shall intimate the fact with the following matters, and produce also a copy of certificate of birth:—

(1) Family name and personal name, occupation, and place of permanent registration of the applicant.

(2) Family name and personal name, occupation, name of native country, and place of permanents residence of applicant's father and mother.

(3) [Causes mentioned in Art. 8, Part "Persons" of the Civil Code] *Legal causes for application.*

(4) Name of office where, and year, month and day when, intention of application was intimated.

Art. [69] 67.—Any person who desires to recover the status of a Japanese subject [in accordance with Arts. 13 and 14, or paragraph 2, Art. 15, Part "Persons" of the Civil Code] shall intimate the fact with copy of certificate of birth and the following matters:—

(1) Family name and personal name, occupation, present place of permanent registration and former place of permanent registration.

(2) Family name and personal name and former place of permanent registration of father and mother.

(3) Cause by which status of a Japanese subject was lost.

(4) *Legal cause for application for recovery of status.*

[(4)] (5) Name of office where, and year, month and day when intention of application was intimated.

[(5) Fact of and reason for dissolution of marriage in the case provided for in Art 15, Part "Persons" of the Civil Code.]

Any person who has received from the Government permission to return to Japan shall produce such permit.

Art. [70] 68.—Any person who becomes head of a family by gaining or recovering the status of a Japanese subject, shall mention such fact in the letter intimating the desire to gain or recover such status.

Art. [71] 69.—When a judgment of a Court of law in regard to the loss of status of nationality becomes fixed and settled, the clerk of such court of law shall within 5 days send a copy of the same to the registrar of the place of permanent registration of the party concerned.

12. ADMISSION TO THE REGISTRATION LIST.

Art. [72] 70.—Any Japanese who is not registered must be enrolled on the registration list by [obtaining] *receiving* the permission of the local Court. When permission is [obtained] *received* the head of the applicant's family shall intimate such fact within 10 days, with the following matters:—

(1) Family name and personal name, year, month, day, and hour of birth, occupation and place of permanent registration of head of family.

(2) Name, year, month, day, and hour of birth, and relationship to the head of the family, of its other members.

(3) Family name and personal name, occupation, and place of permanent registration of real and of foster-father and mother of the head of the family, and of each member of such family.

(4) Reason why applicant has not yet been admitted to registration.

(5) Year, month, and day on which permission of local Court was given.

Art. 71.—When a foreigner fixes his place of permanent registration in Japan such fact shall be intimated to the authorities by the head of his family, with the following matters:—

(1) Family name and personal name, year, month,

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and day of birth, place of permanent registration and name of native country.

(2) Name, year, month, and day of birth of members of family.

Art. [73] 72.—The intimation as to the fixing of a place of permanent registration [in Japan] in the case of a naturalized person [or foreigner] shall be in accordance with special laws [and the Civil Code].

13. TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION.

Art. [74] 73.—If the place of permanent registration be changed, the head of the family shall intimate that fact to the registrar, producing also a copy of the registration document that he received from the registrar of the former place of permanent registration.

14. REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTRATION LIST.

Art. [75] 74.—In the case of persons whose absconding has been proclaimed, registrars shall, as soon as the age of such persons, if alive, has reached 100 years, or when 30 years have elapsed since the date of disappearance or receipt of last tidings of such persons, and without waiting for intimation, remove the names of such persons from the registration list.

Art. [76] 75.—A registrar shall, in the case of any family that has become extinct [under the provisions of Art. 260 of the Part "Persons" of the Civil Code], *owing to 30 years having elapsed since the disappearance of, or receipt of last tidings from, the head of such family whose absconding had been proclaimed, and owing to the absence of any member to assume the rights of such family*, at once remove such family from the registration list without waiting for intimation.

When the heritable property of a deceased person, head of a family, has lapsed to the State; or if there be no heritable property, and no one to succeed to the family rights appears within [one] *three* years, the provisions of the last paragraph shall apply.

Art. [77] 76.—When the judgment of a Law Court in the case of double registration becomes fixed and settled, the clerk of such Law Court shall transmit a copy of such judgment to the registrar of the place of registration, from the registration list of which the court has decided that the name of the person should be removed.

15. ALTERATION OF FAMILY NAME AND PERSONAL NAME.

Art. [78] 77.—Any person who is desirous of resuming a former family name, or who is desirous of altering his personal name, must [obtain] *receive* the permission of the local court. When such permission is [obtained] *received* he shall intimate that fact within 10 days, producing also *a copy of* the permit of the local court.

16. ALTERATION OF FAMILY CLASS.

Art [79] 78.—In the case of a person who is ennobled or raised to the rank of *shinoku*, or who is deprived of the rank of *kwazoku* or *shinoku*, the head of the family shall intimate that fact, producing also a copy of the order or permit of the authorities *within 10 days.*

Art [80] 79.—When a *kwazoku* or *shinoku*, head of a family, has lost rank by being sentenced to punishment for the commission of a crime, the clerk of the respective Court of Law shall within 5 days, transmit a copy of the judgment to the registrar of the place of permanent registration.

17. AMENDMENT OF REGISTRATION.

Art [81] 80.—When the judgment of a Court of Law as to amendment of registration becomes final and settled, the clerk of such Court of Law shall, within 5 days, send a copy of such judgment to the registrar of the place of registration of the person in whose case the amendment is made.

CHAPTER 4.—PROCEDURE OF REGISTRATION.

Art. [82] 81. When a registrar has received intimation of matters essential to registration he shall instantly enter the matters thus intimated in the list of persons of permanent registration or in the list of persons of non-permanent registration, as the case may be, and shall affix his seal at the end of such entry.

Art. [83] 82.—The registrar shall, in case intimation has been made in writing, inscribe at the end of such letter of intimation the words "received the—day of the—month of the—year of—," and, in case oral intimation has been rendered into writing, the word "rendered into writing the—day of the—month of the—year of—." In either case he shall sign his name with his official title, and put his official seal thereto.

Art. [84] 83.—When a registrar has completed the procedure set forth in the two foregoing articles he shall instantly proceed in accordance with Arts. [85] 84 and [92] 91.

Art. [85] 84.—Matters relating to persons of permanent registration shall, when there is a specified period of time within which intimation about such matters is to be made, be entered in the registration list with the dates of the occurrence of the matters as well as of the intimation of the same; and, when there is no such specified period of time, entries shall be made only with the date of intimation. In either case, the registrar shall put his seal at the end of each entry.

Art. [86] 85.—Each registrar shall make the entries of those matters which are to be added to registration, in their proper order.

A matter which is to be struck off the registration list shall be erased by a line drawn through it.

Art. [87] 86.—Any registrar to whom it has been intimated that a whole family is about to come under his jurisdiction, shall register such family anew, in accordance with Art. [2] 1., and incorporate such registration in the list.

When a whole family intimates departure from the jurisdiction of a particular registrar, its entries in the list shall be cancelled by a line drawn through the entries, and an entry to that effect made in the book of cancelled registrations (*jo-sekicho*).

Art. [88] 87.—When succession in a family is intimated, the registrar shall revise the registration of the new head of the family in accordance with Art. [2] 1 and on the model of the registration of the preceding head of the family. The old entry, however, shall be preserved and copied into the list of cancelled registrations, the registrar placing his official seal between the old and the new entries to show their relation.

Copies of entries of registration made or revised under this or the previous article shall be placed together, on December 31st in each year, and deposited in the rural district or island office in the case of a town or village, or in the city or prefectural office in the case of a municipality, before the [15th] *31st* of January following, with a statement showing the number of pages in the list, and bearing the official title and the family name and personal name and the official seal of the registrar.

Art. [89] 88.—When the registration of a whole family is transferred, the registrar of the new place of resignation shall immediately on completing the entry intimate the fact by letter to the registrar of the former place of registration.

Art. [90] 89.—In a case involving addition or admission to, or exclusion or removal from the registration list, of two families whose places of permanent registration are not the same, a registrar shall, in the event of addition or admission to his list, intimate the fact, as soon as he has made the entry, to the registrar of the former place of registration; and in the event of exclusion or removal from his list shall send the original letter of intimation and appended documents, as soon as the entry is cancelled, to the registrar of the new place of registration.

Art. [91] 90.—When a matter intimated by a person of non-permanent registration refers to the registration of one family, or when such matter refers to the admission or exclusion of the registration of two families, of which the permanent registration are in one and the same jurisdiction, the registrar shall transmit the letter of intimation to the registrar of the place of permanent registration, together with appended documents.

Art. [92] 91.—In case matters intimated by a person of non-permanent registration relate to addition or admission to, or exclusion or removal of the registration of two families whose places of permanent registration are not the same, the local registrar shall send the original letter of intimation with appended documents to the registrar of the place where addition or admission is to take place, and a copy of the same to the registrar of the place where exclusion or removal is to be effected.

Art. [93] 92.—A registrar shall, immediately on receiving documents sent to him in accordance with the last four articles and with Art. [29] 28, enter in the list of persons of permanent registration matters mentioned in the letter of intimation, the family name and personal name of the person, and the name and the official title of the registrar sending them, the date on which they are sent and the date on which they are received, and shall affix his seal at the end of such entry. He shall also mark on the documents the date of receipt, append his name and his official title, affix his seal and carry out the procedure of registration in accordance with Arts. [85] 84 and [88] 87.

Art. [94] 93.—A registrar shall, on receiving a copy of a judgment, carry out the procedure provided for in Art. [93] 92. Should such judgment, however, involve exclusion or removal of registration from another jurisdiction, and its addition or admission to his, he shall, after completing the entry on his list, and within 5 days, report the fact, in accordance with the same article, to the registrar from whose list exclusion or removal was effected. The latter official shall carry out the necessary procedure under the same article.

Art. [95] 94.—A registrar shall, on receiving copy of a statement relating to birth or death, or to accident to a person entered on his list, carry out the procedure provided for in Art. [93] 92.

Art. [96] 95.—A registrar shall, on receiving the report of the death by accident of a person of non-permanent registration, or of the death of a person whose place of permanent registration is unknown, inscribe at the end of such report the words "received the—day of the—month of the—year of—" state his official title, sign his family name and personal name, and affix his official seal. He should also enter the facts in his list of persons of non-permanent registration.

Art. [97] 96.—Once every month each registrar shall collect and place together all letters of intimation and other relative documents, state in a list the number of letters or documents, and the number of their pages, state his official title, his own family name and personal name, affix his official seal, and deposit such letters and documents before the 10th of the following month in the rural district or island office in the case of a town or village, and in the city or prefectural office in the case of a municipality. Such office shall preserve such letters and documents for a period of 50 years.

CHAPTER 5.—RE-REGISTRATION.

Art. [98] 97.—In the event of the registration document being lost by natural calamity or accident, the registrar shall at once report the fact to the governor of the city or prefecture.

Art. [99] 98.—On receipt of the report described in the last article, the governor shall instruct the registrar to make a fresh registration within a stated period, and shall issue a notification to that effect.

Art. [100] 99.—When a registrar has, under the conditions provided in the last article, made a fresh registration, he shall submit his procedure for examination to the head of the rural district or island in the case of a town or village, or to the governor of the city or prefecture in the case of a municipality.

CHAPTER 6.—PUNITIVE RULES.

Art. [101] 100.—Persons who fail to make necessary intimation within the periods provided for in this law, shall be liable to a fine of not less than *yen* 1 and not more than *yen* 1.95.

When judgment in such an event as the above has become final and settled, the clerk of the Law Court by which it has been pronounced shall, within 5 days, send a copy thereof to the registrar concerned.

Art. [102] 101.—Officials of the State (*Kanri*) or public officials (*Kōri*) who contravene this law shall be liable to a fine of not less than *yen* 2 and not more than *yen* 5.

Art. [103] 102.—Officials of the State or public officials who by contravening this law render null and void documents relating to personal status, shall be liable to a fine of not less than *yen* 5 and not more than *yen* 50.

CHAPTER 7.—SUPPLEMENTARY RULES.

Art. [104] 103.—The office of registrar shall, in places where the Municipal Town and Village Organization is not in force, be filled by the head of the urban district (*Kucho*) or by the headman (*Kocho*); and in places where a special municipal system is in force, by the head of the urban district (*Kucho*); should *Kucho* or *Kocho* be unable to discharge the duties, the clerks of towns, villages or rural districts, may do so in their place.

Art. [105] 104.—In the case of Hokkaido, copies of registration documents [and of registration lists] and the documents mentioned in Art. [97] 96 shall be sent by urban districts to the Hokkaido Administration Board, and for the purposes of this law "governors of cities or prefectures" shall be held to mean in the case of Hokkaido the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration Board.

Art. [106] 105.—This law shall come into force on the [day when Part "Persons" of the Civil Code shall become law] 1st day of the 1st month of the 26th year of Meiji. The period for re-registration shall, however, be decided by the Minister of State for Home Affairs in accordance with the views of Governors of Cities and Prefectures.

Art. [107] 106.—The Law of Registration (*koseki ho*), issued by Imperial Proclamation in April, of the 4th year of Meiji, and all other laws and regulations conflicting with this law, shall be repealed, and become null and void on the day when this law comes into force.

Art. [108] 107.—The Minister of State for Home Affairs shall frame and issue all orders and rules necessary for carrying this law into force.

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OUR "SPECIAL" TELLS THE STORY OF FELIX HOLT SECUNDUS.

IN THREE SECTIONS.—BY A. M.

Section II.—Through the Tropics.

I had several reasons for going in the steerage. To begin with I had ascertained that ninety odd Celestials had shipped as deck-passengers forward, and it was the Chinese question I had to write up for my newspaper. I therefore fancied it would be a good line to get right into the midst of the saffron curse at once. I would be almost morally certain to get some "copy" out of the experience. And what is there that a "special" will not go through for "copy"—especially if it means a grand first-class "scoop" over the opposition dailies? In the next place I had heard whispers of certain strange occurrences in the fo'c'sle and engine-room of the S. S. *Barracoota* on previous voyages, and I wanted to see for myself whether they were fit for publication. But the main ground I had for exposing my anatomy to fourteen days of an olfactory Inferno and general bodily discomfort was the absolute certainty of improving and edifying conversation. For Mick Donovan was going in the steerage as far as Port Darwin, and Mick was about the wittiest and most amusing specimen of iniquity it has ever been my privilege to run across. He was Milesian,—his name alone was warrant enough for that, and if you *were* Didymus enough to doubt, his face would have been a clincher. It had the map of Ireland painted all over it. And then his brogue, and the things it said—especially the latter! I had met him in the Sydney Police-Court—But that would be a digression, and besides, I don't want to give folks a low idea of his moral character to begin with, and thus prejudice them against him.

So I put my best clothes and a shirt or two in a box where they would not be likely to get hurt, bought a pair of second-hand moleskins and a jumper from an "ole clo" man from Judea and shipped third class for Hongkong viâ the Queensland Ports, Port Darwin, Java, Singapore, and Saigon. I got on board and found myself in lively company. There were about a dozen diggers bound for the Kimberley Field; one half of them blind blazing drunk, and the other moiety powerfully wishful to join them. Mick was especially far-gone, "o'er a' the ills o life victorious," and a Peeler he had just succeeded in throwing overboard besides. Then we had a very much married woman of Samaria and—but as they don't play any part in the comedy it serves no point to introduce the remaining members of the human cargo forward.

That is, excepting the Chinamen. They were without exception the dirtiest lot of bipeds I ever set eyes on. After we passed the Heads it came on to blow a regular southerly 'buster, and so the Yellows were kept battened down below. This continued for two days, and then they came up. Then—but I'm anticipating.

It was rough water all the way till we ran in behind Moreton Island to pick up the passengers from Brisbane. Then the wind fell and the sea spread out flat like a mill pond or a silver-streaked pancake. Of course we were all agog to take stock of the accession to the passenger lists. *In primis* about forty Chinkies,—and to judge from their looks, smelly ones. Then two or three whites in rig-outs that were certainly not meant for the saloon. But what came in for the bulk of our attention was two individuals that stood apart in haughty isolation waiting for the lowering of the first cabin gangway. But their haughtiness was most unmistakeably not of the same stamp. In the man it was coarse-fibred, rude, and unrefined, the insolent aggressiveness of the purse-proud *nouveau riche*. It sat on him just as awkwardly as his fine clothes. It was not a true spiritual quality at all; strip the man of his money and it would be cringing. It was easy to see at a glance that it was fussy, pompous, and loud-voiced. The man was seemingly about fifty years of age, with a goat-like wintry beard and whiskers sticking out aggressively from his florid cheeks and straggling all over his gold-studded shirt-front. He was a plutocrat who wished to spell himself aristocrat—there was no mistaking that. It was some notion of this kind possibly that was at the bottom of Mick Donovan's critique of his *tout ensemble*, "Shure, an' isn't it the shtrut av an am'rous jackdaw in paycock's feathers that the craythur has?" Which criticism by the way was for the benefit of the "craythur" himself as well as for the general diversion.

With the woman it was different. There was no brummagem about her. She was tall and lithe, with grace in each and all of her supple curves, and the hall mark of blood and breeding in every line of her features. Proud she was too, even a fool could see at a glance, but her pride did not sit awkwardly upon her like an ill-made ill fitting cloak—it was part of her. So to speak it was the tempering of her soul's mettle. Hers was surely the sort of haughtiness that even a democrat could respect—it was the pride that would never stoop to meanness. She was in the full flush of ripe womanhood; possibly about six or seven and twenty. It didn't need a Dalton to tell that there was no link of sibship 'twixt her and the "craythur."

The gangway went down and preceded by the "craythur" she set foot upon it. And here it was that my friend Mick disgraced himself eternally. He had been drinking at intervals all the way up, and although it was early morning and he had not had time to take much whisky on board since he had been bundled out of his bunk, he yet had enough to fill him with the spirit of prophecy—prophecy being the same as outspokenness. He had mounted on the bulwark by way of getting a better view of the landscape, and stood there with one arm round a stanchion and his right leg crossed over the left. His throat was exposed to the breezes, which at the same time inflated balloon-wise the folds of a Crimean shirt that bulged out of the sizeable hiatus between the top band of his trousers and his waistcoat. Altogether his was a picturesque figure and pose, and when he began to saw the air with his unoccupied hand holding an unlit cigar between the fore and the middle fingers and to declaim with the raucous voice of a fishmonger, he commanded considerable attention.

In his youth Mick had had a very severe attack of State school education. Strong germs of the disease still lurked about in the pigeon-holes of his brain, and on occasion would burst into life with the eruptive effect of a volcano. They read queer trash in those State Schools, and commit a lot of it to memory. So overcome by the recollections of his misguided youth Mick struck up a chorus from Samson Agonistes, and gave it with effect; and variations thrown in appropriate to the occasion.

> But who is this? What thing av'say or land—
> Faymale av sex it seems
> That, so bedecked, ornate an' gay,
> Comes this way saying
> On a dirthy tug
> From Brishbane, bound for the'oisles
> Av Java an' Hongkong
> Wid all her bravery on an' tackle thrim
> Sails filled and shtreamers wavin'
> Coorted by all the bhoys that wants a wife,
> A jackdaw shtruttin' like a paycock
> Her harbinger, a tin yard train behoind."

Then stopping abruptly he held out his cigar and shouted in coaxing, wheedling tones that were heard all over the ship from stem to stern,

"Arrah! me lady, tip us a wink av yer lively oiyes. It's a loight fur me seegaur I want."

The lady looked up at him half amused and half angry. But her escort jumped with rage and said something about d—d insolence. Now in spite of the implied compliment in the peroration, it struck me that that Mick's address was insolent, and a reflection upon the manners of the third cabin. So I picked up a bucket and shied it at him. It hit him on a soft spot rearward and Mick went overboard. Now Moreton Bay sharks have a bad name for voracity and that morning we had seen several black fins cleaving the surface of the water ominously like a knife; so when Mick went down into the waters of the deep there was some excitement. He was eventually fished out without any serious damage, and he came on board dripping like an ancient sea-god and perfectly sober. Of course he wanted to fight me, but as there was no room for a ring we compromised the thing by a "shout" for all hands. "Shout," be it explained, is Australian for "standing" drinks for the crowd. And that was the end of the episode.

I think I remarked there was no room for a ring,—the trouble was that with the forty extra Chows there was no room for any lawful amusement whatsoever. They littered every crack and cranny of the deck with expectorations and all kinds of filth. It was beastly and disgusting. A Zola, with his keen nose for smells and abominations of every sort, might have found some joy in the thing, but realist as I am in the sense of writing about life as it is, I couldn't see where its redeeming points came in. There is but little pleasure in fashioning a work of art out of dirt. But that's not to the point. What is, is that we made representations to the authorities about the matter, and got badly snubbed for our pains. Then we waxed wroth and held an indignation meeting. After sundry expressions of opinion Mick took up his parable.

"Bhoys" he said. "It's outrajis and clane agin the principle av incouragement to local indushtry. It's divil a bit av soap I've seed among the collection since the day I set fut on board. So I propose that we sind a dipytashun av wan and a shtick to riprisint the needecessity av a ginral claning up among the haythen. An' so be ez yez hev no manner av objection, I'll be that silf same dipytashun mesilf and I'll be bould to take my friend Johnson's Malacca along, as I misdoubt not it has consid'rable powers av pirswâyshun."

It was at dinner after dark that this motion was made, and it was seconded and carried *nem. con.* Furthermore it was acted upon without delay. Mick went out and opened the interview. It was the brogue that took the floor first and it was really and truly eloquent. But by and by the "shtick" got a chance of expressing its sentiments too, and soon it was doing the bulk of the talking. And as Mick surmised it *did* have "consid'rable powers av pirswâyshun." It cleared the deck between the bridge and the third class bunks as if it had taken the contract by piece-work and wanted to get through with it quickly. Not that the job was scamped. Judging from the Mongolian exclamations that must have been meant for oaths, the Pigtails seemed to be fully alive to the genuine workmanship of the performance.

"Now, bhoys," said Mick, as he rolled down his sleeves and seated himself at the foot of the table with a dirty pack of the Devil's Books in front of him, "It's a plan av campaign we must have, or w'll be downed by the dirthy bla'gards av Sassenach Landlords—Chaneymen I mane, intoirely. This sort of conversashun is very improvin' at dushk, but like moonloightin' it won't do by day at all, at all. The govirnmint, I mane the or-f-cers, will be pokin their dirthy noses into the mather, and the pore wurrikin maan will be throdden under the fut av appreshun as usual. So we'll foight at long range."

"How shall we do that, Mick?" asked one of this audience.

"Now, ye omadhaun av the son av a dirthy Cockatoo farmer, isn't that just what I'm goin' to dimonstrate? You know them shpuds we gits for breakfast, and tiffin, and tay, and dinner an all?"

"We do" came in a chorus from all round the table, for we had plenty of opportunity to make their acquaintance ("Shpuds," be it explained, is Hibernian for "spuds," which again is Anglo-Saxon vernacular for "potatoes,"—that is at least in all civilized countries).

"Well, thin," proceeded Mick "thim 'shpuds' is not fit to loine the bowels av a pig, let alone the innards av a whoite Christian dimocracy. But they're just the very shtuff for bombardin' the haythen wid. Now, bhoys div yez moind me? We'll just collar every blessed mother's son av a murphy that comes to this end av the shop, and if the haythen *are* obstropulous by daylight we'll tache them how to spell 'shpuds' in civilized handwritin."

And we did. After breakfast first one odoriferous Celestial and then another ventured over the dividing line we had chalked across the deck as a sort of *shubiki gwai*, and perched on the load of timber that covered the scuppers. There they sat and grinned and chattered like a lot of jabbering simians, or a flock of carrion crows that had been flying in a dust-storm for a month of Sundays. Mick gave the word to prepare for action—'wid shpud cartridge load.' We each marked our man, and then a typhoon of sloppy sweet-potatoes smote the invaders with such unerring velocity that the rout of the Moko at Hakata was a bagatelle to the stampede that ensued. We had to repeat the dose only twice to get perfect release from all disquieting malodours.

We then got to work to set our house in order, and had everything in such spick and span array that news of the reformation travelled to the first cabin and some of the passengers came forward on a visit of inspection. Of course we received them courteously, and by way of politeness as Mick phrased it he strolled aft to return the call on the following day. But he had his nose put sadly out of joint. He came back expressing his sentiments in phrases that were forcible but unfit for publication. It seems that it was the cut of his clothes that was the matter. The costume he went calling in was certainly picturesque, but then it was certainly neither fashionable nor well-cut. Besides his boots and his wide-awake it consisted of but two items; a pair of moleskins that hadn't seen water since I knocked him overboard and a flannel shirt that had reached the farthest limits of shrinkage. It left his throat freely exposed and also his chest,—a great brawny Orson-like chest with the tan running out of sight in a tangled undergrowth of matted hair that might have served a gorilla for a beautys pot. The more fastidious among the males in the saloon didn't like it, and the females were all very much scandalized. So representations were made to the skipper instanter, and the skipper talked to Mick as he would to a Chinese deck-hand, and Mick came back with his blood on the boil and his tongue wagging eloquently.

"It was that blank-blank-blank-blank Podgett that did it," shouted Mick excitedly waving his

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arms like the sails of a wind mill or a semaphore trying to be unusually expressive. "But I'll ——"

What Mick proposed to do cannot be put on paper. No more can the epithets wherewith he hit off what seemed to strike him as the salient points of Podgett's physical and psychological get-up. They were neither conventional nor correct,—they were eminently original and lucidly forcible.

"An thim newspaypers till us we're a dimocracy! Sure an' its only blandatherin us they are whin they sez it. What's the good av aiquality an' wan man wan vote if there's to be wan law fur the tramps—that's thim—an' another fur the gintlmen—that's us? Shure an' Parliminta are no better than the thimble an' three-pay thrick if that's the outcome av their ligislation!"

It is needless to observe that these remarks have been somewhat carefully edited, and that in course of the operation they have lost the main part of their virility. But in the original they were altogether too full blooded for the delicate hot-house morals of the "young person," who does so much for the best interests of British literature.

"Bhoys," finally wound-up Mick, slapping his right hand into the palm of his left with the sound of a dynamite-blast in a tunnel, "I'll tell you, we must put on our camp'ny manners, and nixt toime they calls we must be not at 'ome. Div yez moind me now?"

We did'nt see that this in itself would be much of a retaliation. But then most of Mick's ideas were conveyed in tropes and figures that like certain diplomatic documents, allowed of considerable latitude of interpretation. So we simply set this down as a sort of metonomy, and waited the course of events to clear up the full import of the expression.

We weren't kept long in suspense. The following day we arrived at Cooktown and shipped a few more returning Chows that hadn't enjoyed the advantages of an interview with the "dignyashun av wan and a shtick" and the benefits of the education imparted there by and whoconsequently transgressed treaty limits with the sublime audacity begotten of ignorance. Several of them came and got atop of the timber and one huge lump of small-pox pits and smelliness with a wonderfully ribbon-bedizened pig-tale perched himself on the winch just outside the passage under the bridge.

"Bhoys," said Mick, when his eye had taken in the situation, "you will now plaze make a collection av shpuds. This is a free counthry an' a whoite man's land, an' we're not goin to have haythens an' Chaneymen pokin dirthy jokes at dimocracy."

We soon cleared the decks of all save one. The Chink on the winch sat there with all the stolidity of a Burmese god, mainly because by some strange accident no one had made a mark of him.

"Bhoys," said Mick, when he noticed him. "It's an Aunt Sally that we'll make av 'im. Three shots fur sixpince—the proceeds to go in rifrishments for the comp'ny afther thir pathriotic exirtions. An' it's mesilf that'll take fust shot."

Now I was standing next to Mick in front of the third class bunks about a dozen yards from the Chinaman to be "shooted" at. Right over his head I caught sight of female habiliments and a male escort approaching down the passage—the Viscountess (I forgot to say she was that) and Mr. Podgett no less. Mick must have seen them too; from what followed I'm sure he did. He was an unerring shot—like the seven hundred chosen men of Benjamin, he could sling "shpuds" at a hairsbreadth and not miss. But this time he *did* miss;—that is he didn't hit the Chinkie. The great wet sloppy potato at first grazed the root of his pig tail and flew right on and caught Mr. Podgett in the face just as he emerged from the alley-way. It hit him on the chin and went into fragments. Some of them flew in great splotches over the Viscountess' bodice.

It was a ludicrous sight. She drew herself up to her height and swept one haughty look over the deck, while old Podgett jumped with rage, his beard bristling with "shpuds" and passion, like an infuriated Sultan out of an Alhambra burlesque. As ill luck would have it I was standing in front of the crowd and the woman's eye fell upon me with magnificent contempt. I knew that she set me down as the culprit. Then she turned round and swept off with Podgett quivering with impotent rage behind her.

"So," screamed Mick in high glee, "*we're* not at 'ome this toime, ladies and gent'men, and we're very sorry. That'l pershuade them not to thriffle with the feelins av dimocracy nixt thrip."

Next day the steamer went through Albany Pass. It is the prettiest spot within the whole stretch of the Great Barrier Reef and we were all agog to see it. The Viscountess came on the bridge, and by some accident her looks travelled down on to our deck and her eye caught mine. I never saw such a look of scorn in all my life. I was clearly very inky in her black books.

Nothing of any further consequence happened till we got to Port Darwin. It was there my work began, and lurid work it was. This place is the nearest approach to Inferno it has ever been my fortune to strike,—Port Said not even excepted. I had to do it, and I did it thoroughly, exploring all the iniquities of the opium dens, and so-called lodging-houses, and actually taking tickets in a Pak-a-pû bank. As I stood waiting for the pak-a-pû drawing I was accosted by a white woman. She looked very worn and jaded, but still there were the remains of beauty in her face. She began to speak of the place; she evidently knew it well. She took a look at the pak a-pû ticket and held forth on the mysteries of the game. She went in to see the result of the drawing; to judge from the numerous salutations she received there (some of them apparently of a jocular nature) she reckoned quite a host of acquaintances among the Celestials. Of course my tickets turned out blanks and I took my leave. The white woman sympathised heartily over my discomfiture and came along with me. She was very communicative; the store of quaint and curious information on everything bearing on China town she possessed was wonderful. And every bit of it she willingly placed at our disposal. For a good hour she continued to pilot me into tortuous windings and devious labyrinths acting as a model Cicerone all the while. And be it remarked that although the themes on which she dilated were ticklish subjects to handle there was not a single expression in her language that the most fastidious purist could possibly object to. There was not the slightest soupçon of coarseness to be detected in any of her remarks, and Heaven knows there was ample opportunity for it. Hers must be a sad history but that's neither here nor there at present. What is to the point is that as I was saying good-night to her before getting down to the wharf who should pass but the Viscountess? When she saw us she switched her garments aside with disgust, and swept on as if we had been a couple of plague-spots. Clearly she had made up her mind that I was about as bad as they make them.

The steerage was utterly depleted of Caucasians at Port Darwin, and I saw that I should feel lonesome if I didn't shift my quarters. Besides an odd six dozen Cingalese navvies and a few extra score of Chows took passage forward here. The prospect according had all the appearances of being over-smelly, and so I determined to shift my camp. According I saw the local agent, and squared the difference in the fares. When I got on board again I went aft and began to stroll up and down the quarter-deck as if I had a perfect right to do so, which indeed I had. But the old martinet of a Philistine of a skipper didn't know that, and when he came and ordered me forward he got his nose put out of joint not inconsiderably. I asked him *why* I should go forward, and when he began to talk of kicking me if I didn't move at once and generally behaving like the nigger-driver he was, I just pulled out my ticket for his inspection, and then before his very eyes wrote out a formal complaint about his insolence, read it to him, and sent it off to the company. I furthermore hinted to him that I wasn't even then quite done with him. As a matter of fact he subsequently got one of the finest dubbings I ever gave a human with the point of a pen in print, and he didn't like it. The moral of it all is simply don't be needlessly and offensively insolent even to a tramp; he may be a newspaper man in disguise, and it is just as well as not to give gentry of that kidney a show of getting their hand in.

This encounter had taken place in the presence of a few of the globe-trotters. It was comical to notice the different ways they seemed to view the thing. An old Major-General of the Engineers entered into the joke thoroughly and chummed with me straightaway on the head of it. But the majority of the select were disgusted, notably Mr. Podgett. Her ladyship also regarded my advent to a seat at the first cabin table with withering dislike. But I didn't bear her any grudge on that score; she had her reasons, sound and substantial. The man who wilfully bombards the nattiest of tea-gowns with "shpuds" is nothing short of a cad. And she was clearly impressed with the belief that it was my hand that had launched that sloppy potato. Besides she had seen me in queer company by night, and altogether she had no doubt concluded that she had better than good grounds for setting me down as a thorough-paced blackguard. Not even when I pitched the moleskins and the singlet over-board and appeared in all the glory of a brand new suit of clothes and a clean "biled rag" did she relent in the least. In spite of my first-class ticket and my new and sprucely-cut garments, I was still in her eyes at once common and unclean. And she avoided me as she would a moral leper.

This, however, did not put me out in the least, as I did not have the slightest wish to cultivate her. I had no thought of writing novels in those days, you see; if I had had it might have been different. I was not piqued in the least at her conduct; she belonged to one world and I to another, and for her world and the things it set store by I had a contempt just as intense as the scorn she doubtless felt for me. And yet before a week was out we were on more than speaking terms. We were chums,—that is as far as such a relationship is possible' twixt male and female. And the happening of the thing was in this wise.

At Port Darwin I had found such a multitude of topics to deal with that in spite of rolling off copy by the yard when I was ashore I had still a solid six columns of arrears to get through after coming on board. So during the whole blessed stretch of daylight that followed our departure from Palmerston I lay up flat on the poop scribbling for all that I was worth. The Viscountess, in common with the other trotters, passed and repassed me a score of times, and of course saw what I was at. When I started in to finish off the thing on the next forenoon, her woman's curiosity was gently tickled and she asked the Major-General who I was, and what I was doing. At least he told me so; but inasmuch as there was no necessity for telling people my business, I merely laughed and passed on to another subject of conversation. Next-day, I had nothing to do but to admire the beauties of sea and sky, and a little of that goes a long way with a moderately active man. So I went down below and rummaged out some books from my valise and set to work to kill time with them. Among them was a copy of Æschylus I had got from Hawkston. I read this all through the afternoon till the sun flopped down into the sea over the shoulder of Tumboro, just ahead of us, and the stars came out with a rush. Then I rose and leant over the taffrail watching the coruscating waters flashing from the screw and listening to the churning of the engines and humming of the wind in the shrouds, for a night-breeze had sprung up. Possibly Æschylus was the connecting link, but anyhow I got thinking of Hawkie, and unconsciously fell a-crooning the strange and weird and outlandish melody he used to whistle when he was in the dumps. I may have kept on for the best part of five minutes, when I suddenly discovered that I had an audience of one listening to me. It was the Viscountess who was honouring me with the loan of her ears. When I turned round, she stood hesitatingly, seemingly in two minds about something or other, and then she passed round the compass-box in front of the wheel and disappeared on the other side of the poop. That evening at dinner I twice caught her looking at me. I thought it a bit odd, but I didn't trouble to consider the reasons of this strange and flattering condescension on her part. A cat might look at a king, and therefore a real live dowager Viscountess had a perfect right to feast her optics on a literary vagabond itinerant—that's what a lady acquaintance once contemptuously termed me—if her fancy set that way.

Next day something happened. After doing the Chinese business I meant to go on and lie off for a spell with Hawkston in Japan. He was teaching at some outlandish place in Kiushiu, and so I got out the map of the Mikado's realm and a letter of his to make out the itinerary I should have to make after reaching Nagasaki. I stretched myself out flat on my stomach in my usual corner, on the starboard side of the poop, beside the wheel. When I had been there about ten minutes I heard the Viscountess ordering the Chinese steward to place her chair just opposite to me on the port side. I could see her sitting down from the tail of my eye.

Just at this minute a capful of breeze sprang up and turned over my map. As I was straightening it out again the wind caught Hawkston's letter and whisked it—not overboard, but right into her Ladyship's lap! I cursed inwardly at having to speak to her, but there was no help for it. So I got on my feet and lifting my hat was going to apologise for the accident when she met me half way with a kindness and courtesy that fairly took my breath away. I noticed, however, that she started violently when she caught sight of the letter; she first flushed all over and then turned deathly pale and then again waxed as red and rosy as the warm blood of ruddy health could make her.

Of course I apologised for troubling her. She handed me the letter and remarked that it was certainly less objectionable than moist potatoes. If I had thrown that unfortunate "spud," this would have been scoring off we with a vengeance. But as I hadn't, I took the opportunity of clearing up her misconception on the point, and explained firstly that the missile wasn't meant for her at all, and secondly that I wasn't the marksman in question. This broke the ice utterly. She laughed a clear ringing hearty laugh that would have set me at ease at once if I had happened to feel at all embarrassed, which I didn't in the least.

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"Well, I am glad to be set right about this matter," she said, "although I had half made up my mind to forgive you on account of that somewhat severe lesson in manners you gave the Captain. What did you mean, though, by saying that he would yet hear more of the business."

"Not much. Only when he gets back to Sydney, he will find his character limned for him in the *Telegraph* in a fashion that will make him feel a trifle uneasy, pachydermatous brute though he seems to be."

"Ah!" she laughed, "I'm right. I see. I told General Chester that you must be a special correspondent. Is it not so?"

I saw I had hopelessly given myself away and so I didn't deny it. She was evidently a 'cute woman and I began to respect her.

"Bring a chair over here and let us talk," she went on.

I accepted the invitation readily enough, for brains in man or woman always command my sincerest regard.

And she had wit, a flashing steely wit, a wit that was like her frame, lithe, and supple and flexible, yet wondrous firm withal. After six sentences you could perceive, if you weren't uncommonly dense, that her culture was not of the mere afternoon-tea drawing-room order at all. She was touched up with none of that conventional brummagem veneer that nineteenth century young womankind are wont to smear all over a skin-deep intellect as a sort of spiritual bird lime for catching husbands. No, her culture was not laid on; it was evidently bred in the bone and rooted in the soul. She struck one as a sort of throw back or reversion —(that's the correct Darwinian slang is it not?) to the women of the sixteenth century—to such types as Vittoria Colonna, to those women whose amusements, lay in construing Plato and commanding their brother's troop of *condottieri* pending the time he lay in chokee held to ransom, and who went in for foils instead of tennis-rackets and got their complexions from hunting and hawking and cross-country scampers instead of from tight lacing and the rouge-pot. She might have walked out of "Much ado about Nothing"—a *Beatrice* who had been once though the mill of matrimonial experience, and with a dash of something peculiarly her own thrown in by way of lending additional piquancy to the character. Anyhow, that was the way I felt inclined to size her up before I had talked half an hour with her, and when I come to review the summing up, I'm inclined to think that it is about as just as one of Judge Hannen's, and that is saying something.

As I have hinted her talk was clever—brilliantly and caustically clever. After half an hour of it I began to reflect, as I answered her in the greatest possible economy of words. And the colour of my reflections was of this cast. No man or woman with brains a cut above those of a rabbit goes to the trouble of doing anything out of the ordinary without some satisfactory motive therefor. Now her ladyship had in a measure gone out of her way in honouring me with the request to anchor myself in the lounge where I lay spread out. Possibly she merely wanted to amuse herself by taking me out of the winding. Possibly she was a victim to the normal globe-trotter malady—the wretched itch for scribbling—and being on the book-making lay meant to study me for material. Possibly—but what was the good of surmising? It was neither one nor the other nor any of these things that she was after, as the sequel will abundantly show.

It wasn't at all difficult to keep in touch with the general drift of her talk. We hadn't to waste breath and effort in establishing the fundamental axioms of life. These were taken for granted tacitly, and we swept along like a pair of schläger-fighters on the *mensur*, exchanging blow for blow and knocking out no inconsiderable shower of sparks in the friendly encounter. It was delightful. There was no feeling of our being incommensurable quantities. (From the sensation of being an incommensurable quantity with a lovely woman may the good lord deliver me,—but this by the way.) That is until she shifted the current of discourse on to music, and then I brusquely remarked that I mean to "pass" in that particular deal. I furthermore added by way of explanation that I knew the difference between the "Old Hundred" and the gurgle of pale ale from the neck of a beer bottle on a thirsty day, but that all other tunes struck me as being as like each other as a family of *Dromios*.

"But I overheard you singing to yourself over the taffrail there," she said, looking towards the sternpost.

"Crooning, you mean," I corrected.

"Just as you please, then," she replied. "That was a very strange and weird melody. Where did you pick it up?"

"A friend of mine used to relieve the tedium of the night-watches in our cattle camp with it, when we were overlanding," I said.

"Indeed! That is interesting;" she remarked, looking at me closely.

"Yes, there is a bit of romance tacked on to it, I believe. Hawkston, the man that sang it had a history. I happened to be thinking of him at the time I stood there, and I suppose that's the way I got humming it to myself."

"That letter that blew away was from him, was it not?"

"Yes," I replied with some wonder. "It was. What makes you say so?"

She laughed lightly and I fancied a trifle uneasily.

"Oh! nothing, only a guess. Women have quick imaginations as a rule. We don't reason; in many cases it is not at all necessary."

"Now how the devil did she ever guess that?" I said to myself. "She is a smarter woman than most I have met."

But of course I didn't say so to her.

She dropped the subject, and made a new break, only to come back to it on a different tack.

"I see you have a map of Java there. I should like to have a look at it," she said.

I told her that I *did* have a map of Java, but that it was below, and that I would fetch it for her; the one I had on the deck was a map of Japan.

"Japan!" she said with a slightly rising inflection. "Oh, that letter of yours is from there; I see the Nagasaki post-mark on the envelope."

I had the envelope lying in the lounge beside me, patent for her to read.

"Yes," I said, "that is so. But I will fetch you the map from below."

And I made a move to get up but she made a restraining motion with her hand.

"Please, don't trouble. I am very much interested in Japan and know nothing about the geography of that quarter of the earth. Give me a lesson in it, please."

I spread out the map, or rather the Atlas of four plates, for that is the way Hassenstein has got up his maps of Mikado Land.

"So this is Nagasaki. That is where Mr. Hawkston is, I presume?" she asked.

I explained that it was the nearest Treaty port to Nakatsu where he was, and hence the post-mark.

"What is he doing there?" was her next question.

"Well, he is supposed to be teaching a Japanese Count and a hundred of his former retainers, but his main business would seem to lie in drawing his screw and getting well again."

"What do you mean; he was in bad health?" she asked with a quick turn of her swan-like neck and a tinge of anxiety in her crisp and clear-cut words.

"Bad health! Utterly broken up and run down and completely out of gear. And no wonder either; he did a dozen men's work in the last strike. Seemed as if he wanted to do for himself. Burnt the candle at both ends and generally went on as if he had been at the head of the forlorn hope at Badajos. Likely enough there was some petticoat or other at the bottom of it; there generally is, meaning no disrespect to present company."

"Ah!"

"Yes, that snatch you caught me murdering last night is a bit of the story."

"Indeed!" she said with an intonation that meant "Tell me all about it."

"However," I said rising and answering her tone rather than her words, "we shall have to put it off till another occasion. In the first place we are losing all the scenery, and in the next we are steaming right into a thundercloud and we shall be in the midst of a roaring deluge in less than five minutes."

We had just finished the circumnavigation of the huge shoulder of Japara, which, thick and massive and impenetrably forest-clad on its fire-riven and lava-scorched mountains forms in Java the counterpart of Mount Gargarus on the Adriatic side of Italy. We had just changed our course to due south, to run right into a blinding downpour of rain (lit up by dazzling lightning flashes) that swept the deck from end to end with its fury. No more talk was possible, and when this stopped we found ourselves in the roadstead of Samarang.

That evening I played poker with the General in the smoking-room. Just as we called for a nightcap preparatory to turning in, we heard some one running their fingers over the piano in the saloon below. Then came a surprise; Hawkston's tune was sung and played with a softness and a feeling that were overpowering. How the mischief had she got hold of it? If she had picked it up from hearing it when I crooned it over the taffrail she must be more than quick in the uptake. She sang words to it too, and I hadn't. What the words were I couldn't make out, but there was no mistake about the melody itself.

Next day I left the boat before she appeared on deck, and that was the last I saw of her for a week. I was fully occupied with the Chinese question, while she had gone on to see Solo and Djokya and the Boer Buddha Temple. Our next meeting was at Buitenzorg, the Simla of the Dutch East Indies.

It was amusing in its way. The hotel there—I forget its name,—is perched right on the edge of an upland plateau with its back verandah looking over a beetling precipitous ravine with two crystal streams swirling along at mill-race speed between their frond-lined banks. Away beyond is a stretch of paddy fields running up into coffee plantations which in their turn sweep up to the first curve of Salak, a huge sullen-looking fire-belching mountain mass densely clad with tropical green stuff which shelters pythons and tigers and lots of other things all equally nasty. But the view from this verandah is superb, and it is the aim of all lovers of the picturesque to locate themselves in the rooms that give upon it. Now I knew that, or rather my newest companion did. He was a Welshman with whom I had chanced to forgather in Weltevreden. He had a copper-coloured nose nicely variegated with indigo spots and blotches—the result of amateur experiments in a chemical laboratory—and a pronounced and deep-rooted dislike to youngsters. He found there were two rooms with a southern exposure; but they were not contiguous. They were separated by one which was already occupied. As I was putting myself in order at the wash-hand stand, a sound of villainous romping burst forth next door, much to poor Jones' disgust. The dividing walls did not go up to the roof quite—there is no ceiling in many Javanese hotels—and he shouted out his displeasure to me over the two partitions between. He said something about confounded kids—confounded wasn't the precise epithet he used, but it will serve —that was really ill natured and snappish not to say in really very bad taste. That is supposing the occupants of the intervening room were not guiltless of a knowledge of English as Taffy in his rashness presumed. There was a sudden stop in the romps, and a voice I recognized at a flash said quietly and gently but at the same time very crisply.

"Hush, children, we are annoying the *gentleman*."

There was just the smallest tinge of irony in the intonation of the last word. I made no bones about calling out.

"Jones, you've caught it this time, and you deserve it."

He was a good-humoured fellow and I knew well enough that he could afterwards be brought to see the joke easily enough.

When I went outside I found the Viscountess already in a lounge chair on the verandah. I could see that she was not sorry to meet me again. We chatted till dinner time and then we sat together at table. She asked me about my plans, and on my telling her that I was free for the following day she claimed my company.

Now as it chanced next day was wet. When it rains in Java it comes down in a deluge. So instead of "doing" the gardens as she had proposed we had perforce to stay indoors. As luck would have it I had got up early and for lack of nothing better to do I set to work to put the final touches to the Romance I had dug out from the labyrinths of Hawkston's diary. Of course I had brought his MS. volumes along with me to return them. When she came into my room, I had the MS. on the table. After some casual remarks she suddenly broke in;—

"By the way, Mr. Johnson, you said something about a romance in connection with your friend Mr. Hawkston. For nothing better to do to-day, suppose you turn story-teller for my benefit."

I told her what I was doing, and said that as she and Hawkston would never cross each other in all likelihood, no great harm would be done by reading her the excerpts I had made from his diary. So I wheeled an arm-chair up beside the window for her and began.

She was evidently very much interested from the start. As I read on—with a running commentary of course—I could see that she was immensely so. Especially when I came to the runaway episode and to the conclusion. Not that she ever lost much command of her repose of manner.

"Well," I asked. "Does that amuse you? What do you think of Hawkston."

"Only that there is a dash of the Knight of La Mancha in this Australian Felix Holt. He strikes me as occasionally tilting at windmills of his own erection. He is evidently a noble and a gallant fellow. But what a morbid pride he has!"

"Pride." I said "Yes! loftier than the pride of Lucifer. And that's the Australian Democracy. It's no use trying to play any Clara Vere de Vere tricks with that. They're all very well in raw sodden nook-shotten England, but under the fiery sun of the plains and the ranges they simply will not do.

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A man there stands upon his manhood, and upon that alone, and to keep that condition of things we Social Democrats mean to fight as long as soul and body hang together. And Hawkston is just as thoroughly Australian in that respect as there is any need for. The little woman misunderstood, no doubt. She may have been the daughter of a hundred Earls—of a thousand for all I know—and one to be desired in every respect. But I know enough of Hawkston to swear to it that if she made the slightest attempt at patronage, or gave the slightest hint that she was abasing herself in stooping to him—pouf! why he would just be the man to save her the sacrifice, and ring down the curtain upon the performance at the end of the second act. As I read him, he will treat women frankly and chivalrously, but he will never be a woman's poodle to humble himself to her whims and surrender his whole being at her bidding. He won't kneel at her feet as gentlemen do in high-flown yellow-backs."

"You speak frankly and forcibly," she said flushing a trifle—perhaps with anger. If it was I didn't care a cent.

"It's our fashion under the Southern Cross. It is this way, you understand. We don't wish to be rude or impudent or aggressive; we simply say what we mean. We *haven't learned to fear folks yet;* and that fear is the source of seven-tenths of those miserable lies and subterfuges that a good many fools mistake for politeness."

Just at this juncture the bell went for tiffin, and the discussion of Hawkston was adjourned *sine die*. Next morning I said good-bye to her for good as I thought, inasmuch as our ways separated. She was to remain in Java for some time longer while I had to make for Singapore in quest of fresh phases of the Yellow Agony.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A meeting of the Photographic Society of Japan was held in the Masonic Hall, No. 60, Yokohama, on Friday, 18th instant. From a little after midday there was an exhibition of prints on the bromide paper that Mr. Cocking had presented to the Society a few months ago. Mr. Cocking offered three prizes at the time that he presented the paper, and these were awarded by ballot of members and of the public on Friday. Mr. K. Ogura, amateur photographer, won the first prize, Mr. A. Futami, professional, the second. For the third prize there were so many prints that received an equal number of votes that no decision could be come to at the time of the meeting. It was decided to leave this matter to Mr. Cocking. The members of Committee exhibited, but did not compete for prizes, and the work of Mr. C. D. West was particularly admired. There was a set of microphotographs by Mr. I. Isawa that were considered to show great technical merit. Flash light photographs taken at various meetings of the Society were shown, and some by Mr. Kajima were particularly good.

Mr. K. Ogawa showed a large photograph of the interior of the Russian cathedral in Tokyo. This, as a sample of interior photography, always very difficult, and also as a sample of collotype work, is as fine as anything of the kind that we have seen.

Mr. Cocking showed a large number of "Kodac" cameras. These instruments are highly ingenious, and are excellently made. The larger sizes, which have, we believe, reached this country for the first time, relieve the instrument from the stigma of being only a toy.

In the evening there was a regular meeting of the Society, when Capt. Kenderdine occupied the chair, and the following gentlemen were elected Members of the Society:—Mr. Allan Owston, Mr. A. W. Forbes, Mr. George Brinkworth, Mr. T. H. Tanner, Mr. A. T. Watson, and Mr. J. H. Brooke.

Mr. W. K. Burton gave a demonstration of a modified silver printing process. Briefly put, the process consisted in making one solution of nitrate of silver, and another of "salt" (preferably chloride of ammonium) citric acid, carbonate of soda, and a little gelatine. The solutions are warmed and mixed, when an "emulsion" that is immediately ready for application to any surface that can be sensitized, results. The process of making the emulsion, sensitizing the paper, and toning prints by Clark's platinum method, was shown. Specimens of finished prints were also shown.

Mr. BURTON said that the process had not yet been long enough in use to know whether it had any real advantages, but the possible advantages that he saw were that a single solution that would keep fairly well could be prepared in a few minutes, and was at once applicable to any surface, whereas in all other silver printing out processes, there were either two operations, that of salting and that of sensitizing, or a washed emulsion which was comparatively troublesome to make, had to be used. The process was a cheap one.

Mr. WEST thought the saving of trouble was not great. So far as he could see, the advantage of the process was that it made it possible to get a blacker colour—one more nearly approaching to an "engraving black" than by the ordinary process.

Mr. Kajima made two exposures of the meeting by flash light.

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The hall was kindly lent to the Society by Mr. O. Keil.

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Matsue, April 15th.

I recounted in a former letter some details of a rather singular and touching double suicide which occurred in Matsue on New Year's Eve. There is a belief that when one inmate of such a house as the girl Kane lived in, commits suicide, two other suicides must occur among her companions. The belief finds some confirmation in another double suicide which took place in Chamachi, Matsue, on the night of the 10th inst., a young woman 22 years of age, known as Kaoru, and a lad of 19, named Tomo-Ichi. There was little sympathy, however, for the suicides in this case, the lad having been notoriously dissolute. According to the popular belief, a third suicide must shortly occur; and the belief is not by any means absurd. The spirit of suicide is contagious, like the spirit of crime. Tragedies occur, not isolatedly, but in groups; and if a tragedy have any very unique features, it is likely to be succeeded by another with similar features. The second Matsue suicide was purely imitative. Exactly the same measures were taken to deceive relatives, and the same poison used.

Arakawa Junosuke, of Matsue, has just sent to the Fine Arts Exhibition at Tokyo a statuette of Tenji-Tenno. Arakawa Junosuke is one of the rare survivors of that race of Japanese sculptors whose carvings are the particular architectural attraction of Buddhist temples and gateways. Almost every remarkable piece of carving in Shimane is from his hand. If you see, anywhere in Teramachi, or Tenjinmachi, a wonderful coiling of dragons over a gate, and you ask who chiselled them, the reply will almost certainly be, "Arakawa Junosuke." If in some *hakaba*, you observe any monument of unusual beauty—a smiling Jizo, or a dreaming Kwannon—and ask the name of the designer, the reply is "Arakawa Junosuke." But he is especially known, perhaps, as a carver of Shinto subjects. I have seen a very impressive relief of "Inari" made by him, and several other reliefs of ancient Japanese deities, all of which possess a particular artistic quality as rare as it is exquisite. He is especially forcible in the representation of characteristics and moods. But his art is not confined to wood carving, or to religious sculpture of any kind; he is equally noted as an engraver on metal and as a delineator of animal life. Almost every wealthy person of taste in Matsue, has something by Junosuke in his *toko;* and probably the old man's work will have no small value after he has passed away.

The beautiful black stone of the pedestal of the statuette sent to Tokyo, a polished slab set in a black persimmon frame carved to represent clouds, is from the island of Oki, belonging to Shimane Ken.

Many interesting stories are told of Arakawa Junosuke. Among others is this little anecdote:—Some years ago, while walking in the environs of the city, he observed a little tree-frog on the branch of a cedar. The pose of the tiny creature on the tree-limb, and the line of the limb itself, at once impressed him as something worthy of artistic preservation. After watching both for a while, he went to the owner of the tree and obtained permission to cut off the branch. Then he took frog and branch to his studio; succeeded in taming the frog, and, by feeding and petting it, was able soon to make it keep such a pose as he desired. For several months he studied his subject; and when his carving was finished, he carefully carried the frog back to its original habitat, and bade it farewell. Some beautiful *netsukes* in Matsue are said to be copies of the original carving of this frog.

The departure of Governor Koteda Yasusada from Shimane to Niigata, is sincerely regretted here by many thousands. The Governor had won the esteem and affection of the people during a residence of seven years in Matsue. A Japanese gentleman of the old school, in the best sense of the term, Governor Koteda, while advocating the preservation of the old polite customs and the old knightly principles of Japanese life, was also a strong advocate of liberal reforms in other matters—especially in regard to industrial affairs. He developed very considerably the local method of agriculture, and stimulated largely the commerce in marine products. Personally, his manner was of the most charming, and as genuinely kind as it was charming. His influence was also felt in artistic matters, for whatever there was of artistic ability in Matsue received his personal encouragement and aid. To visit his house was to receive a lesson in taste: every object that met the eye was beautiful, and invariably of the finest workmanship or the best school. With students the Governor was, perhaps, especially popular. He opened a fencing-school in his own grounds, where all who wished to learn the art were gladly taught for the mere pleasure of teaching them. Besides being a swordsman, the Governor is quite an athlete and a fine archer. I have had the pleasure of seeing him shoot with a bow few Matsue folk could use, and his aim, even at a very considerable range, seemed to be unerring. Many pleasant customs and amusements were maintained and encouraged by him; but his personal kindness to those about him will be remembered longer than all else. And one foreigner—the recipient of many extraordinary kindnesses from Governor Koteda and his family—can now say of a Governor who it was once rumoured did not like foreigners, that there lives no knightlier gentleman or truer-hearted man.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Boston, March 24th.

There are signs of spring. Every citizen of Boston, seeing in delightful vista the Public Garden in bloom, and our boasted Common in regulation summer dress, takes courage afresh and enters with more vigour the fight with the-all-round-cutting east-wind. Boston's life is not perfect when our garden, the Public Garden, and the Common are not in bloom, and at this time between seasons the people are watching for the first flowers in our common health vantage ground. Ah, Boston is only half Boston without its common—not so very common—garden. In the meantime, however, many things local and otherwise interest and help to bridge to blooming-time. We, the people, are now giving much attention to the case of a reporter versus a policeman. At Bishop Paddock's funeral at King Chapel, a reporter, it is claimed, was assaulted without cause by an over zealous policeman who exceeded his authority, apparently, and used unnecessary force. The case has attracted general attention and is now in the courts. The Press Club and many good citizens have petitioned for the removal of the policeman. This is one of the ripples that has disturbed our ante-spring quiet, or our post-winter monotony.

The Italian "massacre" in New Orleans, an account of which has reached already the readers of the *Mail*, is the country's topic still. The Italians throughout the land have met and talked and have passed resolutions some of which are moderate expressions of opinion, and others are full of fire, vengeance, and anarchy, and the country is here yet and going about its business much as usual. While the concensus of opinion, Italian or other, is naturally against this assumption of authority on the part of a few, and declares it to a blot on our civilization, yet there is a counter opinion, mildly, cautiously expressed that the blot, hideous as it may be, is, or the making of it was, almost if not quite necessary. If officers appointed to administer the law become venal and fail to mete out justice as directed by positive proof, then some authority, some force, must come between for the good of the community. Thus do some reason. Some of Italia's sons, very wordy and full of wrath and fury, are clamouring for the speedy dispatch of the fleet of the mother country to these shores. It is the sincere hope of this people, the people of the United States, that Italy's fleet will not move on our navy till we have time to build a few more gunboats, and put some new planks in old ones. But the Orleans affair will pass into history, probably, without more ado. Unlawful as were the means employed, the rising of the people has taught the Italians and others a lesson that is bearing fruit already.

The Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 looms up, on paper larger and larger everyday. The first number of the *World Colombian Exposition*, a paper to be issued monthly for the present and oftener as the time of holding the exhibition

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approaches, has made its appearance in Chicago, has been sent broad cast throughout the country. This publication is as entertaining as a novel—a novel on the plan of "Looking Backward." Says the paper, "It is about established that the famous Tower of Babel, as it stood in the city of Babylon, will be an attraction of the Exposition." It may be inferred from the wording of the quotation that the original tower will be on exhibition. The Columbian Memorial is another feature of the fair. It is to be 1,492 feet high. Surrounding the tower and resting on its pedestals will be a glass dome, 400 feet in diameter in which fifty thousand persons may be seated. The cost of this structure will be about two million dollars. Again, another Eifel-tower-like production is the "Chicago Columbus Tower," 1,500 feet high, to cost two million dollars. Perhaps the most "awe inspiring" structure, according to the paper, is the great sphere, 1,893 feet in height. The first gallery of this globe will be 250 feet above the ground, or nearly as high as Bunker Hill Monument; the second gallery will be 500 feet high; the third, 700 feet; the fourth, 850 feet; fifth, 1,100 feet, and sixth, 1,300 feet. From the top of the globe down to the fourth gallery, is intended to be hotel for the accomodation of ten thousand guests. From the fourth gallery a tower will rise 1,768 feet, and this will be surmounting by a statue of Columbus 125 feet high. An electric railway circling the globe twenty times will be laid from the base of the globe to the summit, a distance of twelve miles. The editor remarks, "Calmly contemplate that." It is possible to contemplate it calmly on paper, and that is the only way it is likely to be contemplated. Chicago people now live in hotels ten or fourteen stories high with the kitchen above them. To them a hotel 1,893 feet above the ground may not be so great as to those who live nearer the earth. Among other attractions will be a "Mine Exhibit" 590 feet below the surface; a mammoth religious exhibit, in which 10,000 animals and 50,000 persons will illustrate Noah's Ark; a "Moving Sidewalk;" Revolving buildings, "Balloon Transportation;" "Glass Floral Gardens;" an air ship, 728 feet long, to carry 200 passengers 70 miles an hour, and to cost $150,000. Thus is "all Chicago," and some other parts of the country, building air-castles.

News from Washington is limited to department gossip and small talk among politicians left behind after the adjournment of Congress to look after clerkships for uneasy constituents. Superintendent Porter of census fame, or notoriety, informs all who read that his agents have made extracts of nine million mortgages, in fact, there is on file in Washington abstracts of all mortgages made throughout the United States during the last ten years. But now that Mr. Porter has nine million mortgages on hand, what does he intend to do with them? If they keep him busy and prevent his meddling further with the private affairs of the people, then his collection of abstracts will not have been made in vain. It is supposed, however, that he intends to employ the pith of the nine million mortgages in building statistical tables of great ingenuity if not usefulness. Indeed, something like this has begun already in Alabama and Iowa, where, after much inquiry, Mr. Porter's agents have discovered how many acres are mortgaged, and why they are mortgaged, or what led those who have mortgages to raise money by means of such mortgages. It is remarkable that this Government will give any man authority to pester the people, to pry into the private affairs of the people, by compelling them to tell (or go to jail) for what purpose they raised money by giving mortgages on their property. If Mr. Porter intends to stay at home to play with his nine million mortgages, the people may forgive him for insults heaped upon them, but if he take to the field again with his agents and ask questions, then the people may raise in wrath and righteous indignation and suppress Mr. Porter and his census machinery. It is believed that the Government will not again give any man authority to do what Porter did in the last census. No wonder people exclaimed, "Is this a free country!" when they were compelled to spread out their private affairs for the inspection of the Government.

The appropriations made by the last Congress are now subject to general discussion in and out of the papers. The total increase in appropriations made by the 51st Congress over those of the 50th Congress amounted to $170,446,000; of this amount $113,000,000 was the increase in pension appropriations. The estimate for pensions next year calls for $135,000,000, and will be increased, probably, to nearly $150,000,000. This is astounding in view of facts known to persons who have kept pace with events. When the appropriations for pensions amounted to $38,000,000 it was believed, even declared, by the best men in Congress, that the maximum appropriation for pensions had been reached, and that it would [illegible] probably by [illegible] death of pensioners. The further we get from the time of war, the longer and fatter the pension list. The cause is not difficult to find, but the story is long, and not creditable to the nation or to its legislators. The Indian bill gave the Indians $20,000,000 for this year. An amendment to the deficiency bill of $1,000,000 provides for the payment of the French spoliation claims. This establishes a precedent, and the next Congress may be called upon to pay claims of the same kind amounting to $20,000,000. The debt (it is a just debt), is seventy years old. There are 2,000 other claims against the Government now pending in the court of claims, and the next congress may be asked to pay some or all of them, now that we have begun to pay debts seventy years old.

The agents of the Parnell fund are in this country, and it is reported that their efforts, great as they are, do not draw much money into their pockets. But it is hoped that they will get enough to take them home, and also that when they get it, they will make quick use of it.

Whatever may be the condition of the country socially, morally, we have time (and a little money) always for a "fad or fancy." We are now interested in spoons—"historic spoons," and the interest extends from Oregon to Maine. In Plymouth, where our forefathers and mothers landed in 1620 from the good ship *Mayflower*, the historic spoon is of course a "*Mayflower* spoon"; in Salem, where witches were hung, the spoon has engraved upon its handle some scene from witch-history; in Rhode Island Roger Williams is shown on a spoon; in Springfield, Miles Morga, a pioneer settler, has his portrait on a spoon. Thus on through the country in cities, towns, and villages. The first historic spoon was made in Salem, and the idea was copied immediately and extensively. Manufacturers saw their opportunity and improved it. Collectors of spoons increased and demanded every new spoon. Thus trade in spoons is good and increasing. There is hardly a town so unpretentious, and so careless of fame, as not to have a historic spoon. And spoons are useful.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

San Francisco, April 2nd.

The demand of Baron Fava for his passports came like a clap of thunder in a clear sky. Every one had made up his mind that the Italian Government was not going to concern itself about the assassination of the Italians at New Orleans; the truculent class swaggered with pretending paunch, and every man patted his neighbour on the back, and congratulated him on the exhibition of high spirit evinced in the murder of eleven defenceless men by a mob. In the exuberance of their joy, two citizens of New Orleans shot each other to death, and a third fired a load of buck shot into a negro prayer meeting, killing or wounding several women and children.

Meantime the King of Italy withdrew his ambassador, on the ground that this Government was not investigating the massacre with proper energy. In reply to the Italian remonstrances, Mr. Blaine drew Baron Fava's attention to the fact that Louisiana is a sovereign state, and possesses exclusive jurisdiction over crime committed within its borders. To this the Italian replied that his master the King was not concerned about the distribution of authority in this country; that he was not officially cognizant of the existence of a state called Louisiana; that he knew a national organization called the United States, with which he had diplomatic relations; that within the territory of that organization several of his subjects had come to violent deaths at the hands of a mob; and that for that outrage he demanded redress. No redress being offered, he withdrew his ambassador.

The vigorous step has caused the courage of our modern Bobadils to ooze out of their finger ends, and the papers are publishing terrifying accounts of the strength of the Italian navy. Mayor Shakespeare of New Orleans—he who declared, on the morning after the murders, that the mob had "done just right"—re-assures his trembling fellow citizens with the announcement that the Italian men-of-war draw too much water to cross the passes of the Mississippi, and that for the present the city is safe. Newspapers which chuckled over the assassination of the "Dagues," and published fantastic fictions about the Mafia society, and its death's head and cross-bones, are now busily engaged in demonstrating that it would be unprecedented precipitation on the part of King Umberto to declare war without exhausting the resources of diplomacy. Bawling bullies who, a few days ago, were exultant over the performance of the mob, are now quaking in their boots, and declaring that the Grand Jury of New Orleans will do the right thing.

In this State, where the brutal prejudice against the Chinese predisposed the populace to sympathise with the Louisianians, and people have been inclined to take Major Shakespeare's view of the case, sober second thought has reminded people that if Italian men-of war cannot enter the Mississippi, there is nothing to prevent their entering the Golden Gate. The thought has led many of us to reconsider our first impressions, and to take a more conservative view of mob violence. It has even induced some far-seeing citizens to institute analogies, and to inquire whether, if China choose to resent the next raid upon one of our China towns, the loss of property that might result would be fully recouped by the consciousness that we had smitten the heathen, hip and thigh.

Meanwhile, in the eloquent language of a class exhorter, the Almighty has testified his wrath by afflicting the cities of the North with an aggravated form of grippe. It seems odd, if providence did resolve to take a hand in the game, that it should have chosen to make an example of New York and Chicago, instead of New Orleans. These are mysteries which our limited intellect cannot fathom. We can only note the bare facts that every second man in New York and Chicago is either sneezing or blowing his nose, and that if Robespierre had lived to publish the great work of his youth—*sur l'art de se moucher*—it would now have an unprecedented sale in the eastern cities. This second attack of the epidemic is more serious than the first. Quite a number of deaths are reported, and diseases of the respiratory system, which begin with la grippe, are unusually severe.

The authorities of New York are suffering from an attack of anti railroad fury as well as from la grippe. A few weeks ago, a collision on the New York Central Railroad caused the death of six persons. The President and Directors were at once arrested in civil suits, and there is no doubt of the company's liability to the heirs of the deceased. But now President De Pew, and his fellow directors have been held to answer on a charge of misdemeanour. The charge will not stick unless the prosecution can prove negligence, and that will not be easy. But the indictment of one who nearly got the Republican nomination for the Presidency will have a fine effect, as evidence that the authorities are no respecters of persons.

Two recent senatorial elections have attracted general attention. One was in this State, where a Republican ex-congressman named Felton was chosen to fill the unexpired term of Hearst, democrat. Notwithstanding the chatter of papers which are not well informed, I can state that Mr. Felton did not buy his seat. It is understood that one of the candidates, De Young, did take a flyer in votes by securing an option on the San Francisco delegation, and that he may have disposed of his option at a small advance to Mr. Felton, when he found he could get no unpurchased support. But in the main the election was clean, and the railroad company, which has been prominent in politics, kept its hands off. The other senator elect is Governor Palmer of Illinois, a Democrat. Palmer has passed through the political vicissitudes which have fallen to the lot of many highminded northerners. Originally a Democrat, he became a Union man when the south tried to split the country, and for fifteen years, he acted with the Republicans. When Hayes stole the Presidency to which Tilden had been elected, Palmer like many others, went back to his early love, and resumed his place in the democratic ranks. He has now been chosen Senator by the Democrats, aided by two Farmers' Alliance men. He is worthy of the honour. He served with credit during the war, and afterwards made an excellent Governor of Illinois. He would be a strong candidate for the nomination for the Presidency, were it not that he is seventy-six years old.

Your lawmakers, on whom it will probably by and by devolve to frame a new tariff for Japan, may learn a lesson from an occurrence of yesterday. The sugar clauses of the McKinley tariff went into effect at midnight on 31st March. From that hour raw sugar took its place on the free list. As the duty was 2 cents or 2½ cents per pound according to grade, the price of the article ought to have declined precisely that sum. But in fact the decline did not average over a cent. on the various grades at New York, and about ⅜ of a cent. here. It seems evident that the profit of the repeal of the duty is to go to the refiner and not to the consumer. It is the old story. When the duty on coffee was repealed some fifteen or sixteen years ago, ostensibly in order to cheapen an article of general consumption by the poor, but really in order to deplete the revenue without reducing the protective duties on manufactures, Brazil imposed [illegible] duties on manufactures, Brazil imposed a export duty equivalent to the import duty which

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the United States abolished, and the cost of coffee remained the same. When, in 1882, Congress reduced the internal revenue tax on tobacco, ostensibly in order to cheapen what Mr. Blaine called "the poor man's chew," but really in order to prevent a repeal of favours to the privileged class, the manufactures of tobacco put their heads together, and resolved to make no change in their prices. They took the money which the Government relinquished—some $25,000,000 a year—and the price of tobacco remained the same to the consumer. So now, the bulk of the $60,000,000 a year which the McKinley bill abandons in the repeal of the sugar duty, will go to the refiner, and the price of sugar to the consumer will not vary much.

The correspondence between Minister Fava and Secretary Blaine has just been published, and I append the essential portions of it, as part of the history of the times. The Italian envoy wrote:—

ROYAL LEGATION OF ITALY, Washington, March 13th 1891.

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:—By my two notes of the 15th and the 18th inst., I had the honour to call your Excellency's serious attention to occurrences of exceptional gravity, which took place at New Orleans on the 14th, whereby four subjects of the King of Italy, who were confined in the city, where massacred by a crowd under the leadership of two American citizens. After having formally protested against the unjustifiable conduct of the local authorities, which were evidently recreant to all their duties on that occasion, I reserved to the Government of his Majesty the right to demand such satisfaction as it might think proper, since the occurrences in question constituted a patent violation of the stipulations of the treaty in force between our two countries which secures to Italian subjects residing in the United States the same protection enjoyed by American citizens, and which have always been extended to the latter in Italian territory.

The reparation demanded by the Government of the King, as I have had the honour to inform you in our interviews held during the last few days, were to consist of the following points: First, official assurance by the Federal Government that the guilty parties should be brought to justice; second, recognition of the principle that indemnity is due to the relatives of the victims.

Your Excellency was pleased to declare to me that, as the Federal Government did not think it could take this view of the case, it declined to take the aforesaid demands into consideration. Under these circumstances the Government of his Majesty, considering that the legitimate action of the King's Minister at Washington becomes ineffacious, has ordered me to take my leave. In obedience, I have the honour to announce that I am going to leave Washington as speedily as possible, leaving the Marquis Imperiali, his Majesty's Secretary of Legation, in charge of the current business of the Royal Legation.

To this, Mr. Blaine replied:—

I beg to inform you of the sincere regret with which the Government of the United States receives the intelligence of Baron Fava's speedy departure from this capital. Though he has more than once intimated this purpose, the Government of the United States has been unable to see adequate reason for such a step. The Baron's service here for the past ten years has been distinguished, maintaining at all times the most agreeable relations with the Executive Department of this Government. The regret at his leaving is enhanced when, as the President believes, he has been recalled under a misapprehension of the facts by the Government of Italy.

The cause of his sundering his diplomatic relations with this Government is thus given in his note:—"The reparation demanded by the Government of the King, as I had the honour to inform you in our interviews held during the last few days, were to consist of the following points: First, official assurance by the Federal Government that the guilty parties should be brought to justice; second, recognition of the principle that indemnity is due to the relatives of the victims."

The first demand thus stated by Baron Fava is slightly changed in phrase from that employed by him in his many verbal requests based on a telegram from the Marquis Rudini which he left with me. Marquis Rudini declared that "Italy's right to demand and to obtain the punishment of the murders and indemnity for the victims is unquestionable." It is inferred that Baron Fava's change of phrase meant no change of demand. I have endeavoured to impress upon him, in the several personal Interviews with which he has honoured me, that the Government of the United States is utterly unable to give the assurance which Marquis Rudini had demanded. Even if the National Government had entire jurisdiction over the alleged murderers it could not give assurance to any foreign power that they should be punished. The President is unable to see how any Government could justly give assurance of this character in advance of a trial and verdict of "guilty."

In the Constitution of the United States it is declared that "in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed." It needs no argument to prove that a jury could not be impartial if it were in any degree bound or to any degree before the trial of the accused by an assurance which the President of the United States had ventured to give a foreign power.

In the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, under whose immediate jurisdiction the crimes were committed, substantially the same provision is found; so the Governor of that State would be as unable to give a pledge in advance for the result of the trial under the State law as the President would be were it practicable to try the leaders of the mob under the law of the United States.

In Baron Fava's second point he demands the recognition of the principle that indemnity is due to the relatives of the victims. He is assuredly under a grave error when he declares that the United States Government declined to take this demand into consideration, and I shall regret if he has communicated such a conclusion to his Government. The United States, so far from refusing, has distinctly recognized the principle of indemnity to those Italian subjects who may have been wronged by a violation of the rights secured to them under treaty with the United States. of February 26, 1871. I have repeatedly given to Baron Fava the assurance, that, under the direction of the President, all the facts and incidents connected with the unhappy tragedy at New Orleans on the 14th of March last should be most thoroughly investigated. I have also informed him that, in a matter of such gravity, the Government of the United States would not permit itself to be unduly hurried, nor will it make answer to any demand until every fact essential to a correct judgement shall have been fully ascertained through legal authority. The impatience of the aggrieved may be natural, but its indulgence does not always secure the most substantial justice.

Your readers can easily decide which of the writers has the best of argument.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, April 18th.

Prince Bismarck has been elected for Hanover.

A severe form of influenza has broken out in Birmingham, and great mortality follows the visitation. The town of Hull is similarly afflicted, and the epidemic is so general that business is impeded.

London, April 19th.

Portugal demands that the British proposals be modified, and to continue at Rogirosa until June.

A battery of artillery has refused to parade at Portsmouth on the ground of excessive drills.

London, April 20th.

Sir Joseph W. Pease has dropped his opium motion.

[FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS."]

London, April 3rd.

An extensive conspiracy has been organised at Belgrade and Stamboul, its object being the murdering of the Bulgarian Premier and other Ministers.

London, April 4th.

An Anti-Parnellite has been elected M.P. for Sligo.

London, April 8th.

The Delegates from Newfoundland have started for England, taking with them the protest from Parliament against the Arbitration.

The Sydney Convention has resolved to establish a Supreme Federal Court of Appeal.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8.05, 9, 9.35,† 10.15, and 11.40† a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,‡ 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.10, 9.20,* 10.20, and 11.25* a.m., and 12.50, 1.50,* 2.55, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8 8.58,† 10, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.30, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.08, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 60, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between Kozu and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri*.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri*).

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26 and 9.40 a.m., and 12.10, 3.50, 5.00, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35 and 9.51 a.m., and 12.21, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43 and 10 a.m., and 12.30, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m., YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, and 11.20 a.m., and 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, and 11.36 a.m., and 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 11.46 a.m., and 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Zushimura *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6, 8.50, and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40 and 5.45 p.m.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 10.05 a.m., and 12.25* and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 p.m.

* Through Trains to and from Ueno.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen*, third-class, 25 *sen*.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.03, 4.42, and 6.09 p.m., and 12.08 a.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.18 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.05, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1.10, 4.35, 7.10, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.35, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.44, 6, and 9.20 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 10.26 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OFU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.55 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.48, 3.35, and 6.03 p.m., and 12.33 and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, and 7 p.m., and 1.25 and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, and 7.29 p.m., and 1.54 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 3.10 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 8.43 a.m., and 3.59, 7.01, 8.57, and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.40, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.50 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.30, and 11.08 p.m., and 5.36 a.m., and 3.30 p.m., and OSAKA at 12.36, 8.18, and 11.12 p.m., and 7 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, and 9.30 p.m.. OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, and 10.36 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 4.34 p.m., and 12.15 a.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, and 5.19 p.m., and 1.10 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, and 6.59 p.m., and 2.41 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3.05 a.m.; OGAKI at 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OFU at 9.01 and 11.53 a.m., and 2.52, 5.21, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 5.57, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11.50 a.m., and 6.02 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.08, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Ofu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.80; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6 and 9.55 a.m. and 1.15 and 5.30 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 7.50, and 11.48 a.m., and 3.08 and 7.23 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 5.45 and 9.40 a.m., and 1 and 4.25 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 6.47 and 10.42 a.m., and 2.02 and 5.26 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29 second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 69.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.40 and 9.25 a.m., and 2.20 and 5.15 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.25 and 10.10 a.m., and 2.05 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday May 1st
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 5th *
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 26th.†
From Europe viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, May 1st ‡
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'day, May 13th.

* *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on April 14th. † *Verona* left Hongkong on April 18th. ‡ *Sydney* (with French mail) left Hongkong on April 22nd.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 26th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, April 26th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 28th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 2nd.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday May 5th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co	Friday, May 15th
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 16th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 18th April,—Handa 17th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yangtsé, French steamer, 2,371, Lartinge, 18th April,—Hongkong 9th, Shanghai 13th, and Kobe 17th April, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Alexandrine (18), German cruiser, Capt. Kirhhof, 19th April,—Shanghai 14th April.

Leipsig (22), German cruiser, Captain Rottger, 19th April,—Shanghai 14th April.

Sophie (18), German cruiser, Captain Framiut, 19th April,—Shanghai 14th April.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 19th April,—Kobe 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 20th April,—Yokkaichi 19th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,107, W. M. Smith, 20th April,—San Francisco 2nd April, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 21st April,—Hongkong 15th April, General.—O.& O. S.S. Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 21st April,—Hakodate 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigelthal, 21st April,—Niigata 17th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 22nd April,—Hongkong 16th April, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 22nd April,—Handa 21st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, Thomsen, 22nd April,—Hachinohe 20th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 22nd April,—Hakodate 20th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Sommers, 22nd April,—Kobe 21st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Teviot, British steamer, 1,349, W. Waring, 22nd April,—Kobe 20th April, Rice.—Mourityan, Heimann & Co.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 23rd April,—Yokkaichi 22nd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 24th April,—Kobe 22nd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 24th April,—Nagasaki 20th April, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Electra, German steamer, 1,162, Moller, 24th April,—Hongkong 17th April, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 24th April,—Shanghai and ports 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 18th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 18th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenmorvon, British steamer, 1,988, Wright, 19th April,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 19th April,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 19th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 21st April,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 21st April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 21st April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 22nd April,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 22nd April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 23rd April,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Mini, 23rd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 23rd April,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 23rd April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 24th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Yangtsé*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. Larcher, Hatchida, Shin Sehin, Akimoto, Murdour, Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Browan, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Miss Russell, Messrs. Schmeidell, Rudolph, Vandenkove, Freemann, Misses Freemann, Fries, and Block in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. Matsuki, W. Paset, Elliston, and Fischer in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 65 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. M. H. R. Harris, O. A. Poole, J. Sampson, Colgate Baker, Miss K. Baker, Mr. A. D. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bradlee Smith, Miss Nellie Bradlee Smith, Miss Alice P. Adams, Mr. W. D. Page, Mr. H. J. Snow, Mrs. J. D. Redding, Miss Myra Redding, Mrs. F. P. McLennan, Miss Maggie McLennan, Messrs. T. W. Hellyer and servant, James Herrmann, J. S. Fearon, R. M. T. Ball, U.S.N., H. P. Blanchard, Jun., Mrs. C. Esterbrooke, Mr. O. H. P. Noyes, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hunt, Mrs. H. Frances Parmelee, Mr. Y. Hijikata, Lieut. Despages, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Messrs. John Fraser and valet, Herbert Samuelson, and E. J. Moss in cabin. For Hongkong: Mr. W. E. Thorne, Dr. and Mrs. T. Rennie and child, and Mr. J. Acheson in cabin. For Shanghai: Messrs. Charles J. Schlee, H. J. J. Chambers, J. H. Craven, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ernest Waters, and Mr. A. J. H. Carlill in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from Hongkong:—Mr. W. W. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Cork, Dr. Vogal, Miss Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Cruys, Dr. Schweizer, and Captain and Mrs. Glubb in cabin. For San Francisco: Captain and Mrs. Lopez, Messrs. A. Westenholz, H. D. C. Jones, M. R. Escudero, Barclay, R. F. Drury, W. N. Simpson, W. A. Duland, Mr. and Mrs. Blacklock and maid, Mr. and Mrs. John Nation, Captain and Mrs. Lloyd and 3 children, Messrs. C. C. Wiget, W. Richter, and T. Simpson in cabin.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Grauert, Miss Focke, Dr. E. Papellier, Dr. Bagshaw, Mr. F. Reinsdorf, Mrs. Boeddinghaus, Messrs. Brandlin, Lee Yu Pack and child, Quan Sung Chai, Too Sung, Lun Yue Yen, Mrs. Paw Win and child, Mr. Loong Win, Mr. Wong Chew, Mrs. Lam Lee and child, Mrs. Tan See and child, Mr. A. Edelmann, and Mr. Ineodji in cabin; 71 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. Branshushu, Mrs. Chikusa, Mrs. F. Kawamura, Messrs. Rose, M. Ibaragi, and K. Fuji in cabin; 33 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. J. Connas in cabin; 4 passengers in second class, and 39 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Speigel, Mr. and Mrs. Woolf, European maid and 2 children, Miss Braithwaite, Miss MacArthur, Bishop A. H. Hare, Messrs. Geo. Service, R. A. Lawrence, S. Fukushima, J. Hideshima, and M. Okura in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 96 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Miss Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Messrs. W. G. Bayne, J. B. Conlson, Shekell, and Poo Shee in cabin; 8 Chinese and 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Montell, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Mozley, Mrs. Esterbrooke, Mr. and Mrs. Waters, Sister Marie Auguste, Messrs. D. M. Johnston, W. B. Walter, A. B Munster, M. Pors, Captain A. McCullum, Messrs. J. Samson, J. S. Fearon, J. Acheson, E. J. Moss, J. H. Craven, Carlill, C. J. Schlee, H. J. Chambers, and Magee in cabin; Messrs. Tojio, Kuroda, Yasumi, and Sheddon in second class, and 96 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for Hongkong:—Paymaster R. T. M. Ball, U.S.N., and Mr. Queong Sing Ling in cabin,

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—Hon. Mrs. John F. Swift and maid, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hannen, Lieut.-Commander and Mrs. G. A. Morris, Mr. E. A. Griffiths, Captain G. A. Goodale, Prof. Geo. L. Goodale, Messrs. W. H. Crowe, J. Lawrence, J. M. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. S. Irvin, Mrs. Amerman, 2 children, and native servant, Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Barnett, Miss Patterson, Major General J. Bonus, General Ritt V. Kominek, Mr. August de Crignis, Dr. G. Prager, Dr. E. Witte, Messrs. D. E. Simon, A. H. Ough, J. C. S. Porcher, J. G. Schroter, Misses Rivington, Mr. F. H. Rivington, Count Florente, Mr. L. Wertheimer, Count Gabriel Greppi and servant, Mr. C. I. D. Moore and European servant, Mrs. A. G. Rhodes and 2 children, Mr. H. Kitching, Dr. R. Stuart, Mrs. Julius Soper, 2 children and native servant, Miss Johnson, Mr. H. Weston, M. W. H. Harries, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Edward McKean and 4 children, Captain and Mrs. J. Lopez, Mr. Wm. A. Daland, Mr. and Mrs. Blacklock and maid, Mr. H. D. C. Jones, Mr. Rodriguez Escudero, Captain and Mrs. Lloyd and 3 children, Mr. R. F. Drury, Mr. E. Richter, Mr. C. J. R. Fraser, Miss Breton, Mr. Robert Stewart, Mrs. and Miss Stewart and maid, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Low, Miss Loring, Mr. Geo. Sale, and Rev. and Mrs. Weitbrecht in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $30,000.00.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 424 bales; for London 20 bales; total 440 bales.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER PORTS.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	1,050	773	371	2,194
Hongkong	522	—	—	522
Total	1,572	773	371	2,716

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER PORTS.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	147	—	147
Hongkong	—	129	—	129
Yokohama	—	864	—	864
Total	—	1,140	—	1,140

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Kobe the 18th April at noon; had light northerly winds and fine weather; passed Oshima at 9.10 p.m., fresh N. and N.N.W. winds to Omai-saki; passed Rock Island the 19th at 1.25 p.m., moderate N.E. winds and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama at 8 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 18th April at 2 p.m.; had light easterly winds to Shiriya-saki, which was passed at 5.40 p.m.; thence moderate N.W. winds and fine weather to port. Arrived at Ogimohama the 19th at 2 p.m. and left the 20th at 4.30 a.m.; had light southerly winds with fine weather and smooth water to Inuboye, which was passed at 7 p.m.; thence light variable and northerly winds to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 21st April at 7 a.m.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain Smith, reports:—Left San Francisco the 2nd April at 4.16 p.m.; had strong head winds and head seas during entire passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 20th April at 8.29 p.m. Time, 17 days, 10 hours, and 41 minutes.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain Walker, reports:—Left Hongkong the 15th April; had strong N.E. winds and sea to Yokoshima; thence to port fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 21st April at 4.10 a.m. Time, 5 days, 12 hours, and 54 minutes.

The German steamer *General Werder*, Captain Eichel, reports:—Left Hongkong the 16th April at 0.40 p.m.; through the Formosa Straits had hazy weather, strong N.E. winds, and cross sea; thence to port light easterly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd April at 10.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstraud, reports:—Left Hakodate the 20th April at 2 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine clear weather to Shiriyasaki; thence fresh breeze and following sea from N.E. to Noshima; when wind fell light and variable, freshening in the bay to S.W. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd April at 11.55 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Kobe the 22nd April at 12.15 p.m.; had light southerly winds and smooth sea all the way to Rock Island; thence to port strong southerly winds and heavy following sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 23rd April at 8.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 18th April at 6 a.m.; had light winds with fine pleasant weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 19th at 11.15 p.m. and left the 20th at 5 p.m. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 21st at 6 a.m. and left at 10.50 a.m. Arrived at Kobe the 22nd at 6.12 a.m. and left the 23rd at noon; had moderate to strong S.W. winds with fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 24th at 3.30 p.m.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

During the past week there has been extremely little doing in any department of the trade, and though the laid down cost of everything is being daily increased by a decline in exchange, no corresponding effect has thus far been produced on selling prices, which continue in buyers' favour in respect of the trifling hand to mouth business going on, as dealers seem indisposed to operate beyond absolute requirements. Sales of Yarn only amount to about 250 bales, chiefly English spinnings. Sales of Shirtings are about 3,000 pieces 9lb., 1,500 pieces 8½lb., and 1,000 pieces 7lb. T. Cloths; also 2,000 pieces Victoria Lawn, 1,000 pieces Cotton Italians, and 3,000 pieces Mousseline de Laine. Cloth and Blankets are dead, and most descriptions of Woollens are in deep mourning.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
	per yard.		
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4 50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 3 inches	0 50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1 35	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 42 yards, 32 inches	$4 00	to	5 50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.14½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$24 00	to	27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.25	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.25	to	30 00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.50	to	29 00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29 50	to	30 50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	30 75	to	32 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.00	to	35 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	33.50	to	37 50
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78 00
No 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77.00
Nos. 10/12, Bombay		—	

METALS.

There is still very little doing in Metals, and prices are unchanged generally, though Wire Nails could be bought at somewhat reduced rates.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$2.80	to	2.95
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.85	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.65
Tin Plates, per box	5.70	to	6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.40	to	1.45

KEROSENE.

Kerosene is still very quiet, and sales could only be effected at a reduction.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.60	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1 60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

Sales of Brown have been on a moderate scale, but nothing doing in Whites.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$4.20	to	4 25
Brown Daitong	3.20	to	4.10
Brown Canton	5.00	to	6.00
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.05
White Refined	5.00	to	7.80

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 17th inst., since which date the settlements on this market have been 637 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures* 338 piculs, *Re reels* 218 piculs, *Kakeda* 81 piculs. From this quantity have to be deducted 9 piculs *Hanks* returned to native godowns, thus bringing the nett settlements down to 628 piculs. Direct shipments during the week have been 26 piculs, making the total export business of the week equal to 654 piculs.

During the week the demand has been strong from the United States for all classes of silk suitable for that market, and transactions would probably have been much larger were it not that stocks have been almost completely cleared of desirable qualities, so that many repeat orders cannot now be filled. Prices have in consequence remained very strong, and advances from $5 to $10 had to be paid on almost every parcel taken up.

Exchange, which had ruled pretty evenly during the week, experienced a sudden drop of ¼d. yesterday, which will, no doubt, be taken advantage of by the native holders to further raise their demands.

Arrivals have been small, and the available stocks have been reduced to 2,050 piculs, about equal to the stock on the market at the same date last year when the figure stood at 2,100 piculs.

The weather is seasonable, and all looks well for the prospects of the new crop. In very early districts a few eggs have already been hatched.

There have been three shipping opportunities during the week, the Canadian Pacific steamer *Empress of India* of the 17th, the P. & O. steamer *Ancona* of the 18th, and the O. & O. steamer *Belgic* of the 23rd. The two American mail steamers took 350 and 864 bales respectively for New York, and the English mail carried 444 bales for Europe. The present export figures are therefore 30,819 piculs, against 35,048 piculs last year and 38,988 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—Only a few bales were actually taken into godown, but most of them again returned. Adding thereto rejections of previous settlements this class shows a minus quantity of 9 piculs.

Filatures.—There has been a fair demand for Europe at from $610 to $630 for fine sizes, and there would still be buyers on that basis, but the reduced stock makes this very difficult. Buyers for America have been picking up the few remaining lots of *Shinshu* at $630 and $635; stock of these is now completely cleared off.

Re reels.—A few parcels of best have been taken for the United States at $600 to $610, and buyers for Europe have turned their attention to Medium sorts of *Joshu* and *Bushu* at $550 to $560, and Common at $535 and Medium *Oshu* at the same prices.

Kakeda.—There has been an active demand for this class, prices being pushed up to $610 for extra, $595 for No. 1, and $570 for No. 2. Stock is almost cleared, and buyers depend upon each day's arrivals for further business.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		$530 to 540
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	530 to 535
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		520 to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	520 to 525
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	510 to 515
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	500 to 505
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	480 to 490
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers		650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		625 to 635
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		560 to 570
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	610 to 620
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		580 to 590
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570 to 575
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		530 to 540
Kakedas—Extra		610
Kakedas—No. 1		590 to 600
Kakedas—No. 1½		580 to 590
Kakedas—No. 2		570
Kakedas—No. 2½		555 to 560
Kakedas—No. 3		535 to 540
Kakedas—No. 3½		525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 4		515 to 520
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.	540 to 550
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	510 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 24th April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	13,241	14,624	19,871
America	16,936	19,969	18,763
Total { Bales	30,177	34 593	38,634
Total { Piculs	30,819	35,048	38,988
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	32,850	35,150	38 700
Stock, 24th April	2,050	2,100	2,600
Available supplies to date	34,900	37,250	41,300

WASTE SILK.

A small business done in this branch, total settlements for the week amounting to 436 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi* 82 piculs; *Kibiso* 263 piculs; *Sundries* 91 piculs.

The stocks still remaining on the market—3,450 piculs—are of anything but desirable quality, and buyers find great difficulty in filling their orders. Anything suitable is picked up at full prices, but such parcels are now almost entirely out of the market.

Shipments during the week have been confined to the steamer *Ancona* (18th inst.) which carried 171 piculs to Europe. Total export for the season stands now at 28,487 piculs, against 27,217 piculs last year and 29,591 piculs in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—Nothing done.

Noshi-ito.—A rather large parcel of *Joshu* (66 piculs) changed hands at from $72 to $90; the balance of the settlements consists of *Filatures* at from $136 to $142½.

Kibiso.—Several parcels *Bushu* and *Santan* were taken up at $26 down to $13, and some *Oshu Curlies*, No. 2, at $45 to $50½.

Mawata.—Nothing doing, the balance of stock not being suitable for export.

Sundries.—Settlements consist principally of *Boseki Wata* at from $25 to $40; also a few parcels of *Nori* at $9½ to $13.

Prices remain nominally unchanged.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		$135 to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100 to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85 to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½ to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70 to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		55 to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50 to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good		45 to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½ to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15 to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180 to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 24th April, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	27,200	25,027	27,113
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	28,487	27,217	29,591
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	29,950	28,350	30,500
Stock, 24th April	3,450	5,250	3,700
Available supplies to date	33,400	33,600	34,200

Exchange has remained almost stationary until yesterday when a sudden drop of ¼d. was experienced; at close it seems to recover somewhat and stands firm as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/2⅜; Documents, 3/2½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/2⅜; Documents, 3/2¼; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $77½; 4m/s. U.S. $78; Paris, 4m/s. frs. 4.04; 6m/s. frs. 4.06.

Estimated Silk Stock, 24th April, 1891:—

Raw.	piculs.	Waste.	piculs.
Hanks	60	Cocoons	90
Filatures	720	Noshi-ito	1,130
Re-reels	1,100	Kibiso	1,925
Kakeda	100	Mawata	155
Oshu	65	Sundries	150
Tayaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	2,050	Total piculs	3,450

TEA.

The weather continues favourable to the new crop, and a heavy outturn is expected from the principal districts.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange remained unaltered till a couple of days ago, when a drop of ¼d. took place. Since then there has been a slight reaction, and rates close fairly firm.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3 2⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/2⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3 2
On Paris—Bank sight	4.01
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.11
On Hongkong—Bank sight	¼ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	76½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	76½
On San Francisco—Private 10 days' sight	78
Silver	44½

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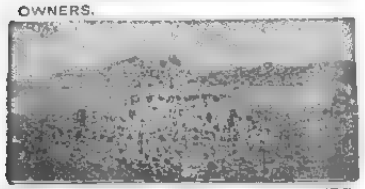

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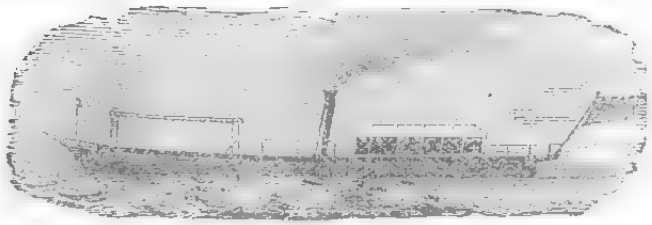

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated bye th name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1891.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPRESS is at present slightly indisposed.

COUNT ITO returned to the capital on the 26th ultimo, and put up at the Imperial Hotel.

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR has been pleased to grant a sum of *yen* 500 to the funds of the Japan Educational Society.

H.I.H. THE PRINCE IMPERIAL OF RUSSIA reached Nagasaki on the 28th ultimo, but will not land officially until the 4th instant.

THE Japan Railway Company has declared a dividend of ten per cent. for 1890, and has decided to purchase the Mito Railway.

THE Yokohama Spring Races came off on the 28th, 29th, and 30th instant. His Majesty the Emperor was present on the second day.

MR. MASUJIMA ROKUICHIRO, President of the Tokyo Law Institution, resigned his post on the 25th ultimo, and was succeeded by Mr. Kikuchi Takeo.

MR. SHINTO KOTODA, residing at Takabatamura, Higashi-okitamagori, Yamagata Prefecture, has discovered a gold and silver lode at Takayasu, in that district.

MAJOR MORI, a Chamberlain, was despatched by the Emperor on the 24th ultimo to the residence of the late Count Yoshii with a present to the family of the deceased nobleman.

ON the 21st ultimo fire broke out in a house at Sakaomura, Ashibagori, Fukui Prefecture, destroying 38 dwellings, 8 godowns, and 12 sheds before the flames could be subdued.

VISCOUNT KABAYAMA, Minister of State for the Navy, visited, on the 24th ultimo, the German flagship *Leipsig*, now in the port of Yokohama, and received a salute of 17 guns.

A GENERAL meeting of shareholders of the Sakurada Beer Brewery Company was held on the 27th inst. in the capital, at which a dividend was declared at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

AT the election held on the 27th ultimo to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Nakayama Yasujiro, a member of the Kanagawa Prefectural Assembly, Mr. Ishikawa Tokuyemon was elected.

THE political crisis continues. Count Ito has remained unshaken in his resolve to stand aloof from politics at present, and the general idea is that Count Saigo will consent to assume the post of Minister President.

AN exhibition of the paintings in oils and water-colours, made by Mr. John Varley during his residence in Japan, was held at the Tokyo Charity Hospital on the 26th, 27th, and 28th ultimo, the proceeds being devoted to the Hospital.

ON the night of the 19th ultimo fire broke out in a house at Isomemura, Minami-Akitagori, Akita Prefecture, and 82 houses and 13 sheds were destroyed, 2 houses being partly damaged before the flames could be got under control. On the 23rd instant, about 11 p.m., 137 dwellings were entirely burned and 7 houses partly damaged at Aonoichimura, Ishikawagori, in the same Prefecture.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Privy Council was held on the 27th ultimo, and was attended by Counts Oki, Terajima, Soyejima, Katsu, and Sasaki, Viscounts Sano, Fukuoka, Enomoto, Tanaka, and Yoshida, and Messrs. Kono, Ozaki, and Inouye, by whom matters in connection with Treaty Revision were discussed. Counts Saigo and Goto, and Viscount Aoki were also present at the meeting.

THE regular general meeting of shareholders of the Domestic Transport Company was held on the 26th ultimo at the Koseikan, Tokyo. After the reading of the business report for the past year, Mr. Sasaki Sosuke was elected to the office of President, and Messrs. Yamanaka Rinnosuke, Okura Kihachiro, Yoshimura Jimbei, Moriyama Hansaburo, and Okamoto Jenshichi were elected Councillors. A dividend was declared at the rate of 10 per cent per annum.

EARLY in the morning of the 24th ultimo fire broke out in a house at Tokuyama-mura, Shitagori, Shizuoka Prefecture. The flames were confined to the building where the fire originated, but one man, aged ninety years, was burned to death. An outbreak of fire took place on the night of the 18th ultimo, in a house at Hiatarimura, Motosu-gori, Gifu Prefecture, destroying 13 dwellings and one shed before the flames could be got under control.

THE amount of Government paper currency and bank notes in circulation on the 31st March, and carried over to April 1st, was *yen* 56,831,784.40, of which *yen* 24,213,202.00 represented Government notes above one *yen* face value, *yen* 7,156,869.90 notes under 50 *sen* face value, and *yen* 25,461,712.50 Bank notes. As compared with the previous month the above figures show a decrease of *yen* 1,492,962.00 in Government notes, and *yen* 116,766.00 in Bank notes.

A TELEGRAM from Hokkaido reports that fire broke out on the night of the 23rd ultimo in a house at Mojiricho, Yezashizawa, Hiyamagori, Toshima, and before the flames could be subdued about 600 buildings were burned to the ground. On the following morning about 2 a.m. an outbreak of fire took place in a house at Tojomura, Uyeshimagori, Nagano Prefecture, and destroyed 685 dwellings, one police station, one bank, 2 shrines, and 3 temples, 3 houses and one post and telegraph office being partly burned before the flames could be got under control. Three persons were burned to death, and three were more or less injured.

THE 8th general meeting of members of the Japan Educational Society was held on the 25th ultimo in the Lecture Hall of the Imperial University at Kanda, under the presidency of Mr. Tsuji, Vice-Minister for Education. The meeting was opened by the reading of the reports of the society for the past year by Mr. Kusakabe Sannosuke, after which the election of Councillors took place. Mr. Nagayama, on behalf of Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of State for Education, read an address, and H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa Taruhito delivered a short speech, to which Mr. Tsuji, President, replied in suitable terms. Messrs. K. Kinotsuki, H. Muraoka, and T. Inouye also delivered speeches during the course of the proceedings.

A REPORT issued by the Home Department shows that 64 earthquakes were felt in the Empire on 24 days in March last, the day on which the largest number was felt being the 21st, when there were 9 shocks. The greatest number of earthquakes was felt between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. The most severe oscillations took place between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., the disturbed area being also greatest at that time. The hours which were most free from earthquakes were between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. The provinces visited during the month were Nemuro, Kushiro, Mutsu, Rikuchu, Rikuzen, Uzen, Echigo, Iwashiro, Iwaki, Hitachi, Shimozuke, Kozuke, Musashi, Shimosa, Kazusa, Awa, Sagami, Izu, Suruga, Kai, Shinano, Mikawa, Owari, Mino, Echizen, Ise, Shima, Iga, Omi, Wakasa, Tango, Tamba, Yamashiro, Kii, Mimasaka, Bizen, Bitchu, Bingo, Hoki, Izumo, Iwami, Aki, Nagato, Iyo, Awa, Bungo, Higo, and Satsuma, Nemuro and Kushiro having no less than 11 shocks. The disturbance most extensively felt was that which occurred on the 1st, extending over 10 provinces. The provinces in which the most severe shocks were felt were Hitachi, Shimozuke, Shimosa, and Musashi, in other provinces the tremors being generally weak.

THERE is not much improvement in the Import trade so far as the amount of business is concerned, though the downward tendency of prices has received a check, and there is some enquiry. The Yarn sold has been mainly English, very little Bombay being taken. The week's trade includes Shirtings, Victoria Lawns, Turkey Reds, and Handkerchiefs, which have been bought in small lots. Metals are quiet generally, and there is no immediate prospect of improvement. Kerosene has remained unaltered in value, with only a small demand. Sugar is held for more money, and but little has moved off. The Silk trade is quiet, the stock being now poor in quality, and arrivals have only come in to the amount of sales. Waste Silk may be referred to in like terms. The new crop is coming on under favourable conditions, but nothing is yet said about the probable out-turn. Mulberry is plentiful and cheap. The Tea trade is not yet in full swing, but the quality of the leaf received so far has been favourably reported on. Exchange has not fluctuated much, and rates close at about the same figures as those of last week.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE "YOMIURI" ON TREATY REVISION.

We noticed the other day that the *Yomiuri Shimbun* had been publishing a series of articles on Treaty Revision, and we also gave an epitome of the earlier portions of the series. In succeeding articles the *Yomiuri* took up first the question of the advisability of granting to foreigners the privilege of mixed residence. This our contemporary declares to be an important point in connection with Treaty Revision, and if the treaties are to be revised on the basis of equality the privilege must be granted. The writer had all along believed that any scheme of revision which did not provide for mixed residence must fail. It was on this point that the outcry on the part of the Conservative party against the schemes of Counts Inouye and Okuma arose. Current rumour has it that in Viscount Aoki's draft proposal the privilege is accorded to foreigners only within the limits of the foreign settlements. If such be the case, then we (*Yomiuri*) can but regret the Minister's weakness, for he must certainly fail as his predecessors did. In this respect Japan is distinctly behind other countries, such as England, France, Germany and, Russia, which allow foreigners to possess land, while here such possession is forbidden by law, a notification issued on the 14th day of the 4th month of the 5th year of Meiji, (1872), running as follows:—"The selling of land to foreigners or the hypothecation of land to foreigners in security for debt is strictly forbidden, and local officials are ordered to make the same known to all the people of their jurisdiction." There are those who say that if foreigners are allowed to possess land, Yokohama and Nagasaki will become such places as Hongkong and Shanghai; but this is not at all probable, for even if foreigners received permission to invest their money in land in this empire, we do not think they would avail themselves largely of it. It may be said that they would purchase land for purposes of speculation, but that they can now do through the medium of Japanese. Another class of objectors say that the privilege may be allowed with respect to the main islands of Japan, but should be withheld in the case of Hokkaido, for if it were accorded in the latter instance that large island would chiefly benefit foreigners. But though at first sight this reasoning seems plausible enough, it really is not sound, for nearly all the arable land in Hokkaido is already in private ownership, and would not be sold unless it were found to be unproductive, in which state it would present but little attraction to foreign capitalists. Fears are expressed that Russia would obtain a foothold in Hokkaido if the concession were made applicable to that island, but though the great northern Power is known to be grasping in the matter of territory, that trait is characteristic only of the Government not of individuals, and Russian capitalists are as little likely as any other people to invest money unless they see a prospect of substantial profit. If our Government should now decide to refuse the concession of the right to possess land, the necessity to grant it will inevitably be forced on them in course of time by the natural tendency of human affairs. The next point discussed by the writer in the *Yomiuri* is that of foreigners and the coastwise trade. On this he is at one with Viscount Aoki, if rumour is correct in attributing to that statesman an intention to exclude foreigners from the coasting trade. He points out, however, by reference to Arts 9, 11, and 13 of the Austro-Hungarian treaty, that foreigners and foreign ships already possess the right to carry commodities between the open ports of Japan. Though navigation and commerce have attained a high degree of development in Japan—the number of native owned vessels of foreign build engaged in trade being in February, 1889, 438, with a total tonnage of 73,282—still in the matters of engineering science and navigation and marine insurance she is still in a state of infancy, and for these reasons it will be prudent to exclude foreigners from the coastwise trade as is the case in Europe and America. The *Yomiuri* then goes on to the next point, the question of bringing foreigners under Japanese jurisdiction—except in the Settlements during a period which has been variously fixed at from three to five years, or till the new Codes shall have gone into operation. Count Okuma's programme contemplated the complete abolition of extra-territoriality after a period of five years, and the removal of the foreign judges in ten years, but he was so persistently attacked by the Conservatives and Progressionists that he was compelled to suspend negotiations. Viscount Aoki's proposals are more satisfactory than were Count Okuma's, for the draft of the former contemplates the abolition of extraterritoriality without the employment of foreign judges and irrespective of the enforcement of the new Codes. It might be supposed that Viscount Aoki's scheme would commend itself to those who opposed his predecessor's policy, and on the whole it seems as if the present Foreign Minister would be justified in anticipating success, and in coming to terms with England, which proved chiefly troublesome in the negotiations of Count Okuma. The writer of the articles goes on to rebuke for their obstinacy those persons who contend that the continuance of extraterritoriality in the Settlements during a fixed number of years is in conflict with Arts. 24 and 57 of the Constitution, and concludes the discussion on this part of the subject by declaring that if Viscount Aoki's programme is accepted by the foreign Powers Japan will very soon be an independent country. Finally the question of imposing taxes on alcoholic beverages, tobacco, soy, oil, &c., and of raising the general tariff to 11 per cent., is taken up. The *Yomiuri* quotes from the Constitution to illustrate the view of those who think that any matter involving taxation should be first decided by the Diet and afterwards inserted in the treaties if necessary—a view towards which our contemporary apparently leans, and impresses on those engaged in the negotiations on the side of this country to secure that the power of the Emperor is not impaired and that at the same time the wishes of the nation shall be carried in revising the treaties. On the question of increasing the tariff the *Yomiuri* takes the stand that it must be done gradually, and combats the views of those who would have tariff autonomy recovered at once.

A NEW PANORAMA.

A panorama, which has just been opened close to the University Hall in Kanda, is well worthy of a visit. The ground floor is occupied with a "peep-show" series of representations of the deeds of the Forty-seven Ronins. These are very realistic pictures, and their gloom is enhanced by the dim and uncertain light in which they are seen. The first picture represents the arrival of the heroes, during a snowstorm, at Kira's mansion; the second, the confusion of the attack, with the garden in the foreground; the third, the killing of the craven lord; the fourth, their weary march at the dawn of day, across Eitai-Bashi, towards Shinagawa. From the platform on the upper floor a gorgeous cyclorama is displayed. The spectator is supposed to be standing on the western bank of the Fujikawa, in the province of Suruga, close to the sea. The distant view is towards the east, with Fujisan towering off to the left, and the long peninsula of Idzu stretching out to sea on the right. Below lie the sand and gravel-beds of the Fuji-kawa, with the numerous rice-fields of the valley in between. The general effect is very fine. If any exception may be taken, it is to the crudeness of the blue colouring of sea and sky, and the relatively gigantic proportions of some of the peasant figures in the near foreground to the west. However, it is a cheap spectacle at six *sen*, and reflects great credit on its projectors.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES AND BRITISH TRADE.

A few months ago the British Government appointed a strong Committee to investigate the probable effects of the approaching expiration of various European commercial treaties on British trade, a subject which is causing much uneasiness at home. The Committee has now published a preliminary report which, though brief, is most important and instructive. Summarised with as much brevity as possible, its substance is this. The commercial system of France is the one which has the most immediate claims on attention, not only because her trade with Great Britain amounts to more than that of any continental country, but also because the future commercial policy of other continental countries is closely bound up with that of France. France has two customs tariffs, one, the general tariff, which can be modified at the will of the Legislature at any time, and which is applied to the goods imported from such countries as do not enjoy most-favoured-nation treatment in France; the other tariff, the conventional one, is the combination of various special tariffs granted by France to other countries. Certain products, chiefly agricultural, are under the general tariff no matter what their country of origin, as a measure of protection to the farmer. The conventional tariff rates are usually about 24 per cent. less, than those of the general tariff, and Great Britain enjoys the benefit of this lower tariff by law, and not by treaty. Up to the 1st of February, 1892, Great Britain will pay on her manufactures the rates mainly of the Belgium and Swiss tariff treaties with France, unless the French law of the 27th of February, 1882, under which Great Britain enjoys the benefits of the most-favoured-nation treatment, is previously modified or repealed. All these tariff treaties are likely to be denounced by the French Government in a short time, and several have, in fact, been already denounced, so as to expire on the same date, thus leaving France free to impose whatever duties she may think fit by general tariff, or to negotiate fresh tariff treaties with the various Governments. This situation is, however, likely to be changed in a manner injurious to the interests of British trade and to the commercial intercourse betwixt the two nations, should a "Project de Loi" or Bill which has been presented to the French Legislature by the Government be passed in its present shape. By the provision of the Bill there are to be two tariffs, a general tariff, which will, in its nature, correspond to the present general tariff, but will contain considerably higher duties on most articles, and, a *minimum* tariff, which the Government will have the power to apply to those countries only whose tariffs are considered correspondingly favourable to French trade, and who give French goods their lowest tariffs. The position will thus be that, in negotiating with foreign countries, the French Government could offer them at best only the duties of this irreducible minimum, and would be prevented from granting more favourable terms under any condition. Any material increase of duties in the minimum tariff from the *status quo* of the present conventional tariff would therefore be regarded as an act of commercial hostility to other countries, and would tend to provoke a general rise of tariffs in Europe. The proposed minimum tariff presents important increases of duty on most of the chief articles of British manufacture exported to France, notably on cotton yarns and tissues and on woollen tissues. Not only have these duties been raised generally to the general tariff of 1881—*i.e.*, about 24 per cent. above the present conventional tariff—but more complicated classifications have been introduced, which will cause disputes, and, consequently, delay and friction, between the French Custom-house officials and importers. In many particular instances the duties are raised much more than 24 per cent., the extra rates for bleaching, dyeing, printing, embroidery, and generally for all processes which involve more labour as distinguished from mere material, being considerably increased. In the passage of the Bill through Committee of the Chamber further increases of duty on many articles of interest to British trade, have already been approved. The measure would shut the door to commercial negotiations with France by fixing an irreducible minimum tariff from which no reduction might be made. The effect would be injurious not only to British trade with France, but with the

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Continent generally, and the general tendency of the measures threatened must be mischievous while one of the worst effects would be to excite among European nations a spirit of commercial war, which the policy adopted 30 years ago had done much to allay, with advant age to all the nations concerned. A measure that can be described as having such results is an act of commercial hostility to the country affected; and this attitude towards English trade is, indeed, hardly disguised in discussions of the subject in France. So far the Committee, and the picture which it draws is bad enough. But there are indications, especially in the commercial negotiations at present proceeding between Germany and Austria, that the other nations of Europe are inclined to make arrangements amongst themselves from which France would be excluded. Meantime, Sir Joseph Crowe, the commercial attaché to the British Embassy in Paris, has published a report showing what commercial treaties, beginning with the great Cobden Treaty of 1860, have done for France, and how much that country has lost since, in 1880, she departed from the policy embodied in these instruments. It appears that in both branches of trade, notably in imports, France is declining. It is clear that in commercial, as in social questions, a new era is dawning on Europe, and few persons seem to have confidence that, in either direction, the change will be for the better.

PEERS.

QUITE a number of changes in the Peerage appear in the *Official Gazette*. They are as follow:—

To be Marquis, as a reward for meritorious services to the State, Count SHIJO TAKAUTA.

To be Marquis, on account of his father's meritorious services to the State, Count DATE MUNEYE.

To be Count, as a reward for meritorious services to the State, Viscount MIBU MOTOOSA.

To be Count, as a reward for meritorious services to the State, Viscount SANADA YUKITOMO.

To be Count, on account of his father's meritorious services to the State, Viscount SHIMADZU TADAAKIRA.

To be Count, on account of his grandfather's meritorious services to the State, Viscount SAWA NOBUKAZU.

To be Count, on account of his father's meritorious services to the State, Viscount KAMEI KOREAKIRA.

To be Count, on account of his father's meritorious services to the State, Viscount OMURA SUMIO.

To be Viscount, as a reward for meritorious services to the State, Baron NAGAOKA MORIYOSHI.

To be Viscount, as a reward for meritorious services to the State, Baron KIKKAWA TSUNETAKE.

To be Viscount, as a reward for meritorious services to the State, Baron NARUSE MASAMITSU.

To be Viscount, on account of his father's meritorious services to the State, Baron YAMANOUCHI TOYOTADA.

To be Viscount, on account of his father's meritorious services to the State, Baron IWAKURA TOMOAKIRA.

COUNT ITO.

COUNT ITO, upon whose movements all eyes are fixed at present, left Kyoto on the 24th ultimo, and reached Odawara the same night. The following morning the Count was to proceed to Count Saigo's villa at Oiso, whither Counts Yamagata and Saigo were expected to go for the purpose of meeting and conferring with him. Viscount Hijikata left Kyoto in company with Count Ito, but instead of diverging to Odawara, proceeded direct to the capital to report to the Emperor. Viscount Nomura started from Kyoto the preceding afternoon, and travelled through to Tokyo. It is impossible to foresee the issue of the crisis. People waver between the conviction that Count Ito alone is the man for the crisis, and the feeling that his reluctance to resume the direction of affairs at the present moment is invincible. The alternative to Count Ito's acceptance of the premiership is that Count Saigo will be persuaded to step into the gap. But if Count Saigo had not been tolerably resolute in his intention to refuse the post, he would not have resisted the pressure already brought to bear on him by his colleagues. It may be, however, that the most popular of Satsuma statesmen only waits to see his way clearly, and to understand what assurance of support he may count on in the event of assuming the responsibility. What is abundantly evident is that Count Ito has no desire to return to power, and that his declaration to that effect when he left the Cabinet in 1888 was perfectly genuine, persistently as it was questioned by his political enemies at the time. It will be appropriate if upon Count Ito, the compiler of the Constitution, who with Count Inouye has always been among the most prominent opponents of clan government, should devolve the difficult duty of steering the ship of State through the troubled waters that separate the old time bureaucracy from genuine constitutional government.

* * *

Count Ito arrived in Tokyo at 6 p.m. on the 26th ultimo, and proceeded to the Imperial Hotel, where he is now staying. It was not expected that the Count would reach the capital so soon. People generally supposed that he would remain a day or two longer at his Odawara villa, and of course various constructions are put upon the celerity of his movements. It is difficult to see, however, why he should have loitered at Odawara. If there is any consulting to be done, Tokyo is surely the place to do it, and the natural course seems to be that the Count should repair thither as soon as possible. The *Mainichi Shimbun* has a clever note illustrating the difficulty of forming a new Cabinet. It represents several gardeners consulting about planting suitable trees in a recently cleared plot of land. One says:—"I have brought a Wistaria from Odawara, but whether it will bloom in this soil, is more than I can tell. If not, we must try the Meguro peony, and in case that also proves a failure, we can fall back upon the pine tree (*matsu*)." The allusion, of course, is to Counts Ito, Saigo, and Matsukata.

A FORREST OF SEAWEED.

THE *Hochi Shimbun* says that when Mr. Yamamoto Yoshikata, an expert of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, was on a trip recently to the northern districts of Japan, he discovered a huge forest of giant sea-weed—called by the *Hochi* "sea-willows," and known in the district as *Kaba-obi*—off the coast of Mutsu, Rikuchu, and Rikuzen. The forest commences in the north near Tomari-mura, Shimokita-gori in Rikuoku, and stretches southward to Sashihama, Momobu-gori, in Rikuzen. Its length is 156 *ri* (390 miles), and its maximum and minimum widths 2 *ri* and 27 *cho* respectively. It is reported to be swarming with fish of all kinds, and Mr. Yamamoto regards it as the treasure-house of Japanese pisciculture. Its distance from the shore is from 40 *ri* to 52 or 53 *ri*.

POPULATION.

THE *Statistician*, of Tokyo, says that the census of 1889 shows the population of Japan to be divided as follows:—

Persons under ten years of age	9,368,049
Persons over ten and under twenty	7,847,914
Persons over twenty and under thirty	6,088,266
Persons over thirty and under forty	5,587,535
Persons over forty and under fifty	4,503,807
Persons over fifty and under sixty	3,[illegible],770
Persons over sixty and under seventy	2,298,981
Persons over seventy and under eighty	1,069,343
Persons over eighty and under ninety	207,312
Persons over ninety and under a hundred	7,234
Persons over a hundred	84

ILL-FATED CAUSE.

WE have no intention of discussing at any length the series of articles now appearing in the *Japan Gazette* by way of reply to our comments on the Statement of the Citizens' Committee. If the party by whom the *Gazette* is supported, and the gentlemen in whose interests these articles have been penned, are satisfied with such a presentation of their case, we, too, are perfectly satisfied. Indeed, we should be very ungrateful did we attempt to find fault with our ingenuous and broad-minded contemporary, for it would scarcely have been possible to establish the justice of our views more completely than by this laughably lame attempt to traverse them. Never kind to the cause which the *Japan Gazette* now represents, the fates played it a very scurvy trick when they consigned it to the hands of its present champions. So far from desiring to rebut the attacks of such writers, we welcome them with satisfaction as amply confirming the truth of our own opinions.

* * *

No doubt these thrice honest controversialists will ultimately arrive at some definite idea of what the *Japan Mail* is, and by whom its writings are inspired. But at present their perplexity is very comical. Here, for example, are two photographs of this terribly wicked journal, presented to the public in the articles above alluded to:—

> Four lengthy articles on the Statement of the Citizens' Committee have appeared in the columns of the *Japan Mail*. These articles are not, as some suppose, an embodiment of the views of the Japanese Government on the question discussed, nor are they a representation of the state of Japanese public opinion. They possess no more authority than is attached to the views of a writer who plays the rôle of an exponent of the sentiments of a certain section of the foreign public.
>
> The editor of the *Mail* has been so long accustomed to suppress his own views and express those of the persons for whom he writes, that it may appear no hardship to him to be told that he is to refrain from speech when his utterances would violate Japanese sentiment.

Thus we are described in one sentence as presenting, not the view of the Japanese Government, nor yet the state of Japanese public opinion, but only the sentiments of a certain section of the foreign public; and in the next, we become journalists who suppress our own views altogether and write in strict obedience to Japanese sentiment. Why should these honest folks give themselves so much concern to prove the source of the *Japan Mail's* ideas? If motives and persons are of such paramount importance in their eyes, might it not be advisable to conduct the necessary investigations in private, and refrain from publishing the results until some show of consistency can be imparted to them?

* * *

Of only one paragraph need we take serious notice. It is this:—

> There is no denying that however much they dissent from the principles of the *Japan Mail* as a paper, certain of the leading journals in Tokyo are only too ready to follow its lead when its editor transforms himself into a Japanese and undertakes a thorough anti-foreign crusade. The fact must not be overlooked that the Government scatters copies of the *Japan Mail* all over the country, and that hence lovers of agitation were able to peruse at railway stations and elsewhere the inflammatory articles on the subject of the meeting which appeared day after day.

The difficulties with which the writer of these sentences had to contend are painfully apparent. It would have been too galling to admit that the *Japan Mail* possesses any influence. On the other hand, it was necessary to fix upon the *Mail* responsibility for the excitement caused in Japan by the September Meeting. From the horns of this dilemma our honest critic rescues himself by asserting that the *Mail* possesses influence when it undertakes an anti-foreign crusade, but not otherwise! And he supports his quaint subterfuge by a falsehood; namely, that "the Government scatters copies of the *Japan Mail* all over the country." The Government does nothing of the kind. We do not believe that a single copy of the *Mail* is supplied to any person or place in Japan, directly or indirectly, by the Government. Contradictions, falsehoods, probing after motives, charges of venality—these are the weapons of the other side. What wonder if people often exclaim "ill-fated cause"?

THE RADICAL PARTY.

WE read in the *Kokkai* that the Committee appointed by the Radical Party (*Ji-u-to*), to inquire into the question of Treaty Revision, has compiled the following report:—First, Judicial Autonomy and Tariff Autonomy must be recovered together. Secondly, with regard to the Foreign Settlements, these should be abolished two full years after the conclusion of a Treaty restoring to Japan Judicial Autonomy, and

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simultaneously with the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. Thirdly, Mixed Residence must be allowed in the text of the Treaty, but apart from the Treaty the Government must exact laws withholding from foreigners the privilege of owning shares in railways and banks, or renting mines. Fourthly, the privilege of owning real estate and of taking part in the coasting trade must be altogether withheld from foreigners. Fifthly, since customs duties form a part of the public revenue, the Tariff rates must be submitted for the approval of the Imperial Diet. Sixthly, Hakkaido being the northern gate of the Empire, the development of its resources and its colonization are matters of grave importance. The district, therefore, must not be treated in the same way as the rest of the country, but special and becoming restrictions must be imposed upon mixed residence in Hokkaido.

DINNER TO GOVERNOR OKI.

ON the evening of the 24th ult., the members of the Tokyo Club gave a farewell dinner to Mr. Oki Morikata, formerly Prefect of Kanagawa, who is about to proceed to Shiga in the capacity of Prefect. Covers were laid for over fifty guests. The chair was occupied by Mr. H. W. Denison, the foreign Vice-President of the Club, the guest of the evening sitting on his right and the Minister for Hawaii on his left. In the vice-chair was Mr. T. B. Glover, Honorary Secretary of the Club, and on either side of him were Count Kawamura and the Dutch Representative. The health of Governor Oki was proposed by Mr. H. W. Denison, who said :—

In proposing the toast of the evening it is not necessary for me to dwell upon the many amiable qualities of our guest. Unfortunately Mr. Oki has given us but short service as Vice President, but we have all had the pleasure of his acquaintance both officially and socially, and it is sufficient for me to say that what is our loss—what is Tokyo's loss—is Shiga's gain. I ask you to drink the health of our guest, Mr. Oki.

Governor OKI, in reply, said :—

YOUR EXCELLENCIES AND GENTLEMEN—I cannot tell you what pleasure you have given me by this kindly and sumptuous entertainment, and I have to express most hearty thanks for the sentiments expressed by the President, and for the manner in which you have reciprocated them. Great as is this pleasure, I feel that the honour you do me is still greater, and if I am conscious of not deserving it, I shall none the less treasure the memory of it always. Only a very short time has elapsed since you did me the honour to make me your Vice-President, and it is no small pain to me to be obliged to leave Tokyo before I have had an opportunity of endeavouring to justify that mark of confidence by making myself of some use to the club. I hope, however, that this parting is not permanent, and that I may be able to rejoin you at a future date and discharge some of the duties which I am now obliged to leave undone. When I was in Yokohama, it was my pleasure and privilege to make the acquaintance of many foreign gentlemen whose society I greatly valued, and I assure you that during the early days of my return to Tokyo, I experienced a feeling of decided loneliness. But I found that my duties as a member of the House of Peers did not make very tyrannical demands on my time. I was able to come to the Club, and soon my feeling of loneliness disappeared. In these hospitable rooms I have been able not only to extend my acquaintance with men of various nationalities, but also, as I think and hope, to strengthen and deepen our mutual regard and friendship. The constitution of the Club brings together within its precincts gentlemen of literary, official, and social distinction, thus conferring on those whose privilege it is to be admitted here the happiness and advantage of making really valuable friends, friends with whom it is indeed a gain to associate. I am very conscious of that benefit. Club life, such as I have found it in Tokyo, was strange to me. It was a pleasure which I had still to experience, and I fully appreciate it, not only for the reasons I have stated, but also because of the home like character of its enjoyments. I see now the value of such an institution, and understand what a useful part it plays in weaning men from pastimes of a far less beneficial and innocent character. And I have learned something more from the pleasant days spent in this club—I have learned to see new advantages in social intercourse. During my official career it has not always been possible to avoid difficulties and complications that scarcely yielded to the solution offered by despatches, formal interviews, and the other every-day resources of officialdom. But here I perceive a new and far more effectual solvent of such difficulties—the solvent of free and friendly intercourse. I think that in the atmosphere of genial fellowship which pervades our club life, no misunderstandings or serious troubles could long survive, and I do most sincerely wish that this intercourse could be extended so as to embrace all the foreigners and Japanese in Japan. For I am persuaded that if that could be effected, the partitions that still divide us would soon be broken down, and even the question of questions, Treaty Revision, could be pleasantly and satisfactorily solved. I do not know much about Shiga, the prefecture to which I have had the honour to be appointed, but I believe it can boast some natural beauties, and, as you know, it is easily accessible. I hope that you will find your way there, gentlemen. The oftener you can come and the greater the number, the more delighted shall I be to welcome you, and to renew the intercourse which has been such a pleasure to me here, and for which I thank you heartily.—(Loud applause.)

Count KAWAMURA said that he had known Governor Oki for twenty years. He had the pleasure, indeed, of reckoning him among his oldest friends, and he joined most heartily in wishing him success and happiness. Most heartily, too, did he echo Governor Oki's wish that intercourse such as they enjoyed in this club might be extended in the fullest and strongest sense. He hoped that the club would grow and flourish continually and that it would "end in completeness." Their guest, doubtless, had other painful partings to make on leaving Tokyo. Flowers blossomed, but they also fell—like those before him on the table—and eyes that brightened could also drop tears. —(Laughter.) Otsu, the chief town of Governor Oki's new duties, was not yet a full blown flower. It was only in a budding condition. But it was in the vicinity of Kyoto, the garden of Japan, where flowers of exceptional fragrance and beauty bloomed all the year round. He trusted that his old friend would not contemplate those flowers too intently for his peace of mind.—(Laughter and applause.) He bade their guest farewell, and hoped to have the pleasure of welcoming him back soon. —(Applause.)

Mr. T. B. GLOVER said that he thought the members ought to know that their departing Vice-President had presented a most beautiful prize to be played for at billiards by the members. It was an exquisite specimen of workmanship in silver and enamel, and the intention had been to let the members see it this evening, but Governor Oki had wished to have a stand made for it, and unfortunately this had not been finished in time. The Governor had expressed the hope that the competition for this prize would add some pleasant evenings to the intercourse of the members.

DOLLS.

JUST as there are congresses about all sorts of things, so there are international exhibitions of every description. A very original one that will not fail to obtain immense success among the young folks, is an international exhibition of dolls now being organized at Schweningue in Holland. The opening will take place on the 4th July next in the hall and theatrical hall of the Kurhaus, and the show will finish up with a lottery composed exclusively of dolls. To get an idea of what extension can be given to such an exhibition, one need only look at the categories mentioned in the programme of exhibition: dolls representing historical and political personages, artists, composers, and celebrated actresses: dolls representing characters in operas or comic operas and in well known dramatic works; dolls representing the national costumes of every country; mere dolls for playthings—dolls representing every class of humanity, in fact, except mendicants, whose rags have not yet been included among picturesque objects.

FOREIGN POULTRY.

THE introduction of foreign poultry has proved a disastrous speculation for many Japanese. Two years ago hens of various favourite breeds were imported at considerable expense, and a fancy price was demanded for their eggs. Minorca, Plymouth Rock, and Brahma eggs would sell for as much as thirty or forty *sen* a piece. As a pair of dainty and curious birds makes a particularly acceptable gift in this land of presents, importers for a considerable time drove a most lucrative trade. Several are said to have retired with wonderful profits on quite a small capital, and the boom spread to other centres besides Tokyo. But, as poultry is easily multiplied, the boom soon spent itself. Ordinary poultry yards were replenished with the new stock, and the eggs sunk to the market price of the article. A dozen of fresh white Leghorn eggs can be bought now in Tokyo for fifteen *sen*, no distinction whatever being made because of the species. Brahma hens are commonly met with, even in country districts.

CONCERT IN TOKYO.

A CONCERT was given on the 25th ultimo in the Music Hall of the Tokyo Academy of Music at Uyeno Park. The audience was one of the largest that has ever assembled in the little Uyeno hall, all the seats being filled, and many listeners, including several foreigners, being compelled to content themselves with standing space. The concert began soon after three o'clock, the first part being opened by the Army Band of thirty performers, with the introduction from Rubinstein's "Bal Costume." Eight young ladies, violin students of the Academy of Music then appeared and played a "romance" by Ondricek, which served to show the wonderful accuracy of execution possible by patient and skilful training. Nineteen girls of various ages, charmingly attired, as were the fair violinists, in their country's costume, now flocked in and ranged themselves on the stage in double file, the front rank of which—whether by accident or of design does not really matter—presented a most happy blending of colours, for while those at the end of the row were clothed in the lighter hues that so daintily enhance the grace of the Japanese robes, the effect of the whole was a gradual shading to almost sombre hues in the centre—an effect that would have been perfect but for the presence of one discordant spot of colour, which fostered the idea that the grouping was accidental. These sang with great precision and in most pleasant harmony a chorus entitled "Spring" (*Boshun*) and composed by Mr. Torii for an air by W. Bargiel. A chorus and aria from the "Magic Flute" brought on the Shikibushoku string and wind band, and afforded the audience a brilliant sample of excellent conducting and painstaking and careful rendering, the trombone solo being a marked instance of the display of those qualities. Mr. Dittrich's violin solo from "Mignon" was a masterly exposition of the theme, played as it was with fine taste and expression, and the audience marked their appreciation of the treat afforded them by recalling the performer. Mr. and Mrs. Nagahara with five associates, ladies, now gave a piece of Chinese music, with wind and string instruments, two young ladies playing the *gekkin*, while a third used the flute. As one of the performers sang a kind of accompaniment to the melody, in tones which so closely resembled the querulous chidings of the flute, when that instrument could raise its complaining voice during momentary cessations of the movement, it was at times difficult to distinguish one from the other, and their combined exercise lent a strangely quaint colouring to the whimsical theme. Returning after a brief interval, Mr. and Mrs. Nagahara, with Chinese violin and *gekkin*, performed another piece, also with snatches of vocal accompaniment, but the chief distinction of which to foreign ears must have been Mr. Nagahara's execution on the little instrument which he bowed and fingered so brilliantly. This number, however, being very long, and lacking also somewhat in variety, even Mr. Nagahara's limpid, violin-like notes had ceased in some measure to hold the attention of the audience when the performers made their parting obeisance and the first half of the programme closed. The opening piece of the second part was Popp's "Herzensdieb" very well rendered by the Shikibushoku Band, and the second number brought on Mrs. Tietze whose fine soprano voice was heard to very striking effect in the area from "The Creation," her husband playing her accompaniment. The young lady violinists who had previously appeared, followed with

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a "Night Tune" and a "Gavotte" of d'Egville, in which a slight instance of concerted playing was welcomed by way of variety. Later, seven of these violin students joined with four *koto* players in rendering "Fuki-no-kyoku"; and "Tamagawa," by Kuniyama, afforded lovers of purely Japanese music an opportunity of hearing *koto*, *samisen*, *shakuhachi*, and *kokiu* together, the Army Band bringing the concert to a close by a capital rendering of the Overture from Auber's "Dumb Girl of Portici." It only remains to be said that during the violin numbers and the vocal chorus Mr. Dittrich sat at the piano and contributed in a marked degree to the success of the pieces, and that Mr. Eggert conducted the chorus and aria from the "Magic Flute" with finished skill. We append the programme:—

PART I.

1. Introduction from "Bal costume".....A. Rubinstein.
By the Army-Band.
2. "Romance" for Violins with Piano .....F. Ondricek.
By the Violin-students of the Tokyo Academy of Music.
3. Chorus for 3 female voices with Piano.
"Boshun" (Spring).....W. Bargiel.
Words by Mr. Torii.
By the Students of the Tokyo Academy of Music.
4. Chorus and Aria from "Magic Flute" for orchestra,
W. A. Mozart.
By the Shikibushoku-Band.
5. Romance and Gavotte from "Mignon" for Violin
Solo with Piano .....A. Thomas—P. de Sarasate.
Mr. Dittrich.
6. Chinese Music.—*a.* "So-cho sui."
By the Nagahara Society.
b. "San-goku-shi."
By Mr. and Mrs. Nagahara.

PART II.

1. "Herzensdieb," pleasant tune for orchestra.....Popp.
By the Shikibushoku-Band.
2. Aria for Soprano from "The Creation" .....J. Haydn.
Mrs. Tietze
3. *a.* "Night-tune" for Violins with Piano ..... —
b. "Gavotte" for Violins with Piano.....L. H. d'Egville.
By the Violin-students of the Tokyo Academy of Music.
4. Japanese *koto* Music.
a.—"Fuki no Kyoku" for *koto* with Violin...Yatsuhashi.
By the Teacher and Students of the Tokyo Academy of Music.
b.—"Tamagawa" .....Kuniyama.
Koto ... { Mr. Yamase. Mr. Yamatsu. } *Shakuhachi*...Mr. Hara. *Kokiu* .....Mr. Yamamuro.
Samisen ...Mr. Kushita.
5. Overture from "Dumb Girl of Portici" .....Auber.
By the Army-Band.

THE "JIJI SHIMPO" ON EMIGRATION.

In an article on the advisability of encouraging emigration, the *Jiji Shimpo* remarks that there are three classes of persons whose departure from Japan and settling in other countries should be specially encouraged from considerations of economy, and with a view to the due preservation of law and order within the realm. Those classes are, first, well-to-do and influential merchants; secondly, poor labouring people; and, thirdly, young men who have no fixed occupation. It may be regarded as a matter for regret that merchants of good standing should leave the country, but, just as in an overstocked pond it is well that part of its denizens should be removed to another locality for the general benefit of all, so it is only prudent that the surplus mercantile population should seek new spheres of activity. And it is of the first importance that the men who go abroad to represent this country in the great field of commerce should be of high character and of good business standing, for they are the persons who are likely to succeed in the struggle with new competitors, and whose conduct is most likely to reflect honour and credit on, and to bring material profit and benefit to their native country. Hitherto very few of this class have left Japan, a fact which our contemporary attributes to the lack of encouragement afforded them; and the *Jiji* suggests that Japanese steamers should be run to foreign countries to give such people the facility of travelling under their own flag and avoiding the inconveniences which they might experience on ships owned by foreigners. The emigration of the poor working classes should, our contemporary thinks, be encouraged and, so to speak, protected by Government providing the cost of travel, for beyond doubt the presence in the Empire of people reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress, and consequently liable in their desperation to commit disorderly acts is greatly to be avoided, when in foreign lands they might live in comfort and plenty. The case of the third class, young men without fixed occupation, is somewhat more difficult to deal with. Owing to the facilities provided for education very many youths are yearly thrown forth from the schools of the empire, upon the world, most of them very poorly fitted to engage in any employment. No openings in Government service are available for them, and engagements in private are equally out of their reach. Such youths eventually join the ranks of the *soshi*, a class which, though in many respects deserving of condemnation, is still described by the *Jiji* as worthy of pity in view of the condition of its members. It is vain, says the Tokyo journal, to expect that these people will in this country turn their attention to industrial pursuits, and emigration appears to be the only means of rescuing them from their unhappy state. Like the labouring class, these youths are unable to pay the cost of their own emigration, and therefore Government should assist both in the same way.

AN EPISODE OF COLONIZATION IN TONQUIN.

The story of the "Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin," as told by M. Bavier Chauffour in a vigorously written brochure, deserves to be studied by everyone interested in colonization. M. Bavier Chauffour set out from Paris in February, 1884, commissioned by a group of French capitalists, to examine the industrial and commercial resources of Tonquin. Making the carboniferous basin of the Bay of Along his objective point, he had to think, at the outset, of protecting himself against the pirates who infested that district. A force of twenty armed coolies seemed the simplest kind of guard, but General Millot, who commanded in Tonquin at the time, declined to sanction anything of the kind. Why M. Bavier Chauffour asked the General's leave, we do not gather. Such a procedure is not consistent with English ideas of going to work, but probably there were good reasons for it. Forbidden to provide an escort at his own expense and unable, of course, to obtain military assistance, M. Bavier Chauffour adopted the courageous course of setting out with only two friends to explore the country. The sufferings of the little party seem to have been great, but they persevered; found a promising vein of coal; mapped the district—a task never before attempted—and then applied themselves to acquire a legal title to their discovery. The Annamite Government were the undoubted owners of the country. They had not surrended their title to anyone, or been deprived of it by anyone. M. Bavier Chauffour accordingly proceeded to Hué, to treat directly with the Authorities there. Long and patient negotiations were at length crowned with success. He obtained a lease of the carboniferous area for a century, on agreeing to pay a hundred thousand dollars, with the condition, voluntarily added on his part, that the Annamite Government should have a share of the proceeds of the enterprise. All this was accomplished by August 26th, 1884. It may be supposed that the gravest difficulties were now overcome, and that nothing remained but to make preparations for the work of mining. M. Bavier Chauffour's friends knew better. A letter written to him, shortly after quitting Hué, by M. Rheinart, French Chargé at that place, predicted with remarkable foresight the calumnies and envious charges of which he was destined to be the victim. Before he reached France the Government had appointed a Commission to draw up mining regulations in respect of Tonquin. It would seem as though this Commission was specially instructed to bar M. Bavier Chauffour's claims, for it decided that mines already discovered could be acquired by tender only, and it expressly included M. Bavier Chauffour's mine in this category, though his discovery was only a few months old. The Regents at Hué were then required to sign a convention in the above sense, with a clause declaring that since June, 1884, no concession had been made by them to any one. Naturally the Regents fought against endorsing such a falsehood. They had leased a carboniferous district to M. Bavier Chauffour in August, 1884, and they shrank from disavowing the act. But the French Representative insisted, and of course the Hué Court could not resist effectually. All that the Regents succeeded in obtaining was a written guarantee absolving them from any responsibility to M. Bavier Chauffour. "Le gouvernment de la Rèpublique," said the guarantee, "accepte pleinement la responsabilité de cette déclaration qui pourra éte valablement opposée à M. Bavier Chauffour, dans le cas où celui-ci voudrait intenter une action, de ce chef, à la cour de Hué." Despite this guarantee and the newly signed Convention, the Regents addressed to the French Government in March, 1885, a protest setting forth that the concession to M. Bavier Chauffour had been made before the conclusion of the Convention, and therefore while the Court at Hué possessed the full right to make it; that full information of the concession had been given before the Convention was ever proposed; that the Convention had been signed virtually under duress, and that M. Bavier Chauffour's rights of property ought to be respected. His rights were not respected, however, and what is more singular, when, in pursuance of his policy of dealing directly with the original owners of the mine, M. Bavier Chauffour sent his agent to confer with the Court at Hué, the French Representative, though permitting the conference, wrote to the Annamite Authorities, in these terms:—"It is well understood that the French Government does not recognise the validity of the concessions that you have made, whether in favour of M. Bavier Chauffour or of any other person, but inasmuch as the French Government does not propose to substitute itself for you in respect of claims that may be preferred in consequence of engagements entered into by you despite your incompetence to contract them, I have not deemed it my duty to prevent M. Ivatts from addressing himself to you in his capacity of Agent for M. Bavier Chauffour." The Court at Hué thus found itself in a pleasant predicament. Having signed a convention annulling the concession to M. Bavier Chauffour in consideration of a written promise that the Government of the Republic accepted all responsibility for the breach of contract, it was now quietly told that it must take the responsibility on its own shoulders. In justice, however, note must be taken of the fact that the unfortunate Annamites were not left without aid. The French Representative relieved them of the embarrassment of M. Ivatts' claims, by ordering that gentleman to quit Hué. In face of such obstacles many men would have succumbed. M. Bavier Chauffour proceeded as though nothing had happened. His engagement with the Annamites required that he should pay a hundred thousand dollars before August, 1886. He carried the money across Tonquin and Annam, offered it vainly to the Viceroy in Hanoi and the Regents in Hué, and after carting it about for three weeks, left it in Haiphong, where it lay for seven months. The record then lapses into a long series of wearisome negotiations, until at last, in April, 1888, M. Bavier Chauffour obtained an act of concession from the French Government and the "Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin" commenced its work. We take these details from M. Bavier Chauffour's brochure. There is doubtless another side to the story, but as here presented it constitutes a singular history of private energy battling again official obstruction and injustice. It is hard for French colonists to succeed in face of such difficulties. Let us close the singular chapter by M. Bavier Chauffour's *resumé* of what the Coal Society has achieved:—"It has already spent several millions of francs in the country. Soon numerous ships will come to enliven our port and carry off our produce. Three years ago nothing existed around us at Hongay. To-day, a little town shows itself on the coast. A thousand natives have taken up their residence there, supported by the Company. Two thousand coolies, reclaimed for the most part from piracy, work in our various galleries. Others will follow, accomplishing thus the pacification of a whole region."

THE POLITICAL CRISIS.

According to the *Jiji Shimpo*, Count Ito proceeded to the Palace by *jinrikisha* at about 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the 27th ult. The Emperor evinced much pleasure at seeing him, and entered into a long conversation with reference

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to the resignation of Count Yamagata and the formation of a new Cabinet. Subsequently the Count had the honour of lunching with His Majesty, there being also present their Imperial Highnesses Princes Kitashirakawa and Fushimi, Marquis Ikeda, Princes Mori and Tokugawa, Viscount Hijikata, and several other peers having the *entrée* of the *Jakonoma*. Count Ito did not leave the Palace until 3.30 p.m., having in the meanwhile consulted with several Cabinet Ministers who came to the Court. Nothing definite is publicly known as to what transpired at the Palace, but the general impression is that Count Ito has persisted in his refusal to form a Cabinet. The *Jiji Shimpo* affirms that Count Saigo also remains resolved not to accept the responsibility, and that he would not remain in the Cabinet at all should Count Yamagata retire. Under these circumstances Count Matsukata alone would be eligible. The same paper says that if Count Matsukata becomes Minister President, he will retain the portfolio of Finance; that General Viscount Takashima will replace Count Oyama at the War Office, and that Count Saigo's successor at the Home Office is uncertain. But the *Kokkai* alleges, with equal confidence, that Count Ito, after his visit to the Palace on the 27th inst., called upon Count Saigo and endeavoured in every possible way to persuade him to accept the leadership of the Cabinet; that other colleagues of the Count are equally persistent in urging him, and that if the Emperor asks him, he can scarcely stand aloof any longer. In the event of Count Saigo's becoming President, the *Kokkai* thinks that no other change will take place in the Cabinet.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* of the 26th ultimo had the following:—Influential and thoughtful men have long insisted on the necessity of government by party in this country. Political parties are the inevitable result of a representative parliament, and yet it seems strange to hear people who would grant the nation a voice in administrative affairs object to party government. We believe, although government by party cannot but be in some respects detrimental to the administration of a country, the evil, such as it is, must be borne with. Since the Restoration, Ministers have constantly been appointed from among the members of the influential clans who rendered valuable services in the past: whenever official changes took place, those who gained office as their result were found to be, like their predecessors, adherents of these clans. On the other hand, the people have long taken an interest in political parties, and the opening of Parliament has enabled them, to a great extent, to realize their desires. Although it may not be feasible to replace at once clan government with a party cabinet, the time will soon come when the latter will become an accomplished fact, to the profound satisfaction of all political partizans. Japan has already set out towards, and is every day approaching, that destination, but if the people neglect the present opportunity, they may never be able to accomplish their object. Count Yamagata, Minister President of State, recently sent in his resignation, but no definite arrangement has yet been made as to his successor, rumour having it that either Count Ito or Count Saigo is to fill the vacancy. We believe that the reason why these two statesmen hesitate to accept the portfolio of the Premier may be found in the numerous difficulties that attach to the chief office of the State. These difficulties arise from differences of opinion among the higher officials of the Government in regard to the appointment of the two candidates referred to. Some are in favour of Count Ito, while others desire to see Count Saigo occupy the chair of the Premier. In strong contrast to the activity shown by officials as to the appointment in question, unofficial politicians seem to view the matter with indifference. If these hold the opinion that neither of the two statesmen mentioned is fit for the post of Premier, in view of the general desire to do away with clan government, it may be well for them, at this moment, to endeavour to bring forward one of their leaders, as a candidate for the Premiership, so that even if they fail, their original desire may, to some extent, be realized. But we see with regret that they remain silent and inactive at this critical moment. As the Diet is, in a sense, the battle-field of political parties, the efficiency or otherwise of its members should be exhibited there, but the policy of the Administration must be watched constantly, and thus the true function of political parties is to discuss topics of government at times other than when the Diet is in session. The members of political parties displayed extraordinary activity in the last session of the Diet, but now they seem quite dormant, and we fear that though they may know how to make speeches in the Diet, they do not know how to use their weapons practically. It is extremely to be regretted if they have given up the idea of establishing a party Cabinet. If it is so now, how many years must elapse before we can expect the establishment of government by party. It seems to us difficult to understand what these politicians mean by party government.

PROGRESS.

THE one point of superiority which critics of international morality have been disposed to place to France's credit as compared with England is frankness. The French themselves have always been witheringly scornful of that peculiar combination so familiar to the world, British cant and British muscle. "When we steal other folks' territory," they say, "we do it without any hypocritical pretences or subterfuges. When you, of *perfide Albion*, set about the job, you drown the cry of your victims by singing hymns, and silence your critics by reciting the eighth commandment." It was felt that M. Jules Ferry had demonstrated this difference in the most striking manner possible when, in the celebrated days of Tonquin, he told the Chamber of Deputies that France's duty was to acquire an estate to bequeathe to her children of the next generation. There was a fine fresh openness about this declaration. It made good people stare and catch their breath, but Europe in general confessed that pirates deserve more respect when they openly fly a death's-head ensign than when they sail under the flag of the Decalogue. There are signs now that this superiority on France's part is not unlikely to be rudely challenged. Take, for example, the following paragraph which appears in the last number of the *St. James's Gazette* received here:—

> The lamented death of Sir William Kirby Green, our very clever and resourceful Minister to Morocco, imposes a serious responsibility upon her Majesty's Government. Whoever succeeds him at Tangier will have it in his power almost to make, or very greatly to mar, our prospects in the Moorish Empire. Morocco is a plum that has been ripening very rapidly of late years. It is not yet quite ripe; but it will be ready for plucking before very long. Then we shall see what we shall see. The two countries that have made no secret of their intention to get Morocco if they can are France and Spain. Italy has not said so much about it, but not the less is her attitude one of animated expectancy. Germany is obtaining a certain commercial footing in the country; but at present that does not count for much. We have said for years past that if it comes to a choice between France and Spain, it would be better for us to see Spain established in Morocco, despite the fact that she could not possibly govern it. Perhaps the best arrangement would be to give a bit to Spain, as a sop to her ancient aspirations, and to take the most important part ourselves. Indeed, if we are to keep Gibraltar in comfort after the downfall of the Moorish Empire, we absolutely must hold Tangier, which, indeed, is much the more important point of the two.

WE do not think that even M. Jules Ferry could give many points to the writer of this confession of faith.

NEWS FROM CHINA AND THE SOUTH.

THE inquest with reference to the recent cartridge explosion at Singapore was concluded on the 11th ult. The verdict of the jury was as follows:—"That death was due, in the cases specified, to burns caused by the explosion of cartridges. The Jury were unable to determine the cause of the explosion, but were of opinion that it was a mistake to bring such a large quantity of ammunition to the Central Station for destruction. They are of opinion that the explosion was brought on by the inexperience of the men in charge and those executing the work of destruction." It appears that one of the injured men, Constable Bunting, is still very ill, his reason having partially deserted him. * * * Singapore papers report a cricket match at Rangoon, between ladies and gentlemen, in which the ladies' wicket-keeper donned the ordinary masculine cricket dress, "thus giving rise to much comment." * * * A Chinese detective in Singapore, having made up his mind to arrest a man who was believed to have been concerned with five others in a burglary some time before, entered a Chinese dwelling in Church Street. His intrusion was resented, and the lady of the house assisted by her son proceeded to chastise him. The detective refusing to be intimidated, retaliated, and to such effect that with a piece of wood he gave the woman injuries that very soon resulted in her death. The detective, himself, then became the object of search on the part of the authorities, who found him in the hospital, too badly beaten to say much on the subject. Interest in the missing burglar has waned. * * * The Marine Court of Enquiry with reference to the collision between the *Strathendrick* and *Devonhurst*, has found as follows:—"The chief officer of the *Devonhurst*, who was in charge of his ship from midnight until after the collision, did not watch the light approaching with sufficient care, and the Court is of opinion that in starboarding his helm under the circumstances he committed a breach of Art. 16 of the Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. The Court therefore adjudge that the certificate No 89458 of Charles Horn be suspended for two years. The Court is of opinion that David James Davis, 2nd Officer of the *Strathendrick*, who was in charge of that ship from midnight to the time of the collision, committed a grave breach of the Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. They regret that they feel compelled to suspend his certificate, No. 021602 for three months. The Court exonerates the masters of both vessels from all blame as regards the circumstances leading to the collision, and also finds that no blame is attributable to any of the survivors for the loss of the life of the 2nd Engineer of the *Strathendrick*, who from the evidence probably went down with the ship while endeavouring to save his effects. The Court is also of opinion that after the collision everything that was possible to be done to save life was done by the officers of both ships. The Court wishes to draw attention to the very meagre entries relating to the collision, made by Captain Hardy in his official log book, and is of opinion that such meagre details do not form a satisfactory record of the circumstances attending this collision, such as is distinctly directed to be made by the Merchant Shipping Act." * * * The shareholders of the Hongkong Peak Hotel and Trading Co. have decided to increase the capital by $50,000, creating 5,000 new shares of $10 each. * * * Residents of Hongkong had an opportunity on the 17th of witnessing a Chinese execution on a large scale. Nineteen criminals participated in the function. Thirteen of these had been arrested in connection with the *Namoa* tragedy, one of whom is reported to have confessed complicity in the *Greyhound* affair. Owing, it is said, to frequent false alarms—surely there must have been some other reason—only about half a dozen foreigners were present, and these included several reporters who duly served up the details to their readers. A visitor offered to purchase one of the executioner's swords, but the price, $75, deterred him. * * * The Governor of Formosa has hit on the scheme of encouraging the natives under his jurisdiction to be hospitable to strangers, by offering rewards for kindness shown to shipwrecked mariners. * * * Trouble has occurred between the foreign and Cantonese employés of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. and of the Railway Co. at Tongshan. For some time relations between the foreigners and the Canton men have been strained, the conduct of the latter being most

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insolent and over-bearing. The ill-feeling culminated in an altercation between a foreigner and a Canton man, which resulted in the latter making a complaint to the directors. The foreigner was summoned to head-quarters to explain matters, and on leaving was set on by a crowd of over a hundred Cantonese. From their brutality he was rescued by a Kaiping driver, who placed him on his engine and drove off with him. The other foreigners at once demanded that steps should be taken for their protection and for the arrest of the leaders of the mob, but as the directors hesitated to accede to this request,—being probably in fear of the Cantonese colony, which numbers some five hundred men—the whole foreign staff sent in an ultimatum and went to Tientsin. This decisive stroke had some result, for it is stated that the Viceroy Li has since sent orders for the punishment of the ring-leaders, but the foreigners though unable to obtain promise of protection, have returned to work. * * * * The necessity of frequent stock-taking has no doubt been brought with some force to the attention of the directors of the China Merchants Co. Some time ago a quantity of boiler-tubes of peculiar make, for one of their steamers, was put away in a godown against the time when the steamer in question should require new tubes. When, the other day, the tubes were turned out, it was found that two hundred and ten of them had disappeared. A strict search resulted in the recovery of all but one, the greater number being found in Japan. * * * Jensen's Congress of Cabalistic Wonders has found it impossible to attract paying houses in Shanghai. So few people appeared to witness the last performance of the Congress that the manager refused to play, and returned their money to those who had come. * * * Mr. Miln and his company opened on the 20th instant, in Shanghai, with "Hamlet." There was a large audience. * * * The seventeeth annual report of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co. declares a dividend of 10 per cent. "Of 27 of the fleet, one, the *Fu-yew*, was lost during the year at Ch'engshan, which diminished the insurance reserve by Tls. 60,000. The *Kiangpiao* was sold, lessening the total value of the fleet by her value, about Tls. 8,000. By command of the Tsung-li Yamên, the *Kuling* was purchased, strengthening the total value of the fleet by Tls. 400,000. It now consists of 26 steamers, and its value with the attendant property in wharves, jetties, and godowns, is Tls. 3,925,000. As no allowance has been made for depreciation of steamers, and the Shanghai southern godowns and land have been added to the real estate assets, the total value exceeds that during the preceding year by Tls. 155,000." The value of the Co.'s fleet is put at Tls. 1,964,000, steam-launches, cargo boats, and receiving hulks representing an additional Tls. 88,000. * * * A telegram was received in Amoy on the 16th ult. stating that the steamer *Namchow* which left Amoy on the evening of the 13th instant for Singapore and Penang with 1,062 Chinese passengers and a general cargo was ashore. No other particulars were given in the telegram. * * * The report for 1890 of the China Shippers' Mutual S.N. Co., Ld., states that owing to lower freights and increased expenses, the results of the year's working were not quite so good as in 1889. The company now possesses a fleet of ten steamers, the *Oopack*, *Ningchow*, *Chingwo*, *Kaisow*, *Moyune*, *Oanfa*, *Pakling*, *Pingsuey*, *Keemun*, and *Kintuck*, the last, a vessel of 3,550 tons, having been launched on 26th December last. The cost of the fleet to date, including part payment for the *Kintuck*, was £493,490, the depreciation fund was £70,000, and the insurance fund £9,130, and the balance of profit and loss account was £29,090. It was proposed to add £15,000 to depreciation fund, to pay the dividends already announced by wire, and to carry forward £2,384 17s. 5d. * * * The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the North China Insurance Co., was held in Shanghai on the 20th April, Mr. E. H. Havers in the chair. The Chairman in the course of his remarks moving the adoption of the report, said the directors were much disappointed at having to lay such an unfavourable statement before the shareholders. He went on to say:—"I have already named some of the vessels by which our heavier losses were sustained during the first half year, and to them have now to be added two P. & O. steamers *Hongkong* and *Nepaul*, and the river steamer *Shanghai*, by which we had large losses, but we cannot find any reproach in that class of business, and, as the company has always been largely interested in shipments by P. & O. steamers, we must expect to suffer when such unexpected losses do occur. I understand an impression has got abroad that our losses have been chiefly incurred in London; that is a mistake I wish to correct. No doubt casualties recorded at Lloyds have been more numerous than usual, and this company, in common with London offices, has been more or less affected by them, but at the present moment there is no visible loss on the working of the London Branch, while on the other hand, I am sorry to say some of our agencies which have hitherto given good results, show considerable losses, and for the first time for many years. I fear the Shanghai business will also leave a loss when expenses are taken into account. There are still heavy liabilities outstanding upon 1890 account, and in face of them we have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to defer consideration of the question of dividends until our meeting in October, when we hope to be in a better position to form a definite opinion as to the result of the year's working. Hitherto we have made interim distributions in April, but we find great difficulty in doing so now, and it is more than probable that it will be found more convenient in future to put off declaring dividends until our meeting in the autumn. The great difficulty from which we have recently been suffering, is the general inadequacy of rates: this is now apparently recognised at home if we may judge by the reports of the London and Liverpool companies, and it is to be hoped that some co-operative action may soon be taken by the home and foreign companies to establish a much needed rise in rates of premium. With that, a more satisfactory statement of our affairs may be confidently expected, and, as the disasters of the past year may be considered altogether exceptional, I trust the company may yet meet with some of that success which has heretofore invariably attended its operations. A favourable feature in our business I think well to refer to, and it is the beneficial effect that recent losses have had upon rates locally, and we have reason to believe that there is some improvement in other directions. It is also encouraging to observe that Chinese are now insuring more freely, as it is evident many of them have been for years past taking their own risks, not withstanding the inducements held out to them to insure at low rates." * * * General Mesny read a paper on the 20th April before the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society on "Yünnan; its treasure and trade routes." According to General Mesny, the natural resources of Yünnan are great. "Opium, hemp, flax, rhubarb, and other drugs abound; maize, rice, wheat, and other cereals are grown almost everywhere. Pears, oranges, lemons, and other fruit, potatoes and other vegetables, are also cultivated to more or less perfection in many different places. Fine oxen, excellent sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, ponies, asses, mules, fish, ducks, geese, peacocks, and fowls, are also reared and eaten as food by all who can afford such, Mahomedans of course abstaining from the abominable flesh of the hog and the dog. Milk, butter, tea, sugar, and salt are also produced in various parts of the province, and at reasonable prices. Clothing stuff is, however, very dear, although coarse flannels and strong silks are woven from native prodnce, and an abundance of fine wool is available for manufacturing the best of cloth on the introduction of suitable machinery for that purpose. The mineral wealth of Yünnan is something enormous, and almost inexhaustible. It is greater by far than that of any other province in China. Rubies and sapphires, garnets and topazes, amethysts and jade abound in the western prefectures. Gold, silver, platinum, nickel, copper, tin, lead, zinc, iron, coal, and salt, also abound in many places. Copper is especially abundant. Its ores are of excellent quality, and have been worked for ages in over one thousand different places. This rich province has been more or less open to Chinese commercial intercourse for the long period of twenty-two centuries, and it has been administered entirely as a Chinese province for six centuries or more, yet nothing appears to have been done by the Chinese Government for the benefit of the native tribes whose country has been so forcibly annexed to the Chinese Empire." * * * The *Peking Gazette* reports the completion of a campaign against the aborigines in Szechuan, with whom the Imperial troops fought ten engagements involving a loss to the native tribes of over 2,000 men, seventy of their strongholds being destroyed. The district in which the final stand was made by the natives had not been penetrated by Chinese for a couple of centuries. * * * Mr. Carles, British Consul at Chinkiang, is going home on twelve months' leave, his place being taken by Mr. A. Allen of Amoy. * * * Mr. William Forbes Sharp, one of the oldest and most popular of Hankow residents, died on the 21st April.

NEW FIRE ENGINE.

A NEW steam fire engine called the "Greenwich" is about to be introduced into Japan by Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., agents for Messrs. Merryweather, the builders, many of which are now in use at home and abroad. An engine of this type—one of the smaller sizes—was recently supplied to Pontefract, where it answered all the severe tests it was put through. The following is taken from a local paper:—

The "Greenwich" engine has become a universal favourite, owing entirely to its excellent design and very simple and easy management in working at full force without fear of breakdown. The larger engines of this type are adopted in such towns and districts as Manchester, Liverpool, Nottingham, Coventry, Wigan, &c., where there are large and important mills, factories, docks, and warehouses to be protected. The smaller engines (like that at Pontefract) have been supplied to the less important manufacturing towns and agricultural districts. In the South American and Russian markets the "Greenwich" is eagerly sought after; in one small town for instance, where three large mills only exist, four of these engines are placed, and in such brigades as Rio de Janeiro there are a similar number. In these two markets Messrs. Merryweather are brought into close competition with American and Continental makers, but the superior quality of the workmanship and material, as well as the simple design of their engine, has secured for them these successes. There are great advantages in the "Greenwich" engine which buyers have not overlooked, prominent amongst them being the fact that the makers give full value for their money—if they promise 350 gallons per minute, full measure and something to spare is given. Again the engine is made strong and substantial, free from breakages of machinery or axles; there is no scotching to secure its steadiness and it can run over the roughest roads. Having arrived at the fire, once the suction and delivery pipes are attached, its regular and well finished machinery casts out with terrible force the flying jets of water, enough almost to knock down the wall of any insecure abode. It is claimed that this is the highest engine as regards the quantity of water delivered and the weight of the machine. A point of considerable advantage is that the engine may be be drawn to short distance fires by a few men with drag ropes, if horses are not available.

THE "NARWHAL."

WE are glad to be able to state that the new whaling steam schooner *Narwhal*, built by the Yokohama Engine and Ironworks Co., for the Eastern Whaling Co., was safely got off the ways (where she had been stopped on Thursday evening) on Friday afternoon about five o'clock. Two tugs, the P. and O. and the old *Stork* assisted. After getting into the water the *Narwhal* was towed to the P. and O. buoy, to which she was made fast, a watchman being left on board.

* * *

An amusing story was told on Saturday morning, serving to show the nervous vigilance of this guardian functionary. During the night a moderate gale blew from N. or N.W., the wind having changed yesterday from its previous direction, and, as luck would have it, the pin of the shackle dropped out, or some equally unexpected thing happened. At any rate the *Narwhal* left the friendly protection of the buoy, and began in the middle of the night a voyage of exploration and discovery about the harbour. The watch on board the *Monocacy* were somewhat surprised to find

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bearing down on them, and at length ranging up quite sociably alongside their paddle-box, a mastless vessel, so two "jacks" got on board, passed the stranger carefully aft, and made a rope fast to her. Awakening this morning, and looking forth to see how it had fared with his little vessel, the future Captain of the *Narwhal* saw her attached to the *Monocacy*. He at once set out to find an explanation of this singular circumstance, for which purpose he went on board the little whaler. There being no one on deck, he, still in pursuit of information, went below, and there he found the watchman—asleep. That worthy had slumbered watchfully through it all.

THE JAPAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

We read in the *Hochi Shimbun* that the Japan Railway Company heid its semi-annual general meeting in the Koseikan, Kobikicho, Tokyo, on the 29th ultimo, Mr. Narabara, President of the Company, being in the chair. The accounts for the concluding half of last year were presented and passed, the totals being as follow :—

Income.	Yen.
Gross Earnings	947,350.559
Subsidy on account of lines under construction	406,395.373
Brought forward from the previous half-year	1,406.285
Total Income	1,355,152.217
Expenditure.	**Yen.**
Working Expenses	474,090.721
Expenses of Head Office	17,008.395
Opening Expenses	920.000
Rewards to Officials of Company	8,500.000
Reserve Fund	42,899.612
Carried forward to next account	3,933.839
Dividend to shareholders at rate of 10 per cent. per annum	80,779.965
Total	1,355,152.217

The President further submitted to the meeting the question of purchasing the Mito Railway and adding it to the lines controlled by the company, The Mito line, he said, had been paying a dividend of 5 per cent., and if taken over by the company, it would probably pay 6 per cent. It was decided to purchase the line for 810,000 *yen*, this sum to be raised by a loan at 6 per cent., the interest and capital to be paid off in 12 years out of the earnings of the line and the reserve funds of the Japan Railway Company.

THE OMNIPRESENT CROW.

Few residents in Japan who are the least bit observant can fail to develop, as time goes on, a growing respect for the hoarse-voiced bird which is forever *en evidence*. The Japanese *karasu* is the slyest, wariest bird that ever was known. His ruses are innumerable, and we commend Mr. Crow to some capable investigator as a magnificent subject for a monograph. The story of the two crows who robbed by a joint stratagem a simple dog, was told in these columns some years ago. One crow pulled the dog's tail, while his comrade snatched away the chicken-bone! We believe this ruse is no uncommon one with crows. The other day, as a small party of friends were seated at luncheon, they observed a crow hovering about on the fences outside. Soon after a *betto* came to the back-door in some excitement, and announced that he had observed a crow making off with eggs. It was then discovered that three freshlaid eggs were missing from a plate in the serving-room. Mr. Crow had flown in at the door, mounted the table, and, on three successive visits, possessed himself of an egg. These he had carried in his beak to a neighbouring tea-field, where happily his doings had been observed by the sharp-eyed and omnipresent *koso* of the country. Two out of the three eggs were finally recovered, in a dirty condition, from a hole which the crow had used as a hiding place.

VON MOLTKE.

The following notice of the career of Count von Moltke appears in *Men of the Time* :—

[Moltke, Hellmuth, Count Von, Chief Marshal of the German Empire, Chief of the General Staff, is descended from a well-known Mecklenburg family, and was born at Parchim, Oct. 26th, 1800, in the neighbourhood of which place his father, a former officer of the Mollendorf Regiment, possessed the estate of Gnewitz. Soon after Hellmuth's birth his parents settled down in Holstein; and thus the boy, in his twelfth year, went to Copenhagen, in order to devote himself, in the barracks there, to the military profession. In 1822 he entered the Prussian service, as a lieutenant in the 8th Infantry Regiment, and studied in the Military Academy. The war had nearly ruined his parents, and the young officer was thrown entirely on his own resources. After having spent some time in the School of Division of Frankfort-on-the-Oder, Moltke was entered into the General Staff. In 1835 he undertook a tour in Turkey, which brought him under the notice of the Sultan Mahmoud, who advised with the young Prussian officer on the reorganization of the Turkish army. Moltke remained several years in Turkey, and in 1839 took part in the campaign of the Turks in Syria against the Viceroy Mehemed Ali of Egypt and his adopted son Ibrahim Pasha. In 1845, having returned to Prussia, and published an account of his Turkish experiences, he became adjutant to Prince Henry of Prussia, then resident in Rome, and after his death, in 1847, was engaged in connection with the general command on the Rhine, becoming, in 1848, a member of the Grand General Staff, and in 1849, Chief of the Staff of the 4th Army Corps, in Magdeburg. In 1858 he was advanced to the rank of Chief of the Grand General Staff of the Prussian Army, and in 1859 became a lieutenant-general. In the Austro-Italian war Moltke was present in the Austrian head-quarters. After the conclusion of peace, he spared no pains that he might fully develop the capacities of the Prussian General Staff and the Prussian Army. When the war of 1864 against Denmark broke out, Moltke sketched the plan of the campaign, and assisted in its execution, acting similarly in the case of the war of 1866. The whole plan of the Bohemian campaign was due to the Lieutenant-General, who was personally present in the battle of Königgrätz, which he led, and in like manner arranged the bold advance of the Prussian columns against Olmütz and Vienna, and negotiated the armistice and the preliminaries of peace. For these services he received the Order of the Black Eagle, and a national dotation. To "Father Moltke" (Vater Moltke) as he is familiarly termed in the German army, and his brilliant strategy are ascribed the splendid victories of the German arms in the Franco-German war. He was practically the Commander-in-Chief. The whole plan of the campaign was due to him. In recognition of his unrivalled services, Moltke was made the Chief Marshal of the German Empire (Sept. 1871), again received a national dotation, and was created Count 1872. The illustrious Marshal, who is generally regarded as the first strategist of the day, received from the Czar the Order of St. George, the highest military decoration of Russia, in Oct. 1870; and from his own sovereign the Grand Cross of the Order of the Iron Cross, March 22nd, 1871. An English translation of his "Observations on the Influence that Arms of Precision have on Modern Tactics," was published at London in 1871.]

THE LATEST CRAZE IN NEW YORK.

We take the following delightful nonsense from *Modern Society* :—

The latest craze among fashionable young ladies in New York is is to be contortionists and dance Japanese picture-dances. The great Japanese craze never did die out, and now that the dancing of the charming people of the Mikado's kingdom and their unique contortions have been introduced into America, Society has grasped the novelty with open arms, and before spring many a Society young woman will be able to stand on her head and her hands at the same time.

Miss Oana Haru, the Japanese girl who teaches the young ladies of New York to dance as they do in Japan, is only sixteen years of age, and just as sweet as a chrysanthemum which grows wild in her native land. She is short, plump, with a pretty laughing face, cute little hands, feet, and ears, and expressive eyes, which all Japanese girls do not have, and a round form which it would seem might make her feats more difficult, but it does not seem to.

The dress her pupils wear when taking their lesson simply consists of a long pair of stockings, slippers or shoes without heels, loose trousers reaching to about four or five inches above the knee, and a blouse belted loosely about the waist. No corsets are worn, but in their stead around the waist up to the bust is worn a broad belt which goes around the body twice, and hooks just comfortably tight. In the first lesson the pupil is made to place the back of her head on the wall, and then step forward as far as possible without falling. Then she must stand erect, place her hands on the wall (facing the other wall), and step forward as far as possible, keeping her hands on the wall. These two things are practised for a day or two, or until the next lesson, when the pupil is told to sit on the floor and see how near she can come to touching her ears first with one foot and then with another. Learners are particularly instructed not to strain themselves, but to work their legs for ten or fifteen minutes at a time, until they can succeed in getting one foot behind the head. Then while this foot is left in position, the other is worked for a few minutes at a time until it can be placed in a corresponding position. To accomplish this, of course, takes some time, but, said the pretty little Japanese girl: "If they only practise enough, they might be able to do this!"

Then she reached over, without moving her body below her hips, and taking her right ankle in her right hand, straightened up, bringing it with her and holding it aloft above her head. She then reached down for the other leg, but, of course, she had to sit down to that, which she did, still holding the right ankle. Then she placed both feet behind her head and throwing herself backward unlocked both feet and came up with the feet on the ground and smiling as though she had simply reached down to pick up a pin. She said she had no pupils who could do that just at present, but she told of two who could stand erect on one foot, holding the other in the hand at a right angle.

All of Miss Haru's pupils up to now are taking lessons both in contortion and in picture-dancing, which is unknown to the public in this country.

Every dance in Japan tells a story and is gone through in graceful pantomime which seldom fails to make the subject perfectly plain. "Fukakugawa" (on the way to the river) is the name of the dance at present being taught to four of the young ladies, while the other three are being instructed in a dance called "Statako," meaning comedy. The former dance tells of the young girl coaxing her lover to the river for a sail. He at first refuses, because another sweetheart is watching him. Finally, he gives up and goes with the sweetheart first mentioned. This can be danced by either one, two, or three persons. The "Statako" is another love dance, in which the dancer or dancers refuse to be kissed, though he or she in reality would like to be very much. The climax is, of course, a kiss.

These dances are imbued with numerous steps, entirely foreign to anything yet seen in this part of the world, decidedly graceful and full of *chic* and action, which seems to be entirely original with the Japanese. It matters not what the costume may be, though to thoroughly carry out the idea to Japanese music the dress of the dancer must be long, as there is a great deal to be done with the skirt, while the feet are still and gracefully posed."

IRON FROM ABROAD.

The *Jiyu* says that the value of the iron purchased by Japan from foreign countries during the 23 years of the Meiji era, ended in 1890, in the form of rails, bridges, and so forth, was 43,815,585 *yen*, this sum being made up as follows :—

Year.	Value of Imported Iron.	Year.	Value of Imported Iron.
1868	119,810	1880	2,064,893
1869	429,335	1881	1,690,371
1870	342,147	1882	1,519,542
1871	613,709	1883	1,577,336
1872	495,279	1884	1,551,291
1873	814,567	1885	2,128,373
1874	1,077,567	1886	2,616,515
1875	1,216,252	1887	3,488,812
1876	986,252	1888	6,189,169
1877	1,213,675	1889	5,163,662
1878	1,635,125	1890	5,490,337
1879	1,391,536		

THE SAPPORO SUGAR COMPANY.

The Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company has been particularly unfortunate. One of the conditions under which the works were handed over to the company is that the Local Government retains the right to nominate the Director, in order to exercise whatever measure of surveillance may be necessary to secure the concern against the fate that has overtaken so many of the industries started under official auspices, and subsequently transferred to private management. This right was recently exercised by the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, and one of the results of the new Director's scrutiny is the discovery—we quote from the *Jiji Shimpo*—that a large number of shares have been forged to imitate those of the company, and sold in the Tokyo market. The face value of the counterfeit scrip is said to be as much as three hundred thousand *yen*, but that is probably an exaggeration. Suspicions are entertained that the authors of the fraud are members of the Company, but the truth has not yet been ascertained.

* * *

The above is now explicitly contradicted. The President of the Company, Mr. Asaba Yasushi, has advertised in all the daily newspapers of the capital, declaring that the statement has no foundation whatever. Apparently, however, the Company's affairs are to be subjected to still further comment. The *Kokkai* writes thus :—"The capital of the Sugar Company, as every one knows, is 800,000 *yen*, divided into 16,000 shares of 50 *yen* each. It is asserted that, last year, when a syndicate appeared in the market and set about buying up all the shares of the Com-

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pany, certain persons, supposed to be connected with the Company, made an over-issue of shares to the extent of 2,000. Another rumour is that counterfeit shares, numbering as many as 6,900, are still in the hands of the public. Several shareholders have been to the Branch office in Tokyo to compare their shares with the Company's books, and brokers decline to touch these securities." It is difficult to understand what the *Kokkai* means by an over-issue of shares, as distinguished from forged shares. Every share issued in excess of 16,000 must either be falsified, or bear a number larger than 16,000; must, in short, be a forged share. Since, however, Mr. Asaba has published an emphatic denial of the existence of any spurious shares, something more than a mere rumour, especially of so vague a character, is needed to shake his testimony. There is a cheerful airiness about the manner of some Japanese journals in circulating reports which, if true, would discredit an important mercantile enterprise.

RESCUE BY THE "NAGATO MARU."

CAPTAIN EKSTRAND, of the *Nagato Maru* (Nippon Yusen Kaisha), succeeded in effecting a timely rescue on Friday week during his voyage from Yokohama to Kobe. He left Yokohama on the 24th ult., at noon, the wind blowing a moderate gale, and passed Kanonsaki at half-past one, and Sagami at half-past two. At 3.20 p.m. he sighted a junk turned bottom upwards, and seeing some men clinging to her, stopped the engines a quarter of an hour later, and proceeded to launch life-boat No. 3. At this time the wind was blowing a fresh gale, and the waves running high, so that it was with great difficulty and danger that the second officer, with a crew of nine men, succeeded in reaching the boat and rescuing six men. The adventure occupied about 40 minutes, and the men rescued were in an exhausted condition. The *Nagato Maru* proceeded on her voyage, and reached Kobe at 10.30 p.m. on the 25th inst.—*Hyogo News.*

A WONDERFUL TAKE OF FISH.

ONE day last January, says the *Jiyu Shimbun*, a certain fisherman set his nets at a point in the Bay of Yamada, where he expected that a school of dolphin (*iruka*) might arrive. The event justified his judgment, for on coming to draw in the nets, he found them crowded with fish. In the act of hauling the nets, a large number of the dolphin effected their escape—about two thousand, according to the fishermen's estimate—but no less than four thousand were captured. There were two varieties, the *nezumi-iruka* and the *ma-iruka*, the former weighing from 15 to 20 *Kwamme* (124 to 165lb.), and the latter from 20 to 30 *Kwamme* (165 to 248lb.) The *iruka* is used in Japan not only for food, but also for manure and for expressing oil. The treatment of this enormous mass of fish, aggregating over 350 tons, must have taxed the resources of Miyako, the town nearest to the scene of the take. The *Jiyu Shimbun* says that the job was undertaken by a merchant of the place, Mr. Kikuchi Chyohichi.

CITY AND PREFECTURE.

A CORRESPONDENT calls attention to a point of nomenclature that has often puzzled translators, namely, the English equivalents for *Fu* and *Ken*. Hitherto it has been customary to render these words by "city" and "prefecture," but in truth the term "city" finds its Japanese modern equivalent in "*shi*." Thus *Shikwai* is a city assembly, and *Shiku Kaisei-in* is the city improvements committee, or literally, the committee for the improvement of the city and its wards (*Ku*). On the other hand, *Fu* signifies the whole area included within the jurisdiction of a city, an area the population of which, as our correspondent points out, is sometimes nearly three times as large as that of the city proper. To employ the same English word, "prefecture," as an equivalent for *Fu* and *Ken* scarcely seems a scholarly plan, especially as we should then be obliged to call the head of the local government "Prefect" in each case, whereas, in the Japanese language, he is distinguished as "Governor" (*Chiji*) and Prefect (*Kenrei*). We see nothing for it but to adopt the somewhat clumsy nomenclature of "urban district" for *Fu* and "Prefecture" for *Ken*. If then it be further desired to distinguish between the *Kori* of a *Ken* and the *Kori* of a *Fu*, we can use the terms "urban division" and "rural division," while the *Mura* in each case becomes "urban sub-division" and "rural sub-division."

THE VILLAGE SERVICE.

The church stood on an eminence
Outside a leafy wood,
And watched o'er all around it, as
It spiritually should.

The tendrils of an ivy vine
Embraced the Norman tower,
And tenderly he wreathed the clock
Which told the village hour.

The yew tree near the pathway,
With its sweet and restful shade,
Stood like a watchful sentinel
Where the village dead were laid.

Except the hum of insect life,
The music of the mill,
No sound disturbed the solemn hour
And everything was still.

The slanting rays of summer sun
Came peeping thorough the trees
And danced amid the foliage
Which quivered in the breeze.

It played upon the window pane
Of variegated hue,
Made up in latticed diamonds
Of orange, pink and blue.

It penetrated through them,
In a dim religious light,
And fell across the chancel steps
With the pulpit on the right.

It filled the sacred edifice,
It filled the knighted stall,
And with a pious reverence
It filled the hearts of all.

A hush of deep solemnity,
With all-pervading power,
Fell on the assembled worshippers,
That beatific hour.

The parson's voice in soothing tones,
And accents sweet and clear,
Vibrated through the long drawn aisle
And in the listener's ear.

And no one doubted what he said,
For no one ever can;
And everyone confided in
The aged, holy man.

And so the people deemed it wise—
And few were not their number—
To pass the peaceful hour away
In sweet, delicious slumber.

"Come unto me, ye weary!"
Urged the aged, holy man;
In vain his pleading accents fell
On the ears of Mary Ann.

For Mary Ann would sleep away
The pleasant hour of praise,
And dream of bright angelic forms
Bathed in celestial rays.

But often she would nod her head
At the parson's solemn diction;
While the pearly gates of her little mouth
Were *open to conviction.*

F. STANILAND.

A POINT CONCERNING THE OLD QUESTION.

THE tumult increases, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, among the various political parties who are disposed to condemn Viscount Aoki's programme of Treaty Revision. The main point of opposition now is that the draft of the Revised Treaty, in so far as it relates to the Tariff, ought to be discussed by the Diet before being made a subject of negotiation with Foreign Powers. For this view the reason assigned is that customs duties are a tax; that they consequently form part of the public revenue, and that the 62nd article of the Constitution distinctly establishes the Diet's right to be consulted with reference to any question of revenue or taxation. The *Jiji Shimpo* characterises this contention as absurd. It points out that the Constitution of Japan can apply to Japanese only, whereas the Revision of the Treaties is a question between Japan and Foreign Powers. Therefore, to imagine that the terms of Revision can be settled by the Diet beforehand is obviously ridiculous.

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The *Jiji's* point is unanswerable. But it may be supplemented with advantage. Writers who argue about the necessity of submitting the revised Tariff to the Diet, do not appear to have mastered the question thoroughly. What a Tariff Convention does is to fix the maximum rates that may be levied upon imports and exports. To these maxima the consent of Foreign Powers must evidently be secured in the first place by negotiation. The Diet can have no hand, act, or part in the business. Under no representative institutions in the world has it ever been heard of that Parliament pronounces a preliminary decision as to the rates which Foreign Powers shall be asked to accept. If the consent of Foreign Powers has to be obtained at all, their intentions must obviously be ascertained in the first place. The plain process then is that the diplomatic officials of the nation negotiate to obtain the maximum concessions in a treaty, which is duly concluded and ratified. But now follows the question of giving practical effect to the provisions of the Treaty. What has been accomplished by the Treaty is to secure the consent of Foreign States to a change of Tariff; what remains to be accomplished is the putting of the change into operation. It is at this stage that the Diet's function comes in. The Administration says to the Diet:—"Here is a Convention providing that Foreign Powers will not object if this empire levies increased customs dues up to a certain point. It is for you to decide whether you will take advantage of the concession thus obtained by levying increased duties, and if so, whether the increase shall extend to, or fall short of, these maxima." The Diet thus retains and exercises all its legislative and financial rights. It gives its consent to the additional taxation, in whole or in part, or by withholding its consent altogether it renders the Convention inoperative. There ought to be no difficulty in distinguishing between the legitimate functions of the Administration and the constitutional powers of the Diet in such a matter.

* * *

The *Jiji* also points out with convincing force the flagrantly unreasonable conduct of politicians who clamour against the Government because it asks for some thing short of absolute equality with Foreign Powers. How on earth is equality to be secured, inquires the *Jiji*. Have the agitators any method of bringing to bear upon Foreign Powers such pressure as shall induce them to treat Japan as an equal? If not, then a treaty on equal terms simply means that Japan must wait an indefinite number of years until Foreign Powers are quite convinced of the justice of her title to equal treatment. The *Mainichi Shimbun* advances the same argument.

A YOUTHFUL GENERAL.

THAT Count Von Moltke should in his sixty-seventh year assume his first command of an army in the field is, we frankly concede to the *Japan Gazette*, very extraordinary. But this fact dwindles into insignificance compared with the statement in the same journal that Von Moltke's father attained the rank of General during the Thirty Years' War. Count Von Moltke was born in 1800. His father, according to the *Gazette*, was made a General between 1618 and 1648, so that at the time of the son's birth, the father was—assuming him to have been born in the rank of General the day before the signing of the Peace of Westphalia—one hundred and fifty-two years old. The reflection that the Great Gustavus Adolphus may have held a Council of War with this eminent infant, one hundred and fifty odd years before the infant's distinguished child was born, is a thrilling one. Commander of an army in the field at sixty-seven, the Von Moltke whom we have known is a sorry figure beside his father, who had been a General long, long years before coming into this world.

THE NATIONAL LIBERALS.

TOWARDS the autumn of last year a good deal was heard about the formation of a new political party, to be called the National Liberals (*Kokumin Jiyu-to*). People understood that a close connection existed between the organization and Count Goto, and that it was intended to form the nucleus of a big organization. The project seemed to hang fire, however, and rumour attributed its want of impetus to the interference of a well-known statesman, who

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foresaw that the consequences of such a party's coming into existence might be disastrous. But though delayed in its career the party became an accomplished fact, and we have seen that some of its members recently succeeded in obtaining the control of the *Jiyu Shimbun*. The Tokyo News Agency is now responsible for a statement that the National Radicals are split into three sections, the *Kiushiu-ha*, the *Hokuriku-ha*, and the *Kuanto-ha*, among which the last is the weakest. The three sections cannot, by any means, come to an understanding between themselves. The *Kuanto-ha* has been for two months on the point of separating from its associates and placing itself under the leadership of Viscount Tani, but one reason or another has restrained it up to the present. Now, however, dissolution is said to be imminent. The Kiushiu and Hokuriku sections will probably fuse into one, and the Kuanto section will go with Messrs. Horikoshi, Mogi, and Sato, who control the *Jiyu Shimbun*.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL.

It is alleged that arrangements are in progress to hold the great festivals of Sanno and Kanda during the presence of the Russian Prince Imperial in Tokyo, although the proper time for their celebration has not arrived. The *soshi* also contemplate a demonstration of some kind, if we may believe the *Mainichi Shimbun*, which paper says that, pasted to a tree on Suribachiyama, at the entrance to Uyeno Park, on the 26th ultimo, there was found a notice reading thus:—"On the day of the arrival of the Crown Prince of Russia, we *soshi* propose to have a *seiten*. Friends sharing our views are invited to meet us in Shiba Park without fail." What *seiten* signifies, nobody is able to say. It may mean either a grand ceremony or a grand performance, both of which are similarly incomprehensible.

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Telegrams from Nagasaki, dated the 28th ultimo, and published by the vernacular press, say that at noon of that day H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa visited the Prince Imperial on board the latter's ship, and that the latter expressed his gratitude for the escort of the Japanese men-of-war which had met the Russian Squadron at sea and accompanied it to Nagasaki, and also for the warm welcome given to him by Japan. At 9.30 a.m. of the same day the Russian Admiral had waited on Prince Arisugawa, and had informed the latter that the Prince Imperial would not land officially until the 3rd instant and that he desired to decline any entertainments other than those given by the whole town, inasmuch as the limited time at his disposal did not permit him to accept others.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

Attention is called by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* to the question of registered letters. These letters have hitherto been regarded by the Japanese public as absolutely safe, but from time to time of late confidence has been rudely shaken by losses of money and other valuables enclosed in letters, while at the same time people have realized what they ought to have fully understood from the first, namely, that the Postal Authorities do not hold themselves responsible for the safe delivery of even registered letters. A short time ago a foreign resident of Tokyo enclosed a sum of two hundred *yen* in a letter which he duly registered and sent to a bank in Yokohama. The letter reached its destination, but its contents had disappeared. According to the *Choya's* statement the Communications Department is now giving attention to this question, and has come to the conclusion that the only plan to secure the public against loss is to establish a system of insurance for registered letters. A draft of law in that sense is said to be now in course of preparation.

MR. TANAKA SHOZO AND TREATY REVISION

Mr. Tanaka Shozo, a member of the House of Representatives for Tochigi Prefecture, whose differences with Count Goto brought him into such prominence during the recent session of the Diet, has addressed to the *Yomiuri Shimbun* the following letter, which that journal publishes:—"With reference to Viscount Aoki's programme of Treaty Revision, comparing it with that of Count Okuma, I find that its provisions give full value to the progress made by the country in the interval of 20 months separating the two, and I have therefore no hesitation in expressing my approval of it. I beg to inform you of this fact."

THE "HUASCAR."

The details of the recent torpedo operations in Chilian waters will be of interest when they can be fully learned, as the use of that weapon seems to be pretty well understood on the South American coast, judging by past and recent experience. The *Huascar* was a ship with a history, having been in action several times, and when built was considered to be of a formidable type. She was an ironclad ram on the turret principle, and formerly belonged to the Peruvians, who had another ship of the same type, the *Independencia*. These two vessels were in action at Iquique in 1879 when that port was blockaded by the Chilian ships *Esmeralda* and *Covadonga*. The *Huascar* sunk the *Esmeralda*, 110 of the crew of the latter going down with her; but the *Independencia* ran ashore when chasing the *Covadonga*, which took to flight after her consort was destroyed. The *Huascar* then entered Iquique and captured several vessels, but she was herself captured some six months later off Mejillones. She made a splendid fight, however, of six hours' duration, and was only taken on being surrounded by the Chilian fleet, and after most of her crew and many of her officers had been killed, including the admiral.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The amounts of convertible notes and reserves in the Bank of Japan for the week ended the 25th ult. were as follow:—

Convertible Notes.	Yen.	Reserves and Securities.	Yen.
Notes issued	98,878,117	Gold coin and bullion	24,993,710
		Silver coin and bullion	18,649,787
		Public Loan Bonds	13,476,450
		Treasury Bills	—
		Government Bills	22,000,000
		Other securities	7,908,170
		Commercial Bills	11,850,000
	98,878,117		98,878,117

Of the above total issue of notes, the sum of *yen* 5,062,348 is in the treasury of the Bank, 22,000,000 has been transferred on loan to the Government, and *yen* 71,815,769 is in actual circulation, the latter showing a decrease of *yen* 536,357 as compared with *yen* 72,352,126 at the end of the previous week.

A CELEBRATED TREE.

Among the *Omi Hakkei*, or eight celebrated views of Omi province, there is one that depends for its beauty on a grand old pine tree. The tree stands on Karasaki point, in Lake Biwa. Signs of weakness having shown themselves in the venerable *matsu*, funds were supplied by the Authorities to have it tended, but unfortunately all care has proved unavailing. The pine is said to be now *in extremis*, and one of Omi's renowned bits of scenery will be robbed of its principal charm.

THE WEALTH OF TOKYO.

Statistics published by the News Agency of Tokyo show that, on the 31st of March, the registered public bonds held in the capital were as follow:—

Held by the Government	20,451,460 *yen*
Held by Banks	48,811,240 *yen*
Held by Companies and Schools	1,623,445 *yen*
Held by the people	18,572,000 *yen*
Total	89,439,605 *yen*

PALMAM QUI MERUIT.

For inimitable vulgarity and gaberlunzie grossness the palm certainly belongs to the latest plaint of the *Japan Herald*. That the writer of such a diatribe should clamour to be entertained by respectable folks, especially by a Representative of his Sovereign, is supremely comical.

THE RECENT AMATEUR PERFORMANCE.

The officers of the Jizenkai beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of *yen* five hundred and eleven, the net proceeds of an entertainment given in Yokohama on the 13th April. For this generous sum, coming at this opportune time when every effort is being made to erect a charity hospital, they are very grateful to all those who assisted.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY AND THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

We read in the *Kokkai* that the Red Cross Society has presented its highest Order of Merit to the Emperor, the Empress, the Empress Dowager, and the Prince Imperial, and that the Empress wore the medal on the occasion of her visit to the general meeting of the Society on the 1st ultimo.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The vernacular press continues to devote the greater portion of its space to the discussion of the question of the probable change of the Minister President of State. Count Ito, who is now staying in the capital, is believed to be determined in his resolution not to accept power at the present juncture but, if rumour can be trusted, Count Saigo will also decline to yield to the united persuasion of his political friends. All the papers urge the members of the present Cabinet as well as Count Ito, to settle the matter as speedily as possible. The reason why Count Ito hesitates to accept the offer of Premiership, is believed by some papers to be that, in the present state of political affairs in this country, it is rather too early to construct a Cabinet on the principles of party Government, and that it is his desire to be the first Minister President to inaugurate such a system of Government. It is not necessary to point out that this story is entirely at variance with the known opinions of the President of the House of Peers. Possibly the papers, or rather their informants, have been betrayed by crafty politicians who are always on the watch to utilize every opportunity of discrediting the present Imperial system of Government.

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The metropolitan papers, particularly those representing parties opposed to the Government, take advantage of the present crisis in the political situation to demonstrate the importance of carrying into practice the theory of government by party. The *Mimpo* observes that the political centre of gravity has shifted from the Sat-Cho clans to the House of Representatives, and that with its shifting, there has resulted a general fluctuation in the value and influence of individual statesmen. For instance, men like Mr. Hoshi and Mr. Oi have a larger number of followers in the Lower House than Count Ito, Count Inouye, Count Kuroda, and so forth, and under this altered condition of things men who can command the support of the largest number of the members of the Diet will be the most influential statesmen. It is true—continues the *Kaishin-to* organ—that the statesmen of the elder generation have followers in the ranks of the Government services, but officials under *chokunin* rank ought not to be allowed to interfere with the politics of the country. The *Mimpo* does not say that Count Ito and others of the older generation are actually less influential than the younger statesmen, but it does maintain that the future basis of political power must be sought, not in the ranks of Government officials, but among the members of the Diet. In another article the same paper remarks that the administrative power of the present Government is weak, not because of the overwhelming influence of the Legislature, but because the members of the Cabinet have not the courage and public spirit to take on themselves large political responsibilities. The implied meaning is that a Cabinet in order to be strong, must be composed of men of similar views and having the support of the nation's Representatives.

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Another *Kaishin-to* organ, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, expresses similar opinions. The influence of the Sat-Cho clans is on the wane, while

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the popular voice is beginning to acquire its natural power through the members of the House of Representatives. Every statesman, we are told, is unwilling just at present to assume power, because a Minister President, in addition to the difficulty of maintaining the balance of power between the two dominant clans, has now to brave a greater difficulty, namely, that of dealing with the Representatives of the people. The *Mainichi* thinks that Japan is on the eve of inaugurating a party system of Government. It calls upon the statesmen of the Opposition to take all conceivable means of accelerating the advent of the long desired opportunity of forming a responsible Cabinet.

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The Liberal organ, the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, writes in a similar strain. It recommends the Opposition to act towards the Government in such a manner as to cause Count Yamagata's successor, be he Count Ito or Count Saigo, to seek the support of the Legislature. In other words, the Opposition is advised to support the future Minister President if he consents to give the principal seats in the Ministry to its leaders, but to oppose him if he does not. The various parties are further urged to bury their petty differences and jealousies, and combine so as to compel the little coterie of statesmen who at present monopolize the place of power to hand over the administration to the Opposition.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* also believes that the time is not far distant when Japan will be governed by a responsible Cabinet, and considers the present to be the most important juncture preparatory to the final inauguration of party government. But the *Jiji* expresses surprise at the indifference shown by the statesmen of the Opposition with regard to the question of a change of Minister President of State. These statesmen ought, at a time like the present, to present to the nation a candidate of their own choice for the post of Minister President. Their efforts might not be crowned with immediate success, but such a step could not fail to accelerate the introduction of the much desired system of party government. Unfortunately the leaders of the Opposition do nothing of the sort; they are apparently indifferent as to the disposal of the post of Premier. Their strange conduct in this matter leads the *Jiji* to doubt whether the statesmen of the Opposition, though skilled in speech, may not, after all, be unfit for the practical business of politics. If they go on at the present rate, the *Jiji* does not know how many years it will take to inaugurate a system of party government.

* * *

The *Kokkai* advises the members of the Cabinet to resign in a body. One of the difficulties that scare all the possible successors of Count Yamagata is, according to our contemporary, that as the members of the present Cabinet wish to remain at their posts despite the resignation of their chief, the new Minister President, whoever he may be, must find himself powerless to construct such a Cabinet as he may deem proper to preserve harmony and cohesion. If the precedent of resignation *en masse* is once established, it will speedly lead to the inauguration of a system of responsible Ministry.

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In a later article, the *Mimpo* advises the *Jiyu-to* and the rest of the progressive parties to put up Count Itagaki as a candidate for the post of Minister President. As a statesman, the Count doubtless possesses many imperfections, but our contemporary thinks that he has at present a good claim for the situation, in that he can command the largest number of votes in the House of Representatives. Lord Salisbury is no match for Mr. Gladstone in statecraft, yet the former has been able to remain in office for five years, solely because he enjoys the support of the majority of the members of the House of Commons. In the same manner the Tokyo journal believes Count Itagaki will be able to maintain himself in power against statesmen otherwise abler than himself. He may be unwilling to assume power, but he should be solicited to sacrifice his personal inclinations to the benefit of the country.

* * *

The question of Treaty Revision receives increasing attention from the vernacular press. Judging by what has thus far appeared in papers anxious to embarrass the Cabinet, it would seem that the political parties are more or less opposed to the programme of the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. The stipulations now under negotiation with England have, it is stated, been submitted to the consideration of the Privy Council. The results of the deliberation of that body are not known, but the Opposition papers generally incline to the belief that the majority of the Privy Councillors are not at all favourable to Viscount Aoki's proposals. Counts Soeshima and Terajima, Viscount Yoshida Kiyonari, formerly Minister to the United States, and Mr. Inouye Ki are said to be among the most stubborn opponents in the Privy Council, though this is very doubtful. Some papers even go so far as to mention that there are certain Ministers of State—Mr. Mutsu among the rest—who do not approve Viscount Aoki's scheme of Revision. According to the *Tokyo Shimpo* and the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the attitude of the various political parties on this question may be summarized as follows. The *Hoshu Chusei-ha*, led by Viscount Torio, is opposed on the subject of mixed residence, while another conservative faction under the control of Viscount Tani and Mr. Tomita Tetsunosuke, former President of the Bank of Japan, is opposed on the question of tariff autonomy, the object of these politicians being to recover it at once and entirely. The *Jiyu-to* also demands the immediate recovery of tariff autonomy; and though it does not object to mixed residence, it opposes the granting to foreigners of the right of owning real estate, working mines, &c. A section of the party, however, led by Mr. Oi Kentaro, is strongly opposed to mixed residence. The *Kaishin-to* is in a very delicate situation. In view of its attitude towards Count Okuma's programme, it will not offer any open resistance to the present Minister of Foreign Affairs; but it is nevertheless opposed to his scheme, and seems determined to concentrate its attention on the constitutional question that the tariff programme of the new treaties must be previously submitted to the deliberation of the Diet. This question may possibly prove the means of uniting the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* on the subject of Treaty Revision. Such is the strongly biassed view of the above two journals. From the way in which the organs of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* discuss the constitutional point, it is evident that they intend to bring it forward in the next session of the Diet as a party question. The National Liberals and the *Jichi-to* are believed to be favourably disposed towards Viscount Aoki's plan. Mr. Taguchi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, is declared to be the only public man of eminence outside official circles who has courageously declared himself for the revision scheme of Viscount Aoki. Nothing is said about the so-called Independents, members of the former *Taisei Kai*. In fact the whole analysis is evidently partial.

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It is not necessary to reproduce the articles that appeared in Count Itagaki's organ, the *Jiyu*, on the question of seeking the consent of the Diet to the revised tariff, because our contemporary's argument is upon the whole similar to that of the *Kaishin-to* organs, whose articles were alluded to in a former weekly summary. We may, however, allude to a very sensible article of the *Kokkai*, which takes a middle course. Our contemporary observes that both those who advocate and those who oppose, the submission of the revised tariff to the consideration of the Diet, are open to the charge of fighting in the air; they equally miss the point at issue. The advocates of the measure seem to think that it is unconstitutional not to ask the Diet's consent to the provision in the revised treaty which arranges the maximum rates of duties. But those rates, being merely standards by which schedules of tariff are to be fixed, are not necessarily the rates of duties to be actually imposed. It is erroneous to suppose that the Diet's consent is required to the fixing of the standard of tariff, for the meaning of the 62nd article of the Constitution, which is cited by the advocates of the measure, is simply that any change in the actual rates of taxes must be effected by means of law. On the other hand, writers who oppose reference to the Diet fall into the opposite error of maintaining that even tariff schedules, which establish the actual rates to be imposed, need not be submitted to Parliament. Such a theory is evidently contrary to the Constitution. The *Kokkai* advises the Authorities to separate tariff schedules from the treaties proper, and, after concluding and ratifying the latter, to seek the Diets' consent to the actual rates of duties that are to be imposed on the basis of the standard stipulated in the Treaties proper.

* * *

The movement for the abolition of export duties is gaining ground. So far as we know, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* is the only paper of note that has opposed the measure. Its objections resolve themselves into two, namely, that the abolition of export duties will benefit only foreign merchants who carry on the export trade of the country, and that at present it is of greater importance to use any surplus that may arise for the reduction of the land tax than for the abolition of export duties. The *Toyo Shimpo* combats these objections one by one, but its arguments need not be repeated here. Another paper, the *Tokyo Shimpo*, also writes on the question, strongly urging the importance of abolishing export duties, especially that on silk.

* * *

An important series of conferences of educationalists was held in Tokyo during the five days from the 26th to the 30th of last month. At the invitation of the Minister of Education, each Prefecture and City sent to the conferences three delegates representing the educationalists of the particular locality. Various questions of more or less importance relating to primary education were discussed. But the principal object for which the conferences were held was to establish a central educational congress (*Chū-wō Kyō-iku Gikai*). The results of the deliberations on this important subject have not yet been published. There is little doubt, however, that regulations for a Central Educational Congress, drawn up by a Committee appointed by the educationalists now assembled in Tokyo, were adopted at the last conference. According to these regulations, the Congress is to be under the control of the Minister of Education, with the Vice-Minister of Education for its President, and subordinate officials of the same Department for its officers. Its functions are to express views on such educational questions as may be submitted to its deliberation by the Minister of Education. It is also to have the right of addressing the Minister on any question relating to education. The members are to consist of some of the higher officials of the Educational Department, the President of the Imperial University, Directors of Higher Middle Schools, members of the *Gakushi Kaiin*, and one delegate from each Prefecture and City to be nominated by the respective Governor. The *Kokumin Shimbun*, writing on this subject, approves the proposed establishment of an Educational Congress, but hopes that by degrees the constitution of the Congress may be so altered as to make it a thoroughly self-governing institution. Our contemporary complains that the Minister of Education and his subordinates have hitherto monopolized too much educational power. It thinks that the Educational Department ought to be abolished, and that educational matters should be divided between a special Board of Education and the Educational Congress which is about to be established.

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The metropolitan papers all lament the death of Count Von Moltke, and review in leading articles his life and character.

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"THINGS JAPANESE."

THAT curious mistake to which Mr. B. H. CHAMBERLAIN gave unhappy pernency in his "Things Japanese" meets us again and again in each review of his book. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, in this work, incomparably below the level of any of his previous writings, allowed himself to drift into the groove so attractive to superficial observers, of whom he certainly is not one. Instead of filling his volume with genuine "Things Japanese," he filled it with CHAMBERLAIN facetiæ. No properly balanced person objects to this in the case of a "three weeks' book-maker." On the contrary, the essentially subjective character of volumes written by ephemeral tourists is not without its merits and its charms. But when a man has been eighteen or nineteen years in Japan, has studied its language with wonderful success, and has deservedly earned the reputation of a ripe scholar, we do not expect that his account of the country and the people shall be disfigured by waggery and badinage, or that he will found large general theories on fragments of light observation. "Whatever you do," writes Mr. CHAMBERLAIN in his preface, "don't praise in the presence of Japanese of the new school those quaint, old, and beautiful things Japanese which rouse your most genuine admiration;" and with this quotation the *Saturday Review*, *more suo*, commences a two-column notice of "Things Japanese." Now where did Mr. CHAMBERLAIN get that wonderfully crooked idea? If he had thought for a moment he would have remembered that during the past fifteen years there has been a steady revival of pure Japanese art, patronized by the leading men of Japan; that during the past ten years Japanese amateurs have shown as much pecuniary appreciation of their own "quaint, old, and beautiful things" as even Western *virtuosi* show, and that since 1886 all the intelligence and ambition of the generation that is presently to rule Japan have been enlisted in the cause of the *Kokusui-hozon* movement, which aims at preserving the comely features of essentially Japanese civilization and ethics. Where, then, did Mr. CHAMBERLAIN get his notion? From a false translation of an article in a Japanese newspaper! Of course Mr. CHAMBERLAIN did not make the translation himself. Had he done so there would have no misconception. He accepted the erroneous version given by a local English journal; or, what is more probable, he accepted the impression which a portion of the public received from that version. "Sir EDWIN ARNOLD," as the *Saturday Review* puts it, epitomising Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, "after praising the scenery, art, and what not of Japan, found himself the next day abused by a native newspaper for not having appreciated the railways, ironclads, and politics of the present day Empire." Of course Mr. CHAMBERLAIN did not say that. He did not say that Sir EDWIN ARNOLD "found himself abused." What he said was:—"Out comes an article next morning in the chief paper which had been represented at the banquet—an article acknowledging, indeed, the truth of Sir EDWIN'S description, but pointing out that it conveyed, not praise, but condemnation of the heaviest sort. Art forsooth, scenery, sweetness of disposition? What care we for art, scenery, and sweetness of disposition, cries this editor?—and he is a representative man. Why did not Sir EDWIN praise us for huge industrial enterprises, for commercial talent, for wealth, political sagacity, strong armaments? Of course it is because he could not honestly do so. He guaged us at our true value, and tells us in effect that we are pretty weaklings." Now this whole business is, we think, a tolerably fair example of the unfortunate mood that possessed Mr. CHAMBERLAIN when he penned "Things Japanese." Even his own account of the Japanese newspaper's article, though quite misleading in so far as it infers contempt for art and so forth, shows that the editor seized the opportunity—as in truth he did—to point a useful moral, by reminding his readers that however charming and delectable the things lauded by their distinguished visitor might be, such things are not elements of national greatness, and to rest content in their possession would be to accept national insignificance in perpetuity. Could anything be more reasonable? Could anything be more wholesome? If Mr. CHAMBERLAIN had paused to think, he must have sympathised with the Japanese article, and applauded it as an expression of sound sentiment. The lotus-eaters' picture drawn by Sir EDWIN ARNOLD of Japan and her people could not fail to afford food for serious reflection to any earnest, patriotic Japanese. But Mr. CHAMBERLAIN did not pause to think. A Yokohama journalist with a gall-tipped pen, whose daily *metier* is to give an evil turn to every incident occurring here, twisted the vernacular comments on Sir EDWIN'S speech into an exhibition of Japanese conceit and brummagem aspiration (whereas they were precisely the opposite), and this interpretation, catching the popular fancy, reached Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S ears and found expression in the preface to his work. It was not consistent with even his own summary of the Japanese critic's remarks, but it was consistent with the mood of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN himself, who, wanting to say smart things, allowed his unwonted propensity to obscure his wonted judgment. It is an incomprehensible riddle to us that any sober-minded writer could construe the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* article into a warning "never to praise, in the presence of Japanese of the new school, those quaint, old, and beautiful things Japanese which rouse your genuine admiration." The article bears no such interpretation, and we have heard its writer laugh heartily at the marvellous wrench given to his words by critics determined to deflect them to a sneering purpose. Our own experience of "Japanese of the new school" is diametrically at variance with Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S dictum. No topic of conversation is so gladly welcomed and so sympathetically discussed in Japanese social circles to-day as "quaint, old, and beautiful things Japanese." It has been so for the past ten years, and it is even more so in 1891 than it was in 1885. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S usually exact and painstaking spirit of scholarship is destined to be again and again rudely shocked before a second edition of "Things Japanese" enables him to check the riotous fancies set moving by the first. He will find, doubtless, that the *Saturday Review* has ridden his hobby much faster and farther than he ever intended the gently sportive animal to travel, yet it will puzzle him to say where and to what extent the London journal has passed the bounds of justice or deviated from his own leading. It is a dangerous experiment to embark upon a flood of facetiæ—especially dangerous when the voyager has already established a high reputation for sober and solid erudition. Lookers-on, overestimating the force of the current necessary to drift such an one away from the haven of earnest science and staid philosophy, gaily launch themselves with him and, lacking his ballast, are carried to shoals and cataracts that shock him even to contemplate. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN will often have opportunities of viewing vicarious images of the mood that presided at the compilation of "Things Japanese," and though his judgment will pronounce them caricatures, his conscience will admit the responsibility. It is so easy to carp; so simple and diverting to snap up stray straws of gossip or custom, and divine with them the direction of prevailing winds. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN ought to be a trusted pilot, not a sailer of toy-skiffs on streams of popular prejudice.

COUNT YOSHII'S FUNERAL.

THE funeral cortége of Count YOSHII left the deceased nobleman's residence in Nagatacho punctually at one o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th ultimo. The order of the procession was in strict accord with the rules of the Shinto ceremonial. In front marched a battalion of troops with arms reversed, followed by six carriages containing Shinto officials. Then came a long procession of white-clad bearers, carrying large bouquets of *sakaki* and flowers, twenty of the former and fifty-nine of the latter. This part of the cortége formed a line of great richness and beauty. The natural flowers were in bamboo stands; the artificial in delicately woven baskets, having wooden tablets attached showing the names of the donors, among them

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Princes SHIMAZU, MORI, TOKUGAWA, Marquis NABESHIMA, Count OKUMA, and a number of other notables. A band of Shinto musicians marched between the flower-bearers and the bier, and immediately behind the latter walked the eldest son of the deceased, Captain YOSHII, wearing the *saifuku*, a black robe, with white surcoat, and straw sandals. Then came four carriages containing relatives of the deceased, among them being Counts KAWAMURA and OYAMA, and then a company of artillery and another battalion of infantry, followed by a long string of carriages. Numbers of people had gone to the Aoyama Cemetery beforehand, so that the cortége itself, imposing as it was, conveyed no adequate impression of the deep respect entertained for the deceased by all classes.

Count YOSHII was one of those men, rare in history, who without attracting, or seeking to attract, public attention, exercise a commanding influence in the direction of State events. It was he who took the principal part in shaping and consummating the alliance between the two great clans of Sasshiu and Choshiu; an alliance directly instrumental in bringing about the Restoration, and subsequently powerful enough to guide the administration of affairs during a period of over twenty years. Popularly known as the Father of the Satsuma clan, Count YOSHII was even more respected and obeyed than the great SAIGO, though the lurid éclat of the latter's end gave him more salient prominence. It has long been felt and acknowledged in the inner circle of politics that no Cabinet could be stable and homogeneous unless Count YOSHII had assisted to construct it. Not that his influence was ever brought to bear in an obstructive or jealous sense, but that his clear judgment of men, and his admirable tact in grouping and connecting the elements of statesmanship, represented a faculty, recourse to which not only ensured a workable organization, but also set the cachet of implicitly trusted approval on any combination of Ministers. Reverence for his unswerving integrity and lucid foresight had insensibly grown into an instinct among the men of his generation, and it was often remarked that, alone among the statesmen and politicians of his time, his name was never mentioned in conversation without an honorary suffix. Others, spoken of in their absence, were plain "this" or "that," but he was always "Yoshii-san." It is hard to analyse the causes of this remarkable hold upon the love and esteem of his peers in rank and superiors in office. One of the greatest of living Satsuma leaders has ascribed it to unchangeableness. Count YOSHII never varied. There was no "shadow of turning" about him. The smallest benefit remained indelibly fixed in his memory. The pettiest loyal service could not be effaced by the flow of years. To the men who, on the pedestal planned by him, had risen to the highest honours attainable, and to the men whose efforts in the same cause had brought them nothing more solid than the memory of duty accomplished, Count YOSHII showed an absolutely unaltering aspect of sympathy and appreciation. Knowing nothing of what he had done himself, but remembering everything they had sought to achieve, he won all the trust and affection that centre about genuine altruism. It was this singularly objective side of his character that led him to be a King-maker rather than a crown-wearer. The highest office in the State lay open to him years ago, had his SOVEREIGN'S confidence and his own merits shaped the issue. But unconscious familiarity with great qualities made him recognise, perhaps too generously, their existence in others, and since he set the successful conduct of public affairs far above any thought of personal distinction, it resulted that men who owed their success to his direction, and who never ceased to acknowledge his superiority, rose to higher places and more conspicuous honours than he. But of his position in the esteem of his generation and in the memory of posterity none can entertain a doubt. There is a timidity that shrinks from high estate lest the calamity of falling from it should provoke scorn, and there is a philosophy which, failing always to reach its own standards, declines to accept the reward of attainment. The former has never been ascribed to Count YOSHII; the latter has invariably been recognised as his mood. If it were given to us to choose an epitaph for him, we should unhesitatingly adopt OWEN MEREDITH'S:—

> That man is great, and he alone,
> Who serves a greatness not his own,
> For neither praise nor pelf:
> Content to know and be unknown;
> Whole in himself.

FIELD MARSHAL COUNT VON MOLTKE.

THE great German soldier, Count HELLMUTH VON MOLTKE, Chief Marshal of the German Empire and Chief of the General Staff, expired on the night of the 25th instant in his ninety-first year. He was conspicuously an example of the principle that with whatever genius a man may be endowed, its assiduous cultivation can alone make him great. From his birth destined by his father, himself a retired officer, for a soldier's career, at the age of twelve he began to study the military profession with earnest purpose in the Copenhagen barracks. He had been thus occupied during three years when the battle of Waterloo was fought, so that his early life was filled with the sound of arms, and it has been said of him that if his thoughts up to the memorable year 1870 could be analysed, their almost unique subjects would be found to have been strategy and tactics. That his name is to be placed side by side with those of the most renowned Captains of all time, no one thinks of doubting for an instant. And yet the majority of those undertaking to speak of his wonderful career will assuredly find themselves perplexed to depict his individuality, as the contemporaries of NAPOLEON, of MARLBOROUGH, or of WELLINGTON could have depicted the individuality of any of those extraordinary men. This difficulty is in truth a tribute to the completeness of VON MOLTKE'S adjustment to his time. A writer, himself not unworthy of a pedestal in the temple of Mars, has explained that no combination of high qualities is so extended and so comprehensive as that constituting military genius. The successful leader of armies must possess the gift of divination as well as of direction. He must be able to abstract himself from his own position and place himself in that of his adversary, so as, on the one hand, to plan the best possible movements for his own troops, and on the other, to be prepared for the best movements of the enemy. That Count MOLTKE was endowed with these gifts in the fullest sense is beyond question. Allied with them, however, in the case of men like NAPOLEON and MARLBOROUGH, were special traits of character and temper easily appreciated by ordinary observers and, prior to the Franco-German war, placed by analysts of military genius at the head of the catalogue of its attributes. How largely VON MOLTKE possessed these traits, the general public has had little opportunity of judging. For nothing is more remarkable about the man than the fact that, while conducting the most colossal campaign in history with unerring skill, he himself remained from first to last an inseparable and unobtrusive part of a huge piece of mechanism. The great principles of his age, the principles by observing which with undeviating fidelity the German people raised themselves to the headship of Europe, were combination and subordination. It was by the perfect exercise of these principles that the various elements of the German nation, shaped according to their several capacities and pieced together into absolute homogeneity, became the wonderful machine of which VON MOLTKE acted as one of the chief engineers, loyally content to think only of the general result, without reference to men's recognition of his own share in shaping it. Possibly as an actual leader of hosts under the conditions of earlier-time warfare, he might have fallen short of the standard reached by CÆSAR, HANNIBAL, or MARLBOROUGH. Such speculations have been made, but surely they discuss a false issue. MOLTKE dealt with the circumstances of his time as admirably as they could possibly have been dealt with, and in according to him this highest mead of attainable praise, it scarcely seems necessary to consider whether he would have been equally successful in dealing

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with different circumstances. The world's standards of military genius must change with the march of civilization. Even as the rush of the cavalry squadron and the flash of the bayonet fade out of the pageant of battle, so the aspect of appalling peril, the disturbing excitement of the actual fight, the emotions and startling sensations to which the commander of former days was subjected, are no longer present in the quiet security of head-quarters where the modern Captain designs his combinations and dictates his instructions. Yet, who will undertake to say that a Chief of Staff such as VON MOLTKE, is a lesser genius than a commander like MARLBOROUGH? It is simply a question of altered circumstances, and since the alteration is itself due to the progress of intellectual development, we should be guilty of an apparent contradiction did we assume that a lower grade of genius is needed to manage the new conditions. The strategic grasp, imperturbable acumen, and perfectly balanced reason of a VON MOLTKE, even though not supplemented by the magnetism that attracts devotion and inflames imagination, doubtless represent the highest type of a captain of armies in the nineteenth century. It is idle for us, however, to attempt to estimate in precise terms what VON MOLTKE did, or to determine how far his genius was directly responsible for the result that crowned his fame. The military historian of former times, assured that every movement in a campaign might be placed to the sole credit or discredit of the General in command, needed only an acquaintance with book-taught strategy and a natural power of describing actions. The whole stage, the actors and the apparatus, were before him. But to write the story of the wonderful drama in which VON MOLTKE played a leading part, demands access to material not yet public property. It is impossible to differentiate the exact workings of "the great German Trinity," as KING WILLIAM, BISMARCK, and MOLTKE have been called. In combination they formed an almost omnipotent factor in the destinies of Europe, but to divide between them in just proportions the laurels of their splendid achievement, is beyond the scope of our present knowledge. We can only say that in VON MOLTKE Europe loses one of the greatest men of the century, an ideal gentleman as he was an unerring strategist.

TRUE HAPPINESS FROM A JAPANESE STANDPOINT.

A SERIES of very interesting articles has been appearing in the pages of *Longman's Magazine* at intervals during the past three years. The writer is Mr. HENRY BARKER, whose connection with London elementary school life has enabled him to give his readers wonderfully picturesque vignettes of boyish and girlish observation and imagination. Some of these productions have already been noticed in the columns of this journal, and their popularity in England has been so marked that an edition in book form has found a wide sale. It has been the good fortune of the writer to obtain on the spot results slightly resembling Mr. BARKER'S in quality, though not in variety, depth, or sparkle. A short time ago, in a large Japanese school, situated not a hundred miles from Nihon-bashi, a prize-essay was set, with the subject, "What is True Happiness?" The competitors were Japanese lads with but a limited power of expression in the English tongue. Several of their essays will bear reproduction, as throwing a light upon the ideals and ambition of the rising generation. One lad, whose composition we will consider first, presents his ideal of happiness in the form of a short life-history. He represents himself as entering the common school of his native place at the age of six, where he spent six years preparing for entrance into the Higher Commercial School of Tokyo. But, so filled was his heart with this cherished aim, that he never dared communicate it to his father. The latter, however, had guessed his son's wish, and calling him one day, informed him that he was to go up to the entrance examination. The rest of the story shall be told in the narrator's own words:—"Tree days after, I went to the school to see fall or pass, with an anxiety how I can see my relation and friends if I had fall, but Behold! there is my name at the first! how delight and happy it is! I went to my boarding-house on the foot which trembled with joy, and informed to the relation by telegraph that I had passed the examination favourably. The mony sent by father, so I had bought clothes, hat, shoes, and many other things which is necessary to me. Since the five years after, there came a graduate-examination; so I repeat my ressons by the day and by the night. This industly was recompensed by a happiness, called graduation. I had returned to my native home; the family welcomed with great pleasure. Three month after, I marriaged to a beautiful daughter, and I had earned great mony that I could not counted it, by trade. Now I am a sixty years old and I have two sons one is minister and the other is representative. Oh, what a happifull life it is." His ideal is evidently a somewhat common place one. Another lad, recognizing the fact that to an eager and sensitive Japanese boy the wounding of his *amour propre* is the acme of unhappiness, illogically reverses the conditions and places true happiness on the very slender pedestal of satisfied self-esteem. His story is worth giving in his own words as illustrating one phase of the national character:—"I remember well an incident which occurred when a little boy, while attending a lower school which caused me much [concern]. Among many boys there was one boy who was older than myself. He was haughty enough to be proud of his position in the school and to look down over others. Then I was a new boy, and consequently I was not apt to read a hard book. One morning, as I was reviewing a lesson which I had been taught before, he came near me and after having glanced over my book he jeered at me. I always passed a first rate as there was an examination, for I was pleased to study intensely, excited with a mere desire to overpass him. On the contrary, he had missed on several examinations and at last he became a classmate of mine. But I studied more zealously day after day, for I was not satisfied with such a condition. In the mean time, he acknowledged himself to be inferior to me and seemed to be ashamed of the false pride that he had manifested over me. An examination was held and many prizes were awarded to many boys, but only I received a medal which was rarely awarded. After the examination, I was received with high respect by the whole school, especially by him. I will not hesitate to say that there can never be a more interesting matter for me than the above mentioned, for this narration was most happy and cheering to me. Unless I greatly err, this was true happiness." Several of the papers are less worth remarking upon, because of their evident indebtedness to Christian phraseology, an infusion which renders them less valuable as an expression of native idiosyncrasies. The best written of the essays, an essay betraying a Buddhist longing for quiet and repose, finds true happiness in "the satisfaction and the peace of the mind." By satisfaction, of course, the essayist means contentment, a somewhat humble and apathetic ideal, differing from the Christian,—"Go labour on, spend and be spent!" Another essayist finds happiness in "working with the power of talent, virtue, and wealth." Into his ideal of virtue enters an alloy of Stoic pride: "With noble conducts he would be approve by his own conscience and would admire by all others as a great virtuous man." The joy of exercising one's intellect in making discoveries, this writer quaintly terms, "high sciential merriments." Virtue, talent, and wealth in combination will, in his opinion, leave their possessor free to pass the time cheerfully "with wife and children and all friends from day to day. I think," he remarks, "that is unexpressive happiness." Notice the last eloquent Miltonic phrase, "unexpressive happiness," somewhat spoiled in the next sentence by a reference to it as a "grolious point to reach." A fifth, and the last whose paper we will discuss treats with disdain the supposition that human happiness depends on wealth, and that a man can be "satisfied with elegancies of eating, dressing, and dwelling." These blessings he considers more appropriate to "the animal than the mankind," the latter "having a sentiment" while the animal "has nothing." This writer has

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been very much struck by the unhappiness occasioned through failure of health. Regarding health, not unnaturally, as one of the essentials of a happy life, he propounds the paradox that health is true happiness: "I say peremptorily that the health is true happiness." No doubt the question of health will weigh more and more with the present generation, which, in its eagerness to excel, is distinctly overtasking itself. The essay is significant. A weariness and disgust with the whole conditions of life will be sure, as a penalty for outraged nature, to attack those who forget that one of the elementary conditions of success in life is, "to be a good animal." But our essayist, in common with the others, has been more on the outlook for what spoils than for what constitutes happiness. The lack of altruistic idealism is, indeed, apparent throughout. None of them has even faintly grasped the conception so well expressed by Archbishop TRENCH:—

> While they who bid stern duty lead,
> Content to follow, they,
> Of duty only taking heed,
> Find pleasure by the way.

Such on the whole, would seem to be a just criticism of the ethics of the essays. The pursuit of the material is engrossing almost the whole energies of the rising generation, and its ideals are ethically poor and defective. No poorer, however, in reality than the ideal put forward in SMILES'S "Self-Help," a book marked, read, and inwardly digested by the youth of Japan in this era of Meiji.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS IN JAPAN.

THE subject of cruelty to animals has been frequently discussed in both the correspondence and the leading columns of this journal. It is a subject of much difficulty. The Japanese not unnaturally resent foreign interference in such matters. They are disposed to think that the title of outsiders to suggest reforms is not very clearly established, and that it would become us better to mind our own business. Sensible of this obstacle and entertaining little hope of effecting any improvement, many foreigners prefer to keep silence, though constantly urged to speech by the spectacles witnessed in the streets of the capital. If our correspondent "X." makes a different choice, and if we follow his example, it is not because of any spirit of fault-finding or any assumption of superiority, but simply in obedience to a duty devolving upon humane people everywhere. Few citizens of Tokyo, we imagine, are unfamiliar with the spectacles to which we allude. They force themselves upon the attention of the most callous. From the cart-horses to the animals that draw the tram-cars, victims of the same harrowing cruelty are daily observable. The establishment of a system of trams was welcomed originally as a probable means of putting an end to vehicles called *hako-basha*, a species of carriage built in the roughest and cheapest manner, without any regard to ease of traction. Ponies, generally in a condition of extreme emaciation, frequently tortured by raw galls where the harness had eaten, and was still further eating, into their flesh, and always incapable of moving the load to which they were attached, except under constant application of the lash and at the risk of breaking their hearts, dragged these rough conveyances through the streets, a shocking and demoralizing sight. It was hoped that the miserable vehicles would disappear in the presence of the tram-car, and by degrees the hope was realized. The *hako-basha* has almost passed out of existence, its place in the populous parts of the capital being taken, if not by the tram-car, then by the omnibus. But unhappily the tram-car and the omnibus are now open to the complaints formerly urged against the *hako-basha*. The condition of the ponies employed to draw the former, distinctly good at the outset, soon fell away in the absence of any attempt to preserve some kind of reasonable ratio between the strength of the animals and the task imposed on them. Miserably thin and broken down little ponies have now to be lashed and goaded without mercy in order to move a load which would tax the capacity of a pair of powerful foreign horses. The Tokyo Tram Company pays a dividend of from fifteen to sixteen per cent. No sort of palliation can be urged for the heartless parsimony shown by its employés in this matter. The case of the omnibus ponies is still more pitiful. From the first their strength was over-taxed, and, going from bad to worse, they are now in even more terrible plight than were the *hako-basha* ponies. Only a few days ago one of them dropped dead in its tracks, and in frequent cases unceasing application of the lash can alone induce them to face the agony of collars and traces that rest upon or rub against festering sores. Are these things characteristic of Japanese disposition towards animals? Must it be inferred that the cruel callousness witnessed in Tokyo is a fair index of the national habit? We do not think so by any means. In the country districts horses are distinctly well used. Their condition is good, and very rarely indeed do their drivers or riders carry a whip or stick. Besides, cruelty towards animals is less practised, so far as our observation goes, by children in Japan than by children in the West, and not only are children themselves treated with conspicuous kindness, but there is also comparative freedom from those terrible crimes that in some Occidental countries indicate the still uncontrolled sway of savagely ferocious instincts. It may further be urged with truth that the system now enforced so successfully in England for the protection of animals only became really efficient within the past thirty years, and that before its operation a very different state of affairs existed. All this we freely grant, and granting it, disclaim any title to the position of mentor. But if the cruelty practised towards horses in Tokyo be not characteristic of Japanese methods, there is surely all the more reason to correct it, since it not only offends Japanese feeling, but will certainly earn for the country an evil reputation. Foreigners judge the disposition of the nation by the evidences most plainly thrust upon their attention, and will naturally conclude that if a remedy the efficacy of which has been amply proved by European experience is not employed in Japan, the reason must be that Japan has no consciousness of the disease. We, indeed, by long contact with the Japanese people and observation of the peculiar philosophy of their every-day life, understand that their apparent apathy in the presence of circumstances seeming to invite intervention is generally the outcome, not of insensibility, but of traditional and educated reluctance to meddle with one another's business. A Japanese carries to its fullest limit the principle of non-interference with anything that does not directly concern him. But it is exceedingly difficult to draw the line between the reticence of policy and the serenity of callousness, especially in cases where private effort is distinctly called for. That the law should provide punishments for cruelty to animals is, of course, the first desideratum. But to make the law effective, individuals must exert themselves, as do the members of humane societies in Europe and America. We do not remember that the Japanese press has ever taken up this subject, though a worthier theme for the pen of benevolent men could not be found. In the face of the journalistic world's absolute silence, it is hard to imagine that the public gives itself much concern; and if the Japanese public be indifferent, foreigners are certainly entitled to direct attention to these harrowing abuses. The principles of humanity are not the property of any country. All peoples are equally bound to propagate and obey them, and we hold it a flagrant reproach to the Japanese citizens of Tokyo that such cruelty to animals should be practised with impunity and without protest in their midst. An argument has sometimes been adduced to the effect that so long as men are employed to pull *jinrikisha*, like beasts of burden, it is straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel to cry out about the treatment of coach-horses; and that to oppose any obstacle whatever to the development of vehicles drawn by horses might defer the day when *jinrikisha* will pass out of use. Such reasoning seems to us very defective. The *jinrikisha* is a thing apart, a special product of the economical conditions of the time. We fail to see how the labour of drawing it is more were

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or degrading than that of stoking a steamer or working in a coal mine. At any rate, to take no measures for the care or protection of horses seems a very faulty method of promoting their employment. The best way to make carriages popular is to provide that they shall be properly horsed, and that persons using them shall not be condemned to witness the harrowing spectacles now so often thrust upon their attention. We venture to commend the matter earnestly to the attention of the vernacular press, as well as to that of members of the Diet. There can be little doubt that a Bill introduced either privately or officially, would be passed without difficulty by Parliament. Until the law takes cognisance of cruelty to animals, individuals, however humanely disposed, are powerless to accomplish anything, and abuses that will seriously injure Japan's reputation must go unchecked.

MR. JOHN VARLEY'S PICTURES.

A PORTION of the pictures painted by Mr. JOHN VARLEY during his residence of less than a year in Japan, were exhibited for three days at the Tokyo Charity Hostal on the 26th, 27th, and 28th ultimo, and, despite unfortunately inclement weather during the greater part of the first two days, attracted considerable numbers of art-lovers. Mr. VARLEY has made a great success. In three important respects he is eminently happy, namely, in his treatment of skies, his management of values, and his simple but effective method of representing foliage. He has no sky of his own, as is too often the case with artists, but paints with wonderful fidelity what he sees in every case. The result is that not only are no two of his skies alike, but in many of them the reproduction of nature is so perfect that merely to look at his pictures almost to experience the same sensations of heat and of cold, of glow and of gloom, as would be produced by the atmospheric conditions represented. This is especially noticeable in such pictures as No. 22, a snow-scene at Maruyama in Kyoto; No. 16, a view of Lake Biwa, with a snow storm on the distant mountains; and in several of the sea-scapes. The bars of cold that seem to cross the middle distance immediately after a dash of sleet, the drift and whirl of the flake-laden blast, the placid fleeces of autumn evenings and the brisk scud of cloudy spring days, are all seen to perfection in these paintings. On the other hand, by skilful management of values atmospheric effects of admirable truth and beauty are produced. Such a master-piece as No. 27, where the exquisitely soft light of an evening in the fall lies lovingly on the old tombstones and lingers among the trees of Seishoji; or such another as No. 32, where the peculiar opalescent mist of a Japanese morning may be almost felt in the Chion-in avenue; or, again, such a painting as No. 46, where one insensibly shivers in the presence of the frost-laden, sullen air of a winter's afternoon, settling down over the town of Kyoto—all these productions mark Mr. VARLEY as a master of values, which, after all, are more than half the battle in successful painting. His daring, too, is displayed and justified in a view (No. 9) of Fujiyama seen from the Tamagawa, where the subdued brilliancy of the descending orb touches the mountain softly and, suffusing the air, finds glowing expression in the limpid water of the river in the foreground. Sunlight in a picture represents a *tour de force* beyond the capacity of any but a master of the craft, but we have it unmistakably in this case. Fujiyama has evidently failed to appeal to Mr. VARLEY as powerfully as it has appealed to the majority of his predecessors: it does not often figure in his paintings. We can sympathise with the sentiment that inspired this reserve. The truth is that an artist's sense of balance and proportion is more or less shocked by the contrast between the peerless mountain and its environment. Fuji's beauty is not of a retiring character: it is distinctly obtrusive, and to get it into a picture comfortably and harmoniously is difficult. The Japanese artist, frankly recognising this, was generally content, when representing Fuji, that the immitable grace of its slopes should be the one feature of his picture—grace which his inbred reverence for beauty of line enabled him to appreciate more than any foreigner, perhaps, can appreciate it. Moreover, the Japanese has always been essentially a limner of glimpses. He instinctively prescribed for himself the canon that a painting must never contain more than the eye can apprehend at a single glance, and into what field of ordinary vision could more than a Fujiyama be compressed? The Western painter, however, thinks of his finished picture, a complete scene, and is puzzled to find a place in it for a mountain rising thirteen thousand feet in an unbroken slope from the wash of the waves. We can see how Mr. VARLEY has shrunk from this difficulty. His Fuji-yamas hide a portion of their towering dimensions behind clouds or are pushed into a background where they cease to be oppressive. There is nothing to be said, we think, against this breaking away from the traditional tyranny of the sacred mountain. Its place in the prayer of a worshipper may well differ from its place in the vista of an artist. But the point suggests one criticism. Mr. VARLEY ought to spend another year in Japan. He loves nature too earnestly to be fastidious in choosing between her charms. These pictures, the partial product of his first nine months' work, are exquisite representations of the earliest impressions produced by scenery every bit of which sets the artist's brush moving. We would not have one of them omitted. But Japan can offer even more attractive and characteristic landscapes, and the public would gain much if a painter of Mr. VARLEY'S strength had leisure to carry on the task of reproduction. No one has succeeded better in catching the genuine Japanese type of figure, and no one has succeeded so well in transferring to canvas the remarkable atmospheric conditions that constitute an essential element of the beauty of Japanese scenery. Doubtless home critics of Mr. VARLEY'S work have spoken of its admirable crispness, and of the rare skill he displays in his middle distances, where details are introduced so as to show exactly what Nature makes visible and to suggest what she leaves to be inferred. We need not dwell upon these excellencies, nor yet on the technical skill displayed in such a picture as No. 56, where an exceedingly difficult foreground,—a descending street with figures and considerable detail—passes into a delightful view of the distant mountains seen from the Chion-in plateau. If there were question of comment from a purely artistic point of view, we could also find much to say about such a picture as No. 66, an admirable combination of feeling and realism; or No. 53, with its daring and deftly worked foreground of tangled reeds; or No. 15, with its skilfully graded aërial effects, its cold, crisp sky and its wonderfully realistic glinting of light on the foreshore from which the tide recedes; or No. 31, where the painter has accomplished the difficult feat of putting the black sulphurous peak of Ojigoku in the back-ground of his canvas and a lower snow-clad peak in the fore-ground, showing at the same time the vapoury valley that divides them and the shadow-casting smoke that ascends from it. All these are *tours de force* commanding admiration, and the same might be said of a number of the other pictures. But we, at this side of the ocean, are chiefly concerned with the Japanese aspects of the paintings rather than with their technical or artistic traits, and we entertain no doubt that, from this point of view, English connoisseurs will enthusiastically welcome Mr. VARLEY'S contribution to their galleries. His industry must have been as untiring as his facility is remarkable, for, in addition to the 83 pictures shown in Tokyo, he has sent to London 130, which are now on exhibition in Bond Street. Thus the labour of nine months is represented by 213 paintings; not much short of one a day. We are glad to be able to note that several of the pictures remain in Japan. HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS has selected two, No. 18, a seaside view at Sangawa in Chiba, and No. 61, another seascape at Inagi in the same province. These are both beautiful pictures, the former remarkable for crispness and finished management of light and shade in the foreground; the latter for a most happy bit of middle-distance painting. Two also go to the British Legation, and Messrs. M. KIRKWOOD, T. B. GLOVER, J. CONDER, and

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other Tokyo residents have secured gems. It is to be hoped that circumstances will permit Mr. VARLEY to carry out his present intention of returning at a future date to Japan, and transferring to larger canvases some more of her exquisite scenery.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY'S QUESTIONS.

THE day has gone by when one can write a book about Japan by clipping from the daily press, describing a few street scenes, and pressing into service the memories of a few English-speaking youths. In the future we are to know Japan not by rumour, but by observation and study, not superficially but scientifically. It is surprising, when one pauses and reflects, how little we know in a thorough and exhaustive way, of the ethnography of the country, in other words, of the people and their ways. Of art and of politics we know more or less; but of landholding, town life and Government, guilds and commerce, village communities, the manorial system, local religion and folk-lore,—of these subjects (which be it observed count for more and more in the work of European ethnologists of to-day) how little can we boast a systematic acquaintance! The heroic essays, made from time to time in the past to penetrate beneath the surface, have always been more or less unsatisfactory, because the results were of necessity so limited. Apart from the writings of CONDER, PIGGOTT, ANDERSON, and others on art, we believe that other than SATOW'S "Revival of Pure Shinto," RUDORFF'S "Rechtspflege," WEIPERT'S "Familien und Erb-Recht," FLORENZ' "Alt Japanische Culturzustande," and SIMMONS "Notes on Local Institutions," the productions are almost wanting in which we are vouchsafed a general view of any of the above topics. We are now in the stage where we cannot proceed intelligently without first knowing, on broad lines, something of the whole aspect of the subject whose details we are interested in.

It is for this reason in particular that we welcome the effort that is being made by the Asiatic Society to attain some thorough and trustworthy knowledge of the land system of Japan under the TOKUGAWAS. There is no doubt that, as the Committee declares, "the customary institutions of the old régime are rapidly disappearing or suffering modification, and some effort should be made to obtain a detailed record of these institutions before it is too late." The changes of to-day are a matter of constant experience. No less apparent is it that "it is impossible for isolated workers to perform the task single handed." The diversity of usage in this land of clans is so great that the record of the ways of life in one region, however, faithful and complete the record may be, is useless as a basis for generalization. Where cöoperation is, as here, an essential, there could be no better agent for carrying out the work than the Asiatic Society. Its prestige as a body of zealous and eminent students in all departments, the reputation of its proceedings as a learned society, and the confidence which its undertakings command in the community, all combine to assure the success of its efforts.

The plan adopted, we may add, is not a novel one by any means. Only a year or two ago the China Branch of the Asiatic Society sent out a few questions in the same way and upon the same topic; and very gratifying results were obtained. The Ethnological Society of Great Britain has for some years worked in the same way in investigating the sociology of the southern hemisphere. Perhaps the most systematic undertaking of the sort is that of the United States Bureau of Ethnology, which publishes a book containing several thousand questions, for linguistic investigators among the American Indians. The most recent effort is that of Mr. GOMME, the well-known English ethnologist, whose specialty is folk-lore. In the Appendix to his "Handbook of Folk-Lore," published last year, he gives a series of seven or eight hundred questions, to be employed in studying the folk-lore of any given region.

It will be a highly desirable thing if the subject of folk-lore can in its turn receive the attention of our Asiatic Society. There appears to be no reason why it was not chosen as the initial subject for the Society's work, except that the subject of land tenure is at present more feasible. But folk-lore has a popular aspect which cannot fail to be more attractive, and to interest a larger number of people. Moreover, if the views of Mr. GOMME, in his recent work on "The Village Community," are correct, it is impossible to study local institutions aright without giving to folk-lore, superstitions, ceremonies, festivals, and such facts a more important place than hitherto.

In the meanwhile we trust that full replies may be sent in to the present requests of the Society, so that it may be encouraged to follow the same plan in the study of the various aspects of customary institutions.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAW.

LAW No. 3.

We hereby give our sanction to the present Law relating to Weights and Measures, to which the the consent of the Imperial Diet has been given, and order the same to be promulgated.

(His Imperial Majesty's Sign-manual.)

(Great Seal.)

Dated March 23rd, 1891.

(Countersigned.)

Count YAMAGATA ARITOMO,
Minister President of State.

MUTSU MUNEMITSU,
Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

Art. 1.—The unit of length and capacity shall be the *shaku*, and the unit of weight the *kwan*.

Art. 2.—The standards of length, capacity, and weight shall be a rod and a weight made of platinum iridium; $\frac{10}{83}$ of the graduated length of such rod, at a temperature of 0°.15 C. shall be a *shaku*, and $\frac{1}{8}$ of such weight shall be a *kwan*.

Art. 3.—Measures of length and capacity, and weights shall be classed and named as follow:—

LENGTH.

Mo	$\frac{1}{100000}$ of a shaku.
Rin	$\frac{1}{1000}$ of a shaku.
Bu (分)	$\frac{1}{100}$ of a shaku.
Sun	$\frac{1}{10}$ of a shaku.
Shaku	
Jo	10 shaku.
Ken	6 shaku.
Cho	360 shaku (or 60 ken).
Ri	12,960 shaku (or 36 cho).

SUPERFICIES.

Shaku (勺)	$\frac{1}{100}$ of a bu (歩).
Go	$\frac{1}{10}$ of a bu.
Bu (歩) or Tsubo	6 square shaku.
Se	30 tsubo.
Tan	300 tsubo.
Cho	3,000 tsubo.

CAPACITY.

Shaku	$\frac{1}{100}$ of a sho.
Go	$\frac{1}{10}$ of a sho.
Sho	64,827 square bu (分).
To	10 sho.
Koku	100 sho.

WEIGHT.

Mo	$\frac{1}{1000000}$ of a kwan.
Rin	$\frac{1}{100000}$ of a kwan.
Fun	$\frac{1}{10000}$ of a kwan.
Momme	$\frac{1}{1000}$ of a kwan.
Kwan	
Kin	160 momme.

Art. 4.—The *kujira-shaku*, in common use heretofore, shall in future be used only in measuring cloth.

1 *shaku* of the *kujira-shaku* shall be equal to 1 *shaku*, 2 *sun*, 5 *bu*; and 10 such *shaku* shall be 1 *jo* of the *kujira-shaku*, $\frac{1}{10}$ of such *shaku* 1 *sun* of the *kujira-shaku*, and $\frac{1}{100}$ of such *shaku* a *bu* of the *kujira-shaku*.

Art. 5.—Weights and measures under the Metric System shall be legal according to the comparison given below, and shall be subject to theprovisions of this and the following articles:—

LENGTH.

	Metre.	
Mo	0.00003	($\frac{3}{100000}$)
Rin	0.00030	($\frac{3}{10000}$)
Bu (分)	0.00300	($\frac{3}{1000}$)
Sun	0.03030	($\frac{30}{1000}$)
Shaku	0.30303	($\frac{300}{1000}$)
Jo	3.03030	($\frac{3000}{1000}$)
Ken	1.81818	($\frac{20}{11}$)
Cho	109.09091	($\frac{1200}{11}$)
Ri	3927.27273	($\frac{43200}{11}$)
	Shaku.	
Millimetre	0.00330	
Centimetre	0.03300	
Decimetre	0.33000	
Metre	3.30000	
Decametre	33.00000	
Hectometre	330.00000	
Kilometre	3,300.00000	

SUPERFICIES.

Shaku	0.00033	($\frac{1}{3025}$)
Go	0.00331	($\frac{10}{3025}$)
Bu or Tsubo	0.03306	($\frac{100}{3025}$)
Se	0.99174	($\frac{3000}{3025}$)
Tan	9.91736	($\frac{30000}{3025}$)
Cho	99.17355	($\frac{300000}{3025}$)
	Bu.	
Centare	0.30250	
Are	30.25000	
Hectare	3,025.00000	

CAPACITY.

	Litre.	
Shaku	0.01804	($\frac{2401}{133100}$)
Go	0.18039	($\frac{24010}{133100}$)
Sho	1.80391	($\frac{240100}{133100}$)
To	18.03907	($\frac{2401000}{133100}$)
Koku	180.39068	($\frac{24010000}{133100}$)
	Sho.	
Centilitre	0.00554	($\frac{1331}{240100}$)
Decilitre	0.05544	($\frac{13310}{240100}$)
Litre	0.55435	($\frac{133100}{240100}$)
Dekalitre	5.54352	($\frac{1331000}{240100}$)
Hectolitre	55.43524	($\frac{13310000}{240100}$)

WEIGHT.

	Gramme.
Mo	0.00375
Rin	0.03750
Fun	0.37500
Momme	3.75000
Kwan	3,750.00000
Kin	600.00000

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	Momme.
Milligramme	0.00027 ($\frac{1}{3750}$)
Centigramme	0.00267 ($\frac{10}{3750}$)
Decigramme	0.02667 ($\frac{100}{3750}$)
Gramme	0.26667 ($\frac{1000}{3750}$)
Dekagramme	2.66667 ($\frac{10000}{3750}$)
Hectogramme	26.66667 ($\frac{100000}{3750}$)
Kilogramme	266.66667 ($\frac{1000000}{3750}$)

Art. 6.—Standards of Length, Capacity, and Weight shall be in charge of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

The Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce shall cause to be made two sets of copies of the standards in accordance with the originals, and shall employ them in place of the originals.

One set of such copies shall be preserved by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce; the other by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. 7.—The Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce shall cause to be made copies for local use (*chiho-genki*) in accordance with the standard copies (*fukn genki*).

Such local copies shall be in charge of local governors, and be used as standards for the examination of weights and measures.

Art. 8.—Any person who intends to manufacture, repair, or sell weights or measures shall apply for and obtain a licence from the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce through the medium of a local Governor.

Any person who obtains a license to manufacture, may also repair and sell weights and measures.

The term during which licenses shall remain in force, amount of money to be deposited in respect of each license, and other necessary conditions shall be decided by Imperial Ordinance.

Art. 6.—Persons who sell, or use in business, weights or measures which have been manufactured, repaired, or imported must first submit the same to examination.

Weights or measures used in business as described in this article must, in addition to the examination herein provided, be examined on every occasion that they are repaired, or at stated periods.

Weights and measures used for purposes of sale, transfer &c., at Government or other public offices or establishments, hospitals, or other similar institutions shall be the same as those employed for the purposes of business.

Art. 10.—Classes, form, material, period, and nature of examination of weights and measures, and the minimum graduated limit and weight applicable to such examination, shall be decided by Imperial Ordinance.

Art. 11.—Examination and supervision of weights and measures shall be under the control of local Governors.

Local Governors may delegate to Chiefs of Municipalities, towns or villages the control of weights and measures in municipalities, towns, and villages, and the duty of assisting in the examination of the same.

Art. 12.—Persons engaged in the manufacture, repair, sale, or use of weights or measures may not object to the inspection of the proper officials. Such officials shall, however, produce written evidence of their official character.

Art. 13.—Fees shall be paid for licenses for the manufacture, repair and sale of weights or measures, and for the examination of weights or measures.

The amounts of license and examination fees shall be fixed by Imperial Ordinance.

Art. 14.—The Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce may rescind the license of any manufacturer, repairer, or seller of weights or measures who shall infringe any law or ordinance relating to weights and measures.

Art. 15.—Any person who, having without a license manufactured or repaired weights or measures, shall sell the same, shall be liable to a fine of not less than *yen* 20 and not more than *yen* 300.

Any person who without a license sells weights or measures, or who sells, or uses for purposes of business weights or measures that have not been examined, or who opposes official inspections, shall be liable to a fine of not less than *yen* 10 and not more than *yen* 200.

Any person who knowingly sells or uses for the purposes of business, weights and measures that are not properly adjusted, shall be liable to the fine provided for in the last paragraph.

Article 16.—Bye-laws for the carrying out of this law shall be established by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES.

Art. 17.—This law shall come into force on January 1st, 1893.

Art. 18.—Licenses for the manufacture of weights and measures may be issued within six months prior to the date on which this law comes in force, and in the case of such licenses, the articles in this law relating to manufacture shall be applied.

Art. 19.—Persons who have already licenses for the manufacture and sale of weights and measures may continue such occupation under this law without obtaining another license.

Art. 20.—Weights and measures already in use must be examined under the provisions of this law within 7 years from the date on which this law shall come into force, after the expiration of which term such weights and measures may not without examination be used.

Art. 21.—During 7 years from the date on which this Law shall come into force, the examination, after repair, of weights and measures in use before such date shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Art. 22.—The Weights and Measures Regulations and relative Rules for Examination of the 8th year of Meiji; the Amended Weights and Measures Regulations of the 9th year of Meiji, and other rules relating to Foreign Weights and Measures heretofore in force, shall be abolished on the date when this Law shall come into force. In the case provided for in the last article, however, the Weights and Measures Regulations and Rules for Examination shall remain in force till December 31st, the 32nd year of Meiji.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

We hereby give Our Sanction to the present Ordinance relating to Elementary Schools, and order the same to be promulgated.

[His Imperial Majesty's Sign-Manual.]

(Privy Seal.)

Dated the 6th day of the 10th month of the 23rd year of Meiji, (October 6th, 1890.)

YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,
Minister of State for Education.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 215.

CHAPTER I.—OBJECT AND KINDS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Art. I.—The object of Elementary Schools is to afford children the rudiments of moral and national education, together with such common knowledge, both literary and technical, as is necessary for practical life,—due attention being paid to their bodily development.

Art. II.—Elementary schools shall be divided into ordinary elementary and higher elementary Schools.

Those established and maintained at the expense of cities, towns or villages, or of town and village school unions, or of the districts within them, shall be called city, town or village elementary schools, and those established and maintained at the expense of one or more private individuals shall be called private elementary schools.

Apprentices' schools and supplementary schools for technical instruction shall also be classed under the head of elementary schools.

CHAPTER II.—ORGANIZATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Art. III.—The subjects of study in ordinary elementary schools shall be Morals, Reading, Writing, Composition, Arithmetic, and Gymnastics.

According to local circumstances, Gymnastics may be omitted, and one or more of such subjects as Japanese Geography, Japanese History, Drawing, Singing, and Handiwork may be added. For females, Sewing may be added.

Art. IV.—The subjects of study in higher elementary schools shall be Morals, Reading, Writing, Composition, Arithmetic, Japanese Geography, Japanese History, Foreign Geography, Science, Drawing, Singing and Gymnastics. For females, Sewing shall be added.

According to local circumstances, either the geography of foreign countries, or singing, or both, may be omitted, and one or more of such subjects as the elements of geometry, a foreign language, commerce, and handiwork may be added.

Art. V.—An ordinary elementary school course, and a higher elementary school course may be established conjointly in one and the same school.

Art. VI.—In a higher elementary school, one or more special courses in Agriculture, Commerce, or Industry may be established according to local circumstances. These special courses shall either be established in addition to, or in lieu of, the regular course.

Art. VII.—A supplementary course may be established in ordinary or higher elementary schools.

Art. VIII.—The ordinary elementary school course shall extend over three or four years, and the higher elementary school course over two, three or four years.

Art. IX.—The subjects of study and the length of the curriculum for special courses, supplementary courses, apprentices' schools, and supplementary schools for technical instruction, shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. X.—Certain subjects of study in elementary schools may, according to the rules prescribed by the Minister of State for Education, be made optional, or omitted in the case of children who are from certain causes unable to study them.

Art. XI.—In case an addition to or an omission in the subjects of study be made in accordance with Arts. 3 or 4, the approval of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall be obtained by the city council, *Chocho* or *Soncho* for city, town, or village elementary schools, and by their founders for private elementary schools.

In case, according to Art. 5, an ordinary elementary school course and a higher elementary school course are to be established conjointly in one and the same school, or in case such joint establishment be discontinued, the approval of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall be obtained by cities, towns or villages for city, town or village elementary schools, and by their founders for private elementary schools.

In case a regular course, special course, or supplementary course be established or abolished, or the length of the curriculum be fixed, according to Arts. 6, 7, or 8, the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall be obtained by cities, towns or villages for city, town or village elementary schools, and by their founders for private elementary schools.

Art. XII.—The standard outlines of the regulations as to the elementary school course shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education. The *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall draw up regulations as to the elementary school course for the *Fu* or *Ken* under his jurisdiction, in accordance with the standard outlines of the regulations as to the elementary school course, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XIII.—Regulations for the ungraded or graded system of elementary schools, cases where male and female children are to be separately taught, cases where a director is to be appointed in a graded school, the number of children to be taught by one teacher, and the like shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XIV.—The number of holidays in elementary schools shall not exceed ninety days per annum, exclusive of Sundays. But this shall not apply to apprentices' schools, supplementary schools for technical instruction, and supplementary courses. Under special circumstances *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education, disregard the provisions of the preceding paragraph. During the prevalence of epidemic diseases or in other seasons of calamity, *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall cause the elementary schools in cities, and *Guncho* shall cause the elementary schools in towns or villages, to be temporarily closed. In urgent cases, however, *Shicho*, *Chocho* or *Soncho* may cause elementary schools to be closed.

Art. XV.—The number of hours of instruction per week, the ceremonies to be observed on festival days and on national holidays, and the like in elementary schools shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XVI.—Elementary school books or charts shall be such, among the books or charts examined and adopted by the Minister of State for Education, as have been selected by the committee for the Examination of Elementary School Books and Charts, subject to the approval of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*. Each *Fu* or *Ken* shall establish an examination committee composed of *Fu* or *Ken* officials, members of the *Fu* or *Ken* council, the directors and teachers in the ordinary normal school, and the teachers in elementary schools. Regulations concerning examination committees and examinations shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XVII.—All elementary schools shall be provided with school buildings, school sites, school appliances, and gymnasia, and elementary schools where a course of Agriculture is established, shall also be provided with land for practical training in Agriculture. Under special circumstances, gymnasia and land for practical training in agriculture may be dispensed with, in which case the city, town or village shall obtain for the elementary schools established therein the approval of the superintending authorities, or the founder of private elementary schools situated in a city, or in a town or village shall obtain for their schools the approval of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* or of Guncho respectively.

Art. XVIII.—No school houses, or school appliances, or gymnasia or land for practical training in agriculture shall, except in seasons of calamity, be used for any purpose other than that of elementary schools; but when, under special circumstances, they are to be so used, *Shicho*, *Chocho* or *Soncho* shall obtain the approval of the superin-

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tending authorities for city, town or village elementary schools, and founders of private elementary schools situated in cities or in towns or villages shall obtain for their schools the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* or of the *Guncho* respectively.

Art. XIX.—Regulations relating to the provision of school houses, school sites, school appliances, gymnasia and land for practical training in agriculture shall, after due investigation into local circumstances, be prescribed by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* in accordance with draft regulations to be issued by the Minister of State for Education.

Chapter III.—School Attendance.

Art. XX.—The school age of children is defined as that period of eight years between the sixth and fourteenth year of a child's age. The guardians of children of school age shall be under obligation to cause such children to attend school until they have completed the ordinary elementary school course. The obligation referred to in the preceding paragraph shall take effect from the beginning of the school year subsequent to the child's attaining school age. Conditions regarding persons who act as guardians of children of school age shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XXI.—In case guardians are unable to send their children of school age to school on account of poverty or of the children's illness, or for any other unavoidable cause, application shall be made by them to the *Shicho, Chocho* or *Soncho* for the temporary or permanent exemption of such children from school attendance. A *Shichō, Chocho* or *Soncho* may, if he deems it necessary, examine into the actual condition of the children of school age or of their guardians who have or have not made the application referred to in the preceding paragraph of this article. In cases where such temporary or permanent exemption from school attendance is granted according to the application referred to in the first paragraph, or to the examination referred to in the second paragraph of this article, the *Shicho, Chocho* or *Soncho* shall obtain the approval of the superintending authorities.

Art. XXII.—Guardians shall send their children of school age to city, town or village elementary schools or to private elementary schools to be substituted for them, but in case they desire to give the ordinary elementary school course to their children of school age at their own homes or at any place other than the elementary schools, the approval of the *Shicho, Chocho* or *Soncho* must be first obtained.

Art. XXIII.—Children affected by any epidemic or other infectious disease, or living in the same house with persons so affected or children of bad conduct or unfit to receive school instruction, shall not be allowed to attend the elementary schools. Regulations respecting the preceding paragraph shall be prescribed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XXIV.—Regulations relating to school attendance and the home education of children of school age shall be prescribed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

Chapter IV.—Establisment and Maintenance of Elementary Schools.

Art. XXV.—Each city, town or village shall establish and maintain ordinary elementary schools sufficient to accommodate the children of school age resident in such city, town or village. Such town and village union as, establishing a union assembly, jointly transacts all affairs bearing thereon shall, so far as concerns the present law, be regarded as a single town or village.

Art. XXVI.—The number of and sites for ordinary elementary schools to be established and maintained in a city shall be fixed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* after consultation with the city. The number of and sites for ordinary elementary schools to be established and maintained in a town or village shall be fixed by the *Guncho* after consultation with the town or village, and subject to the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XXVII.—In cases where the *Guncho* deems the resources of a town or village inadequate to the establishment and maintenance of a suitable ordinary elementary school, he shall cause such town or village to form a school union with some other town or village for the establishment and maintenance of such ordinary elementary school, and shall fix the number of and sites for ordinary elementary schools to be established and maintained in such a school union.

Art. XXVIII.—In cases where the *Guncho* deems the number of children of school age in a town or village insufficient to warrant the establishment of an ordinary elementary school, or where notwithstanding that the number of children of school age is sufficient, he deems it impossible to get a sufficient number of chifdren for the establishment of the same in a place convenient for their attendance, on account either of the long distances or of the bad roads over which the children should have to travel, he shall apply the provisions of one of the following clauses:—

1.—He shall cause such town or village to form a school union with some other town or village so as to enable the union to establish and maintain an ordinary elementary school, and shall fix the site for such ordinary elementary school.

2.—He shall cause the educational affairs of the whole or of a part of the children of school age in such town or village to be committed to the care of some other town or village, or town and village school union, or of districts within them.

In cases where the *Guncho* deems it impossible to cause the children in part of a town or village placed under the same circumstances as in the preceding case, to attend an ordinary elementary school established in the said town or village, on account either of the long distances or of the bad roads over which they would have to travel, he shall apply the provisions of the preceding paragraph. In cases where the *Guncho* deems a town and village school union to be similarly circumstanced as in the preceding paragraph, he shall apply the provisions of clause 2 of the first paragraph of this article.

Art. XXIX.—In cases where the *Guncho* shall cause towns and villages to organize school unions in accordance with Arts. 27 and 28. he shall, after consultation with the interested town and villages and with the *Gun* council, obtain the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*. Similar steps shall be followed in fixing the number of and sites for the ordinary elementary schools to be established and maintained in such unions. In cases where the *Guncho* wishes to cause the educational affairs of children in one town or village or in one town and village school union, or in districts within the same, to be transferred to the care of another town or village, etc, according to Art. 28, he shall, after consultation with the interested towns and villages and town and village school unions, and with the *Gun* council, obtain the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XXX.—In cases where two or more ordinary elementary schools are to be established and maintained in a city, the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may fix the elementary schools to be used by one or several districts of such a city, or by one or several of the districts into which the city may be specially divided, in order to make such district or districts undertake the establishment and maintenance of the elementary schools so fixed. In cases where the provisions of the following clauses apply to a town, or village, or town and village school union, or where other circumstances make it necessary, the *Guncho* may determine the elementary schools to be used by one or several districts within such town, village or union, or by one or several of the districts into which such town, village or union may be specially divided, with a view of causing such district or districts to undertake the establishment and maintenance of the elementary schools so fixed, or to commit the education of children therein to the care of another town or village.

1.—In cases where two or more ordinary elementary schools are to be established and maintained in a town, or village, or town and village school union.

2.—In cases where there are several localities within a town or village, or within any part of a town or village, or within a portion of a town and village school union, which are under the necessity of committing the educational affairs of the whole or of a portion of their children of school age to the care of another town or village, or of another town and village school union, or of districts within it.

3.—In cases where one or more ordinary elementary schools are to be established and maintained in a town or village, or in a town and village school union, while at the same time there are one or more localities within such town, village or union which are under the necessity of committing the educational affairs of the whole or of a portion of their children to the care of another town or village, or of another town and village school union, or of districts within it.

In cases where such provisions as are mentioned in the first paragraph of this article come into operation, or are suspended, the interested city and district or districts shall be consulted. In cases where such provisions as are mentioned in the second paragraph of this article come into operation, or are suspended, the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall be obtained after consultation with the interested towns, villages, unions and districts.

Art. XXXI.—In cases where the *Guncho* deems it impossible to enforce the tenour of the first paragraph of Art. 28, even when the circumstances of a town or village are such as are set forth in the said paragraph, he may, subject to the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, relieve such town or village from the obligation of establishing and maintaining the ordinary elementary schools or of committing the educational affairs of the children in them to the care of another town or village.

In cases where the *Guncho* deems it impossible to enforce the tenour of the second or third paragraphs of Art. 28, even when the circumstances of a town or village or of a town and village school union are such as are mentioned in the said paragraph, he may, subject to the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, relieve a portion of the town or village or of the school union from the obligation of establishing and maintaining ordinary elementary schools or of committing the educational affairs of the children to another town or village or to another town and village school union.

Even in such cases as are provided for in the present article, a town or village or a town and village school union may under special circumstances establish and maintain the ordinary elementary schools subject to the approval of the *Guncho;* the sites for such schools shall be fixed by the town or village or the town and village school union, subject to the approval of the *Guncho*.

Art. XXXII.—In cases where the *Guncho* wishes to cause a town and village school union to be dissolved he shall, after consultation with the interested towns and villages and with the *Gun* council, obtain the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

In cases where the *Guncho* wishes to withdraw the educational affairs of the whole or a portion of the children of school age in a town or village or in a portion of a town and village school union from the care of another town or village, or of another town and village school union, or of districts therein, he shall after consultation with the interested towns, school unions and districts, obtain the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*

Art. XXXIII.—Towns and villages may, after consultation, and subject to the approval of the *Guncho*, form school unions for establishing and maintaining the ordinary elementary schools suitable to such unions, in cases where by so doing it is possible to obtain better schools than by the establishment and maintenance of separate schools in each town or village, or where such a step is calculated to effect a reduction in school expenditure.

In such cases as are provided for in thepreceding paragraph, the number of and sites for ordinary elementary schools to be so established and maintained shall be fixed at a conference held for the purpose of forming such unions, subject to the approval of the *Guncho*.

Art. XXXIV.—No such union as is mentioned in the foregoing article shall be dissolved without the approval of the *Guncho*.

In case of application of the provisions of this and the foregoing article the *Guncho* shall receive instructions from the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XXXV.—In cases where there is a private elementary school within a city, the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may cause such city to defer the establishment and maintenance of the whole or part of a city elementary school, and to use the former in substitution for the latter.

In cases where there is a private elementary school in a town or village, or a town and village school union, the *Guncho* may cause such town or village or such town and village school union to defer the establishment and maintenance of a town or village elementary school or the provision of a part of it, or the commission of the educational affairs of the children to another town or village, and to use such private elementary school in substiution for a town or village elementary school.

Regulations relating to the substitution of private elementary schools for city, town or village elementary schools shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XXXVI.—A city, town or village may, subject to the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, establish and maintain a higher elementary school, or may cause any district within it to establish and maintain the same.

Art. XXXVII.—After consultation among several towns and villages, they may, subject to the approval of the *Guncho*, establish a town and village school union, and may also, with the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, establish and maintain Higher Elementary Schools.

In cases where the provisions of the preceding paragraph are to be carried out the *Guncho* shall receive instructions from the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

As regards such school unions as are mentioned in this Article, Art. 34 shall apply.

Art. XXXVIII.—The rules laid down in Arts. 36 and 37 shall apply to apprentices' schools and to supplementary schools for technical instruction.

Art. XXXIX.—The same steps shall be followed

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for abolishing elementary schools mentioned in the last paragraph of Arts. 31, 33, 36, 37, and 38, as for establishing them.

Art. XL.—Any city, town or village may establish and maintain kindergartens, libraries, and schools for the blind and dumb, together with miscellaneous schools, etc., similar in character to elementary schools.

Art. XLI.—For the establishment and maintenance of private kindergartens, libraries or schools for the blind and dumb, or miscellaneous schools, etc., similar in character to elementary schools, their founders shall obtain the approval of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and in case of the abolition of such institutions their founders shall send a notice to that effect to *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XLII.—Regulations relating to schools, etc., mentioned in Arts. 40. and 41. shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

CHAPTER V.—BURDENS OF FU, KEN, GUN, CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH RESPECT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AND TUITION FEES.

Art. XLIII.—The principal items of expense for the establishment and maintenance of city, town or village elementary schools, to be borne by cities, towns or villages, or by town and village school unions, or by districts therein, are as follows:—

(1) The provision and maintenance of school houses, school sites, school appliances, gymnasia, and land for practical instruction in agriculture.
(2) The salaries, travelling expenses, etc., of elementary school teachers.
(3) Miscellaneous expenses incurred in connection with elementary schools.

Art. XLIV.—The guardians of children attending city, town or village elementary schools shall pay tuition fees in accordance with the rules relating to the same.

Tuition fees shall be considered part of the revenue of cities, towns or villages.

In cases where more than one child of the same family attends the same school at the same time, a reduction in the amount of the tuition fees may be made.

Shicho, *Chocho* or *Soncho* may either wholly or partially remit the tuition fees due by indigent guardians.

Payment in kind or in personal labour may be substituted for the payment of tuition fees.

Rules relating to tuition fees shall be fixed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XLV.—In cases where there are more than one school to be established in a town and village school union, the *Guncho* may cause any of the towns and villages forming the union to bear the cost of the establishment and maintenance of one or more of such schools.

In cases where the *Guncho* causes a town and village school union to commit the education of children to the care of another town or village, according to the provisions of Art. 28, he may cause any of the towns and villages forming the union to undertake the exclusive charge of the education of the children of such town or village.

In cases where such provisions as are mentioned in this Article are to be carried into execution or suspended, the *Guncho* shall, after consultation with the interested towns, villages and school unions, obtain the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XLVI.—In cases where the *Guncho* deems the resources of a town and village school union inadequate to the establishment and maintenance of suitable schools, or where he deems the resources of a town or village forming part of a town and village school union inadequate to bearing part of the expenditure incurred by such union, the *Gun* shall give such school union, town or village a proper amount of aid from the *Gun* expenses.

As regards the estimate of financial capability mentioned in the preceding paragraph, *Guncho* shall, after consultation with *Gun* council, receive instructions from *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XLVII.—In cases where the *Guncho* deems it impossible to enforce the tenour of Art. 27, even when a town or village is circumstanced as mentioned in that Article, the *Gun* shall grant such town or village a proper amount of aid from the expenses.

As regards the estimate of financial capability mentioned in the preceeding paragraph, *Guncho* shall, after consultation with *Gun* council, receive instructions from *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XLVIII.—In cases where *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* deem the resources of a city inadequate to the establishment and maintenance of suitable ordinary elementary schools, the *Fu* or *Ken* shall give such city a proper amount of aid from the *Fu* expenses.

As regards the estimate of financial capability mentioned in the preceding paragraph, *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall, after consultation with *Fu* or *Ken* council, receive instruction from the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XLIX.—In cases where the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* deems the resources of a *Gun* inadequate to pay the subsidies mentioned under Arts. 40 and 47, he will give to such *Gun* a proper amount of aid out of the *Fu* or *Ken* expenses.

As regards the estimate mentioned in the above paragraph, the *Guncho* shall, after consultation with the *Fu* or *Ken* council, receive instructions from the Minister of State for Education.

Art. L.—All expenses incurred in the administration of the educational affairs of State by the *Kucho* and his deputy, as well as by the school committees, shall be borne by cities, towns or villages or by town and village school unions. But expenses relating to the *Kucho* and his deputy, as well as the school committees of districts, may be so arranged as to be borne by such districts, according to the decision of the town or village assembly or of the assembly of town and village school unions.

Art. LI.—The salaries, travelling expenses, pensions, etc., of *Gun* school-inspectors shall be borne by *Gun*.

The amount and the mode of granting the same shall be determined by *Gun* assemblies, subject to the approval of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. LII.—All expenses relating to the committees for examining candidates for elementary school teachers, and to such examination, shall, so far as concerns *Fu* or *Ken*, be borne by such *Fu* and *Ken*.

Expenses relating to committees for the examination of elementary school books and charts, and to such examination, shall also be borne by *Fu* and *Ken*.

CHAPTER VI.—DIRECTORS OF AND TEACHERS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Art. LIII.—Elementary school teachers who teach any special subject or subjects of study, shall be called special teachers, and others shall be called ordinary teachers.

Those who assist in teaching subjects of study of elementary schools or who temporarily teach such subjects, shall be called provisional or assistant teachers, and others shall be called regular teachers.

Art. LIV.—All elementary school teachers must be provided with elementary school teachers' licences.

Art. LV.—Elementary school teachers' licences shall be granted to such persons as have passed the prescribed examination.

The examination shall be held by Examination Committees for elementary school teachers, and instituted in *Fu* or *Ken*. But the examination for elementary school teachers to teach special subjects of study shall be conducted in the Department of Education.

Regulations relating to the organization and official power of Examination Committees, the subjects of study and the mode of examination, and the qualifications of candidates, regulations relating to teachers' licenses and candidates for teachers' posts, etc., shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. LVI.—Regulations relating to the appointment and dismissal of directors of and teachers in elementary schools, and the like shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. LVII.—The official titles and the mode of treatment of directors of and teachers in city, town, and village elementary schools shall be otherwise determined.

Art. LVIII.—The directors of and teachers in city, town or village elementary schools shall be appointed or dismissed by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. LIX.—The teachers in city, town or village elementary schools shall be selected and appointed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, from among not more than three candidates recommended by *Shicho*, *Chocho* or *Soncho*.

In case the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* deems the aforesaid candidates unfit he shall cause other candidates to be presented, and if he deems the new candidates likewise unfit, the appointment shall be made by him personally, instead of in accordance with the system of presentation.

The recommendation mentioned in the first paragraph of this article shall be made within twenty-eight days from the date on which a vacancy occurs in the position of teacher, or on which a new position has been created. The recommendation mentioned in the second paragraph shall be made within fourteen days from the date on which such presentation has been ordered to be made. In case no such representation is made within the above period, the appointment shall be made personally by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* instead of in accordance with the system of presentation.

With regard to directors of city, town and village elementary schools, *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall select persons qualified to hold such a position from among the teachers in such schools.

Art. LX.—The scale of salaries and travelling expenses for teachers in city, town and village elementary schools, together with the mode of paying the same and other allowances, shall be fixed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

The actual amount of salaries and travelling expenses to be granted to teachers in conformity with the scale of salaries and traveling expenses above mentioned, shall be fixed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, after consultation with the city council or the chiefs of towns or villages.

The right to the use of a certain amount of land or to payment in kind may be substituted for certain portions of the salaries of teachers in city, town and village elementary schools, the proportion to be fixed by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

The regulations respecting use of land or value of articles above mentioned shall be confirmed by Superintending Authorities in accordance with proposals from cities, towns and villages. But such Superintending Authorities may, if they deem it necessary, change the value once confirmed, or may refuse to approve the substitution of salaries mentioned in the above paragraph, if they deem it unfit.

Art. LXI.—Regulations relating to the duties to be discharged by directors of and teachers in elementary schools shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. LXII.—Teachers in elementary schools who have been appointed to the post of school committeemen may not refuse to accept the same.

Art. LXII.—No corporal punishment shall be inflicted by elementary school directors or teachers on the children under their care.

Art. LXIV.—In cases where an elementary school director or teacher neglects his duties or acts contrary to the directions for the discharge of his duties, or is guilty of dishonourable conduct, disciplinary measures shall be taken by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

The penalties in question shall consist of reprimand, diminution or deprivation of salary during a certain period, dismissal and forfeiture of licence. In case where directors of or teachers in private elementary schools commit such acts as are mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall suspend their occupation or cancel their licences according to circumstances.

Those who, having been subjected to such penalties as dismissal, suspension of occupation, or forfeiture of licence, think they have not been properly dealt with, may memorialize the Minister of State for Education within fourteen days after such occurrence. Regulations relating to disciplinary measures as to directors of and teachers in city, town and village elementary schools, together with those relating to the suspension of directors and forfeiture of licences of directors and teachers in private elementary schools, shall be prescribed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. LXV.—If an elementary school teacher be sentenced to imprisonment or to any heavier punishment, or be fined for any offence calculated to injure his or her personal reputation, or to exert an evil influence on public morals, or if he or she be subjected to police surveillance, the person thus offending shall forfeit his or her office together with his or her licence.

CHAPTER. VII.—MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION.

Art. LXVI.—In each *Gun* a school inspector shall be appointed, his appointment and dismissal to be made at the discretion of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Each *Gun* school inspector shall receive the same treatment as *Gun* officials whose salaries are paid out of *Fu* or *Ken* taxes.

Art. LXVII.—The duty of a *Gun* school inspector is to supervise the educational affairs of the *Gun* in accordance with the directions and instructions of the *Guncho*.

Art. LXVIII.—*Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may decide not to appoint a *Gun* school inspector in conformity with a proposal from the *Gun* to that effect. In such case, the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* shall cause some one to be selected from among *Gun*-officials who are paid out of *Fu* or *Ken* taxes, and appoint him to perform the duties under the name of *Gun* school inspector.

Art. LXIX.—Disciplinary penalties to be inflicted on *Gun* school inspectors shall be carried out by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* in accordance with the regulations for the disciplinary penalties of officials.

Art. LXX.—*Shicho*, *Soncho* or *Chocho* shall take charge of the educational affairs of the State, belonging to cities, towns and villages and also manage city, town and village elementary schools. They shall supervise directors of and head teachers in elementary schools in the transaction of the business entrusted to them.

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Art. LXXI.—In case of disciplinary penalities to be inflicted on *Shicho*, *Soncho* or *Chocho* owing to the mismanagement on their part of educational affairs of the State, Art. 124 of the Law for the Organization of Cities, and also Art. 128 of the Law for the Organization of Towns and Villages shall apply.

REFERENCE.—LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF CITIES.

Art. 63.—The City officials may be re-elected upon the completion of their term of office.

The City officials and servants may be discharged at any time unless there exist special provisions or a contract to the contrary.

Art. 64.—The City council shall be the local authority of the city, and shall carry on the administration thereof. The principal affairs to be undertaken by the City Council are as follow:—

(5) Superintendence over the city officials and servants, and the exercise of disciplinary authority over them, the *Shicho* excepted.

Disciplinary penalties shall consist of reprimands and of fines not exceeding ten *yen*.

Art. 124.—*Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may exercise disciplinary authority over the *Shicho*, assistants, other members of the City council, members of committees, *Kucho*, and other city officials.

The penalty of such disciplinary measure shall consist of a reprimand, or of a fine not exceeding twenty-five *yen*.

Until a special disciplinary law for city officials is issued, the disciplinary regulations for Government civil officials shall be applied with the following modifications:—

(1) Against a disciplinary measure taken by the City council (Art. 64, par. 2, head. 5) a complaint may be laid before the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and against the decision of the latter an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(2) Against a disciplinary measure taken by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(3) Any city official mentioned in the first paragraph of this article who repeatedly or grossly violates his duty, or who is guilty of immoral or dishonourable conduct, or whose means are in a disorderly condition beyond the circumstances of his position, or who is unable to carry on his official business, may be dismissed from service by a disciplinary sentence. Officials who may be discharged at any time shall not be subjected to disciplinary sentence (Art. 63.).

All who are dismissed shall lose their claim to a pension, excepting in cases of incapacity arising from no fault on their part.

(4) Examinations in disciplinary proceedings shall be undertaken by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and the sentence to be passed shall be decided on by the *Fu* or *Ken* Council.

Against the decision of the latter, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court. A decision involving the dismissal of *Shicho* shall not be carried out until it has been first submitted to His Majesty the Emperor.

The superintending authority may order suspension from official duty of an official, or stoppage of his salary, before disciplinary sentence is finally passed.

LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Art. 128.—*Fu* or *Ken Chiji* or *Guncho* may exercise disciplinary authority over *Chocho* or *Soncho*, assistants, members of Committee, *Guncho*, and other town or village officials. The penalty of such disciplinary measure shall consist of a reprimand, or of a fine not exceeding ten *yen* in case of *Guncho* and twenty-five *yen* in case of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Until a special disciplinary law for town or village officials is issued, the disciplinary regulations for government civil officials shall be applied with the following modifications:—

(1) Against a disciplinary measure taken by the *Chocho* or *Soncho* (Art. 68, par. 2, head. 5), a complaint may be laid before the *Guncho*, against the decision of the *Guncho* to *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and against the decision of the latter an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(2) Against a disciplinary measure taken by the *Guncho* a complaint may be made to *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and against a decision or measure made or taken by the latter an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(3) Any town or village official mentioned in the first paragraph of this article who repeatedly or grossly violates his duty, or who is guilty of immoral or dishonourable conduct, or whose means are in a disorderly condition beyond the circumstances of his position, or who is unable to carry on his official business, may be dismissed from service by a disciplinary sentence. Officials who may be discharged at any time shall not be subjected to a disciplinary sentence (Art. 67.).

All who are dismissed shall lose their claim to pension, excepting in cases of incapacity arising from no fault on their part.

(4) Examination in disciplinary proceedings shall be undertaken by the *Guncho*, and the sentence to be passed shall be decided on by the *Gun* Council. Against such decision a complaint may be made to the *Fu* or *Ken* Council, and against the decision of the latter, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

The superintending authority may order suspension from official duty of an official, or stoppage of his salary, before disciplinary sentence is finally passed.

Art. LXXII.—For educational purposes a school committee shall be instituted in each city in conformity with Art. 61 of the law for the organization of cities, no decision of the City Council being required.

Such committee shall include the male teachers in a city elementary school, whose number must not be less than one-fourth of the whole committee. Those selected as a committee from among the teachers shall be appointed and dismissed by the *Shicho*.

REFERENCE.—LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF CITIES.

Art. 61.—A city may, upon a decision of the City Assembly, institute temporary or permanent committees. Their functions shall be honorary.

Committees may either be composed of members of the Council, or of the Assembly, or members of both, or members of both of these and of citizens having the suffrage: a member of the Council shall be chairman of such committee.

The members of a committee taken from amongst the members of the Assembly, shall be elected by the Assembly, and those from amongst the citizens, by the Council; the remainder shall be appointed by the *Shicho*.

With regard to the composition of permanent committees, special provisions may be made by city bye-laws.

Art. LXXIII.—Each city school committee shall assist the *Shicho* in the discharge of his duties in connection with educational affairs of the State belonging to the city.

Art. LXXIV.—The *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may cause the *Kucho* or his deputy in a city to serve as a functionary of the *Shicho*, and assist him under his directions and orders in the administration of educational affairs of the State relating to the district.

Art. LXXV.—For educational purposes each city may institute a district school committee therein in accordance with provisions laid down in the city bye-laws.

Such committee shall include the male teachers in city elementary schools.

Art. LXXVI.—*Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may cause the aforesaid school committee to assist the *Shicho* or *Kucho* or his deputy in the discharge of their duties in connection with educational affairs of the State relating to such district.

Art. LXXVII.—In case of disciplinary penalties to be inflicted on the *Kucho* or his deputy in a city or on a school committee under Arts. 72 and 75, owing to their mismanagement of educational affairs of the State, either of the following paragraphs shall apply:—

(1) In case the disciplinary penalties be carried out by the *Shicho* in pursuance of Art. 64, par. 5, of the Law for the Organization of Cities, the provisions of Art. 124, par. 2, head 1 of the same law shall apply.

(2) The provisions of Art. 124, pars. 1 and 2, 3 and 4 of par. 2 of the same article of the Law for the Organization of Cities shall apply here.

REFERENCE.—LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF CITIES.

Art. 63.—City officials may be re-elected upon the completion of their term of office.

City officials and servants may be discharged at any time unless there exist special provisions or a contract to the contrary.

Art. 64.—The City Council shall be the local authority of the city and shall carry on the administration thereof. The principal affairs to be undertaken by the City Council are as follows.—

(5) Superintendence over city officials, and servants, and the exercise of disciplinary authority over them, the *Shicho* excepted. Disciplinary penalties shall consist of reprimands, and of fines not exceeding ten *yen*.

Art. 124.—*Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may exercise disciplinary authority over *Shicho*, assistants, other members of the City Council, members of Committees, *Kucho*, and other city officials: The penalty of such disciplinary measure shall consist of a reprimand, or of a fine not exceeding twenty-five *yen*.

Until a special disciplinary law for city officials is issued, the disciplinary regulations for Government civil officials shall be applied with the following modifications:—

(1) Against a disciplinary measure taken by the City Council (Art. 64, par. 2, head 5) a complaint may be laid before the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and against the decision of the latter, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(2) Against a disciplinary measure taken by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(3) Any city official mentioned in the first paragraph of this article who repeatedly or grossly violates his duty, or who is guilty of immoral or dishonourable conduct, or whose means are in a disorderly condition beyond the circumstances of his position, or who is unable to carry on his official business, may be dismissed from service by a disciplinary sentence. Officials who may be discharged at any time shall not be subjected to disciplinary sentence (Art. 63).

All those who are dismissed shall lose their claim to a pension, excepting in cases of incapacity arising from no fault on their part.

(4) Examinations in disciplinary proceedings shall be undertaken by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and the sentence to be passed shall be decided on by the *Fu* or *Ken* Council. Against the decision of the latter, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court. A decision involving the dismissal of the *Shicho* shall not be carried out until after it has been submitted to His Majesty the Emperor.

The superintending authority may order suspension from official duty of an official, or stoppage of his salary, before disciplinary sentence is finally passed.

Art. LXXVIII.—The relations of *Shicho* or *Kucho* or their deputies as well as of school committees to the transaction of affairs mentioned in Arts. 73 and 76, together with other necessary rules relating to the same, may be determined by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. LXXIX.—For educational purposes, a school committee shall be instituted in each town or village in conformity with Art. 65 of the Law for the Organization of Cities, no decision of the town or village council being required.

Such committee shall include male teachers in town or village elementary schools, whose number must not be less than one-fourth of the whole committee.

Those who are selected as committeemen from among teachers shall be appointed and dismissed by *Chocho* or *Soncho*.

REFERENCE.—LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Art. 65.—A town or village may, upon a decision of the town or village Assembly, institute temporary or permanent committees. Their functions shall be honorary.

Committees shall be elected from amongst the members of the Assembly, or citizens having the suffrage, and the *Chocho* or *Soncho* or the Assistant acting as his deputy shall be chairman of any such committee.

With regard to the composition of permanent committees, special provisions may be made by town or village bye-laws.

Art. LXXX.—A town or village school committee shall assist *Soncho* or *Chocho* in the discharge of their duties in connection with educational affairs of the State relating to the town or village.

Art. LXXXI.—*Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may cause the *Kucho* or his deputy in a town or village to serve as a functionary of the *Chocho* or *Soncho* and assist him under his directions and orders in educational affairs of the State relating to that district.

Art. LXXXII.—For educational purposes each town or village may institute a district school committee therein in accordance with the town and village bye-laws.

Such committee shall include male teachers in town or village elementary schools.

Art. LXXXIII.—*Fu* or *Ken Chiji* may cause such school committee to assist the *Chocho* or *Soncho* or *Kucho* or their deputies in the execution of educational affairs of the State relating to that district.

Art. LXXXIV.—In cases where disciplinary penalties are inflicted on *Kucho* and their deputies in towns or villages, or on the school committee under Arts. 79 and 82 owing to their mismanagement of educational affairs of the State, either of the following paragraphs shall apply:—

(1) In case the disciplinary penalties be enforced by the *Chocho* or *Soncho* in pursuance of Art. 68 par. 5 of the Law for the Organization of Towns and Villages, the rules mentioned in 1 of Art. 128, par. 2, of that law shall apply.

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(2) The provisions of Art. 128, par. 8, and of 2, 3, 4 of par. 2 of the same article of the Law for the Organization of Towns and Villages, shall apply.

REFERENCE.—LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Art. 67.—Town or Village officials may be re-elected upon the completion of their term of office.

Town or Village officials and servants may be discharged at any time unless there exist special provisions or a contract to the contrary.

Art. 68.—The *Chocho* or *Soncho* shall be the local authority of the town or village, and shall carry on the administration thereof.

The principal affairs to be undertaken by the *Chocho* or *Soncho* are as follows:—

(3) Superintendence over town or village officials and servants, and exercising disciplinary authority over them. Disciplinary penalties shall consist of reprimands and of fines not exceeding five *yen*.

Art. 128.—The *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* or the *Guncho* may exercise disciplinary authority over *Chocho* or *Soncho*, assistants, members of committees, *Kucho*, and other town or village officials. The penalty such disciplinary measure shall consist of a reprimand or of a fine not exceeding ten *yen* in the case of *Guncho* and twenty-five yen in the case of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Until a special disciplinary law for town or village officials is issued, the disciplinary regulations for Government Civil officials shall be applied with the following modifications:—

(1) Against a disciplinary measure taken by *Chocho* or *Soncho* (Art. 68, par. 2, head. 5) a complaint may be laid before the *Guncho*, against the decision of the *Guncho* to the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and against the decision of the latter, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(2) Against a disciplinary measure taken by the *Guncho* a complaint may be made to the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*, and against a decision or measure made or taken by the latter an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

(3) Any town or village official mentioned in the first paragraph of this article who repeatedly or grossly violates his duty, or who is guilty of immoral or dishonourable conduct, or whose means are in a disorderly condition beyond the circumstances of his position, or who is unable to carry on his official business, may be dismissed from service by a disciplinary sentence. Officials who may be discharged at any time shall not be subjected to a disciplinary sentence (Art. 67).

All those who are dismissed shall lose their claim to a pension, excepting in cases of incapacity arising from no fault on their part.

(4) Examination in disciplinary proceedings shall be undertaken by the *Guncho* and the sentence to be passed shall be decided on by the *Gun* Council. Against such decision a complaint may be made to the *Fu* or *Ken* Council and against the decision of the latter, an action may be brought in the Administrative Court.

The superintending authority may order suspension from official duty of an official, or stoppage of his salary, before disciplinary sentence is finally passed.

Art. LXXXV.—The relations of the *Chocho*, *Soncho*, or *Kucho* and his deputy, or of the school committee in connection with the transaction of affairs under Arts. 80 and 83, together with other necessary rules relating to the same may be established by the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. LXXXVI.—For educational purposes a school committee shall be instituted in each town and village school union in conformity with the provisions of law.

For educational purposes town and village school unions may institute a district school committee therein, in conformity with the provisions of law.

Such committee shall include male teachers in town and village elementary schools.

Art. LXXXVII.—Each school committee in town and village school unions shall assist the chiefs of such unions in the administration of educational affairs of the State relating to such unions.

Fu or *Ken Chiji* may cause the school committee in the districts of town and village school unions to assist the chiefs of such unions in the administration of educational affairs of the State relating to such districts.

Art. LXXXVIII.—In cases where disciplinary penalties are inflicted on a school committee under Art. 86, owing to their mismanagement of educational affairs of the State, either of the following paragraphs shall apply:—

(1) In case the disciplinary penalities be carried out by chiefs of town and village school unions in pursuance of Art. 68 par 5 of the law for the organization of towns and villages, the rules mentioned in 1 of Art. 128 par. 2 of the same law shall apply.

(2) The provisions of Art. 128 par. 1 and of 2, 3, 4 of par. 2 of the same article of the law for the organization of towns and villages shall apply.

REFERENCE.—LAW FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

[Arts. 97, 688, and 128 as inserted after Art. 84 of this law.]

Art. LXXXIX.—The relations of chiefs of town and village school unions as well as of school committes in connection with the transaction of affairs under Art. 87, together with other necessary rules relating to the same, may be determined by *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XC.—Towns and villages, or town and village school unions, may under special circumstances not institute school committees, subject to the approval of the *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XCI.—The Minister of State for Education may cause *Fu* or *Ken Chiji* to close such private elementary schools as shall have infringed laws and ordinances.

Art. XCII.—The words "educational affairs" made use of in this Ordinance mean exclusively business in connection with elementary school education.

CHAPTER VIII.—SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS.

Art. XCIII.—This Ordinance shall come into force in *Fu* and *Ken* where the laws for the organization of cities, towns and villages are practically carried out. The date on which this law is to come into force, shall be determined by the Minister of State for Education on the representation of *Fu* or *Ken Chiji*.

Art. XCIV.—The provisions of this law, excepting those relating to the obligation of establishing and maintaining ordinary elementary schools and of sending children to school, may be applied to kindergartens, libraries, and blind and dumb schools, together with miscellaneous schools similar in character to elementary chools.

Art. XCV.—Licenses for teachers in elementary schools granted otherwise than by this law shall be valid, but the distinction between regular teachers and provisional or assistant teachers shall be fixed by the Minister of State for Education.

Art. XCVI.—Imperial Ordinance relating to Elementary Schools issued in April of the 19th year of Meiji, together with other regulations in conflict with this law, shall be repealed in all *Fu* and *Ken* where this law is practically carried out from the date on which it comes into force.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CRUETY TO ANIMALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In a letter which appeared in the *Japan Mail* of the 7th instant attention was again called to the cruel treatment of horses used in public vehicles in Tokyo,—treatment which there is reason to fear is becoming the rule rather than the exception.

It is, perhaps, only natural that people who witness, or hear of, instances of such cruelty should be tempted to regard this question from a sentimental point of view, nor is it surprising if Englishmen who can point to the good results achieved by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in their own country should view with impatience a state of things elsewhere which appears to them to admit of a similar remedy:—and the conclusion arrived at, that inhumanity of this kind is the result of a backward condition of civilization, is under the circumstances not irrational.

But, if any good is to be done, this is not the attitude of mind in which the question must be approached. The evil so often denounced in your columns is a very real one, and it should be dealt with in a practical manner.

It is reasonable to suppose that any very gross act of cruelty to animals in the streets of this capital—so gross, I mean, as to excite the indignation of the most callous observer—would lead to the interference of the police and to the arrest of the offender. But, setting aside such exceptional cases, the fact remains that no law as yet exists in Japan under which cruelty to animals is a criminal offence. The Criminal Code protects the right of property in animals, but it does not protect those animals from ill-treatment by their owners. In the absence therefore of any such law the establishment of a Society for prevention of cruelty to animals is of course impossible. There is, however, I think, a way in which the evil may be met.

Most instances of cruelty to animals occur in the case of horses employed in tramways, omnibuses, coaches, and carts, and *owned by companies*. Clearly, therefore, if the evil is to be met at all, it is in this direction that the first steps should be taken, and I venture to suggest the following mode of dealing with it:—

1.—The establishment of a system of veterinary inspection, to be enforced by the Municipality of Tokyo, under which all horses owned by companies should be inspected at stated periods,—say once a week,—by properly qualified veterinary experts attached for this special purpose to the office of the Municipality.

2.—The preparation of tabular reports by those veterinary inspectors showing:

(*a*) The number of horses in use by each company at the date of inspection;

(*b*) The number of horses certified as fit for work;

(*c*) The number found to be sick or incapacitated for work, and the nature and cause of such sickness or incapacity;

(*d*) The number of horses which have died since the date of the last inspection, and the cause of death.

3.—This veterinary inspection to take place once a week, and to be conducted at the cost of the companies concerned,—payment being made *pro rata* according to the number of horses or stables to be inspected,—subject to the following conditions:—

(*a*) Should the reports of a veterinary inspector for a period of three months show the condition of the horses used by a particular company to be exceptionally good, the company in question should pay during the ensuing period of three months, and thereafter so long as this standard of excellence was maintained, for the cost of inspection only once a fortnight instead of once a week;

(*b*) Should on the other hand the reports of a veterinary inspector for the same period show the condition of the horses used by a particular company to be exceptionally bad, the company in question should be made to pay for the cost of inspection twice a week for the ensuing period of three months, and thereafter so long as the condition of its horses remained unimproved.

I have assumed that the duty of enforcing this system of inspection would be undertaken by the Tokyo *Fu* as a matter of municipal administration, but so long as the official authority which alone can render the system effectual is present to enforce it, it matters little in what branch of the executive the authority is vested.

The system as I have sketched it is of course incomplete, and in any case it would only be the first step in the desired direction, but as a suggestion it may be worth consideration, and may induce others to interest themselves in the matter who are better qualified than myself to speak on the subject, and are in a position to influence public opinion.

If the whole question could be treated in the broad and thorough manner in which any great reform in order to be successful must be taken up, other points would at once suggest themselves as demanding simultaneous consideration. I allude to the desirability of strictly limiting the number of passengers to be held by every one-horse or two horse vehicle, of maintaining a due proportion between the size of a vehicle and that of the horse which draws it, and of determining what is and what is not a fair load for a cart. There is room too for improvement in the build of the carts now employed, in their adaptation to the material to be transported, and in the adjustment of the harness, which at present is defective. It would also be no hardship to the companies concerned if they were compelled to keep a spare horse at the foot of every hill traversed by their coaches—to be used only for the ascent of the hill. This is done in the case of the tramways in Vienna, which are splendidly horsed, and also in other large cities, and the idea rests on the sound principle that what is a fair load for a horse on the flat is not a fair load when a hill has to be climbed.

But we must be content with small beginnings, and perhaps it is safer so. "Who goes softly, goes safely and far," and proceeding in this way we may look forward with the more confidence to a time when each company will understand that every horse it uses forms part of its capital, and that its own interests are involved in the kind treatment of the animals upon which its service depends; and when public opinion in Japan will also recognise that cruelty to dumb animals is no more excusable than cruelty to human beings and give legislative shape to its conviction, and this experience "broadening slowly down" and working in a nation gifted with an artistic refinement that is unique, may create that as yet nowhere attained millennium for domesticated animals in which there will be no need to enforce the poet's teaching

> Never to blend our pleasure or our pride,
> With sorrow of the meanest thing that feels.

I am, Sir,

X.

Tokyo, April 25th, 1891.

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THE SILENCE OF CONTEMPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In case the *gentleman* who edits the *Japan Daily Herald*, should wonder at no one's challenging the veracity of the statements made in his leader—a remarkable one even for the *Japan Daily Herald*—in Saturday's issue of that paper and should thereby rashly conclude that his statements were unanswerable, I take the liberty of informing him through you for his own private benefit, that the people best able to defend the gentleman on whose fair fame he casts such foul slanders, in all probability consider that the fittest answer is the silence of contempt.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

P.S.—Do you think it would be asking too much of the Editor of the *Herald* to commit the following lines to memory, and repeat them every time he sits down to write about other people:—

For light he hated as the deadly bale,
Ay wont in desert darkness to remaine
Where plain none might him see, nor he see any plaine.

MUNICIPAL NOMENCLATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Will you allow me to call attention, through your columns, to the impropriety of translating the Sinico-Japanese term *fu* by the English word city? According to the current terminology, *shi* in Japanese stands for city and hence the equivalent of the phrase "City of Tōkyō" is Tōkyō *Shi*, not Tōkyō *Fu* which embraces considerable rural territory outside the bounds of the municipality. This is the more conspicuous in the case of Kyōto *Fu*, which comprises 296.55 square *ri*. If a linear *ri* be taken as the equivalent of 2.4 English miles, the area of Kyōto *Fu* would be 1708.13 square miles. Osaka *Fu* comprises 115.72 square *ri*, the equivalent, 666.55 square miles; Tōkyō *Fu*, 52.17 square *ri*, or 300.50 square miles. Kyōto *Fu* comprises the three provinces of Yamashiro, Tamba, and Tango and includes within its borders the two sea ports of Miyazu and Maezuru on the Japan Sea, certainly too large a territory to be called a city.

The following comparison of the population of the three *fu* and their respective capital cities will still further illustrate the impropriety to which I refer:—

Tōkyō *Fu*...	1,559,517	Tōkyō *Shi*...	1,313,299
Osaka *Fu*...	1,281,150	Osaka *Shi*...	442,658
Kyōto *Fu*...	874,084	Kyōto *Shi*...	275,780

These figures are taken from the *Tokei Nenkan* published in September last.

Would it not be better to abandon the attempt to discriminate between *fu* and *ken*, and render both by the word prefecture?

I remain, yours respectfully, D. C. G.

Tokyo, April 28th, 1981.

PAGES FROM KOREAN FOLK-LORE.

YANGO AND SAYO.

On the eastern coast of Southern Korea in the ancient kingdom of Silla [Shin-ra in Japanese] lived a humble fisherman named Yango, with his wife, Sayo. Every day Yango went and sat by the sea and fished or wandered up and down the shore in search of edible seaweed that clung to the rocks when the tide went out. They led a quiet industrious existence, with no greater ambition than to perform faithfully the ordinary duties of life, and leave to their posterity an unblemished name. Perhaps it was for this very reason that Providence deemed them worthy to fill a higher position. One day Yango took his hook and line and trudged off along the shore to his favourite fishing place, a huge boulder that overhung the water. He slipped off his shoes as he always did before climbing the steep rock and was soon comfortably seated on its top, baiting his hook and puffing away at his pipe. He cast his hook and sat waiting for his first bite, when the rock on which he sat began to tremble violently and then to rise slowly and steadily straight into the air. The terrified fisherman clung to its rough surface and tried to think what sin he had committed of which this might be the punishment, but as his conscience was clear his fear turned to wonder and he looked about to see what was going on. By this time he was high in air, and his novel air ship was bearing away to the East, as he could see by the water beneath and the receding mountains of his native land. Soon he found himself approaching the islands of Japan, and before he knew it he was landed plump down in the middle of a Japanese village, whose inhabitants of course fled in all directions. When they found courage to return, he gave account of himself as best he could by use of signs, but in spite of his fisherman's clothes they would believe nothing less than that he had come straight from Heaven as a gift of the Gods. So they made him their chief, and all the neighbouring peoples came and swore allegiance to him. But let us go back to Silla and see what is transpiring there. When Sayo found that Yango did not come back as usual for the night, she, like a sensible woman, decided that he must have wandered so far along the shore that he found it impossible to get back and so had put up at some fisherman's hut. But when the next day came and no Yango made his appearance, she became really alarmed and started out in search of him. She took the accustomed path down to the rock where Yango usually sat and fished, and there beside it she beheld his shoes just as he had left them. She dreaded to ascend the rock, which had of course returned from Japan, lest she should find him lying dead upon its top, but she forced herself to do it. She was greatly relieved and yet greatly perplexed to find that there was no one there. Where could he have gone without his shoes? As she was revolving this in her mind the rock began to tremble again, and to her consternation it began to rise in the air. It carried her straight to Japan and in a few minutes she was landed safe and sound in Yango's back yard, and a moment later was in his arms. But her departure from Silla had been witnessed by some fishermen, and in an incredibly short time the story had spread throughout the length and breadth of the land and was given perfect credence by the superstitious and wonder-loving people. It happened on the day after the story had been told to the king of Silla, that the astrologers and seers came to the palace in haste and asked for an immediate audience. They said that the sun and moon had refused longer to shed their light upon Silla, but had reserved it all for the islands of Japan; and indeed it so appeared, for an ominous gloom had settled over the land and was deepening every moment. Nothing can describe the consternation that reigned at the palace. The whole court was terrified out of its composure. It was only by the strong personal efforts of the king that sufficient order could be restored to consult concerning means for propitiating these important heavenly bodies. The two strange events—the remarkable departure of Yango and Sayo and the occultation of the sun and moon—connected themselves in the king's mind, and not knowing what else to do, he dispatched an envoy to Japan to hunt up the involuntary exiles and bring them back. No sooner had the envoy set foot upon Japanese soil than he heard in everyone's mouth the names of the very ones he had come to find: "Our God given King and Queen Yango and Sayo." He hastened straight to the Court and to the Royal presence, to which formality had not yet barred the way, and begged them to return with him to Silla or else their native land would be doomed to perpetual night. Yango, who seems to have adapted himself to his new surroundings with wonderful facility, answered thus: "I would willingly go, but it is evidently the hand of Providence that has sent me here to rule this people. How can I betray the trust thus confided to me and oppose the will of God?" Before the envoy could find words to petition further, Sayo, the Queen, said "I have here some rolls of silk. Take them and hasten back to Silla. Tell the King to make of the silk a broad sheet and spread it upon the ground and perform upon it the sacrifices to the sun and moon. If he does this they will again shine upon the land." The envoy needed no second bidding. He posted back to his country, which he found shrouded in a profounder gloom than ever. The land was on the verge of anarchy. Breathless, he hurried into the presence of the king, and laid before him the rolls of precious silk and told his tale. Soon the nimble fingers of the palace ladies were busy cutting the silk into lengths and sewing them together. The royal cortége passed out of the gate with almost unseemly haste by the light of flaring torches. The mystic sheet was spread, and the king, his voice trembling with suppressed emotion, pronounced the words of invocation. As the last word fell from his lips there came a burst of glorious light. The sun blazed forth, blinding for an instant their unaccustomed eyes. And then there arose from that assembled multitude a shout that made the very heavens throb and palpitate. Not a vestige was left of the dreadful curse but the smoking remnants of the torches. The whole nation gave itself up to universal holiday. The silk was placed in a handsome box which was named "The king box," and preserved as a sacred heir-loom of the realm, and the grateful king conferred upon the village from which Yango and Sayo had so mysteriously disappeared the name of *Greeting to the Sun.*

OUR "SPECIAL" TELLS THE STORY OF FELIX HOLT SECUNDUS.

IN THREE SECTIONS.—BY A. M.

SECTION III.—IN YABAKEI OF BUZEN.

It was early morning. We had just emerged from the matutinal tub and were lying on the bamboo clad embankment of Nakatsu Castle in all the glory of *yukata*, and feeling fit as an old Homeric Hero when ἐκ ῥ' ἀσαμίνθου ἔβη δεμας ἀθανατοισι ὁμοιος.

Below us was the stagnant lotus-covered moat, and beyond the faintest hum of life in the alleyways of the old and sleepy town. It had been raining over-night, and the drops were sparkling on the twigs like brilliants on a Duchess at a State ball, while all along the inner curve of the horse-shoe range that swept up behind us, the mountain-torrents were flashing down in the gleaming sunlight like so many great supple sinuous glinting Pythons. Seaward, over the gables of the big Buddhist temple in Tera machi the reaches of the Suwo Nada shone and shimmered,—a huge silver-burnished shield with the crag-peaked island of Himeshima a dull copper boss in the centre.

I had brought out my usual armful of Hawkston's classics, for it was not often in my life that I could afford to loll away a whole solid day over a dog-eared Sophocles, or a muchly be-thumbed Lucretius. But I could then, and I did. This morning by luck I struck the opening of the fifth Æneid and as Hawkston placed a camp-stool for himself and sank into it with a luxurious sigh of physical content, I gave him the full benefit of the passage:—

Interea medium Æneas jam classe tenebat
Certus iter, fluctusque atros aquilone secabat
Mœnia respiciens, quae jam infelicis Elissae
Conlucent flammis. Quae tantum accenderit ignem,
Caussa latet; duri magno sed amore dolores
Polluto, notumque, furens quid femina possit
Triste per augurium Teucrorum pectora ducunt.

"Don't you think Pius Æneas was an utter and an unmitigated brute to treat Dido as he did?" I queried.

Hawkston started quickly: I saw he had caught my drift. But of course he wasn't going to say as much.

"I do," he answered sharply. "But not for deserting her. He couldn't do less; he didn't belong to himself; he was Fate's man, entrusted with the destiny of his nation. But it was another matter to go love-making and philandering with her, or rather to allow her to do so to him—it is all much of a muchness—and for that, in view of everything, he ought to have been kicked till he howled like a patent syren steam-whistle."

"Well, what would you have done in his case?"

"Done! Most likely made an utter ass of myself!"

"Judging from what I know of you, I should think it highly probable," I answered very drily, turning round my head as it lay propped on my left elbow and looking up into his face meaningly. "I'm going to talk straight to you; I ought to have done the business when I gave you back your MS., but your usual regiment of afternoon visitors began to file in just at the moment. Now by your own showing you're nothing short of a blooming calf. Why the diable didn't you give the woman a show to speak out what was on her mind? I'm just as good a Social-Democrat as you are, but I shouldn't have been so deucedly touchy in this business as you've been, my son."

"I'd advise you to ——,

"'Mind my own business' you were going to say," I interrupted quietly. "But at present I have none of my own, and so by way of keeping my hand in, I just take a passing interest in other people's. You know I'm a newspaper man, and a newspaper man can't possibly exist unless he has something toward to amuse him. Now, as I read the romance, you are just off on the wrong tack entirely. There is no Clara Vere de Vere nonsense in the business at all. It's all Honest Injun, or I'm an idiot. Now, you know better than I that we can never rackett our fad through till we get all the brains and intelligence on our side. And that woman has lots of both, and besides, cold and icy as she seems on the surface, she has got a heart surging with bubbling sympathy for the right and boiling with indignation at the wrong."

"How do *you* know?" he inquired with an angry flash in his eyes.

"Why, from yourself, to begin with. Do you think I've subbed copy and written leaders for seven years without learning to read between the lines of most compositions? Yes! altogether you've done a very nice day's work over this affair, and you've a lot to be proud of in connection therewith. Why, think what we couldn't accomplish with a few women like her to do the bloom-

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ing Egeria for us and our crowd! It's not her money we want,—it's *herself*. And here you are, like Æeneas, Fate's Man with the destinies of Australian Social-Democracy practically in the loof of your right hand"—(this of course was an adroit bit of flattering exaggeration)—"and yet you fail, fail miserably, taken by the pitiable Pius Æneas standard even—and that too by your own showing."

Hawkston flushed, as he got up. He spoke never a word, but he just stepped behind me and gave me one of the most tremendous kicks I ever received in my life. No bones were broken though. He then turned on his heel and sprang down the enbankment. Three minutes later I heard his voice calling the roll in school. I fancied there was an unusually cheery ring in its tones.

I chuckled to myself as I turned over on my back with Virgil to keep me company. For the last week I had been in Heaven, in a manner of speaking. I had polished off the fag end of my "copy" on the way up from Hongkong and here I was now with nothing earthly to do but to lie off and "spell" to my heart's content. And that was something ahead of a first class luxury after a seven years' grind of journalistic hack-work in a country where you have now and then to do thirty odd hours at a stretch with the mercury at 100° over-night even in the basement cellar, and Lord only knows how much in the machine-room up aloft where the presses clank and groan red-hot to the touch, and the "comps" strip to the buff and gasp for water as they wipe the sweat from their foreheads by the apronful. A seven years' grind with scarcely a single sportive interlude that might be called a break. We are a young country, but we have got our journalism down fine. There you must be ready to write upon anything and everything at a moment's notice—from a Change in the Ministry down to the Price of Fish, and you must write stuff too that can be read just as it comes from the tip of the pen. There is no revising of proofs there even unto a sixth edition, and sending the final revise back patched and powdered and befrilled like an afterglow superannuated beauty of Queen Anne's time. The devil stands over you as your pen tears along fast as a twenty-one knot racer with splotches and blotches flying from the cut water, like Black Care astern of the Charioteer in Horace, and woe be unto your own mother's son if you can't last the pace! You can't doctor up telegrams four days old; and intelligence that has got beyond its first bloom of youth is a wall-flower in that quarter. Under the fierce and fiery stars of Queensland neither news nor corpses will keep. Funerals always take place within four and twenty hours after the departure of the deceased, for it is wonderful how quickly decay does its work in a country where it is a crowning glory to have a thermometer that goes 110° when your neighbour's records a beggarly 108° only. And so with news. If you think of keeping it for next day the chances are all in favour of your being utterly cooked. The other "rag" will as likely as not get wind of the thing and "scoop" you. Now when an odd "scoop" or two means a drop of three or four thousand in the circulation, it is serious, and most papers simply can't afford it. At least mine couldn't, and so for seven long years I had lived in a regular *Sturm and Drang*, in which Parliamentary Banquets, Police Court Cases, Shipwrecks, Executions, Murders, and Sudden Deaths were the most striking and picturesque objects in the landscape. Wherefore now I was happy,—and meant to keep so till next time. Oh! the joy of doing nothing, or what was infinitely better still—what you jolly well pleased after seven years forceful straining at the oar!

I had got to my present haven of shelter, from Nagasaki *viâ* Shimonoseki, after sundry exciting adventures which can find no place here, inasmuch as they would be digressions from the main thread of the discourse. I was delighted to find Hawkston almost as good as ever,—verging on plumpness in fact, and for him beastly lazy and lacking in energy. That was only on the surface though; as time went on I discovered he had not been letting the grass grow under his feet,—a fact the Plutocrats have since found out to their bitter cost. But that has nothing to do with the story.

Only one thing at all marred my hedonic empyrean of repose. That was a liability to fits of shakes and shivers. We had lain unduly long in the river off Saigon, and malaria had there marked me for its own. So from Hongkong up I had had occasional bad half-hours, and even now it was not infrequently quinine for breakfast, quinine for tiffin and the same likewise for dinner. But it didn't altogether lay me prostrate upon the flat of my back, and in spite of it I contrived to see somewhat of the scenery of the place. When Hawkston was drilling his *samurai* in the mysteries of ciphering and spelling, in the pronunciation of "leetle dug" and in the niceties in the mouthing of "r" and "l" I used to start off "prospecting" on my own account.

And that prospecting was worth while too. Of course I have seen fine bits of country in my time—a man hasn't globe-trotted so much as I without doing that. But of all the landscapes I've seen, whether under the rays of old Father Sol with the breezes of Heaven fresh blowing pure and sweet scudding in frolic across them, or on the walls of picture galleries, there is not a single one that could summon the mountains of Buzen before the tribunal of Paris with the faintest show of bearing away the apple. They are simply wonderful, wonderful, wonderful,—utterly indescribable on paper. It is only an artist on canvas, with brush and paint that could do the faintest approach to justice to them, and even he would kick himself with dissatisfaction when he had put all the cunning his right hand could compass into the work. Such a combination of contour and colour and sky must be unique in this planet of ours; this globe is over-small for two such fairy-lands. My happening upon it was in this wise. The first day after my arrival in Nakatsu, I took a fancy to a spin across the fields, inasmuch as I had had no chance of a regular "breather" since I had slipped at Sydney. So just as Hawkston went off to the school-room I donned my flannels and looked about for a land-mark to make for. Right in the middle of the curve of the horse-shoe range was a long, lumbering mountain-mass with a fronting wall of perpendicular rock, its whole extent all sheerly so, except at one spot, where a cork-screw seemed to climb up to the plateau that formed its summit. Its elevation might be 2,500 feet, possibly a few hundred more. I guessed it must be about nine miles to its base, and about one more to its crown and that between 8 and 12 o'clock when Hawkie came from his work I could easily do the trip there and back again. That was nearly four hours for 20 miles—one mile of which would evidently be a scramble for an Angora goat going up, and on the other hand simply a matter of four minutes in the down-coming. So I started off with the stride we used to take in paper-chases over Shotover Hill and Bagley Wood and Cumnor Rise, much to the astonishment of the unclad lieges in the rice-fields I had to skirt. For the matter of the first six miles all went well; then I began to be reminded that shipboard life is not good for training and keeping hard, especially when complicated by occasional rounds of shakes and shivers. In spite of it all though I made fairish time, and after a series of dashes at the spirals of the cork-screw I reached the summit in a little over two hours, but utterly blown. I stopped to find if there was any wind to spare in the neighbourhood, and as I did so, I turned round. I then saw something to reward me for my exertions upward. One great rolling carpet of luscious green was spread on the floor of the pancake crescent that lay between the foot-hills and the sparkling sail-flecked azure shimmering in the forenoon sweltering sun like a flood of molten silver. But this was simply a fleabite to what was to come. I fared up across the gently rising plateau, and found it to be extensive, —sizeable enough to hold two tarns in its bosom. The upper of these gave birth to a brawling mountain torrent that sped in swirls along a boulder-fringed course, to tear in a sprayey rush adown the seaward cliffs with a wind-swept moan that rose and fell like the tones of an Æolian harp. Right above this was the extremest verge of the polygonal circuit. It curved up all round into mounds with the swell of a woman's breasts. I mounted one of these. And then! The sight that burst upon my eyes is simply indescribable. I rubbed them, and then pinched my anatomy to make sure that I was not in dreamland. When I made sure that I was really on mother Earth after all, I began to try to take it all in. I spent just six hours at this occupation, and had even then not got half through with the job. I got back to Nakatsu to find Hawkston organizing a search party to hunt for me.

As I have said, the panorama from Hachimensan—such is the name of the mountain I had scaled —is indescribable. At all events I am not going to attempt to describe it here. During my sojourn with Hawkston I went there a dozen times if I went once, and I mean to go yet again. Among other things it looks down upon Yabakei, the crowning glory of Japanese scenery according to Rai Sanyo, the Poet Historian of Dai-Nippon. Though almost unknown to the rack of foreigners, utterly so to the monstrous regiment of globe-trotters, it is, thanks to him, a household word among the natives of the country from Kiushiu even unto Karafuto. And no wonder. For the best part of half-a-score of miles it skirts the mountain roots—a narrow gorge with walls of rock a sheer five hundred feet above the river limpid clear, that scours tearing and roaring and flashing around the Cyclopean boulders in its bed. Aloft, rocks,—here scarred and bare and rifted, there moss grown and creeper-clad—seem to start up on the verge of the awful precipices and join in mortal combat in the battle-smoke of the cloud-drift that ever and anon enswathes them. It is Tempe and Münden and Roncesvalles with reminiscences of the Otera Gorge all rolled into one, with something else besides.

The place is accessible to the tourist from two directions. The easiest way to reach it is from Shimonoseki *viâ* Nakatsu. The other route is a case of four days overlanding from Nagasaki, across the plains of Hizen and Chikugo, and up the valley of the river of that latter name to Hida in Bungo. The road from that spot to Nakatsu threads the whole stretch of the defile. It is necessary to grasp this firmly to understand what follows.

The second Friday after my arrival I arranged a trip through Yabakei to Hikôsan, one of the most famous among the peaks of Buzen. I started off in the morning, with the intention of climbing Hachimensan once more and then coming down into Yabakei by a hill-path I had discovered, and waiting at the little inn below the monastery of Rakan, where Hawkie was to join me before nightfall. We meant to pass the night there and then fare further afield with peep of day.

But there are sometimes rain clouds hanging about the summits of these hills, and it was my luck to meet one of these right in the teeth as I breasted the parapet of the plateau. I was soaked through and through in no time. I went ahead notwithstanding, but by the time I reached the inn at Rakan I was shivering like an aspen-leaf, or a beggar receiving a charity-dole from a Philistine to the sound of the trumpet. I got the people of the *yadoya* to understand what the matter was, mainly by a liberal draft on the resources of the language of signs. They wanted to put me to bed in the best room, but inasmuch as it looked uncommonly chilly I got them to let me spread myself out in a little four and a half mat *zashiki* behind it. The floor of this *zashiki* was some eighteen inches above the level of the reception-room below. Just opposite the corner where I threw me down was a slit in the paper, and through it my eye could take the whole of the other room and all that transpired therein. It was about five in the afternoon when I made the hotel. By this time the rain clouds had lifted,—driven off seaward by a rousing wind that was coming up screaming and whistling from the south and increasing in vehemence apace. It began to roar and boom and bluster among the cliffs and crags in a way there was no mistaking. It was a typhoon, and a pretty lively one too at that—aloft on the peaks of the range a regular out and out "buster" as we should phrase it at the Antipodes. I swallowed a dose of quinine—by good luck I was charged with a phial of the precious stuff—and lay back beneath the mountain of *futon* piled atop of my quaking anatomy. By and by the turmoil of the tumultuous brattle of the blast and the threshing of the bamboos on the shingles of the roof acted as a sort of lullaby upon my senses, and just as the gloaming was melting into the dusk I dosed off into the outskirts of dreamland. I was vaguely conscious of a change in the direction of the wind; the moaning sound of the white-maned cascade just below the inn grew louder apace, and as its sobbing rose into fitful wails I knew in consequence that the tempest was circling and veering round in the rifts and the gulches.

I was just sinking into a feverish doze, when over all the hurly-burly of the elemental strife outside, my ear caught the rush and jangle of wheels, a sudden halt, and a loud insistent cry, which I took to be the Japanese for "open and be blowed to you." Then followed a scurrying among the *nesan* of the establishment, and while one opened the *amado* of the *genka* another placed lamps and cushions in the adjoining room. Then followed a weltering flood of agglutinating honorifics and a general polishing of foreheads on the *tatami*. I peeped at the performance with amusement (for I was a griffin in the land in those days) and looked for the advent of the guest - he must be of no small moment in the locality—with some curiosity and interest.

It takes a fair amount to astonish a newspaper man, but I must confess to being utterly and completely taken aback by what followed. To begin with, it was a woman in European garb that stepped into the room. And a real European she was too undoubtedly, a good eighteen inches taller than the average Japanese lady, and with all the free and unfettered grace of movement that comes from treading mother earth in silk stockings and patent leathers instead of waddling duck-fashion on *tabi* and *geta*. She was thickly veiled and kept her hat on, but somehow I could have sworn that I knew her. I pinched myself again to make sure that I was really in my sober senses. When I was as

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good as convinced that I was not at all "off my chump," I looked once more, and felt a strong inclination to call out. It was my aristocratic female chum of the *Barracoota*.

But I virtuously stifled my inclination and lay back with a grin, silently laughing to myself, spite of the shakes.

When I again put my eye to the slit she had removed her head-gear, and there was her proud, dark face in all its radiant glory. She was flushed and braced by her tussle with the wind, for it must have been right in her teeth during the last two *ri* of her drive down the gorge from Hida. I knew at once she had come from that part, because I heard her ask the guide who was outside the threshold of the room if it was not possible to push on and reach Nakatsu that evening. I heard him suck in his breath, and assert that it would be "difficult," which in plain English means "Can't be done nohow" in this country of overwhelming politeness.

With a short sigh she gave orders to bring in her baggage. Like all itinerant females, she had a fair amount of fixings—two kuruma loads I judged when I sized up the sum total of the cargo dumped upon the floor. Even if I hadn't known as much before I would at once have set her down as an old traveller and a woman of resources. Of course, there were no seats in the place, the nearest chair being twelve miles off in the policeman's box at the gate of Nakatsu Castle. But that didn't matter. By a skilful disposition of boxes and shawls and wraps she extemporized something in the fashion of an Oriental divan, amidst a chorus of "He! Ha! Ha! Kekko! Rippa na!" from the admiring denizens of the shanty. She went out and then shortly came in and sat down, and, placing her left elbow on her knee and her chin in the palm of her hand, gazed pensively before her with a wonderful play of lights and shadows scudding across her faultless clear-cut features.

She sat in this pose for perhaps the best part of ten minutes, when there came a furious battering on the door, and Hawkston's voice rang out loud above the storm, demanding where the Devil I was. She started and flushed all over and clutched the bosom of her dress, her fingers hooking convulsively in its rich and glossy material. It was the only time I had seen her in the least startled out of that haughty yet easy repose of manner, that I was inclined to set down as having been imbibed with her lady mother's milk. But startled she was that time,—like a fawn when the stag trumpets forth the alarm of the winding of the pack.

Hawkston was well acquainted with the people of the inn, and so did not stand on over-much ceremony about finding his way for himself as soon as he got over the threshold. He made for the best room straight, and threw back the *shoji*. Then there was a brace of stifled exclamations and next a long and death-like pause. You could hear only the ticking of the clock on the wall and the boom of the wind in the pass and the rustling thrash of the bamboos on the roof.

She was the first to recover herself, and at once took the initiative in making the running. Hawkston was evidently utterly floored,—however he came up to time when she stepped forward with outstretched hand, and a look on her face such as I had never seen on it, nor he either before me, as I shrewdly suspect. Pride and haughtiness melted from it swift and sudden as the Hokkaido snow in June, and graciousness and sweetness and the love-light flushed and beamed in its stead, coming with a rush as come the flowers in the Yezo meads when they throw their winter mantle from off them at a twitch. I never realized till then what a dread and potent thing a woman's gracious winsomeness could be. Strong, strong in sober truth needs must be the man that means to stand fast and firm against such weapons as the Viscountess then had armed herself with. I saw at a glance that Hawkie's fall was fated,—surer than most things written in the book of doom, and I laughed softly, joying with all my soul in his overthrow, although the malaria was shaking me as terrier shakes a rat.

"So," she said, with a smile for which a man might well place his immortal part in jeopardy, "we meet again, and as usual in most romantic circumstances!"

"It seems so!" was the answer, Hawkie trying to keep cool and unconcerned-like as far as politeness would let him,—though I knew his heart was thumping like a twenty-five ton steam-hammer talking to a piece of armour-plating.

I saw that she was watching him as you watch the play of a boxer in the ring that you've got to tackle next bout.

"Yes," he went on, as she said nothing in reply to the three monosyllables he had answered her with. "This is an odd meeting!"

"Your look seems to ask how it came about," she said slowly and softly, still watching intently. "What if I said that the fame of Yabakei has travelled afar and that I've made a pilgrimage to the spot?"

"Then," thought I to myself, "Your Ladyship would be uncommonly near to telling a regular whopper. If what you say is true you must have cat's eyes. Half-an-hour ago I heard you say you wanted to push on to Nakatsu to-night, and folks don't usually choose the pitchy mirk for taking in the points of Yabakei!"

But I saw she was merely fencing to gain time, and to be sure of her ground before opening the attack—if she should be under the necessity of having to do so. She motioned Hawkston to a seat on the divan and he sat down. I then caught a full sight of his face; it was as pale as a ghost's.

"Well," she resumed, as Hawkston remarked that Yabakei was well worth the trouble she had taken to reach it, "I'm going to be frank and open. And I beg of you to meet me in a similar manner. It wasn't Yabakei, or scenery, or sight-seeing, or anything like that that brought me. When I saw you last time I asked you to call on me three days afterwards. You didn't, and so I have had the trouble of coming to call on you!"

"Indeed!" he replied. "The business must be important and weighty!"

"It is,—very. Why did you not come to see me, in Brisbane as I asked you?"

"I had my reasons!"

"I should fancy as much at least. And what were they? I'll tell you," she went on quickly and motioning him not to interrupt. "It was simply pride first, pride second, and pride third. It was very chivalrous in you to put me under obligations as you had, and then to do all you could to make me feel them!"

"I did nothing of the sort," he said hotly with a start. "But you wanted to make me your pensioner, and I will become no woman's hanger-on!"

"You mistake," she said gently placing a hand upon his sleeve. "But don't go on persisting in this hideous misunderstanding. You think I want you to give up your aims, your work, your 'crowd' as you call it;—you see I can talk your language—I don't. It is your staunchness there that first won my regard. I said I would speak plainly and I'm doing it now. This is altogether too deadly serious to admit of fencing and playing at cross purposes. That day beside the scaur-brink—(here she shuddered slightly, though her face flushed with a little more colour than before)—I guessed how it stood with you. Proud, proud, the pride of a fallen archangel! It was that speech of mine at Ponsonby's dinner that lay at the root of the evil. I *did* make it to test your mettle,—that I shan't deny. And I found yours ring true, as I've never yet found man's. Then when you left the station I saw you meant to read me a lesson. But your pride led you astray; you misread me. From any one else it would have been an insult only, from you it was a rankling wound. Then I waited, thinking a chance to make you understand would come. Once in the Gardens I was near it. But I was afraid—the sole and only time in all my life. Then you were generous"—(here was a most pronounced touch of the old biting sarcasm in her tones). "And you did your best to give me another chance and to make it easy for me."

"I did what I thought was best!" he interrupted huskily.

"Of course you did!" she said ironically. "But it was for the very worst. Now I'm going to speak out plainly,—to throw all the mock modesty of my sex to the winds. I have money, and power and some small share of brains, and I want to use them aright. I can do better things than merely make doles to beggars and teach orphan-boys to read and orphan-girls to sew. The world is not to be mended to any great extent by dilettante charity and humanitarianism of that protoplasmic order. You know that as well as I do. You've said it and written it a hundred times. You want to reconstruct, not to tinker. Very well, here is what I have come three thousand miles out of my way to ask. 'Will you let me help you?'"

It was at once bold and brilliant play. But when the stakes are lifelong happiness or misery it is well to keep a straight bat and to lay on the wood with all the powder one can put into the strokes.

She looked straight into his eyes, watching his face with all her soul. I could trace the curves of her bosom by the heaving of her dress.

"How do you mean?" asked Hawkston, slowly looking at her as if he were wrestling with a dream. "You don't ——" and he stopped. But a great blaze of light was springing up in his eyes.

"I do," she said, with a defiant ring in her words. Then she threw out both her hands in front of her.

"You are a most unaccomodating man, why will you not meet me half-way?"

At this I felt inclined to get up, shakes and all, and punch Hawkston's head for him, and knock him down, and kick him till my feet were sore when I got him here.

But just then he ——. At this moment I was taken with a most tremendous fit of shivering and had to pop my head under the *futon* to deaden the chattering of my ivories. I kept in that position for ten minutes perhaps. When I looked out again they were both standing in the middle of the floor, he with his arm round her waist and her head upon his shoulder. They were a pair to look at too. As I marked them I thought how utterly they knocked the stuffing out of what pedants and schoolmasters set down as a horrible example of "bad grammar" in Milton:—

> Adam the goodliest man of men since born
> His sons; the fairest of her daughters Eve.

As if forsooth poets ever think of wooden-headed dominies and their dry-as-dust canons of style when they take pen in hand!

They were billing and cooing like a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons, and I felt awkward and generally very much *de trop*. So I ducked down again under the *futon*, and thought what asses folks make of themselves when they are fatuous enough to "get shook" on each other.

At last their conversation began to show signs of sanity and coherence, and he ultimately asked her a straightforward, sensible question.

"But however did you discover my whereabouts, sweetheart?"

Although "sweetheart" was a vocable against which my whole soul revolted, I yet picked up my ears and listened to her reply.

"How did I find you out? By the sheerest accident. We had a special correspondent who had come on board in a disguise that was a triumph. At first I set the fellow down as a thorough-paced blackguard—("I knew that already, your Ladyship," thinks I to myself),—but he turned out a disappointment and fraud as far as that went. At Port Darwin he transferred himself from the steerage to the saloon and signalized his advent among decent people by reading our bullying captain a lesson on manners it was a luxury to listen to. My curiosity in the man was excited and I watched him pretty closely, and from putting one thing and another together I was in a pretty fair way of guessing his trade. One evening I went up on deck to think in the dusk—I shan't tell you of what—and that Russian Volkslied you used to sing was coursing through my head. Suddenly the air broke out astern of us, weird, spectral, uncanny. At first I fancied it must be imagination running riot. But as I strained and listened with all my soul in my ears, strung to the tenseness of a bow bent to the breaking, the thing went on and on. Only the execution was rough, and here and there the quaver of a false note. ("The Devil" I muttered.) I started up and there was our steerage friend leaning over the taffrail. He looked round all of a sudden. I felt almost driven to ask him on the spot where he had picked up the air, but reason told me I could get at it in a more seemly and natural manner by waiting. So next day I easily found means to make his acquaintance. The very fates in their courses fought for me; a letter he had on deck was blown by the breeze right into my lap. Women's eyes are quick where their hearts are concerned, and I thrilled as I recognized your handwriting. Then I set to work to worm out of him all about you, and although he is no fool, I succeeded in no mean measure. I got him to read the Romance, as he calls it, he has culled from your diary. I once or twice fancied he had detected my identity; if he did he was very careful to give no hint of having done it."

"Whew!" interrupted Hawkston. "That's it, is it? Of course he must have; he is uncommonly sharp at that sort of thing! Why! He is the man who worked out the mystery of the Stuart Murder Case, when the Detectives were utterly baffled. And you may be absolutely certain that he violated the secrecy of my MS. not without grounds he thought amply valid for doing so."

"That may account for the moral reflections he garnished the latter with by way of commentary. If he did know all about it, he told me some of the —I shan't rudest,—but plainest things I ever listened to in my life!"

"The brute" muttered Hawkston. "I've a mind to cut him for ever!"

"That's the thanks a fellow gets for meddling in other folks' love affairs," thought I to myself. "Hang me, if I'll ever play at a go-between again!"

"No," she said. "If it hadn't been for him, my future would have been bleak and cheerless indeed!"

For some seconds neither spoke, but they stood looking unutterable things.

Now in a Greek Drama this is just the sort

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of spot where the Chorus would have struck in to liven matters up a bit, and generally help pass the time of day. So, with a sense of serving the eternal fitness of things, I ransacked and rummaged the pigeon-holes of my memory for something more or less appropriate to the occasion. I never saw much good in these poet fellows myself, 'cept that they come in handy now and again in a case of the description next door. I took what came uppermost, and as luck would have it, I struck upon what Archdeacon Farrar characterises as the most beautiful song to a woman in the English tongue. You could have heard a pin drop on the *tatami* in the neighbouring room as I gave the thing with all the feeling and effect the shivers would let me throw into it,—

There's a woman like a dewdrop, she's so purer than the purest;
And her noble heart's the noblest, yes, and her sure faith's the surest;
And her eyes are dark and humid, like the depth on depth of lustre,
Hid 'neath harebell, while her tresses, sunnier than the wild-grape cluster,
Gush in golden-tinted plenty down her neck's rose-misted marble;
Then her voice's music—call it the well's bubbling, the bird's warble!
And this woman says, "My days were sunless and my nights were moonless,
Parched the pleasant April herbage, and the lark's heart's outbreak tuneless,
If you loved me not!" And I who—ah, for words of flame!—adore her,
Who am mad to lay my spirit prostrate palpably before her—
I may enter at her portal soon, as now her lattice takes me,
And by noontide as by night make her mine, as hers she makes me!

Then when I finished, Hawkston took two seven-leagued strides across the mats and dashed open the *shoji* with needless and most inconsiderate violence.

"You scoundrel!" he began. "Here you are at your deviltry again! I've a good mind to punch your head!"

"Anyhow," said I, with my teeth a chatter like a mill-hopper, "if you will persist in your inhuman and misguided wrongheadedness, at least be Christian enough to fix me with a dose of quinine before you open the show. These shakes will be the death of me!"

"Oh! Mr. Johnson! Oh! Poor fellow!" exclaimed the Viscountess, when she caught sight of my plight as I lay trembling among the *futon*. "Where is the medicine, Will? Quick! I'll give it him myself."

And she did. As I watched her jewelled taper fingers with their pink nails manipulating the glass, I concluded that it was'nt such a bad thing to have malaria when there was a Viscountess in the neighbourhood to dose you. Her sympathy was cheap at the price.

After all you see there are points in hobnobbing with aristocrats,—females for choice.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The Asiatic Society of Japan has taken an excellent new departure, as will be seen by the following circular, which has just been addressed to the members. We can trace in it very distinctly the indefatigable hand of Mr. J. H. Wigmore, one of the most earnest and successful students of Japan that has yet visited the country:—

Tokyo, March 1, 1891.

To——

Every observer in Japan must have noticed that the customary institutions of the old régime are rapidly disappearing or suffering modification of some sort. There are many reasons why those of us whose duty or interest brings us to to one or another part of Japan should make some effort to obtain a detailed record of these institutions before it is too late. Such a record does not exist, except in fragments. It has been and it must be impossible for isolated workers, however deep their interest and however extended their leisure, to perform the task or any considerable part of it single handed. If no other reason existed, the great diversity of local usage would alone prevent this. With the object, therefore, of performing a service which can be performed in no other way, and which, if done at all, must be done now, the Asiatic Society of Japan has undertaken to organize and direct the work necessary for the recording of the facts relating to these institutions.

The real labour and credit will of course be for those who will consent to lend their aid and to volunteer in the recording of that which has come under their own immediate observation. The Society will organize the effort, will help as much as possible by plans and by suggestion, and will collate, arrange, and publish the material received from all sources. Entire credit will of course be given to every observer. The work will be in charge of a Committee, and the Committee begins its work by making this appeal to all those in Japan who are in a position to give any aid whatsoever. The common interest which we all have in preserving some memorials of the fast disappearing customs, the advantage of an acquaintance with the old condition of things as a help towards understanding and directing the progress of to day, the value of these facts for European and American students of comparative institutions,—these considerations, it is hoped, may induce all such persons to enroll themselves on the list of observers.

The general subject—customary institutions—is a broad one, and is meant to include roughly those departments in which direct observation or personal effort upon the scene is necessary for securing proper information. The belief of the Society is that those topics, the material of which lies solely in written or printed form, may be postponed or may be left to casual individual effort, while the above subjects are in need of immediate effort. There would be included, for example, folk-lore, rural governmental institutions, land tenure and agricultural customs, town life and government, religious societies and practices, etc. It is of course impossible to prepare at once for the investigation of all these topics. It has been decided to begin with that which is the most feasible, land tenure, and to take up perhaps from time to time the subject of rural government, town life, folk-lore, religion, or such others as may become feasible.

You are therefore earnestly requested to do what you can in aiding this enterprise. If each one will do the share which it falls in his way to do, success will be assured. The least amount is better than none.

You are requested to report finally before the end of one year from this date, that is, by March 1, 1892. But for the convenience of yourself and of the Committee, and in order to secure steady progress, you are requested to report once in each quarter, that is, by June 1, Sept. 1, and Dec. 1, respectively. The nature of the inquiries is such that, with reasonable opportunities, complete answers might be obtained in a short time; but as hindrances necessarily arise, it has been thought that the full period of one year would be more productive of results. As a record must be kept, you are requested to send your name to the Society immediately.

The following general suggestions are offered as to the mode of conducting inquiries.

1. In most cases it will be necessary to consult local *gakusha*, ex-officers under the Shōgunate or a *daimyō*, old farmers, local officials, etc. As many as possible should be consulted, and the name and position of each informant noted in each case in connection with the information obtained.

2. Wherever it is possible, obtain the gift or the loan of documents,—land registers, wills, deeds, and records of every kind. The importance of this cannot be too much insisted upon. *If you are able to do nothing else, at least obtain and forward as full a set as possible of the local documents of some mura in your vicinity.* A note of the most important ones is given in the questions enclosed (Part V.). To each one should be appended a note of the name and occupation of the donor and the place to which it relates. A suitable acknowledgment will be made by the Society to the donor, and his name will be published in the Committee's report. Printed or manuscript local histories will be of special value; many *ken* are now having these prepared. The officials of the *kenchō* or *gunyakusho* will always be found very helpful.

3. No special order or form is necessary for the transmission of the answers. But it will probably be desirable to place together all material obtained from the same informant, and to note by the proper numbers the questions to which the different material relates.

4. The questions enclosed are intended merely as clues. Any more detailed information bearing on these or on related topics will be gladly received. Any partial investigation will be welcomed. *But let each one do something, if only by collecting and sending original documents.* It is hoped that you will do something for us in response to the earnest appeal of the Society.

THE COMMITTEE ON ETHNOGRAPHY, ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

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LAND TENURE: TOPICS FOR INQUIRY.

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON ETHNOGRAPHY, ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

I.—FEUDAL HOLDINGS.

1.—In this *han* what chief feudal lord occupied the territory? If some part of the *han* were held by dependent nobles, who were these? [By "chief feudal lords" are meant those who acknowledged no superior other than the Shōgun or the Mikado. By "dependent nobles" are meant those who owed a direct allegiance to a chief feudal lord. "Chief feudal lord" is nearly but not quite synonymous with *daimyō*. "Dependent noble" includes the lesser *daimyō*, and the other nobles of lower rank, but excludes ordinary *samurai*, who usually did not hold land and were paid by *chigyō* or *karoku*, a stipend of rice given by their lord.]

2.—What were the relative areas of the *han* territory occupied by each? How many *mura* and *jōka*? Did the dependent nobles render service to their superiors by a military contingent or by a payment of rice? If the latter, how much?

3.—In this *han*, were the ordinary *samurai* holders of land or were they paid by *chigyō*? If the former, on what condition did they hold the land from their lord? If paid by *chigyō* or *karoku*, was a special part of the *han* set aside for their incomes (*kyūnin mai*), distinct from the demesne land of the lord himself (*okura-iri daka*)?

4.—How did these land-holding *samurai* cultivate their land,—by servants, by rentpaying tenants, or otherwise? What proportion of produce was rendered to them by the actual cultivators?

5.—How numerous were they, and in what proportion was their number to other land-owners? Did they live on their land throughout the year? Did their cultivators serve as armed retainers in time of war?

6.—By what names were these land holding *samurai* known,—*gōshi, inaka samurai, gō nō*, etc.? What was the significance of the different names?

7.—*Gōshi* (great land-owners, quasi-independent, having high privileges, exempt from military service, and usually paying no taxes): were there any of these in this *han*? If so, obtain as much of their history as possible. What was their origin, special privileges, the size of their estates, the number of their retainers? Were the latter two-sworded men?

II.—NON-FEUDAL HOLDINGS.

I.—IN GENERAL.

1.—The *mura* seems to have been the unit of sub-division. Did it consist of scattered houses or of a street or streets of dwellings, with the fields distributed about this nucleus? What was the usual size of the *mura* or other unit? What other terms were used to denote a *mura*?

2.—What were the different classes of land? Was there *ta* (rice-land), *hata, hatake* (upland), *hara* (waste), *shibachi, makusa ba* (meadow, grass-land), *taku-chi, yashiki-chi* (house-land), *hayashi, rinbaku, mori* (forest), *san-rin, yama* (mountain), *shinden* (new land), *meiden* (a large estate, sometimes also a small indivisible plot)? What was the accepted signification of these terms? Were there any synonyms for them, or any further terms?

3.—Was there any subdivision of the arable land (*ta, hata, den-yen, dempata*) into two, three, or more districts or large fields (*azana*)? If so, what was the origin, the purpose, and the extent of these districts?

4.—Was land owned by each farmer in each district or in several parts of the *mura*? If so, was there any principle underlying this distribution, and what was its origin? At any previous time had the distribution been more regular? Was there any periodic shifting about (*kuruma saku*)? If so, under what rules and by what ceremonies was the shifting carried out? Were there any special customs arising out of this distribution?

5.—Did each small plot of land (*na, meiden*) have a name (of some family formerly owning it)? If so, what size was this plot and how did it come to be of this size? Was it indivisible by sale or inheritance? Was the name ever changed?

6.—What other customs of cultivation were there in regard to tools, variety of crops, fallow-land, extra crops, exposure of the land to points of the compass, the use of ridges or balks (*ase*) between plots, etc.? What ceremonies were in vogue, on different occasions, connected with the use of the land?

7.—What land was included under the term *shinden*? How much land in a *mura* was *shinden*? What were the rules for reclaiming land? If the *mura* as a whole reclaimed a piece of land, how were the shares of burden and of profit for each man arranged? Was the reclamation of *shinden* often concealed, to escape the payment of taxes? What penalty was there for this?

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8.—What extent of meadow or grass-land was there in a *mura*? What was the proportion of grass-land (in the *han*) owned by private persons, by *mura*, and by the feudal lord?

9.—What extent of land was allowed for *yashiki-chi*? Could it be increased by special permission? Was it ever cultivated?

10.—What was the respective extent of mountain, forest, and waste land in the ordinary *mura* and in whole *han*?

11.—What was the economic condition of this *han*? Were the farmers contented? What were the causes? Was the feudal lord oppressive or the reverse? Were the farmers industrious? Were floods or other disasters frequent? Were the administrative officers (*kōri bugyō, gundai, daikwan*, etc.) given to oppression?

2.—LAND-OWNERS.

1.—What various classes of land-owners were there? *Takamochi* (owners of large estates), *neoi* (born in the *mura*), *kusawake* (pioneer families, the earliest settlers), *koshi-saku* (those who lived in one *mura* and owned land in another), etc., etc.: carefully inquire into these distinctions and others, and into the relative number of each kind of land-owners in each *mura*.

2.—What was the relation of land-owning to the privilege of taking part in the village assembly (*yoriai*)? Could land-owners alone sit and vote? Or could renters sit but not vote? Could tradesmen (*shōnin*) sit or vote? Could land-owners alone become *mura* officers (*mura-yakunin*)? Or was the line drawn not between owners and renters (*kosaku*) but between large (*chō byakushō, ō-byakushō, osa-byakushō*) and small farmers (*komae, ko-byakushō, hira byakushō*)? What was the significance of those terms, and what privileges rested on the distinctions?

3.—RENTERS OF LAND; LANDLORD AND TENANT.

1.—What was the number and relative proportion of renters (*jikari-byakushō, kosaku-nin*) in the *mura*? Under how many landlords were they distributed? Was all the land of the same landlord together or was it indiscriminately scattered through the *mura*? What was the usual size of the rented plot?

2.—How had these renters become renters, by falling from the position of owners or by rising from that of *mizunomi* (the lowest class of cultivators)? What was the word for "renters"? Did *kosaku* include only renters, or both renters and *mizunomi*, or only small land-owners?

3.—What was the usual rent (*kosaku-iri, kosaku-mai, iretsuke-mai*) paid by the renters? Was it fined for the *mura* as a whole—by the *mura-yakunin*, for example—by the landlords as a whole, or did each landlord fix it for his own land? If the former, obtain documents; if the rent is named in *hyō* (bale), or other special unit, ascertain the local equivalent of this unit in *koku*. In any case, learn whether the nominal rent was the real rent, and how much, if any, they differed.

4.—When and in what medium was rent payable? Was an agreement ever made or allowed that the tenant should pay the taxes? Was a rebate of rent allowed in case of flood, etc.? Who allowed it, the landlord or the *mura* officers? Was the rebate a loan or a gift? Were the *mura* of this *han* in the habit of asking these rebates? What was the form of petition?

5.—What different kind of *Kosaku* were there? *Jiki gosaku* (renting by a foreclosed mortgagor), for *yei-gosaku* (renting perpetually or for an indefinite time), *de-saku, iri gosaku* (renting in one *mura* and living in another), *betsu-gosaku* (renting by a third party of land held under a foreclosed mortgage), *iemori gosaku* (holding land rent free, for services in the collection of other rents of the landlord): were these or others in existence? Ascertain exactly their special incidents.

6.—What various terms of lease were in use? When a term expired was it usually renewed? Was there any competition for a vacant tenancy, and if so, how was the land awarded among the competitors? Was eviction allowable, in the case of ordinary *kosaku*, for nonpayment of rent, for misconduct, etc.? Was it allowable at the pleasure of the landlord? If not, was public opinion alone the restraining force? If so, what was the general feeling of the people as to its propriety?

7.—Could *yei-gosaku* be evicted for any cause except nonpayment of rent? How many failures to pay must first occur? How did *yei-gosaku* arise? Did all *kosaku* who had been in possession for 20 years (or some other term) acquire the rights of *yei-gosaku* as to permanence of tenure?

8.—In any of these cases was eviction frequent? How many evictions a year were there in a given *mura*? What become of the evicted tenant?

9.—Were there ever any complaints by the tenants about high rents? How did they proceed to get a reduction? Did they ever use force or resort to extraordinary measures to secure such demands? If so, did they usually succeed?

10.—Did the landlords ever raise rents, either alone or in combination? If so, did the tenants object, as above?

11.—What were the relations of landlord and tenant as regards harmony and mutual regard? Was the landlord like a father and adviser, assisting in times of difficulty and looked up to as a superior and friend?

12.—What was the economic condition of the renters? Was there great distinction in mode of life and in income between them and the landlords?

4.—MIZUNOMI.

1.—Were *mizunomi* attached to the soil they cultivated? Did they live in their own houses or on the *yashiki-chi* of their masters? What rights had they in regard to the land? Were they often evicted? Did they often become *kosaku* and how? In what way did they render rent or produce to their master? What power did he have over their persons? Were they in origin for the most part strangers or fugitives immigrating from other *mura*, or disgraced members of their own *mura*, or serfs who had obtained some independence?

2.—What other terms were used to denote the lowest class of cultivators?

5.—SPECIAL METHODS OF HOLDING.

In many places peculiar systems were in vogue. In Echigo, for example, there were large land-owners cultivating by means of numerous tenants (*fudai, niwago, monya, kaho*) towards whom they stood in a paternal relation. In Satsuma most of the *samurai* were landholders. In Hida there are family communities, of 40 or 50 members, who cultivate the fields in common, the head of the family distributing the proceeds. In Sendai, Dewa, Aomori, Tosa, and elsewhere, such special developments are likely to occur. Inquire for them, noting all the details.

6.—TEMPLE LANDS (JISHA-RYO, KIFU-CHI).

1.—What extent of land in the *han* was held by temples? Distinguish between endowments from the lord or the Shogunate, and gifts from the people (*kifu-chi*), and land otherwise acquired. In what proportions were the different kinds? In each case, how was the land worked, by tenants or by labourers? Were the ordinary *mura* temples cultivated by the villagers as a whole or by the parishioners of the respective temples, or otherwise? Under what regulations as to the amount of each man's service?

2.—Could temple land be mortgaged or sold? Could it be taxed?

3.—If it was worked by tenants, were their rents on a par with those of other renters?

7.—SETTLEMENTS, RIGHTS TO THE PRODUCE OR PROFITS OF LAND, ETC.

1.—Was there a custom of setting aside a piece of land (*inkyo-chi*) for the sole use of one who had retired from the headship of a family? Did other persons—minors, women, spendthrifts, etc.—sometimes have *inkyo chi* set apart for them? Did such land pay taxes? Was it in any way free from burdens which the rest of the inheritance had to bear? Was it free from creditor's claims? Was such a settlement required to be recorded in the land-register? What proportion of land in a *mura* was *inkyo-chi*, and by what kinds of persons was it held?

2.—Did the lord ever give the enjoyment of forest or mountain-land to private persons for a term, upon payment of a rent or services? What privileges were thus given?

3.—Was *shingomen* (reclaimed land exempt from taxes) sold, the vendor taking his pay in the shape of a perpetual rent payable out of the produce? In such a case was the transfer considered as a final and absolute one, or did the original owner remain the proprietor?

8.—EMINENT DOMAIN.

1.—When the lord took private property for public purposes, was a compensation given, and if so, of what sort? Could *mura* do the same, and for what purposes (highway, ditch, etc.)?

9.—OWNERSHIP IN COMMON; COMMUNITY CULTIVATION.

1.—What kinds of *cultivation* in common were there? Did this practice exist with regard to temple lands, land abandoned by a deserter, land confiscated by the *mura* or the lord, land held by a family community? In each case, who were the cultivators, and what was the mode of working?

2.—What land was *owned* in common by the *mura*,—forests, grass-land, reclaimed *shinden*, waste land, temples, ferries, bridges, burying-grounds (for men or for animals), mountains?

3.—What were the regulations for the use of this common land? What were the penalties for trespassings,—confiscation of horse, sickle, etc.? Could trees be grown on a *makusa-ba*?

4.—Did each villager have rights over a special portion of it, or only a right to a certain share of the produce? How was the amount of this share determined? At what dates in the year did the rights to cut grass, etc., begin and end?

5.—Could a villager have his share of a common set off or sold? When the *mura* sold or divided a common, how was the decision reached and the sale made?

6.—Was land thus owned in common by two or more *mura*? What rules governed the use of such common land?

7.—Was land ever owned in common between the lord and a *mura*? What rights had a *mura* in the lord's forest, and what obligations were there in return?

8.—Did right of fishing in ponds, etc. (*ike-numa*) belong to the *mura* or the lord? Could a private person fish without a license?

10.—SERVITUDES, EASEMENTS, BURDENS, ETC.

1.—What customs were there in regard to the ownership, erection, and repair of fences and walls between contiguous lands?

2.—What duties were there in regard to receiving drains or rain water from adjacent higher land? To maintaining a common drain (*gesui*) or aqueduct? To permitting rights of way towells? To refraining from polluting running water? To clearing of snow fallen from one's house upon adjacent land? To cleaning rivers and ditches?

3.—Did every one have a right of way over the balk (*ase*) between rice-fields? What were the rules for its width?

4.—What were the rules and methods of irrigation?

III.—TRANSFER OF LAND.

1.—SALES.

1.—Was there a law or a custom forbidding the sale of land? What were its terms and from what authority did it emanate? Was it strictly observed?

2.—What formalities were necessary for the transfer? Could it be done at any time of the year, or only when the land-register (*misu-chō*) was revised? Were any fees required? What were the names of the transfer-office and officers?

3.—Were sales frequent? What was the usual motive,—removal, debt, or profit? What was usually given in exchange?

4.—Could *kosaku* or *yei-gosaku* sell their rights?

5.—What were the documents of transfer and their names? Were they preserved by the parties as the evidence of their titles, or did the land-register suffice?

6.—In what form were they? Was there a warranty of title? Was a witness required? Was the consideration-money usually paid at the time of delivering the documents?

7.—Procure as many deeds and title-maps as possible.

8.—Was *yeitai uri* (sale for a term of years) in use to evade the law against perpetual sales?

2.—MORTGAGES.

1.—What were the different kinds of mortgages,—*kaki-ire, shichi-ire, kiri-chi, teitō*, etc., and their differences? What were the peculiarities as to the length of the term, the incidence of taxes, the right of possession of the land, the interest paid, the privilege of redeeming before or after foreclosure, the method of selling or otherwise dealing with the land on foreclosure? Upon foreclosure, was a small part of the proceeds (*namida-kin*) reserved for the debtor? Upon foreclosure, did the debtor make over the land to the creditor by a special deed (*age-jō, yuzuri jō, ryūchi shōmon*)?

3.—Were the title-deeds used as evidence of title or was the registry-record sufficient? Where and how was the mortgage recorded? What officers had the charge and what books were used?

4.—How frequent were mortgages? Were second mortgages allowed? What was the usual proportion between the amount of the mortgage debt and the value of the land?

5.—Was there any custom of mortgaging to a club advancing a loan out of charity (*mujin, tanomoshi-kō*), the debt being paid by instalments?

6.—Were the rules different for mortgages of houses without land, or of land and houses in towns?

7.—Were these rules customs or laws, and if the latter, whose were they?

8.—What terms were used for the parties, transactions, documents, etc.? *Goka-nen-kiri uri-chi, kokenji, teitō, nai shimatsu, nenki-shichi, nage-kome, hon-shichi, uke-yose, juki-yose*,—were any of these terms in use?

9.—Did the *mura* sometimes advance taxes for a poor man, thus obtaining a lien and afterwards foreclosing? Did the *mura* then retain the land or sell it at auction? Did the defaulter become *kosaku-nin* of the land?

3.—SUCCESSION.

1.—Was it customary or was it required by law

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to name an heir during life, either by will or otherwise? Was a will (*isoku, tigonsho*) valid if signed by the testator alone? What formalities of record were required?

2.—Was the will opened in the presence of the *murayaku-nin*? Was it ever set aside and by whom, for unfairness or for other causes?

3.—What was the customary distribution of property in a will? Obtain copies of wills.

4.—Could a woman succeed to the management of the property? Could a successor whether named in the will or not decline the office?

5.—How far were these customs the same in the case of a family (*jukyo*)?

6.—If no will existed, did the eldest son inherit, and how much of the estate? If not, under what circumstances? If he received a part only, how was the rest divided? What was the order of preference for the other relatives?

7.—Did the family council decide any of these matters? Who administered and distributed the estate?

8.—Was a petition or notice to the lord necessary? Was a tax levied on the succession?

9.—When a family inheritance was maintained undivided, was it regarded as a single possession of the whole family, the profits being divided in certain shares, or was it simply the undivided aggregate of several distinct and vested shares, which in certain contingencies could be severed and distributed?

10.—Did the ancestor's debts bind the heir in their entirety, or only to the extent of the assets received from the estate?

4.—PRESCRIPTION.

What rules were there for acquiring title by long-continued occupation? Could it come about by occupation with improvement of the land, such as changing it from upland to rice-land? In the case of desertion (*kake-uchi*) from the *mura*?

IV.—TAXATION.

The subject of feudal taxation is so extensive and complicated that perhaps the procuring of local histories (if any) of the subject and of document will be the most feasible services that can be rendered. But in addition to such material, much valuable information can be obtained orally. The following questions merely suggest topics of inquiry:—

1.—TAXES OF THE HAN.

1.—Were they rendered only in the products of soil, or in part also in money and in services? In the former case, what was the nominal principle of assessment, in the case of *tahata* (arable-land)—*shi bu roku bu*, or a different one? What was the nominal assessed product per *tan*, in *koku*, of the different grades of land? What was the proportion of the payment to the actual product of the land? Were land-owners alone responsible for tax? If the nominal and the real product of the land differed, how had this come about? When had the latest fixing of the values taken place? Was there a settled frequency in this fixing of values—similar to the arrangement now theoretically in force?

2.—What rebate (*hiki-dake*) was granted, and for what reasons? Was a rebate often asked? When an examination (*kemmi*) was made for the purpose of deciding upon a rebate, how was it done?

3.—What staples were taxed other than the products of *ta-hata*?

4.—How was the expense of irrigation (*misu-shita*) distributed between the lord and the *mura*? Were the payments in money or in services of labourers (*ninsoku*)? What were the rates?

4.—Were *niusoku* taxes exacted for other purposes,—instead of rice-payments, for instance, or in addition to them, for special minor purposes, or for extraordinary purposes, such as furnishing horses, or carriers upon the visit of the lord or of his guests?

5.—Were *ninsoku* services commutable into money, cloth, etc.?

2.—TAXES OF THE MURA.

For what purposes did the *mura* lay its own taxes? How were they paid and at what rates? What officers levied them, and was the approval of the *mura* necessary? If the levy was unsatisfactory, how was the protest made? What documents and terms were used? What rules or maxims in regard existed to the local taxes?

3.—SUNDRY TERMS.

The following are some of the terms used with reference to taxation and services, and they may perhaps, afford clues: *So* (land-tax); *chō* (taxes other than land-tax); *nenga* (land-tax); *chishi* (an old tax, practically a rent in kind); *sosei* (taxes); *kōyaku-ninsoku* (services on public works of the ordinary kind), divided into *okura-iri*, on the lord's own domain, *kyunin-mai*, on the domain of vassels or dependent nobles; *misushita-ninsoku*, and *o-yatoi ninsoku* (services of labourers in cleaning and repairing dykes, rivers, etc.); *sei yaku* (ordinary services,—used to designate the three kinds *koyaku*, *o-yatoi*, and *misushita*); *kwa-yaku* (extraordinary services), including *tsukai-aute* or *suteyari ninsoku*; *yo eki* (services in general, including *sei-yaku* and *kwa-yaku*); *yaku* (services in general); *naigai-o-atoi ninsoku* (services due to the *mura* itself or to other *mura*); *hyakkan-fu* (sundry burdens).

V.—DOCUMENTS, RECORDS, ETC.

The names for transactions, documents, official records, etc., differed in different places. A few terms are here given. The names, however, are not always a good index of the relevancy of the document to the present subject. In the *go-yo-dome* for instance, some of the most important information is contained. Perhaps the most important documents are the land-registers (*na-yōse chō*, etc.) the maps, and the record of controversies (*go-yō-dome, kuji chō*).

If the possessors are unwilling to donate these documents, the loan of them will be sufficient. If neither loan nor gift is obtainable the Society may perhaps provide funds for having a copy made on the spot. The *kuni, hōri*, and *mura* of every document should be noted on a tag and attached to it. Once more it is urged that, even if nothing else is done, documents be collected and sent.

1.—*Na-yose-chō, mizu-chō, koku daka-chō, tambetsu-chō, gō-ya chō*, the land-register, where the extent (*tambetsu*), assessed value (*taka*), and name (*mei, na, azena*) of each piece of land is recorded.

2.—*Baiken shōsho*, bill of sale; also *shōsho, jō* or *shōmon* of the various transactions whose names have been already given.

3.—*Kenchi chō*, book of the survey of a *mura* or *gun*.

4.—*Hikae-chō*, a kind of note-book; e.g. *shichi-ire-hikae-chō*, for mortgages; *sōdai ganshō-hikae-chō*, for petitions on behalf of the *mura*.

5.—Various account books of the *mura*: *busen-tiryō-chō* (local tax assessment book), *soshiki mei sai* (assessed values of land, assets of *mura*, etc.).

6.—Records of controversies, suits, etc.: *go-yō-dome* (record of public business), *kuji-chō* (book of lawsuits).

7.—Books containing the regulations (of the lord or Shogunate) in force in the *mura*; *kumi-chō* (book of *kumi*,—so-called because signed by all the *kumi* of the *mura*,) *mura-gisoku* (regulations of the *mura*), *go-hatto* (rules prescribed by the lord), *kuji soshō torisabaki-naikyō* (rules of procedure).

8.—Books showing the possessions of a large proprietor, the number of his tenants and the rents paid: *mitsu ire-chō*.

9.—Maps of a *mura* or of the possessions of single owners (*sumen, mochi-chi-no zumen*).

THINGS JAPANESE.

Things Japanese; being Notes on Various Subjects connected with Japan. By BASIL HALL CHAMBERLAIN, Professor of Japanese and Philology in the Imperial University of Japan. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, & Co.

"WHATEVER you do," writes Professor Chamberlain in his preface to this interesting collection, "don't praise, in the presence of Japanese of the new school, those quaint, old, and beautiful things Japanese which rouse your most genuine admiration." One may go further, and add to this excellent advice the warning to sink the Japanese as much as possible in your Japanese friend, and talk to him as if he were a European in mental, whatever he may be in physical, stature. This extreme Europeanization, coupled with this utter denationalization—one is ashamed of such long words, but, *shikata ga nai*, there is no help for it—marks both Young and Old Japan of these latter decades of the century, and is not altogether worthy of the sneer that too often curls the lip of the *collectionneur*, or student, turning from the elegant phrases of some *monogatari* to the jumbled jargon of a *tamposha* (reporter), or from Madame Watanabe's Nobunaga to Herr Netto's masher from the Tokyo pavements. The truth is, the Japanese, to use one of their favourite phrases again, cannot help themselves. They must be modern or nothing; they can no more preserve the nationality of Old Japan that they could hope to shuffle through life in petticoats and slippers, girdled with a pair of enormous swords, in full view of Europe. This they instinctively recognize; but this Europeans do not recognize, and in landing Old seem to the Japanese to condemn New Japan. Thus Sir Edwin Arnold, after praising the scenery, art, and what not of Japan, found himself the next day abused, says Mr. Chamberlain, by a native newspaper for not having appreciated the railways, ironclads, and politics of the present-day Empire.

Nor in discarding the civilization of the Tokugawa epoch do the Japanese cast off much that was essentially their own. The literature, philosophy, and science of Old Japan was almost wholly plagiarized from mediæval China, their very dress was that worn by the Chinese before their conquest by the Tartars, even their art is in essence, form, and tradition an adaptation rather than a development of the art of the Middle Kingdom. One of the most amusing of the "things Japanese" here brought together is the "topsyturydom" said to be characteristic of the people. But even this "topsyturvydom" is for the most part, if not entirely, of Chinese origin. Apart, indeed, from some Shinto rituals, and probably some beliefs and customs still existing among the peasantry, and scarcely investigated by Europeans, there was hardly any aspect of the old life of Japan not markedly Chinese in substance. The one distinctive difference was of a political character, the so-called feudal system, which, modified in the seventeenth century by a sort of Japanese Louis XI., Tokugawa Iyeyasu, in the direction of an absolute *imperium in imperio*, lasted down to 1868. It was the vigour of local life thus engendered that gave rise to the militarism of mediæval Japan, succeeded by the literary and artistic rivalry, recalling that of the Italian despots, which in some measure satisfied the cravings of the Tokugawa daimyos for predominance of some kind amongst themselves. Perhaps the most curious chapter of Japanese history is that which is now being enacted under our eyes. While the Japanese are, in hot haste, getting rid of their Chinese civilization, they are no less briskly occupied with replacing their own tongue by a bastard Chinese jargon. But here, again, no choice was left them, or, rather, they made their choice some fourteen centuries ago, when they began definitely to take over the Chinese language—forty thousand characters and all—as they had already taken over the polity and civilization of their continental neighbour. No halt on the path is possible until Japan definitely makes up her mind to abandon the Chinese character altogether and complete her Europeanization by Romanizing her speech.

Out of the mass of materials dealt with in this volume it is not easy to pick anything for special notice. Among the most curious fancies of the ancient Japanese—one is almost justified in using the expression even in reference to both *samurai* and *heimin* of the first half of the present century—was that of demoniacal possession, the dread of animal *bakemono*. The beast most commonly feared for his magic powers was the *kitsune*, or fox (*lit.* tree-rat), and widespread as the superstition was, it was not of native growth, but, as Mr. Chamberlain tells us, a Chinese importation of the tenth or eleventh century. It is almost refreshing to know that, in the midst of railways, and telegraphs, and *samurai* ladies who waltz, and *samurai* men who wear patent-leather boots, the picturesque element of superstition has not altogether perished. As recently as 1889, we learn, a fox, accommodating himself, as a Japanese fox should do, to modern life, took the shape of a railway-train on the Tokyo-Yokohama line, the oldest Japanese railway:—

> The phantom train seemed to be coming towards a real train which happened to be running in an opposite direction, but yet never got any nearer to it. The engine-driver of the real train, seeing all his signals to be useless, put on a tremendous speed (as the line is a single one he must have been bewitched himself). The result was that the phantom was at last caught up, when, lo and behold! nothing but a crushed fox was found beneath the engine-wheels.

Among other noticeable articles are those on Divorce, Dress, Esotericism, History and Mythology, People, and Tea Ceremonies. Nothing very new is said on these subjects; but the articles correct many popular and false impressions upon them. Divorce, another case of topsyturvydom, is common among the lower classes; rare among the gentry and nobility. "In plain English," writes Mr. Chamberlai, "a man may send away his wife whenever he gets tired of her." In 1888 there were—if Japanese statistics are to be trusted—8·55 marriages per thousand of the population and 2·84 divorces. These would be the registered divorces only, but in very many cases a divorce would not be registered. The well-to-do, it must be pointed out, stand in less need of divorce than the poorer citizens, for they are able to add to their households as many *mekake* (concubines) as they please. Women, indeed, are treated with scant justice, hardly even with courtesy, in Japan. Mr. Chamberlain made some remarks on this lack of chivalry in the Introduction to his valuable translation of the *Kojiki*, but was severely taken to task by his Japanese contemporaries. "For the man to take precedence over the woman," he was told, "is the grand law of heaven and earth. To ignore this, and to talk of the country as barbarous, is absurd." Of the character of the Japanese people Mr. Chamberlain gives the opinions of others, but not his own. Probably he considers them as very much like other

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folk, possessing both some special virtues and some special vices. In *Purchas His Pilgrims* will be found a letter from "Master Hatch, minister," who had been Chaplain to the English Factory at Firando (Hirato) between 1615 and 1622. The letter is dated from Wingham, in Kent, November 25, 1623. Mr. Chamberlain does not refer to it, neither is it mentioned in Mr. Maunde Thompson's excellent edition of Cocks's Diary. Hatch himself is often mentioned by the stout "Cape-merchant," in particular in the entry for July 6th, 1621, when he christened a child of Mr. Henry Smith, "purcer" of the *Royal James*, by a Japanese "woaman," and in another entry three days later when he gave the Sacrament to John Roan of "Bristoll marrenar," who was on that day hanged at the yard-arm of the *Elizabeth* after trial by jury for murdering a Dutchman. "The people," writes the "prechar" of the English colony, "are generally courteous, affable, and full of compliment. . . . . they will as soon lose a limb as omit one ceremony in welcoming a friend." On the other hand, a "practical Briton" is quoted as characterizing them as "good-natured, artistic, and all that, but muddle-pated folks when it comes to matters of business." Among the many errors exposed in this volume, not by any means for the first time, is the popular one relative to the antiquity of Japan. Even Hoffman, late Professor of Japanese at Leyden, discussed *the hour*, says Mr. Chamberlain, of Jimmu's accession in B.C. 660. But the Japanese are first distinctly mentioned by Chinese authors in the third century of our era, and the *Kojiki*, the earliest extant document, was not composed until the eighth century. With Mr. Chamberlain's praise of the native dress for women we can hardly agree. The out-of-doors dress, at all events, is tight where it should be louse, loose where it might with advantage be drawn closer, cold in winter, hot in summer, so wrapped round the legs as to make walking difficult, and disfigured by a disproportionate *obi*, or girdle, bunched up behind in a sort of monstrous bow. Miss Bird saw nothing to admire in this dress, and on these matters a lady's opinion is the better one. However, when women sat *suwaru*, squatted on their knees and shins, they afforded, it must be admitted, in their deftly-arranged draperies, many a pretty picture. In their choice of European dress Japanese ladies show no taste whatever, but they are likely to adopt it extensively, for Mr. Chamberlain has noticed that "the same lady walked into the room after her husband when dressed *à la Japonaise*, but before him when *à l'Européenne*." We should like to say something on the subjects treated in the other articles we have mentioned, but space compels us to close, which we may as well do with a suggestive list of modern Japanese "crazes":—1873, rabbits which often sold for 400 dols., 500 dols., even 1,000 dols.; 1874, cock-fighting; 1876, cultivation of a red-berried plant, *Rhodea Japonica*; 1882, printing dictionaries, &c., by subscription; 1885, velocipedes and whist called "tourapo" (trump); 1887, waltzing and gigantic funerals; 1888, wrestling; 1889, joint-stock companies, revival of old Japanese amusements, costumes, agitation against foreigners, and so forth. Perhaps the constitution of 1890 might be added to the list.—*Saturday Review.*

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, April 24th.

The Marquis of Salisbury has demanded explanations from the Government of Portugal as to the seizure of the steamer *Agnes*, and is awaiting a reply before deciding what action shall be taken. The political situation in Portugal is critical.

London, April 25th.

The Portuguese Government has conveyed assurances to the Marquis of Salisbury that freedom of navigation on the Pungwé River will be maintained, and that the release of the vessels seized has been ordered, together with the liberation of their crews.

Nagasaki, April 27th, 11 a.m.

The Cesarewitch has arrived here, and a grand reception was given him by both Japanese and foreigners.

London, April 26th.

The Chilian ironclad *Blanco Encalato* has been demolished by a torpedo, and 200 men were killed.

London, April 27th.

The British Consul at Delagoa Bay cables that Messrs. Colquhoun, Pawley, and other officers of the Chartered Company have been brutally assaulted by the Portuguese, and that the lives of British subjects are unsafe.

London, April 30th.

Her Majesty's ship *Raleigh* (24), Captain Arthur Barrow, has left Cape Town for the East Coast, conveying field guns and stores to that quarter.

The influenza has again broken out in London.

The Chilian man-of-war *Huascar* has been sunk by a torpedo.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, April 9th.

The Argentine Government has decreed that the two State Banks shall suspend payment of deposits until June. A great commotion is feared.

London, April 9th.

The report that Mr. Commissioner Quinton and party had been murdered at Manipur is now confirmed. A punitive expedition is advancing from India to Burmah.

Mr. Barnum is dead.

The Sydney Convention before closing adopted a charter which requires ratifying by the Colonial and Imperial Parliaments.

London, April 10th.

The decree issued by the Argentine Government has been well received at Buenos Ayres.

London, April 11th.

At Pittsburgh seventy thousand miners intend to strike on the 1st May, in favour of the eight hours movement; a bitter struggle is expected

The Labour Commission which has been appointed in England includes the Leaders of the Labour Unions.

London, April 14th.

A strike and riots of a serious nature have occurred at Bradford. The military charged the mob, injuring many.

London, April 16th.

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Captain Verney, M.P., and Mr. De Cobain, M.P. The former is charged with an attempt to procure a girl for immoral purposes and the latter with unnatural offences. The whereabouts of both is at present unknown.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40‡ a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 7.30, 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.10, and 11.25† a.m., and 12.55, 1.50 † 2.55, 4. 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8. 8.58,† 9.55, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.35, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.12, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri.*) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri*)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26, 9.40, and 11.03 a.m. and 12.20, 2.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35, 9.51, and 11.13 a.m., and 12.31, 2.20, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43, 10, and 11.22, a.m., and 12.40, 2.2). 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m.; YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, 10.25, and 11.40 a.m., and 1.30, 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, 10.40, and 11.55 a.m., and 1.45, 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 10.49 a.m., and 12.04, 1.54, 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Dzushi *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.05, 4 42, 6.09, and 12.08 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3 32, 6.08, and 7.35 p m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1, 4.35, 7.08, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.20, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9 05 and 11 55 a.m., and 2.44, 6, and 8 50 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3 48, 7 08, and 9.55 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OBU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8 52 and 11.26 p m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, 6.03, 10.05, and 12.05 p.m., and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, 7, 11.15, and 12.57 p.m., and 10 48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, 7.29, and 11.40 p.m., and 1.25 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 5.40 and 8.32 a.m., and 3 47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 2.40 a.m. and 12.50 p m.; HIKONE at 5.54 and 8 43 a.m., and 3.59, 7, and 8.57 p.m., and 2 51 a.m. and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 7.35 and 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.36, and 10 26 p.m., and 4.20 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 8 27 and 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.21, and 11.05 p.m., and 5.05 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 10.04 a.m , and 12.36, 8.20, 10.51, and 12.30 p.m., and 6.28 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, 3.20, and 9.48 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, 4 25, and 10.55 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11 35 a.m., and 2.45, 4 34, 6.02, and 12.30 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, 5.19, and 6.50 p.m., and 1.15 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, 6.59, and 8.27 p.m., and 2 50 a m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3 05 a.m.; OGAKI at 6 10 and 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 6.41 and 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OBU at 9.01 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12 15, 2 50, 6.15, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11 17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 50 a.m., and 5.54 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.14, 7.17, and ▮43 p.m., and 6 09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2 13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2 38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Obu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3 48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3 72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2 35; to Hikone *yen* 7 17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10. *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 7.10 and 9.20 a.m. and 2 20 and 5 25 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 5, 9 04, and 11.14 a.m., and 4.19 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 6.10 and 10.15 a.m., and 2 and 6.30 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 5 10, 7.10, and 11.17 a.m., and 3.07 p m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 69.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3 30 p.m.—FARE, *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday May 8th.
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 5th.*
From America ...	per O & O. Co.	Wed'day, May 13th §
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 10th.

* *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco via Honolulu on April 14th. § *Gaelic* left San Francisco on April 25th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Frigga*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 5th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 5th.
For Europe, via Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, May 10th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, May 15th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 16th.
For Europe, via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, May 24th.

A NERVINE—HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE.

Dr. F. S. MANISTY, M.R.C.S., Gresford, Wrexham, says:—"I have used it as a nervine tonic, and found it serviceable."

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,082, McMillan, 25th April,—Sakata 23rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 25th April,—Hakodate 23rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 26th April,—Handa 25th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 26th April,—Kobe 25th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, Seymour, 26th April,—Hongkong 18th, Nagasaki 23rd, and Kobe 25th April, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Northern, British steamer, 1,406, Richardson, 27th April,—Kobe 25th April, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,306, Fukui, 27th April,—Hakodate 24th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Walter, 27th April,—Tsuchizaki 23rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 28th April,—Hakodate 25th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 28th April,—Kobe 27th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Flintshire, British steamer, 1,871, Dwyer, 29th April,—Kobe 27th April, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 29th April,—Handa 28th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 29th April,—Hakodate 27th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,775, Alex. Clark, 30th April,—Kobe 28th April, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 30th April,—Kobe 29th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

W. W. Crapo, American ship, 1,573, Hardy, 1st May,—Yokosuka Dock 1st May.—Captain.

Kaisow, British steamer, 1,034, G. L. Castle, 1st May,—Kobe 30th April, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Idzumo Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Hayashi, 1st May,—Hachinohe 29th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 1st May,—Shanghai and ports 24th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 1st May,—Hongkong 25th April, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 2nd May,—Hakodate 30th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Walter, 2nd May,—Kobe 30th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sydney, French steamer, 3,456, Delacroix, 2nd May,—Hongkong 22nd, Shanghai 27th April, and Kobe 1st May, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,158, Farquhar, 2nd May,—Kobe 30th April, General.—Cornes & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,005, Pyne, 25th April,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 25th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Eichel, 26th April,—Hongkong via ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Yangtsé, French steamer, 2,371, Lantinge, 26th April,—Shanghai via Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Elwell, American ship, 1,388, Barstow, 26th April,—Kobe, General.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 26th April,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Teviot, British steamer, 1,349, Waring, 26th April,—Kobe, General.—Mouritan, Heimann & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 26th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 27th April,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Semmers, 27th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 28th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 28th April,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Electra, German steamer, 1,162, Moller, 28th April,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 29th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 30th April,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 30th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Flintshire, British steamer, 1,871, Dwyer, 1st May,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Idzumo Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Hayashi, 1st May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kanasawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Nakai, 1st May,—Otaru, General.—Asano Sha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 1st May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 2nd May,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Hyacinth (8), screw cruiser, Captain Robt. W. Cragie, 2nd May,—Kobe.

Pigmy (6), screw gunboat, Captain George H. Hewett, 2nd May,—Kobe.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. Wileman, F. M. Willis, F. N. Gotch, Mr. and Mrs. Roome, Mr. and Mrs. Dexter, Mr. J. J. Anderson, Mr. F. Heimann, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, Captain Dundas, Mr. and Mrs. Forguar, Mr. T. C. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Whittall, Miss Grigor, Mr. Whimpeng, Mr. and Mrs. Goad and child, Messrs. Hofmann, A. O. Gay, Walter, and Misses Rickett (2) in cabin; 5 Chinese and 1 child in second class, and 5 Chinese in steerage. For Kobe: Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, Miss Baxter, Mr. Jacomi, Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw and maid, Mr. Earle, Misses Earle (2), Miss King, Dr. and Mrs. Hartigan and family, Mr. Howie, Dr. Hudson, Messrs. Stevenson, Levy, Ikeda and servant, Cawthra, Kent, Mr. and Mrs. Laughlin, Messrs. Toi Hai, Wilkinson, and Pollock in cabin; 13 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Hakodate:—31 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. W. F. Theobold in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 134 passengers in steerage. For Hakodate: 12 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. H. Omura in cabin; Messrs. M. Mijisawa, K. Naito, and M. Isaki in second class, and 28 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Miss Radford, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Jones and 2 children, Miss Richards, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Davison and 3 children, Miss MacKae, Miss Parker, Mrs. R. Kirtz and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dare, 3 children, and maid, Miss and Master Hartigan, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Mederwood and infant, Captain Buchanan, Messrs. Tokei, To Yee Hing, Wing Shun Hing, F. Stevenson, J. G. Happer, J. Diack, and H. Marcus in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 116 passengers in steerage. For London: Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Spinney, and Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis in cabin. For Liverpool: Mr. David W. Jones in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. Li Chun Kwan in cabin. For Havre: Mr. and Mrs. Piry, 2 children, and maid, and Miss Jeffray in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from Hongkong:—Miss Wilson, Mrs. I. J. Keswick and family, Mr. Komor, Mrs. H. H. Paxton, Mr. Cobham, Mr. W. F. S. Fales, Miss McClellen, and Mrs. X. Hill in cabin. For San Francisco: Messrs. J. T. Cassles, J. Dobrowolski, F. A. Wenat, A. Abbadie, and Asen and daughter in cabin.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Fujiyeda, Viscount Takanori Mori, Messrs. Emil Stenzel, E. B. Skottorp, Heldmann, K. C. MacIver, J. F. Mattoy, Shibuya, Miss Oyatta, Mr. Pietri, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Sizmanos and 3 children, Messrs. Charles Ferry, Lederlin, H. U. Jeffries, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gelambi, Messrs. L'Abbé Caron, A. Allanson, Moutard, Mr. and Mrs. Moller, Mr. and Mrs. Hart, Mr. Tallers, Miss Shat, Messrs. Kato, J. W. Hawes, J. H. Bethell, and Saralides in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Robentisch, Captain Nissen and servant, Mr. R. Reiff, Mr. and Mrs. Berrick, Miss Samuels, Mrs. Brinkworth and child, Messrs. Paul Kelch, Chr. Klemme, Loo King, and Lo Yam Hing in cabin; 27 Europeans and 5 Chinese crew of the steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, 1 Japanese, and 21 Chinese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Yangtsé*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Messrs. Lecomte, Kiyoura Keigo, Kaji Shotato, Hahn, N. Toyokichi, T. Uhachiro, S. Kuniyasu, O. Vinals, P. E. da Silva and servant, H. L. Baggallay, W. F. Mitchell, T. W. Hellyer, A. Kintaro, M. Morita, T. Masakichi, Y. Katsusaburo, K. Masuda, C. J. Baud, L. J. Cuderet, Brocherie, S. Masukichi, W. N. Smoufally, Mrs. Otsuma, Miss T. L. Boig, and one Japanese lady in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Alice P. Adams, Messrs. N. Sakiki, F. H. Hunter, H. Baeker, and Takahashi in cabin; Messrs. Nakazu, Musono, Hiodo, Pow On Yung, Pow Yew Cho, and Oda in second class, and 44 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Halliday and Miss Halliday, Mrs. Rice, Miss Rice, Miss Nixon, Miss Belcher, Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. Cruys, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, Miss Hellyer, Mr. and Mrs. Chope, Mrs. Utah, Messrs. T. C. O'Brien, J. J. Anderson, Reynell, F. W. Theobald and servant, D. W. Lawrence, Li Poo Ching, and Choy Show Gun in cabin; 1 Chinese and 2 Japanese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Iron, 1,068 packages; Cotton, 309 bales; Molasses, 267 casks; Sugar, 6,808 bags; Bean, 827 bags; Treasure, 15 boxes; Cattle Heads, 5, and General Cargo, 336; total, 9,333.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $37,700.

Per French steamer *Yangtsé*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France 601 bales; for Italy 10 bales; for Angleterre 10 bales; total, 621 bales. Waste Silk for France 104 bales; for Angleterre 4 bales; total, 108 bales. Treasure for Shanghai $5,100.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $1,000.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 202 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Hakodate April 23rd at 2 p.m.; had light southerly winds and fine weather; passed Shiriyasaki at 6.15 p.m. with moderate winds from the south and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 23rd at 3 p.m. fresh winds from south and hazy sky; left the 24th at 4 a.m., had strong winds from south and cloudy and increased to a hard gale with high sea; at noon wind shifted to the north blowing a strong breeze with heavy rain; passed Inuboye the 25th at 0.30 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama at 0.30 p.m.; strong northerly wind to arrival.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 25th April at noon; had moderate north-easterly winds and fine weather to Oshima, which was passed at 9 p.m.; thence moderate easterly winds and sea with rainy weather to Rock Island; wind shifted into S.E. and S., increasing to moderate gale with heavy rain up to Sagami; thence light breeze with constant rain up to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 26th April at 6 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Hakodate the 25th April at 2 p.m.; had light wind and fine weather throughout the day; the 26th had light wind and rain; passed Kinkasan at noon. Arrived at Oginohama at 1.30 p.m. and left the 27th at 4.35 a.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather throughout the passage; passed Inuboye-saki at 8 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 28th April at 8 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 27th April at noon; had light variable winds and overcast sky off Cape Tsuye; wind hauled to E.N.E. moderate fresh breeze and head sea, moderating off Sagami. Arrived at Yokohama the 28th April at 7 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. Wynn, reports:—Left Hakodate the 27th April at 3.10 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine clear weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th April at 11.30 a.m., and anchored outside to discharge powder. Sighted a three-masted schooner on shore on Low Island in the Sunga Straits,—American schooner from San Francisco to Vladivostock.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 29th April at noon; had light easterly winds and cloudy weather; passed Oshima at 9.15 p.m. with strong

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gale from the N.E. and heavy rain with high sea continuing throughout the night; passed Rock Island at 3.12 p.m. with fresh wind from the N.E. continuing to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 30th April at 10.45 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 24th April at 11 a.m.; had fresh breeze from N.E.E. with rain throughout the China Sea. Arrived at Nagasaki the 26th at 5.30 a.m. and left the 27th at 5 p.m. Arrived at Kobe the 29th at 6.36 a.m. and left the 30th at noon; had light winds and fine clear weather throughout the Inland Sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 1st May at 3.30 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain Seatle, reports:—Left Hongkong the 25th April; had moderate to fresh N.N.E. winds and dull cloudy weather to Kuro; when weather set in thicks and rainy with strong breeze and rough sea from N.E. This lasted to Oshima; thence to port had calm, clear and pleasant weather. Time, 5 days, 23 hours, and 48 minutes.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The condition of the market remains unchanged, and the Race Meeting holidays have not been seriously interfered with by any excitement in the Import trade; but prices seem to have had a check in their downward tendency, and the business done, though of a very moderate character, rather indicates a steadier tone generally. Sterling exchange and silver show no immediate prospect of improvement. Sales reported for the week comprise about 250 bales English Yarns, only a few bales Bombays, 2,500 pieces 9lb. Shirtings, 7,000 pieces Victoria Lawn, 2,300 pieces Turkey Reds, and 1,200 dozen Handkerchiefs.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼ lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4 50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0 50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 44 inches	1 35	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 44 yards, 32 inches	$4 00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0 16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$24.00	to	27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.25	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.25	to	30 00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30 00	to	32.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.50	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30.50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	30.75	to	32 00
Nos. 38/32, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.00	to	35 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.50	to	37 50
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78 00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77 00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay	—		

METALS.

Business still dull, and prices unchanged—nominal, perhaps, is more applicable in view of the paucity of transactions.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80	to	2.95
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.85	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.00
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3 40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.40	to	4.65
Tin Plates, per box	5.70	to	6 00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1 40	to	1.45

KEROSENE.

Offers of lower rates have been made, and only a few transactions have been put through at about late figures.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.60	to	1.67½
Comet	1 62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1 60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

Small parcels have been taken of Formosa, but there is little life in the trade. White sorts are slightly weaker.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$4.20	to	4 25
Brown Daitong	3.20	to	4.10
Brown Canton	5.00	to	6 00
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.05
White Refined	5.00	to	7.80

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 24th inst., since which date the settlements have been 268 piculs, divided as follows:—*Hanks* 62 piculs, *Filatures* 143 piculs, *Re-reels* 37 piculs, and *Hamatsuki* 26 piculs. Direct shipments by native Kaisha 40 piculs, which bring the total export business of the week up to 308 piculs.

The demand, both for Europe and America, has continued fairly active, but the quality of the stocks on offer and the ideas of holders are so far out that nothing but a small business has been possible, and probably will continue so until the end of the season.

Arrivals from the interior have about kept even with the settlements, and the stock figure remains as last reported—2,050 piculs.

The weather continues favourable; some frosts are reported from Koshu, but there is not much importance attached to this. The Japanese will not as yet hazard an opinion on the new crop; but one thing is certain: there is no want of food where the eggs have already been hatched.

Shipments during the week have been confined to the French mail steamer *Yangtse*, on the 26th, which took 621 bales, weighing 616 piculs, to Europe. Present export figures are therefore 31,435 piculs, against 35,073 piculs last year and 39,258 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—There has been some enquiry for London and almost every available lot has been taken up by one buyer. Stock is now reduced to 75 piculs.

Filatures.—A small daily business continues in every description and quality from $635 for good fine sizes down to $550 for coarse sizes common. The whole available stock of *Koshu* Filatures—about 80 piculs—has now been cleared out.

Re-reels.—Best to good qualities are now entirely gone; the demand continues for medium and common grades of *Joshu* and *Oshu* at from $570 to $540.

Kakeda.—Nothing settled during the week, but at the close a good run of these is said to be taken up at previous prices; so far they have not been weighed and the probability is that some will be either returned or else only taken at a reduction.

Hamatsuki.—The settlement reported consists of one lot medium to common quality at $520 to $500.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	$525	to	535
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)			515 to 520
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.		500 to 510
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.		650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.		640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers			630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.			620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.			610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers			610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers			590 to 600
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers			560 to 570
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.		610 to 620
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers			600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers			580 to 590
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers			570 to 575
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers			550 to 560
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers			530 to 540
Kakedas—Extra			605
Kakedas—No. 1			590 to 600
Kakedas—No. 1½			580 to 590
Kakedas—No. 2			570
Kakedas—No. 2½			555 to 560
Kakedas—No. 3			535 to 540
Kakedas—No. 3½			525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 4			515 to 520
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.		540 to 550
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.		535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4			500 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 1st May, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Europe	13,862	14,639	20,143
America	16,936	19,980	18,763
Total ... { Bales	30,798	34,619	38,900
Total ... { Piculs	31,435	35,073	39,258
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July { Piculs.	33,150	35,170	39 100
Stock, 1st May	2,050	2,200	2,300
Available supplies to date	35,200	37,370	41,400

WASTE SILK.

Only a hand to mouth trade can be reported in this branch, total settlements for the week being 136 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi* 77 piculs, *Kibiso* 47 piculs, *Sundries* 12 piculs.

Stocks have been somewhat increased by fresh arrivals, present figures being 3,700 piculs, most of which, however, is not fit for export, and the difficulty of filling orders becomes every day more apparent.

Both the European mail steamers of the week have taken some Waste. The M.M. steamer *Yangtsé* (26th inst.) took 342 piculs and the N. D. L. steamer *General Werder* (on the same date) 145 piculs. These shipments bring the present export figures to 28,974 piculs against 27,740 piculs last year and 29,735 piculs on the same date in 1889.

Noshi-ito.—One lot of 50 bales *Yonezawa Hana Hosori* was taken up at $105½, the rest of the settlements being *Joshu Noshi* at from $72½ to $90.

Kibiso.—Some common to medium *Joshu* were dealt in at $34, and a parcel of *Yonezawa Tama* bought at $90.

Sundries.—The lot settled was *Shinshu Neri* at from $7 to $10½.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 1st May, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	27,687	25,550	27,257
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	28,974	27,740	29,735
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July { Piculs.	30,100	28,450	30,550
Stock, 1st May	3,700	5,200	3,750
Available supplies to date	33,800	33,650	34,300

Exchange has slightly risen during the week and closes as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/2⅞; Documents, 3/2⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3; Documents, 3/3⅛; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78; 4m/s. U.S. $78¼; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.09; 6m/s. fcs. 4.11.

Estimated Silk Stock, 1st May, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	75	Cocoons	85
Filatures	735	Noshi-ito	1,140
Re-reels	1,020	Kibiso	2,135
Kakeda	160	Mawata	150
Oshu	55	Sundries	190
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	2,050	Total piculs	3,700

TEA.

The season has fairly commenced, but prices asked for new leaf are considered high. The quality so far has been good, and heavy parcels may be looked for immediately.

EXCHANGE.

Rates have only fluctuated slightly, and close about the same as last week.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2⅞
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 2⅞
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3
On Paris—Bank sight	4.01
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.12
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78½
Silver	44½

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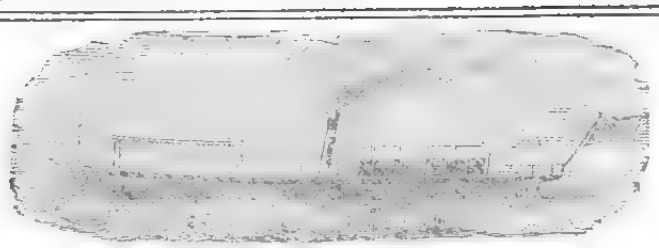

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated bye th name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1891.

BIRTH.

On the 8th inst., at No. 206, the wife of J. P. DA COSTA of a Son.

DEATH.

At the Cemetery Lodge, 96, Bluff, on May 8th, JULIA HANA, youngest daughter of J. J. and Mary Jarmain.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE grand festival of the Asakusa Shrine will will be held on the 17th and 18th instant.

MR. OKI MORIKATA, recently appointed *Chiji* of Shiga Prefecture, left the capital on the 5th instant, for his post.

THE *Miike Maru* will start from Yokohama on the 17th inst. with another lot of Japanese emigrants to the Hawaiian Islands.

THE hospital of the Red Cross Society of Japan was removed on the 1st inst. to the new buildings at Shibuyamura, Minami-toshimagori, Tokyo.

DURING the month of February last 89 fires occured in Tokyo *fu*, by which 286 buildings, valued at about *yen* 55,634.104, were burned.

THE factory of the Mikawa Cement Company at Aikawamura, Akumigori, Mikawa, has been purchased by Mr. Shibusawa Yeiichi, of Tokyo.

A MEETING of members of the Yokohama City Assembly will be held shortly to confer on matters in connection with the reception of H.I.H. the Czarewitch.

THE receipts of the Tokyo Tramway Company during last month were *yen* 14,975.68, showing a decrease of *yen* 8,610.31 as compared with the previous year.

THE half-yearly examination of *jinrikisha* in use in Yokohama, which was to have taken place in April last, has been postponed until the 30th of the present month.

H.E. COUNT YAMAGATA has resigned the post of Minister President of State, and H.E. Count Matsukata was gazetted to succeed him on the 6th instant.

MR. IMAMURA WARO, a Councillor of the Administrative Court, who had been suffering for some time from inflammation of the lungs, expired on the 4th instant.

THE Hokkaido Coal Mining Railway Company has purchased 3,000 *tsubo* (one *tsubo*=36 sq. ft.) of ground at Yoshida-shinden, Yokohama, at a cost of *yen* 6.50 per *tsubo*.

DURING last month 12,553 cases of matches were exported to foreign countries from Kobe, showing a decrease of 1,673 cases as compared with the previous month.

THE contract for the work of erecting barracks at Iriamasumura, Miuragori, Soshu, has been obtained by Mr. Shimizu Mannosuke, of Yokohama, at a cost of *yen* 62,938.999.

A GENTLEMAN named Kawabara Motonosuke intends to present a sword to the Russian Prince Imperial. It is said that the sword was made by the well-known smith, Masamune.

THE grand festival of the Yasukuni Shrine, at Kudan, Tokyo, will be held during three days commencing on the 5th inst., when *No* dancing, wrestling, and horse-racing will take place.

ON the night of the 2nd instant an outbreak of fire took place in a house at Yasutakacho, Aomori, Aomori Prefecture, and before the flames could be subdued 104 buildings were destroyed or partly damaged.

THEIR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES Princesses Tsune and Kane, accompanied by Count Sasaki, a Privy Court Councillor, visited the panorama at Oishiki-cho, Kanda, Tokyo, on the afternoon of the 5th instant.

EARLY in the morning of the 3rd instant fire broke out in a house at Miyamotocho, Shiba, Tokyo, and destroyed 8 houses, 3 houses being partly damaged before the flames could be got under control.

IN Shiga Prefecture the Authorities issued on the 2nd instant a notice prohibiting the catching of swallows on pain of from one to three days' imprisonment, or the payment of a fine of from 20 *sen* to 2.25 *yen*.

THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES the Emperor and Empress have been pleased to grant the sum of *yen* 700 for the relief of sufferers by the recent conflagrations at Matsushirocho, and two other places in Nagano Prefecture.

A MONTHLY magazine dealing with fine arts, to be called the *Toyo Bijitsu* (*Oriental Arts*) will be started in the capital shortly. The office is at No. 15 Tori, Itchome, Nihonbashi, Tokyo. Mr. Mayeda Kenjiro will be the editor.

IT has been decided by the Kanagawa Prefectural Government that in the absence of satisfactory evidence as to the purpose for which they wish to leave the country, passports shall not be granted to girls intending to go abroad.

A MEETING of the promoters of the Kyoto Savings Bank was held on the 3rd instant in Kyoto, at which Mr. Katsura Masayoshi was elected President, and Messrs. Kamoashi Koyu, and Tachikawa Yusaburo, Inspectors. Messrs Tsuji Shigeyoshi, Konishi Arisada, and Katsura Masayoshi were elected Managers.

JUDGE KOJIMA IKEN has been appointed President of the Supreme Court, *vice* Judge Nishi, deceased, and Judge Kitabatake Harufusa has been appointed to succeed Judge Kojima in the presidency of the Osaka Court of Appeal.

ON the night of the 23rd ult. fire occured in a house at Togawamura, Mitogori, Aomori Prefecture, and destroyed 3 dwellings, one person being burned to death, and another severely injured before the flames could be subdued.

THE regular general meeting of members of the Meiji Fine Art Society will be held on the 10th instant at the society's rooms in Uyeno Park. Mr. Y. Hanabusa and Professor Inouye Tetsujiro will deliver lectures on the occasion.

A SLIGHT shock of earthquake was felt in the capital on the 5th instant, at 8h. 16m. 48s. The duration was 2 minutes and 30 seconds, and the direction was from S.E. to N.W., the maximum horizontal motion being 0.6 milimetre in 1.3 seconds.

ON the night of the 3rd instant fire broke out in a house at Mizoguchi, Kozagori, Kanagawa Prefecture, and destroyed 57 houses, and 4 godowns, one police station, and one dwelling being partly damaged before the flames could be subdued.

IT is generally rumoured that Mr. Kitagaki, Governor of Kyoto, will shortly be appointed either Vice-Minister of a Government Department or an attendant of the *Kinkeinoma*, and Mr. Nakai, a member of the Upper House, will take his place.

THE revised Regulations for the Organization of the Tokyo Navigation School were promulgated on the 5th instant, over the signatures of Counts Yamagata and Goto, by Imperial Ordinance No. 45. The regulations consist of nine articles.

THE buildings of the Ikuyei School, work on which has been going on at Iidagashi, Tokyo, have been completed, and the opening ceremony was held on the 3rd instant. Viscount Enomoto is President of the institution.

ALTHOUGH the total transactions in the Import trade do not show an improvement, there is decidedly a healthier tone and more enquiry, and prices have steadied, indicating a reaction. A small advance has been paid for the yarn purchased, and a fair quantity of Piece-goods has been taken at fully late rates. Purchases having been for some time past made upon a consuming scale only, a turn in trade is now looked for, and circumstances may be shortly expected to combine in favour of a revival. Metals still remain very quiet, and the small business done has been at previous rates. The Kerosene market is unchanged, there being no business to make rates, and the stock has been increased by fresh arrivals. Sugar is still dull; and Formosa Browns are held for more money, with little or nothing doing in White sorts. The Silk gradually dwindles in volume as time goes on, and as this is due to the poor assortment on offer, no revival can now take place until the new crop is on the market. The Tea trade is on in earnest; parcels are bought up as fast as they arrive, and prices have steadied, and are generally well settled. The quality is now known to be superior to last season's early pickings, and an abundant crop will in all probability be handled. Exchange has hardened, and closes fairly firm.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* asserts that of all the Ministers of State the one most embarrassed by the change of Minister President is Viscount Aoki, inasmuch as, if Count Matsukata becomes head of the Cabinet, Treaty Revision must be suspended. But the *Jiji* goes on to assert that Count Matsukata is not altogether opposed to Revision, and that a *modus vivendi* has been found, or will probably be found, between him and the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. On what grounds the *Jiji* bases its assertion that Count Matsukata's Presidency would necessarily signify suspension of Treaty Revision, we are unable to say, and our contemporary does not take the trouble to tell us. Count Matsukata is known to be among the least enthusiastic of the Cabinet Ministers on the subject of Revision, chiefly because he scarcely hopes to effect any really satisfactory arrangement, until Japan is in a position to seek revision on the simple basis of abolishing all the disabilities imposed by the present covenants. But between this view and the suspension of negotiations there is obviously a considerable interval. We may take the opportunity of saying here that it does not seem to us worth while to allude in detail to the various rumours circulated by the vernacular press from day to day with reference to Revision. Those who are credulous enough to attach faith to these stories, from the *Kokkai's* circumstantial fable of the draft down to the sensational canards of lesser journals, may be suffered to amuse themselves in that way. When there is anything really trustworthy to communicate, we imagine that the public will not be left long without information.

* * *

The consultations necessary in connection with a change of Minister President of State were brought to a conclusion on Tuesday night, and in the forenoon of Wednesday, Count Yamagata repaired to the Palace and placed his resignation in the hands of the Emperor, who was graciously pleased to accept it, and to direct that Count Yamagata should continue to be treated as a Minister of State. Shortly after noon, Count Matsukata was summoned to the Palace and duly appointed Minister President. No other changes in the Cabinet are yet definitely spoken of, and an impression begins to prevail that all the portfolios will remain in the hands of their present holders.

* * *

The rumours published as to Count Matsukata's attitude towards Treaty Revision are now receiving emphatic contradiction. What the public were asked to believe was that, for the sake of political peace and Cabinet stability, the new Minister President desired to suspend the negotiations temporarily. But it is now asserted that however desirable it may be to place on the shelf all questions calculated to disturb the unity of the Cabinet, the great national problem of Treaty Revision cannot possibly be included in this category. Those who attribute to Count Matsukata the design of sacrificing a matter of such importance on the altar of administrative tranquillity, are charged with complete ignorance of his views. On the contrary, he is said to be an ardent advocate of revision, but to entertain very decided views about coasting trade, rates of tariff, and the most-favoured nation clause. Unless these points can be arranged in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, he is represented as holding that the country should be content to wait a year or two before attempting to conclude new Treaties.

THE TEIKOKU HOTEL.

IT has been decided at a meeting of the Directors of the new hotel in Tokyo that the alternative name of "Imperial Hotel" shall be given up in future, and that of "Teikoku Hotel" alone used. The chief reason of this resolution is, we believe, that *jinrikisha* men and Japanese in general—or at least such of them as have no knowledge of English—cannot be easily familiarized with the word "imperial." Thus tourists arriving at Shimbashi, and asking to be driven to the "Imperial Hotel," generally find themselves landed at the Tokyo Hotel, and are of course unable to discover the mistake until too late to rectify it. For this and other reasons the Teikoku Hotel has hitherto been very unfortunate. A splendid building, sumptuously furnished, excellently situated and having a first-class cuisine, it ought to have attracted guests from the outset. But the management attempted too much. They tried to make a stand against the habit of giving commissions to guides for bringing visitors; a reform very much to be desired in the interests of the visitors themselves, but decidedly dangerous for a new hotel to inaugurate. It proved very bad for the Teikoku Hotel. The guides seem to have combined to ostracise it, and the guides are a puissant body in Japan. Then, again, the competition of a hotel so superior in many respects to anything of the kind in Japan, was naturally much dreaded in other quarters, and plenty of people were found to say a bad word for the place. Only now are guests beginning to find out the hotel, and appreciate the advantages it offers. All speak highly of its comforts and conveniences, and we trust that the enterprising directors may henceforth anticipate a prosperous state of affairs.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for March, showing the foreign trade of Japan for the month:—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	1890. SILVER YEN.	1891. SILVER YEN.
Exports	3,916,538,100	8,500,530,800
Imports	6,855,369,310	6,471,102,700
Total exports and imports		11,971,633,500
Excess of exports		2,029,428,100

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

	SILVER YEN.
Exports	218,153,966
Imports	250,522,067
Miscellaneous	10,291,220
Total	478,967,253

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
United States of America	2,547,144,810	878,966,530	3,426,111,370
Great Britain	772,400,580	2,255,096,520	3,027,508,100
France	1,834,094,470	207,104,230	2,041,060,710
Hongkong	1,310,938,370	562,740,540	1,873,424,910
China	890,185,040	1,040,344,000	1,944,529,040
Germany	173,103,970	293,101,260	466,205,230
British India	72,104,590	394,886,270	467,050,860
Korea	158,278,830	300,771,710	465,050,540
Italy	98,293,820	9,528,310	107,822,130
Switzerland	65,376,150	41,195,270	106,571,420
Australia	83,481,950	15,635,300	99,117,310
Russia	8,735,410	68,848,500	77,583,070
Austria	33,572,450	263,040	33,835,490
Philippine Islands	88,540	31,842,490	31,931,030
Belgium	3,158,800	24,421,010	27,579,810
Canada & other British America	15,318,810	1,454,550	16,773,360
Spain	3,827,600	880,520	4,708,120
Hawaii	1,643,530	23,460	1,666,980
Holland	667,000	385,790	1,052,790
Siam	—	1,014,000	1,014,000
Sweden & Norway	94,500	615,040	709,540
Peru	—	479,340	479,340
Portugal	135,000	343,040	478,040
Denmark	—	386,820	386,820
Turkey	70,000	32,840	102,840
Other Countries	200,401,670	328,685,410	529,087,080
Total	8,359,732,830	6,471,102,700	14,830,835,530

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Totals. Silver Yen.
Yokohama	5,680,812,590	3,104,746,330	8,191,558,920
Kobe	2,590,507,891	2,534,940,800	5,125,448,710
Osaka	97,772,830	412,552,430	510,325,260
Nagasaki	308,700,300	303,661,200	612,317,500
Hakodate	82,173,280	—	82,173,280
Shimonoseki	202,101,720	102,638,370	304,740,090
Moji	20,303,060	—	20,303,060
Hakata	954,700	2,737,940	3,692,730
Karatsu	25,700,000	—	25,700,000
Kuchinotsu	71,433,000	—	71,433,000
Misumi	2,705,000	—	2,705,000
Idzumahara	806,640	2,432,340	3,238,080
Shishimi	3,721,400	702,340	4,423,740
Sasuna	732,270	3,690,830	4,423,100
Specie and Bullion { Exports			197,901,800
Specie and Bullion { Imports			187,272,930
Total			385,174,730
Excess of exports			10,328,870

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	851,317,500
By Japanese Merchants	Imports	1,350,605,900
Imported by Government		421,076,280

DEATH OF THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS.

THE wildest rumours prevailed in Tokyo on Monday, many of the citizens believing that the Russian Prince Imperial had died at Nagasaki. It is not altogether wonderful that such a story should have gone abroad, seeing that news had actually been received of the death of a Grand Duke bearing the same name as the Prince Imperial, the Grand Duke Nicolas Nicolexevitch, who expired on the 25th of April. The deceased Prince was a brother of the late Emperor Alexander II., and consequently Great Uncle to the present Prince Imperial. Born August 8th, 1831, he held the posts of Field-Marshal in the Russian Army and Inspector-General of Cavalry and of the Corps of Engineers. We learn officially that the programme of H.I.H. the Tsarevitch's sojourn in Japan will not be affected by this sad event, inasmuch as the deceased Prince was only Great Uncle to His Imperial Highness, and inasmuch also as an interval of three weeks will separate the date of the Grand Duke's decease from that (May 15th) of the Prince Imperial's arrival in Tokyo.

* * *

With reference to the programme of the Imperial visitor's proceedings in Japan, we believe the following to be accurate:—

April 27th to May 3rd.—The Prince remained on board ship in Nagasaki harbour, the period of Lent interfering with official landing.

May 4th.—The Prince landed officially, and visited various places in Nagasaki.

May 5th.—The Prince proceeds in the afternoon by sea to Kagoshima.

May 6th.—H.I.H. lands at Kagoshima, and lunches with Prince Shimazu, setting out the same evening for Kobe by sea.

May 8th.—The Prince arrives at Kobe in the evening, and remains there one night.

May 9th.—The Prince proceeds to Kyoto and spends the night there, visiting places of interest during the day.

May 10th.—The Prince visits Lake Biwa and neighbourhood, and returns to Kyoto for the night.

May 11th.—H.I.H. views the temples and so forth of Kyoto, and remains in the city another night.

May 12th.—The Prince leaves Kyoto for Osaka, views the city, lunches there, and sets out in the afternoon for Nara, where he spends the night.

May 13th.—H.I.H. devotes the forenoon to seeing Nara, lunches there, and sets out at 3 p.m. for Kobe, where he embarks immediately and sails the same night for Yokohama.

May 15th.—The Prince arrives in Yokohama, lands and proceeds at once to Tokyo; is met at Shimbashi Terminus by the Emperor, and drives with His Majesty to the Palace prepared for his reception. In the afternoon the Prince visits the Emperor and dines with His Majesty.

May 16th.—At 9 a.m. the Prince grants audience to the Foreign Representatives, and receives a visit from the Emperor and Empress. In the afternoon visits are exchanged between His Imperial Highness and the Japanese Prince Imperial and Princes of the Blood, and the Prince dines with H.I.H. Prince Komatsu at the Akasaka Palace.

May 17th.—At noon the Prince lunches with the Emperor in Japanese style, and witnesses Japanese dancing.

May 18th.—The Prince witnesses a Review (weather permitting) in the forenoon; lunches at the Akasaka Palace with H.I.H. Prince Fushimi, and in the afternoon witnesses Japanese polo and fencing. In the evening the Prince will be present at a ball in the Russian Legation.

May 19th.—The Prince lunches with Prince Arisugawa at the Shiba Detached Palace.

May 20th.—The Prince sets out in the morning for Yenoshima and Kamakura, spending the night at the latter place.

May 21st.—The Prince proceeds to Yokosuka and witnesses a Naval Review (weather permitting). H.I.H. lunches at Yokosuka, and in the afternoon journeys to Hakone and Miyanoshita, spending the night at the latter place.

May 22nd.—The Prince returns to Tokyo, and is present at a ball given by H.I.H. Prince Kuashirakawa that evening.

May 23rd.—No official programme.

May 24th.—The Prince is received in farewell audience by the Emperor, and dines with His Majesty.

May 25th.—The Prince leaves Tokyo, being accompanied to the Ueno Terminus by His Majesty the Emperor. H.I.H. reaches Nikko, and visits the temples and other places of interest.

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May 26th.—The Prince proceeds to Chinsenji, and, returning to Nikko, spends the night there.

May 27th.—Setting out from Nikko, the Prince travels to Sendai, and spends the night there.

May 28th.—The Prince proceeds from Sendai to Matsushima and Morioka.

May 31st.—H.I.H. arrives at Aomori.

THE "NIPPON GWAFU."

THE "Kinkodo," No. 17 Honcho, Sanchome, Nihonbashi-ku, Tokyo, has issued the first number of a pictorial magazine called the *Nippon Gwafu*. The editor is Mr. Matsumoto Fuko, and the price is 80 *sen* per copy. In size the book resembles the *Kokkwa*; it is 14½ inches by 9, a portly volume well suited for the reproduction of pictures. The *Gwafu* is described as a collection of sketches by Japanese artists, to which should be added that the artists are modern. In the first volume are eight plates, all of them coloured, representing landscapes, figure subjects, birds, flowers, and so forth. The artists' names are Matsumoto Fuko, Araki Kwampo, Nomura Bunkyo, Kubota Beisen, Mishima Shiso, Taki Kwatei, Sugawara Hakuryu, and Atomi Tamaye. Distinctly good so far as concerns drawing and composition, the pictures are carefully reproduced, and a dozen volumes of the magazine bound together will make a distinctly beautiful album, fairly representing the work of good Japanese artists now-a-days. The editor has wisely added a sheet in English, giving the names of the painters and the subjects of each picture, and as there is no Japanese letter-press—except the preface—the book will thus be just as intelligible to foreign as to Japanese readers. It is to be distinguished from the *Kokkwa* in this respect, and the scope of the two works is entirely different, the former being devoted to the reproduction of ancient masters, the latter to illustrating the capacity of modern painters. The *Gwafu* is, in fact, an exceptionally enterprising and praiseworthy revival of the cerebrated *surimono*, so much valued by collectors of Japanese works of art.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS the Grand Duke Nicolas, Czarevitch of Russia, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince George of Greece, arrived here, says the *Rising Sun* of the 29th ult., in the cruiser *Pamiat Azova*, from Woosung, shortly after 9 a.m. on Monday morning last. A few hours previously the Japanese man-of-war *Takao-kan* went out to meet the *Pamia Azova*, and on returning led the way into the harbour, followed by the *Pamiat Azova*, the *Bobre*, *Koreats*, and *Mandjur*. As the vessels steamed up the harbour, all the men-of-war "manned yards" and fired a salute, the Japanese men-of-war also dressing ship. The Princes and *suite* were ashore privately for the first time yesterday, curio hunting, etc., and according to present arrangement they will land officially on Monday next, 4th prox., when they will come ashore at the Sagarimatsu *hatoba*, between 9 and 11 a.m. The same day the Settlement is to be decorated and illuminated, as arranged. Arches are to be erected on the *hatoba* at Sagarimatsu and at O'hato, and a series of entertainments are being got up by the local authorities, to be held in a building specially erected for the occasion in the O'Suwa temple grounds. The entertainments are to consist of native music, kite-flying, fire-works, etc. A number of high officials, including Prince Arisugawa, have arrived from Tokyo to represent the Imperial Government in the matter. After spending two days ashore, the Czarewitch and party will proceed to Kagoshima on the 6th, there to be the guests of Prince Shimadzu for a few days. Only three men-of-war will go to Kagoshima, and the balance will go on to Kobe to await the Czarewitch's arrival. From Kobe we understand that the Imperial party will probably proceed by rail to Tokyo.

* * *

It will have been gathered from the accounts given in the *North China Herald's* columns of the reception prepared for the Russian Prince Imperial by the Viceroy of the Two Kuang, that no reliance is to be placed on the story circulated some two months ago, about a scheme to deprive the reception of all Imperial character, and convert it into a purely provincial affair. The contradiction of this strange rumour, which probably had its origin in some careless description of the programme of reception, receives conclusive confirmation from the Prince himself. We learn that His Imperial Highness expresses his entire satisfaction with the character of the hospitality extended to him in China, and with the nature of the arrangements made for his reception. It will be remembered that the change of route by which the Prince's contemplated visit to the north of China was abandoned, seemed to some critics to confirm the rumour in question. The Russian Government, these critics averred, obtaining timely information of the peculiar kind of reception in preparation for the Prince, had quietly intimated that he would not visit Chefoo, alleging want of time as a reason for the change, and persisting in that allegation despite repeated telegraphic inquiries from the Viceroy Li. All this is denounced as a pure myth by those best situated for obtaining information. The Prince's stay in Chinese waters had to be shortened on account of lack of time, and for no other reason whatever. We are glad to be able to publish this emphatic contradiction of a rumour which, if founded on fact, must have created a bad feeling between Russia and China, and suggested a return on China's part to that peculiarly and needlessly tortuous variety of international action known in the West as Oriental.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL IN CHINA.

THE rumours recently current about a curious manœuvre conceived with the object of imparting a purely provincial character to the reception of the Russian Prince Imperial by the two Chinese Viceroys—rumours said to have led to a material curtailing of the Prince's programme in the Middle Kingdom—have certainly received no sort of confirmation from the nature of the reception actually received by the Imperial visitor at Hangkow. The correspondent at that place of the *North China Daily News*, writing on the eve of the reception, says:—

> The people have no doubt as to the dignity of the expected guest; the absurd rumours current some weeks ago have given place to the due understanding of the nature of the visit of a friendly prince on equal terms with the sovereign. At first the air was rife with such reports as that the Viceroy had refused to see the Czarevitch, that the latter was greatly disappointed and implored an interview which the Viceroy finally graciously promised, holding out hopes of getting for the stranger some Imperial mark of favour! But the reception in the other parts of China and the obvious determination of Chang Chih-tung to treat the Czarevitch as a friend and guest of his, master have laid these reports to rest. This reception is a healthy element in the political education of inland China.

The Prince reached Hankow at 8 a.m. on the 19th of April, and immediately H.E. Chang, Viceroy of the Hu Kuang, steamed down the river in a man-of-war to meet him. On the following morning the Czarewitch returned the Viceroy's visit at a temple. The preparations made for this event are thus described by the same correspondent:—

> The Pavilion of Pure Streams picturesquely and antithetically situated by the side of the muddy river just below the Hanyang Hill, has been decorated for the banquet given by the Viceroy. A large platform landing stage has been built out to some distance from the shore and the ascent to the Temple is covered with an awning in red and green with knotted silken hangings. The suite prepared consists of the small banqueting hall with two retiring rooms, all covered with silk and embroidery of gold in characteristic Chinese style. The courts are covered by awnings, beneath which stand handsome porcelain jars, containing azaleas and flowers in season; *k'angs* and chairs are draped with coverings to match, representing wondrous beasts, some of them presumably lions, of hue and shape more conventional than lifelike. The courteous and gorgeously dressed official in charge sent a guide to take the writer to the upper saloon where the company adjourn after dinner. The decorations here are most tasteful in worked silk on dead gold. The images of the idols are draped into decent obscurity for the occasion, and indeed the splendid view might well make them forgotten. Beside the view up and down river with its multitude of sails, the iron works with their tall lift lie in full view; the awning for the Prince's reception at the wharf on the Han standing out in bright colour. Straight in front lies Wuchang with a similar awning on its clothworks jetty and its long wall ending with the creek and man-of-war near the Viceroy's yamên. The Wuchang awning is erected "in case he come to the city."

Of the scene when the Prince landed and the events connected with his entertainment, we read:—

> The hill and shores were crowded with spectators, and the scene, with its fifty Chinese gunboats, its regiments of soldiers lining both banks and its gaily decorated Temple and approach was very striking in the brilliant sunshine. About noon the Czarevitch and his party went on board a Chinese man-of-war, which replaced its yellow dragon by the Prince's flag while its red coated marines manned the yards. The vessel then steamed slowly up river, followed by the Russian and Chinese gunboats, amidst salutes from the Red Fort and long lines of gaily uniformed soldiers lining both shores of the Yangtze. The Viceroy received his guest and conducted him to the entrance hall, where light refreshments were provided before the luncheon. The luncheon itself was elaborate and lengthy as the *menu* printed (in French) on silk testifies. After luncheon the company adjourned to the upper pavilion to enjoy the view and breeze ere returning to Hankow.

AN INCIDENT.

THE Yokohama News Agency transmits to the leading journals of Tokyo—the *Nichi Nichi*, the *Hochi*, the *Mimpo* and the *Nippon*—a sensational account of an incident said to have occurred at the Negishi Race Course, on the 29th ultimo. The Emperor, we read, remained on the course until 5.30 p.m., when it became time to return. His Majesty then walked past the place where the prizes were displayed and received the salutations of those present at his departure. Among the sightseers was a lady—described by the Agency as evidently a person of position, but at the same time called *Kyofu* (a distraught female)—who remained seated on her chair before the Emperor, and, making no attempt to salute His Majesty, gazed fixedly into his face. "Japanese witnessing this act of rudeness," continues the account, "felt as though to have killed such a person would scarcely have been a sufficient punishment." We greatly doubt the truth of this story. It is certain that no foreign lady would wittingly commit such a piece of rudeness, or be guilty of any want of respect to the Emperor. Some years ago a commotion was made about an act attributed to a British Naval officer, whom a local English journal charged with driving in front of the Emperor's carriage. The story turned out to be purely mythical, and we should not be at all surprised to learn that the unfortunate heroine of the Yokohama Tsushinsha's tale is entirely innocent of the misdeed attributed to her. It is quite preposterous to imagine that any lady would consciously behave in the manner described. We have made inquiry of persons who were present on the occasion referred to, and are assured that the whole story is a myth, not one person, whether lady or gentleman, having remained sitting when the Emperor left the Stand.

THE SAPPORO SUGAR COMPANY.

WE published in previous issues the report originally circulated as to an issue of forged shares of the Sapporo Sugar Company, and the advertisement inserted in the vernacular press by the Manager of the Company, explicitly denying the story. Unfortunately it turns out that the Manager's confidence is not justified. There has been an issue of forged shares, but to what extent no one yet knows. The Company's ledgers in the branch office in Unemecho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, have been sealed and taken possession of by the Authorities, and great confusion exists among the shareholders, many of whom are anxious to compare their shares with the books in order to assure themselves of their authenticity or otherwise, but are, of course, unable to do so. A special meeting of the Company was to be held yesterday to determine upon a line of action, but we have not yet learned the result of its deliberations.

THE "JIYU-TO" AND TREATY REVISION.

IN the decision recently formulated by the Committee of the Radical Party with reference to Treaty Revision, it was declared that mixed residence should be permitted simultaneously with the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. It appears, however, that several influential members of the party dissent from this opinion, the principal among them being Messrs. Oi, Mori, Hayashi, Kokubo, Tamura, Saito and Takahashi, with whom are a section of the Party

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formerly known as the *Kiushin-ha* (rapid-progress section). These politicians hold that for many years to come mixed residence ought not to be allowed, but we cannot discover that they have advanced any reasons for such an illiberal view. The one plea alleged is that Treaty Revision is a problem not for party discussion but of national import, and that each party should refrain from attempting to push its own views unless they appear likely to obtain general support. It appears to us, however, that the weight of such a contention tells in exactly the opposite direction, for no one pretends to think that this objection to mixed residence has any force with the bulk of intelligent Japanese. What can be more absurdly contradictory than the attitude of men who claim that their country is entitled to make Treaties on equal terms with Western States, while in the same breath maintaining that her people are not yet qualified for free international intercourse? The plea invariably urged on behalf of Japan in former years was that, by refusing to revise the Treaties on a basis pointing to her future recovery of Judicial and Tariff Autonomy, the Foreign Powers condemned her to endure the stigma of semi-barbarism—a stigma plainly attaching to the restrictions now imposed upon freedom of intercourse and trade within her borders. Messrs Oi and his "liberal" friends, with their conservative allies, headed by Viscount Torio, have now to answer for seeking to perpetuate this national disgrace.

A NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE.

On Saturday we published a circular addressed by the Asiatic Society to its members throughout Japan, inviting them to collect information in various parts of the empire with respect to land tenure under the feudal regime and other matters of interest to students of Japanese ethnology. The circular was in English and Japanese, and copies of it appear to have been sent by Mr. J. H. Wigmore, Secretary of the Society's Committee on Ethnography, to Japanese scholars of note or persons likely to possess the desired information. Among these recipients was a Mr. Naito Chiso, who appears to have formed a singular idea of the object of the Committee. He has sent to the *Nippon* a copy of his answer to Mr. Wigmore, the translation of which runs thus:—"Sir,—I have received your letter explaining that you are engaged in the labour of collecting and compiling records of Japanese local administration and customs. With regard to this I am of opinion that since there are Japanese scholars and a Japanese Government, no occasion exists to have recourse to foreign assistance. No reason exists why such matters should not be made the subject of official inquiry. For my own part, I have in my possession more than five hundred volumes collected with the object of investigating the former system of government, and I have spent fifty years in the task, but I have not done so with the idea of benefiting foreigners. I regret, therefore, that I cannot comply with your request."

* * *

We say nothing as to the courtesy or discourtesy of this response. That is purely Mr. Naito's affair. But it strikes us as singular that such a construction should be placed on the action of the Asiatic Society's Committee. The writer of the letter in the *Nippon* evidently considers it an act of superfluous impertinence on the part of foreigners to undertake any investigation into the old-time customs and institutions of Japan. He imagines that the Japanese have some right of property in such things, and that outsiders ought not to meddle with them. There will be very few educated Japanese of Mr. Naito's way of thinking, we predict. Sensible men, the world over, understand that differences of nationality should have no existence in the field of scientific inquiry. If foreign students, like the Ethnographical Committee of the Asiatic Society and its energetic Secretary, are prepared to take the trouble of investigating Japanese customs and institutions, the gain is on Japan's side. Mr. Naito's notion that by assisting such work he would confer some kind of favour on foreigners, is distinctly diverting. Had other Japanese been carried away by a similar vertigo of conservatism, very few of the books that have helped to make Japan known abroad would have been compiled by foreigners. However, we shall not devote space to telling Mr. Naito what Western folks will think of his behaviour. Probably he doesn't care to hear. But we trust that he will pardon us for suggesting that it would be wise to publish as soon as possible the results of his fifty years' research and the gist of his five hundred volumes of information. If he will be so kind as to do that, he will find no one to quarrel with his quaint conservatism.

THE TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.

In these days of post betting very little is to be gleaned about the state of the odds from the home papers, which are about 40 days old when they reach us. In the present case the Two Thousand is barely mentioned in the lists by the last mail, and the winner, Common, is not quoted. This horse, a brown colt by Isonomy—Thistle, belongs to Lord Alington, and does not appear to have started as a two-year-old, when he was owned by Sir Frederick Johnstone, though he was heavily engaged. Orvieto, a bay colt by Bend Or—Napoli, is the property of Mr. J. H. Houldsworth. He first carried silk at Manchester, where in the Whitsuntide Plate he ran second to Reverend in a field of eight, but in the following month at Ascot he was successful in winning by three lengths the New Stakes, in which he led home a field of nine, following up his success by winning the Portland Stakes at Leicester, where he beat Peter Flower, who was second, and his old opponent Reverend, who ran third, and amongst those unplaced were Simonian and Gouverneur. His next win was at Newmarket Second July, where he had a soft thing in the Chesterfield Stakes, his only opponent being Pentendant. He had to play second fiddle in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, where he was beaten by Haute Saone, and in the valuable Lancashire Plate ran unplaced. He was thought to have had a great chance in the Middle Park Plate, starting at 3 to 1, but was beaten by Governeur and three others. Lord Durham owns the third horse, Peter Flower, a chesnut colt by Petrarch—Florida. He started six times last year and only lost one race—the Portland Stakes referred to above—and, making his *début* at Doncaster Spring, won the Fitzwilliam Stakes, next at Newmarket the Bedford Plate, then the Triennial Stakes at Ascot and a Private Sweepstakes at the Bibury Club Meeting, winding up at Liverpool by landing the Mersey Foal Stakes. In the races won by Peter Flower, however, the fields were small and the company rather moderate. Nevertheless he is extremely well bred and has probably improved on his two-year-old form, as he has been backed for the Derby. All three horses are engaged in both Derby and Leger.

THE IMPERIAL COMMANDS AND THE FORMATION OF A CABINET.

The *Jiji Shimpo* remarks that when Viscount Hijikata, Minister for the Imperial Household was sent to Kyoto by Imperial Order to summon Count Ito to Tokyo, the latter is reported to have said that he could not decline the Imperial commands. "A rumour is current that Count Yamagata has been led by private circumstances to resign, and as there is no one in the Cabinet to take his place, it is natural to suppose that Count Ito has been asked to succeed him. Now, the changes that such a step would involve may be important enough so far as they go; but hardly seem to be of such a nature as to call for the transmission to Count Ito of an Imperial Order. In European constitutional countries when all the members of the Ministry, with the Premier, resign, a command from the Sovereign is necessary for the formation of a new Cabinet, but its issue is a matter of form, for in most cases the ruler has very little to do with the national policy." In the present instance there is question only of one Minister's resignation, and to the *Jiji Shimpo's* mind Count Yamagata, having resolved to resign, ought to have looked out for a suitable successor, while Count Ito should, if he wished to take the Minister President's chair, have come forth at once as Count Yamagata's successor. "If, as Count Ito has given out to the public, he had the Imperial Command to proceed to Tokyo, it is plain that he was required in order to advise as to the construction of the Cabinet. But surely in that case there existed no need for an Imperial Order. There is nothing extraordinary in the Emperor loading with honours men whose services in connection with the Restoration were so noteworthy and valuable. Some years ago, when Count Itagaki, one of the prominent figures of that stirring time, was wounded by the hand of a would-be assassin at Gifu, His Imperial Majesty sent a special messenger to enquire as to his condition. And no one could be surprised by the Emperor signifying his appreciation of Count Ito's services to the Imperial House. But political matters come under quite a different category. In the future, Ministerial changes will be inevitable; members of the popular parties will in all likelihood enter the Cabinet. If the Emperor confers honour upon and shows special consideration to the present Ministers, it seems as though the practice ought to be continued towards their successors. Extended originally in respect of past services the distinction will then be given to men who have no such qualification. If, on the other hand, the practice be not continued in future, the discrimination between persons who occupy the same posts at different periods must seem invidious. Let the Imperial Order, then, be issued only in cases when the members of the Cabinet resign in a body." To us (*Japan Mail*) this writing seems very hypercritical. Reconstruction of the whole Cabinet might follow a change of Minister President, so that, even from the *Jiji's* point of view, there is nothing improper or inexpedient in the Sovereign's summoning to his presence the statesman to whom His Majesty desires to entrust the responsibility of the President's post. Neither can we understand clearly what our contemporary means by suggesting that a different practice may possibly be adopted in the case of statesmen other than those who distinguished themselves at the Restoration. As we read the Constitution, the Minister President must always be nominated by the Emperor directly, and whether he be a Count Ito or a plain Mr. So and So, he will have to be summoned to the Sovereign's presence and consulted as to his willingness to undertake the task. The difference between Mr. Gladstone being summoned from London to Balmoral, and Count Ito being summoned from Kyoto to Tokyo, does not strike us very emphatically.

EXPLAIN.

It seems to us that the limits of honest journalism are grossly transgressed by such a statement as the following, made by the *Japan Gazette* in reference to the trial of a Japanese on a charge of using a forged seal:—"There is every reason for thinking that the prosecution was instituted by Count Yamagata." This statement is made by the *Gazette* at the close of a series of three articles, headed "Disclosures." The articles are simply a verbatim reproduction of the proceedings in a Court of Law. They do not contain a single word suggesting the remotest probability that Count Yamagata had anything to do directly or indirectly, with the prosecution. On the contrary, if the *Gazette's* heading has any sense, if the facts elicited in the Court are really "disclosures," then it would obviously have been Count Yamagata's interest to keep the affair out of Court. The *Gazette* is quite reckless. Unabashed by the disgraceful fiascos made by it on former occasions—as, for example, when it called Count Yamada an unscrupulous and reckless official, and converted him five days afterwards, on his retirement from office, into a bluff and conscientious old warrior; or when it tried to prove that the House of Representatives had been thrown into a commotion by a question of which the members took not the smallest notice; or when it sought to interpret Mr. Mayejima's retirement as a protest

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against corruption in official transactions the regularity and correctness of which he had just vindicated in the Diet—unabashed, we say, by any of these miserable exhibitions, the *Gazette* has now the temerity to accuse Count Yamagata of instituting the prosecution of a man whom the magistrates committed on a charge of forgery. Has the *Gazette* any proofs of this wild accusation? By "proofs" we do not refer to the mysterious personages and sources whence it professes to obtain confirmatory information of every item of anti-official scandal appearing in the vernacular press. We mean evidence that can be rationally stated and credited by rational people. If it has such proofs, let it produce them. If not, then it has added another example to the list of reckless and iniquitous charges which it seems to consider itself bound to formulate against all the prominent members of the Japanese Cabinet.

THE "JIJI SHIMPO."

THE *Jiji Shimpo* has been incautious enough to put itself within the pale of the law. On the 27th of February last, it published an advertisement in the following terms:—"Ishikawa Toshiyuki, of No 41, Shinmachi, Akasaka, Gochome, together with fourteen others, representing eight newspapers of Tokyo, were sentenced, on the 1st of October, 1890, to imprisonment for having published matter calculated to interfere with the administration of public affairs. During their imprisonment, the affair evoked much sympathy, and in order to commemorate it, it is proposed to raise a fund which shall be devoted to the assistance of any journalist throughout the empire who may hereafter be condemned by a Law Court, or to the relief of the family of any journalist who may be so unhappy as to die in prison. Benevolent folks are prayed to contribute to the fund, whether much or little." The case referred to in this advertisement was the illegal publication of a memorial addressed to the Cabinet by certain Nagoya politicians. Now the 17th Article of the Press Regulations says:—"No writing, the object of which is to defend or sympathise with a person or persons accused of a crime, or with an offender or offenders against the criminal laws, shall be published." It is obvious that the advertisement translated above distinctly violated this provision of the Regulations. The advertiser was Mr. Ishikawa Hanjiro, an editor of the *Jiji Shimpo*. Arraigned before the Tokyo Local Court, he was found guilty, and sentenced on the 1st instant to pay a fine of twenty *yen*.

THE CLIMATE OF KOREA.

FOR ten months of the year the climate of Korea is perfect. July and August are trying months on account of the rain and excessive heat. Mr. C. Waeber, Chargé d'Affaires of Russia to Korea, has, since April, 1887, been taking pretty regularly three times a day readings of his thermometer and psychrometers at 9 a.m. and 3 and 9 p.m., marking down the temperature and the moisture of the air and the maximum and minimum temperature of the day. He has also measured with the rain guage the amount of precipitation. At the request of the Söul community Mr. Waeber read a paper last September on "The Climate and Meteorology of Korea," and the paper has just been published in pamphlet form. In it are found some facts of interest to the public. After a few observations on "the geographical configuration of this great continent of Asia" with its table-lands, mountains, and extensive deserts, "where the sand gets very hot in day time and cools quickly at night, where during the summer a scorching heat is thrown out and in winter an arctic cold prevails," he calls attention to the "great mass of water" on the east of this Continent, consisting of a very conservative element, "which is not subject to those sudden changes in temperature, exercising a moderating influence on the air of the countries marking her shores." "The line of demarcation between continent and ocean shows quite a regular serpentine line, beginning in the South, say at Saigon, to Kamchatka in the north, with hardly any sharp projections or irregularities. The only projection from the land into the sea of any importance is Korea, so that in the everlasting battle between the influence of land and sea, this kingdom is the most exposed outpost. The geographical features of this part of the world show the importance attached to meteorological observations in Korea." The mean temperature for the capital is 54.9; Chemulpo, 54 4; Gensan, 53.7; Fusan, 59.9. The mean for the summer is Söul, 75 6; Chemulpo, 73.9; Gensan, 73.2; Fusan, 75.1; and for the winter months, Söul, 33.1, Chemulpo, 34.3; Gensan, 33.5; Fusan, 44.5. The annual mean at Fusan stands five degrees higher than at Söul, but the mean for the summer months at Fusan is half a degree lower, and while there are two hot months in Söul, Fusan has but one. The maximum at Fusan does not go up in summer as high as in Söul, so that in day time it is cooler there; but the minimum at night is higher too, so that the nights are a little warmer than in the capital. "When comparing our climate with that of Chemulpo we find that during exactly six months, from March till September, it is cooler at Chemulpo, and in the autumn and winter months it is warmer, which speaks much in favour of that port. The maximum thermometer in summer goes in Söul much higher. In 1890 the highest point reached was in July 97.3°; in Chemulpo it was only 92.8°; in August in Söul, 95.5; in Chemulpo, 94.2°. In day time at Söul it is a great deal hotter; in the night there is not much difference between the temperature of the two places. The summer is therefore cooler at Chemulpo. In addition to this there is the pure sea air, and the rain-fall is much less, making that port a much better place to spend the summer months. In winter the days in Söul are perhaps a little warmer, but the nights are by far colder than at Chemulpo. "A comparison of the climate on the west coast of Korea with that on the east coast at Gensan, does not show any great difference in the annual mean temperature, which is at Söul 54.9°, Chemulpo 54.4°, Gensan 53.7°." August is the hottest month in Korea, with a mean maximum at Söul of 88.8°, and a mean minimum of 72.4°. The "rainy season" extends though June, July, and August. The mean precipitation for these months is at Söul 21.86 inches, Chemulpo 17.63, Gensan 27.34, and at Fusan 19.73.

SINGAPORE INSURANCE CO. (LD.)

THE following is the report of the Singapore Insurance Company, Limited, the seventh general meeting of which was to be held on May 2nd:—The whole of last year continued to be marked by the unprecedented number of marine disasters in all parts of the world, the best class of risks suffering especially. The Directors, having given European business a fair trial, and very heavy losses being the result of the working of the London and Liverpool Agencies, decided in June last, on this being made clear, to at once cease under-writing in England, and to re-insure all that could be done without paying excessive rates. These instructions have since been carried out; and the Company's present liability on home policies is practically nil. The result of the working of the English agencies during 1890, shows at 31st December a loss of 175 per cent. on their earnings; and the losses settled since that date have considerably increased the ratio. Fire Department.—The nett premia for 1890 amount (less returns and re-insurances) to $96,256.72; and the losses (less salvage) to $18,580.83. Marine Department.—The nett premia for 1890 amount (less returns and re-insurances) to $199.853 02; and the losses (less salvage) to $229.204.83. The falling off in the marine premia is due to the cessation of the English business in June; and now that the source of nearly the whole of the marine losses has been stopped, there is every probability that in future the marine accounts will show very good results as, with one exception, all the other agencies of the company (exclusive of continental agencies, which were closed in 1889), as well as the Head Office, show, and have always shown since the commencement of this branch of the business, a good profit. The total result of the Company's working for 1890 shows at 31st December a credit balance of $30,874.54. Since that date, however, claims have been paid amounting to Fire $7,228, Marine $38,087, total $45,315. The final result of the Company's working for 1889 shows a credit balance of $25,706,87, which amount the Directors propose to carry to Reserve Fund to meet the deficit in the 1890 account as so far known and any future losses that may arise on that account. The nett premia and losses of the Company from 1st January to 31st March, 1891, as nearly as can be ascertained, are:—fire premia $30.000, losses, $6,259; marine premia $45,000, losses $500.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

WE quoted recently from the *Chemist and Druggist* a paragraph—itself an epitomised translation from a German journal—in which Mr. Fritz Riedel, reading a paper on a collection of Japanese drugs, was represented as saying:—"German pharmacy finds its main exponent in the country of the chrysanthemum in Professor Nagai, who qualified at German universities in the seventies. Professor Baelz, of Tokyo, is prominent among the German medical practitioners of high repute established in the principal ports of the country, and whose native pupils, when they become practitioners on their own accord, spread philo-Germanic views into the remotest districts of the country, and are always amongst the most eager inquirers for, and experimenters with, the new preparation that issue from German laboratories." It has been pointed out by a correspondent that these words of Mr. Riedel's may possibly suggest false inferences as to the attitude assumed by Dr. Baelz towards the sale of drugs and chemicals in Japan. The apprehension may be well grounded, but to those possessing any knowledge of the facts of the case it will assuredly seem extravagant to imagine that either Dr. Baelz, or his pupils at his indirect instigation, should be suspected of organizing a propaganda in favour of German chemicals, or indeed any other chemicals in particular. It is well known that Dr. Baelz has always been scrupulously careful to abstain from the smallest contact with the business side of his profession, and to limit to a purely scientific sphere the exercise of the great influence which he possesses in Japan. There have doubtless been occasions when he was required to certify to the usefulness of a particular medicine, but we believe that he carries his policy of non-interference so far as to decline any fee for such work. In point of fact the Japanese conduct their purchases of drugs without reference of any kind to Dr. Baelz, and our information goes to show that in the very rare cases where recommendations were required from him with regard to particular drugs, an American and a French firm were selected by him as having made a specialty of these preparations. Mr. Riedel, a gentleman of much enterprise and activity, ought—unless we are greatly mistaken—to be eminently capable of certifying the impossibility of obtaining from Dr. Baelz assistance of the nature suggested in the above extract.

RIOTOUS CONDUCT AT A MEETING IN SHINSHU.

IT is reported that at a meeting held on the 1st instant in Asama, Shinshu, great excitement was caused by a statement of one of the speakers indirectly implicating the police in violence perpetrated by *Soshi*. The account says that the meeting was kept waiting a long time owing to the non-arrival of the persons announced to speak, and that when these gentlemen did put in an appearance, they presented a battered and dilapidated mien. One of them, a certain Mr. Kawamata, ascended the dais and informed the audience that, on their way to the meeting, the speakers had been waylaid by a body of *Soshi*, from whose hands they had escaped with considerable difficulty and some bruises: hence the delay. He went on to say that during the encounter with the *Soshi* a policeman on horseback, whom he recognised as Constable Ai-

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zawa, had passed. They had hailed him two or three times, but he paid no attention, proceeding on his way as though nothing were occurring. This statement was the signal for a tremendous uproar among the audience, who numbered over two thousand. Several men sprang up, shouting out that the constables on duty at the meeting were accomplices of Aizawa, and in a moment the unfortunate policemen found themselves converted into a target for missiles of all kinds, from ink-bottles to braziers. The speakers on the platform did everything in their power to restore order, but the audience were thoroughly roused, and had not the constables effected their escape by the back of the building, their lives would probably have been endangered. After their departure the meeting settled down quietly, and two or three speeches were delivered without further interruption. The account does not speak of the action subsequently taken by the police.

NEWS FROM CHINA AND THE SOUTH.

HYDROPHOBIA seems to have assumed really serious proportions in Singapore. During the period of about a week up to the 18th ult., there were no less than twelve persons bitten, and several dogs either rabid or certain to be so soon, with, to use the language of a contemporary, "another series of cases not unlikely to result from these, both of rabies in the dog and hydrophobia in the human being." The same journal calls on the Government—since in their wisdom the authorities decided against the project of exterminating all the dogs on the island, and resorted to milder measures,—to send at its expense all bitten persons to Saigon for Pasteur treatment. At Penang a goat was bitten by a mad dog, and a fortnight later developed all the symptoms of hydrophobia, and eventually died. * * * The death is announced at Malacca of a gentleman who must surely be ranked as one of the veterans of those who compose the Occidental communities in the East. Mr. John Velge is described as one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, of Straits residents. "He was over 94 years of age, and his recollection of the early years of this century was very curious. He could tell of the blowing up of the Dutch Fort in Malacca in 1807, when the English by exchange took over that settlement. He was a sailor, and owned small sailing vessels for many years, making voyages to different ports in India, Sumatra, and Java, towards the beginning of this century, of which places he used to relate very entertaining anecdotes. He made a considerable amount of money and retired, living for some time in Singapore, where he was very hospitable." Mr. Velge was much respected by the Chinese of Malacca, where he was born. * * * A circular has been issued and published in Singapore proposing terms on which the Singapore Fire Insurance Co. (Ld.) should take over the business of the Singapore Insurance Co. (Ld.). * * * The trouble between the unofficial members of the Hongkong Legislative Council and the Governor, with reference to the wish of the former that the additions to official salaries resolved on last year should be postponed in view of the present financial state of the colony, still continues. It will be recollected that at the last meeting of the Council resolutions calling for postponement were proposed, but rejected. Thereupon the unofficial members wrote to the Governor, who had not been present at the meeting, intimating that they intended to memoriatise the Secretary of State, and asking him to telegraph a request that, pending receipt of the memorial, the Secretary should withhold his sanction of the increased salaries. In the course of some correspondence that followed, the Governor said he had not telegraphed and did not propose doing so. The unofficial members then wired themselves to the Secretary of State, requesting postponement of the increase of salaries. They intimated this fact to the Governor on the 24th ultimo, and on the 27th were called to meet his Excellency, who addressed them at some length as to his reasons for the course he had taken with regard to their request. There the matter at present rests. * * * Acting Chief Inspector Craddock, of the Hongkong Police, after twenty-four years' service, has been compelled by ill-health to send in his resignation. * * * It is stated that the Russian transport *St. Petersburg* which called at Singapore about the middle of last month, had 620 convicts, who are to be employed on railway construction works in Siberia, and also carried a handsome saloon car for the use of the Prince Imperial on his way home from Vladivostock.

JAPANESE JOE MILLERISMS.

A CORRESPONDENT who has been digging in the mine of Japanese stories contained in the *Hitoguchi-banashi*, sends us the following :—

THE CONFUSED PHYSICIAN.

A quack doctor named Yamai Yoken was once called urgently to attend a neighbour's wife who was suffering from an attack of hysteria. The doctor, entering the house in a hurry, proceeded to the assistance of the sick woman, who was supported by a maid-servant. But in his confusion he seized the servant's hand instead of that of her mistress, and began intently to count its pulse-beats. To correct his error the girl said—"You have made a mistake; that other is my mistress' hand." "*Nani*," replied the Medico, "in cases of emergency one can't stop to be particular in the matter of hands."

"EXPERENTIA DOCET."

A confirmed tippler having occasion to send his servant, a country girl, to buy some *saké*, said, placing the empty bottle in her hands;—"Now be very careful and see that you don't fall in coming back If you fall, you know, you will be sure, one way or another, to spill the wine. Of course if you are obliged to fall, I suppose you must; but in that case put the bottle down carefully on the road, and then fall."

HIS OWN DETECTOR.

A man who had come into the city from a country district, was told one day by the gentleman whose service he had entered, to take nine *kunenbō* to the house of one of his master's relatives. (*kunenbō* are a variety of orange) While journeying along to perform his mission it occurred to our rustic friend that as in all probability the word *kunenbō* had reference to the number that he carried, he might with impunity help himself to some of the fruit. So he took out two and put them in his pocket. Arrived at his destination he remarked nonchalantly, handing the diminished present to a servant:—"Here are some *shichinenbō* for you." "*Shichinenbō*!" replied the servant, laughingly, "Why, these are *kunenbō*." Believing himself foiled in his nefarious attempt, the dishonest messenger reluctantly drew forth the fruit that he had hidden. "Oh, *kunenbō*, are they? Well, here are the other *ni-nenbō*.

THE POPULATION OF CHINESE TREATY PORTS.

THE following figures, taken from the Customs statistics of the Foreign Trade of China in 1890 may be interesting :—

Foreign	No. of Firms.	No. of Residents.
British	327	3,317
American	32	1,133
German	80	648
French	19	589
Dutch	2	41
Danish	2	81
Spanish	4	304
Swedish and Norwegian	2	155
Russian	12	131
Austrian	4	65
Belgian	1	28
Italian	2	74
Japanese	29	893
Brazilian	—	2
Portuguese	5	610
Non-Treaty Powers	1	26
Total	522	8,207

Chinese Population at—	Estimated
Newchwang	60,000
Tientsin	950,000
Chefoo	21,000
Ichang	34,000
Hankow	800,000
Kiukiang	51,000
Wuhu	83,000
Chinkiang	135,000
Shanghai	300,000
Ningpo	250,000
Wênchow	80,000
Fu chow	626,000
Tamsui	150,000
Takow	235,000
Amoy	90,000
Swatow	32,500
Canton	1,000,000
Kiungchow	40,000
Pakhoi	25,000
Lungchow	20,000
Mêngtze	12,000
Total	5,639,500

"MISSIONARY TIDINGS."

THE first number has just appeared in Yokohama of a new monthly periodical called *Missionary Tidings*. It is printed by the Yokohama Seishi Bunsha, and edited by the Rev. F. Staniland. The annual subscription is only 1 *yen* and the price per copy, 10 *sen*. As yet the magazine is a very modest affair, containing only eight pages, and measuring 10½ inches by 7½. But we see no reason why it should not play a useful part. The number of Missionaries in Japan is now very large, and an accurate record of their doings is desirable. Moreover, some of the discussions which, from time to time, have been carried on in the columns of the secular press, would undoubtedly find a more suitable place in the pages of a magazine such as that now before us. It is plain that the editor cannot hope for any large pecuniary reward. But probably he attaches little importance to that consideration, being mainly influenced by a desire to aid the work of Christian propagandism. He has been very successful in his first number. It contains much interesting matter, and is written well and brightly. As an example of the editor's style, and by way of helping our readers to estimate his purpose, we quote the following from his opening article :—

The history of modern Japan is one of thrilling interest. No country, probably, in the world's history, has ever emerged from the obscurity of isolation, and advanced with such quick step in the march of nations. It is like a panoramic transformation scene. In literature, in the arts and sciences, in politics and commerce, and in every department of civilisation we see the evidences of political and social regeneration. Facts and figures prove with unmistakeable certainty that the whole country, pulsating as it is with vital energy, is full of absorbingly interesting information The threads which intersect the warp from selvedge to selvedge are fashioning a new design in the history of this country; and that there is no lack of valuable material for a missionary journal is beyond the possibility of question. Missionary enterprise has been largely instrumental in bringing about this rapid transition from "the twilight of fable" to the clearer light of present day facts, and it seems to us a matter of surprise that there should be no publication in Japan to contain a record of missionary effort. There certainly ought to be such a paper —a paper in which free intercourse of thought may be enjoyed—a paper in which missionary interest shall be represented, and which shall prove to be not merely a record of facts and figures, but an earnest advocate of Christian truth, and a real evangelising agent.

Many missionaries are working quietly for the kingdom of God and the betterment of their fellow men—working with a praiseworthy desire not to let their left hand know what the right hand doeth; but the fact, nevertheless is true that the left hand *ought* to know; it has a right to know, and while it is indeed true of *almsgiving* that *it* should be done in secret, it was never so said of Christian *work*. On the contrary, the divine injunction is, "Let your light so shine before men, *that they may see your good works*, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

* * *

We cannot refrain from quoting two little stories that appear in the pages of the Magazine. The first is entitled "Practical Christianity":—

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY.

Some months ago a Bible woman was passing through one of the poorer quarters in Tokyo when she heard what seemed to be the singing of Christian hymns proceeding from a very dilapidated building near by. Attracted by curiosity she went to see what it meant, for as yet she had never heard of any Christian work being conducted in that part of the city.

She found on inquiry that it was a school for poor children, and it had originated and was carried on by a man who had formerly been in the army, and was converted through the efforts of one of his Christian comrades.

This man seems to have been filled with the true conception of the spirit of the Gospel, and when he was discharged he went to this destitute portion of the capital, and secured an old building in which to open a school where all who came should receive instruction, and no compensation was asked for or expected.

He had no means of his own to pay the rent or to supply himself with food, and so he drew a jinrikisha at night to get money for the rent of the building, and for his daily food he was dependent upon whatever the parents of the children might give him. Some days he had almost nothing to eat; but he was not discouraged, and kept on faithfully at his work.

One of the regular exercises in the school was the singing of Christian hymns and the recital of Bible texts that he taught them.

The discovery of such a noble and selfdenying work was quite a surprise, as the man had worked on quietly and never sought for assistance or fame. In fact he simply desired to follow Christ in His ministration of love to others who were in want.

When this state of things became known it was arranged, with his approval, that there should be a regular service held in the school room by the Young Men's Christian Association three times a week. It was further agreed to pay the rent of the building as a preaching place, and so he was relieved of the necessity of working nights to secure funds for that purpose. The place was also made more comfortable, and grew in popularity and the number of attendants.

As Christmas drew near one of the missionaries made inquiries as to the cost of an entertainment for all the children. She was informed that it would be most acceptable, and it was estimated that to provide for 90 children the expenses would be about $3 50, and for 85 cents more a much larger and more pleasant room could be secured for that special occasion.

So the money was promised and cakes and oranges were provided in bags for more than 100 It was their first Christmas celebration, and therefore a novel and most happy event in the lives of those little ones who had hitherto known nothing but poverty and want.

Those who contributed were privileged to be present at the exercises, and describe it as one of the most delightful experiences of their lives. All was as orderly as could be desired, although the crowd was so large that many were unable to gain admittance.

First of all was singing and recitations of scriptures. There were no mistakes or halting, but interspersed

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with hymns was a succession of recitations from the Bible that were really wonderful under such circumstances. Even the youngest child, who was not three years old, was brought out in front of the guests, and, after a most humble bow, repeated, without hesitation, the 117th Psalm.

After an address by one of the native pastors the refreshments were distributed, and all were in an ecstasy of delight. It was the general conclusion that they had never seen or enjoyed anything like that before.

But the most characteristic and beautiful of all was to see, away at one side, a group of blind people for whom the teacher had made provision out of his own scanty means. This was of his own devising, and gave to all a most striking example of what the religion of Christ does for the poor and helpless of all classes.

It is almost needless to say that this work has been greatly blessed. Already quite a number have professed their faith in Christ, and it is said that the whole neighbourhood has been transformed.

So large and interesting are the audiences that it is contemplated to build a church in that locality for the accommodation of the people who have come to believe in and admire that religion which has done so much for them.

THE OKAYAMA ORPHAN ASYLUM.

Three years ago last September Mr. J. Ishii, then a medical student in Okayama, befriended three orphans. Later, he and his estimable wife took other needy ones into their family.

Finding his house too small, he rented one half of a Buddhist temple belonging to the *Zen* Sect, and opened a regular Asylum, giving no public notice of the movement, but receiving whatever children, money, food, and clothing came to him.

A year later the work had so grown on his hands that although within six months of graduation, he threw up his medical course, against the advice of all his friends, and gave his life to the care of needy children.

At first he had an organization, each supporter pledging a certain amount of aid annually, but that was soon abandoned, it better suiting his idea of a true faith enterprise to depend upon indefinite, irregular, unsolicited gifts. The Orphanage has grown steadily, 120 different children have been cared for, of whom 5 have died, 3 run away, 7 been returned to relatives, and 105 are now in the Home. It is undenominational, and counts people of many creeds, cults, and countries among its friends. It owns two houses and 237 *tsubo* of land (⅛ of an acre) adjoining the temple, supports a school, has taken out a license for printing and rice hulling, and does a little farming and weaving. The running expenses of the whole institution are about $4 a day, besides contributions of food and clothing. Not a single garment has been *bought* during the three and one half years. One Christian farmer furnishes free gratis all the *shoyu* needed. students of the Doshisha and other schools annually contribute their old clothes, and many other things are sent in.

The whole thing is most economically conducted. I append a part of the February *Kaujo*:—

Rent	yen 4.000
Rice	65.182
"Yasai to Niku"	7.621
Fuel	4.974
Paper, &c.	1.551
Books	.300
"Dogu"	.130
Geta no hana	.050
Postage and Express	1.340
Medicines	.125
Wages	10.070
Total regular expenses	95.543

There were also special expenses for the month of nearly yen 30, covered by special gifts.

The children ought to be a little better fed: $5.00 a day would be the right figure for a steady income.

Mr. Ishii is a very spiritually minded Christian, and believes most literally in the prayer of faith and the God of the fatherless.

Whenever he and his large family go hungry for a day, as occasionally happens, he considers it a rebuke to his own lack of faith.

The children have caught his spirit, and at such times repair to the graveyard behind the temple and pray for food. On at least five occasions, relief has come at the exact time of need. Whatever our philosophy about these mysteries may be, such experiences just fit the spirit of the man and the institution. He is the George Muller of the Orient, and an ardent disciple of that great apostle of faith and philanthropy. Mr. Ishii is greatly interested in local evangelistic work, and has begun to print leaflets and short sermons for free distribution among the common people, the orphans doing all the manual work. So anxious were the children to contribute to this work that 50 of them voluntarily went without two of their three meals one day and received from "Father Ishii" the rice money saved, yen 1.59 which they turned into the printing department to buy paper for more tracts. During the week ending February 28, special preaching services were held every night at the rooms of a new Sabbath School recently opened in the southern part of the city. Mr. Ishii attended and distributed his tracts.

The last evening as he was crossing Kyobashi on his way to meeting he heard two children crying. He spoke to them kindly. They told him they were orphans, had no home, and lived under the bridge.

Some shop keepers near by corroborated their statements. On his way back he tried to find the children but was unsuccessful in the dark. He passed a troubled night, arose just before day, went down to the bridge and found the little waifs sleeping there in the cold.

He took them home, dressed them in comfortable clothing, filled them up with India rice, and then watched them in their supreme happiness. At 9 and 13 they were no larger than children should be at 5 or 6. "And finding those two homeless children," he added, in telling me the story, "was the one great result of last week's meeting."

Such a man deserves a generous backing. More land is desired for farming purposes 2½ acres are available for some $400. Two Kobe friends, one English and one American, have taken quarter acre sections at $40 each. Aside from its library of 230 books, kept in old kerosene oil boxes, and clothing on hand, the Asylum property is valued at $460. The total of cash receipts up to date is about $3,300.

JAMES H. PETTEE.

Okayama, March 28, 1891.

THE RADICAL PARTY.

THE dissensions that prevailed in the ranks of the Radical Party (*Jiyu-to*) during the closing days of the Diet's session, and that have since made themselves more than once apparent, seem to have reached a very acute stage in Kiushu. Judging by present information, there is every probability that the Radicals of the southern island will separate themselves definitely from the general body of the Party under Count Itagaki's leadership. The Kiushu folks have always devoted themselves to effecting a union of all the liberal politicians throughout the empire. In this cause they laboured earnestly in 1889, and though success did not completely crown their efforts, it is probable that the partial *rapprochement* which they were able to accomplish paved the way for the temporary union in the Diet that so nearly carried the Budget Committee's Report in the teeth of the Constitution and the Government. It is doubtless fresh in the memory of our readers that, shortly after the prorogation of the Diet, a great meeting of the *Jiyu-to* was held in Osaka; that the delegates then assembled voted to remove the two ideographs *Aikken* from the Party's title and to replace the leadership in Count Itagaki's hands, and that the latter accepted the trust on condition of certain changes being carried out in the organization of the party. These changes pointed in the direction of greater discipline and more complete subordination to leadership. Now the Kiushu Radicals hold the opinion that the action of the Osaka Meeting and its immediate consequences were calculated to deter a union of progressive politicians, and since they hold such union to be the first desideratum of the situation, they are determined to make it their prime purpose, and to decline cōoperation with any persons professing a different view. The changes of organization effected in the sequel of the Osaka Meeting would, in their opinion, be suitable and prudent enough if a combination of all the progressionist elements had been already achieved, but pending its achievement such an organization is distinctly mischievous. They desire, before the next session of the Diet opens, to form a Union Club, in which the parliamentary representatives of the *Jiyu-to*, the *Kaishin-to* and other liberal associations shall meet. Under the present Law of Political Parties such a club cannot be openly organised as a means of combining parties independently registered. It must therefore be a club for members of the Diet only. This programme is not yet definitely decided. It will be submitted to a meeting of the Kiushu Radicals in Osaka on the 5th instant, after which one or two delegates from each prefecture in Kiushu will probably be sent to Tokyo, to notify the act of separation to the *Jiyu-to* office, and to take steps for the formation of the proposed club. From Saga and Kagoshima chiefly come the politicians who are opposed to Count Itagaki's leadership.

* * *

The movement is evidently of great importance. It may permanently affect the constitution of the Radical Party. One of the obvious difficulties in the way of union is that the *Kaishin-to* elements in the combination could scarcely fail to become the leaders. Looking at the matter from the point of view of outsiders, we cannot see that qualities making for political control are possessed by the prominent Radicals in nearly so great a degree as by the prominent Liberals (*Kaishin-to*). Count Okuma appears to tower head and shoulders above any one in either party, and though not ostensibly the leader of the *Kaishin-to*, he is assuredly their actual chief. A union under him would be a really powerful, if not an irresistible, factor in politics. And descending to the ranks of the *Kaishin-to*, we find several members who, though they look small by Count Okuma's side, still compare favourably with the best representatives of the *Jiyu-to*. It is obviously difficult to bring about a fusion of such elements.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

COMPLAINTS begin to made themselves heard about the effects produced in the Metropolitan Police Department by the financial policy of the Diet. A considerable reduction having been made in the Secret service fund of the Departments, it has been found necessary to diminish the number of detectives. Under the old arrangement two or three detectives were attached to each station, and in the event of any unusual occurrence it was always possible to combine this whole force and employ it vigorously. But the reduced secret service fund does not suffice for distribution to the various stations. It has to be devoted entirely to the service of the chief office and of the three bureaux. Thus the stations are no larger in a position to have detectives of their own. They become dependant in this respect on the chief of police's direct orders, and of course the efficiency of the force in regard to detecting and checking crime is correspondingly diminished. The country will have to pay through the nose, one of these fine days, for the unwise retrenchments of its first popular legislators.

SAKÉ TO THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

JAPAN is apparently about to become a purveyor of spirituous liquors to the South Sea Islands. The *Jiyu Shimbun* says that Messrs. Takiguchi Kurakichi and Company of Kayabacho, Nihonbashi, Tokyo, received orders, on the 30th ultimo for the manufacture of twelve hundred *yen* worth of gin, brandy, and some other kind of intoxicating beverage, the name of which we fail to recognise in its Japanese spelling, for export by the *Tenyu-maru*, a ship belonging to the South Sea Islands Company. It will probably surprise some of our readers that gin and brandy should be ordered of a Tokyo firm —the Foreign Wine Manufacturing Company (*yoshu-tsukuri-mise*) as Messrs. Takiguchi & Co., are called. But for several years both of these liquors have been produced in Japan, the former presenting no special difficulties in a country where excellent rye and barley are obtainable, and the latter being made from Koshu grapes after a fashion that does not appeal to fastidious palates, but will no doubt suit the South Sea Islanders well enough.

"NATIONAL SPIRIT."

UNDER this title the *Kokkai* of the 2nd inst. has an ably written article urging the advisability of removing the restrictions imposed upon freedom of speech in Japan. The line taken by our contemporary is that all medicines are in themselves poison, and that their continued use after the disease has been cured on account of which they were originally administered, must of necessity be injurious. The contest on behalf of free speech was waged so long and so vehemently in the West that every argument for and against it found full expression, and it may well be supposed that nothing new is adduced by Japanese journals. The *Kokkai* can only tell its readers what has often been said before, namely, that a free press has a wholesomer and stronger educational influence in a civilized country than any code of laws or system of government; that in the absence of the applause it secures for virtue and the execration it evokes for vice, social progress cannot be assured; and that the narrower the restrictions imposed upon speech and pen, the slower must be the growth of sound public opinion. These things are undeniable, and we do not think that the *Kokkai*

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pays England an undeserved compliment when it points to her case as a salient example of the beneficial action and reaction of free speech. The English press has gradually educated such a tone of public morality that the utterances of newspapers are themselves controlled by the standard they have established. But after all these general principles have been enunciated and admitted—and we imagine that by none are they more fully appreciated than by the men who enacted the Japanese Press Regulations—the question remains to be answered, is Japan prepared to enjoy, without abusing, freedom of speech? The *Kokkai* answers unhesitatingly in the affirmative, and we sincerely hope that its verdict is true. It is evidently very difficult for foreigners to pronounce a definite opinion upon such subjects. Nothing can be easier than to write cheap claptrap about the glorious privilege of unfettered speech and an unrestrained pen. Any tyro can ventilate borrowed eloquence on such a topic, just as the shallowest scribbler can elaborate a strong case against Japanese civilization because the privilege is still withheld. But to judge clearly whether the time is ripe for taking in this country a step from which some Western States still shrink, is a task demanding wide knowledge and clear foresight. All friends of Japan wish to believe that she has attained the necessary standard, but are, at the same time, anxious that she should proceed with due deliberation.

* * *

A great deal of tall talk has been published by foreign journals in Yokohama on this subject. Men who clutch at any stick wherewith to beat Japan, do not hesitate to upbraid the Government for imposing restraintsupon the press. In their eagerness to find fault, they lose sight of the inference inevitably deducible from their reproaches, namely, that the people of Japan are prepared to be entrusted with this privilege, still beyond the reach of some highly civilized Western nations and as yet safely enjoyed by only a few. We trust that the inference is justifiable. But we cannot forget that restraints which have become harsh and scarcely tolerable in the case of journals like the *Kokkai*, may still be necessary in respect of papers imbued with a less effective sense of public responsibility.

THE "SEI-I-KWAI MEDICAL JOURNAL."

THE *Sei-i-kwai Medical Journal* for April contains a capital portrait of Dr. Ernest Hart, the editor of the *British Medical Journal*, and a report of his lecture at the Koyo-kan, extracted from the *Japan Mail*. We notice with regret that Dr. S. Suzuki, chief editor, having recently been appointed Surgeon-in-Chief of the Naval College at Edajima, Hiroshima, is compelled to sever his editorial connection with the *Sei-i-Kwai Journal*. Among the original articles this month there is one by Dr. Y. Inoko on the effects of *Toboshi*, the sacred medicine of the Ainu. *Toboshi* is described as a species of mushroom (an *agaricus* belonging to the family of *Polyporus Sp.*) and is found in sizes varying from that of a fist to that of a man's head. It is of rounded form and uneven surface, and its interior is sold and white, much resembling potter's clay. It has a bitter taste. From its analysis there were obtained an organic acid and a resinous compound, the former of which is stated to perfectly agree with agaricus acid in its action upon the sweat glands. Three centigrammes mixed with carbonate of soda and injected under the skin of an animal arrested the secretion of perspiration, and caused the skin to lose its lustre and become dry to the touch. Dr. Inoko's experiments showed that night sweats could be cured by internal doses of the acid. Dr. K. Kashimura writes on the use as a medicine of *Phytollacca acinosa*, a poisonous plant of Japan. So complex is the composition of this plant that Mr. Nagai, of the Japanese Pharmaceutical Laboratory, was only able in January last year to separate the poisonous element, an amorphous resin, the physiological action of which entirely agrees with those of picrotoxin and cicutoxin. From a lecture delivered by Dr. H. Kure on Deaf Mutes and the Blind in Japan, we take the following:—"In Japan, the numbers of blind and deaf and dumb persons, insane persons and idiots are not found in the statistical reports of the Home Department, or in the reports of the Police Department, so I will take the census of Yamanashi *Ken* (a prefecture) for December, 1879, as a standard, and infer therefrom what is the condition of the whole of this country. In Yamanashi *Ken*, which we will take to represent the whole country, the proportion of blind and of deaf and dumb is different from that found amongst western nations. The ratio of deaf and dumb among the inhabitants of Yamanashi *Ken* is 5.76 per 10,000, which is almost the same as that of Great Britain, and though it is greater than that of Holland (3.3) or Belgium (4.4), it is far less than that of Norway (9 2) or Sweden (10.2) and still less than that of Switzerland (24.5). Thus Japan, as compared with the countries of Europe, is among those countries of the world having the lowest ratio of deaf and dumb persons. But it is quite different with the number of the blind, this ratio being 22.12 in 20,000, a ratio which is not found in most European countries. This number exceeds that of Norway (13.6) Hungary (12 0) or Spain (11.2) and is almost equal to that of Finland (24.4). This is indeed a great number. For this reason, what has been said by some persons, that the number of blind and of deaf and dumb persons taken together does not reach that of the cases of mental disease, or that the number of blind, is almost the same as that of deaf and dumb is not applicable in our country (at least in Yamanashi *Ken*). But in examining the classes of blind persons, we find that the number of those who are blind from birth is only 2.11 in every 10,000 of the population, and the greatest number is found in those who have become blind by disease. The percentage of those who are blind from birth is 8.6, that of those who became so by accident 2.0, and the remaining 89.4 represents those blind through disease. As there is a distinction only between youths and adults in the census record of Yamanashi *Ken*, whether the number of blind and the number of deaf and dumb persons increase or decrease along with the progress of age is not known. But generally the number of blind is, as in Europe, less below the age of 15 and greater amongst adults. Thus the number of blind is about the same as in Europe, according to age, but that of deaf and dumb is quite different, being 4.36 in youth and increasing to 8.62 in adult age, the reason of which remains yet to be investigated. The number of blind men is not the same as that of blind women, so also in the case of deaf and dumb. Blindness is more common in females than in males, while more males than females are deaf and dumb. In the greater number of blind women, Japan is like the north-eastern part of Germany, and in the greater number of deaf and dumb males, she agrees with the general condition of Europe.

POOR FELLOW!

So Mr. Okabe Hiromi is "a high-souled man who has been the victim of a cruel legal persecution for no other reason than his steadfast refusal to be bribed into submission or silence;" "a Japanese gentleman of unspotted honour and high reputation." This is beautiful but at the same time exquisitely comical. Mr. Okabe Hiromi, the high-souled gentleman of unspotted honour and high reputation, is a man who having obtained control of a news agency by an act of deceit, then deliberately proceeded to employ it in the most unscrupulous manner for political purposes. According to his own account, he found, on examining the books of the agency, that the expenditure always exceeded the income, but being informed that Mr. Masuda, the owner of the agency, was prepared to help, he went to Mr. Masuda, and entered into a private agreement—so Mr. Masuda declared in Court—to conduct the Agency in official interests. Having thus procured the position of Manager, he set about his own little scheme, namely, using the Agency as an instrument for promoting a coalition of parties to overthrow the Government, in whose interests the Agency had been established. Not only did he circulate items of news independently obtained for that purpose, but—to use his own words as translated by the very journal that now trumpets his high-souled unspotted honour—he took the drafts of news supplied by the Government and "dealt with them as he pleased, omitting and adding items, so as best to fulfil the object he had in view." All this was certainly very high-souled, in the sense of being far above the usual dictates of honesty. But if such doings are also to be described as befitting "a gentleman of unspotted honour and high reputation," a new standard of everyday integrity must be adopted. For our own part, we should call Mr. Okabe an unscrupulous and adroit politician. He coolly deceived Mr. Masuda by entering into an engagement which he had not the smallest intention of keeping, and he then applied himself to deceive the public as far as seemed convenient in the interests of his own political programme. Unspotted honour and a high reputation are nobly exemplified in such a person.

* * *

As for the prosecution of Mr. Okabe, we are told by the "honest" journal which, in devoting its columns solely to the purpose of blackening Japanese reputation, claims to be "doing the nation a service," that his arrest and trial show an improper connection between the Administration and the Judiciary, indicating more or less subservience on the part of the latter to the former. The *Japan Gazette's* theory is that Mr. Okabe was charged with forgery at the instigation of Count Yamagata, Minister President of State, and of other high officials. Now by whom was the charge preferred? By Mr. Koide, Mr. Okabe's successor in the management of the Agency. From the evidence it appears that Mr. Koide, on assuming charge of the Agency, found that the previous manager was circulating items of news in the name of the Agency, and over a seal manufactured by himself for the purpose. A charge of forging the Agency's seal was laid against him, and the examining Magistrate committed him for trial. Then what happens? Despite the supposed interference of the Minister President of State and "other high officials," the Court of First Instance acquits Mr. Okabe. Yet we are asked to construe the affair into an evidence of the subservience of the Judiciary to the Administration! Its bearing is in precisely the opposite direction. If there be any truth in the assertion that the head of the Cabinet and other high officials interested themselves to procure Mr. Okabe's conviction, then the action of the Court in acquitting him, proves the independence, not the subserviency, of the Judiciary.

* * *

So far as the legal aspect of this case is concerned, we see nothing to criticise except the time that elapsed between Mr. Okabe's committal and his final trial. It is not true that the time was six months. That is one of the exaggerations so commonly resorted to by the "honest" journals that labour in the service of the nation. Mr. Okabe was arrested on November 22nd, 1890, and his case came before the Court of First Instance on April 17th—an interval of less than five months. During that time he remained in prison. We cannot understand such a delay. The Code of Criminal Procedure provides that accused persons may be released on bail, but whether the Magistrates are unduly harsh in applying the rule, or whether prisoners are slow to take advantage of it, there have undoubtedly been several instances of seemingly great injustice in respect of the detention of men awaiting trial. Mr. Okabe ought to have been able to obtain release on bail. His offence was not of such a grave character as to demand exceptionally high security. We do not know whether he applied for bail, but what is certain is that he lay in prison for five months—including the New Year's recess—during a little more than four of which the Courts were sitting, and that, according to the ultimate judgment of a legal tribunal, no offence justifying even a day's imprisonment could be proved against him. Even granting that he

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could have procured bail had he sought that privilege, the fact still remains that a prisoner unable to find bail may be detained in prison for several months in the capital of Japan before his case comes up for final hearing. That is not as it should be. In England a prisoner, awaiting trial by a Court of Quarter Sessions or of Assize, may possibly be imprisoned for from three to four months before trial. Compared with this, Mr. Okabe's five months, less 26 days at New Year, do not call for much criticism. But his case is not exceptional. Instances of far longer detention have come under our notice, and there can be little doubt that in respect of the protection provided against miscarriages of this nature, the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure are defective. We understand that the revised Code, submitted to the Diet during its last session, will inaugurate a wholesomer state of things. It is to be hoped so.

THE CODES.

It is in vain that the apologist for the Citizens' Committee's Statement toils to smoothe over its exaggerations. The words of the statement are :—"The laws contained in the new Codes are not indigenous, but imported, not to satisfy an acknowledged want, but for the attainment of a political object, namely, the Revision of the Treaties and the abolition of extraterritorial jurisdiction." Unfortunately for those who now seek to evade the truth, this language admits of no second interpretation. The Committee declare, in explicit terms, that no acknowledged want existed for the new laws, and that they were introduced for political purposes alone. In the face of this plain declaration, what is the use of telling the public that "the Citizens' Committee do not affirm that the legislative reforms of the Japanese Government have been prompted purely and exclusively by political motives;" that "they do not deny that reform *per se* is deemed of great importance by the Japanese"? The unmistakable language of the Committee precludes the possibility of all subterfuge and evasion. If they believed that "reform *per se* is deemed of great importance;" if they believed that the introduction of the new laws would be a reform in any sense, why did they commit themselves to the distinct avowal that no acknowledged want existed for the Codes? They may not have intended to make such a sweeping declaration, but make it they certainly did, and it is mere persiflage on the part of their apologist to pretend that they did not.

* * *

The apologist goes on to tell us that "the immediate, the prominent, the publicly reiterated cause of the hurried preparation and promulgation of the Codes was the prospect of thereby effecting Treaty Revision." What is meant by the "hurried preparation of the Codes"? Apparently the writer of these words is familiar with only one incident in the history of the new Laws. Does he know that the draft of 600 Articles of the Civil Code was printed and issued in Japanese and in French in 1882? Does he know that the draft of the Commercial Code was printed and issued in 1885? Thus in one case an interval of eight years and in the other an interval of five separated the act of promulgation from the completion of the work of compilation. The apologist has plainly shown that he does not distinguish between compilation and revision. He imagines that the Revising Committee, under Count Yamada's presidency, which in 1887 continued the task of the previous Revising Committee, was in fact a Committee of Compilation. It was nothing of the kind. It had merely to read, and if necessary revise, carefully compiled codes, to nearly every article of which full explanations were appended. Undoubtedly Count Yamada urged the Committee to hasten its exertions in the cause of Treaty Revision, and in doing so he acted in a perfectly legitimate manner. If Mr. Murata, a member of the Committee, chose, when he had ceased to occupy an official position, to turn to improper, misleading, and traitrous use the instructions conveyed to him in his official capacity, that was Mr. Murata's business. We need not go far to look for parallel cases in connection with this very subject of Treaty Revision. But to say that Codes which had been actually compiled and issued long before any question had arisen of the part they were likely to play in Treaty Revision—to say that these Codes were compiled with a view to Treaty Revision, is an obvious absurdity. In 1882, when the draft of the Civil Code was printed and issued, the Treaty Revision Conferences under Count Inouye had not been commenced, and when they did commence, their basis was entirely independent of the new Codes. It remained independent of them until 1886, when the Anglo-German Note was presented. Why, under these circumstances, seek to throw dust in the eyes of the public by pretending that the Codes were compiled in the interests of Treaty Revision? Never did a body of responsible men put upon paper a more misleading or less justifiable statement than the Citizens' Committee when they declared that the Codes were "imported, not to satisfy an acknowledged want, but for the attainment of a political object."

* * *

One other point ought to be mentioned in this context. It has been asserted that no translation of the Japanese Codes exists, and that foreigners have no access to them. If this were true, it would still be an unreasonable complaint. No country in the world translates its laws into a foreign language for the benefit of strangers. Conceive what a demented person a Frenchman would be called who should claim that unless German Codes were officially translated and published in French, he must not be asked to submit to them while residing in German territority. Or imagine how Englishmen would feel if they were informed that because their laws exist in England only, they must not expect to exercise jurisdiction over strangers on British soil. We often wonder whether the extreme unreason of the demands advanced by some of the writers about Treaty Revision can really be hidden from themselves. However, in this instance Japan consents to be far more accommodating than other States are. Authenticated translations of her Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure have existed since 1881; an official French translation of the Civil Code—the book of persons excepted—was published at the beginning of April; an Exposé of Motives, in French, is now in the press and will be published in June; and an English translation is promised a little later. Instead, therefore, of complaining, we have to acknowledge with gratitude that the procedure of Japan in this matter is considerate and liberal beyond all precedent.

SOSHI.

According to the *Mimpo*, that truly modest and unassuming personage, the *soshi*, has again been distinguishing himself in a line of achievement which he has lately made specially his own. Some doubt having arisen as to the issue of the scrip of the Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company, the matter got into the Tokyo papers and an allegation was made—and immediately denied—that a number of forged shares had been sold in the market. In the controversy that ensued the *soshi* saw his chance, and with seven of his fellows called on the 28th ult. at the office of the company and demanded an interview with Mr. Asaba Yasushi, the president. That gentleman found that business pressed exceedingly hard upon him at the moment, and that he could not comply with the request. The visitors, however, declared their intention of waiting till the president could find leisure to see them. Mr. Asaba had not been able to find the necessary spare time up to a late hour in the evening, when the strangers complainingly withdrew. They will find police constables waiting to entertain them on the occasion of their next visit.

NEWS FROM NORTH-CHINA.

It is stated that the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank has succeeded in effecting a loan for ten years of some £50,000 to the Tartar General at Foochow, interest at 6¾ per cent., and principal, repayable in gold. The loan is secured by Haikuan bonds and an Imperial edict, and is not merely a provincial affair. * * * Writing of the visit of the Czarewitch to Kiukiang, the correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* notices a surprising effect which the advent of the distinguished traveller had upon local prices:—"The Imperial visitor went into the residence of Mr. Marzinkevitch and from there into the tea godown which was hung with red, and carpeted, to see the fine display of porcelain which was laid out there for his inspection. The royal party, I am told, purchased about Tls. 1,000 worth of porcelain. It is needless to say that pretty good prices were charged, some pieces being marked at $300, single plates at $85, and the like. I saw a pair of vases the like of which had been bought in the stores for just over $20, and which were here marked $60." * * * The ringleaders of the disturbance at Tongshan having been arrested and brought down to Tientsin, the foreign employés of the Mining and Railway Companies have returned to their duties. Tong King-sing, the Chief Director, who is at present in the south, has been recalled, it is said, to look into the matter. * * * Mr. R. D. Starkey, of the North China Insurance Co., whom a local journal describes as one of the most deservedly popular residents of Shanghai, a man who never said an unkind word nor did an unkind thing, a man of high education and the most perfect courtesy, died on the 28th ult. after a long illness. * * * Making fast the halliards of a steamer's masthead light to the wheel of a winch does not seem a particularly harmful act, but it has led to rather serious conquences on board the steamer *Pechili*, which plies between Shanghai and Tientsin. Either accidentally or by intention the winch was set in motion; the halliards tightened the stay, and the fore-topmast came down by the run. As the *Pechili* has pole masts the whole spar will have to be replaced. * * * The Shanghai Race meeting took place on the 28th, 29th, and 30th ultimo. Mr. Sassoon scored six wins, Mr. Kilmun three, Messrs. Charley, Hampton, Newboy, and Sylva gaining two each, and eight other stables single wins only. There was a great deal of capital racing. The Pari-mutuel on the Champion Sweepstakes run the third day, amounted to $1,650. * * * * The *Shenpao* states that as soon as the Kaiping Railway has been extended *vid* Shanhaikuan, Mouken, and Kirin to the Russian frontier near Vladivostock, the Board of Public Works will grant a yearly subsidy of Tls. 2,000,000 for its support. "The mountains obstructing the road are to be tunnelled to make the passage, at an estimated cost of $60 per foot. The railway between Kaiping and Tientsin collected freight on coal alone to the amount of Tls. 16,000 for the first Chinese moon and Tls. 21,000 for the second. Added to these are freights on other merchandise, and passenger traffic, so that the company is certainly doing well and the shareholders will enjoy a good dividend." * * * The *Peking Gazette* contains a statement by the Taotai at Kiukiang of the articles supplied to the Imperial Household during last year by the Imperial Pottery at that place. The usual supply for the year comprised 80 pieces of the finest quality and 1,204 round articles of a high class kind. In addition to this there was a special indent for 1,414 plates, dishes, cups, and vases to be distributed as presents on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday. The total cost amounted to Tls. 27,077.92, and as the yearly allowance is Tls. 10,000, there is a debit balance of Tls. 17,077.92 which will be deducted from the surplus remaining over from previous years. * * * Latest reports from the scene of the wreck of the *Holme Eden* state that the vessel is almost wholly submerged and broken up, though the masts are still standing. * * * General Mesny and some other gentlemen, under the impression that Shanghai's "growing wants" could be to some extent met by the starting of a public company "for the acquirement of land providing suitable accommodation for a Concert and Lecture Rooms, a Skating Rink, space for a Circus, Merry-go-round,

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Switchback Railway, &c., &c., to meet the growing wants of the inhabitants of Shanghai" called a meeting on the 30th ultimo to consider the matter. So sparse was the attendance that the meeting had to postponed. Possibly Shanghai's wants are only beginning to grow so far as some of the features of General Mesny's gigantic scheme are concerned. Seriously though, some one should suggest to the promoters that if they design to meet the "growing" and therefore as yet youthful, wants of the Model Settlement they had better confine their plans to the provision of the Merry-go-round, and let the other features of the scheme lie on the table for a while. * * * * The foreign custom-house of the port of Chungking had up to the 10th ult. been opened for forty days and according to a correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* not a single business transaction had taken place. * * * It is stated that the two pilots who took the vessel of H.I.H. the Czarewitch up the Yangtze, Messrs. Centerwall and Seymour, received a gold scarf-pin, set with diamonds each, and the gentlemen who piloted the cruisers *Bobre* and *Djigit*, Messrs. Popp and Kofoed, received diamond rings, as souvenirs from His Imperial Highness.

"TU QUOQUE."

DIVERTING indeed are the blunders into which the *Japan Gazette* is betrayed by its zeal to establish a *raison d'etre* for itself. Unless that "honest" journal can conduct a hot crusade against the Japanese Government, it appears to think that its proper function will not have been fulfilled. The latest windmill at which it tilts is the *Jiji Tsushinsha*. "Nobody knew," it cries, "that the chief news agency of the capital, which for a long time has been dealing out items of information to the Japanese and foreign public, is no other than a Government organ." Then the "honest" *Gazette* goes on to speak of the "new interest" which this revelation throws on "the laboured articles that have appeared in the *Japan Mail* whose object has been to show that Government measures have obtained the support of public opinion." It even ties to be witty about a dual personality of the Government, and waxes quite hot about the manner in which the administration "has been plotting and scheming to undermine opposition by secret stratagem during the whole of the time the Diet has been in session." The *Gazette's* English is so very slipshod that no inference whatever can be drawn from its use of tenses, and since it writes of the Diet, which was prorogued two months ago, as though that body were still in session, we cannot fairly assume that its declaration of the *Jiji Tsushinsha's* continued existence may be interpreted literally. What is certain, however, is that our "honest" contemporary labours, in its own clumsy fashion, to prove that the *Jiji Tsushinsha* supplied to the public before and during the session of the Diet items of news garbled in official interests, and that it bases this charge on the evidence recently adduced in a Court of Law, when Mr. Okabe was tried on a charge of using a forged seal. Such recklessness of accusation amounts almost to insanity. The *Gazette* itself has published a verbatim report of the evidence, showing that from July 1st, when Mr. Okabe assumed the direction of the News Agency, until November 22nd, when he was arrested on a charge of forgery, the whole energies of the Agency were devoted to opposing the Government and to promoting a coalition of parties intended to overthrow the Cabinet. With Mr. Okabe's arrest the Agency came to an end. In the face of these facts published by itself, nay actually when pretending to comment on them, the *Japan Gazette* has the extraordinary temerity to declare that "the victory won by the Government in the Diet was the result of a whole network of subtle plans, whereby the opposing parties were rendered powerless to attain the end they had in view." Is not this excellent fooling! The one "subtle plan" forming the basis of the *Gazette's* tirade was a news agency which worked solely and wholly in the interests of "the opposing parties." And "the *Japan Mail's* laboured articles!" The *Japan Mail*, which never received a single item of news from the *Jiji Tsushinsha*, nor took any interest in its existence until it had ceased to exist! By such nursery prattle and school-girl persiflage is the fortunate cause now championed.

* * *

We find nothing funnier than the *Gazette's* hot denunciations of a news agency supposed to have "doled out items of information to the Japanese and foreign public" in the interests of the Government. What is the *Gazette* itself? A newspaper purchased by a syndicate of gentlemen for a political purpose, and conducted by a salaried editor, who, formerly a professed friend of the Japanese, adopted, from the day of his appointment to the editorial chair, the rôle of attacking their institutions and seeking in every possible way to bring discredit on the Government. Only one class of material finds ready access to the *Gazette's* columns, namely items of information, whether true or false, calculated to injure the reputation of the Executive, of the Judiciary, and of other public institutions; charges brought against the Ministers of the Crown by political agitators, and accusations appearing in the columns of vernacular journals known to be the organs of political parties in opposition. With such matter the columns of the *Gazette* are daily filled to the exclusion, well nigh, of everything else except vindictive attacks upon the *Japan Mail*, of which the editor of the *Gazette* was formerly a warm supporter. Surely it is the acme of absurdity that such a newspaper should venture to find fault with any kind of partizanship, or any method of journalism however partial and disingenuous.

MURDER IN HOKI.

A MURDER by a *Soshi* is reported from Yoneko, in Hoki. The victim, Mr. Matsura Jinzaburo, had taken a leading part in getting up a journal called the *Mogi Matshu Shimbun*, which was to serve as an organ of the Conservative Party (*Hoshu Chiusei-ha*). On the 28th ultimo, Mr. Matsura was driving along in a *jinrikisha*, on business connected with the newspaper, when a *Soshi* came behind him, and having struck him one or two violent blows on the head with a stick, ran away. The *jinrikisha* was immediately taken to the police station, where medical aid was procured, but on the following morning Mr. Matsura died from the effects of the blows. A man named Kuranaga Jo has been arrested on suspicion. He is a native of Yatsushashi, in the same province, who acted as editor of the *Woman's Magazine* (*Zogaku Zasshi*) last year in Tokyo, and has lately busied himself conspicuously in connection with a projected visit of the prominent Radical, Mr. Oi Kentaro, to Hoki. Rumour attributes the murderous assault to political quarrels.

Y.A.R.C. SPRING REGATTA.

THE spring regatta of the Y.A.R.C. which, as already intimated, is fixed for the 23rd inst. promises to be a successful affair so far as present appearances go. Already the events show fairly well, and there is reason to hope that all will be well contested. For the Club Fours, Junior Pairs, and Double Sculls, there is a very good display of names; for the International Fours a German crew has been entered and English and Scotch crews are being formed. The Imperial University and Commercial College Rowing Clubs have been invited to come down, and the men-of-war that may happen to be in port at the time will be asked to send boats. Mr. Rickett takes out crews on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Mr. Martin (Hon. Secretary) and the other members of the Committee are, one or other of them, at the disposal of crews that go out any evening in the week.

CONTRADICTIONS.

IT appears that we have now described the Japanese Diet as "the most despotic instrument of Government ever conceived," whereas a few days ago we commented on the remarkable indifference shown by foreigners with respect to its debates and proceedings, and that thereby we have been guilty of "inconsistency and contradiction." Even supposing that we had made such a statement, the contradiction based on it would have no existence. But we said nothing of the kind. We spoke of parliamentary government in general, and our description of it is the description given by the closest thinkers of the century. The Japanese Diet has by no means reached the standard of absolutism attained by parliaments elsewhere. It is *en route*, however, and doubtless will one day qualify to be classed with its Western prototypes. The interest attaching to the birth of parliamentary institutions in the Orient, and the character of parliaments in general as administrative organs, are two distinct matters which even the *Japan Gazette* ought not to confound, and which it certainly could not have confounded in the present case had it read our article with a fraction of the three-ply honesty so ostentatious claimed by it.

AN EXODUS OF BEGGARS.

EVIL times have come upon the Yokohama beggars. They have had their day, and a pleasant time it has been for most of them we do not doubt, from the loathsome subject whose exposure of sores used to frighten ladies away from the Negishi, road to the hale and hearty female with the face of brass who devoted her attention to Main Street, always provided with an infant of the age just calculated to provoke the sympathy of the stranger. But the police have raided them, and they are being sent off in droves to their native districts. One such drove left the port on Thursday, a motley and a squalid crowd of all ages and both sexes, ragged, and dirty, the van led by a venerable mendicant by whose side a small boy walked, the rear brought up by the diseased members of the brigade. From Yokohama they proceed to Kanagawa, thence to Kawasaki or some other point, and so they will be passed along until they reach the places of their nativity—where may they long stay and prosper!

"MODEST BEGGARS."

Rare-bits pays the following tribute to the Japanese beggar, a tribute in which we fancy Yokohama residents will find themselves reluctant to join:—"The modesty and honesty of Japanese beggars are worthy the imitation of their profession all the world over. To save themselves the trouble of answering the calls of mendicants, the shopkeepers of Japan hang copper coins to strings on nails in front of their shops, and, when a beggar comes that way, he takes one—only one. He never abuses the merchant's generosity by taking two or more coins, nor by entering the shop to solicit a larger amount than that hung on the nail." Perhaps it may interest *Rare-bits* to know that the beggar is never left to help himself from the string. That is a pretty myth.

MR. HEGT'S ENGINES.

DR. K. HORIGUCHI of No. 624, Kitagata, Uyenomachi, Yokohama, has written as follows to Mr. Hegt in reference to the use of that gentleman's engine at the recent fire in Kitagata:—

Yokohama, May 1st, 1891.

My Dear Mr. HEGT.

I have to thank you most heartily for sending your hand engine to the fire in Kitagata on the 24th ult., and thus saving the property of myself and several of my neighbours from destruction. For my own part I can hardly adequately express my thanks, for as you know my buildings were wholly surrounded by the flames, and I had but small hope of saving them. This most gloomy state of affairs was at once changed by the arrival of your pump and those of the Police station, which soon led to the quelling of the flames and the saving of my property. Again offering my heartfelt thanks for your benevolent spirit,

I remains, yours very truly, K. HORIGUCHI.

BARLEY AND BROWN SUGAR.

A CURIOUS fact is noted by the *Jiji Shimpo* with reference to the connection between the market price of the lowest grade of brown sugar and the quality of the barley crop. A plentiful barley harvest, we are told, means a high rate for sugar and *vice versâ*. The reason assigned is that, when they have an abundance of barley, the poorer classes, subsisting chiefly on that grain

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and on wheaten cakes (*Komugi-mochi*), find themselves able to dispose of the remaining produce of their farms, which would otherwise be needed for their own food. Thus, selling their cereals, and finding themselves with money in hand, they buy luxuries, chief among which is brown sugar. Consequently a good crop of barley means a profitable market for brown sugar. This year the barley promises well, and the sugar merchants look forward to high rates.

THE "GAZETTE" ON "WRESTLING."

In an article published by the *Japan Gazette* on wrestling, we find some strange assertions. For instance, it will be entirely new information to those acquainted with the sport to be told that "the terms in use in the North, such as the 'back-heel,' the 'in-lock,' the 'swinging-hip,' are not understood in the West" [of England]. As a fact, the two former methods are perfectly understood and constantly practised in the West, as is also the latter, which is only a synonym for "cross-buttock," and is a form of fall practised in all English styles of wrestling. The *Gazette* says:—"The methods practised in Devonshire and Cornwall are diametrically opposite to each other." This is not a half-truth. There are many points of resemblance, but it must be said of the Devon style that it is without exception the most brutal of any country or any age, and on that account has largely gone out of fashion during the last half century. On the other hand, the Cornish style—due partly to the emigration of miners to the United States and Australia, but mainly to its many good points—is more practised to-day in various parts of the globe than all other English forms of the sport put together. The Devon style admits kicking; and iron toe-plates rather beyond than on a level with the leather sole of the shoe inflict terrible wounds when kicks can be got in on the shin bone: it has been a common occurrence to see men absolutely standing in the blood oozing out of the lace-holes of their shoes. Notwithstanding this brutality, through the general superiority of the Cornish style, the men from the west of the Tamar more than held their own in Plymouth and Exeter, in London, and wherever they met, in the days of Abraham Cann and "Curly" Bray, and subsequently when Pollard, White, Pengelly, Tregloyne, and other representatives of the "One and all" county crossed the river to tackle the Devonian kickers on their own ground; the truth of which statements can be verified by reference to *Bell's Life* of that day. Of course in the matches Devon style, the Cornishmen had "proper" shoes, and kicking is a game that two can play at. It is a dangerous game—we mean in the sense of giving an opening—for many a good man has been thrown in attempting it: the kicker gets home, but at the cost of a fall, his opponent "playing" him off his other leg. No style can compare with the Cornish, which includes all the best points of other styles, is less monotonous than any other, and has no manner of brutality in any sense. Nothing is finer to see than the eager watchfulness for an opening and the lightning advantage taken of one, as the men face each other, in stockinged feet and jean jackets tied with strings, on a good piece of turf fairly soft with frequent watering. Nothing prettier perhaps, than the "play" that follows, the nature of which largely depends upon the kind of "hitch" obtained—when one man, either from superior strength or advantage in the "catch" is getting the better of the bout, and suddenly—so suddenly indeed that many spectators do not see how it is done—the man with the apparent advantage is on the grass, "back-heeled," or is flying through the air over his opponent's shoulder, having been accommodated with the "flying mare." Our local contemporary says the Cornishmen cultivate the "hug." This is incorrect. The best masters of the art—at all events in our time—neither taught, practised, nor cultivated the "hug" to any extent, but aimed at instilling into pupils the value of the catch, the effect of free play with the feet, and the beauty of the "flying mare," and they practised what they preached. We are also told that the "Devonshire men use a *coup* which is pronounced to be peculiarly dangerous and terrible." For *coup* read *kick*—there is no point in the game except kicking to be found in the Devon bag of tricks that is not contained in the Cornish. As to the "hug," it is more practised in the Cumberland and Westmoreland style than the Cornish, owing to the nature of the rules. Finally, if the wrestling of the West is "worth referring to," what about Irish wrestling, to which no reference is made—a pretty style of play based on the "collar and elbow" catch primarily; or the French, where the men are fattened like the Japanese wrestlers? A number of these worthies headed by Lebœuf, 21 stone, performed against all comers with more or less success at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in the sixties.

SWEEPING VERDICTS.

"Grenon," with whose *nom-de-plume* readers of the local foreign press in Japan are familiar, contributes to the *North China Daily News* a criticism of Sir Edwin Arnold's writings about Japan. Sir Edwin suffers seriously at the hands of his fair critic, too seriously. The poet's audience at this end of the world are too apt to forget, we think, that a man writing under such circumstances as Sir Edwin wrote, did not seek to give a photograph of his subject, but a pretty picture. Before everything he had to attract his readers. They would not have wasted a second glance on an exact and faithful likeness, but an idealized portrait or a caricature was sure to hold them interested. A writer of smaller personality would have been objective; would have sought to borrow attractive traits solely from the matter he described. Sir Edwin Arnold had to be subjective: had to let the author of the "Light of Asia" be seen across the desk of the *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent. We do not read him as a scribe of Japanese history or an exponent of Japanese ethnology, but simply as a traveller who with graceful, airy pen delineated the pleasant bits of colour in each landscape, basking always in the light and carefully avoiding the shade. It was to him a romantic and delightful notion that there should be no oaths or sacrilegious expletives in the Japanese language. About that ray of suggestion he could build a pretty palace of utopia, and within it all fellow-artists, imbued with a proper spirit, should leave him to bask undisturbed. But "Grenon" is terribly matter-of-fact. There are no oaths, she says, but the things that do duty for oaths can be used with Oh! such shocking emphasis. The coherence of her English cannot survive the ordeal of recollection. "Uttered with gusto," she writes, "and with the creepy contraction of the black eyes which fasten on the object of their anger with a glitter which bodes no good, it is a fair toss-up in reality as to whether a Japanese or a Spaniard can swear to the most purpose." We can trace the perturbation of "Grenon's" mind in this remarkable sentence, and understand how the "creepy contraction of the glittering black eye" has made itself felt in her grammar. But is the same evil influence responsible for her statement that "theft, infidelity, lying, untrustworthiness in business, debt, &c.—not one of these irregularities troubles the Japanese in the slightest degree" or "constitutes any disgrace" in Japan. Truth is a beautiful thing. We are sure that "Grenon" values it highly and would be inexpressibly pained to think that she had departed from it. Yet if Sir Edwin Arnold has allowed himself to be carried to any undue length of praise, "Grenon" in this sweeping verdict has passed to an incomparably more unjustifiable extreme of false accusation. Among the people she so cruelly libels, she will find very few who would not be ashamed to imitate her example of uncharitable and unjust condemnation.

MR. K. HATOYAMA.

We observe that Mr. K. Hatoyama advertises in the foreign local press, a fact which ought to give satisfaction to all persons likely to have recourse to Japanese Law Tribunals. Mr. Hatoyama's reputation stands second to none at the Japanese Bar. A Doctor of Law of Yale College, an accomplished English scholar and an eminently successful practitioner of considerable experience, he is competent to render precisely the kind of assistance needed by foreign suitors in Japanese Courts, where his mere advocacy of a case secures credit.

BALL AT THE GERMAN LEGATION.

A brilliant ball was given at the German Legation in Tokyo on the evening of the 2nd instant. The whole of the ground floor was thrown open for the accommodation of the guests, and a profusion of tastefully arranged flowers enhanced the gaiety of the scene. All the principal residents of Tokyo and Yokohama were present, and the party was unanimously pronounced a great success.

BALL AT THE RUSSIAN LEGATION.

Invitations have been issued by H.E. the Russian Minister and Madame Schévitch for a Ball at the Russian Legation on the 18th inst. It is understood that His Imperial Highness the Prince Imperial will honour the Ball with his presence.

The Rev. J. C. Davidson will preach in the Union Church to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock. All are cordially invited.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The vernacular press has been chiefly occupied by the Cabinet changes, Count Matsukata having been appointed Minister President of State in succession to Count Yamagata. According to some papers, it is expected that changes will sooner or later follow in the *personnel* of the rest of the Cabinet Ministers. Count Oyama, it is stated, will be replaced by Viscount Takashima. Count Yamada is said to be averse to remaining; his probable successor is Count Oki, at present President of the Privy Council, or Viscount Tanaka Fujimaro, whilome Minister of Japan at Paris. Mr. Yoshikawa is reported to be determined to resign. The names of candidates for his post are Mr. Kuki, formerly Minister to the United States, and Viscount Tanaka Fujimaro. Finally, it is rumoured that Viscount Aoki will go out of office, the reason assigned being that the new Minister President of State is resolved upon suspending the negotiations for Treaty Revision. Count Saigo is thought to be well disposed towards the new Minister President. Count Goto and Mr. Mutsu will remain in office, and Viscount Kabayama is believed to be beyond the sphere of Ministerial storms for the present.

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The opposition organs call upon Count Matsukata to re-construct the Cabinet upon a constitutional model. The neutral papers, on the other hand, seem to consider that some sort of temporary Cabinet is all that can be expected until the time (not far distant) comes for the formation of a true party Government.

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The *Tokyo Shimpo*, which belongs to the neutral or, perhaps, pro-official category, publishes an impartial analysis of Count Matsukata's qualifications as a statesmen. He is, according to our contemporary, "an adroit and experienced statesman, more remarkable for business talents than for political capacity." Neither in foresight nor in dauntless courage lies his greatness; he is pre-eminently distinguished for his ability to steer his course smoothly through difficulties and troubles. In this respect, he resembles Count Ito. But his adroitness comes from experience, while that of Count Ito is the result of literary culture. Such being the character of the new Minister President, our contemporary believes that he will be able to maintain smooth relations with the Diet, especially as he is understood to have secured a promise of support and advice from Count Ito, his bosom friend. The Tokyo journal does not indeed consider Count Matsukata a model

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Minister President; but, things being unfavourable for the immediate formation of a strong and able Ministry, it thinks that the nation ought to be satisfied with the present arrangement.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, like the last quoted paper, considers that the present moment is not suited for the formation of a true constitutional Cabinet, that is, a Cabinet in which the Ministers shall be united by similarity of opinions and not by clan bonds. As to the prospects of the new Cabinet, the *Jiji* believes that its tenure of office will be a sinecure as was that of its predecessor. Under the circumstances, it is the duty of all the statesmen of the older generation to keep things as quiet as possible, and wait until the time matures for the transfer of power from the old to the new generation. Such appears to be the meaning of the *Jiji*, though it expresses itself in its usual guarded manner.

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The *Hochi Shimbun*, after alluding to the rumour that Count Matsukata consented to assume the leadership of the Cabinet against his inclination and in deference to the persistent persuasion of his colleagues, observes that, whatever may have been the circumstances under which he accepted his new office, he is bound to take upon himself all the responsibility of his situation as bravely as though he had risen to power at his own instance. The *Hochi* regrets that recent Ministries have been extremely weak. In order to make his Cabinet strong and united, Count Matsukata is advised to inaugurate a new system of Cabinet construction, by carrying into practice the principles of party government.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* frankly states its dissatisfaction with Count Matsukata as Minister President of State. It recommends him to carry out the much talked of amendment of the Organizations of the various Departments of State, and to effect still more economies in the next Budget. In doing so he will be only fulfilling this promises implied as well as expressed by himself and the retiring Minister President to the representatives of the people during the first session of the Diet.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* is disappointed with the new Ministry. In fact, it thinks that the country has not a new Ministry but an old one. Like the journals just quoted, it advises Count Matsukata to construct his Cabinet in accordance with the principle of party government.

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A new complexion has been given to the discussion of the question of treaty revision by a report that the postponement of the revision negotiations is one of the conditions on which Count Matsukata consented to become Minister President of State. The Count is stated to be of opinion that it would not be conducive to the welfare of the country to revise the existing treaties in defiance of the opposition raised in several quarters. The journals, while professing entire disbelief in the rumour, write in such a manner as to show that they are strongly inclined to credit it. Most of the party organs strongly condemn the course said to be contemplated by the new Minister President of State.

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The *Hochi Shimbun* observes that the revision of the treaties is a measure of the greatest importance which no Cabinet, whoever be its chief, can put off for a day. Of all Cabinets, the present has least pretext for suspending the negotiations, because Count Matsukata and his colleagues were all members of the Ministry that originated the negotiations. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, writing in a similar strain, remarks that nothing could be more unwise than to suspend the negotiations before thoroughly sounding the attitude of the people towards the proposals now under discussion by the high contracting parties. The people do not yet know the details of those proposals. The programmes of the preceding Ministers of Foreign Affairs were opposed by the people, not because the latter did not recognize the importance of speedily solving the difficult problem, but because they were not satisfied with the proposed terms of revision. The question of Treaty Revision being thus regarded by the people as the most vital of all national problems, the *Yomiuri* thinks that a Cabinet so negligent of its duties as to leave that question alone would at once forfeit the confidence of the nation. The Tokyo journal predicts that a popular storm of unheard-of magnitude would accompany the postponement of the negotiations. Another opposition paper, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, unites with the two above mentioned *Kaishin-to* organs in believing that the suggested measure of procrastination would be productive of injurious results, for it could not fail to involve serious loss of dignity and confidence on the part of the Government, both at home and abroad.

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The *Kokkai* differs from the above quoted journals. It thinks that the Treaty negotiations had better be postponed *sine die*, and the whole question opened entirely anew at a suitable time in the future. The *Kokkai* declares that the terms said to have been offered by the British Government are unacceptable to the Japanese nation, and that more or less difficulties are sure to be met with in dealing with the rest of the Powers. The public is in a mood to oppose any programme that may be elaborated by the Government. Under such circumstances, the best thing to be done is, in the opinion of our contemporary, to shelve the matter, and begin anew hereafter.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* also seems inclined to favour the postponement of the Treaty negotiations. As usual outspoken, it says in effect that the opposition of the people is not primarily directed towards the terms of the new treaties themselves, but towards the statesmen who undertake the task of revision. In other words, the unique object of the people is to place the Government in an embarassing situation. The reason why the Meiji Government has lost the confidence of the nation to so great an extent, according to the Tokyo journal, is to be sought in the extravagance and ostentation with which the statesmen in power try to maintain their dignity and importance. The *Jiji* has always been strongly opposed to the revival of antiquated orders of nobility. The statesmen in office must first seek to remove the causes which have so long been at work to alienate the hearts of the people from them, before engagiug in an undertaking, the success of which depends upon the harmonious co-operation of both the Government and the people. Mere reduction of public expenditure by so many million *yen* will go but a little way towards conciliating the people. Ministers and other high officials must reform their mode of living and their bearing towards the common people.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* and the *Nippon* also devote several articles to the question of Treaty Revision. The former paper pays special attention to the functions of the Diet in respect of the problem, while the latter considers the matter from a historical standpoint. It is not necessary to reproduce these long series of articles, as they do not contain anything that has not been stated by the Japanese press from time to time in the past.

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The carrying out of the new Regulations for Chambers of Commerce, promulgated in September, 1890, receives attention from the vernacular press. The Chambers of Commerce which formerly existed in the principal centres of trade were limited in the scope of their purpose, and in many cases did not represent the business interests of the locality. By the new Regulations, recently put in force, Chambers of Commerce are to be entirely remodelled, with large powers of self-government and with greater capacity to protect the interests of the mercantile classes. According to Art. 4 of the Regulations, the new Chambers of Commerce will have power to deliberate and decide upon projects for promoting the development of commerce or remedying the decline of business. They will also be entitled to express their views to the Government in regard to laws and regulations relating to commerce and cognate matters.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* contrasts the extraordinary zeal which the merchants of Osaka, Kyoto, and Nagoya displayed at the recent elections of members of the new Chambers of Commerce, with their indifference at the general elections of members of the House of Representatives. While expressing satisfaction with the earnestness displayed by these men for the protection of their mercantile interests, the *Hochi* notes with regret that the indifference of merchants in respect of national politics is to a great extent owing to the manner in which politicians and journalists have hitherto treated the interests of the trading and manufacturing section of the public.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Yomiuri Shimbun* advise the merchants of the capital to return men of proper qualifications to the new Chamber of Commerce (the election in Tokyo is to take place on the 13th instant). The latter journal reminds the Tokyo merchants of the vast responsibility devolving upon members of the Chamber from the outset. Various questions of far-reaching consequences are awaiting their immediate solution. Those questions are the amendment of the Commercial Code, the abolition of export duties, the recovery of tariff autonomy, and the course to be adopted for remedying the present depression of trade. It is thus particularly important that the new Chamber of Commerce should be composed of men capable of taking large and enlightened views.

* * *

The Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company is enjoying unenviable notority at present. The former director of the Company, Mr. Ito, has surrendered himself to the hands of justice and confessed that he issued forged shares amounting in value to nearly 70,000 *yen*. The *Kokkai*, generally well informed about the affairs of Hokkaido, strongly condemns the negligence of the local authorities of the northern island with regard to the inspection of companies under its control. The Hokkaido Administration Board is advised to make a thorough investigation of the whole affair, and to speedily publish the result. The *Kokumin Shimbun* remarks that the Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company affair is in one sense a result of the dependence shown by Japanese merchants upon the support of the Government. Had the Director of the company been appointed, not by the Hokkaido Administration Board, but by the shareholders themselves, a man of better moral quality might have been elected, and the whole disaster avoided. Our contemporary also regrets the postponement of the date of the operation of the Chapter on Companies in the Commercial Code. Had that chapter been in force, the present trouble might have prevented. Another paper, the *Toyo Shimpo*, also blames the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration Board.

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The *Kokkai* rebukes those among its countrymen, who are now injuring the cause of the conservative national movement by running into extremes of dislike for foreigners and foreign things. The writer of the article was among the first to raise his powerful voice against the tendency to sacrifice national individuality before the shrine of Occidental civilization. He is now among the first to warn his countrymen against the equally mischievous error of hating Western people and Western civilization. A nation which aspires to be great and growing, ought, says Mr. Shiga—for we suppose him to be the writer—to be magnanimous and large-minded; it ought out to become the slave of petty jealousy and contemptible suspicion. He tells his compatriots to await a really worthy occasion for displaying their courage and patriotism.

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THE YOKOHAMA DOCKS.

THE *Mainichi Shimbun*, following the *Jiji Shimpo* of a few days ago, contains a singular paragraph about the Yokohama Docks. It will be remembered that several years ago—the *Mainichi* says ten—a number of wealthy Japanese merchants of Yokohama conceived the notion of building a system of docks there, and that their scheme entered the field of practical accomplishment in 1888, when a plan and an estimate were prepared for them by Major-General PALMER, R.E. Among the projectors were several men of note, as Messrs. SHIBUSAWA, MASUDA, HARA ROKURO, and so forth. When the harbour works were fairly under weigh, it was fully expected that the Docks also would progress, especially as due application for a charter was known to have been made by the projectors. The *Mainichi's* news is that the whole thing has fallen through, not because of any lack of enterprise or perseverance on the part of the projectors, but because the Government has refused its consent. Last year, we are told, the question came up for consideration in the Cabinet, but no decision was arrived at. Then ensued the action of the Diet with regard to the Budget. Appropriations were cut down right and left, and the Naval Department, finding itself with greatly crippled means, became more than ever resolved to oppose any scheme which threatened to reduce the income derived from the Yokosuka Docks. Indeed, the heads of the Department saw themselves obliged to look to the Docks as a means of gaining additional income, and so far from agreeing to the construction of docks elsewhere, conceived the project of increasing the facilities offered by Yokosuka. The result is that the Government has finally refused to sanction the Yokohama docks scheme, on the ground that the projected works would be too near those at Yokosuka, and that the latter would inevitably suffer. If this be so, we are confronted by a very striking example of the consequences predicted by astute persons as likely to ensue when the Diet came into session. Hitherto the administration of affairs had been in the hands of a little band of intelligent statesmen, the leaders and instigators of the country's best progress. With these men at the helm of State, reform was rapid and steady. But with the birth of the Diet a new order of things has set in. Progress, no longer inspired by a really far-reaching and able view of the nation's necessities, and directed by a careful balancing of her resources, has been placed at the mercy of party politics and ambitious agitation. Had the practical inception of the Yokohama harbour works been deferred until the Diet could consider the project, we may be pretty sure that the funds allotted to the purpose by the Treasury would never have been voted. It is true that the death, or let us rather hope the deferment, of the docks scheme is only a vicarious consequence of the Diet's action. Still it is a consequence, and there will be no exaggeration in accepting it as an indication of the general check that progress must suffer in the early years of constitutional government. By and by, doubtless, the experience of all Western States will be repeated here. Parliament, the most despotic instrument of government ever conceived, absolutely irresponsible as a body and infallible in its own judgment, will begin to spend money freely. The income raised by taxation will be increased, and people will recall the old time regretfully. But, for the moment, Parliament in Japan is bent upon posing in another character, and many a useful undertaking and nationally valuable reform that would have been inaugurated by a bureaucrary under such men as Counts ITO, INOUYE, and OKUMA, will be temporarily lost sight of in the clamour of party politics and the embarrassment of factional jealousy. So far as concerns this particular question of the Yokohama Docks, while recognising that the Diet is indirectly responsible, we cannot by any means endorse the action attributed to the Government. From a general point of view it might be possible that the proximity of Yokosuka and Yokohama is not economically consistent with the existence of docks at both places. Such a hypothesis is conceivable, but business men who have the best reasons for judging correctly, do not admit it. For, in the first place, at least three years must elapse before competition, if any, can come into play. And, in the second, the whole value of the objection, of course, depends on the anticipated degree of competition. The dread that this could ever take serious or crippling dimensions in the case in point is probably a mere nightmare. That the existence of two dock establishments barely a dozen miles apart would produce some lowering of prices is to be expected. But the notion that in any other sense the Yokosuka business would fall off cannot be allowed. The whole point is that the Yokosuka accommodation has for many years past been proved to be utterly insufficient for the needs of the locality. Complaints of that insufficiency have been long and loudly expressed. It is a well-known fact that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, for example, is only able to dock the vessels of its large fleet about one-half as often as is necessary for their efficiency, simply because of the dearth of dock accommodation. Other ship-owners and agents echo this lament. Very many vessels are now docked at Nagasaki or Hongkong which would certainly be docked here if only there were docks to receive them. If the Yokosuka docks were equal to the demands of the region, we certainly should never have heard of a Yokohama Docks Company. It was to supply a notorious and deeply-felt want that the Yokohama scheme was set on foot. If, along with the above certain facts, consideration be given to the ever growing and quickly growing trade of the port, and to the interval that must elapse before the new docks can come into operations, the impolicy of checkmating the enterprising men who are prepared to take steps for satisfying a great public want, will be thoroughly appreciated by the whole shipping interest. Even without entering into these details, however, we are unable to conceive that the Cabinet would commit itself to the principle of interdicting the construction of docks at Yokohama in order that the Naval Department might not be exposed to inconvenient competition, and might even be enabled to derive a larger income by developing the monopoly that it enjoys at present. How could such procedure be reconciled with any principles of sound administration? It has never been questioned that docks and arsenals for the construction and repair of battleships, on the one hand, and the manufacture of warlike material, on the other, may with propriety be established and controlled by the State. But that these officially supported institutions should be made means of checking and thwarting private enterprise, would be in the highest degree unwise and uneconomical. Of course every one appreciates the Government's difficulty. Ends must be made to meet, despite the cramping action of the Diet. In this matter, however, the Government, did it adopt the course attributed to it, would be taking upon its own shoulders responsibility that ought to be left with the Diet. Because the latter, in the maiden exercise of its financial authority, insists upon enforcing heroic measures of retrenchment, we cannot see that the Government is bound to facilitate the process by such a step as that now ascribed to it. The more statesmanlike course, we venture to think, would be to sanction the construction of the Yokohama Docks, and leave the Diet to deal with the resulting situation. The Diet could not by any possibility pledge itself in practice to the principle that because the Naval Department derives a convenient income from the Yokosuka Docks, private individuals must be restrained from building docks at Yokohama. In a very few years the Government docks will be unable to undertake any work of a non-official character, and it should be the aim of the nation to encourage the speediest possible development of private enterprise in this most important direction.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE MAKES DELICIOUS LEMONADE.

A teaspoonful added to a glass of hot or cold water, and sweetened to the taste, will be found refreshing and invigorating.

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GRINDING IN THE PRISON HOUSE.

THE sole *metier* of the *Japan Gazette* at present is to search diligently for every bit of scandal, every discreditable tale, that it can find in vernacular journals or magazines, and then to dish up the piquant fragment for its readers' delectation, with trimmings of leader type, sensational headings, and other devices of the journalistic cuisine. A further relish is given by means of a mysterious adjunct in the shape of "private information," which, with admirable timeliness, always manages to reach the long ear of the honest *Gazette* simultaneously with the appearance of the original tidbit in a Japanese newspaper. Sometimes the *Gazette's* manner of announcing this confirmatory intelligence is very artistic. Thus, with reference to a defamatory Japanese essay about the Department of Justice, it writes:—"We have special reasons for believing that the information given in the article is quite reliable." Undoubtedly the *Gazette* has "special reasons for believing" everything that injures Japanese reputation. No one questions that self-evident fact, but all must appreciate the art of placing it in such a context that it assumes the character of a thrilling revelation. Mrs. GAMP rose to the same level of inspired skill when, having formulated the simple question, "Who deniges of it, BETSY PRIG?" she suddenly imparted an awful significance to the proposition by reversing the order of the terms, and asking, "BETSY PRIG, who deniges of it?" The "special reasons" of the *Japan Gazette* are not more recondite or impressive than SARAH GAMP'S original query, but when tacked on to the tail of a *Hogaku Shimpo's* diatribe they become as striking as the immortal lady's inverted enigma. Our attitude in the presence of so much that is convincing ought to be one of reverent faith, yet we really feel constrained to ask whether our worthy and ingenuous contemporary knows the difference between the Department of Justice and the Judiciary. Confusion in respect of such an elementary point may seem inconceivable, yet if the *Gazette* does not labour under the direst confusion, it certainly succeeds in writing as if it did. It has devoted two articles to the Department of Justice. The supposed facts are all taken from a Japanese source. They do not amount to very much. Summarized briefly, they indicate that there is a conflict between the respective advocates of the English and French schools of Law in the Department of Justice, and that the officials of the Department are further divided into three cliques, whose heads are Count YAMADA, the Minister of the Department, and Count OKI and Viscount TANAKA who do not belong to the Department at all. Very interesting doubtless, in its way, and a sufficiently prolific topic of gossip to persons concerned in the matter, this tale is quite good enough to fill the *Gazette's* editorial columns. But it is a tale about the Department of Justice alone. It has nothing whatever to do with the Judiciary. The *Japan Gazette*, however, having set forth the story at great length, proceeds to append a moral in the following terms:—

> Despite some obscurity in the wording, the information supplied by the article is of considerable value, for the sake of the light it throwns on the state of the Department concerned. It confirms the conclusion which many intelligent foreigners have reached in reference to the administration of justice by the Japanese, namely, the impossibility of effecting a rapid transition from the old to the new judicial system. The men who were trained in the old school have far too much influence in the country to allow of their being promptly ousted from office. The men of the new school are pronounced to be lacking in ballast, to be flippant, to be mere theorists. There are Japanese lawyers who argue that it is better to keep to the old school men as much as possible for the present, rather than commit grave judicial functions to the unstaid jurors of the modern school. And possibly such is the correct view to take. To most foreigners it can hardly appear otherwise, however, than as the less of two evils. * * * When asked by the Japanese to submit to Japanese jurisdiction, the foreigner replies, "You ask us to submit our persons and our property to a judiciary which from year to year is being subjected to the most radical changes."

We do not wish to be discourteous, but truly we have never seen in print such a mass of bathos and bewilderment as these paragraphs. Let us string together the various propositions formulated by our detective contemporary:—There are three cliques in the Department of Justice—three cliques! mystic and suggestive number!—therefore, "in reference to the administration of justice, a rapid transition cannot be effected from the old to the new judicial system." What on earth is "the old judicial system" and what "the new?" And how can the rapidity or slowness of transition from the one to the other be affected by the existence of cliques in the Department of Justice? Evidently the answer to the latter question is supplied by the next paragraph, where we read that "the men trained in the old school have far too much influence to allow of their being ousted from office." The way to accomplish a rapid transition, then, would be to "promptly oust" from the Judiciary all "the men trained in the old school." But the Constitution distinctly declares that Judges hold their appointments for life and "cannot be deprived of their position except by way of criminal sentence or disciplinary punishment." How then could the men of the old school be "promptly ousted" from office? If the "three cliques" did not exist in the Department of Justice, would the Constitution cease to be effective? But the riddle grows more stupifying when we pass to the next paragraph, and find that while, on the one hand, attributing the "old school's" tenure of office to the existence of cliques and to undue political influence, the *Gazette*, on the other, actually approves of the "old school's" remaining in office. It explicitly endorses the view of certain Japanese barristers that "it is better to keep to the old school-men as much as possible for the present, rather than commit grave judicial functions to the unstaid jurors of the modern school." So then the scandalous cliques that prevent a rapid transition from the old to the new school, and the iniquitous political influence that preserves the men of the old school in office—these evil factors in reality work beneficently since they keep things in the safest and soundest condition! Great Sphinx, was ever such a maddening conundrum propounded in such solemn terms? And there is more too. The men of the old school cling to office. Their political influence and the "cliques" keep them there, to say nothing of the Constitution. There can be no rapid transition, and there is no rapid transition. The "intelligent foreigner" sees this, and the *Gazette's* accommodating "little bird" whispers that it is so. But forthwith the intelligent foreigner, asked for his objections to Japanese Jurisdiction, replies that the Japanese Judiciary "is being subjected to the most radical changes from year to year." What a panorama! Cliques indicating an evil and disorganised condition of the Department of Justice, and obstructing any rapid alterations in the Judiciary. Pernicious political influence that keeps Judges in office. Radical changes every year in the Judiciary. Judges that are immovable under the provisions of the Constitution, but might be "promptly ousted from office," were it not for their "influence in the country." Alas! alas! Neither the uncomplaining printer's devil nor the long suffering compositor can help the *Japan Gazette* out of this muddle. If the editor kept his words and phrases in a revolving hat and pieced them together at random as they happened to be jerked out of that repository, he could not produce a more bizarre result. But there is one thread of continuity running through it all—hostility to Japan's aspirations. Like the blind athlete in the temple of DAGON, our desperate contemporary, having toiled fruitlessly with the jawbone of an ass, is content to pull down upon his own head the dislocated fragments of reason and the confused débris of logic, provided only that he can bury the Philistines in the ruins. To such a plight has DELILAH of the Directorate brought him.

A LAW CASE.

A CASE of some interest has just been concluded in the Tokyo Court of First Instance. Last spring—or perhaps earlier—there was started in Tokyo a News Agency called the *Jiji Tsushinsha*. Its appearance was hailed by the public with satisfaction as a distinct reform. No feature of journalism in Japan had been more defective than the collection of news. The newspaper reporter was a person of little discrimination and less education. Paid by the item, he collected and supplied information much of which was utterly valueless, and the rest, if not misleading, was certainly uninstructive. There has of late been some improvement, but when the *Jiji Tsushinsha* made its début, things were tolerably bad. The Agency marked

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a new departure. It employed good men, spent money on telegrams, and promised to greatly raise the level of the "miscellaneous column" in the Tokyo newspapers. But like the vast majority of useful enterprises in this country, it depended on Government support. Apparently the possibility of organising and working such an institution with profitable results had not been seriously regarded by members of the press itself. Mr. MASUDA KO seems to have started the *Tsushinsha*, supplying a portion of the funds required, and receiving aid from the Treasury to the extent of some 200 *yen* monthly. The other source of the Agency's income was contributions from newspapers which it furnished with news. Even under these circumstances, however, the outgoings of the Agency appear to have exceeded its income. Last July a change of managers took place. The new manager was Mr. OKABE HIROMI, a *shizoku* of Fukui, who had hitherto been engaged in farming. Coming to Tokyo in connection with railway business, and learning from his friend the then Manager of the Agency, Mr. FUKUSHIMA, that the latter was about to go abroad and give up the managership, Mr. OKABE consented to replace him. The Agency, as we have stated, was nominally the property of Mr. MASUDA KO, but does not appear to have been under his direct control. Mr. OKABE, according to his own testimony, took over the Agency on the distinct understanding that he should be entirely independent, Mr. MASUDA signifying his willingness to place it under Mr. OKABE'S direction inasmuch as, despite the Government subsidy, the expenditure always exceeded the income. In fact, if Mr. OKABE'S evidence be accepted literally, it would seem that he assumed charge of the Agency with all its pecuniary liabilities, and without any moral responsibility to any one. Having obtained control, he immediately set himself to use the Agency for political purposes. A warm advocate of combination among parties opposed to the Government, he conceived the idea, more astute than ingenuous, of garbling the items of news supplied by the Agency to the press. The occasion was very critical. Parties might have been cemented temporarily for the purpose of overthrowing the Cabinet, but that their fusion could not have been sufficiently intimate to furnish stable elements of administration, was clearly foreseen then, and has since been amply demonstrated by events. The Government, whether we suppose that it acted in its own interests entirely, or credit it with some regard for the safe and peaceful conduct of public business, naturally desired to postpone such a coalition. Mr. OKABE worked in precisely the opposite direction. His own account of his methods is clear and frank:—"The agency was in the habit of receiving from the Government drafts of news to be published in the newspapers. These I dealt with as I pleased. I omitted and added items, so as best to fulfil the object I had in view, the organization of a great liberal coalition. * * * Eventually the news reached me that the object of the Government was to prevent the combination I was labouring to bring about. I did my best to bring influence to bear on the Government indirectly, to prevent their continuing the opposition they had commenced. I sent various remarks to this effect to the newspapers." Of course this could not continue long. Mr. MASUDA, the nominal owner of the Agency, charged Mr. OKABE with perverting its use, but the latter, not considering himself bound to respect Mr. MASUDA'S instructions, continued in his old course. Endeavours were then made to induce him to retire quietly, but he declined to do so, and ultimately—we quote his own evidence—a Mr. KOIDE YOSHIFUSA, "a man in whom I (OKABE) had confidence," was appointed to succeed him. Next day, however, Mr. FUKUSHIMA, the original Manager, without authority from Mr. MASUDA, seems to have attempted to resume control of the Agency, whereupon Mr. OKABE, apparently suspecting that some collusion existed between KOIDE and FUKUSHIMA, oppointed another Manager on his own account, and caused a new seal to be made, with which documents issued in the name of the Agency were sealed. The position was now very peculiar. Mr. OKABE, having retired from the Agency, and agreed to the appointment of a new Manager, had nevertheless manufactured a seal on his own account and was using it in the Agency's name. Information was accordingly lodged against him by Mr. KOIDE, the new manager, and on the 22nd of November he was arrested on a charge of forgery. At the preliminary examination before the magistrates a case being made out against him, he was remanded for trial. Unable, apparently, to procure bail, he remained in confinement for nearly five months, the New Year's recess intervening to lengthen this period of detention. On April 17th the trial commenced, and having been adjourned until the 28th at the request of the prisoner's counsel, was continued until the 1st May, when judgment was delivered in Mr. OKABE'S favour, the Court holding that the limits of his authority as manager had not been shown by evidence to exclude the making and using of a new seal. This verdict is somewhat perplexing, in view of the admission made by Mr. OKABE himself that the device of manufacturing a new seal was conceived, not in the interests of the Agency, but for the purpose of retaining control of it. However, the openness of his whole procedure seems inconsistent with any fraudulent intention, and the ends of justice were doubtless satisfied. But though acquitted of forgery, it is impossible to sympathise with him in any way. Having obtained the direction of the Agency, according to Mr. MASUDA'S evidence, on the understanding that it was to be conducted generally in official interests, he deliberately proceeded to apply it to precisely the opposite use, wilfully garbling items of information in order to further his own ends. He deceived Mr. MASUDA by privately endorsing an arrangement which he had no intention of observing, and he then set about deceiving the public by means of the instruments of which he had dishonestly obtained control.

The most interesting part of the business is the Government's connection with this Agency. It remains to be considered and determined by reasoning men how far officialdom is entitled to appeal to public opinion through the columns of the press. Of course there can be no manner of question that neither the Government nor a political party can ever be justified in publishing false information or deceptive statements. But where many leading journals, working directly in behalf of parties opposed to the Administration, refrain from inserting any items of news calculated to enhance the Government's credit, and by this reticence educate an unappreciative, if not a discontented, feeling towards the Authorities, it may well be that the interests of tranquillity and good order dictate some counteracting measures on the part of the Government. This is one of those questions that present themselves in Japan under peculiarly difficult conditions. In Great Britain or America, where government by party has long been a practical reality, the whole press, speaking roughly, is divided between the two leading political camps, and whichever party is in power can count on the support of a moiety of the leading journals. But in Japan, the Administration nominally stands entirely aloof from all parties, while at the same time a newspaper press of great and ever growing influence, seeks to sway public opinion in a sense opposed to the Government. All Western experience suggests the inference that where such an engine as the newspaper press exists, the Administration cannot afford to neglect its assistance or ignore its opposition. The story of the *Jiji Tsushinsha* indicates a similar conclusion on the part of the Japanese Administration. A leading merchant, who is on intimate terms with several members of the Cabinet, founded the agency, the Government contributing a certain sum towards its support, doubtless on condition that the agency should help to distribute items of news, or brief explanations, calculated to convey a fair, if not a favourable, impression of the Administration's proceedings. The projector and proprietor of the Agency happened to encounter a clever and unscrupulous politician who manœuvred to obtain control of the concern, and then turned its weapons directly against the breasts of its friends and supporters.

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This was a funny fiasco, but it has, of course, no bearing on the action of officialdom in the matter. In England we have it on record that the Government not infrequently supplies information to journals which support it, and withholds such aid from the opposition press—a natural and easily understood course. In Japan the method resorted to was that of placing information, through an Agency, at the disposal of all newspapers that chose to pay for the service and to utilize the items furnished. No journal was under any obligation either to insert the paragraphs sent by the Agency, or to subscribe for their supply. This method seems to us to have been perfectly fair and honest.

THE CABINET.

THE expected change of Minister President of State has become an accomplished fact. On the evening of the 7th instant, an Imperial Rescript, published in the *Official Gazette*, announced the appointment of Count MATSUKATA to that post—in conjunction with his former office of Minister of State for Finance,—and the retirement of Count YAMAGATA, at his own request. The EMPEROR was also graciously pleased to order that the treatment of a Minister of State should continue to be accorded to Count YAMAGATA. No other changes in the Cabinet are announced, nor is the retiring Minister President gazetted to either membership of the Privy Council or the office of Court Councillor. The only official changes thus far made are that Mr. TSUJI, Vice-Minister of Education, becomes a first class *chokunin*; that Judge KOJIMA IKEN, hitherto President of the Osaka Appeal Court, becomes President of the Supreme Court, *vice* Judge NISHI, deceased, the Presidency of the Osaka Appeal Court falling to Judge KITABATAKE HARUFUSA; that Mr. KURIZUKA SEIGO, formerly Chief of the Civil Cases Bureau in the Department of State for Justice, becomes a Judge; and that Mr. KIKUCHI TAKEO, formerly Private Secretary of the Minister of State for Justice, becomes Chief of the Civil Cases Bureau.

It is very generally understood that no special political significance attaches to the replacement of Count YAMAGATA by Count MATSUKATA. The former when he accepted the post of Minister President in December, 1889, let it be distinctly understood that he did not desire to hold the reins for any lengthy period, and no one is surprised by his retirement at the present juncture, the first session of Parliament having been brought to a successful close, and the changes necessitated by Budget alterations duly inaugurated. Count YAMAGATA bequeathes to his successor no problem of any special difficulty, except that of Treaty Revision, the terrible heir-loom of all Japanese Cabinets. He has discharged with unexpected success the task lying before him when he took office. It was then generally anticipated that disruption awaited his Cabinet in the friction and turmoil of the first Diet, and we know how nearly the forecast was realized in December last, when the coalition between the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* only failed by a hair's-breadth to place the Government in such a position towards the people's representatives as must have involved either the dissolution of Parliament or the transfer of political power into the hands of the *Kaishin-to* leader. Count YAMAGATA and his colleagues managed to stave off this crisis; an achievement on which the country is to be congratulated, for although Japan possesses no statesman more competent to control her affairs than Count OKUMA, neither he nor any other politician can yet hope to govern by the machinery of party organization. The time for that is coming, but has not yet arrived. Count YAMAGATA, then, having succeeded even better than was expected, had to consider whether he would continue to occupy the post of Minister President until the conclusion of the Diet's second session, or whether he would retire before that time. Evidently, if he made the latter choice, he was in a manner bound not to delay its execution, in order that his successor might not be called on to meet Parliament at too brief notice. These considerations alone seem to have influenced him. He retires quietly and deliberately, much after the manner of his assumption of office in 1889, and the verdict of history will doubtless be that his control of State affairs justified the public's estimate of his calm, loyal, and unselfish character. His successor, Count MATSUKATA, has filled important administrative posts since 1877, in which year he was appointed Chief of the Taxation Bureau, becoming, a few months later, Vice-Minister of the Finance Department. He remained in the latter office until February, 1880, when he was entrusted with the portfolio of Home Affairs. In October, 1881, he became Minister of Finance, a post which he has held ever since, steering the country successfully through an economical crisis of the gravest character. When he assumed the portfolio, he found the fiat currency at forty per cent. discount, and all public securities seriously discredited. The remarkable results accomplished under his administration certainly point to him as a fitting occupant of the highest post in the Cabinet. With political parties he is entirely unconnected, but in the course of his financial administration he has been brought into very close contact with bankers, merchants, and men of business generally, and there is every reason to suppose that he may count on support from these important classes. On the other hand, no one imagines that the present change of Minister President has any special significance. It is not like the ousting of one party by another, nor does Count YAMAGATA retire in consequence of any political complication towards which his successor may be expected to assume a new attitude. The administration of affairs will doubtless continue in its old channels, neither conspicuously improved nor materially impaired by the change. Towards Treaty Revision it is alleged that the new Premier is disposed to assume a deliberate attitude, holding that national unity in respect of this grave problem cannot be secured until the causes of political dissension, now so powerfully operative, are lessened or removed. But the pro-Revision party is probably too strong to agree to any postponement of negotiations, even supposing that Count MATSUKATA were inclined to carry his views to that length, which is very problematical. Concerning this question, however, we must await further developments.

THE PREPARATION OF DRIED PERSIMMONS.

THE dried Japanese persimmon, or *hoshigaki*, is a popular article of diet in Japan, the *kaki* being perhaps the most characteristic fruit of the country. Of late years attempts have been made to naturalise the tree in Australia, with some success, but the process of drying and preserving the fruit still remains unknown and unpractised there. Among all the provinces of Japan, perhaps Aki has the highest reputation for the quality of its dried persimmons. The *Gionbo-hoshigaki*, as it is called, is a particularly fine variety, its origin dating one hundred and twenty years back, when it was brought into the market by one HIKOZAEMON. This *Gionbo* variety, originally known as *Shodenbo*, was at first, because of the scarcity of the tree, produced in limited quantities, and sold at a high price. But skilful grafting at length accomplished satisfactory results, and, as most of the grafted trees were close to a shrine called Gion, the name of the persimmon was altered to its present title. The ancient Lords of AKI, heads of the ASANO family, still have this house under their particular patronage. Persimmons for preserving are generally plucked about the middle of October, when the fruit is still half ripe and hard, and yellowish red in colour. The rinds being peeled off with a small knife as delicately as possible—a process which requires considerable skill—the persimmons are hung up by their calyxes on a string to dry, care being taken to prevent contact. With the common varieties, the drying process takes place in the open air, nor is it considered essential that the strings be of linen. But, in the Aki variety, sheds are used to shelter the fruit under treatment, and the strings or threads must be of linen. In both cases particular precautions must be taken against rain. After a period, the length of which depends

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a good deal upon the weather, the fruit is taken down and placed in an air-tight box. If in three weeks, when the box is opened, the dried persimmons show a floury white surface, then the curing has been a success. The process followed with the *Gionbo* variety is a more elaborate one. The shed to shelter the fruit must be built so as to face the west, the aid of ZEPHYRUS in drying being considered more valuable than that of APOLLO himself. After the lapse of a fortnight, the fruit is turned, and the other side is exposed for a week's time. In the process of turning, the fruit is lightly pressed between the fore-finger and thumb, to soften it, a treatment it again receives at the close of another week, when the original face is turned to the sun for another week. Thereafter the fruit is packed for the night in an *oke* or tub, and in the morning is hung up once more. After a week it is again placed in an *oke*, and next morning is exposed once again. Then, whenever the fruit appears to be perfectly cured, the strings are taken down, and are packed by tens in a mat, which allows of the air entering freely. As there are about sixteen persimmons to the string, which is from sixty to seventy inches long, a mat will contain considerably over a gross. In rainy weather the *Gionbo-hoshigaki* are not taken down, but are protected by mats suspended carefully on all sides. The west wind is considered of peculiar virtue in the stimulation of the white flour on the surface, which is not superimposed, or "dusted," on the fruit, as many might suppose, but is, to begin with, a natural coating. In many of the varieties, however, a considerable amount of farinaceous sugar is used in the packing. In the month of April the stock-in-trade of persimmon merchants runs low, the New Year time being the season for extensive sales. Among the New Year presents from the Aki *daimyo* to the Shogun the *Gionbo-hoshigaki* used to figure largely. In the Industrial Exhibition of 1890, held at Uyeno, the fruit carried off a medal for excellence.

ACCOMMODATION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

ORDINANCE No. 2.

Specimen Regulations for accommodation in Elementary Schools are hereby prescribed according to Art. 19 of Imperial Ordinance No. 215 relating to Elementary Schools, promulgated in the 10th month of the 23rd year of Meiji (1890).

Dated the 8th of the 4th month of the 24th year of Meiji (1891).

YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,
Minister of State for Education.

SPECIMEN REGULATIONS FOR ACCOMMODATION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Art. 1.—School sites shall be such as possess an ample supply of sun-light, and are as open and dry as possible.

They shall be remote from busy and noisy places where teaching is liable to be disturbed; from places where there is risk of accident; from surroundings calculated to injure morality, and from stagnant waters and foul smells or gases detrimental to health.

In case the fitness or otherwise of a school site cannot easily be decided on from a sanitary point of view, the advice of a doctor shall be sought.

Art. 2.—In each school building a place shall be set apart where the photographs of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, as well as a copy of the Imperial Speech relating to education, shall be preserved.

Art. 3.—School buildings shall, as far as possible, be one-storied houses. In the event, however, of two storied structures being necessary, the primary class rooms shall be situated on the ground floor.

Where school buildings are to be erected, that design which, *cæteris paribus*, affords most convenience for future extension of the buildings shall be adopted, and rooms for preparatory pupils shall if possible be provided.

Art. 4.—The size of each class room shall be determined in proportion to the number, dimensions, and mode of arrangement of the desks and seats to be used therein. But in no case shall the space be smaller than one *tsubo* for every four pupils.

Each class room shall be large enough to accommodate the number of pupils capable of being taught by one teacher at one time.

Art. 5.—In all school buildings a place shall be provided where pupils' hats, umbrellas, rain-coats, clogs, etc., are to be kept.

In all school buildings, lecture rooms, store-rooms, etc., shall, if possible, be provided.

When children of both sexes are to be educated in an elementary school in which handiwork or an industrial course is to be taught, a special room shall be provided for the purpose of practical training in such subjects.

Large elementary school buildings shall, if possible, be provided with a place where books and charts, specimens, &c., may be kept.

Art. 7.—Land for training in agriculture shall, if possible, be provided close to the school buildings.

Art. 8.—School buildings shall be provided with a supply of drinking water by means of a well or aqueduct.

Art. 9.—Water closets shall be provided outside school buildings, and separately for both sexes.

Art. 10.—The dwelling-houses and gardens of school directors or head teachers shall, if possible, be situated close to the school buildings.

Art. 11.—School appliances shall consist of two classes, namely, class *a* and class *b*.

School appliances of class *a*, are those to be used solely for the purpose of teaching. Thus ordinary elementary schools are, as a general rule, to be provided with charts in *kana*, text-books for teachers' use, maps of the *fu* or *ken* wherein the schools are situated, maps of Japan, single rulers, double rulers, slates, and pencils, abacus, weights and measures, black-boards and rubbers, chalk, waterpots, and articles for object teaching. Higher Elementary Schools are to be provided with text-books for teachers' use, maps of the *fu* or *ken* wherein schools are situated, maps of Japan, maps of the world, globes, single rulers, double rulers, abacus, water-pots, specimens of natural science, physical and chemical apparatus, drawing copy-books and drawing apparatus, tools for cutting and sewing, musical instruments, and apparatus for gymnastics.

Appliances other than those above mentioned shall be provided in accordance with the status of schools, the nature of the school organization, and of text books and curricula.

School appliances of class *b* are national flags, chairs and benches for teachers and pupils (in schools where benches are used), clocks, various account-books, boxes containing inkstones, pens, etc., papers, shelves for books, side-boards, articles of daily use, and other necessary articles not included, in the school appliances of class *a*.

Art. 12.—Desks and benches for use by pupils should be constructed in such a way as not to injure their health, and so as to facilitate the exercise of supervision over the pupils.

Art. 13.—Items necessary for the construction of places mentioned in Art. 2, outer and inner walls of school houses, stairs, entrances and exits, galleries, roofs, ceilings, doors, beams, windows, water-closets, gymnasia, land for training in agriculture, teachers' dwelling houses, wells, etc., and also relating to the height of the ceilings of class rooms and their length and breadth, the mode of heating, ventilation, lighting, and the like—these items shall be prescribed according to local circumstances.

Art. 14.—Items necessary for the construction and arrangement of school appliances shall be prescribed according to local circumstances.

Art. 15.—Items necessary for the cleaning and preservation of school buildings, school sites, school appliances, etc., shall be prescribed according to local circumstances.

Art. 16.—When the provisions of the regulations as to accommodation in elementary schools may not easily be carried out without entire reconstruction, the practical application of the same will be postponed provided that such postponement be practicable.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MUNICIPAL NOMENCLATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Your correspondent's communication and your remarks on the above subject in the *Japan Daily Mail* of to-day induce me to address you with regard to the English equivalents for the words *Fu* and *Ken*.

You are, no doubt, aware that the rendering of *Fu* and *Ken* into "Cities" and "Prefectures" was adopted at the time when the law relating to the organization of cities, towns, and villages had not yet been promulgated, and I quite agree with your correspondent that now—after that law has been brought into operation—it is entirely wrong to translate *Fu* as "City." Further, in the absence of a better term—which I cannot think of at this moment—I am inclined to agree with him and abandon the attempt to discriminate between *Fu* and *Ken*, and to render both by the word "Prefecture." This seems the more desirable because there now exists no distinction whatever in the organization, political and otherwise, between them.

It is highly desirable that there should be fixed terms for these political divisions of the Empire, and I shall have occasion, if you allow will me, to address you at some future date with regard to those of the smaller divisions. But, as to the English rendering of *Fu*, I shall be glad if some one would suggest a suitable term in contradistinction to *Ken*, "Prefecture."

I would take this opportunity to point out that you appear to have been misinformed with respect to the title of the head of a Local Government, because since 1886 the heads of both *Fu* and *Ken* have been styled *Chiji*, which may be correctly rendered "Governor."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A JAPANESE STUDENT.

Tokyo, May 1st, 1891.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In view of the almost invariable accuracy of your invaluable journal with regard to Japanese questions, it is with great diffidence that I take issue with you as to the title of the *ken* governors. Is it not the fact, that several years ago the term *kenrei* was abolished? Since that time, if my information be correct, the governors of both *fu* and *ken* have alike been officially styled *chiji*. Thus there would seem to be no impropriety in using a single term in English, viz., prefect, in speaking of these governors, both of the *fu* and *ken*.

I remain, yours respectfully, D. C. G.

Tokyo, May 1st, 1891.

[We were in error. The term *Kenrei* is no longer in use.—ED. *J.M.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Your correspondent "D.C.G." is not the only one who has noticed the terms "*fu*," "*ken*," etc., and wished for more expressive equivalents. Permit me humbly to suggest the following:—

(1) *Ken*		Province.
Kori or *gun*		Country.
Shi		City.
Cho		Town.
Son or *mura*		Village.
(2) *Fu*		Metropolis.
Kori or *gun* / *Ku*	Suburban / City	Ward.

(1) *Ken*, province. The chief purpose in translation of this sort, should be to use terms answering to the equivalent units in our own system of administration. Now the objection to the terms "prefect" and "prefecture" is that both term and idea are entirely French; they convey no meaning to us. We might as well, while we are about it, employ "Arrondissement," "Kreis," "Bezirk," and other foreign terms. But besides this, the term "prefecture" is, if I am not mistaken, wholly misused. France is divided into "*Départements*"; at the head of each *département* is a *préfet*; and it is the office of a *préfet* which is called *préfecture*. Thus the word *prefecture* cannot be correctly applied to a district of country; one might as well say "governorship." The term *préfecture* is often used in France, because according to differences of salary, etc., there are different grades of the office; but I believe it is never applied to

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a district. Still another point; there is a *préfet* of the Seine, including Paris, the metropolis. The term *prefecture* therefore fails to give us the Japanese distinction between *fu* and *ken*.

We translate *kuni* by "province;" why not *ken* also? There is no other English word which gives us at once the idea of an administrative division marked by more or less distinctness in manners and history. Moreover "province" and "provincial" enable us to mark the rural nature of the *ken* in a very satisfactory way.

Kori and *gun* are as nearly the England and American "county" as can be; relatively to the subdivisions beneath them and the large groups above them, they correspond very closely. In history too, the Japanese *gun* is our "county."

Before the law of 1888 the subdivision *mura* or *son* might well have been called "village." But *shi*, *cho*, and *son* now are named on a basis of population, and the American plan of calling them towns of the first, second, and third class, might well be adopted. However, the official translation of the law of 1888 calls them "city," "town," and "village," and no fault can be found with this.

(2) *Fu*, metropolis. I leave this word to speak for itself; it seems to be exactly what the Japanese mean by *fu*. "Urban district" applies equally well to *shi* and *cho*. "District" is a colourless term and will fit any territorial division.

As to the *ku*, "ward" is I believe, the customary word. But the *kori* of a *fu* is just as much a "ward." I believe that the *kori* of a *fu* has no subdivisions of *shi* and *cho*, in other words, it differs essentially from the *kori* of a *ken*. Why then should it be given the same name? Tokyo *Fu* consists, as I understand it, of 16 *ku* and 6 *gun*, the only difference between them being that the *gun* send delegates only to the *fu-kwai*, and are not included in the *shi kwai*. For all purposes, then such a *gun* is merely a suburban ward.

One more point. Is the editor right in stating that the head of a *ken* is now called *kenrei*? This used to be so; but my impression is that the heads of both *fu* and *ken* are commonly spoken of as *fu ken-chiji*.

I am, etc., J.

Tokyo, May 1st, 1890.

THE LATE RACE MEETING.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—A member of the Nippon Race Club writes in the *Herald* of last night that we have had a most successful meeting this year, and goes on to make a few remarks about the starting and jockeys, and bettoes leading ponies on the course, about which if you kindly permit, I will try to set him right. As a jockey, I may say that most of us have no faith in the starter because we have lost races which we could have won had the starter given us a fair start. My own opinion is that the late starter is *not* "the right man in the right place." He is too good natured for that position, as jockeys generally, and one or two in particular, take always the advantage of his good temper. As to bettoes being allowed on the course to hold ponies, it is necessary for new ponies, as griffins get excited by the colours of jockeys, the flags, and the crowd of people to which they are not accustomed, and they keep quiet when they have their bettoes near. If the betto holds on too long, let the jockey run his own risk; it is his duty to train the pony and betto also.

The Club may be congratulated on its new Secretary, but I advise him to have another Clerk of the Course, as this one is not *en hauteur*, notwithstanding his yellow tops, white breeches, blue waistcoat, red coat, and *chapeau blanc*.

Yours, &c. JOCKEY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I presume it is fair to suppose that the four native journals mentioned in your note of this date headed "An Incident" are respectable and responsible newspapers, and yet how can they be so considered when they make statements of the wildest improbability, as you report them, in regard to the attitude of a foreign lady when the Emperor was leaving the Stand on the racecourse at Negishi on Wednesday last? As a member of the Nippon Race Club, and as one who was present on the occasion under notice, I beg to give the most emphatic denial to the statement that any person remained seated as the Emperor passed out to his carriage. Fortunately, the story carries its own contradiction, which I will show. It is stated that "the distraught female" remained "seated on her chair." Now the portion of the Stand through which the Emperor passes from the Imperial box is a wide, clear space containg nothing but the two tables upon which the prizes are placed on show. There is no chair there, nor for that matter in any part of the Stand except in the Imperial apartments. There was a very large attendance, and many strangers were present who appeared anxious to see the Emperor. Six or seven minutes before His Majesty appeared in sight every one was standing. It was necessary that they should rise to see the Emperor leave the Stand, for had anyone remained seated they could not even have obtained a glimpse of him, to say nothing of the impropriety of doing so. The most respectful attitude was assumed by every individual within the range of His Majesty's vision, and when his carriage began to move three hearty cheers were given. It is much to be regretted that such malicious falsehoods are published. The Emperor has for years past honoured the Club with his presence, and has been most liberal to the institution, always presenting valuable prizes to be run for, besides contributing no less than $1,000 towards the erection of the new Stand. Perhaps the scribes who published these libels are jealous because the Emperor honours Negishi with his presence.

I trust the editors of the papers who published this scandalous report will see this letter, and that they will have the decency to contradict it in future issues. They are not unaccustomed to the "leek" by all accounts. I would also recommend them to read and take to heart your article on "Cruelty to Animals in Japan," and your correspondent's letter thereon; and if they want to see how foreigners regard dumb animals let them read your report of the last day's proceedings at the late race meeting.

It was not my intention, when I set out, to refer to a letter in last night's *Herald* about the late meeting. "The Doctor" doubtless did his best, though it was not an entirely successful performance—some of it particularly. That is no reason, however, why he should be the subject of a scathing, ironical letter, for he has for a good many years done excellent work in the Judge's box and weighing-room. As for the young man on the grey horse with his red coat and blue waistcoat, all that need be said is "every one to his taste." Perhaps that's the way they "do it in France." It was a beautiful combination of colours—horse and man—and caused no end of amusement. I am afraid there is just a *soupçon* of insular English prejudice against a man getting himself up as an *Euripus churonda!*

Yours, very truly, N.R.C.

May 2nd, 1891.

INFORMATION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you or some one of your numerous readers kindly tell me the proportions of glue and gelatine to be used in making a copying pad, after the papyrograph kind, and oblige,

Yours truly, G. T. S.

Hongo, Tokyo, May 5th, 1891.

THE DISTRESS RELIEF FUND.

By a notification of the Finance Department the Receipts and Disbursements of the Central and City and Prefectural Distress Relief Funds for the 22nd fiscal year, which began on April 1st, 1889, and ended on March 31st, 1890, were reported in accordance with the Law relating to the Distress Relief Fund, promulgated in the 13th year of Meiji, and Law No. 5 of the 23rd year of Meiji. The following is a summary of the account:—

CENTRAL DISTRESS RELIEF FUND.

Amount of Central Distress Relief Fund transferred from the previous year; *yen* 3,823,156.198; amount received during the 22nd fiscal year *yen* 300,000.000 as central fund, and *yen* 206,245.544 as interest, *yen* 238,829 918 being, however, disbursed to alleviate the distress in Wakayama Prefecture. The balance of *yen* 4,090,571.824 was deposited in the Savings Bureau.

CITY AND PREFECTURAL DISTRESS RELIEF FUND.

Amount of City and Prefectural Distress Relief Fund transferred from the previous year; *yen* 14,755,726 458, *yen* 3,027,654 302 being received during the fiscal year. Subtracting *yen* 977,095.836 disbursed from the latter amount, the balance at the end of the year was *yen* 16,806,284.924.

The amount of *yen* 14,755,726.458 at the beginning of the fiscal year shows, as compared with *yen* 12,489 663.369 at the beginning of the previous year, an increase of *yen* 2,206,063 369; while *yen* 3,027 654.302, representing the total receipts during the year, as compared with *yen* 2,684,973.822 shows an increase of *yen* 342,680.480. The disbursements of the fiscal year are *yen* 977,095.836 showing an increase of *yen* 558,185.103 as compared with *yen* 418,910.733, the disbursements of the previous period.

Cash to the amount of *yen* 1,357,960.648 was transferred from last year, and with *yen* 4,411,241.887, cash received during the years makes a total of *yen* 5,769,202.535.

The amount disbursed during the fiscal year was *yen* 4,636,373.390. Subtracting this from *yen* 5,769,202.535, the receipts mentioned in the last paragraph, the balance at the end of the year was *yen* 1,132,829.145.

Public loan bonds transferred from the last year amounted to *yen* 12,979,641.000 face value, and *yen* 12,560,117.348 actual price; but the amount of bonds at the end of the fiscal year was *yen* 14,997,499.000 face value, and *yen* 14,680,798,971 actual cost.

The quantity of rice in hand at the end of last year was *koku* 152,324 *to* 7 *sho* 3 *go* 6, the original price of which was *yen* 462,561.246; and the quantity in stock at the end of the fiscal year was *koku* 126,432 *to* 7 *sho* 4 *go* 4, the original price of which was *yen* 388,210.626.

Loans on account of the land tax *(chiso kashitataye)* transferred from the last year, amounted to *yen* 375,087.216, and loans advanced during the year to *yen* 132,835.301. Besides the latter, *yen* 45 766 was disbursed for sundry purposes; *yen* 81,865.799 was in repayment of loans (*hennō kin*), and *yen* 756.302 was received from sundry sources. The loans on account of land tax at the end of the fiscal year, therefore, were *yen* 418,446.182. Loans for works in accordance with Law No. 3, January, 1890, amounted to *yen* 186,000.000.

In the 22nd fiscal year the following disbursements from the City and Prefectural Distress:—Relief Fund were made for the purposes mentioned.

Tokyo Fu.—*Yen* 71.408 on account of inundations, *yen* 133 020 on account of fires.

Kyoto Fu.—*Yen* 12,499.904 inundations, *yen* 943.15 fires, *yen* 110.898 storms, *yen* 5 00 damage by snow; *yen* 20.000 avalanches; loan (*tsiyo*) *yen* 12,511.285 on account of inundations.

Osaka Fu.—*Yen* 25,991.941 inundations, *yen* 252.605 fires, *yen* 109 233 storms; loan of *yen* 23,756.304.

Kanagawa Prefecture.—*Yen* 26,666 inundation, *yen* 3,780.126 fires, *yen* 1,507.448 gales, *yen* 10.000 avalanche, *yen* 2.877 to prevent spread of disease; loan *yen* 81.403 on account of a gale.

Hyogo Prefecture.—*Yen* 24,156.808 inundation, *yen* 1,630 541 fire, *yen* 542.981 gale.

Nagasaki Prefecture.—*Yen* 53.527 inundations, *yen* 896 641 fires, *yen* 13.000 gale.

Niigata Prefecture.—*Yen* 1,665 991 inundations, *yen* 2,665.375 fires, *yen* 18.790 gales, *yen* 20.208 snow, *yen* 16.188 avalanche, *yen* 4.720 to prevent spread of disease; loan of *yen* 3,896.388 on account of flooding.

Saitama Prefecture.—*Yen* 399 647 inundations, *yen* 353.933 fires, *yen* 3,484.519 gales; loan of *yen* 1,925.431 on account of flooding, and *yen* 103.945 on account of gale.

Gunma Prefecture.—*Yen* 180.055 inundations, *yen* 1,542 688 fires, *yen* 4,546.594 gales; loan of *yen* 15.050 on account of drought.

Chiba Prefecture.—*Yen* 185.914 inundations, *yen* 5,380.810 fires, *yen* 4,203 149 gales, *yen* 16.723 to prevent spread of disease.

Ibaraki Prefecture.—*Yen* 2,411.015 inundations, *yen* 6,305.273 fires, *yen* 4,547.738 gales, *yen* 1,636.704 drought; loan of *yen* 367.440 on account of drought.

Tochigi Prefecture.—*Yen* 285 572 inundation; *yen* 2,432.730 fires, *yen* 2,989.560 gales, *yen* 162.138 hail-storm, *yen* 1.100 to check spread of disease.

Nara Prefecture.—*Yen* 21,038.121 inundations, *yen* 140.305 fires, *yen* 184.337 gales; loan of *yen* 120.103 on account of inundation.

Mive Prefecture.—*Yen* 2,716 916 inundations, *yen* 292.576 fires, *yen* 1,896.611 gales, *yen* 4.712 to prevent spread of contagion, loan of *yen* 22.947 on account of inundation.

Aichi Prefecture.—*Yen* 65,185.694 inundations, *yen* 1,148.854 fires, *yen* 9,285.761 gales; loan of 10,944.772 on account of inundations.

Shidzuoka Prefecture.—*Yen* 5,645.890 inundations, *yen* 1,267.181 fires, *yen* 6,605.339 gales, *yen* 15.093 avalanche, *yen* 2.232 to prevent spread of disease, *yen* 53.984 failure of crop; loan of *yen* 217.195 on account of inundation, *yen* 4,684.046 gales, and *yen* 17.640 drought.

Yamanashi Prefecture.—*Yen* 2,820.171 inundations, *yen* 484.125 fires, *yen* 9,365.268 gales.

Shiga Prefecture.—*Yen* 5,694.907 inundations, *yen* 852.057 fires, *yen* 271.771 gales; loan of *yen* 7,420.125 on account of inundations, and *yen* 12.127 gales.

Gifu Prefecture.—*Yen* 2,338.914 inundations, *yen* 1,151·570 fires, *yen* 170.400 gales, *yen* 5.650 avalanche, *yen* 1.425 to prevent the spread of

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disease; loan of *yen* 12,784.144 on account of inundations.

NAGANO PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 2,822.297 inundations, *yen* 4,114.751 fires, *yen* 145.276 gales, *yen* 5.313 avalanche; loan of *yen* 739.062 on account of inundations.

MIYAGI PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 20,918.325 inundations, *yen* 2,069.155 fires; loan of *yen* 18,340.346 on account of inundations.

FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 2,067.467 inundations, *yen* 9,753.138 fires, *yen* 191.176 gales, *yen* 11.400 avalanches.

IWATE PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 1,431.840 inundations, *yen* 1,020.631 fires, *yen* 55.308 gales.

AOMORI PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 3,367.867 inundations, *yen* 5,851.046 fires, *yen* 157.029 gales, *yen* 16.000 snow, *yen* 96 960 damage to crop by insects, *yen* 88.595 to prevent spread of disease; *yen* 444.803 failure of crop; loan of *yen* 287.582 inundations, *yen* 24.296 fires, *yen* 42.850 gales, and *yen* 2.788 on account of damage by insects.

YAMAGATA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 5.673.239 inundations, *yen* 3.565.844 fires, *yen* 109 694 gales, *yen* 105.404 avalanches; loan of *yen* 516.247.

AKITA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 38.143 inundations, *yen* 7,856.103 fires, *yen* 89.342 gales, *yen* 9.600 snow.

FUKUI PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 173.046 inundations, *yen* 2,206.779 fires, *yen* 13.000 gales; loan of *yen* 508.013 inundations.

ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 200.910 inundations, *yen* 2,935.600 fires, *yen* 138.515 gales; *yen* 39.985 snow, *yen* 6 420 avalanches.

TOYAMA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 1,010.368 inundations, *yen* 3,035.691 fires, *yen* 508.040 gales, *yen* 7.200 snow, *yen* 16.200 avalanches.

TOTTORI PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 2,392.048 inundations, *yen* 4.092.470 fires, *yen* 92.525 gales, *yen* 1.211 drought, *yen* 215 167 insect pests, *yen* 13.011 avalanche; loan of *yen* 441.357 inundations, *yen* 11.995 fires, *yen* 23.745 insect pests.

SHIMANE PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 937.217 inundations, *yen* 1,763.814 fires, *yen* 4.000 gale, *yen* 17.000 avalanche; loan of *yen* 1,496.957 on account of inundations.

OKAYAMA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 67.122 inundations, 2,868.047 fires, *yen* 408.722 gales, *yen* 7.352 avalanche; loan of *yen* 71.095 on account of inundations.

HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 514 202 inundations, *yen* 828.434 fires, *yen* 29.850 gales, *yen* 3.000 avalanche; loan of *yen* 3.287 on account of inundations.

YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 189.787 inundations, *yen* 1,597.169 fires, *yen* 21.741 gales, *yen* 2.500 snow, *yen* 176.753 avalanche.

WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 362,083.341 inundations, *yen* 713.879 fires, *yen* 5,793.383 gales, *yen* 8.788 insect pests, *yen* 33.065 avalanche; loan of *yen* 18,495.351.

TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 1,278.736 inundations, *yen* 1,298.887 fires, *yen* 1,362.220 gales, *yen* 141.977 avalanche, *yen* 2.802 to prevent spread of disease, loan of *yen* 2,780.306 on account of inundations.

KAGAWA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 30.706 inundations, *yen* 139.735 fires, *yen* 67 980 gales.

YEHIME PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 8.410 inundations, *yen* 227.311 fires, *yen* 3.881 gales, *yen* 2.384 to prevent spread of disease.

KOCHI PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 492.349 inundations, *yen* 520.038 fires, *yen* 141.869 gales, *yen* 25.320 avalanches; loan of *yen* 68.024 on account of inundations.

FUKUOKA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 8,759.744 inundations, *yen* 2,923.384 fires, *yen* 10.208 gales, *yen* 45.000 earthquakes, *yen* 15.000 avalanche, *yen* 6.800 to prevent spread of disease.

OITA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 8,551.925 inundations, *yen* 4,595 545 fires, *yen* 190.801 gales, *yen* 17.000 avalanches.

SAGA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 24,548.510 inundations, *yen* 1,548.770 fires, *yen* 30.069 gales, *yen* 39 313 to prevent spread of disease; loan of *yen* 194.026 on account of inundation.

KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 9,697.553 inundations, *yen* 6,266.721 fires, *yen* 792 333 gales, *yen* 1,203 437 earthquakes, *yen* 61.950 avalanches, *yen* 107.326 to prevent spread of disease; loan of *yen* 8,516.889 on account of inundations.

MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 22.785 inundations, *yen* 1,078.870 fires, *yen* 23.340 gales, *yen* 6.000 avalanche, *yen* 1.800 to prevent spread of disease.

KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE.—*Yen* 300.198 inundations, *yen* 2,299 52 fires, *yen* 66.000 gales, *yen* 2,887.104 droughts, *yen* 38.000 avalanche; loan of *yen* 1,390.680 on account of drought.

PUBLIC HALL ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the Public Hall Association, adjourned from last week in consequence of the lack of a quorum, was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Public Hall. Among those present were Messrs. A. O. Gay, F. Towoley, E. B. Watson, E. Berger, O. Keil, T. Brewer, G. E. Rice, A. Barnard, T. Thomas.

Mr. GAY took the chair, and after stating the circumstances under which the meeting had had to be adjourned said he presumed the minutes of previous meetings would be taken as read. The accounts were before them and he should be glad to answer any enquiry relative thereto. The accounts were as follows:—

THE YOKOHAMA PUBLIC HALL ASSOCIATION IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER FOR 1890-91.

Cr.

1891, April 25—Receipts for performances—		
From Professionals	$1,905.00	
Amateurs, Balls, etc.	350.50	
Smoking Concerts	727.25	
		$2,982.75
1891, April 25—Receipts at the Bar for Wines and Liquors		138.53
1891, April 25—Receipts for the Transfer of Shares		2.00
1891, April 25—Debit Balance		1,261.21
		$4,374.49

POSITION.

Balance due to the H. & S. Bank	$1,339.05	
Cash in hand	77.84	
Debit Balance	$1,261.21	

DEPENDENCIES.

5 months' int. on Mortgage $9,500 at 8 per cent.	237.50	
About 1 month's Salaries, etc.	22.50	
	$1,521.21	

Dr.

1890, April 25—Balance brought over from last year		$ 962.18
1891, April 25—Working Account—		
Advertising and printing	$ 57.00	
Gas	310.99	
Wages, moving the floor, coolies, etc.	347 55	
Coals	35.50	
		751.04
Furniture Account, stoves and sundries		56.25
Insurance Account, prem. on building, piano, etc.	$ 97.50	
Less bonus paid for 1889	7.50	
		90.00
Interest Account—		
Paid on Mortgage from 21 May, 1889, to 21 May, 1890, at 8%	760.00	
Paid on Mortgage from 21 May, 1890, to 7 August, 1890, at 8%	162.41	
Paid on Mortgage from 7 August, 1890, to 21 November at 6%	165.53	
Paid on Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation over draft	74.46	
		1,162.40
Repairs Account, Sundry Repairs	$1,192.77	
Less: Sold old zinc, etc.	7.71	
		1,185.06
Ground Rent, paid 1 year to June, 1891		97.56
Piano Fund, paid on account		70.00
		$4,374.49
1891, April 25—Debit Balance brought forward		$1,261.21

Compared with the vouchers and found correct.

J. L. HALPHEN.
W. G. BAYNE.

Yokohama, 25th April, 1891.

J. R. MERIAN, Hon. Treasurer.

Continuing, the CHAIRMAN said there was a debit balance of $1,261, in addition to which there was interest that had accrued up to the date on which the accounts were made up, of $237.50, and the current expenses, wages, &c., for the month, making altogether $260, so that the total deficit came to about $1,521. The directors proposed to collect this sum from the subscribers to the two lists that were sent round in June last year. The lists amounted to $3,942, but of course this would hardly represent the sum now available, because of absentees and of deaths that had occurred. The proposal of the directors was to collect first from each subscriber, irrespective of the amount of his subscription, the sum of $5, that being the smallest subscription, and then to collect an equal sum from each remaining subscriber (the $5 subscriptions being extinguished by the first collection) sufficient in the aggregate to make up the amount required. Having the deficit thus cleared off, they would be able to start the current year free of debt, something quite new in the history of the Public Hall Association. They would thus be enabled to keep the building in good condition. If the income should continue as it had done during last year it would certainly enhance the prospect of interest to the debenture holders. They had been very lenient and had made no trouble at all as to interest during the past six years, but it was to be hoped that they would be able to get interest in future. Mr. Gay then went over the accounts and said in reference to the smoking concerts that the gentlemen concerned in the concerts were still enthusiastic, and it might be fairly expected that they would continue. Altogether the prospects of the Hall were very much better than last year.

Mr. WATSON said, looking at the accounts, he thought they would bear out the chairman's remarks that the position of the Public Hall seemed to be far more prosperous than it had been in years past. They had a debit balance of $1,261; and had earned during the year over $3,000. But he noticed that during the year they had to bear very extraordinary expenses. They had paid on interest account the sum of $760, which would not occur during next year's work, and they had further expended on repairs the sum of $1,185. Had not this been necessary the accounts at the end of the year would have been very nearly even, and had no extra interest been called for they would have had the pleasure, instead of showing a debit balance, of showing a credit balance, with very bright prospects before the association of paying its way in the future. There were two views that might be taken of the position. One was that the institution seemed now to be out of danger and on a more promising basis, and some people might say that the prospects were sufficiently encouraging to justify them in carrying it on without an appeal to the gentlemen who put their names on the guarantee list last year. But on the other hand, they must remember that, as the Chairman said, it was understood at the time that they were to make an effort to put the Public Hall on a sound basis and out of debt, and he thought it was only fair to the Directors, who had borne the brunt of what up to the present had been a losing effort for so long, that they should come forward and relieve the Directors of the responsibility they had so long and so cheerfully borne. As to the proposition that the amount should be collected from the subscribers to the lists, he thought Mr. Barnard would have something to say.

Mr. BARNARD said in view of the fact that the guarantors had come forward to extricate the Public Hall from its difficulties and place it upon a sound basis, he thought the proposal that the 85 subscribers should pay in full and the remainder *pro rata* was a very good one. If it were likely that the guarantors would come forward again then it might be an unwise scheme, but as they had a chance now such as they might never have again if they allowed it to pass, of placing the institution on a sound basis, he proposed that those who guaranteed $5 should be called upon in full, and the balance, if necessary to make the accounts even, should be called up *pro rata* from the remainder.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the proposal was that they should first collect $5 all round, and then collect enough to make up the deficit from the remainder, not *pro rata* but irrespective of the amount of each subscription.

Mr. BARNARD thought it really amounted to the same thing, but had no objection to make his motion correspond to the statement made by the Chairman.

Mr. TOWNLEY seconded.

This was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. WATSON, the accounts were passed.

Mr. RICE proposed that the old board of Directors be re-elected.—(Applause.)

Mr. GAY said some of the gentlemen were willing to serve again but for his part he must decline.—("No, no.") He had tried to escape for several years, and now he thought it was time that he should withdraw. He had done his share, and thought some one should take his place.

Mr. WATSON thought the interests of the Public Hall Association required that Mr. Gay should reconsider his decision to resign. The meeting would remember how warmly the community came forward in response to the Chairman's appeal to them, and he thought under those circumstances Mr. Gay would have no hesitation in serving at any rate for another year. As the speaker had said before, judging from the accounts, another year's campaign would enable the Chairman, if he then wished to retire, to leave behind him a very handsome credit balance. Seeing how near success they were, he thought Mr. Gay should remain at his post till that success came which must be principally attributed to his efforts.

Mr. GAY said in that case he must reserve to himself the right of retiring before the end of the year, if he should think it necessary.

On the question of the annual meetings,

The CHAIRMAN said under the rules these had been held at rather inconvenient times in the past. The rules provided that unless at a general meeting time and place were named the meeting should be held on the last Wednesday in April. But it was quite within the province of the meeting to appoint a time for the following meeting, and in order to meet the requirements of the case he would propose that the accounts be in future made up to the 1st of May and the annual general meeting of the shareholders be held on or about that date as may be found convenient and determined by the Directors.

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Mr. BARNARD seconded, and the motion was adopted.

On the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN, the motion for the re-election of the old board of Directors was formally proposed and seconded and carried.

In reply to Mr. THOMAS,

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Directors had power under the Articles of Association to add to their number, in the event of a vacancy occurring.

On the motion of Mr. WATSON, seconded by Mr. BARNARD, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and Directors, and the meeting adjourned.

LETTER FROM KOBE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Kobe, May 6th.

The I. O. O. F. is about to be organized in Kobe, which will be the second lodge in Japan.

Lawn Tennis is the "rage" of the season, and several private courts are noticeably patronized, in addition to the regular clubs.

Formal announcements have been made here of the organization of a joint stock company in Tokyo, for the purpose of publishing a weekly religious paper to be the union organ of the several Methodist denominations in Japan. The first number will be issued from Tokyo, June 1st, is to be printed in Japanese, and will claim to be second to no paper of its kind in the empire.

Rev. J. W. Atkinson, who has been in Japan for nearly twenty years, and is now at the head of the Congregational Missions in Kobe, will sail with his family for America, on the *Oceanic*, May 14th. The accomplished daughter of Mr. Atkinson is said to be suffering from some form of ophthalmia, and this is the cause of their somewhat sudden departure. They have many friends in Kobe.

Kobe is fast becoming popular as a summer resort. This spring an unusual number of foreign houses were erected, but already nearly all have been occupied by new families.

The fire bells have rung twice this week, and some damage has been done, but the wide awake Fire Company proves equal to the demands, and deserves special mention for its "eternal vigilance."

Kobe is a place of little news. Its citizens are generally industrous and busy, and have no time to attend to other people's business. Few materials exist for an occasional sensation. Occasionally we have a fire, sometimes a family moves away and we have an auction, but the whistle of the steamer and the rattle of the jinrikisha, carrying men here and there, about their own business, refuse to be interrupted, and so "the world do move" in the same old way. However, it is the purpose of your correspondent make his letter from Kobe an occasional feature that will interest and keep the *Mail's* readers posted as to the little occurrences that go to make up a people's history.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Boston, April 5th.

Mr. McKinley, author of the tariff bill that bears his name, is in the East ostensibly to point out the beauties of protection. Mr. McKinley is entitled to a respectful hearing, not only because he is the author of the most unpopular measure ever introduced into congress, but also because he has had a trotting horse, a cigar, a washing machine, and a stump puller named after him. His facts—when they are facts—are good, but the less said of some of his theories, and his logic, the better. He says that we are a "consuming people;" that we consume 20 per cent of the sugar produced in the world; 30 per cent. of the coffee; 33 per cent. of the iron; 33 per cent. of steel; 30 per cent. of the copper; 33 per cent. of the lead; 25 per cent. of the cotton; 33 per cent. of the wool; 33 per cent. of the rubber; 40 per cent. of the coal, and 50 per cent. of the tin.

A little gossip from Washington in this dull time, amuses a large number. It is a ripple in the social world, quiet, but far reaching. Until Mr. R. B. Hayes was counted in as president, the housekeeper of the White House was a coloured woman. Hayes dismissed the coloured housekeeper, and gave the place to the widow of an army officer, who remained until the Harrison administration. Mrs. Harrison, however, made Mrs. Scott Lord, a sister-in-law, the housekeeper. At Mrs. Lord's death, Mrs. Dimmick, Harrison's sister, became housekeeper at $100 a month. Mrs. Dimmick's position was held as a secret, and it was supposed that she was at the White House as the guest of her sister, Mrs. Harrison. It was a very agreeable position for Mrs. Dimmick, as she was treated as a member of the Harrison household, and accompanied it when it went out to be received anywhere. Mrs. Dimmick had her reception days, and assisted at the regular receptions, and on several occasions represented Mr. Harrison at the Saturday afternoon reception, set apart for the first lady of the land. During this time, Mrs. Dimmick was drawing her salary and acting as housekeeper. But the terrible discovery was made at last. The wife of a senator "investigated," found that she and others had been imposed upon "shamefully," made the facts known, and the result was that letters were sent to Mrs. Harrison informing her that so long as Mrs. Dimmick acted as housekeeper, they—the senator's wife and others—could not receive her, or be received by her at the White House. Mrs. Dimmick being of a practical, prudent mind, decided that $1,200 a year was preferable to empty social honour, and hereafter she will not "receive," but will give her attention to her household duties. Washington society was "shocked and prostrated" by this terrible discovery, and may not be on its feet again for several days. Think of it! Received in the White House by the housekeeper thereof! But it might have been worse: it might have been the cook or scullery maid! And to this housekeeper great courtesy had been extended—even the honour of a reception and kettle or snare drum. Thus easily and wofully demoralized is the upclass—the way up-class—in our capital city. About the time Mr. Harrison completes his second term, he and Mrs. Harrison may learn how to conduct their private affairs without the help of the public mind, and without disturbing the foundation and taking away the underpinning of that wonderful institution known as "society."

The "Italian massacre" is giving the people much to think and to talk about. It is still the great factor, or the result of it is the news of the day. Baron Fava, the Italian Minster to this country, has been recalled in consequence of "no action" on the part of this Government in regard to the massacre in New Orleans. Of the persons who lost their lives in New Orleans at the hands of the mob, four were subjects of the King of Italy. Immediately after the massacre, Baron Fava had audience with Secretary Blaine, and protested against the conduct of the local authorities in New Orleans. Baron Fava demanded that the United States Government should give official assurance that the persons guilty, if possible of apprehension, should be brought to justice; and, also, that this Government should recognize in principle that an indemnity was due to the relatives of the deceased. As the Government has given no such assurance or recognition, at least not in the form required by Baron Fava, the Baron is recalled by the King of Italy. In his letter to Mr. Blaine, the Baron recounts the foregoing facts, and announces that the Marquis Imperialli, Secretary of Legation, is left in charge. Mr. Blaine in his reply, sent to the Marquis Imperialli, after expressing his regret at the departure of Baron Fava, whose official relations with the executive department have been marked by the kindest feelings, takes up the demands made by the Italian Government through its Resident Minister, Baron Fava. Mr. Blaine says:—"I have endeavoured to impress upon him (Baron Fava) in the several personal interviews with which he has honoured me, that the Government of the United States is utterly unable to give the assurance which the Marquis Rudini has demanded. Even if the United States Government had the entire jurisdiction over the alleged murderers, it could not give assurance to any foreign Power that they would be punished. The President is unable to see how any Government could justly give assurance of this character in advance of a trial and verdict of 'guilty.' In Baron Fava's second point, he demands the recognition in principle that an indemnity is due to the relatives of the victims. He is assuredly under a grave error when he declares that the United States Government declined to take this demand into consideration, and I shall regret if he has communicated such a conclusion to your Government. The United States, so far from refusing, has distinctly recognized the principle of indemnity to those Italian subjects who may have been wronged by a violation of rights secured to them under the treaty with the United States of February 26th, 1871."

The fact that Secretary Blaine addressed his last letter on the subject of the New Orleans tragedy to the Marquis Imperial, Chargé d'Affaires, is significant as demonstrating that this Government does not regard the rupture of diplomatic relations, caused by Baron Fava's recall as complete. Had that view been taken, the communication would have been addressed to the Italian Government direct, or through the medium of Minister Porter at Rome. How the matter is viewed by the Italian Government will be disclosed by the reply that is made to the Secretary's letter. If the Chargé d'Affaires replies as such, it must be construed as an acknowledgement that the Italian Government is still represented in the United States by its legation. But if he announces that he is without authority to reply, and suggests a transmittal of the Secretary's communication to Rome, it may be taken as evidense that direct diplomatic relations between the countries are at an end.

In the meanwhile, that is to say, while the diplomatic pot boils, the authorities are supposed to be overhauling our navy and brushing the barnacles off the bottom of our warships, while the commandants of the coast-wise fortifications are keeping a telescopic eye to the eastern horizon that Italia's fleet may not pounce upon us unprepared.

Thus do the editors of papers amuse themselves and their readers. No "serious complications" are likely to arise. But if they do arise, what of it? Have we not a standing army of 25,000 men (about one third officers) and some new ships.

It has transpired that the four Italians, subjects of the King of Italy, were not important members of society. Three of them were murderers and fugitives from justice. The fourth was unknown. But in this diplomatic controversary, it is principle that is at stake and not men.

"La grippe" is again playing fast and loose with our people. Chicago appears to have suffered the most thus far. During one week there were over eleven hundred deaths, and at the same time there were 250,000 persons under treatment. Physicians and undertakers have had more to do than could be attended to in time. Funeral processions follow in quick succession. In all the western-southern cities, "la grippe" rages, being notably violent in Pittsburg. It is the old grippe that was in New England a year ago, and is now marching this way probaly for another visit. Strong men laugh at it, and say it is only a cold. Their funerals may follow in a few days. It is claimed that "la grippe" does not itself kill. If it be harmless, it soon developes into something—begets something—that kills and kills quickly. In its early stages, it "steals in," takes possession, hurries the patient on with such rapidity that he is over the boundary—beyond recovery—before he realizes that he has much to contend with.

FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MISSIONS COÖPERATING WITH THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN.

ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN TOKYO, DECEMBER 8, 1890.

The history of missions in Japan has hitherto been one of almost uninterrupted success. The barriers seemed crumbling, and all obstacles to be vanishing away. Men became confident of the speedy completion of the work, and set the date in the near future when all Japan would be evangelized, and we could pass on to help in China.

But it was not likely that the enemy would yield Japan without a struggle, and the history of the past year is one of larger difficulties and smaller progress. Some reports tell of of encouragements, and speak with enthusiasm. Others tell of stifling apathy or active opposition. There is no record of any great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There is no stirring record of great achievements. Yet there has been progress, and but for the wonderful successes in the past it would be called good progress.

Some of the causes of this difference it is easy to see. The rice famine pressed heavily, not only on the very poor, but upon the middle classes as well. This tended to reduce schools, volunteer workers, and contributions and affected the attitude of listeners to the gospel. Again the carrying into effect of the new Constitution, political meetings, elections, the excitement over treaty revision, the near approach of the opening of Japan's first Parliament—all these things were calculated to fill men's minds with thoughts of this world only, and to alienate many of them from foreigners to a certain degree. On the one hand, the Buddhists eagerly seized the anti-foreign feeling, and carefully fanned it through the press and lecture meetings, in every possible way saying that Christianity was essentially disloyal. On the other hand, there were those who encouraged patriotism to throw off the yoke of orthodoxy, take a more liberal view of truth, unite the good in all religions, and make a new faith, a Japanese Christianity adapted to the peculiar needs of their own people. To crown all, the Plymouth Brethren came, denouncing the corruption of the churches and the hireling ministry, and saying, "Come to us; we alone are pure." As a consequence, some went over to them; others, without leaving the church, cooled in zeal, becoming rationalistic in belief and worldly in life. The

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great wonder is that so few fell away and that such a great number stood firm. This is one of the encouragements of the year. The believers who stand firm now, or who shall be baptized hereafter, will be tried, reliable Christians, able to give a reason for the faith that is in them. The great need for the church in Japan now, more than increase in number, is to develope the character of the Christians already enrolled, so that they will practically carry out in daily life the principles they profess, and that the name of Christian will be a synonym for all that is honest, noble and pure. To this end they need thorough instruction and grounding in the truths of the Bible, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that they may live according to those truths. Above all things, at present, the great need of both teachers and taught is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Statistical tables show the number added to the church by baptism to be twelve hundred and thirty, two hundred and eight less than the number reported a year ago. The adult members number nine thousand three hundred and fourteen; the net gain is three hundred and sixty. This small nett gain is the result of a very general revision of the rolls of church members. The number of churches is seventy-one, an increase of three. Four new churches have been organized and two churches in the First Tokyo Chūkwai (Presbytery) have been united. The ordained ministers number forty-five, a gain of five. The licentiates number fifty, a gain of three. The contributions for all purposes are *yen* 16,658.09, including about *yen* 120 per month for the Missionary Board of the Church. The whole amount is about *yen* 1,400 less than that reported last year.

In order that this report may more accurately represent the actual state of the work, the reports from each station will be taken in order, and their substance given. Commencing then at the southern extremity of the Empire, we come first to one of the oldest stations; Nagasaki. The evangelistic work here was left almost entirely to native brethern after Mr. Demarest, who had charge of it, was obliged to return to America. Little progress has been made, though there is reason to believe that for the most part the evangelists have been faithful. Good progress is reported in Sturges Seminary. The number of pupils has more than doubled and prospects are brightening. In the Academic department of Steele Memorial school the attendance is smaller, but consists mostly of former pupils. The Theological department now numbers ten students. In all there are twenty-four Christians, eight of those in the Academic department having the ministry in view. Therefore the school quite fulfils its object, which is to prepare young men for usefulness in the Church.

In the Hiroshima field "the general condition of the churches is good; far better than formely in such places as Shimmoseki, Yamaguchi, and Hiroshima. There has been no great increase in numbers, but the churches give signs of decided spiritual growth; a spirit of self-support is growing up, and a greater zeal in spreading the truth is manifest. Several new stations have been opened, and the way seems clear for a more extended evangelistic work than ever before."

The Osaka report reads as follows: "While the growth of the work here has not been so rapid as at somes times in the past, there are some encouraging features. 1st, The churches are on a better and more sure footing than ever before, and are doing more to extend the gospel to others. 2nd, An unusually large number of young men of good character and promising abilities have come forward and offered themselves as students for the ministry. Some of them are paying their own way while in school."

The most enthusiastic of all the reports comes from the new station of Kyōtō. Work was begun there last February in a section of the city yet untouched by Christian workers. The people are mostly artizans, and reputed to be the most conservative and intensely Buddhistic in the city, so success was expected to be very tardy. Soon a number of members of the Church of Christ were found among the students and others. Of the students, four were in the Theological department of the Dōshisha, who have proved valuable helpers. A preaching place was opened at the expense of the Christians, and from the first the meetings were well attended and without opposition. There was no flagging during the summer, and the success of the work has been beyond all expectation. Nine adults and five children have already been baptized, with ten more candidates now preparing, and new inquirers almost daily. The Christians are expecting to open another preaching place soon, also at their own expense. They have contributed liberally to the poor and to the Home Mission Board of the Church. It is hoped to organize a church there next Spring. Immigration continually adds to the number of members of the Church of Christ in this city, so that it bids fair to develop into a strong church, and must be looked upon as an important centre.

By way of contrast to this work in small expectations and good success, the work in Tokushima may be mentioned. It began about eighteen months ago with a fair prospect, so far as human foresight could judge, but has not met with great success. The grounds of hope were twelve candidates for baptism and a flourishing Bible class. The hindrances have been various. In the first place, this city is famous in Japan as a strong hold of Buddhism, avarice, and lust. The world, the flesh, and bigotry, all in one place, make it a difficult field. Among the baptized believers, some have proved most grievously unfaithful to their vows, thus bringing contempt upon the name of Christ. Then the numbers are continually weakened by removal. Fierce opposition has lately arisen to keep back those who wished to believe. Opposition shown at a lecture meeting in February was described by old missionaries as the most violent they had seen in sixteen years. The city chapels are often constrained to claim police protection. Again, workers both native and foreign have been few; consequently little country work was undertaken. Mrs. Brown's enforced absence, on account of ill health, has greatly weakened the women's work, which at first was one of the most promising features of this field. Mr. Prince is all alone here at present, but his position in the government schools may give him some hold on the student class. It is a matter for thankfulness that among all the reports, this is the only one of such gloomy character.

The report from Kōchi is not so favourable as in former years; yet this work has been so exceptionally blessed, that what is an unfavourable state in Kōchi would be considered very decided progress in many other places. The saddest part of the report is that six members were found to be of such a character that they had to be expelled. Otherwise, with a gross increase of ninety five and a net gain of fifty-four, some churches would consider themselves very happy. The distracting influence of political matters is given as the main hindrance. While the country work in some of the twenty-six towns is said to have gone backward, and in some to have stood still, yet in several there has been fine progress, and the Christians are very happy and earnest in their work. In Aki, among eighteen persons baptized at one time, seventeen belonged to one family. The school work is going on well.

The progress of the work in Kanazawa is reported as not very marked. In schools there has been a falling off, so that the boys' school only has about one half the number of pupils it had one year ago. However, the corps of teachers is better than ever, and results were never more encouraging. The students are studying well and without friction. The out-station work also is more hopeful than ever before, from the fact that they have been more largely attended and free from disturbance. There has been an unusual number of interesting personal incidents. In some places young men, in others influential citizens, have been active in securing places and hearers for meetings. Converts have given clear evidence of experimental religion. The spirit of God seems awakening the people to inquire into the things of the Gospel. Yet in the same region opposition has been so strong that men after baptism have been compelled to leave their village, because no one would rent them a dwelling. Tsuruga was lately the scene of a stormy attack on a church and Christians.

The work of the Cumberland Presbyterian Mission seems to centre in Osaka, inasmuch as most of the mission reside there. But at least four of their number give themselves entirely to evangelistic work, the open port of Osaka being their point of departure. They have each their appointed sections of Wakayama and Miye, practically covering the whole of these populous and important prefectures. The other members of the mission, though giving their time mainly to school work, by no means neglect the evangelistic department. As to the churches under their care, while fewer baptisms are reported, yet the churches have gotten into better working order than ever. Two have installed pastors, and one has employed a lay evangelist who gives his whole time to his work. The contributions are larger than ever before. The country churches which last year suffered by floods, have been even more weakened this year by removal of members to cities. However, the remaining members, being located in all the important towns and villages along the coast, give large opportunities for preaching and gaining other believers. The newly organized church at Yokkaichi is reported below by Miss Rezner, as also the new station at Ueno by Mrs. Drennan. The one school of the mission is for girls and is located in Osaka. It has both boarders and day pupils, with an average attendance in all of about ninety. It embraces an eight years' course with Bible instruction throughout. Considering the cholera scourge, the rice famine and consequent high price of living, the fall opening of the school is regarded as encouraging.

A new station has been opened this summer at Ueno, the chief town of the province of Iga, by Mrs. Drennan of the Cumberland Presbyterian Mission. She describes her work as amidst an utterly indifferent people, yet she seems to be getting some hold upon their attention. With the help of a licentiate and her Bible women, three meetings are held on the Sabbath and others during the week. These meetings seem all to be well attended. Mrs. Drennan says there are good openings for work in several of the towns around, and calls for additional force either native or foreign to be stationed in neighbouring places.

In Yokkaichi also a lady of the Cumberland Presbyterian Mission represents the foreign workers of the Church of Christ. The work here was only begun some twenty months ago, yet a church was organized this year and supports its own pastor. The condition is reported as good. Nearly all the members pay one tenth of their income, and some more than a tenth. The work has to bear a strong and continuous Buddhist opposition, but still it advances and extends out to various points in the surrounding country.

Things have been very quiet in Nagoya all the year, no special change either forward or backward being noticeable. The union of the school work of the two missions in the spring gave a good school each for boys and for girls. This fall the girls' school has gotten into enlarged quarters, and seems to be now well established and growing in popularity. The boarding department is reported as giving most decided satisfaction, because of good opportunity for Christian training. The boys' school has had its share of chronic difficulties, but seems attaining to a useful and more peaceful stage now. On Mrs. Drennan's withdrawal to a new field, she asked Mr. Cumming to look after her work in the Aichi church. This he tries to do, but the church is still in its infancy. The Nagoya church, as the older one is named, has been faithfully served by its pastor, and the people seem contented, though not very active. They have lately aroused to the need of a church building, and are striving to collect the necessary funds. The street chapels are well attended, and some inquirers seem really interested. New plans are being inangurated in the country work, looking to as vigorous exertion in that department as is possible under the present passport system.

The spirit of unity and harmony among the various foreign missions here is one of the pleasant features about this field.

The country church at Seto under the care of the mission of the Reformed Church in America seems in decidedly a properous condition with a good number of candidates for baptism, many of them heads of families, and very many earnest seekers after the truth.

Okazaki, near Nagoya, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fulton, has had a few baptisms in the city, good attendance at the street chapels, and some encouragements in country work: but this whole Nagoya field presents probably a more solid wall of Buddhist bigotry than any field of like size in Japan, making progress very slow and difficult. A boys' school and a womens' class have been opened in Okazaki, but are not very well attended yet.

From Okazaki, in one unbroken stretch along the Tōkaido to Shizuoka, no work is done by us. In the latter city work has lately been begun by the misston of the Reformed Church. The opening is reported as encouraging, some influential citizens being members of the Church of Christ. The Canadian Methodist mission there gave a courteous welcome to our brethren of the Reformed Church mission. The church at Mishima is the centre of work in this prefecture, but it is not yet able entirely to support its pastor, so he is largely sustained by mission funds. He is helped in an English girls' school by a self supporting foreign lady. The church has not grown as in former years, some of the leading members and officers being drawn off much by business. The membership is scattered in many towns and villages, giving good preaching points where the pastor holds meetings with more or less system. He has been aided this year by theological students and by foreign missionaries in their summer resting places, several of which places are within his pastorate. Coming on up toward Yokohama and Tōkyō, the work of the various coöperating missions is so intermingled that there is not much distinction. However, extracts from the reports received from the various members of the missions as to their work may help to give clearer ideas of the whole work of this region. Three churches and five stations in Kanagawa Prefecture are assisted by the Reformed

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Church mission. To one church, a building is furnished, to others evangelistic funds, or theological student helpers. Also the members of the mission assist in administering the sacraments, preaching, holding Sabbath schools, and in general visiting and serving the churches. The mission has lately erected a chapel in a good part of the city and engaged a native minister to carry on work there.

Dr. Hepburn reports for one church in Yokohama in which he has an interesting Bible class of some twenty adults.

For this congregation a solid and handsome church building is in process of erection, through the generosity of Christian friends in America. The churches of Yokohama have decidedly felt the depression produced by the great political excitement of the past year. Another decisive and injurious influence has come from various heretical sects lately come to Japan. These work not so much among unbelievers as among already baptized Christians; they caused a considerable disturbance among the believers in Yokohama. Another severe injury has been the coldness and worldly living of some church members and the base dishonesty of others. All these things have had a sadly injurious effect on the churches; they have, however, in the main held their own in numbers.

Of the schools in Yokohama, Miss Case has a flourishing school in the heart of the city, which keeps her very busy. Besides this and her Bible work she does some evangelistic work.

Ferris Seminary has opened a primary school and a kindergarten this year, so that it now takes pupils from the very beginning of their school life. It has lost twelve pupils and added fourteen, thus gaining two, which is a matter of gratulation in these times of monetary straitness and political confusion. It is a noteworthy fact that in the five highest classes nearly all the pupils are Christians. About twenty of the older pupils are engaged with the teachers in carrying on seven Sabbath schools in and near the city, thus giving those young Christians practical training in evangelistic work.

A full report of the work of the Woman's Union mission has not been received, but the school is reported as orderly and prosperous. There are about forty believers among the ninety-five boarders. The pupils have a missionary society which meets every month. Mrs. Pierson's Bible Readers are daily instructed in the Scriptures, and are constantly making trips of days or weeks duration on evangelistic work. They are much encouraged by their reception among the people.

In Bōshū, Chiba Prefecture, Mr. Ballagh reports the work as halting, notwithstanding the steadfastness of the few believers there and the accession of a few relatives of believers. But, on the other hand, Mr. Pierson, who lives in the city of Chiba, speaks of the work throughout the prefecture as very encouraging. He says there are about four hundred believers scattered in various villages, and these give many invitations for preaching. Also the officials and people everywhere willingly attend meetings and listen attentively. He thinks there is hardly any limit to the possibilities of evangelistic work in this section except the number of workers and their faith.

In Shinshū there are three organized churches and four other stations where workers are located; all of these mainly supported by our missions. No special report of the state of these churches has been received.

In the capital city, where our churches and members are most numerous, the state of the work is perhaps more unfavourable than anywhere else. The hindrances mentioned in the former part of this report, political excitement, poverty, heresy, defection of members,—any weakening cause felt any where in the country, operates with increased force in the capital. The results are seen in a loss of interest in spiritual things, worldly living, poverty stricken churches and churches disturbed by faction and schism. However, we believe, that even in such a state of affairs the Lord has yet many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. "On the other hand," the Tōkyō report continues, "it is a joy to receive most gratifying reports from the workers sent from Tōkyō, throughout the provinces. It is abundantly evident that evangelistic work in these sections is full of promise. Another thing not to be forgotten is the occupation of a large number of new places. This was rendered possible by the graduation from the Theological School of an exceptionally large and good class. In choosing places special care was taken to select such as are likely to be important centres, and such as will tend to complete the lines of the Church of Christ." The list of places occupied extends from Chiba on the east coast and from Tōkyō north to Sapporo, and west to Niigata.

Several of the missionaries have been engaged in helping pastorless churches and in evangelistic work in the city, but only two reports have been received of such, one being from Miss Youngman who opened a chapel on March 1st near the entrance to the Ueno exposition, and by the help of ministers, both foreign and Japanese, she has succeeded in having the gospel preached there every night for eight months. Open air meetings are frequently held in the park to which six or seven hundred persons come. Bibles are presented to inquirers, and letters of inquiry sent to them afterwards. Children's meetings and house to house visiting are among the methods pursued. Bible classes for men and women, a sewing school for children, and work in connection with the churches are all regularly carried on. During all these eight months not a word of disrespect or opposition has been shown, on the contrary, perfect quiet and order has prevailed, and the power of God has been especially manifested.

The schools of the capital are all in good, and some in excellent, condition. The report from the Meiji Gakuin, the chief male school of the church, is pleasing in several particulars. In the Theological department of this institution, the largest and most promising class in its history, a class of nineteen was graduated last April. This class, as mentioned above, was put into the field immediately, making it possible to extend the lines and enlarge the evangelistic work to a gratifying extent. The work of the institution has been enlarged by re-opening the Japanese Theological department with severer requirements for admission than before. Nineteen men successfully passed the examination and have entered the junior class. In June the new and commodious Theological Hall was completed and dedicated. The Council would record its gratitude to Mr. Williams for his gift toward the building,—also to the Japanese Church for its contributions. Rev. C. K. Imbrie, D.D., of U.S.A., presented to the Library seven hundred valuable volumes. Grants of books have been also received from the Reformed Church and American Presbyterian missions. For these gifts the Council joins with the Directors in expressing hearty thanks. In the school for lay preachers the work has been more carefully defined and distinguished from the Japanese Theological department, and new students are required to be self-supporting, though a few scholarships will, it is hoped, be established. Fewer students than last year are in attendance. It is hoped that elders and other laymen who desire a somewhat thorough systematic training, will avail themselves of its privileges.

The courses of study have been changed both in the Preparatory and Academic departments so as to conform to the curriculum of government schools of the same grade, thus fitting a full graduate to enter immediately into the Imperial University. A Vice-President has been elected and the discipline of the institution placed in his hands. Matters outside of the recitation room are placed, with regulations, in the hands of Japanese members of the faculty. The Libraries of the two departments have been combined and placed in the new Hall, where a Reading Room also has been opened. In addition to the prescribed religious services, an English service is provided, and open to all. This institution has had its own troubles induced by the prevalent decided reaction against schools under foreign and religious influence. It has also elevated its curriculum and lengthened its course of study. But in spite of these facts, while other similar schools have had a decided decrease in numbers, this has practically held its own, which is cause for gratulation and encouragement.

It was decided last year that Sakurai Jogakko and Graham Seminary—the two girls' schools, should be united; buildings were at once commenced, and other plans put in operation to make the union possible this fall. The consequent inconveniences inevitable in such changes, somewhat reduced the number of pupils. However, the pupils who remained did good work and made satisfactory progress through the year. The prayer meetings, Sabbath schools, and general work of the Christian pupils, have been faithfully attended to, with blessing to those concerned. The union of the two schools was successfully accomplished in September, thus setting free two of the foreign ladies to devote their entire time to evangelistic work.

The members of the Joshi Gakuin have been working during the year in twelve Sabbath Schools. Of the four regular religious services which have been under their care (outside of the school), two are for women only; while the others have been mixed meetings, and different helpers have given aid. The work is so largely that of *advisers* and *guides* for the pupils that the ladies hesitate to call any of it their special work; they have plans for more direct work among the masses which are yet untouched, and are rejoicing that the way seems open now to put more strength into this which has been much upon their hearts for years while the force has been too small to allow them to undertake it.

The primary school under the care of Mrs. McCauley is reported in good condition with one hundred and twenty pupils. Daily Bible instruction is given; Sabbath schools, children's meetings, parent's meetings in connection with the school, are all conducted every week by her and her helpers. A higher class has been formed in the school to link it on to the Meiji Gakuin.

Misses Alexander and West give a good account of the Bible women's school. In winter the women worked in the city between hours of study; in vacations they did satisfactory work at five stations in the country, where they were gratefully received. These two ladies also have charge of the Christian instruction, English and music in Mr. Osami's school for young ladies, which school is doing satisfactory work. They are also connected with several primary schools and Sabbath schools, of which no particular account is given. By means of their English class for noblewomen they have introduced Christian teaching into several large households, and hope for much from this part of their work.

There have been very few books published this year. The American Presbyterian mission has issued one volume in both English and Japanese, a compend of Theology. Tōkyō Committee of the American Tract Society has issued 58 editions of tracts, 5,000 each. It has also issued nine books. The sales of publications have been less than last year. The grants of tracts for gratuitous distribution have been many more. The total circulation has been 4,152 books and 257,646 tracts. The latter aggregating more than 2¾ million pages. The value of the tract as an aid to evangelistic work is better appreciated than formerly. Grants have been sent to the Sandwich Islands, to San Francisco, and to Shanghai, as well as to various part of Japan.

To the north of Tōkyō are cities occupied by fully organized churches, or where evangelists sent out from Tōkyō are stationed. All these points are visited and aided by the Tōkyō missionaries, but no particular account of this work is given. The next place where missionaries are stationed is Sendai. This city is occupied by the mission of the Reformed Church of the United States. This mission gives largely to support evangelistic work through the Dendō Kyoku. Under its direct supervision also it has a largely distributed work, located in five towns of Miagi prefecture and three points in Yamagata prefecture. The Yamagata city work has been weakened by the stopping of a school and also by removal of members to the Hokkaidō; it is still continued, however. In the city of Sendai, besides the main congregation, a number of Sabbath schools and two preaching places are being operated. In all these the students of the Theological training school give valuable assistance. Another preaching place, in charge of Rev. Mr. Moore, is a railway station near the city. A native evangelist visits all the work from time to time. The foreigners also aid in this general work as much as the passport system will allow. While the work in general has been affected in some degree by the apathy prevalent in Japan, still it has more than held its own and the brethren feel encouraged to go forward.

The Theological training school rejoices that it now has grounds for certain hope, after four years of trial of faith. More land has been purchased and a large brick building is now being erected at a cost of nine thousand yen. Fifteen hundred yen in addition have been raised for a library. Forty students are in attendance, all with the ministry in view. Ten are self-supporting. Thirty-three are in the Academic course, while seven have entered the Theological course—five studying in Japanese and two in English. The brethren feel greatly rejoiced that this school is now so firmly established. In the girls school in the city for a while last year inimical forces threatened, but by wise management all trouble was avoided. Some changes were made, emphasizing the Japanese studies and lessening the English. More teachers also were employed and the school regained its popularity, so that in September of this year it again opened with its original numbers. Nearly all the pupils are Christians, and of those unbaptized, only one is averse to Christianity. The spiritual condition of the school is good and the outlook prosperous.

Morioka, the next station to the north of Sendai, is occupied for the Church of Christ by Rev. Mr. Miller and wife, of the Reformed Church in America. Here there is no organized church, but a group of thirty-three members has been gathered. Many of those have moved away, but members from other places have moved into the city. Besides two preaching places in

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the city, work is carried on in the prison. One out-station to the south is mentioned. Also the work at Mombetsu in the Hakkaidō has lately been put in Mr. Miller's charge. The work in the prison at Morioka is greatly hindered by a Buddhist priest attached to the prison. But about 25 persons come regularly to the services in spite of his wiles. Many others are reached by tracts. Bible and English classes, women's meetings, and Sabbath schools are all carried on with more or less success. With the coming of the railway it is hoped that new life and activity, and consequently new interest in the gospel, will be aroused.

Mrs. Miller continues to edit the *Yorokobi no Otozure* (Glad Tidings) which has a good circulation.

On the island of Yesso there are now three organized churches, but of foreign missionaries our body only has one, at Sapporo. This lady has a promising girls' school with forty pupils in the Academic department, and twenty kindergarten pupils. Besides this a class of married ladies meets daily. This is the only Christian school in Sapporo. It seems growing in popularity and the outlook is encouraging. Fourteen of the pupils are Christians and are quite helpful in the Sabbath school work in the city. The church was organized last spring, and seems to be flourishing in every way. Attendance at the Sabbath services averages fifty or more. No special report was received from the two other churches, no missionary being resident there, but it seems that the work in all that region is very interesting, fully warranting the placing of one or more missionaries there if any our missions feels able to do so.

The Synod of the Church of Christ met in the city of Tōkyō on December 3rd. The session continued for a fortnight. It is commonly agreed that the meeting will rank in importance with the one first held for the founding of the church. The principal business was the consideration of the report of the committee on the revision of the Constitution of the church.

The question of the revision of the Constitution had been before the church for a considerable time. Some six years ago a committee was appointed to take the matter in hand; but upon the opening of negotiations with a view to organic union with the Congregational churches the committee was released from further service. When, however, it became apparent that the negotiations for union with the Congregationalists would prove fruitless, the Synod (in May, 1889), appointed a new committee to resume the work of the former committee. On June 2nd, 1890, the new committee published its work in Japanese and English, and distributed it throughout the church. Six months later (on Dec. 3rd) the Synod assembled to take final action in the matter.

The document presented by the Committee is divided into four parts, viz: Constitution, Canons, Articles of Faith, and Appendix. The Constitution contains the fundamental principles of the Presbyterial system, and can be amended only by a carefully guarded process. The Canons are laws based upon these principles, and can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Synod after due notice. The Appendix contains forms of procedure, not binding, but added as helps to orderly administration. This distribution of matter was adopted as conducive to simplicity, clearness, flexibility, and a due distinction between things expedient. This part of the document was adopted with various amendments of minor importance; but no change was made affecting the integrity of the Presbyterial system.

In presenting the document to the Synod the committee on revision made the following statement regarding the Articles of Faith: "There is a wide-spread conviction that the Confessions of Faith prepared for the needs of the church in Europe in the seventeenth century are not perpectly adapted to its needs throughout the world at the close of the nineteenth century. The question of creed revision is therefore agitating the Presbyterian Church in England, Scotland, and America. But the Church of Christ in Japan not only shares the need of revision common to churches in Christian lands. It requires a statement of doctrine especially suited to its own environment; and the preparation of such a Confession of Faith is a work not to be forgotten in the future. But from such a work the committee shrinks, agreeing that the best service within its power is the selection from among the various existing revisions of one that on the whole may commend itself to the judgment of the church. After careful consideration it was finally decided to recommend the Articles now before the Presbyterian Church of England for adoption. Doubtless many will be of the opinion that there are points in which these Articles might be changed for the better. But the changes commending themselves to one will not commend themselves to all; and therefore the committee, in suggestion was made that it be in the form of an introduction to the Apostles' Creed. During the recess the following Confession was prepared; and on presentation to the Synod it was adopted unanimously. It should be remarked in passing that the sacraments appear in the Constitution and Canons:—

unanimously agreed to present them to the Synod without alteration."

But before the Synod convened it was clear that there was a growing feeling in favour of substituting the Apostles' Creed for the English Articles; and early in the session a motion to that effect was introduced. No doubt the national spirit now dominant influenced the minds of some against the English Articles as being the work of a foreign church. That, however, is by no means the whole explanation of the movement. The Standards of Doctrine adopted when the United Church was organized were the Canons of the Synod of Dort, the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Shorter Catechism, and the Heidelberg Catechism. From the beginning there was a strong feeling that these documents do not form the right Confession for a Church in Japan. However, out of deference to the judgment of a majority of missionaries, they were adopted; though at that time the Canons of the Synod of Dort, and the Westminster Confession were not accessible to any who could not read English. The church was organized in October, 1877. In October, 1880, these two documents were for the first time published in Japanese. Again they were objected to; and Mr. Ibuka gave notice that he would introduce a motion six months later (as provided in the Constitution) to erase from the Constitution the words "the Canons of the Synod of Dort, and the Westminster Confession of Faith." At the meeting of the Synod held in April, 1881, this resolution was introduced. It is to be observed that the offering of this resolution was in effect a proposition on the part of Mr. Ibuka and others to make the two Catechisms the Confession of Faith of the Church. But in the judgment of a majority of the missionaries it was advisable to retain the Canons of the Synod of Dort and the Westminster Confession. And again the point was yielded.

Thus the desire for the Apostles' Creed had its roots in the past—in the old conviction that the needs of the Church in Japan should be the determining element in the adoption of a Confession for the Church in Japan. The argument as now put is this: The church of the Nicene age adopted the Nicene Creed. The churches of the Reformation adopted the Confession of the Reformation. The Presbyterian Church of England has just adopted the English Articles. The Presbyterian Church of America is now revising the Westminster Confession. The Church of Christ in Japan should follow these examples. It should adopt the Confession which its circumstances demand.

Such being the case, what are the characteristics necessary to a Confession to be adopted by a Church of Christ in Japan at this era in its history?

(1.) It should be simple and brief. Men are constantly asking, what are the doctrines of your Church? They will not read a long document in reply.

(2.) It should be a Confession about which the whole Church will rally—a Confession for pastor and people alike. This does not mean that the knowledge of the pastor regarding the contents of the Confession should be no broader and no deeper than that of the children of his Church. But all belong to one Church; and there should be one Confession—one banner for all.

(3.) Such a Confession should be irenic. The church in Japan is face to face with Buddhism, Confucianism, Agnosticism, Rationalism, and radical Unitarianism. Its Confession of Faith should proclaim the whole difference between these things and Christ. It should set forth the great truths of historical Christianity. But it should not be a symbol of division among those who love and worship one Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostles' Creed meets all these conditions. It is simple; it is a Creed for all; and it is the Confession of the Universal Church.

In reply to this argument for the adoption of the Apostles' Creed and the Apostles' Creed alone the following was urged:—Admitting that a church should adopt a Confession suited to its needs, and admitting also that very much can be said in favour of the Apostles' Creed, it still remains true that the Apostles' Creed alone will not meet all the requirements of the case. There are doctrines of transcendent importance for Japan to-day which are contained in the Apostles' Creed only by implication. The atonement, justification by faith, sanctification, the work of the Holy Spirit and its necessity, the inspiration and supremacy of the Scriptures, are all of them doctrines which should be not not only believed but proclaimed by the Church of Christ in Japan. More than this, experience has shown that it is possible to read into the Apostles' Creed an unhistorical Unitarian interpretation.

These points were presented with great clearness; and the Synod was satisfied that the Apostles' Creed alone would not suffice. It was evident that a supplementary statement was needed. The

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

The Lord Jesus Christ, whom we worship as God, the only begotten Son of God, for us men and for our salvation was made man and suffered. He offered up a perfect sacrifice for sin; and all who are one with Him by faith are pardoned and accounted righteous; and faith in Him working by love purifies the heart.

The Holy Ghost, who with the Father and Son is worshipped and glorified, reveals Jesus Christ to the soul; and without His grace man being dead in sin cannot enter the kingdom of God. By Him the prophets and apostles and holy men of old were inspired; and He speaking in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the supreme and infallible judge in all things pertaining unto faith and living.

From these Holy Scriptures the ancient church of Christ drew its Confession; and we holding the faith once delivered to the saints, join in that Confession with praise and thanksgiving:—

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son Our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hades; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Another important action of the Synod was the change in the name of the church. This was accomplished by dropping the word "United." The United Church of Christ in Japan becomes thus the Church of Christ in Japan. The United Church was originally formed by the union of a Presbytery belonging to the General Assembly of the American Presbyterian Church (North); of work connected with the mission of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland; and of the first Protestant Church organized in Japan. The body last named bore the title of the Church of Christ in Japan, and was the fruit of the labours of missionaries connected with the Reformed (Dutch) Church, and the American Presbyterian Church (North). The word United was adopted to set forth the fact of union. The Japanese word employed to render the word "United" has never been satisfactory, and no satisfactory substitute has ever been suggested. This fact, together with a lasting affection for the old name, is the explanation of this action of the Synod. May the Church of Christ in Japan walk worthily of its name.

IN H.B.M COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before N. J. HANNEN, Esq., Judge.—TUESDAY, May 5th, 1891.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Hugh Marion Pugh was brought up to-day charged with having on the 13th ult. at the Club Hotel attempted and endeavoured to kill himself.

Accused pleaded guilty.

The Judge then discharged from attendance the jury that had been summoned.

The Crown Prosecutor (Mr. Litchfield), had nothing to say.

The Judge (to accused)—I will hear anything that you have to say now. Do you wish to address any remarks to the Court?

Prisoner—No, Sir; I have nothing to say.

The Judge—I have read what you said at the preliminary examination. Are you now sorry that you made this attempt?

Prisoner—Yes, sir.

The Judge—And there is no likelihood of its being repeated?

Prisoner—No, sir.

The Judge—Well it is a serious matter, and everybody knows that the object of punishment is in order to deter other people from committing a similar offence. Under these circumstances I must inflict some punishment upon you. I shall at the same time make such endeavours as I can, to enable you to quit the country, as I believe that would perhaps be the best thing for you. In the meantime, taking into consideration the time you have been in jail, and all the circumstances of the case, I think if I give you twelve days' imprisonment without hard labour, that will meet the justice of the case.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JAPAN.

Before Judge NISHIOKA YUMEI, President of the First Criminal Bureau, and Judge H. YAMANE S. KAWAGUCHI, S. SHOYA, and S. OKUYAMA.

ALLEGED CONTRAVENTION OF THE POSTAL REGULATIONS.

THE PROCURATOR OF THE KUMAMOTO CORRECTIONAL COURT AGAINST SAKAMOTO KICHITARO.

Principle deduced from the following case:—The phrase "person who is not the addressee" occurring in Art. 234 of the Postal Regulations, does not refer to a case where a letter has been entrusted to some one for delivery to the addressee.

Reference—"Any person who opens, injures, soils, uses for private purposes, sells, detains, conceals or throws away the mail matter of another, or delivers the same to a person who is not the addressee, or who knowingly receives, conceals, sells, or acts as broker for such matter, shall be punished with major imprisonment for not less than one month and not more than two years, with a fine of not less than 2 *yen* and not more than 20 *yen*. If the offender be a person employed in connection with postal affairs, whether in the capacity of official or employe or contractor, (*Yakujo nin*) the punishment shall be one degree heavier."—Art. 234, Postal Regulations, Notification 51, 1882.

The accused was sent to the Kumamoto Correctional Court as the result of a preliminary examination finding him guilty of a contravention of Art. 234, Postal Regulations. The Consultative Bureau of the Correctional Court, however, found him not guilty on the evidence, which showed that being seized by illness on his way to deliver a postal card addressed to Kai Ryosaki from Motonaga Choku (he being a postal distributor), he entrusted the postal card for delivery to Nakagawa Kunpachi, an employé of the Shimoyabe Village Office. The accused, while doing something which he ought not to do, was still not punishable by law.

The Procurator of the Court appealed. He contended that the lower Court erred in discharging the accused on the ground that his act was not punishable by law. The word "deliver" plainly implied delivery from the hands of one person to those of another; and therefore the accused had without doubt delivered the postal card in question to a person other than the addressee, which constituted an offence under Art. 234 of the Postal Regulations. The Procurator therefore craved that the judgment of the lower Court should be quashed.

The Supreme Court held that the provision in Art. 234 of the Postal Regulations relating to the delivery of mail matter to a person other than the addressee, was designed for the punishment of any one who gave mail matter to a person who was not the person to whom it was directed. The judgment of the lower Court, however, showed that the accused, who was employed to distribute postal matter, became ill on the way and entrusted the postal card in question to Nakagawa Kunpachi, an employe of the Shimoyabe Village Office for distribution. His act, therefore, was not a contravention of Art. 234, nor of Art. 63, and in short there was no regulation providing for its punishment. For these reasons the judgment of the lower Court must be upheld, and the appeal must be rejected.

A COMMERCIAL VIEW OF JAPANESE POTTERY.

The keramic wares of Japan have hitherto been studied almost exclusively from the standpoint of their artistic merits, but they are also worthy of high consideration from their present and future importance as an article of commerce.

This will at once be conceded when it is known that the value of such wares exported from that country during the year 1889 reached 241,648*l.*, or one-eighth as much as the export from the United Kingdom, and the significance of these figures is increased when we remember that the shipments reached only 51,060*l.* a decade ago, and the export is stated to have been valued at only 800*l.* in 1869, when the wares sent abroad were mainly of the bric-a-brac character, suitable only for the cabinets of collectors.

The foreign trade in nowise indicates the importance of this industry in Japan, for an immense amount of pottery is made for home consumption, and the capacity of the country for the production of such wares is enormous. It possesses clays in great abundance and variety, and of splendid quality; there are the mountains of porcelain sand in the provinces of Owari and Hizen, and the clays from which the faïences of Kyoto, Satsuma, Kaga, and a score other descriptions of ware have been made for centuries. In addition to these natural advantages, Japan possesses artists and potters whose ancestors have for many generations produced wares of distinctive character, some, indeed, not possessing the elements of beauty which appeal to the Western eye, although they are all that the mind of the most exacting Japanese connoisseur desires; whilst others reach a standard of excellence in technique and decoration which has fascinated the dilettante of all countries since it had an opportunity of studying it.

It may be well, as briefly as possible, to refer to the distinctive periods into which the industry of pottery in Japan may be divided. There are two broad classes—the Undecorated and the Decorated. The former has been made since pre historic times, and many examples differing in no respect from Phœnician, Mexican, and Trojan remains have been dug up out of the various shell mounds. There are also wares associated with the mythological period, and with the earlier historical era of Japan; and then we read of glazed pottery made in the eighth century, and of the introduction of the potter's wheel about the same time. Nothing but the coarsest ware is attributed to this period, nor was any improvement accomplished until the thirteenth century, when a very notable name in the eyes of the Japanese appears. Toshiro, the "Father of Pottery," then attained a certain degree of skill in the fashioning and glazing of tea jars, which captivated the taste of the connoisseur of his own time, and fascinated the native mind until the present day, although to the European eye these small glazed brown stoneware jars differ in no essential respect from the pots and pans and jugs which are made in Staffordshire to-day. For 300 years such wares as these were made in the form of jars, tea-bowls, braziers, and so forth for domestic use. They were of small size, probably nothing was made much larger than twelve inches, and all devoid of decoration, save as regards the sombre brown, grey, yellow, and black glazes with which they were coated, and which were sometimes rudely crackled. As we have said, this undecorated pottery has always commended itself to the taste of Japanese connoisseurs, who appear to have been influenced by the conservative feelings of the antiquary rather than by a correct appreciation of the artistic development which occurred in the fabrication and decoration of pottery and other wares at a later period. Passing now from the pottery referred to, which may be consigned to the cabinets of the antiquary, for it affords nothing of interest to the Western mind, nor has it any value in connection with the commercial aspect of the industry, we come to the Decorated Wares which have already so largely influenced Western taste, and which we believe are destined to occupy an important place in the future commerce of the world.

This pottery is of two kinds, porcelain and faïence or semi-porcelain. The former, the most important of the two, was first made early in the sixteenth century, but the development of the industry was slow, and it was not until about 1650 A. D. that any substantial progress was made, and then it was only partially in the direction of true Japanese taste; for although small objects were produced for native use, the principal work was done for export through the Dutch traders, who were permitted by the Government to employ potters to make wares suitable for the European market. This porcelain is what has come to be known as "Old Japan:" it is a fine white porcelain, richly painted with birds and flowers, rendered in various colours—red, brown, black, green, purple—with gold, all upon the glaze, and is, from a European point of view, of a very decorative character. The forms in which it was made include large covered jars—which, with beakers, from sets of five—large circular dishes, bowls and basins, and so forth. Of these wares immense quantities were shipped to Holland only; indeed, it is recorded that as many as 45,000 pieces were shipped during the year 1664, where they passed into the hands of the wealthy citizens, and have since been distributed, so that now there is hardly a large house in Europe in which specimens of this decorated porcelain are not to be found, and an immense collection may be seen in the Japanese Palace at Dresden. We have said that this ware is satisfactory to the European eye, but it is not so to Japanese connoisseurs, for so distorted and ill-arranged are the designs employed in the decoration that they are to-day unable to recognise, either in the form or design, in these showy and fluid works the hand of their countrymen.

It was, however, by this ware alone that Japanese keramic art was known to foreign nations for more than two centuries, and it will be a surprise to many to learn that the decoration of much of the old Crown Derby and Worcester wares made a century ago—of which we are now so proud—was copied from this ware; but the subjects were so carelessly rendered that, although the resemblance in colour is clear enough, the designs, poor and imperfect in the original, are almost unrecognisable in these adaptations.

Although porcelain and faïence decorated in Japanese taste were made in abundance in many provinces and cities of Japan from the middle of the seventeenth century, we are probably right in stating that no examples whatever were known abroad until after 1858, when the country was opened to foreign intercourse. It is these purely native works that we have to consider in connection with the commercial aspect of the subject. Our space does not permit any lengthened reference to the numerous descriptions of this pottery, and it must suffice to name the principal ones only. First, there is the Satsuma ware, made at the factory of the province of that name—a delicate, crackled, *creamy* faïence, decorated in colours and gold, with flowers, birds, ornamental borders, and so forth; and next in beauty comes the semi-porcelain of Kaga, known by its decoration of red and gold, and in the same class as these may be included the fine yellow faïence of Kyoto, with its surface delicately crackled and ornamented with endless ornamental designs in colours and gold. The second great group is the porcelain of the provinces of Hizen and Owari. In the former a great variety of wares are made, the most important being painted after the style of the "Old Japan," and in the latter the favourite ware is a fine porcelain, painted under the glaze with blue.

The pottery exported has been furnished mainly by these provinces, and by potters who have opened factories in the vicinity of Yokohama and Tokyo for the purpose of supplying foreign markets. Each year that has marked an increase in volume of the shipments has also shown a deterioration in the decoration. The old canons of taste have been disregarded by the potters, under the advice of traders, who have induced them to desert the pure and simple natural taste in colouring and design, for gaudy decoration, which they have been led to believe is the most welcome to the taste of foreign markets, the result being that our shops are flooded with objects bearing, indeed, some resemblance to the original works, but painted with aniline colours and bedizened with gold, profusely laid on, of such inferior quality that it quickly loses colour when exposed to the atmosphere.

Under good direction, it is quite possible that the taste of the Japanese, and their skill in drawing and painting, might easily be combined with European fancy and fashion in the shapes and uses of the article. Hitherto, the trader has not only demoralised the taste of the native makers by false advice as to the character of decoration best suited for export, but he has also misinformed them as to the character of the wares that it would be most profitable to make. It has appeared to shippers more advantageous to their interest to export a moderate quantity of vases, dishes, and other objects of the bric-a-brac class, which leave a large profit to the various hands through which they pass to the buyer, than to develop a trade in the objects of common daily use, which could be made in forms and decoration, in immense quantities, to suit every country in the world. In fact, it would appear more to the advantage of those who produce, and those who import, the goods to aim at furnishing the dinner, the breakfast, and the bed-room services of the world, than the mantelshelves, as they have hitherto done.

Under competent guidance, the possibilities in this direction are immense. There is no finer porcelain made in the world than that of Hizen and Owari, and it is admirably suited for table services and for many other purposes of common use. And in one respect the potters of Owari excel all others, for they have the most perfect skill in making large porcelain plaques absolutely perfect, without flaw or crack, of the purest and most translucent quality, with a fine and brilliant glaze, and painted in a blue of a singularly rich and pure tone, skilfully graduated to suit the exigencies of the subjects depicted, which comprise landscapes, birds and flowers, all rendered with great delicacy in the details and boldness in the leading lines. We refer at some length to this branch of the industry, for we are convinced that such plaques as these, which can be obtained as large as 36 inches by 24 inches, would have an enormous sale in Europe and America for furnishing purposes, for nothing can exceed the beauty of their effect when arranged upon the walls of an apartment panelled in oak. It would, for instance, be easy to obtain a series of birds, or fishes, or one of flowers, or, again, one of shrubs, all of which speak a common language in every part of the

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world. For dessert services nothing could be more charming than the faience of Satsuma, the Kaga ware, and the porcelain painted in Tokyo, if the artists would but discard the false idea instilled into them by European traders, and employ their undoubted skill in the delineation of natural subjects such as have commended themselves to the cultivated tastes of their own countrymen for the past two centuries. If this renaissance could be brought about, then we should see our homes furnished with objects for daily use of beautiful ware exquisitely decorated, each piece worthy indeed of admiration and preservation as a work of art—far more so than most of the atrocious objects of bric-à-brac which are now so common in our shops, misrepresenting the true art of Japan and corrupting our own taste for the beautiful.

The decoration of Japanese pottery is interesting from another point of view—that of its influence upon the designs for textile fabrics which are made in this country for that market. It abounds with symbols and forms instinct with meaning to every Japanese, no matter how humble he may be. Take only the group of symbols known as *Takara-mono*—the precious things—which are used not alone upon pottery, but upon almost everything that enters into the daily life of the people, and which, it will be conceded, must be more agreeable to the eye of the buyer and wearer of our fabrics than the ill-drawn daisies and rosebuds which are now so generally used on such printed goods. These forms are drawn, and their significance described, in the Notes to "Japanese Pottery," and we may only briefly refer to them here. The anchor is the emblem of safety; three flaming balls typify the soul; the *shippo* and *hana-bishi*, a beautiful and easily adapted ornamental form, suggests an abundance of precious things; a hammer is symbolical of wealth; an orange flower is indicative of sweetness; a feather robe and a rain cloak respectively suggest future happiness and protection from the inclemency of the weather in the present life; the fan is the emblem of command; a group of the *koban*—a form of money—is a symbol of plenty; rolls of silken brocade signify luxury and splendour. And there are many other forms of similar import and significance, besides exquisite diapers and beautiful borders of endless variety, which have been drawn by native artists in such decorative fashion that they are at once available for our own designers—if they would but endeavour to understand their significance and render them aright—as patterns for the printed cottons which are sent from Manchester, and for many other fabrics which are shipped to Japan. But those who do avail themselves of such forms often take and use them at haphazard, forming a combination of various forms meaningless to ourselves and absurd and offensive to our customers. Of this it would be easy to give fifty examples; but perhaps one which came under our own notice will suffice to illustrate the point we make. Three beautiful porcelain jars, rendered in colours and gold in the "Keramic Art of Japan," appeared to have struck the fancy of a Manchester "artist" employed to provide designs for printed dress goods intended for shipment to Peru. He accordingly utilised the plate bodily. He did not take from it some of the beautiful forms—of which the design contained many—and harmonise them into an artistic whole, but he copied the set of three vases, with their loose covers, complete, and repeated the subject until the piece of cotton was covered. The Liverpool merchant who had selected this pattern considered it truly delectable, and took much pride in pointing out to the writer the benefit that English designers were deriving from the beautiful plates he had provided them with in his work referred to! Alas! he could not realise what an incongruous sight a Peruvian lady would be in a dress with a pattern representing her carrying, suspended from her waist, at least nine immense jars which could not weigh less than a hundredweight apiece! It was with a feeling of relief that we learnt that the goods were not destined for Japan.—JAMES L. BOWES, in the *European Trade Mail*.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, April 30th.

Manipur has been occupied without opposition. The enemy fled.

The following is the result of the race for the Two Thousand Guineas:—

Common	1
Orvieto	2
Peter Flower	3

London, May 3rd.

The Portuguese have occupied Massitessé, and the agents of the Chartered Company have retired to Mutassa.

London, May 4th.

Sixty thousand workmen paraded London on Sunday last in favour of the eight hours' movement. There was no disturbance.

London, May 6th.

The Marquis di Rudini has accused Mr. Blaine of disregarding the diplomatic usages of civilized nations, adding that it is useless to further pursue the discussion of the Orleans affair, since the United States Government has declared itself to be not answerable for the acts of individual States of the Union.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, April 17th.

Captain Verney is returning to London, but Mr. De Cobain is beyond British jurisdiction.

London, April 20th.

Mr. Secretary Blaine, in replying to Italy, recognises the principle to indemnify victims if it is proved that treaty rights have been violated. If justice in Louisiana fails to punish lynchers, another remedy will be considered.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40‡ a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 7.30, 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.10, and 11.25† a.m., and 12.55, 1.50,† 3.55, 4, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8.55,† 9.55, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked * run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.35, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.12, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 ri.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ ri).

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26, 9.40, and 11.03 a.m. and 12.20, 2.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35, 9.51, and 11.13 a.m., and 12.31, 2.20, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43, 10, and 11.22, a.m., and 12.40, 2.29, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m.; YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, 10.25, and 11.40 a.m., and 1.30, 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, 10.40, and 11.55 a.m., and 1.45, 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 10.49 a.m., and 12.04, 1.54, 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Dzushi *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE SHINJIKU, TOKYO, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m; and HACHIOJI (up) at 5.25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

FARES—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60 third-class *sen* 30.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6 and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40, 5.45, and 8.50 p.m.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 7.10 and 9.20 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.25 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 5, 9.04, and 11.14 a.m., and 4.19 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 6.10 and 10.15 a.m., and 2 and 6.30 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 5.10, 7.10, and 11.17 a.m., and 3.07 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 69.

TAKETOYO-OBU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OBU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.05, 4.42, 6.09, and 12.08 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.08, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1, 4.35, 7.08, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.20, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.44, 6, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 9.55 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OBU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.26 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45 a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, 6.03, 10.05, and 12.05 p.m., and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, 7, 11.15, and 12.57 p.m., and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, 7.29, and 11.40 p.m., and 1.25 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 5.40 and 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 2.40 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 5.54 and 8.43 a.m., and 3.59, 7, and 8.57 p.m., and 2.51 a.m. and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 7.35 and 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.36, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.20 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 8.27 and 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.21, and 11.05 p.m., and 5.05 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 10.0 a.m., and 12.36, 8.20, 10.51, and 12.30 p.m., and 6.28 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, 3.20, and 9.18 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, 4.25, and 10.55 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45, 4.34, 6.02, and 12.30 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, 5.19, and 6.50 p.m., and 1.15 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, 6.59, and 8.27 p.m., and 2.50 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3.05 a.m.; OGAKI at 6.10 and 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 6.41 and 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OBU at 9.01 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 6.15, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11.50 a.m., and 5.54 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.14, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—KOZU to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Obu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 5.25 and 10.05 a.m., and 12.25 and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen*, third-class, 25 *sen*.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, May 15th.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'day, May 13th.*
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 10th.†
From Hongkong.	pe. C. P. M. Co.	Thursday, May 14th.‡
From Europe viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, May 15th.§
From Hongkong.	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'day, May 13th.‖
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Monday, May 25th ¶

* *Gaelic* left San Francisco on April 25th. † *Ancona* left Nagasaki on May 6th. ‡ *Parthia* left Hongkong on May 5th. § *Saghalien* left Hongkong on May 7th. ‖ *Oceanic* (with French mail) left Hongkong on May 7th. ¶ *China* left San Francisco on May 7th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, May 10th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 12th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, May 15th.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 16th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 16th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, May 24th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, May 28th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,196, Fukui, 2nd May,—Yokosuka Docks 2nd May.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 3rd May,—Kobe 2nd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,005, Pyne, 4th May,—Shimonoseki 1st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyokuni Maru, Japanese steamer, 690, Tosaka, 4th May,—Tokyo 3rd May, General.—Mitsu Bishi Colliery Co.

Chuyetsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 928, S. Oka, 4th May,—Nagasaki 1st May, Ballast.—Chuyetsu Sha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 4th May,—Yokkaichi 3rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Albany, British steamer, 1,742, Hood, 4th May,—Kobe 3rd May, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 4th May,—Sakata 2nd May, Rice.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kutano Maru, Japanese ship, 775, Yamashita, 5th May,—Shimonoseki, Coal.—Sanosha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 5th May,—Hakodate 2nd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Frigga, German steamer, 1,400, Nagel, 5th May,—Hongkong 28th April, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 5th May,—Kobe 4th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 5th May,—Nagasaki 1st May, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 6th May,—San Francisco 14th and Honolulu 23rd April, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 6th May,—Hakodate 4th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 7th May,—Kobe 6th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumo Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Hayashi, 7th May,—Yokkaichi 6th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 8th May,—Yokkaichi 7th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 8th May,—Shanghai and ports 1st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Khio, British steamer, 1,552, Tyson, 8th May,—Kobe 7th May, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,775, Alex. Clark, 2nd May,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 2nd May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 2nd May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alexandrine (18), German cruiser, Captain von Frantzius, 3rd May,—San Francisco.

Leipzig (22), German flagship, Captain Rötger, 3rd May,—San Francisco.

Sophie (18), German cruiser, Captain Kinkhof, 3rd May,—San Francisco.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,082, Macmillan, 3rd May,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 3rd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Volturno (8), Italian corvette, Captain Roych, 3rd May,—Yokosuka Dock.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Walter, 4th May,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Spiegalthal, 4th May,—Fushiki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

W. W. Crapo, American bark, 1,573, Hardy, 4th May,—Puget Sound, Ballast.—Captain.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,488, Okuma, 4th May,—Kobe, General.—Asano Sha.

Kaisow, British steamer, 1,934, G. L. Castle, 4th May,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Northern, British steamer, 1,406, Richardson, 4th May,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Chuyetsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 928, S. Oka, 5th May,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Japanese.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Seaile, 5th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,158, Farquhar, 5th May,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 5th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 5th May,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 5th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 6th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, Fukui, 6th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 7th May.—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 7th May,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,005, Pyne, 7th May,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 7th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 7th May,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 8th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Frigga*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Roper in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. George Braithwait in cabin; 153 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Commander Felix McCurley, U.S.N., Paymaster and Mrs. C. M. Ray, U.S.N., Miss Buckhart, Mr. Louis Boehmer, Mr. E. H. Parkinson, Mrs. T. M. Johnson, Messrs. Geo. Hamilton, H. S. Miller, J. W. Girdlestone, Gordon Munn, M. Levy, and S. Ozeki in cabin. For Hongkong: Miss Nellie Harvey, Mr. C. F. Von Santon, Mr. L. Anderson, Mr. R. H. Bruce, Miss Nyrup, and Mr. M. Flattering in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—25 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. W. K. Tresize and S. Machida in cabin; 75 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Miss Furber, Mrs. McLennan, Miss McLennan, Mrs. Redding, Miss Redding, Mrs. Gulham, Messrs. G. R. Mosle, F. Souter, D. W. Colton, J. A. Wabbs, Inouye, Merriman, T. P. Tyler, C. Cromie, J. Gurney, J. John, and J. Stoddart in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Kawasaki and Madame Bonneau in second class, and 58 passengers in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and maid, Miss Simpson, and Dr. and Mrs. R B. Beche and 2 children in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Farquhar, Messrs. Stedford, Sawyer, Sietich, C. D. Colhoun, and Cheong Y. Kui in cabin; Mr. and Miss Flint, Mr. and Mrs. Komori, Mrs. Indo, Miss Toyonaga, Miss Ishi, and Mr. Waki in second class, and 71 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Mr. Elliot Stone, Mr. Wm. Bowman, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Spinney, Mr. D. W. Jones, Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. T. Pay, daughter, 2 children, infant, and European maid, Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Jones, child, and infant, Mr. A. L. Rathbone, Mr. C. F. Findlay, Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Curtis and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Li Chun Kwan, Mr. Geo. Wigley, Surgeon G. Griffiths, B.A., Mr. and Mrs. J. Nation, Mr. J. Westenholz, Mr. Asen and daughter, Mr. J. T. Cassels, Mr. F. A. Wendt, Mr. J. Dubrowlski, Mr. d'Abbadie, Mr. C. C. Wiget, Mr. L. A. R. Wallace, Mr. J. B. Mansur, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Roome, Mr. W. Pilcher, Mr. A. Spring, Mr. F. W. Hickson, Mr. F. Ronalds, Rev. and Mrs. H. G. Underwood and infant, Mr. J. Schmeidell, Mr. F. Neck, Rev. and Mrs. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Marshall, Mr. C. Bogler, Mr. O. Schinne, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. McKay, Mrs. Valois, Mrs. M. Frantzius, Mr. A. L. Bagnall, Mr. Walter Hunt, Mrs. Jas. Marthon, Mrs. J. S. McShane, 3 children, 2 Japanese servants, and 1 Chinese servant, Mr. P. H. Gordon Cotton, Mr. K. Hishitani, and Mr. G. Service in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. Wm. Rhodes and W. [illegible] in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $30,000.00.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	391	331	722
Yokohama	278	3,549	2,922	6,749
Hongkong	43	25	21	89
Total	321	3,965	3,274	7,560

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	10	379	—	389
Hongkong	—	180	—	180
Yokohama	—	553	—	553
Total	10	1,112	—	1,122

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $30,000.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 2nd May at 2 p.m.; had light to moderate southerly winds and misty weather with increasing southerly swell. Arrived at Oginohama the 3rd at 2.30 p.m. and left the 24th at 6 a.m.; had light northerly winds and foggy weather with high southerly swell, fog lifting at 9 30 a.m.; passed Inuboye at 9 p.m. wind shifted to southward increasing from light to fresh breeze with cloudy weather and moderate southerly sea; rounded Noshima the 5th at 4.30 a.m. with strong southerly winds and passing showers and haze over the land. Arrived at Yokohama at 8 a.m.

The British steamer *Frigga*, Captain Nagel, reports:—Left Hongkong the 28th April; from the 28th to the 2nd May strong N.E. monsoon and heavy sea; the 3rd variable winds and rain, and from the 3rd to the 5th fresh southerly winds with rain and thick weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 4.30 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain Ward, reports:—Left San Francisco the 14th April. Arrived at Honolulu the 22nd at 1.30 p.m. and left the 23rd at 12.15 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 6th May at 12 noon. Passage, 21 days, 2 hours, and 22 minutes; from Honolulu, 12 days, 15 hours, and 55 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate the 4th May at 2 p.m.; had light variable winds and mist; at 8 p.m. set in foggy remaining so till 6 a.m. on the 5th, the weather clearing a little, wind light from west and north; had light breeze with overcast sky and S.W. swell to Kanonsaki. Arrived at Yokohama the 6th May at 2.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Kobe the 6th May at 12.10 p.m.; had fine weather and smooth sea all the way. Arrived at Yokohama the 7th May at 7.40 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 1st May at 3 50 p.m.; had dull foggy weather and moderate S.E. winds till morning of the 2nd; thence to port moderate W. wind and fine weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 3rd at 8 a.m. and left the 4th at 5 p.m.; had overcast thick weather with strong westerly gale and heavy sea throughout the passage. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 5th at 6.10 a.m. and left at 9 a.m.; had weather fine and clear with fine westerly wind. Arrived at Kobe the 6th at 4.15 a.m. and left the 7th at noon; had fine weather with light southerly winds and passing clouds to Oshima, passed there at 8 p.m.; thence to Rock Island moderate westerly winds and smooth sea; passed Rock Island the 8th at 9.14 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama at 3 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A very quiet tone pervades the market, but the demand, though small, seems healthy and restricted to absolute requirements for consumption, and with any improvement in the conditions of trade there would no doubt follow a large business. Prices have shown symptoms of steadiness after dealers have dribbled them down unnecessarily, and a slight advance has been paid for some spinnings of Yarn. Sales for the week amount to some 300 bales English Yarns, 1,250 pieces 9lb. Shirtings, 1,250 pieces 8¼ lbs., 1,600 pieces T.-Cloths, and 2,000 pieces Victoria Lawn; also 500 pieces Italian Cloth, which are said to be a resale.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.	
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39inches	$1.50	to 2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45inches	1.65	to 2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to 1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—10 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to 1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to 1.90

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Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per Yard.	0.07	to 0.15
Turkey Reds—1¼ to 2¾lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	per Yard.	1.07½	to 1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¾ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches		1.27½	to 1.47½
Turkey Reds—3½ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches		1.87½	to 1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches		4.50	to 6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches		0.50	to 0.65
Fatfachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches		1.35	to 2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches		$4.00	to $ 5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best		0.24½	to 28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium		0.20	to 24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common		0.16	to 20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches		0.11½	to 0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches		0.30	to 0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches		0.47½	to 0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches		0.30	to 0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb		0.30	to 0.39

COTTON YARNS.

Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	per Picul.	$24 00	to 27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium		27.25	to 28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best		28.25	to 30 00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse		30.00	to 32.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary		28.50	to 29 00
Nos. 28/32, Medium		29.50	to 30 50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best		30 75	to 32 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best		35.00	to 36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold		34.00	to 35 00
No. 42s, Two-fold		35.50	to 37 50
	per Bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay		70.00	to 78.00
No. 16s, Bombay		70.00	to 77.00
Nos. 10/12, Bombay			—

METALS.

Trade still very quiet, and transactions only on a limited scale have been done at about previous rates. Buyers, however, offer business at reductions which cannot be entertained.

Flat Bars, ½ inch	per Picul.	$2.80	to 2.95
Flat Bars, ¼ inch		2.90	to 2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch		2.80	to 2.95
Nailrod, assorted		Nom.	
Nailrod, small size		Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted		2.90	to 3.05
Sheet Iron		3.00	to 3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets		6.20	to 6.40
Wire Nails, assorted		4.50	to 4.65
Tin Plates, per box		5.60	to 5.80
Pig Iron, No. 3		1.30	to 1.35

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged, and in the absence of business rates are nominal. No fresh arrivals during the week.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester		$1.60	to 1.67½
Comet		1 62½	to 1.65
Devoe		1 60	to 1.62½
Russian		1.55	to 1.60

SUGAR.

Sugar still dull, and holders of Brown Formosa will not part without an advance of 10 to 15 cents on present offers.

Brown Takao	per Picul.	$4.15	to 4 20
Brown Daitong		3.15	to 4.10
Brown Canton		5.00	to 6.00
Brown Java and Penang		5.50	to 6.00
White Refined		4 90	to 7.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 1st inst., since when there has been very little doing in this market, settlements by foreign firms amounting only to 182 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks* 39 piculs, *Filatures* 50 piculs, *Re-reels* 65 piculs, *Kakeda* 28 piculs; direct shipments 72 piculs, which bring the total of the week's export business up to 254 piculs.

The smallness of this week's business is partly due to the reduced and poorly assorted stock now in the market, partly to the indifference shown by buyers pending news about the new crop. This, combined with higher exchange, has given the above results.

Supplies from the interior have come in steadily, and the stocks have been increased by about 350 piculs, standing now at 2,400 piculs against only 2,000 piculs at the same date last year.

The out-turn of the new crop cannot yet be positively predicted. There is a rumour that in some districts the mulberry leaves have been damaged by frosts, but to what extent is not known. Otherwise the prospects remain very favourable and, if all goes well, a large crop may be expected.

There have been two shipping opportunities during the week, the P. & O. steamer *Verona* on the 2nd taking 202 bales for Europe, and the P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 5th, which carried 553 bales to New York. These shipments bring this season's export figures to 32,186 piculs, against 35,158 piculs at same date last year, and 39,710 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—Stocks in this class have been increased by arrivals from the interior, and stand now at 200 piculs. The settlements reported consist of a few small parcels of *Shinshu* at former prices.

Filatures.—Only a few small lots of various descriptions were taken up, the largest of them being 12 piculs *Kaimeisha* at $622½. About 60 piculs of crack chop *Shinshu* Filatures, held by a foreign speculator, have been taken up for New York at $635; these were reported as settled when they were first taken into godown and do not enter in this week's settlements.

Re-reels.—A small business going on in second and third class qualities at from $560 to $530, and best at $600. Rejections in this class of silk continue to be rather heavy compared with the settlements.

Kakeda.—The settlements reported consist of two lots No. 1 and 2 *Horse-head* chop at $590 and $575.

Oshu and *Hamatsuki*.—Nothing done in these.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1½	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		$525 to 535
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		515 to 520
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	500 to 510
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		560 to 570
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	610 to 620
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		580 to 590
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570 to 575
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		550 to 560
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		530 to 540
Kakedas—Extra		605
Kakedas—No. 1		585 to 595
Kakedas—No. 1½		575 to 580
Kakedas—No. 2		560
Kakedas—No. 2½		550
Kakedas—No. 3		535
Kakedas—No. 3½		525 to 530
Kakedas—No. 4		515 to 520
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.	540 to 550
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		500 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 8th May, 1891:—

		Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		14,064	14,639	20,366
America		17,489	20,059	18,978
Total	Bales	31,553	34,698	39,344
	Piculs	32,186	35,158	39,710
		piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		33,400	35,300	39,900
Stock, 8th May		2,400	2,000	1,800
Available supplies to date		35,800	37,300	41,700

WASTE SILK.

The demand in this branch continues active and is only checked by the poor quality on offer; anything suitable is readily taken up at full prices. Settlements for the week amount to 498 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi* 212 piculs, *Kibiso* 240 piculs, *Sundries* 46 piculs.

Arrivals have been small and stocks have been reduced to 3,500 piculs.

The *Verona* (2nd inst.) took 371 piculs for Europe, which shipment brings present export figures up to 29,345 piculs, against 28,017 piculs at same date last year, and 30,121 piculs in 1889.

Noshi.—The settlements were principally *Joshu* at from $65 to $83½ according to quality. A small lot of *Oshu* No. 2, was purchased at $115, and 25 piculs of *Tomioka Filature* taken in at $142½.

Kibiso.—Several lots of *Filature* brought up to $117½. The refuse of some *Suntan* and *Hachioji* Kibiso was taken into godown at from $7½ to $14.

Sundries.—The bulk of the settlements consisted of *Neri* at from $10½ to $15. A small lot of *Kudon-ito* brought $75, and a few bales *Tama-ito* $210.

Quotations remain nominally unchanged.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		$135 to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100 to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85 to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½ to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70 to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		55 to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50 to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachioji, Good		45 to 40
Kibiso—Hachioji, Medium to Low		32½ to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15 to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180 to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 8th May, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	28,058	25,827	27,643
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	29,345	28,017	30,121
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	30,600	28,450	30,650
Stock, 8th May	3,500	5,250	3,550
Available supplies to date	34,100	33,700	34,200

Exchange has experienced a further rise, and closes firm as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅝; Documents, 3/3¾; New York, 30 d/s, U.S. $79¼; 4m/s. U.S. $80; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.15; 6m/s. fcs. 4.17.

Estimated Silk Stock, 8th May, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	200	Cocoons	85
Filatures	815	Noshi-ito	1,035
Re-reels	970	Kibiso	2,030
Kakeda	230	Mawata	160
Oshu	170	Sundries	190
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	2,400	Total piculs	3,500

TEA.

The season commenced with considerable activity so soon as leaf was obtainable in quantities for firing on an export scale, and arrivals were bought up as fast as placed on the market. Prices were fully up to those of last year at same period, though these have toned down as large parcels arrived, and the market thereby steadied. There is no doubt now that the quality this year is better than the early pickings of last season, and reports from the interior indicate that a large crop will be gathered.

Extra Choicest	per Picul.	$36 to 45
Choicest		30 to 35
Choice		27 to 30
Finest		24 to 26
Fine		20 to 23
Good Medium		—
Medium		—
Good Common		—
Common		—

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has hardened and closes firm at quotations.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3 3
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/3¼
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3 3⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	4.05
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.16
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	79
Silver	44⅜

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1891.

MARRIAGE.

On the 15th instant at Christ Church, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., WALTER DENING, of Yokohama, to LYDIA NORMAN, daughter of the late Henry James, Esq., of Melbourne, Australia. No cards.

DEATHS.

At the German Hospital on the evening of the 9th inst., aged 31 years, H. HOEPNER, a native of Germany.

At German Naval Hospital, May 11th, 1891, HARRY H. WHINCUP, aged 29 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BISHOP NICOLAI left the capital on the forenoon of the 12th instant for Kyoto.

IT is stated that rates of freight on the Government Railways will be lowered from next month.

THE Kabuki Theatre, Tokyo, was closed on the 12th inst., because of the assault on the Russian Prince Imperial.

THE daily average income of the Sanjo Railway Company during the week ended the 5th instant was *yen* 917.099.

THE Meiji Law Institution, Tokyo, was closed on the 12th instant in consequence of the assault on H.I.H. the Czarewitch.

IN consequence of the assault on the Czarevitch the Nobles' Schools for Boys and Girls were closed on the 12th and 13th instant.

DURING last year 85,405 *kamme*, or 705,583 pounds of cotton, valued at *yen* 141,763, were produced in Yamanashi Prefecture.

VISCOUNT NOMURA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Paris, will leave Japan about the 23rd instant for his post.

AN extraordinary meeting of members of the Tokyo City Assembly was called by the President for the 12th inst. to discuss the propriety of sending a representative of residents of the city of Tokyo to Kyoto to inquire into the condition of the Prince Imperial.

A RUMOUR is current that either Prince Arisugawa or Prince Kitashirakawa will be despatched by the Emperor as a Special Ambassador to Russia.

THE contract for the work of constructing the Minatobashi Bridge, Yokohama, has been obtained by Mr. Ota Rokuro at a cost of *yen* 10,250.

DURING the month of February last the quantity of coal that arrived at Shanghai was 35,636 tons, of which 33,976 tons were imported from Japan.

THE decoration conferred on Tsuda Sanzo, who wounded H.I.H. the Czarevitch at Otsu, was cancelled by the Decorations Board on the 12th instant.

AN assault was made by a fanatic or madman on the Russian Prince Imperial at Otsu on the 11th instant. The Prince was wounded but not severely.

PRIZE medals conferred on Japanese competitors at the Paris Exhibition have arrived in Japan, and are now being distributed among the winners.

MR. OKUDA KENZO, Station Master at Mukaihicho, on the Osaka and Kyoto line, was run over and killed by a train on the 8th instant at that station.

A TELEGRAM from Ashikaga reports a hail storm on the 8th instant, and states that damage was done to tea plants and mulberry trees in the neighbouring districts.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR proceeded on the 12th instant by special train to Kyoto to visit the Russian Prince Imperial, and accompanied the Prince to Kobe on the 12th instant.

THE *Bijin*, a magazine published in the capital, was suspended on the 5th instant on the ground that an article published in its third number was prejudical to public morality.

DURING a gale on the 5th instant, two cargo boats and three fishing boats were capsized off the coast of Naka-kubikigori, Niigata Prefecture, through which eleven lives were lost.

THE sale of a pamphlet called the *Danjo-Kokoroye-kagami* was prohibited by the Home Minister on the 9th instant on the ground that it contained matter injurious the public morality.

FROM the theatrical performances held the other day at the Kabuki Theatre in aid of the funds of the Tokyo Poor Asylum, there accrued, after deducting expenses, a net profit of *yen* 3,000.

IMPORTANT changes are being effected in the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. It is stated that 25 per cent. of the salaries of the President, Vice-President, and Directors of the company will be cut off.

CAPTAIN MATSUNAGA, and eleven other officers of the *Kaimon Kan*, who returned home recently from a foreign cruise, were received in audience by the Emperor on the 11th instant, at 10 a.m.

THE ceremony of conferring prizes on the successful competitors at the Fine Art Exhibition at Uyeno was held on the 9th instant, at which the following gentlemen received silver medals:—Messrs. Tazaki Un (Tochigi), Fumidani Takijiro, Kano Natsuo, Namikawa Sosuke, Takemoto Haito, Yamoto Naoto, (Tokyo), Miyagawa Kozan, and Takagi Zenzaburo (Kanagawa).

THE *Kongo Kan* and *Hiyei Kan*, which left Constantinople on February 10th for home, arrived on the 10th instant at 10 a.m. at Shinagawa, where they were received by numerous boats containing over three hundred persons.

MARQUIS HACHISUKA, Governor of Tokyo, and Mr. Nagaoka Yoshinori, a Tokyo City Councillor, representing the whole of the Tokyo residents, left the capital on the 12th instant to visit the Russian Crown Prince.

THE peers of Tokyo met on the evening of the 11th instant at the Nobles' Club, and decided to despatch Marquis Asano Naganori to visit the Czarewitch Kyoto as their representative. He started from the capital on the following morning.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 8th instant, at which Counts Matsukata, Saigo, and Goto, and Viscount Aoki were the only Minister of State present. Count Oki, President of the Privy Council, was also present at the meeting.

BY the House of Peers, Prince Konoye Atsumaro and Baron Senke Takatomi have been deputed to inquire as to the condition of the Crown Prince. Mr. Tsuda, Vice-President of the Lower House, and Mr. Sone, Chief Secretary, started from the capital on the 12th instant on a similar mission.

AN outbreak of fire took place on the night of the 2nd instant in a house at Aomoricho, Higashitsugarugori, Aomori Prefecture, and destroyed or partly damaged 104 buildings. At Miyatamura, Imizugori, Toyama Prefecture, 69 houses, 40 sheds, one godown, and one shrine were burned to the ground on the 30th ult.

THERE is not much change to note in the Import trade, though the continued fine weather and the promise of abundant crops in every direction must materially influence the future. For some time past only a very small business has been done, but it has been a sound and healthy business. During the past week Fancy Goods and Woollens have seen scarcely any demand, but Turkey Reds, T.-Cloths, and Grey Shirtings have sold to a fair amount. Yarns have been taken to the extent of 450 bales, all English spinnings, Bombays being entirely neglected through the competition of Japanese Yarn, of which there is a heavy stock on hand. There is nothing to report about Metals or Kerosene, but in regard to the latter there ought to be a movement shortly, as stocks of oil up country must be getting somewhat depleted. There are buyers of Sugar, but holders are strong, and will not part at prices offered. Small parcels, however, continue to be taken, and a large business could doubtless be done if terms could be arranged. The Silk trade has been small, and orders for fine sorts could not be executed at any price, in fact merchants here are withdrawing quotations from their circulars. Tea in large quantities comes in, all the leaf up to now being of the higher grades. Prices appear satisfactory, and quality continues good. There is nothing now to prevent a large crop of leaf being gathered, and if the lower grades when handled turn out fair and the manipulation of the leaf continues to be as good as at present, doubtless the crop will also be of more value than that of last year. Exchange has not varied much during the week, being only a point below the highest reached during the past six days.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

THE following Imperial Rescript was published on Monday night in the *Official Gazette*:—

[TRANSLATION.]

IMPERIAL RESCRIPT.

It was with the most profound grief and regret that, while We, with Our Government and Our subjects, have been preparing to welcome His Imperial Highness Our beloved and respected Crown Prince of Russia, with all the honours and hospitalities due to our national guest, We received the most unexpected and surprising announcement that His Imperial Highness met with a deplorable accident at Otsu, while on his journey. It is Our will that justice take its speedy course on the miscreant offender, to the end that Our mind may be relieved, and that Our friendly and intimate relations with Our good Neighbour may be secured against disturbance.

Given at Our Imperial Palace, Tokyo,
9 p.m. 11th day of the fifth month
of the 24th year of Meiji.

* * *

News received from Kyoto at 2 a.m. on Tuesday is to the effect that His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince is doing well, and that the wound is not at all of a dangerous character. It appears that although only one blow was struck, two wounds were inflicted, one of nine centimeters, the other of seven centimeters in length. The sword encountered the Prince's hat, and by that means the blow was deadened, so that the edge of the weapon did not reach the bone.

* * *

The telegrams received on Tuesday in Tokyo indicate that the injury received by His Imperial Highness the Prince Imperial is not at all of a serious character. The sequence of facts ascertained is as follows:—Having visited various places in Otsu and its environs, the Prince lunched at the Prefectural buildings, and setting out shortly after one o'clock in the afternoon, had proceeded about seven or eight hundred yards along Kyomachi, when Constable Tsuda Sanzo, who formed one of the guard on the right side of the road, ran up from behind with his sword drawn and aimed a blow at the Prince. The latter's *jinrikisha* was first in the line, and immediately behind him rode Prince George of Greece. The sword struck the Prince's cap, and the force of the stroke was thus deadened. Nevertheless two wounds were inflicted. Before the assailant could renew the attack—if indeed he had any intention of doing so—one of the Prince Imperial's *jinrikisha* coolies, seized and threw the man down, and another coolie, getting possession of the sword, gave him two severe but not fatal wounds. The Prince did not appear to have felt the cut much, and showed no symptoms of faintness. Passing into a shop which was close to the place, he took measures to allay the bleeding, and having had the wound bound up, returned to the Prefectural buildings. There His Imperial Highness rested for about two hours, and then drove to the station and proceeded by train to Kyoto, reaching the hotel at fifteen minutes past five. Telegrams had meanwhile been sent to the principal doctors in Kyoto and Osaka, so that immediately on arriving in the former place, the dressing of the wounds took place. They were found to be nine centimeters and seven centimeters in length, but happily the bone of the skull had not been injured. The Prince did not complain of any pain or exhaustion. He retired to rest before midnight, and slept soundly for nine hours, rising without any fever or suffering. Telegrams were received at short intervals throughout the day in Tokyo. They all agreed in describing the wounded man's condition as most favourable. One message, despatched by Prince Arisugawa Takehito to the Empress, at 3.30 p.m. from Kyoto, said that the sender had just had an interview with the Prince Imperial, and found him free from fever, pain, or any signs of weakness. It may therefore be confidently asserted that the injury is of a trifling character. As for the would-be assassin, it appears that he is a man of 38 years of age, described as peaceable and attentive to duty, but somewhat bigotted. A *shizoku* of Uyeno in Iga, he was trained for the medical profession, as had been the case with his ancestors, but he entered the Army and rose to the rank of Sergeant-major, distinguishing himself in the Satsuma Rebellion, and receiving a Seventh-class decoration. In 1885 he became a policeman, and had been serving for nearly two years in Shiga Prefecture when the Prince Imperial arrived. It is stated by his wife that, some ten years ago he suffered from an attack of dementia, but obviously such stories must be accepted with reserve.

* * *

Throughout the whole of on Wednesday, at intervals of about an hour, telegrams reached Tokyo from Kyoto, describing the state of the Russian Prince Imperial. These messages were almost uniform. They announced, with little variety, that the Prince was suffering no inconvenience from his wound, and that his condition was in every respect satisfactory. It is now certain that the injury is only of a superficial character. Several stitches had to be put in, however, and there was always a possibility that the process of healing might be troublesome, but apprehensions on this score seem to have disappeared yesterday morning, when, on the dressing being changed in the presence of the Japanese and foreign physicians, it was found that the wound was healing by first intention, and that no inflammation whatever had supervened. Telegraphic news of the Imperial patient's happy condition was immediately despatched to St. Petersburg. At a later hour Prince Arisugawa telegraphed to the Minister President of State that the Czarevitch was in excellent health and spirits, and that he showed himself most gracious to his Japanese friends.

* * *

The Emperor reached Kyoto at five minutes past 10 o'clock on the night of the 12th instant, having travelled through from Tokyo in 15½ hours, without breaking the journey at all. Despite the fatigue of such a journey, His Majesty would have proceeded at once to visit the Czarevitch, but it was thought better not to disturb the Prince at so late an hour. His Excellency the Russian Representative met the Emperor at the Kyoto terminus, and gave His Majesty a most re-assuring account of the Czarevitch's condition, who had spent a quiet day and did not appear to be suffering at all from the wound. The following forenoon, at 10.50, the Emperor proceeded to the Prince's hotel, and after an interview of nearly an hour, returned to the Palace. It was arranged that the Czarevitch should leave Kyoto for Kobe at half past-four in the afternoon of the same day, and His Majesty the Emperor signified his intention of accompanying the Prince, and taking leave of him in Kobe, where the Czarevitch will remain for the present on board ship. It is not yet stated officially whether His Imperial Highness will abandon his projected visit to Tokyo, but when we remember the anxiety that must be experienced by the Emperor and Empress of Russia on their son's account, it seems unlikely that the tour through Japan will be continued.

* * *

The condition of the Russian Prince Imperial has now almost ceased to excite public interest, as it is generally felt that the complete healing of the wound is only a matter of a few days. Nothing is yet definitely known about His Imperial Highness' ultimate movements. Several of the Tokyo journals published extra issues last evening, announcing that the Prince had received a telegram from St. Petersburg, directing him to terminate his tour and proceed home at once by sea, if no special difficulties interfered with such a programme. But a telegram sent from Kobe at 9 o'clock p.m., said that although one Russian ship had been despatched to Vladivostock, there was no appearance of any sea-going movement on the part of the rest of the Squadron. We are disposed to think, however, that the Prince will proceed homewards direct from Kobe, although his resolve is not yet officially announced. On Thursday evening Madame Schevitch left Tokyo for Kobe by the night mail; a step which indicates that the Czarevitch is not expected to come to the capital. On Thursday the Prince Imperial entertained at dinner on board his ship, Prince Arisugawa (Jun.) and the members of the Reception Committee.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ON THE OTSU AFFAIR.

THE vernacular press is unanimous in its expressions of profound regret and indignation about the unhappy incident of the 11th instant at Otsu. We quote the gist of the leading journals' comments. The *Choya Shimbun*, under the heading "What a madman!," says:—"Russia is our neighbour, our friend and our good customer. It is even within the range of possibilities that an alliance should be formed between her and Japan in the event of international troubles. What a madman was he that raised his sword against the future Sovereign of such an empire! We cannot too much regret that this savage spirit should still survive in our country. It is a disgrace to Japan that such a man should be a unit of the Japanese nation. Some share of the penalty attaching to his act of insanity must be borne by the anti-foreign journals which have been working upon the sentiments of the rising generation. Our sincere hope is that this sad event will not affect the kindly relations hitherto existing between Russia and Japan."

* * *

The *Mainichi* writes:—"With deep regret have we received the telegram informing us of the injuries inflicted on His Imperial Highness the Russian Crown Prince. Not alone has the distinguished guest of this empire been wounded: the name of Japan also has been sorely hurt. It is stated that Tsuda Sanzo, the would-be assassin, is insane. We find some difficulty in crediting that assertion. But, whether sane or insane, he is the foe of his country's honour, a traitor to his Emperor and his Government. The one piece of good fortune in this terrible calamity is that the Prince Imperial's life was saved. We pray that His Imperial Highness may speedily recover from his wound, and be restored to health."

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* says:—"We have no words to express the grief and surprise caused by the receipt of the telegram announcing the attack made upon the Russian Crown Prince. His Imperial Highness is the future Emperor of all the Russias. His visit to Japan was a most auspicious event, calculated to promote the friendly relations between the two countries. Everyone in the capital and all the inhabitants of every city and town in the empire were enthusiastically making preparations to receive His Imperial Highness with all possible hospitality and respect. Ill-fated eleventh of May! A message from Otsu has not only destroyed our pleasant anticipations, but converted our happiness into misfortune. Apart from the shame to Japan and the indelible stain fixed upon her history, no greater calamity has ever befallen her. We pray Heaven that His Imperial Highness may be speedily restored to health, and we have but one other wish, namely, that he will soon come to Tokyo in company with the Emperor."

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes:—"What shall we say? Words completely fail to express the profound sorrow and horror with which we take up our pen to speak of the misfortune to the Russian Prince Imperial? Not to the Prince alone, but to the Emperor of Russia and to the people of Russia do we owe the sincerest apologies. Our one consolation is that the wound is not dangerous and that His Imperial Highness has not suffered severely. Earnestly do we pray to have the honour of welcoming him soon in Tokyo. What can possibly have been the motive of the miscreant who raised his hand against the future occupant of the Throne of Russia! No

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Japanese, unless he were either a lunatic, an idiot, or a fanatic could have conceived such a deed. Any form of punishment would be insufficient; any measure of indignation inadequate. The whole Japanese nation, from the Sovereign on his Throne to the humblest of his subjects, has incurred deep guilt towards our Imperial visitor. The Emperor had sent men-o'-war to meet the Prince; the entire country was preparing to receive him with unalloyed joy, and now, by the act of one madman, this universal satisfaction has been converted into universal mourning—mourning too bitter for expression."

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* says:—"The news from Otsu has filled us with astonishment and grief. Of late years the relations between this empire and Russia have been growing more friendly, and this visit of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince could not have failed to draw the bonds of amity still closer. In common with our Sovereign the entire nation rejoiced at the event, and the capital was joyfully preparing to accord a hearty welcome to His Imperial Highness, when by the act of a solitary madman, the whole aspect of affairs has been changed. That the abominable deed cannot have been prompted by any deep motive, but must have been the outcome of madness, was at once evident, and has been confirmed by the telegraphic intelligence. But that such a person was suffered to serve in the ranks of the police, must be laid to the charge of the Chief of Police in Shiga Prefecture. * * * We do not desire to say much in the presence of such an event, but can only pray that His Imperial Highness' wound may prove slight, and that his recovery may be speedy."

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimpo* writes:—"It is some comfort in the midst of this terrible misfortune that, by the aid of Providence and owing to the strong manhood of our illustrious guest, the hurt did not prove more serious. We have only to grieve profoundly that such an event should have occurred. Our Sovereign, our Government, our fellow-countrymen, all can have but one heart of sorrow. The act was undoubtedly that of a madman. Yet he was a member of the police force, and one of those entrusted with the duty of guarding the Prince Imperial. The Chief of the Shiga Police and the Governor of Shiga must be held responsible for allowing such a man to be in such a position. The guilt of the occurrence must be expiated by the nation, and the disgrace extends even to our Emperor. Madman, were you incapable of comprehending what a wound you were inflicting on your country, what shame upon your Sovereign! We can but acknowledge our profound regret and pain towards the Russian Prince Imperial, the Russian Emperor and the Russian nation. The disgrace is not to be wiped away in a night and a morning. Government and people must strongly and sincerely unite to eradicate the state of affairs of which such madmen are begotten, by reforming the administration, the laws and the customs of the country, so that the reproach of barbarism may be removed from us."

* * *

The *Nippon* writes:—"Just when the country was gladly laying itself out to welcome its illustrious guest; just when Nagasaki, Kobe, and Kyoto had received him with hearty rejoicing, and when he was on the eve of coming to the capital, everything has been changed by this terrible event. What kind of miscreant, idiot, and boor can this person be of whom the telegrams from Otsu tell us? Could he not appreciate the enormity of a crime that disturbs the friendship between two nations and brings heavy shame on the millions of his countrymen? It is plain that he was mad. In a moment of phrenzy he, a policeman charged with the duty of guarding the Prince, raised his hand against him. We have no words to convey our apologies to the Russian nation. We are filled with pain and shame. We can only pray, and most sincerely we do so, that His Imperial Highness' wound may prove slight, and that it may soon be completely healed."

* * *

The *Toyo Shimpo* says:—"What a day of humiliation and sorrow for this empire is the eleventh of the fifth month of the twenty-fourth year of *Meiji*! The miscreant who inflicted a wound on the person of the illustrious guest whom our whole nation was eager to honour, would not be punished sufficiently though his body were cut into a hundred pieces. What a misfortune, what a source of grief is it to the nation that it should have produced such a villain! The grief of our Sovereign and our Empress must be profound. With tears we announce the painful news as it reaches us."

* * *

In order to complete our *resumé* of the comments of the vernacular press on the Otsu affair, we translate the articles of the journals not included in our previous list. The *Rikken Jiyu* says:—"There is not a man in Japan who does not feel enraged against the act of Tsuda Sanzo. It is natural that the various newspapers should vie with one another to give rapid intelligence of such an event, but some of them, by publishing their own conjectures, have not only injured Japan's reputation but have also misled the Russian people, thus committing a crime worse than that of the madman himself. Sanzo, it is said, showed symptoms of lunacy several years ago, and his father was insane. If this be so, his act may be regarded as that of an ordinary madman, belonging to the same category as the firing of a pistol at the Queen of England by a lunatic. The Russian Prince Imperial is a man of kindly disposition; the Russian Government is eminently perspicacious. We cannot doubt that the relations between Russia and Japan will suffer in no respect, because the feelings of a solitary lunatic carried him away. Russia has Nihilists who occasionally plot to injure their Sovereign, but in Japan no sane man has ever raised his hand against a member of the Imperial House. Still less is there any likelihood of ill-feeling against the Imperial Family of a country not connected with ours. Even though Tsuda Sanzo be not an ordinary lunatic, he must be classed with the fanatic Nishino Buntaro, who took the life of Viscount Mori. Fanatics of that kind are to be found even in highly civilized countries. If anybody should assert that because a President of the United States was assassinated by a madman, American citizens are prone to deeds of blood, the falsehood would be immediately recognised. If Japan has produced a Nishino Buntaro, foreigners surely will not suppose that Nishino's propensities prevail in Japan. Tsuda Sanzo was either a madman or a Nishino. His act cannot affect the momentous question of Japan's relations with Russia. In former days, before the *Joi* spirit had become extinct, an Englishman was killed at Namamugi, and his countrymen, making the mistake of supposing that the act represented Japan's sentiment, preferred excessive demands and exacted an indemnity, the result being that even to-day, more than twenty years afterwards, people still speak of England's procedure. Yet more erroneous would it be to base any estimate of the Japanese nation, so largely changed during this quarter of a century, on the act of Tsuda Sanzo. Russia well understands Japanese sentiment. She will not take any step calculated to disturb her friendly relations with us. We pray that His Imperial Highness may be quickly restored to health."

* * *

The *Jiyu* writes:—"The arrival of the Russian Prince Imperial had gladdened the whole nation, from the highest to the lowest, when the most terrible event in our ancient or modern history occurred. His Majesty the Emperor was deeply moved, and every man in Japan mourned. In no country in the world is the sentiment of loyalty to the Throne more profound than in Japan. Assassinations and waylayings have been not infrequent in this country, but from time immemorial no act of violence has ever been attempted against the Imperial person. This deep feeling of loyalty towards our own sovereign naturally extends, in due measure, to the sovereigns of other lands. We do not count our Ruler alone virtuous and regard the Rulers of other States as wicked. Therefore, under whatever aspect the action of the miscreant of Otsu be viewed, he cannot be held to have been in possession of his senses. If the Japanese people of recent times have imported Western ideas, if many of them advocate the rights of the people, their desire is to have a constitutional monarchy like that of England, and their purpose is loyalty to the Throne. They have not hitherto imported any Nihilistic tendencies. The hope and aim of the whole nation is to establish firmly to future ages a constitutional monarchy. The evil-doer of Otsu was, in our opinion, the victim of insanity; a man who in the presence of an exciting cause, lost his reason. That an insane person should have been able to discharge the duties of his office, though strange, is easily conceivable: up to the moment that his reason forsook him, he was competent. But madman though he was, he has done our country a serious injury, and we must bear the blame. Ruler and ruled have to unite in promoting amicable intercourse, and in bringing this matter to a peaceful issue. We pray that the Prince Imperial's injury may prove slight, that it may be quickly healed, and that by his visit to the capital the relations of the two countries may be closely cemented."

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* writes:—"It is a subject of the keenest regret that a madman should have been guilty of an act of violence towards our country's honoured guest whom the nation was welcoming with such rejoicing. * * * * It is not the act of a sane Japanese to behave with rudeness towards a Prince Imperial. It is the act of a madman. That a madman should have been employed as a policeman, is not the fault of the people or of the Government: the blame rests with the Chief of Police in Shiga. The Chief of Police must be punished as well as the culprit. We pray that Russia and other Occidental States will not consider the whole Japanese nation evil because of one evil act, but that they will sympathise with us and forgive us for the crime of one madman. We pray too that the Imperial Prince may soon be healed of his hurt."

* * *

The *Kokkai* says:—"There is not a single Japanese who is not shocked that His Imperial Highness should have suffered by the act of a madman. This deed is not the outcome of Japanese national feeling: it is the act of a lunatic. If proof were needed, it is furnished by the delight with which the whole nation, high and low alike, prepared to welcome the Prince when his visit was announced. Our Emperor awaited him as the nation's guest, and the people, hanging up his portrait and laying in stores of fireworks, behaved as though their own Prince Imperial were in question. Since the opening of the country it has been our lot to receive many national guests, but for none was a warmer welcome prepared. But the act of a lunatic has baulked all our hopes. That he was a lunatic is beyond question." (Here follows a description of the steps taken by the Emperor and the Government on receipt of the news.) "So fiercely are the people enraged against the madman that they could tear him to pieces" (literally, "eat his flesh"). "The whole nation, high and low alike, apologises to the Prince Imperial. We pray that his recovery may be speedy. If he comes to Tokyo, the people will shout for joy. When we think what must have been the feelings of the Prince's Imperial's Parents on receipt of the news, we shed tears of sympathy. We respectfully trust that His Majesty the Emperor will despatch a special mission to Russia to convey the regrets of the nation. This act was in no sense the outcome of popular feeling: it was the act of a solitary lunatic. Never again will such deeds of violence be repeated as those perpetrated in the days when the *Joi* spirit was at its height, at Namamugi (the Richardson affair), at Tozen-ji

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(attack on the British Legation) and so forth. But when foreigners unacquainted with the disposition of the Japanese hear of what this madman has done, they will say that barbarian customs still prevail here, and that we do not know the value of human life. Such a feeling, acting socially and officially, will tend to increase their dislike of the Japanese, and will furnish them with an excuse to refuse to make treaties with us on equal terms. It is a lamentable and inexpressibly regrettable business."

* * *

The *Shogyo Shimpo* writes:—"Since the Restoration not a few members of foreign royal families have been the nation's guests. We have already had the honour to receive visitors like the Russian Prince Imperial, and though our country was less liberal in those times, we treated them with all politeness. To-day, despite our greater progress, this evil incident has unexpectedly occurred, a misfortune for the Russian Prince Imperial—we speak with all deference—and an inexpressible misfortune for our country. Russia is our neighbour. Our intercourse with her is intimate. Our political relations with her are daily growing closer. Our trade with her has been greatly developed in recent years. We look to her to furnish the best market for our black tea. She has begun to send us kerosene oil in increasing quantities. Politically and commercially no country has more claims on our friendship. How if this most evil act towards her Crown Prince forfeit us her confidence, affect our own sentiment, and invite her dislike? No greater misfortune could happen to our country than that our relations should be impaired, our intercourse and our trade obstructed. It is a matter of the greatest regret. But it is universally known with what respectful joy the nation, from the Sovereign to the humblest subject, had prepared to welcome its guest. Russia and other civilized States will not, for the sake of one evil deed, conceive a dislike for our whole country, regard us as barbarians, and allow their intercourse with us to be impaired. Most sincerely do we trust that nothing of the kind will occur."

EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET AND CONDOLENCE BY JAPANESE PUBLIC BODIES, ETC.

If, in addition to the unanimously strong utterances of the vernacular press, any evidence were needed of the pain and indignation caused throughout Japan by the news of the attempt on the life of the Czarevitch, it would be amply furnished by the action of the various public bodies in the Capital. The House of Peers has despatched Prince Konoye and Baron Senge to Kyoto to convey the heartiest expressions of regret and sympathy to the Prince; the House of Representatives has sent Mr. Tsuda Mamichi for the same purpose; the Nobles' Club, Marquis Asano; the Tokyo City Assembly, Marquis Hachisuka; the Tokyo City Council, Baron Nagaoka; the Kyodo Club, Mr. Masuda Shigeyuki; the Japan Educational Society, Mr. Irokawa Kokushi; the Assembly of Governors, a letter of condolence; the Meiji Law School, Messrs. Nakamura and Yanagawa; the Mita University, Mr. Iwamoto Jitsutaro. Representatives have also been despatched by the Imperial University, the Electrical Society, the *Taisei-kai*, and many other associations. Prince Shimazu Tadayoshi has come up from Kagoshima for the same purpose, and Marquis Mayeda, Count Nabeshima, and many other well-known nobles and gentlemen have proceeded south to wait on the Prince. Besides this the Tokyo Rice Exchange and Stock Exchange, as well as all the principal theatres and places of amusement, were closed on the 12th instant, and the wholesale wine-merchants in the capital for three days commencing from the 13th instant. The Buddhist priesthood, too, has shown strong sympathy. On the 13th inst., at 2 p.m., the entire body of priests connected with the Shiba Temples, from the Lord Abbot downwards, assembled in the *Gokokuden* of Zojo-ji, and offered up prayers for the speedy recovery of the Czarevitch. At the Shrine of Kompira a similar assembly was organized by the Shinto Priests, who are to make offerings and say prayers every day from the 13th to the 20th instant, in order that the injury to Japan's illustrious guest may be quickly cured, that the relations between Russia and Japan may not be disturbed, and that His Imperial Highness may be graciously pleased to continue his travels throughout the country.

THE TELEGRAM OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS TO RUSSIA.

The *Jiyu* gives what professes to be an exact version of the telegram despatched to St. Petersburg by the Emperor of Japan on receipt of the news from Otsu on the 11th instant. The message runs:—"In connection with the visit of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince, my people were joyfully doing everything in their power to welcome him, only apprehensive that their efforts might be insufficient. I also, treating him as the honoured guest of the nation, was looking forward with the greatest pleasure to seeing him. But the future cannot be foreseen. I have been shocked to learn that a heinous outrage has been committed, and that His Imperial Highness has been wounded. I immediately despatched physicians, and took measures for His Highness' treatment, and I am about to proceed myself to the place to inquire as to his condition, and give him what relief I can. Happily the wound is slight, and His Highness' state is excellent, but it pains me to the heart to have to convey such an unhappy piece of intelligence to Your Majesty, and I most deeply sympathise with the consternation and grief that the news must cause to Your Majesty. Words fail to express the sorrow I feel. I shall keep Your Majesty accurately informed of His Imperial Highness' condition." Her Majesty the Empress is stated to have telegraphed to the Empress of Russia in similar terms.

THE EMPEROR'S PARTING WORDS TO THE PRINCE IMPERIAL AT KOBE.

We read in the *Nippon* that when the Emperor, having accompanied the Russian Prince Imperial to Kobe on the 13th instant, was about to take leave of the Prince, His Majesty addressed him as follows:—"I am persuaded that from what your Imperial Highness has seen at Nagasaki, at Kobe and at Saikyo, you will understand the pleasure which my Government and people felt in welcoming you. Most unfortunately Your Highness met with an outrage at the hand of a madman in Otsu. I cannot sufficiently express my sympathy with the alarm that you must have suffered. My people are without exception pained and grieved by the event. But if Your Imperial Highness appreciates the delight felt by my people in welcoming you, let me hope that as soon as possible after you have recovered from the effect of your wound, you will visit Tokyo and see everything my capital has to show." To this the Prince replied:—"As Your Majesty says, I have nothing but admiration to express for the glad welcome given to me by Your Majesty's people since I landed at Nagasaki. Nor do I entertain the least ill-feeling towards Japan in connection with this affair. I have to thank Your Majesty deeply for your gracious consideration in visiting me so speedily, and for taking the trouble to accompany me to this place. When I have recovered from my hurt, I will seek instructions from my country to guide me in replying to Your Majesty's gracious invitation."

THE WRONG SOW BY THE EAR.

We take the following from the *N.-C. Daily News*, which is apparently oblivious of the fact that the Yokohama journal referred to is not, and would, we doubt not, warmly repudiate the suggestion that it is, a Japanese native paper:—The *Daily Graphic* mentions that April 12th would be the one hundredth birthday of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Provo William Parry Wallis, G.C.B. Sir Provo, it says, remains mostly in bed during the winter, to avoid the risk of falls and colds, but intellectually he is as fresh as ever. He entered the navy in 1804, when the senior flag officer was Sir Peter Parker. Parker entered the navy when the senior flag officer was Sir John Norris. Norris entered the navy, it is believed, before the death of Prince Rupert, who died in 1682, and who was in England before the death of Monson. Monson fought against the Armada in 1588; so that five naval careers may be said to cover the long period 1588-1891. This gives an average of over sixty years to each. This is not so wonderful as the recent statement in a Japanese native paper that Count Moltke's father fought in the Thirty Years' War.

TSUDA SANZO.

A TELEGRAM from Otsu, dated at 7.40 a.m., the 13th instant, says that of the two wounds received by Tsuda Sanzo, the assailant of the Czarevitch, one is on the neck, and measures 4½ inches in length by 1½ inches in depth, and the other is on the back, measuring 2 inches in length by 0.7 inches in depth. No danger to the man's life is apprehended. Further inquiries into his antecedents and circumstances show that he has generally been known as a quiet, self-contained person. He was well off, having saved some money, and altogether his record contains nothing unfavourable of any kind. That madness has existed in his family for generations is, however, declared to have been clearly established. His father, grandfather, and brother are all said to have developed symptoms of insanity. A careful search of his house revealed nothing whatever. If he acted in accordance with a premeditated purpose, he was certainly most careful to hide or destroy every evidence of his intention. The police have failed to discover that any one shared his ideas, and are convinced that he was entirely alone throughout. The only circumstance pointing to a disturbed state of mind, is that he exhibited undue and unusual haste, on the morning of the 11th, to reach the scene of his duty in good time.

* * *

Referring to the subject of Tsuda Sanzo's mental condition, the *Mainichi Shimbun* writes:—"There is hereditary insanity in the family of Tsuda Sanzo. His elder brother went mad eighteen years ago, and Sanzo himself was attacked by a fit of temporary insanity five or six years ago. Recently, when on a visit to his native province, he said to some of his friends that whereas the Russian Prince Imperial ought to come to Japan from the East, he was coming from the West, a suspicious reversing of the proper order of things. He added that, according to rumour, Saigo Takamori was to arrive in Japan in company with the Prince, in which event his (Tsuda's) decoration would certainly be taken from him." These details are given as having been received by telegraph from Otsu, and the sender of the message goes on to say that people now recall Tsuda's low-spirited condition before the 11th, as well the disjointed nature of his conversation.

* * *

From the *Jiji Shimpo* we learn that Tsuda Chyokichi, a younger brother of Tsuda Sanzo, who is now employed in the Electric Light Factory at Mita in the Shiba district of Tokyo, was summoned on the 12th instant to the police station and examined very carefully. During his absence his house was minutely searched, but no incriminatory or suspicious documents of any kind were found, and Tsuda's answers being entirely satisfactory, he was released the following morning. He explained that he had parted from his brother in 1872, and since then had seen him only once or twice about eleven or twelve years ago. Sanzo, he added, formerly suffered from severe illness on three different occasions, and after his recovery it was remarked that he occasionally made observations suggesting a disordered mind.

* * *

Doubtless a great deal of what has been said and of what will be said about Tsuda Sanzo's state of mind before the 11th instant, must be ascribed to idle rumour and imagination. But enough has already been learned to show that his moral equilibrium was not of the stablest character. As to the responsibility of the Shiga Chief of Police in employing Tsuda to act as one of the constables guarding the road when the Prince Imperial passed, we must say at once that such strictures seems to us quite unreason-

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able. Tsuda had been a soldier. An educated man, of the *shizoku* class, he had fought well in the Satsuma rebellion, receiving a decoration for gallantry. By steady attention to duty he had risen to the rank of Sergeant-major, and on leaving the army at the expiration of his time, he had entered the police, serving in that force with regularity and industry. There was no black spot of any kind on his record. If such a man could not be trusted, who might be? Fifteen years' service, a decoration, a uniformly fair record, good birth, and a more than average education—he was precisely the kind of man to be chosen for any post requiring steadiness and trustworthiness. If he had previously shown want of mental balance in the sequel of severe illness, there was no reason why any knowledge of the fact should have been possessed by the Authorities, however carefully they scrutinized his record; and assuredly the supposed strain of insanity in his family could not be regarded as a sufficient cause for denying him official employment. Altogether we do not perceive how any charge of carelessness can be laid against the Otsu authorities on his account.

THE RUSSIAN SAILORS IN KOBE.

On Thursday rumours prevailed in Tokyo to the effect that a number of Russian sailors had landed from the Fleet on the evening of the 13th instant, in Kobe, and that a fracas of a very serious nature had occurred between them and the Japanese on shore. Some news-mongers insisted that a force of a thousand sailors had been landed by way of a demonstration, as the negotiations between the Russians and the Japanese in connection with the Otsu affair, had assumed a troublesome complexion. The truth of all this appears to be that an exceptionally numerous party of blue-jackets obtained leave to disport themselves on the night of the 13th, after the Prince Imperial's return to the fleet, and that they behaved on shore as sailors not infrequently do behave. There was no special disturbance, though many caterers to public amusement seem to have had a tolerably rough time. One inference may be drawn from the fact that a large number of Russian sailors were allowed to go ashore on the second day after the attack on their Prince Imperial, namely, that the officers of the Squadron were entirely without apprehensions as to the sentiment of the men towards the Japanese. Without full assurance on this point, the experiment would have been decidedly hazardous.

TELEGRAMS FROM RUSSIA.

The *Choya Shimbun* states that immediately on receiving intelligence of the attack upon the Russian Crown Prince, the Emperor and Empress of Japan addressed telegraphic messages of regret to the Emperor and Empress of Russia, and that replies from St. Petersburg have been received. Our contemporary does not profess to give the exact language of the replies, but says that the answer from the Empress of Russia ran about as follows:—"I thank your Majesty for the sincere sympathy you express in connection with the injury my beloved son has suffered in Your Majesty's country, which by the kindness of Providence has happily not proved serious." The message from the Czar is understood to have been of similar import, and the *Choya Shimbun* calls attention to the magnanimity and friendliness of a potentate who, under circumstances so alarming and painful, could send such a quiet and kindly message.

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL AT NAGASAKI.

The *Rising Sun and Nagasaki Express* reports the ceremonies attending the official landing of the Prince Imperial of Russia at Nagasaki. Our contemporary, with the appreciative relish of a *gourmet* reproduces every item included in the lengthy *menu* of the Japanese tiffin of which his Imperial Highness partook at the Governor's residence, but space will not permit of our following his example. The following is a description of the official landing:—"Monday last, the 4th inst., was the day set apart for the official landing of His Imperial Highness the Czarewitch of Russia, and a most unfortunate day, as regards the weather, it turned out to be. A short, heavy shower of rain was experienced early in the morning, and it continued very threatening until about 10.30 a.m., when the rain again set in, and continued to fall heavily almost without intermission for the remainder of the day, to the great disappointment of many thousands of Japanese who had arranged to keep holiday in honour of the event. About 9.45 a.m. H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa made an official call on board the Czarewitch's ship, the *Pamiat Azova*, being saluted on starting and on returning. At about 10.45, the Czarewitch, accompanied by Prince George of Greece, and suite, left the *Pamiat Asova*, amid the saluting and cheering of the men-of-war in harbour, all of which were gaily dressed with bunting, and many had their yards manned. Upon arriving at O'hato, where a landing stage and bamboo arch had been erected, they were met by Prince Arisugawa, General Kawakami, Admirals Akamatsu and Ito, Viscount Yamao, Baron Marinokoji, Governor Nakano, the Foreign Consular Body, representives of the various districts of the town, and a large number of local government, and naval and military officials. Prince Arisugawa, on behalf of the Government, formally welcomed their Highnesses on shore, and they at once took jinrikisha to the Governor's residence, where arrangements had been made for their entertainment, the procession proceeding in the following order:—

Governor Nakano.
Councillor Nakamura.
Mr. Sannomiya (vice Master of Cer.).
Mr. Yamamochi (Master of Ceremonies).
Baron Marinokoji (Master of Ceremonies).
Police Inspector (mounted).
H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa.
H.I.H. The Czarewitch.
H.R.H. Prince George of Greece.
One Bodyguard.
His Ex. D. Schevitch. Admiral Nazimoff.
Gen. Baratinski. Admiral Bassargine.
Capt. Donbassoff. Prince Kotchubey.
Capt. Volkoff. Prince Obolenski.
Prince Ouchtomski. Dr. Rambach.
Mr. De Wollant. Admiral Akamatsu.
Viscount Yamao. General Kawakami.
Admiral Ito. Major Muraki.
Lieut. Sakamoto. Lieut. Kido.
Lieut. Fujiyi. Secretary Ogoshi.
Mr. Masaki (Chief of Police).

Notwithstanding the rain, the main road for the entire distance, about a mile-and-a-half, was lined with the head-men of the town, government employés, volunteers in uniform, school children, and others, all of whom, after getting wet through, were only too glad to retire after the procession had passed. Arriving at the Governor's residence, the party, after a short rest, sat down to a Japanese Tiffin. It was intended to have had a display of kiteflying, day-fireworks, etc., but the unfavourableness of the weather prevented it. After tiffin, the party visited the Koshin-kwan and O'Suwa temple, and about 3.15 p.m. the Czarewitch and suite returned on board, being saluted and cheered as in the morning. It was arranged to have illuminated the native town and Settlement the same night, but the state of the weather also precluded that idea from being carried out. A number of fireworks were, however, sent up, and some places were illuminated the previous night. The following day, Tuesday, the same party landed unofficially at the Sagarimatsu hatoba, at 11 a.m., for the purpose of visiting the Russian Consulate, and returned on board again at 4 p.m. The four Russian gunboats proceeded to Kobe on Sunday last, and the three frigates left for Kagoshima last evening, (5th) where the Princes will be the guests of Prince Shimadzu, for several days.

ARRIVAL OF THE CZAREWITCH AT KOBE.

To-day, says the *Kobe Herald* of the 9th inst., the men-of-war and many of the merchant ships in harbour had their colours flying in honour of the future Czar of all the Russias. The yachts, too, and steam launches joined in the display of bunting and this in what is called in England "Queen's Weather." The breeze was just strong enough to show to their best the national emblems displayed, and so the harbour presented an animated and bright appearance. Shorewards the Russian ensign floated proudly at the German and Russian Consulate, while all the other consulates and many of the business houses were displaying their colours. At 12.25, noon, the *Pamiat Asova* with the Czarewitch and Prince George of Greece on board steamed into the harbour under a salute from the men-of-war awaiting the arrival of the Imperial party. Three Russian men-of-war formed the escort. At 2 p.m. the Czarewitch and Prince George of Greece landed at the pier near the Imperial Palace, and were received by Mr. Saito, a Court Chamberlain, Governor Hayashi, and the principal officers of the Kencho, several Naval and Military Officers, and by nearly all the Foreign Consuls. The Czarewitch and Prince George walked up the pier accompanied by Prince Takahito, and as they passed the assembled officers they politely and smilingly returned their salutations. The Czarewitch is about 22 years of age, of medium height and build, and has good features with a slight showing of fair whiskers and beard. Prince George, on the other hand, is tall and very strongly built, with features that would lead one to suppose the Prince is invariably good-tempered. After a short rest in the Palace the Imperial party drove in 'rickisha to the Water-Fall by way of Sakai Machi, at the entrance to which was a triumphal arch. Shortly after the arch was passed through, the Czarewitch passed a number of students of Japanese schools who called out as he passed, "Kotaishi Denka, banzai!"—the meaning of which is, "Imperial Prince, we wish you long life," or as the literal translation of *banzai* is, "ten thousand years." The Czarewitch graciously acknowledged the compliment, bowing to the students, and so the salutation was repeated three times. After seeing what is considered by many as Kobe's principal sight, the Water-Fall, the Imperial party went to Suwayama and thence to the Railway Station, where a special train was in waiting to take them to Kyoto.

THE RAILWAY OVER THE USUI PASS.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* contains a paragraph which strikes us as lacking something of the accuracy that generally distinguishes that journal's news. "With regard to the Usui Railway," it writes, "Engineer Homma, not being quite satisfied with the line laid out by Mr. Pownall, a German in the employment of the Railway Bureau, laid out a new line at the cost of much labour, and a comparison of his project with that of Mr. Pownall, shows that the former possesses five advantages over the latter. First, the cost of construction is 250,000 *yen* less. Secondly, the stations at Karuizawa and Yokokawa can be used as they are. Thirdly, the ground of the new route is more solid. Fourthly, the work can be accomplished more quickly. And fifthly, the mileage is reduced." It may be worth while to point out that Mr. Pownall is not a German but an Englishman. This, however, is doubtless an oversight on the part of our contemporary. The curious part of the story is the comparison instituted. For some years we have been hearing a great deal about the question of carrying a line over the Usui Pass, and the problem has been sufficiently interesting to attract much attention. The height of the Pass is, we believe, very nearly equal to that attained by the railway over Mount St. Gothard, with, however, a most important distinction, namely, that whereas the horizontal distance in the case of St. Gothard is about eight miles, the distance in the case of the Usui Pass is only five. Of course such a radical difference of conditions is vital, and for a time the idea of carrying a line over the Pass by any ordinary method of construction was little entertained. Mr. Pownall, however, unless we are misinformed, succeeded in laying out a route by which a line could be constructed at the not excessive gradient of one in forty. It must be remembered that the Usui railroad will be a main line, connecting the Western and Eastern systems of the empire, and under these circumstances great importance attaches to the question of running through without any change of engine or recourse to extraordinary methods of locomotion. The proposed route satisfied all these desiderata, and the cost of construction would have been some two million *yen*. Subsequently Mr. Homma appears to have visited Germany, and been struck by the Abt contrivance—a system which may be briefly described as a road hav-

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ing a central rail with rack and pinion fittings to enable the locomotive to "grip" firmly on its way up an incline. This system has been found to work successfully in Germany over a distance of about three-quarters of a mile, and Mr. Homma's idea, so far as we can gather, is to apply it to the Usui Pass, where the distance to be traversed is five miles. A saving of about half a million *yen* will thus be effected in the cost of construction, but on the other hand, instead of satisfying the practical engineer's golden principle of never resorting to extraordinary methods where ordinary can be employed, the ascent will have to be achieved by a special mechanical contrivance, not yet tried on so large a scale, and always liable to injury and breakage. We do not say that the experiment will not succeed, but, after all, it is an experiment. Any one can see at once that comparison of the two plans, after the manner of their comparison by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, is quite out of the question, and Mr. Homma himself would be the first to ridicule it. If Japan likes to try the new mechanical system, she is of course free to do so, but engineers prefer sticking to established possiblities whenever they are fortunate enough to be in a position to make a choice. We strongly suspect that some of the young gentlemen who like to exalt themselves at the cost of the foreign employé, have been "gasing" a little in this case.

THE POLITICAL TEA-POT.

QUITE a storm in a tea-pot has been raised during the past few days by the opposition press. The gale rages about the affairs of the Communications Department, which has been for same months a target for the missiles of political agitators. Where there is smoke there must be some fire, says the proverb. In the case of the Communications Department, we are disposed to think that the fact of its being under the direction of a Minister connected with political parties has a great deal to do with its unpopularity. Count Goto, the former leader of the *Daido Danketsu*, having been once an occupant of the party arena, excites, while in office, not a little of the hostility that his political activity originally engendered. The other members of the Cabinet, with the exception of Mr. Mutsu, are attacked *en masse*, as representatives of clan government, but Count Goto attracts special assaults on his own account. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce, under Mr. Mutsu, fares even worse; a fact which confirms our view of the situation. We have seen how the affair of the land for the American Legation was made the text of parliamentary discussion and newspaper comment, though any one acquainted with the facts of the transaction must have understood that it offered no ground for honest censure. We have seen also how the retirement of Mr. Mayejima from the Vice-Ministry of the Communications Department was wilfully misrepresented to the discredit of the Department. And we have now another case equally exaggerated. Tenders were required for the carriage of mail matter between Japan, the Kuriles, the Bonin Islands, the Riukiu Islands, and Korea. It is the habit of the Department to fix a maximum and a minimum limit for certain tenders, the former for obvious reasons, the latter because the Department believes that the proper performance of the service in question demands a minimum outlay. The inferior limit is supposed to be kept secret, but in the case we are considering, this inferior limit, fifty-nine thousand *yen*, evidently became known in some manner to the contractors, and the result was that one company put in a tender for the exact amount, while another company tendered for 208 *yen* less. On these facts being published, the storm broke out. It was claimed, first that sufficient time had not been allowed for preparing estimates; and secondly, that improper information had been given to the former company. If the time was really insufficient, and if the first company alone received information as to the inferior limit, it is difficult to understand how the second company managed to prepare estimates differing from the limit by only 208 *yen*. The incident reminds us of the gentleman who, having secretely counted the flutes on a marble chimney piece, betted that he would guess the number more accurately than any one else. A friend who had observed the counting operation and subsequently performed it himself, accepted the bet and wrote down the exact number, whereas the layer of the wager, fearing that absolute accuracy might excite suspicion, wrote one less and lost his bet. Whether the analogy holds, what is certain is that the transport service for which tenders were invited, is to be performed for the minimum sum offered by the Department, and that the difference between the two tenders was only 208 *yen*. Financially speaking, the Treasury loses nothing. It is evidently implied by the critics that some official in the Department improperly conveyed information to the successful company and was paid by the latter for doing so, but assuredly if the second company tendered by the guidance of an honest estimate, there cannot have been much room for bribery in a margin of 208 *yen*. However, the hubbub is decidedly wholesome. If a transaction in itself insignificant provokes such loud comment, official morality in Japan evidently does not want for strong checks. We presume that the Department of Communications understands its own business, and has practical experience of the necessity of fixing minimum limits when adjudicating tenders; but if such limits are essential, they should certainly be kept from the knowledge of the parties tendering.

SILK.

THE *Jiyu* writes about silk, the great staple of Japanese export, and gives the following interesting figures, showing the development in this branch of commerce during the *Meiji* era:—

Year.	Value of silk exported. Yen.	Year.	Value of silk exported. Yen.
1867	6,253,743	1880	1,666,867
1868	5,720,182	1881	10,647,310
1869	4,278,152	1882	16,232,150
1870	8,004,144	1883	16,183,550
1871	5,205,237	1884	11,007,172
1872	7,208,421	1885	13,033,872
1874	5,302,039	1886	17,321,364
1875	5,424,916	1887	19,280,003
1876	13,197,121	1888	25,916,861
1877	9,626,956	1889	26,616,542
1878	7,889,446	1890	16,431,192
1879	9,734,534		

The sudden change from prosperous growth to signal decline, as shown by the last figures in the table, has naturally caused great uneasiness. A decline of ten million *yen*, or 38 per cent., in the country's principal staple of export, is certainly sufficient to set men pondering. The *Jiyu* seems disposed to attribute the change to the growth of sericulture in Italy, France, America, China and Turkey, but there are other and more powerful causes at work, we imagine.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCKS.

IT is satisfactory to learn that the rumours recently circulated with such assiduity in reference to the Government's refusal to grant a charter to the projectors of the Yokohama Docks, are without foundation. The scheme of building docks in this port had its origin several years ago, and the projectors, having ascertained that no official difficulties existed, began to make preliminary arrangements of a practical character in July, 1887. In June of the following year, formal application for a charter was made, but Regulations issued shortly afterwards required that a plan and estimates should be furnished, and the preparation of these was entrusted to Major-General Palmer, R.E. On the completion of the necessary documents, application was again made in due form, and it is claimed that no less a sum than ten thousand *yen* has been spent on preliminaries. The Yokohama News Agency affirms that reference recently made by the authorities to the Custom House in Yokohama, elicited an entirely favourable reply, and that no grounds whatever exist for apprehending effective opposition from any quarter, still less from the Naval Department, where the advisability of increasing the country's dock accommodation is fully recognised. It was difficult to credit the action attributed to the Cabinet in this matter, and we are glad to be assured that no such short-sighted policy is really to be followed.

THE "TAKACHIHO MARU."

WE are requested by the local agent of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha to state that the *Takachiho* was bound to Fusan, having left Nagasaki on the 10th instant, and was not coming down from Vladivostock, as stated in the previous information supplied. This accords with our telegram published in this issue, and agrees with the date the vessel last left Kobe. From the latest report received it appears that the passengers, mails, treasure, and baggage were all landed. The company has been unfortunate in the number of casualties attending the navigation of its vessels for some time past, and it is to be hoped that they may now have a long spell of immunity from accident such as they enjoyed for some years before the recent series of misfortunes commenced. Much sympathy will be felt for Captain Walker by his numerous friends, and by the travelling public who in such large numbers have testified to his high qualities as a navigator and whose popularity with passengers has made his ship so well-known. Captain Walker will, we feel sure, be exonerated when the circumstances of the accident are fully enquired into, his brilliant record of twenty years' successful navigation of a difficult and dangerous coast without an accident testifying to his skill and to the care he has for this long period taken of the lives and property entrusted to his charge. Last year he made his fiftieth voyage to Vladivostock, and the residents of that place in recognition of his services paid him a high compliment by presenting him with a handsome testimonial. All that is known at present is that the vessel went on shore in a dense fog at an early hour of the morning. It is fortunate that the accident was not attended with loss of life.

THE RISING GENERATION AND CONSERVATISM.

THE *Kokumin-no-Tomo* of the 3rd instant contains an interesting article on the mental attitude of the rising generation, confirming our own views more than once published in these columns. It is natural that young people should be progressive rather than conservative, but just the reverse says our contemporary, is the case in Japan now-a-days. The healthy, enterprising, and hopeful portion of the rising generation, has joined hands with the Conservatives. What is the cause of such an anomaly? The Tokyo periodical answers that the blame is to be laid at the doors of the leaders of progress. Leaders of progress are divided into five schools; namely, the artificial, represented by Counts Ito and Inouye and Viscount Aoki; the materialistic, represented by Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi; the progressionist, headed by Count Okuma; the liberal, led by Count Itagaki; and the spiritualistic, originated by the late Mr. Niijima. Every one of these different schools of progress, not even excepting the last mentioned has in its own way pushed the rising generation back into the camp of the common enemy, the conservatives. Reviewing these schools one by one, our contemporay observes that the artificial school has been always disliked by members of the younger generation, in whose minds the names of men of this school have been associated with loose morals, extravagance, and hypocrisy. The materialistic school has always possessed a certain charm for young men, but has never been able to retain their attachment for a long time. The progressionist school, despite the example set by its renowned leader, Count Okuma, formerly looked down upon the younger generation with contempt, and, though it has of late recognised its mistake, it is still unable to recover the sympathy of young men of independent spirit. The liberal school knew how to attract the attention of the rising generation, but did not know how to educate and discipline them. The result of the training of this school of progress has been the creation of that exe-

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crable order of youths called *soshi*. The spiritualistic school, represented by Mr. Niijima, has not been more successful in securing the esteem of the rising generation. Why? Because this school is "too much under the sway of well-meaning, but ignorant, narrow-minded, and common-place missionaries, and too much fettered by artificially engrafted rites and ceremonies of foreign origin." Men belonging to such a school become more fastidious and punctilious than active and enterprising; and the dull, lifeless atmosphere of their society naturally deters youths of spirit. Such a wholesale condemnation of this school of progress is the more remarkable as coming from one of the most distinguished and admiring disciples of Mr. Niijima. Mr. Niijima himself, continues the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, was aware of the evils above alluded to, and made most noble efforts to infuse his own vigorous enthusiasm into the minds of his followers, but it pleased Heaven to remove him before he saw his object realized. Thus just when the young men of the nation were disgusted with every existing school, their attention was attracted by a band of reactionary conservatives, whose opinions and conduct seemed to be distinguished by dignity, and almost heroic grandeur. The rising generation—the enterprising portion of it at least—ranged itself under the banner of this new conservatism, and one evil result of the reactionary movement thus inaugurated was to revive among members of the younger generation something of the old spirit of *jo-i* (barbarian-expelling spirit). For all this the leaders of progress are originally responsible, but the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* at the same time reminds the members of the rising generation that, even without the guidance of their elders, they ought to open up new avenues of progress and enlightenment, instead of remaining in the anomalous company in which they now find themselves. It prays them to remember the splendid future that lies before Japan as the Queen of the Pacific, and hopes that they may so shape their conduct as to be competent for the discharge of the great responsibility that will soon devolve upon them.

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LIBERALS ON TREATY REVISION.

Mr. Ayai Takeo, a member of the National Liberal Party, who made his mark in the first session of the Diet, has published his views on Treaty Revision. "Provided," he says, "that Judicial Autonomy be recovered, it is proper that Mixed Residence be allowed. For this reason, that at the present rate of progress, whatever time elapse, Japan will not be in a position to stand on equal terms with foreign States. Doubtless if Mixed Residence be allowed at once, some trifling complications will be unavoidable, but, on the other hand, the spirit of competition will be gradually stimulated among the Japanese. As for the privilege of owing real estate, public bonds and shares, it ought to be regulated by law. But in the case of foreigners who contemplate long residence in Japan, land sufficient for residential purposes, one or two hundred *tsubo* for example, may with propriety be owned by them."

THE SAPPORO SUGAR COMPANY.

The loss sustained by the Sapporo Sugar Company in consequence of the issue of extra shares by the former President, may not prove to be so heavy as was originally anticipated. It is stated that the face value of the shares thus issued amounts to about 400 000 *yen*, but that if, as is probable, the Law Courts hold that certain portions of the liability must be borne by the President personally, and do not concern the shareholders at large, then the latter will not lose more than sixty thousand *yen*. Meanwhile the Local Government of Hokkaido is strongly censured by some critics. These allege that the irregularities in the Company's affairs could not have been overlooked, had not the official inspection been of a most perfunctory character. The fact that the Imperial Household Department held some of the Company's shares is considered to have been equivalent to an official guarantee that the business was duly supervised; a view that does not seem beyond question. The affair has greatly shaken public confidence. Rumours are current that the stock of other companies also has been watered in a similarly fraudulent manner, and further unpleasant disclosures are spoken of as imminent. It is to be hoped that these anticipations may prove ill-founded. Industrial enterprise has suffered a great set-back during the past twelve months in Japan. Many concerns, started under flourishing auspices, are almost in a bankrupt condition, and costly plants of machinery with warehouses and so forth, are offered at a moiety of their original value without finding purchasers. At such a time, the growth of a suspicion that frauds have been practised by the managers of companies is most unfortunate.

THE "ERTOUGROUL."

After the wreck of the Turkish frigate *Ertougroul*, a collection was made by the *Jiji Shimpo* in behalf of the families of the men who had lost their lives in the ship and of the survivors, and the money—amounting to 18,907.04 francs—was carried to Turkey by Mr. Noda Shiotaro, a representative of that journal. This benevolent act has been acknowledged by his Excellency Said Pasha, Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, and by Hasan Pasha, President of the Relief Committee. Japanese versions of the letters are published by the *Jiji Shimpo*, from which we translate them:—

To Ito Kinsuke, Esq.,
Editor, *Jiji Shimpo*, Japan

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter enclosing a nominal list of subscribers to the fund which you have been so kind as to collect from the people of Japan for the relief of the families of those who lost their lives in the *Ertougroul*, and of the survivors, and informing me that you desire to deliver the money. In common with the people of Turkey I have been deeply impressed by the warm sympathy evinced by you in this mournful affair. Such a humane action bears witness to the kindliness and charity of the Japanese nation. I beg in my own name and in that of my countrymen to thank the *Jiji Shimpo* for having taken the lead in inaugurating the subscription. Our Government has authorized the *Ertougroul* Relief Committee to receive from Mr. Noda, and distribute with due care, the fund which you have forwarded. May I ask you to convey my thanks to the office of your journal, the *Jiji Shimpo*, and to all the subscribers. Before closing this letter, permit me to express my admiration for the noble warships of Japan, their highly educated officers and well disciplined men. Such ships cannot fail to win respect for your illustrious empire.

I am, Sir, &c., &c.,
(Signed) Said Pasha.
Constantinople, January 21st, 1891.

To Ito Kinsuke Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

Sir,—His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs has handed me your letter, dated October 10th, 1890, in which you give expression to your sympathy with the unfortunate crew of the *Ertougroul*. I learn further from the same letter that having kindly opened a subscription list for relief purposes, you have collected a considerable sum of money from six thousand subscribers, which money you have requested the Government of this Empire to distribute in a suitable manner. I now beg to acknowledge the receipt from Mr. Noda Shiotaro of the sum of 18,907.04 francs, and by order of His Majesty the Sultan I have included the amount in the fund for the relief of the families of the men who lost their lives in the *Ertougroul*. The persons entitled to receive something out of that fund are the wives and families of the petty officers and men who perished with the frigate. Our Government as well as the people of Turkey are deeply impressed by the sympathy you have shown with the relatives of the unfortunate sailors. The fact that a sentiment of universal brotherhood has led you to subscribe this money affords additional evidence of the kindly treatment which the officers and crew of the *Ertougroul* received at the hands of your nation. As the representative of the Relief Committee I beg to express most hearty thanks to yourself and to the whole nation of Japan, which has been brought sensibly closer to our country by this calamity.

I am, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed) Hassan Pasha.

THE PENDULUM.

The pendulum of popular feeling never rests. It sways steadily to and fro, pausing but a very brief interval at the highest points of its curve. A few years ago the pendulum of public sentiment in Japan was in the ascending branch on the side of Occidentalism. Western ways, Western systems, and Western fashions were virtually worshipped. It is beyond the range of our perception to indicate the exact point of culmination, but its time was undoubtedly the close of 1886. Then the movement in the opposite direction began, and very unpleasant have its effects been. We need not describe or analyse them here. What we want to know is whether the pendulum has attained its highest point in the Oriental curve, and whether we may look forward to its swinging in the opposite direction and rising once more on the Occidental side. It is hard to prophesy in such matters, but the *Kokkai's* late article on the subject seems to mark the first symptoms of a change. Were they indeed idols of clay and dross, the *Kokkai* asks in effect, that the Japanese are now pulling down and trampling under foot? Or is it only that people have straightened their backs suddenly from a posture of worship and assumed an attitude of discriminating observation? The *Kokkai* thinks that all dwellers in islands are apt to be insular—apt to be as violent in their likes as they are stubborn in their dislikes. It incites its countrymen to cultivate a larger mind and to eschew the fickleness of suddenly revolting against the objects they have so long admired and imitated. A timely admonition. There can be no real retrogression for Japan. The pendulum of her fancy may swing from enthusiasm to antipathy, but so surely as each beat marks the steady passage of time, so surely does every day and every month bring her into closer union with the civilization she has adopted. She may flout and scoff at her new companions, but can never part company with them.

* * *

Another sign of the return swing of the pendulum is an article in the *Hochi Shimbun* of the 7th instant, written by a Law Graduate, on the subject of mixed residence. The writer exposes the absurdity of the pretension that people who shrink from allowing foreigners to enjoy in Japan the same liberty of trade, travel, and residence as Japanese enjoy in foreign States, have any claim to stand on an equal footing with Western Powers. That is a patent argument, which any intelligent Japanese might advance. Not so what follows, namely, that so far from having anything to apprehend from foreign intercourse, Japan can only benefit by it. The writer points to the experience of Japanese trading at the open ports. They have become wealthy and substantial merchants, having been originally men of small means and less education. If these men have profited so maternally by contact with foreigners, why should other Japanese shrink from the ordeal? So outspoken is the article that it compares the complete opening of the country to the wholesale engagement of teachers who shall educate the nation, free of charge, in the way to grow prosperous and powerful. We are not surprised by these views, for we know them to be firmly held by many Japanese. It is their open and confident expression that interests us as a distinct revolt against the spirit of the time, and an indication of the backward swing of the pendulum.

A WELCOME CANARD.

Codification of laws and the Judicial Department on the brain seems to be the trouble with the *Japan Gazette*. By some process of distortion or misrepresentation it manages to fit a great many innocent incidents into the groove wherein its feet are entrapped. In its weekly issue, published on Saturday the 9th instant, it informs its readers that, according to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, Mr. Kikuchi Takeo, Private Secretary of the Minister of Justice, has decided to leave the Department, the reason of his retirement from office being "disapproval of the method of compiling laws now being followed." Could any thing be more wildly absurd? A Private Secretary disapproving of the Government's method of compiling laws, every one of which has to be duly debated and endorsed by Parliament before promulgation! What adds to the silliness of the rumour is that Mr. Kikuchi was gazetted Chief of the Civil Cases Bureau in the Department of Justice, and raised in rank on the 6th instant. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, hearing some vague rumour that Mr. Kikuchi was to be no longer Private Secretary, jumped to the conclusion that his retirement was in ques-

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tion, and put its own delirious construction on the imaginary event. The *Japan Gazette* greedily swallowed the welcome canard, published it on the evening of the 5th, and republished it on the 9th, though Mr. Kikuchi had been gazetted to his new post in the same Department on the 6th. We wonder whether the *Gazette's* readers approve of its method of compiling information.

WEALTH AND POVERTY.

THE *Fiji Shimpo* has published a series of articles on "Wealth and Poverty" which will bear summarizing. Starting with the proposition that men are not poor in consequence of want of intelligence, but because of the vagaries of chance, the *Fiji* remarks that, according to the principles proposed by political economists, a man's condition is decided by the degree of his intelligence. No doubt millions of the poorer classes throughout the world are, superficially speaking, examples of the truth of the theory, being ignorant and unintelligent. But is their condition the result of their intellectual poverty? Our contemporary thinks not. Their ignorance is rather the consequence of their poverty. In the first place knowledge and intelligence are acquired by education. How can the poor then obtain them, and even if they should receive a fair degree of education, how few are able to apply it to practical purposes. Their first requisites are food, clothing, and other necessaries, and education must come later on. Few instances exist in which persons have by their own diligence and intelligence raised themselves from extreme poverty to affluence. As a matter of plain fact, intelligence is mostly to be found among the middle classes, for while the poor are ignorant because of their condition the rich are not usually distinguished by high intellectual qualities. Poor people, badly fed, poorly housed, and meagrely clad, look stupid and debased, but that need not be matter for surprise, because a person even of pretty high intelligence reduced to poverty will gradually descend intellectually until he reaches the level of his surroundings. The present tendency of society is, indeed, to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. Government and laws are really for the benefit of the wealthy classes, for the poor have nothing to lose by robbery, and need not dread the occurrence of a fire. Education is of little benefit to them because they have not the means of applying their knowledge, if acquired, to practical purposes, while religion can never teach them how to grow rich. So great are the disadvantages by which the lower classes are at present surrounded that it is impossible for them to improve their condition. The poor, says our contemporary, are ignorant because of their poverty, and are bound to remain indigent because of their ignorance. They are removed beyond all hope of benefit by the law, by education, or by religion. An example is furnished by the case of the millions who toil and labour under the orders of a few capitalists. It is well known that the poor multiply very rapidly, and as a consequence the number of labourers increases out of all proportion to the work available for them. For this reason wages will decrease with resulting hardships to the workers. The food and clothing of the poor seem cheap, but they are not, for the labourer has to buy in small quantities inferior articles, whereas the rich man, purchasing wholesale, gets the same commodities much cheaper. Moreover poor people, being continually at their wits' end to procure bare necessaries, have recourse to money lenders who, despite the fact that a legal rate of interest has been fixed, exact exorbitant usury. Then if the poor by dint of hard scraping and saving get together a few *yen*, they can receive as interest, if they invest their earnings, at most 4 or 5 per cent. Political economists are fond of comparing the poor man to the human stomach which, if it does not perform its functions, causes the destruction of the whole organization, itself among the other organs. But it seems to the *Fiji* that the contrary is the proper way to put the matter, for as it is the labouring classes who provide capitalists with the means of carrying out their schemes, any action on the part of the wealthy class inimical to the poor will recoil upon themselves. Dealing with the censure often passed upon the lower classes,—the accusation that they are thriftless and improvident, and that they themselves by early marriages and large families contribute to weight themselves more heavily with burdens,—the Tokyo journal finds much cause to sympathise with them. During the Tokugawa period it was found that to learn a trade a boy had to serve an apprenticeship for about ten years after attaining the age of eight or nine, and had in addition to work three years as a journeyman with his master by way of compensation for the instruction he had received. The average healthy workman was never able to earn more than a thousand *ryo* during his whole lifetime, and in case of sickness of course a very much smaller sum passed through his hands. Now-a-days it may be taken that the average worker earns about 100 *yen* a year. The pleasures of the poor are too few; indeed the only source of happiness which they may enjoy equally with the wealthy is the marriage state, and this they naturally enter at an early age, though not as early as the upper classes do. What can a man hope to save on 100 *yen* a year, with from three to five months to feed? And what wonder is it that every *sen* that finds its way to the household treasury should speedily be spent in procuring the things that are lacking? The poor are blamed for indulging in *sake*, but in most instances it is taken as a stimulant to uphold the body, failing by reason of inferior and insufficient food. Finally our contemporary foresees very hard times for the conservative class of merchants. About the time of the Restoration and for some years after it was possible to make fortunes—and lose them—in one day, but in these days, when commercial principles have become fairly well settled, care and skill in business transactions are indispensable. In these qualities the bulk of the mercantile section of the community are very deficient, and their future is by no means a bright one in view of the severe competition which they will have to encounter. The *Fiji* is generally a pessimist.

CHARGE AGAINST A JAPANESE NAVAL OFFICER.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* contains the following report of the trial of a Japanese naval officer on the 30th April last:—

O. Kuda, sub-lieutenant on board the Japanese cruiser *Kongo*, was charged with sketching at Belcher's Battery, contrary to the provisions of Ordinance 2 of 1888.

Bombardier Stokes said—At 3.15 p.m. on the 29th April I was in charge at the Battery. I saw the defendant sketching on the roadside. I went up and asked him what he was doing. He said he was sketching the road and hillside. I looked at the sketch and saw on it the muzzle of a gun on the level of the road, and I saw the two guns marked on the sketch at Lower Belcher's.

The defendant said—I am fond of drawing, and yesterday while on the Pokfulum Road. I found a fine view in the neighbourhood of the fort and made a sketch of it. I did so in ignorance of the law. I was merely sketching for pleasure. If I had intended doing anything against the law, I should not have gone to the place in uniform.

Complainant, recalled, said that another Japanese who was with the defendant offered him $2 to give up the sketch.

Matsumo, called by the defendant, said—I am a lieutenant on board the same ship as defendant. Yesterday I went for a walk along the Pokfulum Road. I saw the defendant and a soldier talking, and went to see what was wrong. The soldier said defendant was making a sketch. The defendant said he was doing so for pleasure, and had no intention of breaking the law. I did not offer the soldier $2 for the sketch. I told the defendant that if he wanted to see the fort he could apply to the proper authority.

The case was remanded, bail being allowed in $200.

THE NEWS AGENCY CASE.

CERTAINLY we shall not weary our readers by aiding to inflate the News-Agency balloon which the *Japan Gazette* is so busily filling with the smokey gas of suspicion and misrepresentation. The kind of material employed by our detective contemporary to serve as fuel for its editorial retort is well illustrated when it charges us with all kinds of deceit and public hoodwinking because we did not publish until the 7th instant an account of a law case the verdict in which appeared in print for the first time on the 2nd instant. To what extremities an editor must be driven when he resorts to such arguments! And as usual the *Gazette* is grossly careless in its statement of facts. It says that the trial commenced on the 17th of April, and "was resumed on the 18th," and that "the papers all contained lengthy reports thereon." Now the facts are that the trial commenced on the 17th of April, and was postponed until the 28th at the request of the prisoner's counsel, in order that Mr. Masuda, then absent from Tokyo, might be summoned as a witness. The verdict, delivered on the 30th, was published on the morning of the 2nd instant. Finally, instead of "lengthy reports appearing in all the papers," only two of the leading vernacular newspapers, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, and the *Kikken Jiyu Shimbun* gave anything like an accurate report. It is thus that the "honest" *Gazette* perverts facts to suit its own purposes. For our own part, we did not hasten on the 2nd instant to compile an account of the case simply because we learned that one of the petty newspapers, the *Kaishin Shimbun*, contained a particularly full report, and it seemed advisable to procure and consult that sheet, a task which we could not accomplish for two days. We mention these points as an interesting illustration of the extraordinary devices resorted to by our honest contemporary to bolster up its accusations against the *Japan Mail*. The simplest and most easily explained incident is perverted and misrepresented, and behind every act or word of ours some miserable motive is discovered. Such a mood deserves pity only.

* * *

As for the case itself, we cannot but smile at the dilemma into which the *Gazette* is plunged. In order to prove that Mr. Okabe, the Manager of the News Agency, is "a high souled man, a Japanese gentleman of unspotted honour and high reputation"—Mr. Okabe, a farmer of Fukui, away off on the West coast, who never was heard of until arraigned on a charge of forgery—the *Gazette* has to show that he received the control of the News Agency absolutely without any pledge as to the manner of conducting it. But if that be admitted, then the Government has to be acquitted of any attempt to employ the Agency for official purposes. Impaled upon these horns, the *Gazette* rails against the *Japan Mail*, and "discourses about many things." A veritable storm in a tea-pot. Probably not one of the newspapers that received items of news from the *Fiji Tsushinsha* was ignorant of the fact that it enjoyed a measure of Government support. "The Japanese public," says the *Gazette*, "was utterly astounded at the disclosure of the fact that Government * * * was controlling the sources of their (*sic*) information"—utter astonishment that has its origin solely in the *Gazette's* ignorance. Every moderately well-informed person knew all that was necessary to know of the *Fiji Tsushinsha*, and invariably spoke of its items, under its original management, as "the Government side of the news." The Japanese public is not quite so short-sighted as some folks seem to imagine.

SAILING RACE.

FINE weather favoured the opening race on Saturday of the Yokohama Sailing Club. Four boats appeared, *Daimyo*, alone in her class, and *Lady Louise*, *Molly Bawn* and *Princess Maud*, among the 26-raters. A start was made at two o'clock, *Molly* being first across the line, 4 seconds after the gun, *Daimyo* next, *Princess Maud* third, and *Lady Louise* last—all very close together. Before a soft south-easterly breeze the boats reached quickly to the first mark, a flag boat situated close to the Green Lightship, *Daimyo* rounding in advance of the others, *Princess Maud* second and *Molly* third. Here, however, the light breeze favoured the blue cutter, which rapidly overhauled her antagonists, and at 2.40 when *Daimyo* after a long leg in under the Bluff went about for the second mark, a flag boat moored off Juniten, the eastern extremity of the Bluff, *Lady Louise* had a good lead, and *Molly Bawn* lagged astern. At twelve minutes to three *Daimyo* weathered the mark and squared

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away for the third point, the old North mark, before which time all the others were in stays to follow her example. *Molly* had gone about nearly at the same moment as her two opponents, the result being that she had apparently a very close thing to weather the mark. But she succeeded, and got round at three minutes to three, while the other craft, having gone, as it seemed, too far in, came out free, *Princess Maud* following the Doctor after the lapse of a minute, and *Lady Louise* some seconds later. The run down to the North Mark was done with little wind, and *Daimyo* rounded at twenty-five minutes past three, the others following soon after. The beat back to the Juniten mark was a somewhat difficult one, owing to the strong flood tide and a slight change in the wind to the southward. *Daimyo* was about at 4.11 for the mark; *Molly* next at 4.12, *Lady Louise* at 4.14 and *Princess Maud* last at 4.15½. *Molly* and *Lady Louise* carried spinnakers, but the others were content to sail under balloon jibs in addition to their ordinary canvas. After rounding *Daimyo* kept on on the port tack, and the others followed. The wind freshened at the close, and when, about half-past four, *Daimyo* after going about approached the finishing line on the port tack, quite a smart little breeze prevailed. *Molly* came next, and, secure of the prize in her class, slightly over reached, with the result that *Louise* close astern of her went about to cross the line almost at the same moment that she did. *Molly*, however, going the faster, crossed first. *Princess Maud* did not finish within her allowance from the blue cutter, and therefore only took third place in the class, *Molly* taking an easy first. Mr. W. W. Campbell acted as officer of the day. The course being the same out and home we give the times in that form as under:—

		Light-ship.	South Buoy.	North Buoy.	Finish.	Allow-ance.	Corrected Time
		h.m.s.	h m s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.	m.s.	h.m.s.
Daimyo	out	2.09.30	2.49.00	3.24.00	4.39 00	—	4.39.00
	in	4.25.00	4.10.15	—			
Lady Louise ...	out	2.13.05	2.59.45	3.29.35	4.43.00	allows	4.43.00
	in	4.29.15	4.12.53	—			
Molly Bawn ...	out	2.12.57	2.59.00	3.29.15	4.42.30	0.31	4.41.59
	in	4.27.20	4.11.04	—			
Princess Maud,	out	2.10.30	2.59.30	3.29.30	4.46.02	1.03	4.44.59
	in	4.29.45	4.14.30	—			

TARIFF.

In a series of articles on the subject of Tariff, the *Kokkai* makes a retrospect that will doubtless strike many of its readers as new, though in point of fact attention has frequently been called to it before. In the year 1858, that is to say, nine years before the Restoration, and thirty-three years ago, the Tokugawa Regency concluded Japan's first commercial treaty of modern times. America, represented by Mr. Townsend Harris, was the other High Contracting Party. The *Kokkai* says that the convention was the result of *force majeure*, but it is unnecessary to discuss that point now. No one in Japan, our contemporary avers, cared a jot about extraterritorial jurisdiction in those days. No one, in fact, understood anything about it, or could even begin to foresee the consequences of allowing it to be established. Only with reference to the Tokugawa Government's violation of the mediæval tradition that the country must be kept closed, was a popular clamour raised. Mr. Harris, a man of exceptionally just instincts, agreed to a tariff which placed Japan in a very favourable position as regards the raising of a revenue. Under this tariff imports were divided into four classes. Class I. included the precious metals, wearing apparel, furniture and books in actual use or not intended for sale: these were duty free. Class II. included articles for building, rigging, repairing, or fitting out ships, whaling gear, salted provisions, bread and breadstuffs, living animals, coals, timber for building houses, rice, paddy, steam machinery, zinc, lead, tin, and raw silk: these paid 5 per cent. Class III. included intoxicating liquors of all kinds, which paid 35 per cent. Class IV. included all other articles, and upon these 20 per cent. was levied. Subsequently, in the sequel of the Shimonoseki affair, and under pressure of internal disturbance and external threats, the tariff was reduced, in 1866, to a general level of 5 per cent. In this review the *Kokkai* omits to note that in 1858 Great Britain, in negotiating a treaty with Japan, placed cotton and woollen manufactured goods in Class II. of the above category. These goods would have paid 20 per cent. under Mr. Harris' Treaty, but being one of England's chief staples of export, she naturally stipulated to have them admitted to Japan on easy terms. The *Kokkai* argues that instead of attempting to raise the tariff according to the methods of Japan's present negotiators, the better plan would be to revert to the Harris rates of 1858. No country, it says, has only one rate for all imported articles without distinction, a fact undeniable so far as it goes, but possessing no special force that we can discern in Japan's case, seeing that her tariff rates vary considerably, and that the proposed rates of the revised tariff would also present great differences. However, the *Kokkai* avers its predilection for the Harris Tariff, under which it appears to think that Japan's autonomy would be less limited, and concerning which it falls into the error of asserting that the rates then fixed were agreed to by all the Foreign Powers. They were not so agreed to, as we have shown, since Great Britain, the following year, made a most important change by taking out of the twenty-per-cent. category her chief staple, cotton, and woollen manufactures, and transferring these articles to the five-per-cent. class. Speaking roughly, it seems an attractive and forcible proposition that Japan, in the year 1891, should claim nothing more than was allowed to her in 1858. But the whole of the *Kokkai's* contention seems to us most superficial. Surely it is monstrous to assume—as such a line of reasoning certainly does assume—that the experience of thirty-three years is to count for nothing in framing a tariff. The rates contemplated by the framers of the revised tariff have been in every case subjected to the closest thought, scrutiny and research. A newspaper undertaking to discuss them in the casual comprehensive manner of the *Kokkai*, seems to presume too much on its own perspicacity, and on the incompetence of the experts engaged in drawing up the tariff. The *Kokkai* talks of autonomy, but what a veritable battling with shadows it is to fight about the degree of autonomy exercisable under a conventional tariff! In point of fact the Harris Tariff would not make Japan one whit more autonomic than she will be under the tariff of the revised Treaty. Maxima of rates are fixed in either schedule, and above these she could not pass by so much as a *sen*, whereas she would be equally free in each case to make what reductions she pleased. The *Kokkai* appears to forget that the new Conventional Tariff will be the final stepping stone to Japan's recovery of complete Tariff Autonomy. To attain that goal she must make some concession, and truly she has no reason to complain that the framers of the new Tariff have been at all exacting.

PRO AND ANTI.

Naturally it is more painful to be whipped with one's own lash than with the lash of an opponent. The present editor of the *Japan Gazette* set out upon his journalistic career by running a tilt against the *Mail*. We were surprised at the swiftness and bitterness of the assault, and above all at the methods employed. The charge brought against us was that we were persistently pro-Government, and that our supposed bias owed its origin to pecuniary considerations. Upon this accusation the *Gazette* has repeatedly rung the changes under its new management. But when reminded that the chief contents of its own columns are anti-Government diatribes, it winces visibly, and cries out:—"We object to the *Mail's* classification of matter as *anti* or *pro* Government, since it is misleading." "The *Mail's* classification" is decidedly good, coming as it does from a journal which has never ceased to descri... the *Mail* as "pro-Government." It is also decidedly good, coming from a journal which, in the very article denouncing this method of classification and repudiating the anti-Government tone of its own columns, writes:—"It is, perhaps, not unimportant to observe that to a certain extent the policy of the *Japan Mail*, the translation and publication of such matter only as is favourable to the Government, accounts for the reproduction in this journal of material of an adverse character." Thus in one and the same article the *Gazette* denounces the methods it has hitherto persistently followed, and then reverts to them; denies the charge brought against it, and then repeats the procedure. Are we quite unjust in questioning whether continuity of ideas is among the accomplishments of our esteemed contemporary?

REV. LUTHER H. GULICK, M.D., D.D.

For fifteen years the name of Dr. Gulick has been familiar to the readers of the *Bible Society Record* in connection with his correspondence from Japan and China. It was after many years of experience in missionary fields that he entered the service of the Bible Society in the winter of 1875, and immediately proceeded to Japan to supervise the publication of the Japanese version of the Scriptures and organize arrangements for its wide distribution throughout the empire. The work in China also came under his charge, and five years later, upon the division of his field and the appointment of Mr. Loomis for Japan, he removed to Shanghai, where he continued to labour with characteristic fidelity and zeal. But for a long time he has been on the invalid list, seeking strength after severe nervous prostration, and hoping that a change of climate and a period of rest would result in the return of energy and the resumption of his work. He was able for a while to supervise the work by correspondence, but when the hope of returning to China grew dim he resigned his agency to the hands of others and peacefully awaited the end. Intelligence has been received that he died in Springfield, Mass., where one of his sons resides, on the 8th of the present month.

NEWS FROM CHINA.

Trouble has arisen over the seizure by a Chinese Customs cruiser of a junk which it is alleged was engaged in smuggling. It is contended that the junk was in British waters when seized. * * Rear-Admiral Parrayon, who acted as flag-captain to Admiral Courbet at the naval engagement near Pagoda Anchorage during the Franco-Chinese reprisals, has been appointed to the command of the French Pacific Squadron. * * * The water famine which threatened Hongkong has been staved off for the time, several heavy showers having fallen on the 3rd. * * * Sub-Lieutenant Okuda, of the Japanese man-of-war *Kongo*, appeared before Mr. Wise at the Hongkong Police Court on May 1st, charged on remand with sketching Belcher's Fort. His Worship said—I found yesterday that the defendant had been guilty of a breach of the law under this ordinance, but as it was practically the first offence under the ordinance I adjourned the case for a day in order that I might consider what penalty should be imposed. The defendant pleaded ignorance of the law, and if he had been a civilian, that might have been some excuse; but as he is a Naval Officer he ought to know perfectly well that it is no excuse whatever. Under these circumstances I think it my duty to fine him $100." The police produced a book belonging to the accused, containing a number of other sketches, but his Worship said he could not look at them as they were not before him. The fine was paid by the Japanese Consul. * * * Shanghai papers report the supposed death of Mr. Henry Hewson, chief engineer of the *Hideyoshi Maru*, during the passage from Japan. "Mr. Hewson was unwell on Saturday and Sunday and reported himself as such at 7 a.m. on Sunday, but he was about the deck most of the day, though off duty. He apparently had fever, and took some medicine that was given to him. In the evening he went to his cabin on the port side of the house abaft the engine-room, and spoke to the second engineer at 9 o'clock. The weather being bad, all hands were busy about the ship most of the night, but in the morning, Mr. Dall,

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the chief officer, went by Captain Hoilstrom's orders to the chief engineer's cabin to enquire how he was. He found the door on the hook and that the bed had been occupied, but Mr. Hewson was not in the cabin. Thinking he had gone into some other cabin, Mr. Dall continued his search, but without success. The vessel was then searched, and as Mr. Hewson could not be found, the only conclusion that could be formed was that he had fallen overboard. It had been blowing a strong gale with dirty, rainy weather, and as various alterations had been made in the course owing to the tide running in different directions, and as it was not known when Mr. Hewson had disappeared, it was deemed useless to turn back to look for the missing man. Mr. Hewson had been about a year in the vessel and was preparing to go home. Under these circumstances it is only natural to suppose that his disappearance was purely accidental." * * * The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, at its annual meeting on 6th instant, decided to cease the publication of its circular, and to make a call on the members of Tls. 20 each to meet the adverse balance of Tls. 892 reported by the Committee to the end of the year. * * * The *N.-C. Daily News* of the 8th instant had the following:—"The news of no mercantile disaster here has been received with more regret, than was that which spread rapidly yesterday morning, that the old-established firm of Adamson, Bell & Co., one of the oldest and most respected firms in China, with branches in Japan and London, had suspended payment. The head of the firm, Mr. F. H. Bell, is one of our oldest residents, as well as one of the most respected, and the sympathy felt for him and his partners is both deep and universal. It will be seen, from this morning's advertisement, that two members of the firm, Messrs. G. B. Dodwell and A. J. H. Carlill, have already established themselves in business at the principal seats of the old firm's business; and we are glad to gather from them that it is rather a reconstruction, than a break-up, which the chances of trade have rendered necessary." * * * Disatisfaction has been caused in Hongkong by the discovery that the Governor had paid the enhanced Military Contribution weeks before the vote was passed or even discussed in the Council. * * * The following is the financial part of the report of the Yangtsze Insurance Association (Limited): —"The Directors have now to submit to the shareholders the accounts of the Association for the 15 months ending 31st December, 1890. The net premia earned, less re-insurances, amount to $489,067.39. The balance of the underwriting account, viz., $47,212.58, has been transferred to Reserve Fund. $559,112.01 represent the balance of Reserve Fund on 16th April, 1891, and the Directors consider that pending claims in account 1889/90 and former years will absorb about $103,980.55 of this amount, leaving the Reserve Fund at about $455,131.48. Sterling exchange has been taken at 4*s.* 6*d.* per tael; the relative value between dollars and taels at 72. A dividend of $6.00 a share was paid to shareholders on the 2th March, 1890." * * * We give below the finding of a Court of Enquiry held in Shanghai on 4th and 5th May as to the wreck of the *Holme Eden*:—"The *Holme Eden* was an iron and steel vessel, schooner-rigged, of 2,220 gross registered tonnage, official number 96,586, built at South Shields in 1889, and belonging to the port of London. It appears from the evidence given before this Court that she sailed from Antwerp on Feb. 22nd, 1891, bound for Shanghai and intermediate ports with a general cargo, and a crew of 26 hands all told; that she left Hongkong on the 19th April having then on board about 1,800 tons of cargo for Shanghai; that she experienced hazy weather all up the coast, and that on the 23rd ultimo, about half-past three in the morning, while steering in a W.N.W. direction at a speed of from two to three knots she struck on Leuconna Island; that she began to fill at once, the water invading the engine-room and making the engines useless within half-an-hour of the occurrence; that fearing the vessel was about to founder, the master, officers and crew abandoned her finally in two life-boats and were rescued and brought to Shanghai by the Chinese gunboat *Chaowu* and the British screw steamship *Myrmidon* of Liverpool, official number 97,812, respectively. From the evidence, the Court is of opinion that the *Holme Eden* was lost in consequence of an unusual and strong current, setting north, and thick weather; that the master committed an error in judgment in not keeping his south-south-east course until the weather cleared sufficiently to allow him to verify his position; that after the accident the master adopted the proper measures to save the lives of the crew, and under the circumstance had no alternative but to abandon his ship. The certificates of the master and officers are returned to them accordingly."

THE DEADLY PARALLEL.

Japan Gazette's report of the trial of Mr. Okabe, published April 30th and May 4th.

Public Prosecutor (To Mr. Masuda).—When you first employed Mr. Okabe was there any agreement come to as to the way in which the Agency should be conducted?

Masuda.—There was no distinct agreement, but there was a secret understanding between us.

Mr. Okabe.—The Agency was in the habit of receiving from the Government drafts of news to be published in the newspapers. These I dealt with as I pleased. I omitted and added items, so as best to fulfil the object I had in view, the organization of a great Liberal coalition. * * * Eventually the news reached me that the object of the Government was to prevent the combination I was labouring to bring about. I did my best to bring influence to bear on the Government indirectly, to prevent their continuing the opposition they had commenced. I sent various remarks to this effect to newspapers.

The *Japan Gazette*: May 11th.

The charges brought against Mr. Okabe by the *Mail* are that he worked the Agency in his own interest, that he made what use he pleased of the news sent to him by the Government, while, according to the *Mail*, the News' Agency was established in Government interests.

Now the evidence which has been made public does not bear out any one of these charges and assertions.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

VARIOUS rumours, more or less exaggerated, have been in circulation for the past few days with reference to sweeping reductions in the staff of the Japan Mail Steamship Company. Our information is to the effect that, so far as the Japanese staff is concerned, the measure does not extend beyond a few juniors. A reduction of salaries in the upper ranks will also be probably effected. In regard to the foreign staff, the change is more radical, since it is based on a scheme of conducting the Company's business henceforth in one language entirely, namely, Japanese. This will tell especially on the agencies at the open ports, Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagasaki, where foreign managers will be no longer required. The Company will doubtless deal liberally, as has been its invariable custom, with its discharged officials.

BUDDHIST PRIESTS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THE *Kokkai* appears to have discovered some fresh evidence in American journals of scandalous proceedings in San Francisco, relating to the sale of Japanese women. The story in its latest form is that certain Buddhist priests who own four temples in America, two of them being in San Francisco, have caused girls to be brought from Japan and publicly sold into lives of shame in San Francisco. Naturally the *Kokkai* is very indignant. It tells the Buddhists that unless they take some decisive step in the matter, they will be eternally disgraced. But our contemporary does not seem to reflect that the tale itself may be entirely without foundation. Some time ago a sensational romancer published a detailed account of an auction at which he professed to have been present himself, where the wares exposed were Japanese girls. The story had all the adjuncts needed to impart a colour of truth, but official inquiry proved it to be baseless. The proceeding now laid to the charge of the Buddhist priests appears to us wholly incredible.

A DISCLAIMER.

IT is a misconception on the part of the *Japan Gazette* to say that we "defend" the Communications Department. Such is not the case. We do not happen to be among the number of foreigners possessing such "minute knowledge of Japanese affairs" as to feel justified in preferring sweeping accusations of dishonesty and corruptions against any Department of the Japanese Government. That rôle we abandon to the *Japan Gazette*. What we have endeavoured to do is nothing more than to show that the stories published by the vernacular press, and made the bases of violent charges by the *Japan Gazette*, require to be taken with reserve. The Department may be a sink of iniquity, or it may be the most immaculately honest administrative office in the world for aught that the *Japan Gazette* knows about it. It suits our contemporary to prove that everything connected with the Japanese Government is in a disgraceful condition, but it cannot expect sober-minded folks either to be convinced by its special pleading or to sympathise with its hysterics.

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY AT OSAKA.

AT the Court of Inquiry into the circumstances attending the recent explosion on the S.S. *Daisan Kounyu-Maru*, held at the Osaka Branch of the Marine Bureau on the 6th inst., it was stated that the disaster was due to the melting of some portion of the boiler owing to the insufficient quantity of water in it, and the blame is attributed to the carelessness of the engineer. This is all very well, but the engineer in driving his ship was simply acting under the captain's instructions, and to blame the engineer is not away to prevent such accidents in future. The Osaka Shosen Kaisha are said to have issued a notice warning their captains not to race, an example which has been followed by the Kyoei Sha and other companies.—*Hyogo News.*

DEATH OF AN AMERICAN NAVAL OFFICER.

THE *Rising Sun and Nagasaki Express* of the 16th instant has the following:—"We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. J. F. Bingham, chief engineer of the U. S.S. *Alliance*, which occurred at the U. S. Consulate on Monday morning last, from the effects of an attack of pneumonia. The *Alliance* was bound from Chemulpo to Yokohama, and she put in here on Sunday last in consequence of the seriousness of Mr. Bingham's illness. Deceased, who was about fifty years of age, was interred in the new cemetery at Urakame yesterday, the preliminary part of the funeral service being held in the Catholic Cathedral. The *Alliance*, we believe, proceeds to-morrow."

GOLD AND SILVER RATIOS.

THE *Official Gazette* gives the following table of comparative values of gold and silver coins and of the pound sterling for the week ended the 9th inst., as derived from the returns of the Bank of Japan and the Yokohama Special Bank:—

Day	Gold Coin. (Per *yen* 100) Silver Yen.	Pound Sterling (Per £1) Silver Yen.
4th	128.000	A.M. 6.2337
		P.M.
5th	127.000	A.M. 6.1935
		P.M.
6th	126.000	A.M. 6.2337
		P.M.
7th	126.500	A.M. 6.2337
		P.M.
8th	126.500	A.M. 6.2135
		P.M.
9th	126.800	A.M. 6.2135
		P.M.
Averages	126.700	6.2203

The above averages show for gold coin a decrease in value of *yen* 1.167 per cent., and for the pound sterling a decrease in value of *yen* 0.0697 as compared with the previous week.

THE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO KYOTO.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Kyoto under date the 14th instant:—"We left Shimbashi by special train at 6.30 a.m. on the 12th instant, and reached Kyoto at 9.10 p.m. The Emperor rested a few minutes at the station and then proceeded to the Palace, where His Majesty is now staying. It was the intention of His Majesty to call on the Crown Prince immediately, but in deference to the advice of the Prince's medical officers, the visit was deferred until the next morning. On reaching the Palace the

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Emperor caused a long telegraphic message to be sent to the Emperor and Empress of Russia, announcing his arrival in Kyoto, describing the state of the Prince, and expressing wishes for his speedy recovery. The next morning at 10 o'clock His Majesty left the Palace and proceeded to the Kyoto Hotel, where the Prince was staying. The interview lasted thirty minutes, and on returning to the Palace the Emperor again telegraphed to St. Petersburg, assuring the Czar and Czarina that their son was progressing rapidly towards recovery, and promising to report his condition from time to time. Meanwhile both Houses of the Diet had sent delegates to Kyoto to convey, through the Russian Minister, their consternation and regret at receiving intelligence of the lamentable event, and their expressions of hope for His Imperial Highness' speedy recovery. The Peers were represented by Prince Konoye, their Acting-President, and by Baron Senke, their Acting Vice-President, and the Commons by their Vice-President Mr. Tsuda, as well as by their Chief Secretary, Mr. Sone. Another deputation arrived on behalf of the Nobles not having seats in the Diet, and Counts Ito and Kuroda also came to Kyoto in the morning of the 13th instant. A little after noon a communication was received from the Crown Prince's party to the effect that they had just received a telegram from the Czar ordering them to remove the Prince to a man-of-war. They intimated their desire to comply with this direction as soon as possible. The announcement was very painful to everybody in the Palace, and the whole population of Kyoto doubtless echoed the sentiment of regret, for despite their well-known conservatism, the citizens of the Western capital had spared no effort to welcome their august visitor. It was very soon decided by the Emperor that he should accompany the Crown Prince to Kobe, and preparations for that purpose were set on foot without a moment's delay. The confusion in the Palace may be better imagined than described. His Majesty's coming had been wholly unexpected until twenty-four hours before his arrival, and barely had a little order been attained when the mandate for the visit to Kobe was issued. Leaving the Palace at 4 p.m., the Emperor drove to the Kyoto Hotel, where he was at once joined by the Crown Prince and Prince George of Greece, both of whom rode in the same carriage with His Majesty. The Czarevitch wore a suit of plain clothes, and on his head was a blue silk skull-cap fastened with a jewelled pin. The cap was so adjusted as to completely hide the wound and bandages. His Imperial Highness looked a little pale, and some observers said that his gait seemed less firm than usual, but his spirits appeared to be excellent. Alighting from the carriage, and passing between rows of Japanese dignitaries of State and nobles, the three august personages, the Emperor in the middle, the Crown Prince on the right, and Prince George of Greece on the left, entered a special train, which started a few minutes later—4.50 p.m. Several battalions of troops—numbering about five thousand men—were drawn up at the Kyoto Station. Running right through, with only a slight pause at Osaka, the train reached Sannomiya at 6.30. The original intention had been that the party should alight at the Kobe Station, but owing to some misunderstanding the Imperial carriage was waiting at Sannomiya, where it consequently became necessary to alight. The result of this was that difficulties were experienced in procuring *jinrikisha*, a great number having been sent to the Kobe Station by officials who had understood the orders correctly. Reaching the Goyo-tei, near Minato-gawa, the Prince at once proceeded to the pier at the back of the mansion, where boats were in readiness. The Emperor and the whole suite accompanied His Imperial Highness to the pier, and Prince Arisugawa (Takehito) went with him to his ship. His Majesty left Kobe at 7.50 p.m., and reached the Palace in Kyoto at 10, where he will remain for a few days. It has been decided to send a Prince of the Blood to Russia as a Special Envoy, and Viscount Yenomoto was ordered to leave Tokyo by the first train this morning, to receive instructions for accompanying the Envoy."

* * *

Telegraphic intelligence from Kobe, despatched at noon yesterday, says that Prince Arisugawa (Takehito) has been appointed Special Envoy to Russia, and that Admiral Viscount Yenomoto will accompany His Imperial Highness as Vice-Ambassador. Prince Arisugawa has hitherto been acting as President of the Reception Committee, in which office he will be succeeded by H.I.H. Prince Kitashirakawa.

* * *

Telegrams from Russia state that the official account of the affair published by the press there, represented the Czarevitch's injury as very slight, "by the grace of Providence," and announced that no change whatever would be made in the programme of his tour. But it seems to us that a hard and fast inference may not be drawn from this. The incident would naturally be treated lightly in official accounts, and since the idea that a change of programme had been necessitated would assuredly create an exaggerated impression, the Emperor doubtless directed that nothing of the kind should be intimated. Meanwhile everyone appears uncertain as to the course which the Czarevitch will ultimately take, or rather as to the instructions that will be sent to him from St. Petersburg. Something probably depends on the progress of his hurt. Japanese physicians are understood to have said that ten days would suffice to heal the wound completely, and its condition yesterday is reported to have justified this forecast. If so, the 20th or 21st will see His Imperial Highness fit to travel anywhere without pain or inconvenience, and as ten or eleven days would still remain of the period originally allotted for his stay in Japan, there may be a possibility of his spending five or six days in Tokyo after all. He has been strongly urged by the Emperor and also by Bishop Nicolai, but it is asserted that the members of his staff are opposed to any further travels in Japan. The decision, however, rests entirely with the Emperor and Empress of Russia, and as the messages despatched by Their Majesties to this Court since the 11th instant have been of a most friendly character, there is still a chance that the Prince will be permitted to come to Tokyo, and return the visit of the Emperor of Japan. If he does, he will assuredly receive such an ovation as has never been accorded, and is never likely to be again accorded, to a foreign Prince in this country.

* * *

People who were in Kyoto at the time of the Prince Imperial's sojourn there, say that not the remotest idea of danger seems to have occurred to him. He evidently felt that a holiday offered, and set about enjoying it thoroughly. Arriving at Kyoto, he was conducted to the Hotel, where the part of the building planned in Western style had been specially prepared for his reception, but he preferred to occupy the Japanese side—rooms by no means spacious or lofty. After dinner he proceeded to Maruyama and witnessed a Japanese dance, returning to his hotel at about half-past twelve. A performance of this nature had been designed for the following day, but the Prince evidently thought that a good thing could not be done too soon. Coming from the railway station, he declined to use the carriage prepared for him, preferring a *jinrikisha*. One of these conveyances had to be hired for him there and then, and the citizens, waiting to see him pass, looked with astonishment into an empty carriage, never suspecting that the occupant of a hired *jinrikisha* could be the Heir to the Throne of all the Russias. Japanese clothes, too, had a marked charm for His Imperial Highness: he wore them constantly in his hotel. A trip to Otsu and Lake Biwa had been among the items of the original programme, but the Prince signified his intention of abandoning it, and as a matter of fact a visit to various places in Kyoto, including several shops and art manufactories, was arranged for the fatal 11th. The start for Otsu by *jinrikisha* was made quite suddenly, and the tradesmen who had set their houses in order to receive the Imperial visitor waited in patient ignorance of any change of programme. As the day wore on, and the Prince did not appear, the merchant to whom he should have come last in the order of the circuit, went to see how it fared with the merchant immediately above him on the list; and finding that the latter had set out on a similar errand, followed him, so that finally the whole came together at the end of the chain. Their first intimation that something serious had occurred was conveyed by the sight of an official dashing along the Otsu road in a *jinrikisha* pulled by five men. Then all sorts of rumours began to fly. The Prince had been taken ill; had fallen into the Lake; had been overturned in his *jinrikisha;* had sprained his ankle, and so forth, no one getting near the truth, which was the very last thing conceivable, and which obtained no credence even when announced. Ultimately all Kyoto found itself waiting at the railway station. The Prince arrived in the evening, and alighting from the train, walked to his carriage without assistance. His head was bandaged, and some blood showed at the edge of the linen, but his colour was good and he betrayed no sign of suffering. The people were immensely relieved to perceive that his injury was trifling, for of course some exaggerated stories had been circulated, and many had been prepared to see the Prince carried from the train on a litter. As the exact details of the event became known, the *jinrikisha* coolies who had drawn the two foreign Princes rose to a high place in popular esteem. It appears that the habit of the Czarevitch was to ride at the head of the line of vehicles, in complete assurance of safety. He was so riding when the attack took place. Tsuda Sanzo is an accomplished swordsman. He served in the band of volunteer swordsmen organized to fight against the Satsuma rebels. A severe wound sent him to hospital, but on convalescence he again volunteered to go to the front, and after some more brave fighting was again put *hors de combat* by a wound. There is little doubt that when he drew his sword and struck at the Prince Imperial, his object point was the neck. It was here that the first display of presence of mind on the part of the man drawing the Prince's *jinrikisha* occurred. The natural impulse of a drawer under such circumstances would be to hurry his pace. But to do so would virtually place the inmate of the vehicle at the mercy of a resolute swordman on foot, who, by seizing the *jinrikisha* and running nimbly might deliver a succession of blows before his victim could escape. The Prince's drawer dropped the shafts at once, a movement the immediate effect of which was to change the relative direction of the stroke so that it fell on the Prince's cap instead of on his neck. The practised swordsman, seeing his failure, raised his weapon for a second cut, but before he could deliver it one of the *jinrikisha* men had clasped his legs and hurled him to the ground. In short the drawers of the vehicles so contrived that unless the first stroke were fatal, the Prince's life could be saved. There is every reason to think that they did save it, for a second blow of Tsuda's sword must have been serious.

S. HILDA'S HOSPITAL.

On Wednesday the 13th inst. the members of S. Hilda's mission invited a large number of the foreign residents to spend the afternoon at their house in Azabu, when an opportunity was given them of seeing something of the character of the work that is being carried on. The guests first assembled in the school-room, where the pupils of the school gave some recitations in English and also sang one or two songs in a way which gave proof of the good progress they have made in music under the instructions kindly given by Mrs. Squire. The company then dispersed over the lawn where the tea-tables were laid out under a temporary roof tastefully decorated with flags. It was lovely weather, and the view looking out over the Shinagawa bay and away to the opposite coast is one of the finest in Tokyo. During the afternoon the Hospital was open for visitors, and all without

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exception, we believe, availed themselves of this opportunity of seeing it. It has been in full working order for three months. Of the twenty-four beds, which it was constructed to hold, fourteen are already provided and occupied. Of these seven are supported by the liberality of residents in Japan, the other seven by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which has undertaken to support a bed for each one supported by private contributions up to the number of twenty. It was impossible not to be pleased with the Hospital. Every detail bore evidence of sensible management and loving care for the patients, and it was a joy to feel that this Hospital was giving an outlet for that Christian sympathy which seeks above all to benefit the poorest and weakest of our fellow creatures. The proceedings of the day closed with evening prayer in the S. Hilda's Chapel. The sermon was preached by the Right Rev. W. H. Hare, Bishop of South Dakota. The chapel has been lately improved by the gift of a handsome reredos, altar, and screen executed from designs by Mr. J. Conder, and was decorated for the occasion by some greenhouse plants kindly sent by Mr. Kirkwood. We are glad to know that the cost of the Hospital has been entirely defrayed, and that a small balance remains over in the treasurer's hands to be applied to its future maintenance.

TURBULENT SEAMEN IN THE SHANGHAI POLICE COURT.

EIGHT seamen from the British ship *John McLeod* were charged in the Shanghai Police Court on the 8th inst. with refusal of duty, and as they declined to go on board, they were ordered to be imprisoned and put on board when the ship sailed. On leaving the Court under the charge of the Assistant-usher the men saw before them the Captain, and could not resist the temptation of "going for" him. For him accordingly they went; and so hardly did they deal with him that he had to flee to the shipping office and borrow a stick, with which, returning to the field of battle—a corridor in the precincts of the Court—he heartily belaboured one or two of them. When the Captain left the scene to arm himself in defence, one of his assailants tried to follow, but was stopped by Mr. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, who endeavoured to persuade him to consider himself arrested. Scorning Mr. Wilkinson's suggestion, the man dashed into another passage. Hither followed the Crown Advocate, and to escape him the sailor doubled back upon his tracks. Mr. Wilkinson still pursued him, and at this point the pair were met by other members of the crew, one of whom, to mark his disapproval of the Crown Advocate's persistence, promptly knocked him down, and struck him twice while he lay on the floor. Having thus obtained some form of satisfaction, they all (with the exception of the unsanctified villain who had laid his unhallowed hands upon Mr. Wilkinson) retreated in good order from the building, some displaying knives; and the Consular officials, having attended to the wounded, set about preparing warrants. These were duly executed the same afternoon by an inspector and three police-constables, who found four of the insurgents seated outside a public-house, while two of their comrades discussed somewhat within. The seventh was captured elsewhere. Brought up on the following day these jolly tars cheerfully admitted that they had assaulted the Master and escaped from custody. Evidence was adduced—presumably to corroborate the truth of their admission,—and they received sentences varying from two months to six weeks with hard labour, for assaulting the Captain. On the other charge they were committed for trial.

A BRAVE CHINESE MAGISTRATE.

A JOINT memorial from the Governor-General of Yünhei, and the Governor of Yünnan, published in the *Peking Gazette*, reports in detail late disturbances in Yünnan. Recently, it seems, the population of the province has fallen off greatly, and, large tracts of land being left untenanted, people from Szechuan have not scrupled to enter on and appropriate ground to which they were not entitled. Attempts were made to prevent them but only with partial success. Finally four hundred men crossed the border and took possession of the nearest town, the treasury of which they sacked. Driven out the same night by an armed force, with the loss of forty killed and twenty one captured, they retired to another town which, having only low walls, easily fell a prey to them. "Scarcely a month had elapsed since the district magistrate had arrived at his post, and the officers of instruction had gone to the provincial capital on business. Under the circumstances there was naturally great difficulty in arranging any defensive measures, and all the magistrate could do was to send the gaol warden into the villages round about to summon the trainbands to defend the city. The rebels, however, appeared suddenly on the 23rd, and found the taking of the city an easy task. They at once robbed the treasury, and opened the prisons as they had done at Fumin." Left helpless before the rebels, what did the District Magistrate do? "Li Shih-shen, knowing that he was unable to offer any effectual resistance, donned his official robes and sat in the Court-room of the *Yamên* denouncing the action of the rebels. Needless to say they put him to death." The same issue of the *Gazette* contains a memorial as to the conduct of another District Magistrate of Yünnan who, having made himself obnoxious to the lawless characters with which that part of the province swarms by the energetic steps he took to stamp out brigandage, was silly enough to start on a journey to the provincial capital with part of the revenue of his district, attended only by a few unarmed servants. Stopped after dusk by a band of ten men armed with knives, this trustful and confiding official was put to death with four of his followers, and his treasure was carried off. A request that he should be granted some signal distinction in consideration of his loyalty, has been granted. It would be quite interesting to know what form of "distinction" the Authorities will confer upon the individual who donned his official robes, went to his Yamen and therefrom denounced—probably anathematized—the brigands who were opening his prisons and pillaging his treasury.

A FALSE REPORT.

IT was generally rumoured in Tokyo on the 12th instant that a body of Russian marines, variously estimated at from two to four hundred, had been sent from the Russian men-of-war in Kobe to Kyoto, for the purpose of guarding the hotel of the Prince Imperial. Two or three vernacular journals gave credence to the story and published it. We are glad to be able to say, however, that it is entirely baseless. Six Russian officers proceeded to Kyoto to wait upon the Prince, so soon as the news of his injury reached Kobe, but no marines were despatched, nor have we been able to learn that such a measure was mooted at all.

ACTION OF JAPANESE PUBLIC BODIES.

THE despatch of representatives of public bodies in Tokyo and elsewhere to convey messages of regret and condolence to the Prince Imperial still continues. There is hardly an association or profession, religious, political, scientific, industrial or commercial that has not taken this step. Even the inhabitants of the little town of Kawagoye, 20 miles north of Tokyo, have despatched an envoy to Kyoto. All this action, combined with the unanimous expressions of the vernacular journals indicate in the fullest manner the sentiment of the nation about the lamentable affair of the 11th instant.

NAGASAKI NEWS.

OUR Nagasaki contemporary states that Lieut. A. Ostolopoff, I.R.N., captain of the Russian "Volunteer Fleet" Steamer *Vladivostock*, the vessel which took H.I.H. the Czarewitch and party to Hankow, has been promoted to a higher rank in the Navy, and has been appointed to take command of the "Volunter Fleet" Steamer *Moskwa*, upon her arrival in Wladivostock, next month. * * * It is reported that Mr. V. Kostileff is shortly expected at Nagasaki to resume the position of Consul for Russia, in place of Mr. G. de Wollant. * * * Capt. Hook, of the Russian schooner *Nadejda*, states that upon his recent trip from this port to Wladivostock, not the slightest trace whatever was discovered of the missing whaling steamer *Genadey Nevelskoy*.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL AND THE GOVERNOR OF SHIGA.

ACCORDING to the *Nippon*, the Russian Prince Imperial has done a very gracious and thoughtful thing. When the Emperor visited the Prince in Kyoto, the latter is said to have referred to the Governor of Shiga, who had been only two days at his post when the unfortunate event of the 11th instant occurred. The Prince pointed out that, under the circumstances, it would be very hard were the Governor held responsible in any way, and that it would give him (the Prince) great pain to think that a misfortune so entirely beyond the Governor's power to prevent should be regarded as a reason for punishing him. The *Nippon* justly expresses admiration for such kind consideration.

SPECIAL EMBASSY TO RUSSIA.

IT is stated in some quarters that the Emperor has decided to send as a special Envoy to Russia Field Marshal H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa, and that the Vice-Ambassador will be Count Ito. Others assert, however, that H. I. H. Prince Kitashirakawa has been chosen for the Mission, and that the Vice-Ambassador will be Admiral Viscount Yenomoto. Colour is given to the latter forecast by the fact that Viscount Yenomoto started for Kyoto on Thursday morning by the first train.

"SOSHI" AGAIN.

WE stated a few days ago that the *Shimpo-to* of Kiushiu contemplated a big meeting in Nagasaki. It has been held, and appears to have gone off quietly enough. But as Mr. Kono Hironaka was journeying from Nagasaki to Kumamoto after the meeting, on the 12th inst., he was set upon by several *Soshi* and received two wounds. His assailants are supposed to have been connected with the *Kokken-to*, between which and the *Shimpo-to* very strained relations have existed for some time.

AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN ISE.

A NUMBER of the principal agriculturists in Ise have formed a society for the promotion of their industry, and built a *Nogyo Kan* (agricultural hall) in the "Garden of the Gods." The opening ceremony took place on the 8th instant, H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa, who has accepted the position of President, being represented by Mr. Tanaka Yoshio. The Governor of Miye was also present, and the affair passed off with great éclat.

DR. ERNEST HART.

ON Tuesday Dr. Ernest Hart lectured before the medical practitioners of the capital at the Seiyoken, Uyeno. Dr. Saneyoshi, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets, presided and interpreted the lecturer's remarks to the large audience. Afterwards Dr. and Mrs. Hart were entertained by the assembled company.

THE "TAKACHIHO MARU."

THE local agent of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha sends us the following:—"I regret to have to inform you that the steamer *Takachiho Maru*, from Vladivostock to Kobe, went on shore, in a fog at Dzususaki, Tsushima, yesterday morning about 5 o'clock. Passengers, crew, and mails will be brought on by company's steamer *Tsuruga Maru*."

ARRESTS IN TOKYO.

A *soshi* of Niigata Prefecture, by name Matsusawa Ufu, was arrested on the 11th instant, according to the *Kokkai*, on a charge of having sent a rude letter to the Prince Imperial. The same journal says that several other arrests were made on the 12th instant, but is silent as to the supposed cause of these latter seizures.

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THE VISIT OF THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL.

YOKOHAMA shows no disposition to make a demonstration of any kind in connection with the coming of the Russian PRINCE IMPERIAL. The reasons for such apathy are not easy to divine. It may be said that the local press ought to have moved in the matter. But, as every one can see, a section of the local press is so disposed that any suggestion coming from a contemporary is certain to be bitterly opposed, without reference to its merits. Conscious of this, we have kept silence. It has seemed better not to invite squabbling in connection with such a matter. To a proposal coming from others we should have lent any support in our power, but we had no desire to be the means of evoking a repetition of journalistic scenes distasteful to the better classes in the community, and discreditable to the settlement. On the other hand, it is impossible to forget that Japan is about to be visited by the future occupant of the Russian Throne, a close connection of the British Royal Family, and one of the greatest Princes in the world. There is virtually no Russian community in Yokohama, and it would have been at least a gracious act on the part of the British residents to take the lead in devising some public recognition of the occasion. In Shanghai a different spirit prevailed. The Chairman of the Municipal Council addressed a letter to the Russian Consul, explaining that in the event of the PRINCE IMPERIAL'S honouring that Settlement with a visit, a torch-light procession, a day's racing, and a public tiffin at the Club would be organized. How far these methods of celebrating the event would have been appropriate, it is unnecessary to consider. The point is that the hospitable disposition was evinced, whereas here, though its existence cannot be questioned, the fact is not shown in any public manner. We cannot believe that such a signal neglect of the duties of hospitality has the approval of the principal British residents. Doubtless one difficulty is that owing to the mixed character of the community, no nationality feels disposed to take the lead in public matter. But the visit of Prince NICHOLAS has special concern for British subjects, inasmuch as His Imperial Highness' mother is the sister of our future QUEEN, and his father's only sister is married to the Duke of EDINBURGH. To suffer him to pass through our midst without public recognition of any kind is surely a singular proceeding. Hospitality in the form of a social entertainmant need not have been thought of, and probably could not have been accepted. But an address from the British Residents would have been a simple and becoming act, not only due to the dignity of our visitor and to his connections with our own Royal Family, but also prompted by the nature of the reception prepared for him by the Japanese people, with whom in such matters we that live in their land ought surely to display some measure of sympathy.

AMERICA AND ITALY.

THE last two telegrams forwarded by Reuter indicate that the discussion between the United States of America and Italy has entered an acute stage. The Marquis DI RUDINI is said to have accused Mr. BLAINE of disregarding the diplomatic usages of civilized nations, apparently because the American Secretary of State disclaims responsibility on the part of the Washington Government for acts of individual States of the Union. We do not believe that Mr. BLAINE has laid down such a proposition. His language has doubtless been misconstrued. The last telegram tells us that he has repudiated the doctrine attributed to him by the Italian statesman. Beyond all doubt the Government at Washington is responsible for the due observance of any international covenant concluded by it in the name of the American nation, and is bound to see that no section of the nation violates such a treaty with impunity. Mr. BLAINE would not hesitate for an instant to admit this. But before basing on this principal a claim for redress, it must be proved, in the first place, that a treaty has been violated. Unless the proceedings of the New Orleans lynchers were directed against Italians *quâ* Italians, the act of lynching cannot be brought within the purview of America's Treaty with Italy. There does not appear to be any evidence in support of such a contention. The Mafia became an object of public detestation, not because of its Italian origin and components, but because its doings were intolerable in any civilized community. Further, lynching is unfortunately only too common in America. There may be excuses for it. Indeed, in connection with this very affair, English jurisconsults have argued that if the right of insurrection be vested in a people, it must assuredly include the right of insurrection against "a system under which justice is depraved, murder is condoned, and society is, in fact, thrown at the feet of any Association unscrupulous enough and powerful enough to carry out its will by organized crime." However this may be, the fact is patent that in the United States tardy justice is frequently accelerated, or defective justice supplemented, by proceedings in themselves of a lawless character. If the position taken by the Marquis DI RUDINI be pushed to its logical issue, his Excellency is found to be claiming for Italian subjects in American territory a measure of security which American citizens themselves do not enjoy. Of course the Government at Washington does not, for an instant, defend lynching. But Mr. BLAINE naturally declines to admit the proposition that the Administration of an independent country is bound to exercise, on behalf of aliens, a degree of protective vigilance and punitory restraint which it does not consider essential to the safety of its own nationals. Italians going to America in pursuit of private profit and convenience, must take America as they find it, and as Americans themselves find it. The extent of the Sovereign rights enjoyed by each State of the Union may, as in the present case, seem to impair the competence of the Central Government to guarantee the due observance of covenants binding upon all the States alike. But surely every one will admit that any treaty concluded by the Washington Cabinet must be within the limits of the Constitution. Were it evident that the machinery for preserving law and order in Louisiana is insufficient, or that the security enjoyed by citizens of that State is not extended to foreigners living there under treaty, then the Central Government might properly be required by Italy to interfere for the conservation of the latter's treaty privileges. But nothing of the kind has been proved. A terrible act of violence was, indeed, committed, and its victims happened to be Italians, some of whom were naturalized American citizens. The New Orleans authorities are now earnestly engaged investigating the affair and taking such steps as seem necessary in its sequel. More than that they may not be required to do. The Marquis DI RUDINI cannot expect the Government at Washington to occupy Louisiania as a State in rebellion so long as it abstains from any attitude of revolt, or to deprive it of judicial autonomy so long as its tribunals do not lend themselves to the screening or condoning of crime. It is difficult to acquit Italy of precipitancy in this matter. At a very early stage of the discussion the Italian Foreign Minister asked the American Government to pledge itself that the perpetrators of the lynching should be punished—an administrative pledge which the judiciary alone could fulfil. We make no doubt that all American citizens sympathise with Italy's feelings, and approve her zeal to protect the lives of her subjects wherever they may be. But sentiment and statesmanship ought to be kept separate. America cannot be in the smallest degree perturbed by any contingency connected with Italian hostility. Incomparably more important to her is her reputation for just and upright dealing. Mr. BLAINE is plainly endeavouring, with success we think, to preserve a calm and dignified tone, and while not failing in his duty as the mouthpiece of a great nation, to show clearly that to the utmost limits dictated by justice his Government is prepared to go, and would go whether Italy spoke or kept silence.

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ATTACK UPON THE RUSSIAN PRINCE IMPERIAL IN OTSU.

AN affair of a grave and lamentable character occurred on Monday at Otsu. According to the programme arranged for the Russian CROWN PRINCE, His Imperial Highness went in the forenoon from Kyoto to Otsu by train, and having lunched at the official residence of the Governor, proceeded by *jinrikisha* to Lake Biwa. This method of conveyance was chosen as more suitable than a carriage to the nature of the roads, and because some of the places to be visited are difficult of access. There were a large number of *jinrikisha* in the train. In what order they were marshalled we have not learned, but it is probable that the PRINCE rode first, and what is certain is that immediately behind the *jinrikisha* of the PRINCE IMPERIAL and PRINCE GEORGE of GREECE armed guards were riding. A strong force of police, told off for service along the road, had been placed at intervals, forming a line on either side from the offices of the Prefecture to the Lake. Among the policemen was one TSUDA SANZO, belonging to the Moriyama Station. This man seems to have lost his reason as the cortége approached. Drawing his sword, he stepped up from the rear at the moment when the PRINCE'S *jinrikisha* passed, and struck at its occupant, inflicting a wound on the side of the forehead. One of the men drawing the PRINCE'S *jinrikisha* at once seized the lunatic and threw him down, while another coolie, getting possession of his sword, gave him two severe but not fatal sword-cuts, after which he was arrested. The PRINCE'S wound was about three inches long, but happily not of a serious character. He showed no signs of faintness, and after having had his head tied up by one of the escort, he returned to the Governor's house and received medical treatment. Three hours later—3 o'clock—he was able to remount his *jinrikisha*, and drive to the Baba station, where he entered a special train at 3.50 p.m. and proceeded to Kyoto. A telegram despatched from the latter place at 5.40 p.m. said that His Imperial Highness showed no signs of weakness or suffering, and that *en route* from Otsu to Kyoto, he conversed constantly with his suite. Telegraphic news of the event reached Tokyo at half-past two, and naturally produced great excitement. The EMPEROR was profoundly affected, and the EMPRESS broke down completely. Orders were at once issued, in compliance with which H.I.H. Prince KITASHIRAKAWA, having in his suite Dr. TAKAGI, Principal Medical Officer of the Navy, Dr. IKEDA, Court Physician, and a number of officials of the Household Department, set out for Kyoto by the train leaving Shimbashi at 4.45 p.m., and were consequently on their way to the PRINCE IMPERIAL before the latter had reached Kyoto from Otsu. A Cabinet meeting was also held. Their Excellencies Counts MATSUKATA, SAIGO, and YAMADA, Viscounts AOKI and KABAYAMA, and Mr. MUTSU were present, and the EMPEROR himself presided, there being also in attendance Court Councillors Count KURODA, Viscount YAMAO, and Admiral MAKI, Privy Councillors Count OKI and Viscount SANO, the Vice-Minister of the Foreign, Home, and War Offices, and several other high officials. The meeting lasted until five o'clock. Orders had meanwhile been given to prepare a special train, and by this, at 9 o'clock p.m., their Excellencies the Ministers of State for Home and Foreign Affairs set out for Kyoto, accompanied by Drs. HASHIMOTO and SCRIBA, and Mr. H. W. DENISON. The EMPEROR, immediately on receiving intelligence of the affair, announced his intention of visiting the PRINCE IMPERIAL in Kyoto, and HIS MAJESTY left Tokyo for that purpose by a special train at 6.10 a.m. following morning.

The only ray of comfort in this terrible affair is that the PRINCE IMPERIAL suffered so slightly. When we remember that the police carry Japanese swords, that owing to the attack coming from a constable on duty, HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS was at the man's mercy, and that the blow actually reached its mark, it is impossible not to feel that very much more serious consequences might easily have resulted. Indeed, when the first news, necessarily meagre as to the nature of the hurt, reached Tokyo, the worst was feared, and not until the receipt of intelligence that the PRINCE had been able to proceed by train to Kyoto three and a half hours after the affair, were these apprehensions allayed. It was then understood that if any considerable hemorrhage had ensued, or if the injury to the skull had been at all alarming, a journey occupying some two hours by *jinrikisha* and train would not have been allowed, and this favourable view was confirmed by the news that HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS had arrived at the Tokiwa Hotel in Kyoto at a little after five o'clock, without suffering any inconvenience *en route*, or showing any signs of weakness. As to the man by whom the attempt was made, the only conclusion to be formed is that he laboured under an attack of temporary insanity. He has expressed penitence for his deed, and stated that he lost control of himself, from which we infer that after the excitement of the moment, he recovered his senses. Whether he obeyed an impulse of fanaticism growing out of international prejudice, or whether he is to be classed with those men of unstable moral equilibrium found in all countries, who make attempts upon the lives of a Sovereign simply because of his exalted position, we cannot pretend to divine at present. His act will bring heavy disgrace upon Japan. In England, in France, in Germany, in Russia, in the United States of America, in all the most highly civilized countries of the world, people are found from time to time who set themselves with fierce deliberation to assassinate rulers. But Japan will be harshly judged, because her annals have always been more or less disfigured by the stain of blood, and because recourse to the sword seems still to commend itself to not a few of her people under circumstances of excitement or embarrassment. The world will say, not that an act of delirium has been committed, as is said in the case of other countries, but that an old-time tendency has been again displayed. The fact that the madman was one of the policemen charged with the duty of guarding the PRINCE, will also be injuriously construed; though in truth it is nothing more than a coincidence. Among a large force of constables a fanatic may be found at any moment as well as amid a crowd of onlookers, and against such a contingency the Authorities cannot guard. What is especially unfortunate is that the really hearty welcome prepared by Japan for her Imperial visitors, should be thus completely marred. The PRINCE will doubtless embark at Kobe, and continue his journey by sea, cutting short the rest of his contemplated programme, and the fact will remain that he could not with safety go on travelling in Japan. Instead of bringing the two States closer together, as the visit was doubtless intended to do, it will probably have the opposite effect. Meanwhile, it cannot be denied that the Government in Tokyo has taken every step possible or proper under the circumstances. The immediate despatch of Prince KITASHIRAKAWA to Kyoto, followed by the departure of the Ministers of State for the same place, and the journey thither of the EMPEROR himself, represent the fullest amend conceivable. The whole nation is doubtless thoroughly shocked by the event, and will leave nothing undone to express its regret.

CRUELTY TO HORSES IN TOKYO.

THE comments that recently appeared in this journal on the subject of cruelty to horses in Tokyo have provoked in the editorial sanctum of the *Kokkai Shimbun* precisely the sentiment that we sought to disarm. The *Kokkai* fully agrees with our protest, so far as the principle goes, and says that it experiences a sentiment of great indignation when it sees the drivers of vehicles violently lashing "half dead" animals in the streets of the capital. But our contemporary then proceeds to ask whether there are not some foreigners in Japan who beat or kick their Japanese servants or bettos in the same manner as the inhuman drivers thrash their horses. "We should hesitate to assert," adds the *Kokkai*, "that even among Christian Missionaries there are none who behave in this way." The moral finally pointed is that, as in this matter of cruelty to horses, so in many

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things affecting Treaty Revision, the foreigner is unconscious of the beam in his own eye while trying to pick out the mote from the eye of the Japanese. We presume that the *Kokkai* has some warrant for what it writes about the ill-treatment of Japanese servants by foreigners, but for our own part, in the course of the past ten years, and among a tolerably wide circle of friends and acquaintances, we have known of only one instance of a foreign employer attempting to punish a Japanese employé in the manner indicated, and the result of the attempt was that the foreigner not only had to defend himself against very forcible retaliation, but soon found it impossible to obtain a respectable servant. The *Kokkai* scarcely knows its own countrymen if it imagines that they will stand being treated like quadrupeds. In the early days of foreign intercourse with Japan, there certainly was a disposition to behave towards the Japanese after the usual fashion observed by Occidentals in their dealings with Orientals. But the Japanese soon showed that they would not suffer anything of the kind, and moreover their own invariably kindly and obliging demeanour ultimately disarmed the masterful truculence of such foreigners as evinced a disposition to behave roughly. Even at that time, however, the foreigner who used his feet and hands to enforce his desire, was altogether the exception, and we should be surprised to learn that so much as half a dozen of his kind continue to indulge their passion in the same way to-day. As for the Missionaries, the *Kokkai's* insinuation seems in their case singularly unjust. Their conduct towards the Japanese is proverbially gentle and polite—not infrequently, indeed, it appears to err in superfluity of these qualities—and if among the many hundreds of earnest men engaged in the work of Christian propagandism in Japan, there be so much as one who kicks or beats his Japanese servants, the *Kokkai* must know that his behaviour would be a byword and a reproach among his colleagues did it come under their notice. Rough speaking, indeed, is occasionally heard. We have seen men, otherwise staid, sensible, and courteous, who seem to imagine that they assert their manliness or establish their superiority by using passionate and violent words towards Japanese servants in clubs, hotels, and even private houses. Generally the person thus disgracing himself possesses a smattering of the Japanese language, not enough to convey his meaning to men unfamiliar with his confused phraseology, but quite enough to give him a good opinion of his own attainments and to make him resent very bitterly any conjuncture that exposes his incompetence. It is strange to observe how quickly these folks arrive at the "bakka" and "chikusho" stage of a dialogue, keenly humiliating to the person addressed and very distressing to their audience—strange to observe it, because, if there were question of helping a Japanese in distress or of doing a charitable action, these very persons would be conspicuous for generosity and activity. Frankly speaking, however, and considering the question as directly as possible from the *Kokkai's* standpoint, we cannot perceive that there is any reasonable cause to complain of the general behaviour of the foreign residents towards the Japanese. At the same time, we understand very well that the spirit of the time does not lend itself to any favourable view of Occidental ethics. The mood of Japan to-day is almost morbidly self-asserting. Her people have revolted against a perpetual assumption of superiority on the part of Europeans, and no thoughtful person is surprised at their protest, for however axiomatic that superiority may appear to Europeans themselves, the Japanese cannot be expected to admit it. Being human, they have been seriously offended by their quiet and unquestioned relegation to a lower place in the scale of races; and for the rest, to have tacitly accepted the humiliating classification, would have been to establish its justice. So long, however, as sentiment occupies the platform, justice must be content to take a back seat, and we would ask the *Kokkai* to avoid these exacerbating issues, and to assist us in preserving against recrimination and invidious comparison the grave question of cruelty to animals. Even though foreigners were guilty of the inhumanity attributed to them, the treatment of horses in the streets of Tokyo would not be palliated, for two wrongs do not make a right. In bringing this matter to public notice, there is not the smallest intention of casting needless reproach upon the Japanese. On the contrary, the object is to save them from the reproach that will inevitably attach to them if the methods now practised be not checked. We should have thought that a journal like the *Kokkai*, recognising this, would be among the first to assist in bringing about a reform dictated not less by the interests of Japan's reputation than by the principles of humanity. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Jiji Shimpo*, and the *Mimpo* have taken up the question in a spirit of frank appreciation, and their cōoperation leads us to hope that a practical remedy will be found ere long.

TSUDA SANZO.

THE name of TSUDA SANZO has now to be added to that little band of malefactors who, in recent years, have done so much to bring disgrace on their country. NISHINO BUNTARO, KURUSHIMA TSUNEKICHI, and TSUDA SANZO, these three men head the list of Japan's worst enemies. It has been said that Viscount MORI'S murderer was a religious fanatic, and the would-be assassin of Count OKUMA a political agitator. Such definitions are rough and unsatisfactory. They do not reach below the surface. Every human action may easily be included in some empirical category, the limits of which are fixed by purely abstract considerations. On the other hand, every exceptional act is the result of exceptional circumstances, and the true interest of the event lies in an analysis of its circumstances. Religious fanaticism is scarcely conceivable on the part of a disciple of the Shinto cult. The essence of that faith is a placid belief in the reality of the present and in the imperiousness of every-day duty. Its tenets do not lend themselves to any development of ecstasy or growth of romantic phrensy. Under only one aspect is it capable of moving men to fervour, and that is a non-religious aspect. Because NISHINO BUNTARO believed that the halo of Shinto divinity is the only stable rampart of the *Tenshi's* Throne, and because he imagined that the leading statesmen of his time were careless of this sacred tradition, he set out on his expedition of stabbing. For KURUSHIMA TSUNEKICHI, again, politics, as the word is interpreted in the West, had no real significance. He seems to have grasped only one conception, that his country's dignity was about to be impaired, and under the influence of that chimera he proceeded to throw a bomb at Count OKUMA, and to kill himself. The two men obeyed the same impulse under a different form—fanaticism, patriotism, hysteria, call it by what name we please. TSUDA SANZO'S case seems to be entirely analogous. A man of gentle birth, he had served the nation not without distinction. He therefore possessed the qualifications which, according to the *Samurai's* creed, dedicate a Japanese, of however humble rank, to his country or his fief. Taciturn, bigotted, rigidly subservient to the minutiæ of duty, decorated for military merit and with fifteen years' good service to his credit, yet only a common constable, he was just the sort of person to brood moodily and discontentedly over any cause of popular excitement. The coming of the CZAREVITCH had greatly perturbed a section of the Japanese public. Strange, uneasy rumours were circulated about the purpose of his visit. From the silly story that his object was to spy out the land, to the crazy canard that his detour to Kagoshima had been planned with the hope of provoking outrage, lurid mysteries were whispered here and there. The upper classes, the nation at large, had no share in such follies nor any sympathy with them. But to TSUDA SANZO they probably became a nightmare. They may not have suggested to him any definite line of action. All experience goes to prove that the moral disturbance which culminates in acts of public violence, is generally developed by stages imperceptible to its victim. The Malay who draws his kris and runs amok in the market-place, the British soldier who suddenly takes his rifle from

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the rack and begins to shoot his comrades—each alike has been unconscious of the gradual abrasion of moral fibre that preceded the final snap. Sometimes the nature of the last impulse cannot be detected; sometimes it is conspicuous. Up to the instant when TSUDA SANZO unsheathed his sword in Kyomachi, it is very conceivable that he had entertained no design against the person of the CZAREVITCH. Years, perhaps, of discontent about his own circumstances, days and weeks of sullen angry reflection about the coming of the Russian PRINCE IMPERIAL and its possible eventualities, had brought him to the verge of hysteria, and when the tumult and pageant of the cortége fell upon his senses, the power of moral control deserted him, and he became for the moment an irresponsible madman. It is possible that his case belongs to the catagory of ordinary lunacy. There seems to be a strain of madness in his family. His brother had to be placed under restraint several years ago, and of TSUDA himself it is asserted that, two years before his enrolment in the police force, he was threatened for a time with loss of reason. But this is not a point of great importance. It does not affect the general inference to be drawn, as we think, from such cases as the above, namely, that the course of events in modern Japan has moved and is moving too fast for the moral equilibrium of a section of the nation. A small section, doubtless, it nevertheless produces TSUDA, FUKUSHIMA, NISHINO, and the *soshi*—men who believe themselves patriots, but are in reality their country's most deadly foes, since they bring upon her disgrace which all her progress cannot efface. Carefully considered, their murderous deeds are all protests, clumsy and brutal, but still sincere, against changes too swift and bewildering for their conception. As the tide of events sweeps them out of sight of the old landmarks, they strike desperately and fiercely against everything on the crest of the waves, insensible of the real and irresistible forces of attraction. Such men, it seems to us, have to be reckoned with by Japanese administrators to-day. They are a product of the time. Elsewhere their existence would reveal itself in the form of secret plots and treasonable conspiracies. Here an instinctive tendency to self-sacrifice, and perhaps, a trace of hysteria running through the national character, impels them to acts of individual desperation. The problem of government is greatly complicated by such conditions, but to ignore their existence would be to augment their mischievous capacity. They have to be stoutly dealt with. Thoroughly restraining checks should be imposed on everything tending to increase the tension of the time. Newspaper editors, political agitators, public speakers, members of parliament, Government officials, have to watch that the highly wrought sentiment of the day is not pushed beyond the limits of rational control. The statesmen who best understand the situation, and have most courage and competence to deal with it, cannot afford to efface themselves to-day for the sake of some theory of progress or sentiment of pride.

THE CROWN PRINCE'S TOUR.

THE decision taken by the Russian PRINCE IMPERIAL, and promptly acted on, to proceed from Kyoto to the squadron in Kobe and have his wound treated on board ship, is said to have been dictated by a telegraphic message to that effect from the Emperor of RUSSIA. This will of course be interpreted as an indirect intimation to Japan that her measures for the protection of her Imperial visitor are not regarded with entire confidence. It is easy to understand, however, that while the EMPEROR and EMPRESS of Russia are unwilling to inflict any humiliation on Japan, and have every disposition to view this sad affair leniently, Their Majesties' anxiety on account of their son must be too absorbing to be allayed until the PRINCE is safely back in his own ship. In St. Petersburg it has naturally been argued that if one of the men trusted to guard the PRINCE could raise his hand against him, inplicit reliance cannot be placed on any programme of protection. But beyond that reasonable reflection, there is not the least probability that any harsh verdict will have been passed on Japan, by the CZAR at any rate. HIS MAJESTY, unhappily, is only too familiar with the consequences of those mad impulses that drive men to aim at the lives of Sovereigns and Potentates in every country. We have heard it said in connection with this shocking event that the Japanese are barbarians, savages, and so forth. Such extravagant expressions must not be taken seriously. The excitement and indignation inspired by immediate contemplation of a deed like that of TSUDA SANZO, may well impel people to utter passionate protests, which reason and reflection will not endorse. No one thinks of calling the French a nation of barbarians and savages because the grandfather of this very PRINCE IMPERIAL was shot at in Paris, or because King ALFONSO of Spain was insulted in the streets of the same city. Moreover, it would be easy to point to countries, standing in the very foremost rank of civilization, where the Authorities would to-day decline to accept the responsibility of guarding the ruler of any and every European State, or a Prince of his family, on a tour throughout the land. During his travels in India and Ceylon, the precautions observed with regard to the CROWN PRINCE, and strengthened by his own cōoperation, were of the most minute and thorough character. There the existence of ground for apprehension was plainly recognised and acted upon. But in Japan the public regarded the PRINCE'S coming with absolute confidence. Many other European Princes had visited the country, and travelled through almost every part of it, without experiencing the smallest rudeness or inconvenience. Japan, in fact, had come to be counted the paradise of tourists; a place where strangers might journey to and fro at all times and seasons, sure to find everywhere a kindly greeting and helpful reception. Such a record cannot be obliterated by a solitary incident like that of the 11th instant at Otsu; an incident that has thrown the whole nation into a state of pain and indignation, evoking from newspapers of every party and every shade of opinion, the most unqualified and obviously genuine expressions of sorrow and shame. On the other hand, we cannot hide from ourselves the fact that the country has drifted, during the past few years, into a mood, if not of tolerance, certainly of nonchalance, towards a certain type of its unruly elements. Identical conjunctures evoke very dissimilar forms of protest from different individuals. While one man is content to denounce the contingency of foreign aggression from the platform of a debating society or in the columns of the press, another may cut his throat in a churchyard—as did OHARA BUKEI on the 3rd of April—to emphasise his notions, and a third, like TSUDA SANZO, may seek to take the life of a foreign Prince. This is Japan's difficulty, that a little band of her people, having fallen behind the times—the too swiftly moving times—continue to rely on the guidance of traditions no longer compatible with her circumstances. The harangues of political agitators, the diatribes of party organs, though not urging men of the new school beyond Constitutional methods, may turn the disciples of the old to the suicide's dagger or the murderer's sword. When strong men were in power, they understood that the sermon of free thought must not be unrestrainedly preached to an audience including such an element, and that restrictions sufficient in the case of students of the modern civilization, might prove dangerously inadequate in other instances. But it is not altogether so now, and the consequences are apparent. Indulgence in mediæval methods cannot safely co-exist with the practice of modern principles, and while understanding, we cannot regard without apprehension, the tenderness of the nation towards its ancient types. The incident at Otsu may perhaps shock the country into a livelier sense of its situation, for whatever may have been the motive or moral condition of TSUDA SANZO, it must be evident that the license enjoyed by the *soshi* and the romantic leniency shown towards the memory of men like NISHINO and KURUSHIMA, are calculated to multiply such malefactors.

We cannot tell how much value Russia attaches to Japanese friendship, but judging by her policy during the past fifteen

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years, she plainly desires to be conciliatory. It may be, therefore, that the EMPEROR will allow the CROWN PRINCE to continue his journey to Tokyo, where His Imperial Highness could count on a most enthusiastic reception from all classes of the people. Such a step would not only avert the untoward consequences with which this incident may be fraught, but would arouse throughout the length and breadth of Japan a sentiment of hearty gratitude towards the reigning family in Russia. If, however, this view does not prevail in St. Petersburg, Japan has only to accept the situation with whatever resignation she can command. It is exceedingly painful that her hospitality, always hitherto practised with heartiness and profusion, should have been so conspicuously discredited, and it will be still more painful if the whole nation is made to suffer for the act of a solitary fanatic or madman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PAPYROGRAPHY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent whose letter appeared in to-day's issue, permit me to quote from "Enquire Within upon Everything," a little work published by Houlston and Sons, London, what I think will fully answer his question:—

"For those who would like to make a gelatine 'graph' we append the following recipe:—Six parts by weight of pure glycerine, four parts by weight of water, two parts of barium sulphate, and part one of sugar. Mix them, and let them soak for twenty-four hours; then melt at a gentle heat, stir until thoroughly mixed, and pour the composition into a tray. Any chemist will supply an aniline dye for the ink."

Yours truly,

S. S. S.

Hongo, Tokyo, May 8th, 1891.

MUNICIPAL NOMENCLATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—May I trouble you again with some notes upon the subject of municipal nomenclature? There are a few points in the communication of your correspondent, "J," which hardly agree with the facts as they have come to my notice.

First of all let me mention his rendering of *fu* or *metropolis*. Whatever word be adopted must be applicable, not merely to Tokyo *Fu*, but to each of the three *fu*. Either *city* or *metropolis* would answer fairly well for Tokyo, because of the very intimate relations subsisting between the outlying towns and villages and the central *shi*; but there is no such harmony of interests between the outlying districts and the *shi*, in the case of Osaka *Fu*; certainly not in the case of Kyoto *Fu*. Let me commend to your correspondent the trip from Kyoto to Miyazu, sixty miles more or less (all within the limits of the *fu*) over the hills of Tamba and Tango. It is not merely that the territory is large, though that is no small matter since it is nearly a third larger than the whole State of Rhode Island, exclusive of Narragansett Bay, but it is the fact that the wide diversity of social and commercial interests is utterly inconsistent with the unity implied in the word, "metropolis," which constitutes the strength of the objection to the use of that term. To the Japanese, the chief reason for maintaining a different term for the two sets of political divisions is found in their history, and not in the present character of their respective constitutions. The only difference of special moment that attracts the attention of the Japanese of my acquaintance is found in the fact, that, in the case of the three *fu*, the governor acts also as the head of the central *shi*; but this arrangement is far from satisfactory, and it is confidently expected that ere long the mayors of these cities also will be elected by the people. If we have in English words which will suggest the development of the present *fu* and *ken* from the *fu* and *ken* of feudal days, then by all means let us use them; but if not, both scholarship and convenience would seem to favour the abandonment of the attempt to distinguish things which are now, for all practical purposes, essentially the same, and adopt the term "prefecture" which, both by derivation and long established usage, seems to fit the character of these political divisions better than any other which has been proposed. Both the Latin *praefectura* and the English *prefecture* (for the word is well naturalised) are used with reference to the territory which is governed, as well as the dignity, or office, of the one who governs.

It is also an error to represent the constitution of the *kori* of a *fu* as different from that of the *kori* of a *ken*. Both will be found precisely the same, unless my information deceives me. *Cho*, that is to say, towns, are to be found subordinate to the *kori* in both *fu* and *ken*, but there will be found no such subordination of the *shi*, I think, in either. Judging by the last issue of the "Shichoson Ichiran," there are some forty *shi* in Japan, and not one of them is connected with a *kori*. While, speaking in general terms, it may be well enough to say that the current classification is based upon population, it must not be supposed that this is an invariable rule; for we find Fukushima *Shi* with a population of 13,919, but Yokosuka *Cho* with 31,598; and Shin Minato Son in Etchu with 16,459, but many *cho* with less than 10,000. The number of these exceptions is very large, and indicates the strong influence of other considerations than that of population in determining the character of the municipal government.

With many apologies for trespassing at such length upon your valuable space, I remain

Yours respectfully, D.C.G.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held on Wednesday, Rev. Dr. Ameman in the chair.

The SECRETARY intimated that at the next meeting there would be presented to the Society a revised edition of the rules.

Major-General PALMER then read a paper on *Hana-Awase*, a Japanese game at cards. Card playing, he said, seemed to have prevailed in Japan for about three hundred years, and to have been introduced by the Spaniards or Portuguese, the name *Karuta* having been probably imported. But neither the games now played nor the cards betokened a foreign origin. The earliest form of game it was said, was played with cards very much like foreign cards, and from this was developed the *mekuri-karuta* which latter only survived among the lower classes, while the earlier game was now extinct. Griffis in his "Mikado's Empire" mentioned six kinds of card playing, and briefly described three, but made no mention of the really fine game called *Hana-awase* (the matching of flowers) which, played nearly always for money, was the fashion of to-day. His reason for omitting reference to the game was that it was then, except perhaps at the New Year, very seldom played by respectable people. But within the last ten years a great change had taken place and *hana-awase* was now very popular; it was the universal rage and was played in all classes of society, where two or three Japanese were gathered together with nothing particular to do. In his effort to master the details of the game the lecturer would have been helpless without the aid of Japanese friends. In his study of the game he had the assistance of Messrs. Yokoyama and Mori, the former one of the finest players in Japan, and the author of the best existing handbook on the game. The pack consisted of 48 cards, 12 suits of 4 cards each and these suits were named and decorated after several kinds of flowers and other vegetation which, except in the last two cases, were usually associated in the minds of the Japanese with certain months of the year. General Palmer here directed attention to a table showing the arrangements of the suits, of which the following is a summary:—

Pine (*Matsu*)	January.
Plum (*Ume*)	February.
Cherry (*Sakura*)	March.
Wistaria (*Fuji*)	April.
Iris (*Negi*)	May.
Tree Peony (*Botan*)	June.
Lespedeza (*Hagi*)	July.
Eularia Japonica (*Tsuki, Bosu*)	August.
Chrysanthemum (*Kiku*)	September.
Maple (*Momiji*)	October.
Willow (*Shigure*)	November.
Paullownia (*Kiri*)	December.

The cards used were two inches long and a little over an inch wide, and were made of millboard about as thick as the modern Western playing card. The method of decoration was representative of the twelve names of the suits, and might either be of the ordinary kind, of which a diagram was exhibited, or hand painted, in which case they might cost several *yen*. As a rule the greater the face value of any card the more elaborately was it decorated. The first in value were the four *Shikamono*, or Brilliants, namely the commanding cards of the *Matsu, Sakura, Bosu*, and *Kiri* suits. These were usually more highly decorated than the others, as in the case of "the blossoms in the Palace garden," *gotensakura*, the *kiri-no-oo*, and so on. The commanding card of the *Shigure* suit, *o-ame*, was equal to a Brilliant in counting the hand (that is having the value of 20 chips of one point each) but had no other property of a Brilliant. The commanding cards of the *Ume, Fuji, Negi, Botan, Hagi, Kiku*, and *Momiji* suits, and the second cards of the *Bozu* and *Shigure* suits came next, having a value of 10 points each, except for the process of reckoning in *Teyaku*, in which the *Shigure* second card only counted one. These were called the *Ike-mono*. Next came the *Tanzakumono* distinguished by having a coloured bar across the decoration to represent a strip of paper, which, with other cards which he described, had a value of 5 points each; and lastly there came the *Kasu-mono* (trash or refuse) 24 in number, consisting of the last 2 cards of the first 10 suits, the 4th of the *Shigure* and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of the *Kiri*, which had a value of one point each. The peculiarity of the *Shigure* hand was that while its cards, for counting the players' hands at the end of the game, reckoned respectively 20, 10, 5, and 1, they were only valued for the *Teyaku* as *Kasumono*, counting one each. Here another diagram was exhibited showing the value of the 48 cards, the total being 264, 3 times 88, or 22 times 12. As many as seven persons might sit down, but only three could come into the game at one time, and each player played his own game. The deal and the dealing went round from the right towards the left, that is the wrong way. The sitter on the dealer's left acted as "pony" and shuffled the spare pack for the next deal. In all seven cards were dealt to each player and six were placed on the table as banco. In the matter of declaring to play a complicated system of forfeits was practised. If there were more than three players, say five, only three could play and the third in order must wait till the two before him had declared, and then negotiate with Nos. 4 and 5 with the view of buying them out, in which case they were exempt from forfeit. Coming now to the *Teyaku*, to which previous reference had been made, the lecturer said each player must at the outset declare whether he held *Teyaku*, that is one of twelve specific combinations, in which each of the four cards of the *Shigure* counted simply one, as *Kasumono*. The object of the play was for each player to match as many cards as possible of the same suit, and to gain as many high value cards as possible. Having described the conditions of *Dekiyaku* which would consist in the holding of the four Brilliants and the *o ame*, or one of a limited number of other combinations, the General explained the methods of counting the value of the cards for *Hana-awase*. For this purpose every point above 88 counted to a player's credit, and every point under to his debit. The method of reckoning the total score *Teyaku* was also described. In each case the deal passes to the highest score in *hana-awase*, and twelve deals make the game. The counters were of two kinds, *Kwanki* of 12 points each, and chips value one point each. Having described the process of settling up at the close of a game, General Palmer said in conclusion that the game embodied the features of first class card playing—as it required good memory, good judgment, skill in calculating chances, and great readiness in counting, and it was affected by the element of luck to about the same extent as Western card games. Japanese who were familiar with poker, declared that *Hana-awase* surpassed it in its combination of skill and luck. Calling attention to the prevalence of 12 and its multiples in the counting of the game, the lecturer said that as the Japanese year was divided into twelve months long before the introduction of *Hana-awase* there seemed no *prima facie* reason why the game should not be of Japanese origin. Perhaps some one versed in card lore and acquainted with the games played two centuries ago by the Portuguese and Spaniards might throw some light on the subject.

Remarks having been invited,

Dr. KNOTT said he had been struck by the prevalence of the figure 12 and regarded it as a good feature, because it was a well known fact that speaking generally Japanese were not mental arithmeticians, and were specially defective in the use of the figure 12. Their soroban was based on the decimal system, and he thought it a great advantage for

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them to have a game of cards which compelled them to calculate in twelves. He found his students very bad at this kind of arithmetic, and attributed it to their not having played the game of *Hana awase*. The manner of grouping hand values was very like the grouping in poker, but he could not think of any other game that at all resembled this in the complicated manner of counting.

Mr. WIGMORE suggested that in this respect the game might be compared with bezique.

General PALMER explained that though he had worked out the method of calculation as shown, it was really very much simplified by the use of the *Kwanki* or *Kwan*. The *Teyaku* value of the hand was declared, and marked at the outset of the deal, and when a player played one of his *Teyaku* cards he usually drew attention to the fact.

In answer to the CHAIRMAN,

General PALMER read a foot-note to his paper, which stated that *Hana awase* came in about 150 or 200 years ago. Its development was obscure because as a gambling game it was prohibited, but some ingenious person devised the name *Hana-awase* to cloak its real character.

Mr. CLAY MCCAULEY said he thought it was quite certain that the game was not always played for money, as at Miyanoshita he had seen people playing it purely for amusement.

General PALMER coincided with this view.

Mr. WIGMORE thought one reason of the game's success was its enormous number of checks against cheating. It was impossible for any one to foresee the end; he might be 150 to the good in the first kind of counting, and be away in the rear in the next kind.

The CHAIRMAN conveyed the thanks of the meeting to General Palmer for his most interesting lecture, and the proceedings terminated.

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

San Francisco, 25th.

The Presidential progress, which began a fortnight ago in Virginia, will culminate, so far as this coast is concerned, next week in San Francisco. Mr. Harrison and party, including his wife and friends, his son, Private Secretary, Secretary Rusk of the Agricultural Bureau, and Postmaster John Wanamaker, together with three licensed reporters, left Washington on 12th for a tour through the South and far West. It was like other Presidential progresses, in that the President delivered brief discourses at each city through which he passed, in which he praised the fertility of the soil, and the beauty of the women; unlike all others, in that the only reporters allowed in the party were three representatives of Eastern press syndicates, who were sworn to transmit nothing that had not received the imprimatur of Russell Harrison. An enterprising reporter who went from this city to join the party at the State line, was unceremoniously put off the cars in the Colorado desert. The wisdom of this arrangement has been demonstrated by the excellent figure which the progress cuts in the papers. Everything passes off smoothly, without contretemps. Everybody is always in good temper and genially disposed. The President's own speeches are polished, and the points touched up with excellent taste. At every place reached the enthusiasm of the people, and the bonhomie of the Chief Magistrate are duly recorded. Never was so triumphant a march before.

The leading speech of the progress, thus far, was delivered at Galveston, Texas. In it the President dwelt upon the reciprocity feature of the new Government policy, and informed his audience that several Spanish American states were about to follow the example which had been set by Brazil, and to admit to their markets, free, such American products as lard, provisions, breadstrips, lumber, and handware. Without wasting time in trying to reconcile this policy with the doctrines of protection, the President went on to assure his Texas hearers that he was in favour of improving the harbour of Galveston at the national expense. He said he was also ardently in favour of steamship subsidies. On this subject, he talked well and clearly. He said:—

> The last Congress passed a bill appropriating about $1,500,000 and authorizing the Postmaster-General to contract with steamship companies for a period not exceeding ten years for carrying the United States mail. Foreign mail service is the only mail service out of which the Government has been making a net profit. We do not make a profit out of our land service. There is an annual deficiency which my good friend the Postmaster-General has been trying very hard to reduce or wipe out. The theory of our mail service is that it is for the people and that we are not to make any profit out of it; that we are to give them as cheap postage as possible. We are many of us looking forward to a time when we shall have one-cent postage in this country. We have been so close and penurious in dealing with our ships in carrying foreign mails that we have actually made revenues out of that business, not having spent for it what we have received from it. Now we propose to change this policy and make more liberal contracts with steamship lines carrying American mails. Some one may say we ought not to go into this business; that it is a subsidy. But, my friends, every other great nation of the world has been doing it, and is doing it, to-day. Great Britain and France have built up their great steamship lines by Government aid, and it seemed to me that our attitude with reference to it is aptly protected by an illustration I mentioned the other day. In olden time no wholesale merchant sent out traveling men to solicit custom, but he stood in his now store and waited for his customers. Presently some enterprising merchant began sending out men with their samples to seek trade, in order to save the country buyer the cost of a trip to New York or Philadelphia, until finally that practice became universal, and these active, intelligent traveling-men are scurrying the country over, pushing and soliciting in their several lines of business. Now, imagine some conservative merchant in New York saying to himself: "All this is wrong. Trade ought to come to me." If he should refuse to adopt these modern methods what would be the result? He must adopt new methods or go out of business. We have been refusing to adopt the universal methods used by our competitors in commerce to stimulate their shipping interests and have all but gone out of business. (Cheers.) Encouraged by what your spokesman has said to-night I venture to declare that I am in favour of going into business again.

Passing on from this, the President reminded his hearers that Texas could spin more cotton than she raises, if her labour were devoted to that industry, and he advised her people to do so. Here he got off soundings. Labour in Texas is pretty well remunerated, while labour in the cotton spinning sections of the East is the direct road to starvation, and is rapidly being monopolised by French Canadians, who only eat meat once a week. When the negroes were emancipated, lots of people proposed to transfer the cotton spinning industry from New England to the South, and mills were built in every cotton state. But Southern spinners have never succeeded in producing any cotton cloth except the low and worse grade which is used by the negroes themselves for shirtings. New England spinners laugh at Southern competition; they know their business, and it is not to be taken from them. Generations of experience have enabled them to attain a pitch of excellence in which they defy rivalry. They are in the position of the woollen spinners of Great Britain. We have as fine wool here as they have in England, the same machinery, and quite frequently our mills are manned with operatives imported directly from the English mills. But our best woollen cloths sell for half the price of English cloths, and people who are particular about their clothes prefer the dearer article at the price.

In the past three days, the Presidential party has been disporting itself among the orange groves, and tropical gardens of Southern California. To night, just about five hours after this letter leaves port, it will arrive here. The city is to be illuminated, and a hundred brass bands will play loud welcome, while roars of hurrahs will rise from a hundred thousand throats. San Francisco, seen from Oakland, on which side the President will enter, is a fairy like sight when all the lamps are lit, and the long parallel streets look like steamers of fire flowing from some volcano down the slope into the bay.

Political excitement in Western Kansas, which has run high of late, has made way for local controversies growing out of the recent clean sweep made by the ladies at municipal elections. In a number of cities, the women have elected full boards of city aldermen, and complete sets of municipal officers. But the thing doesn't work. In one city, one alderwoman openly accused another of wearing false hair, and the charge was referred to the city attorney to determine whether or no it was libellous. In another, a man returning home from his pot-house in a mellow condition, fell into a hole on the sidewalk and broke his leg. He sued the city, but it turned out that his wife was commissioner of streets, and the judge held that she had left the hole to catch him, and that his remedy was against her. An attempt was made to impeach the controller, on the ground that she used the city gas in day time, to heat her curling irons. The most troublesome case of all occurred at a town named Westward. Here a lady had been elected Mayor. It devolved upon her to appoint a chief of police, and in defiance of her friends, she named a man for the post, on the ground that the knock-down-and-drag-out business was better suited to men than to women. The female party was not satisfied, and the controller was urged to refuse to countersign warrants for the male chief's salary. But, in the height of the controversy, the Mayor and the chief of police disappeared. They had eloped together. The Mayor's husband and the chief's wife are mingling their tears and 'tis thought they will make a match of it.

An attempt is going to be made to put a stop to the competition of the Canadian Pacific in transcontinental traffic. The Canadian Company has been carrying freight by water to Vancouver, thence in bond to Detroit, and thence over American roads to New York and Boston, and has taken so much business from the American lines from San Francisco and Portland that they have been compelled to admit to the transcontinental pool. It has the advantage over the American lines that it is not bound by the provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act, while they are. Secretary Foster has determined to break up the bonding business, and has issued an order requiring goods arriving at any point in this country over the Canadian Pacific to pay duties like other foreign imports. A strife for business between our own roads is at the bottom of the business.

The divine Sarah is playing here in "La Tosca," and "Cleopatra." All San Francisco has turned out to see her, and the shekels rattle merrily in the money-box. She has grown stouter since she was last here, and she can now take her bath without fearing that she may be drawn off in the waste pipe. Otherwise, she is just the same, the most potent delineator of passion on the modern stage. She has left her tiger behind her; his place has been taken by two fierce Danish Dogs. She only stays her till the Australian steamer leaves, just long enough to get a mouthful of dust, and to pick up an odd $15,000.

A man in New York has achieved the feat which has been so frequently but unavailingly pressed upon orators. He has corked himself up. In giving a dose of medicine to his child, he held the cork of the phial between his teeth: some movement of the child made him start, and loose his jaws, and the cork went down or into his throat. He nearly coughed his head off without getting rid of it. He sent for doctors, and they explored the throat with probes and pincers, without finding any trace of it. Yesterday he submitted to laryngotomy without success: the inside of the throat was searched in every direction without locating the cork. Doctors have now concluded that it has got into the lung, where it will probably cause death, unless a cyst is formed round it, and it is practically absorbed into the organ.

A propos of doctors, we have had here a second visitation of La Grippe, which has not been as sweeping as the first, but has been more annoying to its victims. The epidemic has changed its character. It is no longer an influenza affecting the nasal membrane, and the respiratory passages: it assails any organ which may happen to offer a tempting field for disease. In some cases it has taken the shape of catarrh of the stomach, with severe diarrhœa; in others, it has caused torpidity and inaction of the liver, with the usual unpleasant symptoms; in one case, that of a lady, it has assumed the form of peritonitis. The doctors affirm that all these cases are true cases of grippe, and the opinion is gaining ground that it is a diesase of the nerves. Whatever the truth be, it is a very unpleasant disease to contract. The pains in the bones are severe, the depression of spirits trying, and the slowness with which convalescane proceeds exaspirating. I am a competent witness on these points, and I believe that you in Japan know how it is yourselves.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Boston, April 12th.

Spring weather is almost a daily visitor now, arbutus sells in the streets, the hand organs have arrived, and "the time of the singing birds," as sung at Easter, is here. The only birds, however, that sing for us in the Public Garden and Common, are the sparrows—the pugnacious, chattering sparrows whose notes are about as musical as those made by a creaking hinge. Not a robin, not a blue-bird, not an oriole dares to appear in our fresh air domain. If one mistake the sparrow stronghold for a hospitable camp, he may or may not escape with his life. We are sparrow ridden, dominated, and in a sense, crushed. Really, the sparrow nuisance is great. To outsiders it may appear to be a small matter, but it is one of considerable importance. The sparrow invades every part of the city, and makes a nesting place wherever a lodgment may be found. If the blinds be left open—thrown back against the wall—a few days, the sparrow will build behind it. In one particular case, a pair of sparrows made five attempts to build behind a blind, and might have made five more if the blind had not been closed. Indeed, a new style of architecture—an anti-sparrow architecture—is springing up already. As far as possible, buildings must be built without convenient places for the nesting of sparrow and the city pigeons, otherwise defilement of the building results. On one side of a boarding house was a paved court yard and in it a woodbine covering the walls. A multitude of sparrows took possession, and made such an uproar in the morning when boarders wished to sleep, that it was necessary to remove the woodbine.

The mechanical world, particularly the part around Boston, is now interested in a new discovery of Nathan Washburn, the veteran car

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wheel manufacturer, who now lives at Allston, a suburb of Boston. He has produced by a new process a metal that has twice the strength of steel. The United States Government requires that steel boiler plates shall resist a tensile strain of 65,000 pounds, but the new metal stands a test of 200,000 pounds and the cost of manufacture is not increased. Other tests show that while the average steel bar can be broken "short off," the new steel is so tenacious that it can be broken only by bending backward and forward several times, and when it is broken, the fractured surfaces, instead of showing a clean break, are drawn out into fibre, showing that the structure of the metal is entirely changed by the process of manufacture. The question of hardness or temper does not effect the tenacity of this metal, for specimens so hard as to resist all attempts to drill them show the same remarkable fibrous composition, and strength. The application of the invention is as wide as the use of steel. For bridge building a required sustaining power can be secured with a large saving of metal; it will add safety to boilers; for armour plates for war ships, and for the manufacture of cannon, nothing can compete with it. In all industrial arts the new metal promises to effect a revolution.

Senator Hawley, in an address before the Hartford Board of Trade on "The Weakness of Our Coast Defences," criticises the indifference of the people and the Government in the matter of inadequate coast defences. "The recent complications with Italy showed the rapidity with which trouble might come. Halifax, less than two days sea-journey from Boston, is a perpetual menace to our unprotected coast, for England in case of war would assemble her fleet at Halifax. The cost of adequate defences for the coast might be $125,000,000, but this would be extended over a term of years. No exorbitant tax would result from an appropriation of this amount and the investment would be wise in all respects." The Italian episode revives a little the interests in the "naval militia." In some coast states, the legislature passed the law providing for such militia, but little, if anything, more was done at the time. Military men urged the appointment of this reserve naval force, and it may now be organized. The exact duties of this militia have not been set forth. The details of organization and service were left to militia authorities or commanders in the several states.

Baron Fava, the Italian Minister, has taken his departure, but the world moves on as usual. The papers are full of comments on the "situation" but nothing new has come to light. The investigation in New Orleans is going forward, and a conclusion may be reached soon. As usual in such cases of general political disturbance of more or less importance, the country has fallen into a joking mood over the whole matter. The humorous papers are full of caricatures, and some of these, if report be true, have found their way to Italy, and given great offence. Even English "Punch" must take a hand, and appears with cartoons that must excite the wrath of the Italians. Secretary Blaine is supposed to be at work on his reply to the Marquis de Rudini's last note, and while thus engaged he sees no callers except upon business of the utmost importance. The reply and the gout give him enough to do. In the meantime, the text of Rudini's letter is kept from the public. A report is published to the effect that if the United States Government does not make reply speedily to Premier Rudini's note, Minister Porter will be requested to leave Rome. Probably it has no more truth than a score of other rumours.

Newfoundland is now in a "state of indignation. The organ of Sir Robert Thorburn says:—"The crisis of the most momentous importance, in connection with the French shore question, has arisen, and peremptorily demands immediate action by the legislature and people of this colony. In a word, the British Government has announced its determination to procure the enactment of a coercion act by the provisions of which they may enforce any agreement they may make with the French without our consent and against our most urgent representations. The act which it is proposed to pass will give British officers upon this station the power of life and death over our fellow-subjects residing upon or going to the French shore; it will permit our fishermen to be imprisioned at the will of an ignorant and careless commander of a British gunboat, and will leave to the mercy of the same kind of imperial servants the disposition of every iota of property between Cape Ray and Cape John. Trial will be without jury and without appeal, and redress for the most appalling injustice there will be none. Similar powers were given to the officers of the warships by the Act of George III., but the Act soon fell into disuse, and was repealed."

P. T. Barnum, "the great showman," known in every part of the world, died in Bridgeport, on April 7th, at the age of eighty-one years, leaving an estate valued at more than five million dollars.

United States Senator George F. Edmunds of Vermont, sent his resignation as senator on April 6th, to take effect on November 1st. Senator Edmunds entered the Senate in April, 1866, as the successor of the Hon. Solomon Foote. His reason for resigning is purely a personal one. Naturally, the State of Vermont has many aspirants for senatorial honours.

There is at present much newspaper talk and general comment in regard to the visit of Sir Charles Tupper and representatives of the Dominion Government to Washington in the interest of a treaty of reciprocity. It appears that Sir Charles Tupper's visit was heralded before. As President Harrison wished to have something to do with the treaty, if one was to be made, a telegram was sent by the British Minister postponing the treaty conference. It is believed that this dispatch was received in time to prevent the visit of Sir Charles and suite, but on he came, nevertheless, and arrived in due time with bag and baggage. A conference was denied, and Sir Charles was obliged to retire. He was told in substance that when the United States wished to negotiate a treaty with his country, the United States would make its wants known. The friends of the Canadians condemn and say that the representatives of a neighbouring and friendly power were treated with contempt. The enemies of President Harrison generally have had much to say in criticism, and the friends of Secretary Blaine who still cling to the theory that there is ill feeling between the President and the Secretary, construe the whole matter as an insult, or an attempt to belittle Blaine, claiming that the Secretary is competent to negotiate a treaty even if the President were absent.

Taking into consideration the fact that this is a "dry time" for news everywhere usually at this time of the year, we have enough to think about and to make much of.

THE FOREST IN ITS HISTORICAL ASPECTS.

A Lecture delivered by Dr. E. Grasmann in the University Lecture Hall, Tokyo, 20th April, 1891.

The forest is the home of the primitive peoples of the earth. This forest home afforded everything they needed: protection, shelter, food, and clothing. But with their advancing development it became an obstacle in the way of civilization. Its products, though necessary, were little esteemed, for they were free as air and water. With all its paramount importance, then, it was the growing cultivation of the soil alone, that caused men slowly to realize and fully to appreciate the true significance of the forest in the household of Nature, and thus Forestry, as a science, is after all only a child of comparatively modern times. Of late, many influential and especially non-professional voices have been raised in favour of sylviculture; prominent scientists and economists have made the forest an object of thorough study, and the nations best known for their sound economic systems, their highly developed public spirit, their thorough mental culture, and their intimate and intelligent acquaintance with Nature, are precisely those that are also most prominent in their loving appreciation of the forest. It is in modern times that the very nations to which the forest was but an obstacle in the way of cultivation, and by which its removal was looked upon as a justifiable and even meritorious proceeding, have made strong efforts to inaugurate a systematic forest management. Some years ago, every European traveller that crossed the North American continent brought home reports of the rapid forest devastation going on in the New World. Unapproached in this respect, as well as in their eminently practical views of life, the North Americans could, a few years ago, scarcely show the first beginnings of an economic forest administration; but to-day Congress is busily occupied with questions relating to sylviculture, forest legislation proceeds apace, and in nearly every State of the Union forest academies and experimental stations have been established. The tropical forest is the colonist's worst foe. It can hence be easily understood why the first and most far-seeing colonizers, the English, have gone too far when, in the name of civilization, as it were, they have made war on the forest, a war so bitter that the history of the British colonies is but a continuous record, on the one hand, of a *guerre à outrance* against woodlands of every description, on the other, of a most laborious contest with the evil consequences that have followed. The British Consular reports from South Africa, Guiana (Demerara), Trinidad, New Zealand, etc., all are so many accusations against present methods of colonizing, and cry for help against the increasing aridity and desolation of the lands in question. In the United Kingdom itself forest science is in a relatively backward state. Highly developed and very extensive industrial districts claim and occupy the land that forestry would necessarily need, and without large areas sylviculture cannot very well flourish. The forests of Germany, for instance, cover twenty-six, those of Great Britain four, per cent. of the total area of each country. In India, however, and that for a number of years, a model system of forest management has been in operation, and for the other colonies similar organizations are being prepared. For the training of the necessary rangers, who had till recently been educated in Germany and France, a forest academy on the German plan was two years ago established at Cooper's Hill, while at Edinburgh a forestry college has been added to the university. In acquiring colonies as successful as the English, the Spanish have in some respects been even more thorough in the work of forest destruction, and even in their own country they suffer from the consequences, for the cost of the indispensable afforesting of the denuded mountain chains stands in no proportion to the financial strength of the peninsula. Similar is the case of Italy, but both there and in Spain well-frequented and well-equipped schools have been established for the spread of a knowledge of sylviculture and for the training of efficient rangers. In Russia, the nature of the country, the value of timber, and the difficulty, perhaps, of cutting down extensive tracts of woodland were the chief causes that operated in favour of the forest, and assisted in the early development of sylviculture. Three forestry colleges and numerous middle and lower schools, serve the purposes of this science, while every year young Russians come to Germany for further instruction. Our political opponents, the French, have been our rivals in this line also, and that for a long time. Since the beginning of the present century, however, though they have not in any way grown careless or negligent in this respect, they have been unable to follow Germany's rapid progress. This is evident from the more limited scientific education required of French forest officers, from the relatively low esteem in which they are held, from the smaller number of books on sylviculture, the frequent translations of German works into French, and the stress laid on the study of that language as a pre-requisite for the acquisition of a thorough knowledge of forest science. That sylviculture has in Germany risen to the rank of an almost national science was possible only through the rapid development of our knowledge of nature and its application to forest management by a sufficient number of thoroughly trained experts who, in the light of our better acquaintance with nature in general and forests in particular, created a new system or body of knowledge known as forest science. More than a century ago chairs for the teaching of this science were endowed at all the larger German universities, and for more than seventy years entrance into the state forest department has been conditional on the same (partly even severer) tests as are prescribed for the other branches of the public service. Thus it has come that wherever German is spoken the forest is considered a sacred palladium and a source of national wealth. In its service states, communes, and private citizens engage in mutual rivalry. If this nation has for years sent able young men to German universities for the study of this important branch of knowledge, if in this country itself the Government affords both means and opportunities for the general and technical education of forest officers, if it counteracts a somewhat natural indifference to sylviculture, and advances this noble science by both precept and example,—it is but a sign that Japan thus joins the ranks of those nations which in the troubles and perplexities of the day do not forget their responsibilities to future generations, and are endeavouring to create the safest foundation of national wealth and the necessary basis of all future progress by raising the productivity of the soil in general and by promoting forest science in particular.

I.

Considering the part played by the forest in the history of civilization, we are first led to think of the reverence shown to trees by the ancient nations.

THE LIGHT TREE.

To the original Aryan Semitic race a beautiful enchanted garden was their first home, and the sun was the shining wonder-tree in its midst, conceptions and traditions that are the very cornerstones of their cosmogony, as is amply shown by reference to the myths of Hindoos, Persians, Hebrews, Græco-Romans, and more especially of the Germanic and Sclavonic nations. In this connection we are at once reminded of the Japanese *hinoki*, sometimes but perhaps erroneously trans-

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lated as "light tree." Important as is its place in the worship of the Sun-goddess Amaterasu and in Shintoism generally, no certain analogy to the Aryan sun or light tree can be shown to exist. Among the Indo Europeans we have together with the light tree the Rain Fount, and thus a spring of living water has in a significant manner been placed by these peoples at the side of their sacred trees. Divine beings dwell in tree and spring. These, as well as the indwelling deities, possess the gift of prophecy, and out of tree and spring man is occasionally addressed by the very voice of God himself. Among the European Aryans the heavenly light tree was soon more materialized, and, especially under the northern skies of Scandinavia and Germany, the Bright Indian Sun-god was transformed into the god of thunder and storm. The golden fruits of the heavenly tree are no longer the sparkling stars, but apples and nuts covered with gold paper, such as are annually produced by the Christmas tree,—a thoroughly pagan heirloom, by the way—for it is but that same old wonder tree that enchanted our Aryan ancestors. On Christmas eve, on the branches of the fir tree, Heaven with all its treasures descends to earth, and, instead of the Paradise of the Bible, the temple of our gods and our original home is with us once more—the forest. The Teutons appear from the first as a forest born race. The German people have their "Stämme" (tribes, literally, stems), the families their "Zweige" (branches) and "Sprossen" (lit. off-shoots). They speak of "Menschenschlag, Baumschlag, nach der Art schlagen, Geschlecht, von echtem Schlag, dem Vater (der Mutter) nachschlagen, gerade und rechtschaffen ausschlagen, schlicht und recht, ohne Auswüchse und nicht verschlagen? "Leute" (*i.e.* people) are "those that are grown." Like the tree, we are "attached to the soil;" we cannot "take root" in foreign countries for "the strong roots of our strength" are in the fatherland.

LIFE TREES.

The belief that the first men were made of trees is recorded in the Indian Vedas, and found in ancient Italy, Greece, and Asia Minor. Attis and Adonis as well as the Phrygian *corybantes* are δενδροφυεῖς, tree-born. The Romans trace their origin to Rhea Sylvia, but *sylva* is forest. As in Persian mythology Meshia and Meshiane grew out of trees, so the Northern cosmogony makes the ash and alder-tree, the "Aske" and "Embla," the first to whom soul and blood was given by God, as was vital force and water to the plant. The Damaras in South Africa relate that "in the beginning of things there was a tree, and out of that tree came the Damaras and Bosjesmen, oxen and zebras. . . . The tree gave being to all things that live." Even to-day children in the Tyrol are told that baby came out of a hollow ash-tree, and, in South Germany, that the stork fetches him from the woods, while in Saxony pretty girls grow on trees, and the Bohemians, according to an old Christian legend, were made of wooden sticks. Formerly the cradle was the hollowed-out trunk of an old tree; now, like the coffin, it is made of boards, boards that thus symbolize to the individual the beginning as well as the end of his earthly career. The now obsolete terms "Mannsbild, Weibsbild" still point to the belief that men were originally carved out of wood. "Cheerfully give your son a good education," says Luther, "for you give the Lord God a fine piece of timber, out of which He can easily carve you a man and master." In this connection we are also reminded of the old fable that tells us how, in a mystic manner, Meleager's life was bound up with the fate of an extinguished brand. This is again set on fire, and the hero passes away with the last flicker of the dying flame. "Crescunt igniscque dolorque, Languescuntque iterum: simul est extinctus uterque." Analogous to the origin of men from trees is their transformation into such, a frequent subject of fable and myth: thus Daphne, while trying to escape Apollo's importunities is changed into a laurel tree. Families, tribes, and nations have had their tribal or life trees. These they honoured, cared for, and protected, occasionally even with their own blood. Such sacred trees, also known as blood trees, existed at all times. To cut down or injure them was sacrilege. It was thus the sacredness of the trees, not utilitarian considerations exclusively, that led to their preservation. "Father, is it true that on the mountain yonder the trees do bleed when wounded with an axe?" "It is the truth." From Schiller's "Tell."

TREES OF DESTINY.

The tree of destiny typifies and accompanies the rise and fall of the people living in its neighbourhood. As in Paradise the tree of the knowledge of good and evil stood by the side of the tree of life, so with Yggdrasil, the world-ash, is bound up, not merely the origin of the first man, but also the destiny of the world itself. According to the Edda, Yggdrasil is the largest and most sacred tree, connecting heaven, earth, and hell, a world-tree whose branches spread throughout the universe and overtop the sky. While this tree stands the world will stand, but its end approaches,

> When whirl-pools of fire encircle
> The all-nourishing world-tree,
> When its main trunk bursts into flames
> At the yelling cry of Gialiar (of thunder).

A mighty tree, Astyages dreams, grows out of his daughter's lap and finally overshadows the world: this portends that Mandane's off-spring would one day become the founder of a new and universal monarchy. With another tree, Livy's famous *ficus Ruminalis*, the foundation of Rome's world dominion is connected, while the origin of many ancient cities, such as New Smyrna, Baiæ, Miletus, etc., is similarly traced to trees. A dry and leafless oak between Hebron and Bethlehem, called the tree of victory, is said to have flourished from the beginning of days till Christ came, when it withered on the day of His death. The cross, the "accursed tree," has ever since been the emblem of Christendom. The tree of German destiny has by an old myth been placed on Mt. Kyffhäuser. Inside this mountain Frederick Barbarossa sits in profound sleep, while his beard is slowly growing round the table before him. When this mystic circle has been thrice completed, the Kaiser will awake, step out of the mountain, and hang his shield on a withered tree outside. Then this tree will grow green again, and better times will be coming for the fatherland. In our days the myth has come true, the Kaiser has risen, and the tree of German destiny flourishes as never before.

TREES OF DESTINY FOR INDIVIDUALS.

Trees whether in leaf or withered are accompanying in their career not nations only but individuals also, even gods. The birth and battle of Apollo take place under a sacred tree. In Delos, the wandering Latona embraces the holy palm-tree in the hope of help in her hour of pain, while the same place, in the Edda, is assigned to the "Mimameidi," and in the Völuspa, to the "Varnad," hence also called children's tree. For the new born child popular custom often plants a birthday-tree, the prosperity or decay of which is supposed to foreshadow the destiny of the child. As in Japan the *matsu* and *také*, the crane and tortoise are the symbols of long life, and give the New Year its festive character, so among ancient as well as modern nations trees have ever enhanced the cheerful aspect of days of general rejoicing. Jupiter and Hera, for instance, celebrate their marriage under the tree of life with the apples of the Hesperides. In England, a fine custom is observed by the Kings at the opening of their reign: they give their name to an oak-tree to keep alive the memory of the sovereign among generations still to come. In Sweden and Denmark, a green tree is carried before the bridal pair; a tree, again, is in the carriage that conveys the girl's dowry to her future home, the new inmates of which must then plant two trees on the common according to custom immemorial. As in Japan a pole with *také* and a drawn bow is placed on the frame work of a structure just erected, so in Germany a pine-tree gaily decked with ribbons is fixed to the ridge of the new house, a custom expressive of the best wishes for its inmates. On the first of May, the May-tree, a high pine ornamented with ribbons, wreaths, and the emblems of the various guilds, is erected before the village church as a tree of good luck to the people. At night, you plant before your sweetheart's doors a tree as high and as richly tricked out as possible, all of course in token of your true love. In ancient and modern times this tree of destiny has been highly honoured by those who, thanks to some kind fate, escaped great danger or sudden death. Votive tablets, such as can frequently be also found in the temples and along the roads of Japan, are hung on a tree that is thus dedicated and made holy. Woe to him that should dare to injure or fell it! In the fable of Erisichthon, the double significance of the tree as a symbol of both life and destiny is beautifully described by Ovid:—

> Ille etiam Cereale nemus violasse securi
> Dicitur et lucos ferro temerasse vetustos.
> Stabat in his ingens annoso robore quercus,
> Una nemus: vittae medium memoresque tabellae
> Sertaque cingebant, voti argumenta potentis.
> * * * * *
> . . . et obliquos dum telum librat in ictus,
> Contremuit gemitumque dedit Deoia quercus,
> Et pariter frondes, pariter pallescere glandes
> Coepere, ac longi pallorem ducere rami.
> Cujus ut in trunco fecit manus impia vulnus,
> Haud aliter fluxit discusso cortice sanguis,
> Quam solet, ante aras ingens ubi victima taurus
> Concidit, abrupta cruor e cervice profundi.
> * * * * *
> Redditus e medio sonus est cum robore talis:
> "Nympha sub hoc ego sum Cereri gratissima ligno:
> Quae tibi factorum poenas instare tuorum
> Vaticinor moriens, nostri solatia fati."
> * * * *
> Moliturque genus poenae miserabile si non
> Ille suis esset nulli miserabilis actis',
> Pestifera lacerare Fame.

The divine dryads and hamadryads are one with the tree in which they live. With its death they also die. Injuries to trunk and branches they perceive as wounds. At the approach of the sacrilegious axe, a low moan is heard to issue from the tree, and the alder (*hannoki*) when struck bleeds, weeps, and begins to speak. Of all the trees the willow (*yanagi*) is *par excellence* the tree of destiny. On the willows by the rivers of Babylon the enslaved children of Israel hung their harps and wept, and even to-day the Babylonian or Weeping willow, which so frequently lines the streets of Japan, is the symbol of weeping women and the emblem of mourning. To this tree the Sclavonian is deeply attached, and in North Germany the willow has followed the Wends to their western borders. In deep sorrow Desdemona sings the touching song of the willow, and like a forest flower, the youthful Ophelia sinks into the water under a willow-tree. Much of the destiny of men and gods the plane-tree could perhaps tell us, for this is the sacred tree of the Delphic oracle, under which Latona took refuge with her children when assaulted by the dragon Python. That other memorable plane-tree under whose branches Jupiter and Europa met, will according to the old myth be ever fresh and green. With another tree, the olive, a gift of Athene, the favourite of a quiet agricultural and industrial population, and the emblem of sacred peace and order, ancient civilization is most intimately connected. In Noah's time an olive leaf apprised the world of the fact that heaven's wrath had been appeased.

SYMBOLIC MEANING OF TREES.

To each tree according to its appearance and peculiarities we assign a symbolic meaning. The linden-tree, similar to the *shimanoki* or *bodaiju*, seemed to the Germans the most suitable for transplanting the romantic elements of the forest to the merry peaceful village. There we ever find it at the place of honour, on the greensward before the village inn or church, where the fathers assembled for election and jury purposes, the men for war, the young people for dancing, and the children for play. In size rivalling the oak, though of softer outlines, its heart-shaped leaves easily moved, its flowers wonderfully fragrant, its soft and trembling crown not unlike a heaving bosom, the linden-tree is a veritable palace of leaves, full of majesty and grace. It is also the tree of love and song. In the Nibelungen Lied, in Walther von der Vogelweide, in fact by every lyric poet its praises have been sung. It is this tree also, into the bark of which we have cut the name of our sweetheart, though a somewhat prosaic legislation punishes this expression of the tender passion as an infringement of the forest law. The *akamatsu* in Japan may be compared to the linden, for in contrast to the coarser *kuromatsu* it represents, as it were, the gentler feminine elements of the forest: its soft red bark, its fuller and well-rounded top, and its interlaced labyrinth-like branches assign it this place, and hence its name *mematsu*. To the landscapes of Japan it is what the sweet pine is to those of Italy.

By far the most important tree in the history of civilization is the oak, by the side of which we may place the Japanese *nara* or *kashiwa*. The primitive tribes living on the coasts of Greece and Asia Minor worshipped the oak as the life tree, since it supplied them with food. To the ancient Germans, however, the oak was simply everything: dwelling and armoury, council hall and law-court, cradle and grave, oracle and Elysium. No tree equals the oak either for wild beauty or bold strength. Of full and vigorous growth, its far spreading and deeply penetrating roots take, like strong anchors, firm hold of the soil, while the impression of strength it conveys is completed by the shield-like leaf and the hard, bronze-coloured fruit. Defiantly spreading its colossal branches as if ready to deal a crushing blow, the oak stands before us the very picture of strength, or *robur*, as the Roman has named this giant-tree. This is indeed the grey forest-king whom the eagle seeks, the hero's ideal, and the type of the true Teuton. Like him the oak builds its own house, loves solitary places, dislikes garrulous levelling society, in a word, it embodies self-reliance. Like a coat of mail the deeply-furrowed bark encloses its body and limbs. The fiercest onsets of the most terrific storms cannot shake it, nor can the icy blasts of the north chill the vital warmth of its heart. As the Celts, the predecessors of the Teutons in the present Germany, revered their supreme divinity, in the shape of an oak (Κελτοὶ σεβουσι μεν Δία, ἀγαλμα δὲ Διὸς κελτικὸν ὑψηλὴ δρῦς), as among the Græco-Romans this tree was sacred to Jupiter, so it was among the Northern races the place where Woden, their highest god, lived and moved and had his being. The rustling of the oak-leaves was but Woden's voice revealing the destiny of men. As the Greek received his oracle at the oak of Dodona, so the German

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consulted this tree as to the issue of the impending battle. As in an armoury the weapons of the warrior hung on the tortuous branches of the oak. It also supplied the material for javelin and spear. After the return from the war the trophies taken from the vanquished foe were hung by the side of the victorious arms, and thus the oak became a symbolic representation of the heavenly Walhalla, while the war-worn hero under the tree anticipated, in dreams at least, the peace awaiting the spirits of the departed, of the slain in battle. In Germany's most beautiful oak forest Bavaria's art loving King, Louis I., has erected another hall of honour, the famous Walhalla, dedicated and sacred to the memory of the country's greatest men. The oak is highly esteemed even to-day. He who has an oak in his ground will not sell it except when forced by dire necessity. It is the German laurel, the chief decoration. With an oak branch the victor appears at the festive sports; with an oak-twig fastened to his helmet the victorious soldier returns; and when the war is over the "Friedenseiche," or Peace-oak, is planted, a monument enduring from generation to generation. The rich is proud of his oaken furniture; even the poor aspires to a table made of the same material, but failing in this, and unable to sleep his long sleep in a coffin of oak like the rich, the consolation of an oaken cross on his grave will not be denied him. When we here in Japan look for a counterpart of the oak, in its outer habit at least, we have the *kuromatsu* or *ōmatsu*. Though of a lighter and thinner head, its branches, in a tangled spear-like zigzag, spread out fully as far as those of our own oak, and strong bark, like heavy scales of steel, similarly encase its dark grey trunk. Whether alone on the coast facing the breakers below, or in defiance of storms crowning some mountain peak, whether found in company with the gentle *akamatsu*, the cheerful *momiji* and *keyaki*, and the ever green trees of a temple grove, or overlooking the open streets and busy marts of men, it is ever found firmly standing at its post, serious and sombre, ready for conflict and resistance. The tree of love and liberty, the linden, was in Napoleon's time supplanted by the poplar, a tree related to the *doronoki*, but of strictly pyramidal growth. Individually considered, the tree looks the genuine *parvenu* that seeks to hide his real weakness behind outwardly imposing forms and an unnatural straightness. Collectively viewed, when the trees, like so many sentinels, line the street in pompous and impressive succession, the poplar is the symbol of coercion, an ungainly tree in regulation dress, as it were, and impressing you as being on familiar but servile terms with pruning knife and nippers. In Germany, the tree is the historical proof *ad oculos* of the retreat of German law before Napoleon's despotic power. As the poplar causes heart-burns in Germany, so the birch is regarded by the Poles as the tree of their sad and mournful fate. Its mostly bent form, the restless trembling of its long-stalked leaves, and its stem and branches, generally as white as bleached bones, favour a dreary, melancholy mood. It is hence in Germany what the cypress is in the South, an ornamental tree in burial grounds. As the weeping *Finis Poloniæ* it seems to stand at the grave of a nation that has perished. For several generations now, travellers passing the dark Lithuanian huts have heard issuing from them the plaintive song addressed to the birch tree:—

Birke, Birke, arme Birke,
Warum bist du denn so traurig?
War's vielleicht der kalte Nordsturm,
War's vielleicht der rauhe Frost,
Der dir macht die Blätter starren?
Oder hat das böse Wasser
Dir der Erdenmutter Schutz
Von den Wurzeln weggespült?

Nicht der Frost macht mich erstarren,
Nicht das Wasser mich verkümmern,
Doch es kamen die Barbaren.....

The beech (*bunanoki*) is the productive fruit tree of the Græco-Roman and Teuton, for the name is derived from *bhu*, to be, to grow; just as the Greek *φηγὸς* is traced to *φύω* and the Latin *fagus* to *fuo*, and to *fundo*, establish. The fruit-producer of antiquity, is, however, nourishing us still only in a more intellectual form. The first "Buchstaben," used in Teutonic divination, were, according to Tacitus, beech-rods marked with certain signs. These were cut down, gathered, put together, and their hidden meaning was then interpreted. Here in Japan we have a corresponding system of divination, though *keyaki* is used for the *sangi*, and *take* for the *zeichiku*. As the spirit spoke to men through the "Buchenstäbe," or beech rods, so it reveals itself to-day through the "Buchstaben," that is through type and letters, when put together by thinking man. The first types were cut in beech-wood: and our "Buch," or book, is derived from "Buche," or beech (A.S. *boc*, D. *beuk*). As the tree so the book grows; leaf is added to leaf, and these, as those of the tree, have their "Seiten" (pages); to put the letters together in your mind is to read, "lesen," *legere*. Language itself blossoms forth and flourishes; there are flowery styles and fertile authors. Literature, also, has its flowering periods, and there is not a word but has a root.

II.

Tree fetichism has at certain periods existed among all nations. The Indians of Lake Superior have their Manitou tree, in which the Great Spirit dwells; and the legends of Buddhism tell us of the Bo tree in which the deity itself had its being, and under whose sacred protection King Dashtagamani of Ceylon had at one time been placed. According to ancient Japanese conceptions, the *sakaki* is the home of the good spirits, while in the North the oak was the throne of Mighty Woden. All these old myths invariably tended to protect the forest against devastation, and even in our century, in certain parts of Acarnania, a religious forest dedication, *κουρία*, takes place: the priest, before the congregation assembled in the wood, places the *ὕψωμα*, or host, into a hole made with an auger into the largest tree, and thus the forest is made holy. This Christian custom is in a manner intended to express the same spirit that we find in the Mosaic law (Deuteronomy xx., 5-19.) Homer designates the mountain forests where mortal hand had never felled tree as *τεμένη ἀθανάτων*, or homes of gods. Not only did Greek imagination people every tree with dryads, and dedicate to every god his special tree, as to Jupiter the oak, to Apollo the laurel, to Cybele the sweet-pine, to Proserpina the poplar, and to Juno the pear; but whole forests and groves (*ἄλση*) were likewise sacred to these gods, as those on Mt. Ida to Jupiter, those at Paphos to Aphrodite, and those at Epidaurus to Æsculapius. To the Romans Sylvan and Faun were the chief gods of the woods, and the Arician grove on the Appian road was sacred to Juno. The Sclavonians, even as late as the Middle Ages, had their sacred forests, as centuries before the Druids in Gaul; and in Germany some woods, as the Hertha grove of Rügen for instance, perpetuate the memory of ancient gods. Wood or grove, in Old German, was *vih*, which meant holy place or temple, and such was the forest when of natural growth and untouched by human hands. Then God dwells in it, and hides his majesty in its rustling leaves. For this reason the hunter offered his venison there, and the shepherd the animals of his flock. There the religious services of the people took place in the presence of the all-pervading, all-guarding divinity that was by the weird whispering of the tree-tops revealed to hearts touched with deep and genuine devotion. "They find it," says Tacitus, "as improper to set limits to the grandeur of the divine and to imprison gods within walls as to make images of them with human features. Grove and forest are their temples, and they give divine names to the solitary being that they only see when they worship." With Christianity came the temples of stone; but the old faith was still strong, and thus the new house of God, though it rose in place of the forest, remained true to its great prototype. For our grand cathedrals are substantially patterned on the forest with its cheerful heaven-aspiring trees. The arches, ogives, rosettes, and capitals, what are they but the branches and leaves of the forest? Under the axe of the first Christian missionaries many a sacred oak fell never to rise again; but with a wise regard to popular custom a Church was built where the tree had stood, and the sacredness of the spot, instead of departing, was thus even enhanced by the presence of the true God. Even at present, especially in Catholic districts, the villagers repair to the forest twice a year: once on Christmas when the manger with the child Jesus is placed under the dark green pines, and again on Corpus-Christi-day when the trembling birch-trees intimate the reverence of Nature for the holy of holies. Wisely does the Church encourage old customs such as these, though it is to paganism that they trace their origin.

Here in Japan the divinity dwells in a sometimes very modest shrine, located, however, in a solemn and often grandly beauteous temple grove. Though the original simplicity of the Shinto *miya* may have yielded to the gorgeousness of the Buddhist *tera*, trees have still maintained their place, and, as at Nikko, add to the sacredness of the spot and the solemnity of the scene. Wherever a cluster of glorious trees attracts our eyes, there we also look for the point of a pagoda, the gold covered ridge of a *tera*, or the simple roof of a *miya*. As in ancient Germany such groves were sacred and inviolable, and as individually magnificent trees were also specially revered; so here those that have been similary dedicated are pointed out and made known by the *shimenawa*, a kind of straw-rope, famous in Japanese mythology. Another reason for the esteem in which trees have been held here is supplied by Shintoism. The *hinoki*, namely, valued far beyond its real merits, furnishes the clear, fine-grained timber of which, like the former Imperial Castle, the *miya* is built without addition of lacquer or metal work of any kind. Of this wood the *torii* were formerly made, as also all other ceremonial implements, such as the table on which food is offered to the gods, and the altar with the sacred mirror and the *gohei*. We may here also add that the rubbing together of *hinoki* blocks can alone produce fire pure in itself and worthy of the gods. As in Indian Buddhism the *ficus religiosa* and in Japanese the *shikimi*, so is in the *kami* worship the *sakaki* the sacred tree. Its wood furnishes the *gohei* wands and the *hashi*, or chopsticks, for the sacrificial food; its branches and twigs, when placed on the *kaku*, are the last solemn farewell to the departed, and like the *shikimi* adorn the last resting place of the dead. Clear white wood, free from all blemishes, plays an important part: on a table of such wood the sword intended for use in *harakiri* was offered to the *samurai*, in such boxes festive presents are delivered, and of such material the coffin of the dead is likewise made. The graves of the ancient Germans were all in the forests, and to-day the neighbourhood or the border of some wood is still a favourite place for burial grounds. Personified death, "Friend Hain" lives in the forest, and thither he takes men, for there are the portals of eternity. In Japan, also, the dead are likewise buried in the cool shades of the temple grove or in the quiet wood into which the turmoil of the world fails to penetrate. Where life and death are brought into such close connection with trees and woods it is but natural to compare the latter in their blossoming and fading to the vicissitudes of our own existence, and the literature of every race and period presents hundreds of similes drawn from this source. We cannot but think of old Homer's *οἵη περ φύλλων γενεή, τοίη δὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν*:—

Like leaves on trees the race of man is found,
Now green in youth, now withering on the ground;
Another race the following spring supplies;
They fall successive, and succe-sive rise:
So generations in their course decay;
So flourish these, when those are passed away.

With the crimson tint of the autumn trees and the "sere and yellow leaf" our poets have taught us to associate thoughts of death and dying. Science, however, offers more cheerful reflections, for to it nothing is dead. The withered leaf that trembles on its dry stalk is but the beginning of a new life. From the leaf it is that the circulation of life starts, and thence it passes into all organic Nature. Thus it is the bridge between the organic and inorganic world, for without it organic life would be impossible. Like the seed, the leaf falls only to rise to new and grander possibilities. To the Teutonic mind men and gods alike passed away; imperishable was only the forest's creative power, the *vidar* as he called it; but *vidhr* is forest. The Germans had every reason indeed to bless its beneficial presence in their country. Grown up in its forests and strong as its oaks, they were a terror even to Rome, the onset of whose legions, however, they could never have resisted had not their woods protected them more effectually than towers or camps could have done; and it was thus that Rome's unconquered and well-nigh invincible power met its doom in Germania's oak forests. It was the forests that for thirty years protected Saxon liberty against the might of Charlemagne, that similarly guarded the mountaineers of the wooded Caucasus, and it was by these that the Forest Cantons were made the cradle of Swiss liberty. Add to this that the forest was also the hunting-ground of the Germans,—of the greatest importance to them, for Caesar tells us: *Vita omnis in venationibus atque in studiis rei militaris consistit*; that it was the chase that chiefly supplied them with food; that for their cattle it was the chief pasture; and that, when the increase of the population and its pressure on the soil had led to agriculture, it still continued to furnish their only building material; and you may easily realize its real significance in the life of our ancestors. Among the Goths building material was briefly described as *stabs*, *stab*, *i.e.* wood; hence the words "stoff," stuff, and *étoffe*. Wood was then considered as one of the elements, as it is still in China, together with fire, water, gold, and earth. Fortunately for the forest, wood as building material has to a great extent found suitable substitutes in iron and stone; but this change was a long time in coming, and even now, when referring to our homes, we speak of "our four pales." In modern times since the Germans have become somewhat more national, wood has again assumed a more important place in the furnishing of our rooms: our drawing-rooms are again displaying their wooden ceilings, our frosty stone walls are covered with wainscoting, and the old oak furniture has again come into fashion. While in Europe timber is valued only according to what it will fetch in the market, its price in Japan, where wood almost ranks with the elements, is determined by qualities

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elsewhere scarcely noticed, such as colour, fragrance, natural polish, arrangement of the fibres, direction of the grain, and softness to the touch. With the exception of the houses as now built for the upper classes in Germany and the cottages of the dwellers in the forest, the naturally beautiful and clear colour of wood is, in Europe, mostly covered with heavy coats of paint, while the walls are disfigured by the most faulty imitation in oil-colours of other kinds of wood, as well as by deceptive polish and veneering. Even stone and metal have been imitated in wood. How different from this the position that wood occupies in the Japanese house, in the light and finely put together *tenjō*, in the lattice work of the *shōji*, and in the grand specimens of art that embellish the *tokonoma*. It is very remarkable that also in this country wood has passed through all the architectural evolutions found elsewhere: from the simple and primitive grave post that serves here the purpose of merely preceding the tombstone to be erected somewhat later, to the massive stone pile in which wood is as much as possible excluded. The chief monuments of architectural skill, the temples, are still wooden structures pure and simple, and pillars, beams, and decorations have not yet hardened into stone, as was the case with the scapes, arches, and rosettes of the Gothic cathedral; but with the *torii* begins the same process of petrifaction, if I may so call it, that is so evident in the architecture of antiquity where, as in that of Greece for instance, the wooden edifice with its pillar-supported hall was simply replaced by a similar one in stone.

III.

With the decline of his environment man also grows weaker, poorer, and more unhappy. It was in an Elysian forest that the history of mankind began. Out of the densely wooded lands of Central Asia the most vigorous races have come, and the Old Testament seems still to be pervaded with the solemn sough of the cedars of Lebanon. While the forest was sacred to them, the Greeks and Moors were filled with a high and invincible spirit; and while the groves of Colonos and Argos, of Mt. Athos and Olympus soughed in the breeze, while the Scamander rolled its navigable flood to the Ocean, and while the Spanish table lands were still covered with dense forests, the power of these nations continued undiminished. But what an altered aspect now! Argos, Colonos, and Poseidon's pine-groves are no more, while only stunted woods are found on the mountain chains of Europe's southern peninsulas. The *Campagna felice*, the once well peopled and densely wooded neighbourhood of Rome, is to-day but the shadow of its former self: the place of once flourishing cities is occupied by swamps, the air mephitic, the people sick, discouraged, enervated, walking among the ruins of a glorious past, and finally fleeing from this denuded and uninhabitable region to Rome, often only to die there in the hospitals. The United States, also, would soon decline, were it not for its vast forests that offer their rich material produce and train a vigorous race to supersede the fast living littoral population. The densely wooded districts there, are the great reserve capital of the United States, but what when this has once been dissipated? The process of disafforestation is rapid, and scientists are not too pessimistic when they fear that after a few generations the Central Asian deserts may find their counterparts on the American continent. Not so unnatural, perhaps, is the old prophecy that finds its most fervent believers among the Indians with whom it originated, and that runs as follows:—"From two high mountains streams of mud will with terrific noise pour down into the plains, and destroy the hated race of the pale-faces with all their smoky cities and dusty streets. Then the forest will grow again, its beasts will return, and the whole land in all its primæval beauty will as an everlasting possession be given to the dusky children of the Great Spirit." A nation without forests has neither present nor future. Russia's greatness is guaranteed by its impenetrable forests, whose innermost recesses, says Mickiewicz, are as unfathomable a mystery to the hunters as are the depths of the ocean to the fishermen. Inhabitants of forest villages have, on the whole, a healthier, more natural, and more thoroughly individualistic character than the dwellers in the tree-less plain. The forester may be poor, but the discontented, disaffected *prolétaire* must be sought in the cities and villages of the valleys. Rougher in manner, more combative and daring it is true, but also sincerer and more cheerful than the peasant in the valley below, the forest-dweller finds in his native woodlands the real fountain-head of popular art and the nursery of good morals, and when at work, he may be heard singing merry ditties, while in the plains below the folk songs have long ago died away. The opponents of forestry point to the annually increasing list of materials that can be substituted for wood, and hence predict the speedy coming of the time when nearly every square rod will feed its man; but the idea of seeing every spot in this wide, wide world turned up by the spade has in it something dreadfully dismal. No forest enthusiast desires to maintain woods on lands really suited to agriculture, and, no doubt, many a forest can still be removed without diminishing the fertility of neighbouring districts; but in all countries there are also vast areas capable of supporting only timber trees, and nothing else. But man does not live by bread alone; and with all our riches how poor should we be without art, and how much poorer still without the forest and nature. In the bitter struggle for existence and in the feverish competition for pelf and gain, man may easily become utterly demoralized. What a society whose foundations are sapped by materialistic notions calls pleasure, is but calculated more quickly to exhaust and consume what little strength may still be left us. The universal disease of our time, nervousness, can be cured by and through Nature alone; and hence, in modern times, the irresistible impulse to visit, for a few weeks at least, the mountains and the forest with its fragrance and sweet solitude. This is not mere fashion; it is the instinctive desire for self-preservation as manifested by our fast living generation. To the forest flee alike he who wishes to forget and he who wishes to enjoy life; the child and the gray-beard, the artist, the author, and the lover; the despairing to find comfort, the happy to sing and shout till weary. We may indeed exclaim with Faust:—

In thy dear light, ah, might I climb,
Freely, some mountain height sublime,
Round mountain caves with spirits ride,
In thy mild haze o'er meadows glide,
And, purged from knowledge-fumes, renew
My spirit, in thy healing dew!

Their love of Mother Nature has always been the sign of great geniuses. To some extent this is also a prominent feature of our character, that we have inherited of our ancestors and that is likewise shared by all the Teutonic nations. As such a trait it has already been observed by Tacitus who says:—*Hinc terror sanctaque ignorantia quod sit illud quod tantum periturî vident.* It is the forest indeed that, in addition to its many suggestions to the scientist, leads also every thinking man to ponder on the riddle of life, and it has also often served as a place of previous rest and retreat to men whose ideas have shaken the world. In such solitude the royal Siddhartha prepares himself for his calling: under a fig-tree it is that the tempter approaches him, but victorious in this struggle and glorified by the sacred halo, the Buddha enters the world to preach the truth he found. It is to Buddhism that the great love of Nature we find among the Japanese has been ascribed; and indeed, if the Japanese is perhaps less susceptible to the grand majesty of the forest in the totality of its impression, a more devoted and loving appreciation of the individual plant cannot be found elsewhere. It is this love of Nature in its individual phenomena that finds such masterly expression in the art of Japan, and forms its unrivalled and most attractive charms. In modern times, the study of the forest has, especially in Germany, led to a wonderful development of landscape painting, and to this is also due the marvellous enchanting power of Goethe's lyric songs, which, like "The Fleweret," this great master of poetry had all found in the forest. There is scarcely a German poet that has not besung the woods with the same fervour as love and wine. Who does not know:

O valleys wide and mountains,
O glorious forest green,

and

Who has built thee up,
O Forest?

At about this same time, Mozart and Haydn composed works of art well-nigh as perfect "as if they had learned it of the little birds in the forest." The greatest charm of Weber's music lies in the forest voices that seem to pervade it, and thus it is that "Der Freischütz" is of all operas perhaps the most popular. And what is it that in Wagner's music affects us with such irresistible force but these same voices of Nature and the fresh breezes of the woodlands, for here is Woden's thunder, and the floods of Wagner's weird forest poetry carry us back to the giant trees of Teutonic antiquity, to the world-ash, and the Norns; back also to the sacred Montsalvat, and full of reverence and holy awe we step into the wonderful forest that surrounds the castle of the Holy Grail. So long, then, as a nation has not lost its love of the forest, so long also its art and civilization will ever rise from the sound basis of truth and Nature, so long also its oracles will not grow dumb, and its sun will never set.

CRICKET.

The opening match, a team captained by Mr. W. D. S. Edwards v. a team captained by Mr. A. B. Walford, was played on Saturday. The latter went first to the wickets, and had to face the bowling of the captain and Watson, against which no stand was made, and although nearly all contributed, the individual scores were so small that the total, with the assistance of 9 extras, amounted to only 63. On the other side two players punished the bowling—Fenton 62, and Wheeler 48, both "not out"—and with the assistance of other players and 19 extras (no less than 18 byes), the total of 151 was obtained, and the stumps drawn. The following are the scores:—

MR. A. B. WALFORD'S SIDE.		MR. W. D. S. EDWARD'S SIDE.	
Mr. Dodds, b. Watson	7	Mr. Watson, c. Walford, b. Edwards	4
Mr. C. D. Moss, b. Edwards	0	Dr. Wheeler, not out	48
Mr. Dickinson, b. Edwards	8	Mr. W. D. S. Edwards, c. Philip, b. Walford	1
Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, b. Edwards	7	Mr. R. de B. Layard, b. Walford	3
Mr. Philip, b. Edwards	0	Mr. Kenyon, b. Edwards	0
Mr. Walford, run not	9	Mr. Stewart, c. Edwards, b. Walford	1
Mr. Pollard, b. Edwards	3	Mr. Fenton, not out	62
Mr. Abbey, b. Watson	1	Mr. W. S. Young } Mr. Hood } d. d. not bat.	—
Mr. Fardell, b. Watson	7	Mr. Watt	—
Mr. Macondray, run out	2	b. 18, w. 1	19
Mr. W. Young, not out	1		
Mr. Hood, b. Edwards	0		
b. 5, l.b. 4	9		
	63		151

IN THE U.S. CONSULAR-GENERAL COURT.

Before G. H. SCIDMORE Esq., Vice Consul-General.—MONDAY, May 11th, 1891.

KINGSELL AND CO. V. SCHOEDER.

An action raised by Kingsell & Co. against F. Schroeder, agent of the American Book Co. in Tokyo, for the cost of printing a number of price lists, was heard to-day.

The following was the petition:—

1. That the American Book Co., is a company incorporated under the laws of the State of New York having an agency and property in Tokyo within jurisdiction of this Court.

2. That F. Schroeder above named is the agent for and manager in Japan of the said American Book Co.

3. That in July, 1890, or thereabouts the said F. Schroeder, as such agent aforesaid, ordered from the firm of Kingsell & Co., 500 printed price lists of books, maps, and charts published by the American Book Co.

4. That the said firm of Kingsell & Co. duly executed the said order so given them, and promptly forwarded the said price lists to the said F. Schroeder in Tokyo.

5. That the plaintiff's bill for printing, binding, shipping, &c., of said price lists amounts to the sum of $60.50.

6. That plaintiff forwarded to the defendant a proper bill of the said sum due to the firm of Kingsell & Co., and have since then from time to time likewise forwarded deplicates of said bill and demanded payment thereof, but that all his efforts to obtain payment of said amount or any part thereof have remained fruitless.

F. Kingsell, principal of the firm of Kingsell & Co., deponed—Defendant came to my place last year to ask me to print some catalogues. It was about the 1st or 2nd of July. When he came first he did not bring a sample of the work, but at his request I showed him a copy of my "Exchange Tables." I said I could tell him the price when I knew what kind of work he wanted. A few days afterwards he brought a copy of the American Book Co.'s catalogue, and referring to the "Exchange Tables" said "This is very well done; you can do my catalogue all the same." He did not say anything about the colour of the paper, but simply said that it should be the same as the sample I showed him. He gave me the catalogue to show what it was that he wanted printed. When I sent proofs to him I sent the copy with them—the copy being torn out pages of the catalogue he had given me. Chee Nam, one of my employés, was present when the contract was entered into—on both occasions. I received a letter dated July 9th from Mr. Schroeder, sending under registered cover a catalogue of which he wanted 500 copies printed as quickly as possible. He wanted proofs as soon as possible, a statement repeated in a letter of the 10th sending the remainder of the catalogue, and required the job finished as soon as we possibly could. On July 15th he returned proofs up to page 15, but enjoined the printers to hurry up with the work. On July 19th he wrote stating that since the 15th he had received no proofs and said he was in urgent need of it, but on the following day he sent back proofs and expressed surprise that we had done so little. On the 22nd he

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asked for two sets of proofs and again complained about the delay. About July 23rd defendant came to discuss about the binding and said he wanted 100 books with a black cover, the other 400 to be with paper cover the same as the "Exchange Tables." He asked me to prepare a sample of the black cover binding, and when he came a day or two later I showed him sample covers printed. He asked if I could not make a better cover, and I said I could but it would cost more, and he said he did not wish that. On July 25th he wrote complaining "for the fourth time" that the pages did not correspond with the size of the original. At that time there only remained 8 or 10 pages to finish. A letter dated 30th July acknowledged receipt of the catalogues and stated that in spite of his letter of the 25th and three previous letters to the same effect we had not made the catalogues uniform with the original copy so that instead of 39 pages as in the original the catalogue consisted of 43 pages, and was moreover printed on a cheap yellow paper instead of good white paper. However, as he was in need of them he kept 100 copies and sent back the other 400. When the goods came back to me I refused to accept them and made the express man take the case back. I have not seen it since. The letter intimating their return came before the arrival of the box of books returned to me by him. I have sent several times to defendant for payment of my bill, but have received no money from the defendant—he has not even paid me for the goods he kept.

Defendant, before cross-examining, asking a ruling first on the contention that the action should be brought within six months of the time that payment was refused.

Mr. Scidmore stated that the general law of England in existence in 1776 was recognised as of force in American Consulate Courts in China and Japan, and the British Statute of Limitations which had been decided on several occasions to have force here placed the time at 6 years.

The defendant then contended that the proper remedy for the plaintiffs would have been to sue him to take delivery of the goods.

Mr. Scidmore ruled that this was discretionary with the plaintiff.

Cross-examined—I did not understand you to say that the catalogue I was to print should correspond with the original copy as to the contents of each page and the quality of the paper. It is the first rule of a printer to follow copy, but there must be exceptions to that for every printer has not the same type as the copy that he may receive. I made the pages in size to suit the size of the paper that I had to print on. You did not tell me to exactly follow the copy you gave me. You did not instruct me to put the same number of lines on every page as in the original. You did not pick up a book and tell me that you wanted the catalogue bound in a black cover with gold lettering, thicker than the one you picked up. You spoke of having a better binding than a specimen that I showed you, but I told you a better cover would be more expensive. That was about the 24th or 25th. I have many books in my shop bound in black and card board covers. There are not and never have been any books bound with card board and black covers in the glass case on the right hand side of my shop. Exhibit No. 9 if with a cardboard cover and bronze printing would cost 13 cents. Ten cents as a fair price for a cover like No. 9.

Re-examination—All printers have not necessarily the same type. Of the type used in the original catalogue given me by Mr. Schroeder, the nearest to it is long-primer of the kind that I have used.

Ham Chee Nam, sworn, deponed—I know the defendant; have seen him before. I saw him last year about June or July. He came to Kingsell's where I am employed. He spoke to my master about printing a catalogue. Mr. Kingsell showed him a sample of the "Exchange Tables." Mr. Schroeder said—"This will do very well; if you do like this it will be all right." That was all I heard that passed between them on that day. I saw Mr. Schroeder afterwards about two weeks later, when I heard him say that he wanted 500 copies 100 with a black cover and bronze lettering. That was all I heard, as I had to leave the store and go to another part of the premises.

Cross-examined—When you came first to the store I was standing about 12 feet from you and Mr. Kingsell. You neither spoke loud nor low. You were standing near a glass case, but I did not notice what you were doing. The second time you called was when Mr. Kingsell showed you the "Exchange Tables."

Mr. Kingsell recalled—I produce the proofs which I sent to Mr. Schroeder and which he corrected and sent back to me.

F. Schroeder, sworn, deponed—I am the agent at Tokyo of the American Book Co. Pars. 1 and 2 of the petition are admitted. On or about the 4th of July, 1890, I went to Kingsell and Co. to ask them whether they could print a catalogue. They said yes, and I said I would come down again in a few days to give them a sample of the catalogue. To the best of my recollection I brought them the American catalogue with the prices in American gold, and said—of this I am perfectly sure—the catalogues must be printed on the same good white paper, and, plaintiffs being Chinese, I thought it would not be superfluous to impress on them the fact that the catalogues to be printed by them must exactly correspond with the original, that is to say the same page must contain the same number of lines. I expressly told them that, although with European printers this would have been a matter of course. I also told them to get the work done as quickly as possible, and they agreed to all this. In my answer I said 50 copies were to be bound in cardboard, but this was a mistake, the number should have been 100. I do not know whether it was on the second or third occasion, but I think it was on the second that I stipulated that the 100 copies should be bound in black cardboard. On that occasion I looked around the shop for books bound in cardboard, and on a shelf in a glass case I saw a book bound in cardboard which I took out and told Mr. Kingsell that the cover must be thicker than this and that the lettering was to be in gold. He said gold would be very expensive, and that bronze would do as well. To this I agreed, and I also agreed to pay 10 cents per copy extra for a hard card board cover, covered with black paper. The price for the other copies had been agreed upon, and there was nothing further said then. After some time proofs were sent to me and about 17 pages of the proofs corresponded with the original copy furnished to the plaintiff. After that I noticed a discrepancy, and I am not quite sure whether I made first a verbal or a written remonstrance, but I am quite sure that I made one verbal remonstrance to Kingsell about the discrepancy in the number of lines on each page. He said those were only proofs and it would be all right by and bye. No notice was taken of my remonstrance. For convenience of reference the fact that the latter half of the book did not correspond with the American catalogue was the ground of my objection to Kingsell's work. Finally when the catalogues were finished they had 43 pages instead of the original 39, so that for that reason they were useless to me. After or before this verbal remonstrance, I wrote two or three letters calling the attention of Kingsell to the fact. These letters were not copied in my letter book. When I found that the books were not in accordance with the original copy I thought it would be well to copy the next letter as I was afraid there would be trouble. My next letter, dated July 25th, I did copy. The reference therein is to the paper cover and not to the black cover, of which I had not yet seen any. The paper cover is about half an inch shorter than the original. I asked them to send me up final proofs to page 35, but I did not receive them. I had seen proofs of all the pages at different times, but never saw them all together as a whole. I only got one proof of the respective pages; I never saw a revise. Kingsell did not reply to that letter at the time, but on 30th July they wrote telling me that my letter of the 28th had come too late and that the type had been broken up. The case came a little later the same day, on 30th July. I at once opened the case and found that the paper used in the catalogues was cheap yellow paper instead of good white paper as in the original. I had expressly told them the paper should be good white paper. I found also the copies that should have been bound in card board, bound in thin black paper. On the same day I wrote to them the letter already produced, and returned the catalogues (keeping only 100 of those with paper covers) to Kingsell & Co. I do not know where they are now.

Kingsell here stated that about two weeks later the Transport Co.'s agent had told him that Mr. Schroeder would not take the books back, and asked what was to be done; to which he replied that he could not accept them.

Cross-examined—I do not know why the first page of the proofs was printed on paper identical with that which was used in the completed catalogues. They are of the same kind of paper and contain the same number of lines. Some of the catalogues were to be sent out and some kept in my office. The intention of printing these catalogues was to send them out so that people could order from them. Sometimes the Japanese, not understanding English, would in ordering the book say page so and so book so-and-so, in addition to the translation of the title in Japanese. The fact that I should have a similar copy in my office, and thus be able to understand the reference, does not affect the issue. I have the right to order my work as I please. If I had one copy of this catalogue at home and compared it with the order I should be perfectly able to say which book was referred to. I did not go to Kingsell's between the 25th and 30th July. As far as I can recollect, I did not even go between the 20th and 25th. I wanted the catalogue before the summer vacation commenced on the 11th, but I simply asked him to do the work as quickly as possible. With my letter of the 9th July I sent a catalogue and on the 10th "the remainder" of the catalogue, but prior to that they had had from the 2nd a catalogue to go on with. I took out 100 copies from the case sent to me because I had to have some of them very badly. From 70 to 80 copies are still in my house. I have never paid for the 100, and I have never been asked to pay for them. I considered I had the right under the circumstances to retain part of the books and to send back the balance.

Mr. Schroeder was then heard in support of his case, and after hearing Mr. Uchiyama, for the plaintiff, the Court rose. Judgment will be given on the 13th inst., at 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, May 13th, 1891.

Judgment was given in this case to-day.

His Honour said, before reading the judgment in the case he would make a few remarks upon some points in the testimony that were of importance. Making due allowance for misunderstandings between the parties, his Honour was of the opinion that, except as to the binding, the plaintiff had fulfilled his contract as far as he understood it. As regarded the evidence that the plaintiff did not follow the copy, he thought an examination of the exhibits would contradict it to some extent. Exhibit No. 16, was a portion furnished by the plaintiff to the defendant, and was the first part of the catalogue, but an examination of that part of the copy seemed to convince him that, as a printer, without explicit instructions from the defendant that each page was to correspond with the original, the plaintiff was justified in following copy as he did. If he had not done so the catalogue would not have been printed in a workmanlike manner. That was to say pages 17 and 18 would not register, but page 18 was two lines longer than page 17 and page 19 one line longer than 18, and some of the pages which were equal in length did not register in lines, so that in the absence of explicit instructions to print those pages the same as copy, the plaintiff was justified in making the pages exactly the same length in order to make a neat book, and it proved to be a neat piece of workmanship. Another point that militated against the defendant's position was that in correcting the proofs even to the last page he did not by any marks show that the pages did not correspond line for line with the copy. In correcting the proofs that would be the proper place for the corrections to appear. It did not appear that either the plaintiff or the defendant thought it necessary to have a second or last proof sent to the defendant. It appeared that the proofs were sent up ten at a time Of course after the first 16 or 18 pages had been printed and the type distributed it would be impossible for the plaintiff to make another correction. Another point, which was of great weight in the case, was the fact that after the books were completed they were forwarded to the defendant and a portion of them were returned. One hundred were accepted, and the rest retained by the defendant. If he had intended to return the books, it was his duty, in his own interests, to refuse any part of them. There had been a great many decisions upon this point, but it would not be necessary for his Honour to go into them unless the defendant wished them quoted. As to the binding, his Honour did not think it corresponded with the contract. He believed that the defendant explained to the plaintiff, as far as he could, about the binding of the books, and if the plaintiff did not keep that in mind it was his own fault, and for that reason his Honour would have to deduct something from the claim for the binding. The judgment was as follows:—Having heard and considered the pleadings, testimony, and arguments of the parties herein, it is hereby ordered and adjudged that said plaintiff shall recover from said defendant fifty (50) Mexican dollars. It is further ordered and adjudged that each party to this action pay one half of the costs of Court.

A writer on mosquito bites declares that common soap is as effective a remedy as ammonia, chloroform, or any of the many articles recommended. The lather is allowed to dry over the affected part, when all burning and pain soon disappear.

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ENQUIRY.

An enquiry was held in H.B.M. Consulate on Thursday morning before the Consul, James Troup Esq., into the circumstances of a collision between the steamship *Oanfu*, Captain Shaw, and a Japanese junk, in which a man belonging to the junk was drowned.

Captain Shaw deponed that about half-past five that morning he got under weigh for Kobe. After having passed the two harbour light-ships which mark the entrance into the harbour, a small junk was seen on the port bow. She altered her course to port. The ship's helm was then put hard-a-port and the engines reversed. She struck the junk amidships and broke her to pieces. Orders were given to lower the midship boat, which was always kept handy. The boat was lowered, and a Japanese man-of-war picked up one man, but the other could not be found. The second officer reported that only one man had been saved, and the other he did not see all. Witness then went on board the Japanese man-of-war to ascertain particulars. An officer informed him that only one man had been saved, and that they had not been able to find the other man. The officer advised witness to report the matter, which he did.

James Gray, chief mate of the *Oanfu*, deponed that he was on the forecastle on the look-out. After passing the light-ships which mark the entrance to the harbour, he observed a sailing boat on the port bow heading toward the ship's course. He then heard the whistle blown from the bridge and saw the boat alter her course to starboard. As they neared her the boat suddenly altered her course again and lay right across the steamer's bows. Witness then heard the telegraph ring from the bridge, and the engines were reversed, but by that time the collision had taken place. A boat was immediately lowered and the ship brought to an anchor. Witness saw two persons in the boat. It was about half-past five when the accident occurred.

Thomas Bagen, third mate of the *Oanfu*, deponed that about half-past five this morning, the steamer having got about three or four hundred yards outside the lightships, he saw a Japanese junk about three points on the port bow. Witness was on the bridge, the ship was going about five knots. He blew the whistle by the captain's order, and altered the helm, turning the ship's course to starboard. The junk then altered her course to starboard. If they had kept on they would have had a clear course, but they again altered their course and the ship struck them amidships. The ship had been put full speed astern. There were two men in the water. Witness did not see them taken up. A boat was lowered from the steamer to pick them up, but a boat from a Japanese man-of-war reached them first.

Akimoto Aijiro, a boatman, deponed that he came from Tokyo that morning in the boat with one Ishiwata Ichisaburo, to whom the boat belonged. They left Tokyo, but had to lie to, on account of the unfavourable wind at Daishigara. They left that place at five o'clock and came on to Yokohama. The steamer was going at full speed and was coming straight at them. There was no means of getting out of the way by putting the helm down. The ship caught them nearly amidships and broke the boat in half. The other man, Ishiwata, who was in the boat, was steering. There was no time for them to get out of the way. The steamer came so quickly that he did not know what to do. Whether the helm was moved once or twice he did not know. Witness fell into the water, but was close to a Japanese man-of-war, the *Tukachiho Kan*. Witness was picked up by a boat from that ship. Witness saw Ishiwata, but by the time the boat reached him he had sunk and the boat was not in time to save him. The boat was called the *Fujiku Maru*, and was a little over 2,000 *koku* tonnage. She was then laden with empty beer barrels and bottles. The boat was being steered with the helm, not with a paddle. Witness spoke to Ishiwata when he was in the water. He was swimming, and he asked witness if a boat was not coming to rescue them. He had drifted away from where the casks were. Witness held on to the mast until he was picked up. Witness saw a boat from the ship put into the water, but did not know what became of it afterwards.

His Honour said it was not for him to give an opinion in the matter. It was not like a death occurring on board the ship that his Honour would have to give an opinion on, but he had simply taken down the Captain's evidence and that of the first and third mates, as, in case of an inquiry as to the death of the Japanese, the statements might be wanted.

EUROPE'S WAR CHIEFS.

According to the latest war map of the German general staff—a map finished only a few days ago—Germany now has sixteen strategic railroad lines in order, for the instant despatch of armies to and beyond the French frontier. It has nineteen bridges over the Rhine, says the New York *Journal*, so that there need not be a moment's hesitation in pushing forward two or three large armies, as it pushed them on in 1870.

It has ten strategic railroad lines ready for sending troops into Russia, and is building four more with all possible speed.

It can send troops to thirteen different points in the Russian kingdom of Poland and the government of Wilna at once.

It has everything prepared, even to the smallest item of rolling stock, and it has what probably no other general staff in the world possesses, perfect plans for mobilizing two sets of troops at once, one to the north, the other to the east.

Should it succeed in undertaking this great double move, it would present the most magnificent and formidable military spectacle of modern times, and one upon which the whole world would gaze with eyes of wonder and with bated breath.

And who is to succeed to Von Moltke's place, to hurl the thunder-bolts which this patient Vulcan has forged? We find that it is another of those silent, grim, hard-working men of which the German soil is so prodigal, and one who has been little heard of outside of Germany until now.

After General Von Waldersee had occupied the place for a time, and had been removed by the young Emperor's caprice (he is getting into favour again now), there was considerable surprise when Lieut.-Gen. Count Alfred Schlieffen, second, was named for the place. Yet no one could say that it was not a worthy appointment, for Schlieffen had long been identified with the general staff, and knows all Moltke's traditions. He is, as he says of himself, "a quiet, sedate man." When asked for his picture, he said he had had none taken in recent years, and let the matter rest there. He is a worker, not a parade general.

Schlieffen was born in 1833. He was the son of a landed proprietor in Bunzlau, and had neither great fortune nor extreme brilliance to recommend him. In 1854 he became an officer of Uhlans; from 1859 to 1861 he was in the war academy at Berlin. In 1854 he was in the topographical bureau of the general staff; in 1866 Rittmeister. By-and-by he became captain in the general staff, and then military attaché at Paris.

At the outbreak of the war of 1870, Schlieffen was a general staff officer of the Tenth Army Corps. During the campaign in France he entered the staff of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg and aided in the operation of covering the Army of the Loire. He received the highest grade of the Iron Cross for his distinguished services.

We then see him successively in the general staff of the Fifteenth Army Corps of Strasburg, in '72 on the staff of the Guards, in '76 Lieutenant-Colonel and commander of the First Uhlanen of the Guard. He commanded this regiment until 1884, after which he became Chief of the Third Division in the general staff. In December, 1885, he was made a Major-General, and in 1886 the rank of Quartermaster-General was created, and he received it.

As commander of the First Uhlans of the Guard at Potsdam, General Schlieffen had long been on the best of terms with the present Emperor, and came naturally to his place after the retirement of Waldersee, and after General Von Wittich's chances had been seen to be nil. The Berlin press thought that the Emperor would choose Von Wittich, the commander of the imperial head-quarters, but he didn't.

Schlieffen stands in the place where Moltke stood. But where are Moltke's old warriors? Where are the Crown Prince, the Red Prince, Steinmetz, and so many others of famous memory? Gone! and in their stead are men who have yet their campaigns to make.

That brilliant military leader, the King of Saxony, who fought with such gallantry and success when he was Crown Prince in the Franco German war of 1870, is still alive, and is justly considered one of the first generals of time. He is not too old to fight as he fought at Gravelotte and Sedan. His brother, Field Marshal Prince George of Saxony, is another eminent soldier ready for new campaigns.

Then the illustrious Von Moltke and Blumenthal, the former past ninety, the latter past eighty, could scarcely be supposed to keep silence in case of war. Moltke's advice would be precious. Blumenthal, the grand old commander of the "Third Army" in France in 1870, is universally recognized as one of the most distinguished strategists of modern times.

General Von Waldersee's talents and engaging personality signal for him a prominent part in case of war. Moltke has called him his most brilliant pupil. He is one of those who cannot be kept down. It is said that he has been selected as one of the commanders to operate with the Italian forces in case of a joint movement of the allies against France.

His frankness in judging of some manœuvres commanded by the Emperor in Silesia last autumn is said to have seriously wounded young Wilhelm, but he appears to have maintained no resentment.

General Verday du Vernois is an officer of excellent qualities, who rendered great service in the war of 1870, on the general staff. He has since been Minister of War, and would be certain to play a prominent part.

General Schwarzkoppen of Wurtenburg is understood to possess great talent. General Von Kaltencorn-Stachau, the present Minister of War, has had a splendid career, rising in less than sixteen years to be a commanding general. General Lewinski was famous in 1870, and is as fresh as he was then. Generals Von Albedyil, Brousart Von Schillendorf, Von Haenisch, and Von Meerscheidt-Hullessem, a favourite of the old Emperor, would give good account of themselves. General Leutze, the only commanding general in the army who is not a nobleman, is very popular and highly esteemed.

Prince Alexander of Prussia is an infantry general of distinction. He is the elder of the Hohenzollern Emperor. Despite his advanced age, he would doubtless be very prominent in case of war.

In the French armies the staff or état major is divided into three branches—the staff service, the general staff and the army staff.

Since 1870 the grand general staff has been elaborating plans of campaign, but so perfect has been the secrecy concerning them that no one knows, outside of a certain military circle, whether they are bad or good. In 1890 M. de Freycinet, the present Minister of War, greatly enlarged the functions of the general staff, giving the chief more power of initiative than he ever had before.

General Saussier is sixty-two years of age, although he has the complexion and gait of a schoolboy. He is within two years of the limit of age, but is still vigorous enough in body and mind to act as commander-in-chief of the principal group of armies, which would consist of the troops first mobilized. He has had wide experience in campaigning in the Crimea, in 1870, and in the siege of 1871. If the war came before 1892, he will be one of the most active figures in it.

Directly under General Saussier in the Council of War, are the following Division Generals, several of whom are already known to fame:—General the Marquis de Gallifet, General de Miribel, General the Duke of Auerstadt, General Billot, member of the Senate; General Berger, Military Governor of Lyons; General Thomassen and General Galland. Of these two are worthy of special mention.

General de Miribel, the commander of the Sixth Army Corps, is one of the most vital and imposing figures in the new French army. He has been selected by general acclamation to second General Saussier with the title of Major-General. At the coming grand military manœuvres this year he will be seen in action, moving two armies, which will be composed of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Corps, commanded by General Davout, the Duc d'Auerstadt, and General Gallifet.

As these men are grouped in the mimic war of the manœuvres, so they will be grouped on the field of actual warfare. Generals de Miribel and Gallifet are both men of great daring and wide experience in actual campaigning. Miribel served in Mexico, was honourably connected with the war of 1870 and the great siege, is a rigid disciplinarian, and an enthusiastic believer in the universal military service now the rule in France.

General de Gallifet has been in the army since 1848. As commander of the Third Chasseurs d'Afrique he took part with the Army of the Rhine in the Franco-German war, and came out of it with the rank of general of brigade.

When Paris and Versailles were at war in 1871, Gallifet was one of the most energetic of the subduers of the Commune and his cruelty in punishing the prisoners was severely criticised.

General de Gallifet is one of the first cavalry officers in Europe. He is a handsome man, of elegant manners and large fortune. In Africa he has made several important campaigns, and has been a division general since 1875.

Many of the generals commanding army corps have seen long service in Algeria, and are accustomed to active campaigning. In this respect they are superior to the younger generals of the German army. Some of them, like General de Negrier, have been in Tonquin for years.

Russia has to-day many generals who have

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achieved fame within the last fifteen years, and several of them are open in their expression of enmity to Germany.

The present Minister of War, General Vannovski, is an able and adroit tactician. A good many of the men who shone so brightly in the difficult times of the war with Turkey in 1878 are dead; the Grand Duke Nicholas is incurably ill; the fiery and impetuous Skobeleff is gone for ever.

But men like Gourko, Dragomiroff and Ignatieff are still alive and likely to play prominent parts in a general war. The last-named would be especially useful if Russia should decide to pursue her march towards Constantinople, while keeping Austria and Germany well occupied in other directions.

General Ignatieff is now in his fifth-eighth year. His performances have been more distinctly diplomatic than military, and would be so in future, but none the less important for that.

Ignatieff smooths the paths for his hardier brethren of the sword, and then comes after them to reap the results. It is not every army which can boast of a diplomatic general. As ambassador at Constantinople he was a power in the eyes of all Europe.

General Count Joseph Vassiyevich Gourko, one of the most distinguished of Russian commanders, was born in 1828. In 1867 the Emperor made him a Major-General, and placed him in his suite. Gourko did not attract much attention in the Crimea, but his magnificent career in the Russo-Turkish war made him world-famous.

At Tirnovo and Skipka he won laurels, and the courageous passage of the Balkans by Gourko and his army in the dead of winter has not been excelled since Napoleon forced his way over the Alps. General Gourko has latterly had some trouble in consequence of his administration in Poland, but will certainly be called to the front in the coming war.

Of General Dragomiroff the world heard a good deal during the campaign of 1877. He is an energetic and capable commander, full of expedients, quick at meeting and crushing prominent difficulties in a new campaign. In the Imperial Guard there are several brilliant Generals who were more or less distinguished in Turkey.

Gen. Louis Melikoff, the victor of Ardahan and Kars, and of so many campaigns in the Caucasus, is also certain to be marked for a prominent place. The Grand Duke Michael, whose second, Melikoff, was in the Caucasus, is himself no mean General.

Finally, Russia has a host of brave young officers, burning for a chance to distinguish themselves, among whom, however, there is no such genius as the lamented Skobeleff.—*Weekly Sun*, April 1st.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, May 8th.

Mr. Blaine has replied to the despatch of Marquis di Rudini, and has denied the latter's charge that the American Government disavows responsibility for the acts of States of the Union. Private telegrams are passing.

[This message is not very clear.—ED. *J.M.*]

London, May 9th.

The Grand Jury at New Orleans has refused to indict the lynchers.

Captain Verney, M.P., has pleaded guilty to the charge of procuring a girl for immoral purposes, and has been sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.

Another parcel of Ceylon tea of very high quality has been sold in London, and fetched five hundred and ten shillings per pound.

London, May 11th.

A Decree issued by the Portuguese Government orders the coinage of silver to the value of five hundred thousand pounds sterling.

London, May 12th.

The *modus vivendi* with Portugal has been prolonged pending further negotiations.

Mr. Gladstone is very much indisposed.

London, May 14th.

Financial difficulties in Portugal are gravely affecting London foreign exchanges.

Later.

The London foreign exchanges are less excited, though the financial crisis in Lisbon continues.

Mr. Gladstone is slightly better.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Nagasaki, May 11th.

The *Takachiho Maru*, bound from this port to Fusan, has gone ashore on the island of Tsushima.

Later.

The *Takachiho* has sunk full of cargo, but no lives have been lost.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, April 23rd.

There is intense excitement at the Cape owing to five thousand Boers arranging for a trek in Mashonaland. The High Commissioner of Cape Colony, Sir H. B. Loch, telegraphed to the President of the Transvaal that the British would regard the trek as an act of hostility. The President replied that the trek would be stopped.

London, April 24th.

The Budget Revenue exceeds the Estimates by £1,880,000, and the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen expects there will be a surplus next year of nearly two millions sterling.

London, April 25th.

It has transpired that the Portuguese Government yielded to Lord Salisbury's demands in consequence of his despatch being a sharp ultimatum.

The situation of Portugal continues critical, and grave internal troubles are feared.

London, April 27th.

It is understood that Lieut.-Col. J. J. Tuck will be appointed Chief Paymaster at Aldershot.

There is a great movement in France against the extreme protectionist views of the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8, 9, 9.35,† 10.15, and 11.40‡ a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 7.30, 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.10, and 11.25† a.m., and 12.55, 1.50,† 2.55, 4, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8 8.58,† 9.55, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.35, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.12, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between Kozu and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri*.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri*)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26, 9.40, and 11.03 a.m. and 12.20, 2.10, 3.50, 5.00, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35, 9.51, and 11.13 a.m., and 12.31, 2.20, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43, 10, and 11.22, a.m., and 12.40, 2.29, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m.; YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, 10.25, and 11.40 a.m., and 1.30, 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, 10.40, and 11.55 a.m., and 1.45, 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 10.49 a.m., and 12.04, 1.54, 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Dzushi *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TAKETOYO-OBU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OBU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.40 and 9.15 a.m., and 2.15 and 5.20 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.20 and 10 a.m., and 2 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.05, 4.42, 6.09, and 12.08 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.08, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1, 4.35, 7.08, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.20, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.44, 6, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 9.55 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OBU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.26 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, 6.03, 10.05, and 12.05 p.m., and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, 7, 11.15, and 12.57 p.m., and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, 7.29, and 11.40 p.m., and 1.25 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 5.40 and 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 2.40 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 5.54 and 8.43 a.m., and 3.59, 7, and 8.57 p.m., and 2.51 a.m. and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 7.35 and 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.36, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.20 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 8.27 and 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.21, and 11.05 p.m., and 5.05 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 10.04 a.m., and 12.36, 8.20, 10.51, and 12.30 p.m., and 6.28 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, 3.20, and 9.48 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, 4.25, and 10.55 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45, 4.34, 6.02, and 12.30 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, 5.19, and 6.50 p.m., and 1.15 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, 6.59, and 8.27 p.m., and 2.50 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3.05 a.m.; OGAKI at 6.10 and 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 6.41 and 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OBU at 9.01 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 6.15, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11.50 a.m., and 5.54 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.14, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—KOZU to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Obu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 7.10 and 9.20 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.25 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 5, 9.04, and 11.14 a.m., and 4.19 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 6.10 and 10.15 a.m., and 2 and 6.30 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 5.10, 7.10, and 11.17 a.m., and 3.07 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 69

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—FARE, *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe.....	per N. Y. K.	Friday, May 22nd.
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, May 17th.†
From America ...	per P. M. Co.	Monday, May 25th ‡
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 26th.§
From Europe via Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Saturday, May 23rd.
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 24th.
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 7th.

† *Saghalien* left Shanghai on May 11th. ‡ *China* left San Francisco on May 7th. § *Empress of India* left Vancouver on May 9th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Polyhymnia*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 19th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, May 24th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, May 24th.
For America.....	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, May 28th.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 30th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, June 9th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, June 12th.

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Myrmidon, British steamer, 1,815, R. Nelson, 9th May,—Kobe 8th May, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Volturno (8), Italian corvette, Captain Roych, 9th May,—Yokosuka Dock 9th May.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 10th May,—Hongkong 2nd, Nagasaki 6th, and Kobe 9th May, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Oanfa, British steamer, 1,987, Shaw, 11th May,—Kobe 10th May, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Fuso Kan (6), ironclad, Captain Sameshima, 11th May,—Shinagawa 11th May.

Katsuragi Kan (7), composite sloop, Captain Mochida, 11th May,—Shinagawa 11th May.

Takachiho Kan (8), steel cruiser, Captain Yamamoto, 11th May,—Shinagawa 11th May.

Yamato Kun (7), composite-sloop, Captain Morooka, 11th May,—Shinagawa 11th May.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,775, Alex. Clark, 11th May,—Kobe 10th May, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Pathan, British steamer, 1,765, Roy, 11th May,—Kobe 10th May, General —Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, G. W. Pearne, 12th May,—San Francisco 25th April, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 12th May,—Hongkong 7th May, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Alliance (6), U.S. screw-cruiser, Captain H. C. Taylor, 13th May,—Nagasaki 7th May.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 13th May,—Takao, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, R.N.R., 14th May,—Hongkong 4th, Shanghai 9th, and Kobe 13th May, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 14th May,—Honolulu 1st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 15th May,—Nagasaki 11th May, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 15th May,—Shanghai and ports 8th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Albany, British steamer, 1,742, Hood, 9th May,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sydney, French steamer, 3,456, Delacroix, 10th May,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Frigga, German steamer, 1,400 Nagel, 12th May,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Innocenti, Italian bark, 902, Cuneo, 12th May,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Captain.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 12th May,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 13th May,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Oanfa, British steamer, 1,987, Shaw, 13th May,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Myrmidon, British steamer, 1,815, R. Nelson, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,775, Alex. Clark, 14th May,—London, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Arctic, British schooner, 49, Pyne, 14th May,—North Pacific, Ballast.—Captain.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, R.N.R., 15th May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 15th May,—Takao, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 16th May,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 16th May,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Pathan, British steamer, 1,765, Roy, 16th May,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. L. Lewis, F. E. Wilkinson, W. P. Symonds, C. A. Sherring, Mrs. Quigley, Miss Palmer, Mr. W. M. Allport, Miss C. M. Hickson, Mrs. Gaskell, Miss L. James, Mrs. Fat Hing and 2 children, Messrs. Chark Chun, Ah Wai, Sansung, Kwan Hing, Yuck, Lieut. Williams, Lieut. Gore, Captain Irvine, Miss McIntyre, Surgeon C. Dickson, Commander C. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Dalrymple, Mr. and Mrs. Morean, Messrs. Chan Tuk Chung, C. E. De Betladand, E. Higgons, Chun Sing, W. Thiel, Lo Wan, Mrs. Lo Wan, Mrs. Ket Shing, Mrs. Chun Sing, Mrs. Cavendish and child, Mrs. M. Innes, Mrs. Chew Kwan and amah, Miss Richardson, Messrs. W. S. Honnersone, J. Spragg, J. Johns, Mr. and Mrs. Ginsburg, Messrs. Mess, T. Tamai, W. Sidney, Butler, Miss Rice, Mrs. Chope and 2 children, infant, nurse, and amah, Messrs. Richardson, Carnegie, Rosenfield, Phillips, E. Oppenheimer, Woong Hoop, and Chope in cabin; 23 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. L. A. Bernheimer, Mr. H. A. W. Wood, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. T. W. Hellyer, Mrs. Blish, Mrs. H. Percy, and Rev. I. H. Correll in cabin. For Hongkong: Messrs. Fong Ching, Tsuo Kung, M. W. Greig, W. J. Courtald, and W. J. Thompson in cabin. For Shanghai: Mr. Gilbert McIntosh, Miss I. Ranson, and Miss L. Esmond in cabin. For Bangkok: Mr. R. M. Boys in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Hakodate:—21 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from Hongkong:—H.E. Sir G. W. Des Voeux, K.C.M.G., Lady Des Voeux, Miss Des Voeux, Miss Evans, Captain Milner, A.D.C., Paymaster J. S. Phillips, U.S.N., Surgeon-Major B. Doyle, Miss Taylor, Miss Krölunke, Mr. R. Fraser, Rev. L. A. Eaton and 3 children, Rev. J. S. and Mrs. Norvell and child, Mr. G. J. Watson, Mr. R. P. Warren, Mr. Henry Ashton, Captain Hopkins, Mr. Weber, Mr. T. S. Baker, Mr. Tamei, Mr. Wood, and Dr. Munro in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, 3 daughters, and 2 sons, Mr. Mayeda, Mrs. Matsumoto, Mr. and Mrs. Jensen and child, Messrs. A. Jensen, A. Linton, and Suyoaka in cabin; 58 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Parthia*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. King, Captain Simmons, Mr. Siddley, and Mr. and Mrs. Jones in cabin. For Vancouver, B.C.: Miss Jessie Bushell, Mrs. and Miss Lowry, Mr. Hoppe, Mr. Wheatly, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Rich, Rev. Mr. Barclay, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Ewer, and Mr. Von Fries in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. E. Waters, Mr. and Mrs. Souza and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Toyoma and 2 children, Miss Toyoma, Miss Georgie Stewart, Miss Trixie Stewart, Rev. Dr. Gillison, Rev. Mr. Swallow, and Mr. Loo in cabin; 9 passengers in second class, and 49 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Messrs. K. Yunoshi, J. Tasflon, L. Sagel, T. Soineire, L. Sanetoni, Levy, P. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. N. Macleod, Mr. Silva y Souza, Mrs. Hall, Messrs. Saralides, W. Hallets, Sergio y Souza, H. Satow, K. Yano, Shibuya, and Shevenet in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Cook and 2 children, Mrs. Blish, Mrs. Hellyer, Mrs. Bieber, Miss Percy, Miss Ransom, Miss Osmond, Mrs. Asano, Miss Kuki, Master Kuki, Messrs. McIntosh, Cromie, Okamoto, Sale, Ishibashi, Buchanan, Yoshisuye, Sasa, Jeffries, Tijima, and Asami in cabin; Mrs. Yamada and child, Mr. and Mrs. Soon Tin, Mrs. Gardner, Miss Donald, Messrs. F. C. Ying, Tamama, Hiraishi, Seddon, and Cameron in second class, and 67 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong:—Miss Barker and Captain and Mrs. Glubb in cabin.

Per British steamer *Parthia*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Messrs. Morrison, Ware, Whitehouse, Lombard, Wood, Bowker, Cornell, Brittain, Woodbridge, Colonel Egerton, Major and Mrs. Foster, Colonel and Mrs. Kennard and maid, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Owen Wynne, Sir Charles and Lady Hunter, Captain and Mrs. Torrens, Mr. R. A. Smith, General Cherry, Mr. Bethel, Mr. Blain, Miss Smalley, Miss Ell, Captain and Mrs. Anebarther Thomson, Mr. Binkei Matsuki, Mr. Wotherspoon, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hart and maid, and Mr. Tromp in cabin; 55 passengers in steerage. From Shanghai: Mrs. Lowry and 2 daughters, and Mr. Hutchison in cabin.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. Sands, Mr. A. Tyson, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Woolf and infant, Miss M. Woolf, Mrs. Col. M. M. Spiegel, Miss Jennie Klotz, Mr. Barclay, Mr. W. W. Simpson, Mr. T. Simpson, Mrs. Stephens and 2 daughters, Mr. Stephens, Mr. A. Wimperg, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. C. Moller, Mr. MacIlraith, Messrs. A. Gillott, J. R. A. Stevenson, G. Higgins, H. H. Owtram, Mr. and Mrs. Moreau, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Strachan, Mr. A. Earle, Misses L. and C. Earle, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Sullivan, Mr. C. Terry, Mr. Lederlin, Captain L. Rodendorff, Rev. J. L. and Mrs. Atkinson and 5 children, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Davison, son, and Japanese servant, Misses Davison (2), Mr. F. S. Freese, Mr. A. Gruschutz, Lieut. Flechtner, Mr. and Mrs. T. Douglas Murray, Miss Murray, Mr. J. L. Webb, Mr. J. M. Cogdon, Mr. Chas. Freeman, Miss Freeman, Mr. S. W. Cartwright, Mr. C. J. Watson, Mr. R. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Nao Nabekura, Mr. and Mrs. P. Moller, Mr. E. C. Moller, Miss Moller and maid, Mr. Ashton, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Kelly, Major C. F. N. du Quesne, Mr. W. Roys, Mr. F. Hermann, Rev. W. M. Langdon, Mr. H. H. Jacobs, Mr. J. F. Boag, Mr. T. C. O. Brien, Mr. J. J. Anderson, Mr. W. Brockbank. Mr. E. S. Schwabe, Mr. W. M. Steinthal, Mr. and Mrs. James Simpson, Miss Simpson and maid, Mr. S. Baerlein, Rev. R. Swallow, Dr. Thos. Gillison, Mr. M. Adler, Mr. O. Hofmann, Mr. R. C. Renny, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Waters in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $30,000.00.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France 203 bales; Waste Silk for France 175 bales. Treasure for Shanghai $5,800.

Per British steamer *Parthia*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	TOTAL.
Hongkong ...	—	—	27	—	27
Hyogo	714	636	954	2	2,306
Yokohama ...	2,477	1,523	1,781	60	5,841
Total	3,191	2,159	2,762	62	8,174

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	60	—	60
Shanghai	25	—	25
Yokohama.....	56	—	56
Total	141	—	141

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo.....	—	1,624	1,759	3,383
Yokohama.....	694	5,360	3,747	9,801
Hongkong.....	24	—	—	24
Total	718	6,984	5,506	13,208

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	283	—	283
Hongkong	—	140	—	140
Yokohama.....	—	244	—	244
Total	—	667	—	667

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left San Francisco the 25th April at 4.05 p.m. to the 30th; had westerly winds and head sea; May 1st at 1.53 p.m. lat. 47.36 N., long. 158.23 W. passed steamer *Belgic* bound east; thence to the 5th southerly winds with thick fog; thence to port westerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th May at 9 p.m.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong the 7th May at 5.07 p.m.; had fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th May at 3.37 p.m. Passage, 4 days, 20 hours, and 48 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Honolulu the 1st May at 1.30 p.m.; passed Kanlo Islands the 2nd at 2.34 a.m.; 7th at 2 a.m. crossed the meridian in lat. 26 N.; passed Noshima the 14th at 7.40 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama at 11.15 p.m. Passage from land to land, 11 days, 1 hour; port to port, 12 days, 13 hours, and 54 minutes. Carried the N.E. trades to lat. 28.30 N., long. 171 E.; thence to port light to fresh westerly winds, smooth sea, and very fine weather throughout the entire passage, exceptionally cool and pleasant temperature.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 8th May at 11 a.m.; had light winds with fine weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 10th at 4 a.m. and left the 11th at 5 p.m. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 12th at 6 a.m. and left at 11 a.m. Arrived at Kobe the 13th at 6.30 a.m.; fine pleasant weather throughout the passage. Left the 13th at noon; had moderate to fresh southerly winds with hazy weather, foggy at times. Arrived at Yokohama the 15th May at 4 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There are not wanting symptoms of returning confidence in trade, and the continued fine weather seems to promise abundant crops, which must influence the future, but the Market so far is quite free of any speculative feeling, and the business done has been of a healthy description and limited

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to absolute requirements. In Fancy Goods and all kinds of Woollens scarcely any demand exists, and transactions have been mostly composed of resales. In Turkey Reds 3,500 pieces have been reported sold, Grey Shirtings 9lb. 5,000 pieces, 8½lb. 1,250 pieces, T.-Cloths 1,000 pieces. Yarn prices have on the whole been fully maintained, and sales of English spinnings amount to about 450 bales, whilst Bombays have been utterly neglected owing to the competition of the native mills. A report is current amongst dealers that there are being offered all round the market various lists aggregating nearly 20,000 bales Yarn by a Manchester traveller, but that the prices were considerably higher than quotations here, which prevented business.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.		
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.52½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
	PER YARD.		
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to	0.15
	PER PIECE.		
Turkey Reds—2½ to 2¾lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.07½	to	1.15½
Turkey Reds—2¾ to 3lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.27½	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3½ to 4lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.87½	to	1.92½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	4.50	to	6.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.50	to	0.65
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 44 inches	1.15	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.12½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb.	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$24.00	to	27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.25	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.25	to	30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	32.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.50	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30 50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	30.75	to	32 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	34.00	to	35 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.50	to	37.50
	PER BALE.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

The advent of the warm weather will not stimulate the Metal trade, which is exceedingly small, no one buying anything outside absolute requirements.

	PER PICUL.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80	to	2.95
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.80	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.05
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.50	to	4.65
Tin Plates, per box	5.60	to	5.80
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to	1.35

KEROSENE.

No alteration in Kerosene values, and very little business moving.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.60	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

Small parcels have been made moved, but as holders are asking more money transactions have been limited.

	PER PICUL.		
Brown Takao	$4.15	to	4.20
Brown Daitong	3.15	to	4.10
Brown Canton	5.00	to	6.00
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	4.90	to	7.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 8th instant, since when the total settlements amount to 151 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks* 6 piculs, *Filatures* 87 piculs, *Re-reels* 61 piculs, *Kakeda* 23 piculs, less rejected *Oshu* 26 piculs. No direct shipments.

The demand has been chiefly for the United States, and a much better trade would probably have been done had suitable qualities been procurable. At present the stock consists almost entirely of small lots, and for the most part of inferior grades. Anything of good quality, if at all to be had, is held very firmly whilst lower grades of *Filatures* and *Re-reels* can be bought at some slight concession on the part of the holders.

Supplies from the interior continue to arrive in excess of purchases, and the stock has increased to 2,550 piculs.

All reports as to the new crop are favourable; the weather is all that can be desired, and the general opinion now is that a large crop may be expected, although it is too early yet to make a true forecast.

There has been one shipping opportunity during the week, the French mail steamer *Sydney*, on the 10th inst., which carried 203 bales to Europe. The export figures to date are 32,392 piculs, against 35,285 piculs last year and 40,163 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—Only one lot of common *Hachioji* changed hands at $460; the remaining small stock is of quality which offers but little temptation to operators.

Filatures.—The settlements consist of small parcels of all kinds: *Kaimetsha* $620, *Kairiosha* $600.

Re-reels.—In this class also none but small lots were taken up from *Maibashi* at $600, down to common *Bushu* at $470.

Kakeda.—There is very little choice in the remaining stock; a small lot of *Asahi tsuru* brought $595, and one parcel No. 2, $555.

Oshu and *Hamatsuki.*—No business done; a lot of 26 piculs, taken into godown a few weeks ago, has been returned to the original holder.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$525 to 535
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	515 to 520
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3	Nom.	500 to 510
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		610 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		560 to 570
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	610 to 620
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		580 to 590
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570 to 575
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		550 to 560
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		530 to 540
Kakedas—Extra		605
Kakedas—No. 1		585 to 595
Kakedas—No. 1¼		575 to 580
Kakedas—No. 2		555 to 560
Kakedas—No. 2½		540
Kakedas—No. 3		530
Kakedas—No. 3½		520 to 530
Kakedas—No. 4		515 to 520
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.	540 to 550
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	500 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 15th May, 1891:—

		Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		14,267	14,750	20,750
America		17,489	20,080	19,039
Total	Bales	31,756	34,830	39,789
	Piculs	32,192	35,285	40,163
		piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		33,550	35,450	40,400
Stock, 15th May		2,550	2,000	1,700
Available supplies to date		36,100	37,450	42,100

WASTE SILK.

A steady business continues in this branch, settlements during the week amounting to 511 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi* 147 piculs, *Kibiso* 306 piculs, *Sundries* 58 piculs.

Shipments during the week were 953 piculs, of which the steamer *Sydney*, on the 10th, took 665 piculs and the steamer *Myrmidon* (14th inst.) the balance of 288 piculs. These bring the present season's export figures up to 30,298 piculs against 28,153 piculs last year and 30,184 piculs in 1889.

Noshi.—A lot of fine sized *Hachoji* was taken up at $137 and some *Filature* at $135½ to $142. Some *Joshu* changed hands at $65 to $82.

Kibiso.—The bulk of the settlements consisted of very low graded *Santan* at from $10 to $13. A few lots *Filature* were also bought at $95 to $110 according to quality.

Sundries.—Several small lots of *Boseki Kudzu* at $25 to $40; some *Shakusan Wata* at $27½ to $48; *Neri* $11; a few bales of good *Kudzu-ito* brought $80 to $85.

Prices are entirely nominal; any decent parcel arriving on the market is taken up at full quotations.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—
Noshi-ito—Iinshu, Good to Best	130	to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to 8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 15th May, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	29,011	25,903	27,706
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	30,298	28,153	30,184
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,100	28,650	30,850
Stock, 15th May	3,200	5,100	2,750
Available supplies to date	34,300	33,750	33,600

Exchange closes firm as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3; Documents, 3/3⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3¼; Documents, 3/3⅜; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78½; 4m/s. U.S. $79½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.09; 6m/s. fcs. 4.12.

Estimated Silk Stock, 15th May, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	225	Cocoons	85
Filatures	835	Noshi-ito	1,000
Re-reels	970	Kibiso	1,800
Kakeda	285	Mawata	165
Oshu	230	Sundries	150
Taysaam Kinds	5		
Total piculs	2,550	Total piculs	3,200

TEA.

Large quantities of leaf and now arriving, and the quality appears to be well maintained. Prices are about the same.

	PER PICUL.		
Extra Choicest	$36	to	45
Choicest	30	to	35
Choice	27	to	30
Finest	24	to	26
Fine	20	to	23
Good Medium			—
Medium			—
Good Common			—
Common			—

EXCHANGE.

Exchange, which has been fairly steady, is a point lower than the highest during the week.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2⅝
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 3½
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	4.04
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.15
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛% dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78½
Silver	44½

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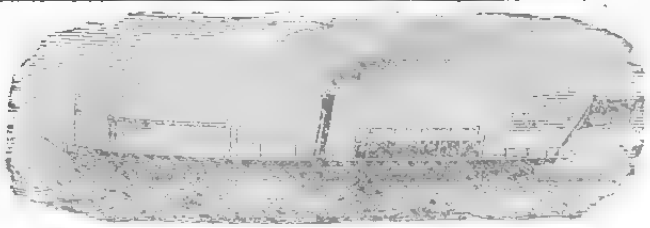

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1891.

BIRTH.

At 216, Bluff, on the 16th inst., the wife of HENRY STEELE of a Son.

DEATH.

At Springfield, Mass., U.S.A., April 8th, 1896, Rev. LUTHER H. GULICK, M.D., formerly Agent of the American Bible Society in Japan and resident at Yokohama, later, Agent for China, at Shanghai.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

HIS MAJESTY the Emperor returned to Tokyo from Kyoto on the 22nd instant.

THE Czarevitch left Kobe on the 19th instant. The Emperor lunched with the Prince on board ship to say farewell.

COUNT ITAGAKI, who had been for some time on a tour through the Kei-han provinces, arrived in the capital on the 18th instant.

THE members of the Yokohama Young Men's Christian Association have presented a letter of condolence to the Russian Crown Prince.

ONE thousand four hundred and eighty-one Japanese emigrants to the Hawaiian Islands started from Yokohama on the 17th instant by the *Miike Maru*.

A SEVERE hail storm visited the north-eastern district of Ashikagagori, Tochigi Prefecture, on the 11th instant about 4 p.m., and great damage was caused to crops.

A SLIGHT shock of earthquake was experienced in Tokyo on the 14th instant, at 4h. 13m. 39s. p.m. Its duration was 20 seconds and its direction from east to west.

AN extraordinary meeting of the Privy Council was held on the 16th instant, and was attended by Counts Oki, Katsu, Sano, and Sasaki, Viscount Tanaka, and Messrs Kono and Ozaki.

UNDER the provisions of the Law of the Organization of the Courts of Justice, a sitting of the Supreme Court will take place in the District Court at Otsu for the trial of Tsuda Sanzo.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL TAKASHIMA, Commander of the Fourth Army Division (Osaka), who was recently appointed Minister of State for War, will arrive in the capital on the 23rd instant.

FOUR horses to be presented by the Sultan of Turkey to the Emperor of Japan arrived in Yokohama on the 16th instant by the *Saghalien*, and were taken to the capital the following day.

MR. FUKAGAWA YEIZAYEMON, Director of the Koransha Company, Yokohama, who presented to H.I.H. the Czarevitch a pair of flower vases, has received from His Highness a gold finger ring set with diamonds.

A TELEGRAM from Otsu announces that Mr. Watanabe Chiaki, the newly appointed Prefect of Shiga, and Mr. Tatsuoka Nobukuma, successor to Mr. Saito Shufu, Chief of Police in the same Prefecture, have arrived.

H.I.H. PRINCESS KOMATSU YORIKO returned to the capital on the 16th instant, and proceeded to the Palace on the following morning to report to H.I.M. the Empress as to the condition of the Russian Prince Imperial.

EARLY in the morning of the 15th instant fire occurred in a house at Minami-hatchobori, Kyobashi, Tokyo, and before the flames could be got under control 12 dwellings were destroyed and 9 houses partly damaged.

AN Otsu telegram states that several commissioned officers of one of the Russian war-ships arrived in that town on the 15th instant and took photographs of the Shiga Prefectural Government Office, and of the place where the Crown Prince was attacked.

THE 9th general meeting of members of the Japan Sanitary Association will be held on the 30th instant at the Koseikan, Kyobashi, Tokyo. Speeches will be delivered by Viscount Tanaka Fujimaro, Dr. Ogata Masanori, and Messrs. Eguchi Jo and Nakajima Yeiji.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received in Tokyo to the effect that a new steamer called the *Genkai Maru*, ordered by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha from a ship-building firm in Glasgow, has been completed, and started from the Clyde on the 16th instant *en route* for Japan.

DURING the week ended the 15th instant the Fine Art Exhibition at Uyeno was visited by 5,541 persons, of whom 145 were special and 3,365 ordinary visitors, 724 members of the Fine Art Society, and 1,107 students of the Fine Art School and the Technical School.

A RUMOUR is current that Lieutenant-General Katsura, Vice-Minister of the War Department, will be transferred to another post, and that either Major-General Kodama, Director of the General Staff Office in the War Department, or Major-General Okazawa, of the sixth Army Division (Kumamoto), will succeed him.

AN extraordinary meeting of members of the Tokyo City Assembly was held on the 19th instant, at which it was decided that they should appoint Marquis Hachisuka, Governor of Tokyo, and Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, President of the Assembly, as representatives of the residents of Tokyo to receive H.I.M. the Emperor, who will arrive at the Shimbashi Station on the 22nd instant, at 12.50 p.m., after which they will proceed to the Imperial Palace to pay their respects to the Emperor on behalf of the Tokyo residents.

ON the evening of the 12th instant an outbreak of fire took place in a factory of sulphuric acid in the inclosure of the Osaka Mint. The flames were confined to the building where they originated, but 36 firemen were more or less injured. Some 74 houses, one school, two temples, 26 sheds, and 8 godowns were entirely burned on the 10th instant, at Kimachi, Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture.

THREE stations for the saving of life from shipwreck were opened on the 6th and 7th instant, under the auspices of the Seamen's Aid Society, one at Oshima, another at Koza, and a third at Futochi, all in Wakayama Prefecture. Among those present at the respective ceremonies were Marquis Nabeshima, Vice-President, and Messrs. Maruyama Saraku, Sotoaya Yujo, Kanzaki Katsumi, and Yamanaka, who represented the Prefect of Wakayama.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Cabinet was held on Sunday, the 17th instant, at which there were present Counts Matsukata, Yamada, and Goto, Viscount Kabayama, and Messrs. Mutsu and Yoshikawa. Counts Oki, President, and Sasaki, and Viscount Sano, members of the Privy Council, Mr. Komatsubara, Chief Commissioner of the Police Bureau in the Home Department, were also present at the meeting. H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa Takehito visited the Cabinet Office the same day, after which His Highness proceeded to the Imperial Palace.

A FUKUSHIMA telegram reports that early in the morning of the 16th instant an outbreak of fire took place in a house at Sagagawacho, Iwasegori, Fukushima Prefecture, and before the flames could be subdued 559 houses were destroyed, 18 dwellings being partly damaged. One life was lost and 9 persons were severely injured, over 40 being slightly hurt. On the night of the 11th instant fire occurred in a theatre at Numatachō, Tonegori, Gumma Prefecture. The flames were happily confined to the building where they originated, but two actors were burned to death.

THE Import market remains much the same all round. Business in Yarn has been small, but steady, and the quantity taken—about 500 bales—has been entirely English spinnings, and chiefly two-fold. Nothing done in Bombay Yarn, the product of the Japanese mills entirely putting the Indian out of the field in the matter of price. A small demand has continued for Piece-goods at late rates, but in no direction in this market is there to be seen the usual amount of contracts for autumn delivery. The Metal market is quiet and prices are looking downward. Nothing to report in Kerosene. Sugar is firmly held and is in few hands; arrivals of Takao continue. There has been a dribling trade in Silk, and full prices have been paid for the few parcels of decent quality offered. This same may be said in reference to Waste Silk. The Tea trade is steady, and prices paid appear to be remunerative, full rates having been maintained for the greater portion of the time that the finest parcels were coming in. Mediums have been brought to market during the week, but Commons will not be ready probably for several days more. Quantity has been well maintained, and there will be an abundance of all grades. Exchange has been fairly steady during the week, but closes lower.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

KYOTO.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Kyoto under date of the 16th instant, says:—"Things are assuming a pleasanter aspect here. The first message received by the Emperor from the Czar is understood to have been somewhat cold, but subsequent communications became quite warm and friendly. The Czar has thanked the Emperor in most hearty terms for the kind attention paid by the latter to the Czarevitch. Counts Ito and Inouye went down to Kobe yesterday afternoon, and Count Soyeshima, who arrived here on the 14th, as the representative of the Privy Council, proceeded thither by the first train this morning. Prince Arisugawa Takehito, accompanied by Viscount Yenomoto, is to proceed to Russia very shortly. The inhabitants of Nara have presented an address to the Crown Prince, expressing their sorrow and regret for what has occurred, and praying His Highness to honour them with a visit. The citizens of Kyoto are about to take a similar step. Up to the time when the Czarevitch started for Kobe on the 13th instant, the number of cards left by the people of Kyoto and its environs at His Highness' hotel was over twenty thousand. The question now under consideration is how to deal with Tsuda Sanzo. Some hold that he should be punished by a special mandate of the Sovereign. Others are sufficiently extreme to suggest that he should be expatriated and handed over to Russia. But of course the prevailing view is that he should be dealt with in strict accordance with the Criminal Code. There is no doubt that the Governor and the Chief of Police in Shiga will lose their appointments. Meanwhile, the latest news about Tsuda is that he refuses to eat. His condition is, however, improving. His temperature and pulse are almost normal, and his wounds are rapidly healing. Preparations are in progress for the Emperor's return to Tokyo. His Majesty will stop a night at Shizuoka *en route*. It is asserted that, according to official advices from St. Petersburg, M. de Giers was at first indisposed to publish in the *Official Gazette* any details tending to mitigate the Otsu affair, but that he subsequently consented to do so. He relied entirely upon telegraphic despatches from Russian sources in Japan. The excitement in St. Petersburg is said to be great."

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL AND GOVERNOR OKI.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* reports a conversation which took place, it says, between the Emperor and the Czarevitch in the train between Kyoto and Kobe on the 13th instant. The Czarevitch, according to our contemporary, said:—"A few minutes before I received this injury, the Governor of Shiga Prefecture, Mr. Oki Morikata, told me at luncheon that as only five days had elapsed since his assumption of the duties of his post, he had been obliged to entrust everything to his secretaries, and he begged me to excuse any shortcomings in the arrangements for entertaining me. If that be the case, his position at present is very much to be pitied, and I entreat Your Majesty to take these facts into consideration, and deal with him leniently." To this the Emperor is said to have made the following reply:—"I cannot sufficiently thank Your Imperial Highness for the kindly consideration you have shown in this matter. It is quite true, as the Governor told you, that he had only just entered upon the duties of his post, but from the moment that he became Governor of a Prefecture, the whole responsibility of the position devolved upon him. Even though he had been but a few days in office, it was for him to discharge its functions. As, however, Your Imperial Highness has been kind enough to allude to this question more than once, I will give it further consideration." No further allusion was made to the subject.

THE CZAREVITCH.

THE *Official Gazette* states that when Prince Kitashirakawa, in connection with the assumption of his duties as President of the Committee of Entertainment, visited the Czarevitch, he found that His Imperial Highness' wound had made marked progress towards recovery. The Czarevitch took advantage of the opportunity to explain how much gratified he had been by the warm friendship shown towards him by the people of Japan, and to say that the additional evidences of that feeling furnished since his injury had afforded him more satisfaction than he could express. The *Jiji Shimpo* learns that the two wounds are within the Prince's hair and do not extend to his forehead or face. Consequently, when they are healed, the only remains of the injury will be two lines among the hair. The physicians in attendance on the Prince assert that the wounds take the form of a cross with the arms at a very acute angle, but the Prince is positive that he only received one stroke from Tsuda's sword. The stitches were removed on the fifth day, and no inflammation or suppuration appeared, so that complete recovery will be a very speedy matter. As for the two *jinrikisha* drawers who behaved with such presence of mind and courage, we read in the *Kokkai* that the Authorities have decided to reward them by conferring on them the decoration of the eighth class and a life pension of thirty-six *yen* annually. A pension of six sovereigns per annum does not sound large to Western ears, but in Japan three *yen* per month means enough to live on, after the manner of life led by such people. It is stated that the Czarevitch also caused a sum of two thousand *yen* to be presented to the men—their names are Kitaichi Ichitaro and Mukobata Jisaburo—so that altogether the 11th of May proved a fortunate day for them. They are by no means the first *jinrikisha* drawers who have distinguished themselves during the past six months. When the *Soshi* made their raid upon the *Yayoi-sha* and administered such a serious beating to Mr. Uyeki Yemori, they would have effected their escape completely had not *jinrikisha* men, waiting outside, seized and held two of them. Again, a short time ago, when a *Soshi* struck a politician who was driving in the streets of Tokyo, the drawer put down the shafts, gave chase to the *Soshi*, and after pursuing him some distance, caught him and handed him over to the police. It is a pity that the wholesome instinct which nerves the arm of the *jinrikisha* man against these pests of modern Japan, does not extend to the educated gentlemen who support them, and to the public writers who condone their outrages.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCKS.

WE read in the *Jiyu* that the Yokohama Dock Company has at length obtained a charter from the Government. The Company's project took practical form as long ago as 1888, but not till the spring of 1889 was an application addressed to the authorities. As for the delay that ensued, it would appear that one of the principal causes was a difficulty about the land required by the company, namely, an area of 38,031 *tsubo* (about 31 acres) on the sea front of Yeizumicho. The Company asked the Government to give this land free of charge, or to transfer it by special sale; but before any resolve had been taken, the new Financial Regulations were published, and it became impossible for the Authorities to part with any public property except by the process of public sale. On the other hand, the question of site was of paramount importance to the Company. At length, after much consideration, it was decided—we still quote the *Jiyu*—that the best plan would be to let the Company lease the land at a moderate rent, and this method, after due consultation with the various offices concerned, has been finally sanctioned, and will doubtless be communicated to the projecters at an early date by the Governor of Kanagawa.

THE EMPEROR'S JOURNEY TO KYOTO.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Jiji Shimpo*, writing from Kyoto, describes the great fatigue which the Emperor must have suffered on arriving there. It will be remembered that His Majesty left Tokyo at 6.30 a.m. on the 12th instant, and reached Kyoto at a little past 10 the same night. Audiences lasting several hours were then given to Prince Kitashirakawa, Count Saigo, Viscount Aoki, and others. At 3 a.m. on the 13th His Majesty retired to rest, and rose at 4.40 a.m., from which time until half-past nine interviews were granted to Count Ito, Count Kuroda and other notables. At 10 o'clock the Emperor set out to visit the Czarevitch, and on his return the business of granting audience to Princes and Ministers was resumed. At 4 p.m. the journey to Kobe in company with the Czarevitch took place, and at 10 p.m. His Majesty returned to the Palace in Kyoto. Thus the Emperor spent at least forty consecutive hours travelling and granting audiences, with only about an hour's sleep in the whole time. The through journey from Tokyo to Kyoto, nearly sixteen hours in the train, is bad enough, but when it is followed by such a night and day as the Emperor passed on the 12th and 13th, the strongest constitution must be severely taxed. This suffering of their Sovereign's is among the results which the patrons of *Soshi*, and the editors of certain journals have succeeded in achieving. Worse things may have to be placed to their account unless they open their eyes.

THE RETURN OF THE CZAREVITCH

THE departure of the Czarevitch has been the signal for a shower of Japanese decorations. Prince George of Greece and more than forty of the officers accompanying the Czarevitch have been thus honoured by the Emperor. It happened that the day (18th) preceding that fixed for His Imperial Highness' departure from Japan, was his birthday. The Emperor accordingly sent him a magnificent piece of embroidery, sixteen square yards in superficies, or twelve feet square, and the Empress presented a cabinet of gold lacquer, while Prince Kitashirakawa and the officials of the Reception Committee offered two beautiful baskets of artificial flowers. These gifts were carried to the ship of the Czarevitch by Prince Kitashirakawa.

* * *

A hundred of the leading manufacturers of Osaka have presented to the Czarevitch two lacquer boxes valued at 400 *yen* and a pair of screens, valued at 60 *yen*. They accompanied these gifts with twenty barrels of *saké*. The Prince is said to have been much pleased by this attention. The Mercantile Marine Company (*Shosen Kwaisha*) showed its liberality on the same day by giving free passage and entertainment to all persons desiring to proceed from Osaka to inquire after the health of the Czarevitch.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that inquiries were sent by the Japanese Government to the Legation in St. Petersburg in order to obtain information as to the state of feeling caused in Russia by the news of the attack on the Czarevitch. The Representative of Japan in that city has replied that, after careful examination of all the newspapers, he finds their tone calm, and is unable to discover any evidences of angry feeling among the people.

* * *

When the decision of the Czarevitch to leave Japan on the 19th instant was announced, His Majesty the Emperor invited the Prince to a farewell luncheon at the Goyo-tei in Kobe. The Prince is understood to have accepted, and preparations were set on foot at the Goyo-tei, but finally the medical advisers of the Czarevitch decided that it would be better for him not to undergo the exertion of landing. The Prince, in conveying this decision to the Emperor, asked His Majesty to luncheon on board the Russian man-of-war, and the Emperor at once agreed. So the farewell took place on board ship after all. Certainly the Emperor has done everything in his power to show courtesy and friendliness to his distinguished guest.

* * *

It is stated that the Japanese and German physicians despatched by Imperial Order to as-

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sist in treating the Czarevitch, did not obtain access to the Prince. The treatment was carried on entirely by the Russian doctors, who declined assistance of any kind.

* * *

The Emperor will return to Tokyo on the 22nd instant. His Majesty leaves Kyoto by train at half-past nine in the forenoon of the 21st, and reaches Shizuoka at 5.55 p.m., where one night will be spent. The following morning at 8 o'clock the journey will be resumed, and the Imperial train is expected to arrive at Shimbashi at fifty minutes past noon. It is stated that steps are being taken by citizens of Tokyo to organise a demonstration by way of welcoming His Majesty after the fatigues and anxiety of the past ten days.

* * *

We understand that three Japanese men-of-war, the *Fayeyama*, *Musashi*, and *Takao*, will accompany the Russian Squadron through the Inland Sea, on its return journey, and take leave of it at a point some distance beyond Shimonoseki.

OTSU AND THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

A STRIKING example of the false impressions conceived and propagated by ignorance of Japanese customs, appears in the writings of the *Hyogo News* and has found its way, without comment, into the columns of other local English journals. "It is the more curious," says our Hyogo contemporary, "that the attack should have been made at Otsu, because when the project of the young Prince visiting that place was first mooted the Otsu people showed signs of giving him anything but a pleasant welcome. In our issue of April 18th we said: Otsu people on the other hand are displaying their eccentricity. At first they determined not to make any preparations, but when advised by an official that such a course would be to show disrespect, they resolved to erect an arch (*Kadomatsu*) at Osakayama, and to assemble there dressed in hemp *kamishimu* to receive the Royal visitor. Probably their innate politeness will get the better of this surly determination." What does the writer of this paragraph mean by a "surly determination"? He certainly cannot refer to the erection of arches, since that is the approved method all over the civilized world, of signifying hospitable pleasure. The "hemp *kamishimu*" is evidently his trouble. He probably considers that hempen garments partake of the nature of sackcloth, and that the inhabitants of Otsu, while decorating their streets to receive the Czarevitch, nevertheless intended to go out and meet His Imperial Highness dressed in sackcloth and with ashes on their heads. But the fact is that the *asa no Kamishimo*—not *kamishimu*, as the Hyogo journal spells the word—is the orthodox dress of ceremony in Japan. In no other garments would it have been proper for the people of Otsu to receive the Czarevitch, unless, indeed, they had possessed swallow-tails and white chokers. Thus the unfortunate citizens' resolve to pay the utmost possible honour to their Imperial visitor, is converted by a paragraphist's ignorance into a "surly determination." It is funny, and should be instructive.

THE CZAREVITCH PREPARING TO LEAVE JAPAN.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Kobe on the 18th:—It is now definitely settled that the Czarevitch will leave Kobe for Russia to-morrow. To-day is a gala-day on the bosom of Kobe Harbour. It is the Imperial visitor's birthday. A thousand flags are strung along the shore, while every vessel of every nationality is decorated to the utmost. At noon to-day, Russian, Japanese, French, and other men-of-war engaged in a general bombarding of the air with the thunderings of their cannon. Just at one o'clock to-day three vessels cast anchor here, bearing the Mayor, City Council, and other representative men from Osaka, who have come on a special mission to pay their respects to the Czarevitch. It may be interesting to know how the people in Kobe feel about this sad affair. Certainly they have had all opportunities to see and hear and become familiar with the details. Right in front of our doors the Prince has taken his refuge. Every movement of the Russian fleet has been witnessed by our citizens. All the telegrams and letters have come to our offices, and all the Czarevitch's honoured guests have come to our city. So the people of Kobe are perhaps better prepared to appreciate the extent of this national calamity. While no great trouble may grow out of the insane act of Tsuda Sanzo, yet all here agree to the fact that it was the saddest day in Japanese history during the present decade. While Japan, as a nation, is innocent of the attempted assassination of the future Czar of all the Russias, it is generally considered that the nation will suffer for it in the matter of Treaty Revision. A deep feeling of regret that almost amounts to sadness universally prevails amongst the Japanese. The *Kobe Yushin Nippo* issued an extra late this afternoon stating that His Imperial Majesty the Emperor will come to Kobe to-morrow morning to bid adieu to the Czarevitch. He is expected at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. The prompt solicitude on the part of the Emperor is highly spoken of by all foreigners and Japanese here. At this writing (8 p.m.) the heavens are ablaze with fireworks sent up from the ships in the port in honour of the 23rd birthday of H.I.H. the Czarevitch.

THE TWO "JINRIKISHA" MEN.

THE Czarevitch has behaved with the proverbial munificence of the Romanofs towards Mukobatake Jisaburo and Kitaga Ichitaro, the two *jinrikisha* men who threw Tsuda Sanzo to the ground and wounded him with his own sword at the time of his attack on the Prince. On the evening of the 18th instant he summoned the two men to his ship, and presented them with a decoration, and a sum of 2,500 *yen* each, at the same time promising them each a pension of 1,000 *yen* annually during the remainder of their lives. The *Nippon*, from which we take this information, adds that the Czarevitch bade then give up the humble occupation of *jinrikisha* drawing and take to some better pursuit, and that they were to be photographed on board His Imperial Highness' ship the following morning. Mukobatake and Kitaga must be puzzled to credit their good fortune. To-day, poor *jinrikisha* coolies, barely able to earn bit and sup; to-morrow, gentlemen with two decorations, twenty-five hundred *yen* in their pockets and a yearly income of 1,036 *yen* for the rest of their lives. We wonder what these men were originally. The vernacular press, strange to say, tells us nothing about them.

THE TRIAL OF TSUDA SANZO.

THE difficulty about Tsuda Sanzo, the police constable who wounded the Czarevitch, is that no article of the Penal Code seemed to remove his crime from the category of an ordinary murderous assault. The 116th Article of the Codes says:—"Any person inflicting, or attempting to inflict, injury on the person of the Emperor, the Empress, the Empress Dowager or the Prince Imperial, shall be punished with death." The reference here is plainly to members of the Japanese Imperial Family only, and not to foreign Potentates or Princes of their Blood. The Code further provides that no act of a Japanese subject can be regarded and punished as a crime unless it falls within the purview of some provision of the Code, and, further, that the penalties of the Code cannot be made retrospective. The letter of the Code is consequently opposed to any special treatment of Tsuda's offence, and its spirit is opposed to the enactment of any new law to meet his case. It has been contended by some persons, foreigners as well as Japanese, that since the Czarevitch was travelling officially in Japan as the guest of the Japanese Sovereign, the sanctity of his person is guaranteed by the Criminal Code precisely in the same degree as though he were a member of the Japanese Imperial Family. But such a view savours of expediency rather than of strict justice. The leading vernacular newspapers, discussing the question, have arrived at the conclusion that Tsuda must be arraigned under those provisions of the Criminal Code which relate to murderous assaults on ordinary individuals. Doubtless, supposing him to be sane, the extreme penalty provided by the law will be inflicted, but beyond that penalty the Judges, according to the view of the press, cannot go, and the Administration cannot order them to go. Yesterday, however, the Minister of State for Justice, acting under the authority of Art. 51 of the Law of Organization of the Courts of Justice (promulgated in February, 1890), directed that the Supreme Court should hold a sitting in the District Court at Otsu for the trial of Tsuda Sanzo. The Article in question says that the Supreme Court may, if found necessary, hold its sittings in an Appeal Court or District Court for the trial and decision of certain cases, namely, crimes enumerated in the Penal Code, Book II., Chapters 1 and 2, as well as other offences which we need not consider here. The First Chapter of the Second Book of the Penal Codes relates to offences against the person of the Sovereign, the Imperial Consort, members of the Imperial Family, Princes of the Blood, and so forth; the Second Chapter of the same Book refers to crimes connected with rebellion, or with treasonable correspondence and collusion with foreign countries, as well as attempts to disturb the empire's foreign relations. It is just possible that Tsuda's offence may be brought under a clause of this Second Chapter, relating to an act of violence committed against the person of some prominent individual with the object of plunging the country into war. Evidence pointing in that direction may have been obtained. If not, we fail to perceive how any provision of either of the two chapters is applicable, yet under some provision of them he is assuredly to be tried, for otherwise a session of the Supreme Court could not be held in Otsu. It is an interesting and difficult question. Mr. Miyoshi Taizo will act as Prosecutor, and there will sit on the bench seven Judges. We confess ourselves unable to appreciate the reasons for such an exceptional method of procedure, but this is not the only feature of the Otsu incident that has baffled our comprehension.

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE *Kokumin-no-Tomo* of a recent date contained an interesting article on the subject of alliance between Japan and the United States of America. The Tokyo periodical thinks that among all the Treaty Powers, Japan ought to be on the most intimate terms with the great Republic; and in support of this view it recounts some of the numerous services and friendly offices rendered to this country by the Government and citizens of the United States. It tells how Mr. Townsend Harris tried to guard the interests of Japan, unlike other foreign Representatives, who did not scruple to compass their selfish desires by taking unfair advantage of the ignorance and weakness of the Shogunate authorities and of the revolutionary disturbances in the country; how Mr. Bingham, in 1874 courageously defended the right of Japan to amend her Customs Regulations; how General Grant, as well as Mr. Bingham, spoke in condemnation of the conduct of a German ship which violated the Japanese quarantine regulations; how the United States Government took the lead in giving a favourable reception to Japan's proposals for the revision of the treaties; how individual statesmen, like General Grant, have been specially friendly to Japan; and how the United States alone among the Powers returned the Shimonoseki indemnity to Japan. Such being the conduct of the Government and people of the United States towards Japan, the Tokyo periodical thinks it only natural and just that the Government and people of this country should regard the trans-Pacific Republic with the same sentiment of love and respect. The *Kokumin-no-Tomo* then turns to consider the future prospects of the United States. Having described their wonderful growth in population and wealth, and briefly alluded to the pan-American League, it concludes that the great American Republic is destined to become an overwhelming Power,

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and that, whatever may be said about Sir Charles Dilke's prophecy as to the future greatness of China and Russia, his observation is well founded in the case of the United States of America. Allying herself with such a splendid Power, Japan might be justified in aspiring, to the ascendancy on the Pacific. With regard to the question of commercial intercourse between the two countries, the following table is given to show the annual bulk of their mutual trade during the thirteen years from 1877 to 1889 inclusive:—

year.	Exports from Japan. yen.	Imports from the U.S. yen.
1877	5,219,866	1,736,031
1878	5,823,033	2,727,583
1879	10,871,806	3,212,273
1880	12,041,218	2,966,966
1881	11,087,556	2,029,093
1882	14,280,206	3,432,545
1883	13,293,759	3,634,359
1884	13,137,555	2,801,526
1885	15,639,413	3,246,093
1886	19,998,217	4,258,038
1887	22,243,442	4,134,082
1888	23,475,807	5,673,843
1889	26,109,835	6,173,141

Thus the exports from Japan to the United States increased five-fold during the above thirteen years, while the imports from the latter country increased three-fold during the same period. In 1889 the total bulk of Japan's export trade amounted to 70 million *yen*, of which about 26 million *yen*, that is to say about 30 per cent. of the whole, went to the United States. Commercial relations, already so great, may be still further developed by establishing a conventional tariff between the two countries. The new American tariff is not very unfavourable to imports from Japan. Still the development of tradal relations between the two countries could be greatly accelerated by a special tariff arrangement, providing that Japanese articles as porcelain, lacquer wares, silk, etc., might be imported into the trans-Pacific Republic at low rates of duties, in return for the importation of American goods into Japan on correspondingly favourable terms. It is not the waves of the Pacific, but the Custom House at San Francisco, that separates Japan and the United States.

* * *

The *Kokumin* then considers other means by which the relations between the two countries may be made more intimate. First, the Japanese Government ought to encourage the laying of submarine cables across the Pacific, by giving a reasonable subsidy or grant to any company willing to undertake the work. Secondly, the Japanese should pay attention to the progress of the works on the Nicaraguan Canal. That canal, when completed, will be to Japan what the Suez Canal is to India. If the resources of the nation permit, the *Kokumin* advises its countrymen to obtain as much monetary interest in the canal as the English have in the Suez Canal. Apart from this point, however, the opening of the Nicaraguan canal will certainly draw Japan and the United States closer together. The last measure recommended by the *Kokumin* is the emigration of respectable Japanese to the United States. Such Japanese are advised to make a new home in America by becoming naturalized there. As citizens of the United States they might aspire to any public post of influence, with the exception of the Presidency, and might even become a distinct social and political power like the Irish. Patriotic Japanese are told that it is not at all contrary to the principle of patriotism to emigrate to a foreign country, for wherever men may be they cannot chose but love the country of their origin. Our contemporary does not recommend any political alliance between the two countries, but it does strongly recommend a close union in social and commercial matters, for it believes that Japan and the United States are destined to become the queens of the Pacific.

THE POLICY OF THE NEW CABINET.

THE Associated Press Agency supplies a statement of the policy of the new Cabinet, which we may probably take as fairly accurate. We say "the new Cabinet," but the term is scarcely correct seeing that all the portfolios, except that of War, remain in the same hands as before, and that the new Minister President acted in concert with his predecessor, and was a prominent member of the latter's Cabinet. Count Matsukata's policy is not likely, therefore, to differ in any important respect from that of Count Yamagata. One of his chief aims, we read, will be the reduction of public expenses and the reorganization of the Administration on economical bases. As for the great problem of Treaty Revision, the Count's view is that another failure in addition to those already incurred, would make the country lose face altogether towards Foreign States. The utmost circumspection will therefore be his principle. Having secured unanimity of opinion on the part of all sections of the Government, and having prepared a thoroughly satisfactory draft, he will proceed with the business, avoiding precipitancy and above all taking care not to commit the country hastily to anything. Such is the statement, but persons who have watched the course of events closely within the past year, will perceive that, so far as Treaty Revision is concerned, perfect continuity of policy exists. *Festina lente*, with a very large admixture of the *lente*, has been the guiding principle of Japanese statesmen ever since Count Okuma's retirement. It is a wise principle in its way. Men had better be fully agreed about what they intend to ask for, before they begin to formulate their requests. But if the process of reflection and self-searching is to be carried on after negotiation has begun, then there is just one inconvenient danger to be encountered, namely, that the patience of one's *vis-à-vis* may be utterly worn out.

"SHAKES."

Apropos the little shake experienced the other evening, we may draw attention to the curious instruments called Mantelpiece Seismographs now on exhibition at Messrs. Lane, Crawford's. Just as it is interesting to know the temperature we have experienced after an unusually hot day, or to see how many inches the barometer has fallen at the time of a typhoon, or the quantity of rain which has covered the land to produce a heavy flood, it may also be interesting to know the amount of motion we have experienced or how near our chimnies were to the toppling point at the time of an earthquake. These instruments, which are ornamental enough to share the honours with a drawing-room clock, are about 6 inches in diameter and 8 inches in height. They stand beneath a bell glass cover, and give their indications by the opening of two scissor-like pointers moving over a silvered scale. To reset the instrument their pointers are simply pushed together—an operation of a moment. For ordinary earthquakes the records are absolute, at once showing to the observer the number of millimeters or fractions of an inch through which he has been moved. The principle on which the instrument works is that of having in its system a point which, although its frame may be moved, remains stationary. This is accomplished by an ordinary pendulum balanced by an inverted pendulum which is a rod standing on a point with a weight on its upper end. When the stand is moving, say to the right, the ordinary pendulum tries to swing to the right also, but this tendency is balanced by the inverted pendulum trying to face to the left, the result being that the point about which this balancing takes place remains at rest, although the stand may be moving back and forth beneath it. Having obtained a steady point, registration is obtained by the moving stand bringing the ends of the scissor-like needle-like levers and pointers in contact with it. No doubt the use of these instruments, over and above satisfying a curiosity as to how our Settlement moves, might show that certain localities are more desirable as residences than others, that houses with upper stories swing more than those with none, that movements are more frequent in one direction than another, and perhaps a dozen other things which we have not thought about. We trust that these innocent looking little ornaments, although they may reduce our speculations to facts and afford subjects for conversation, will not depreciate the value of property.

LACE.

PERSONS visiting the exhibitions periodically held in Tokyo must have observed that among the objects shown there are always two or three specimens of lace, very beautiful both as to design and workmanship. Lace-making is a modern industry in Japan. We doubt whether it dates from a longer period than ten or twelve years ago, but in that time it has made wonderful progress, as indeed might have been expected. The Japanese excel in all work demanding deftness and delicacy of execution. There is no reason why the wonder of their embroideries should not extend to lace-making also. The *Fiji Shimpo* says hitherto the lace manufactured in the country has been, for the most part, used here, very little being sent abroad. Recently, however, the Lace-making Company in Hyoshi-cho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, has succeeded in selling specimens of its productions at profitable figures in England, France and Belgium. The lace, we read, has been pronounced superior not only to that of Brussels, but also to the manufactures of England and France, and experienced people predict that if care is exercised in designing, and in adopting the fabric to foreign needs, quite a large business may be developed in time. The number of women now actually engaged in lace-making at the Hyoshi-cho factory is said to be 170, but the directors contemplate a considerable increase. We see no reason why this industry should not be successful. Skilled labour is so very cheap in Japan that European competition may almost be defied. The great desideratum in lace-making and, indeed, in all other branches of art industry, is a good school of design. At least fifty per cent. of the articles now produced are spoiled by ungraceful shapes or unpleasing decoration. The Art School in Uyeno promises to accomplish much in this respect, but in the meanwhile great quantities of unsalable objects are produced, with the result of adding materially to the prices of the more successful, and of generally discouraging enterprise. In the matter of lace, however, the makers have an immense fund of beautiful old textile patterns to draw upon, and unless they fall into the fatal error of attempting to incorporate Western motives into their designs, they may succeed in building up a big industry.

THE "TAKACHIHO MARU."

IN regard to the recently reported wreck of the *Takachiho Maru*, we find the following in the *Rising Sun* of the 13th inst.:—"It is not to be expected that a large fleet of vessels like that owned by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha can be run without incurring some of the accidents inseparable from navigating an intricate coast; but at the same time there is no denying the fact that the Company has been exceptionally unfortunate during the past eighteen months, and their ill-luck has apparently not yet deserted them, as news of the total loss of the steamer *Takachiho Maru*, Captain R. N. Walker, on Monday morning last, came to hand by telegraph the same day. The *Takachiho Maru* left here about 8 p.m. on Sunday last, bound to Wladivostock, *via* Fusan and Gensan, with about 500 tons of general cargo, $40,000 in specie and notes, and a number of passengers, including Mr. F. Ringer of Nagasaki, Mr. C. J. Stronie of Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Sheveleff of Wladivostock, and others. Under ordinary circumstances she would pass the island of Tsushima shortly after daylight on Monday morning, when it is presumed she must have experienced a fog, and, in all probability, an exceptionally strong current. Exactly how the disaster occurred is not yet known, the first telegraphic news simply stating that she had run ashore on Tsushima, which was afterwards supplemented by a statement to the effect that she had sunk in deep water. All hands were saved, and from the Post Office authorities we learn that the mails also were saved. The Company's steamer *Tsuruga Maru*, which

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left Fusan yesterday for this port, has been instructed to call at Tsushima and pick up the unfortunate passengers, crew, and mails, and she is due here this a.m. The *Takachiho Maru* was formerly known as the *Lotus*, under the British flag, and was acquired by the Mitsu Bishi Co. some fifteen years ago. She was a three-masted vessel, with over-hanging bow, of 1,806 tons net register and 200 h.p. She was a comparatively old vessel, but had been entirely renewed internally several years ago at considerable expense, and was considered a fine serviceable ship, with good carrying capacity and excellent passenger accommodation. Much sympathy is felt for Captain Walker, who is proverbially known as one of the most experienced and careful captains in Company's employ, which is saying a great deal. Further particulars of the unfortunate affair are anxiously awaited.

NAGASAKI WATERWORKS.

THE inauguration of the Nagasaki Water Works, says the *Rising Sun* of the 13th inst., is definitely fixed to take place on Friday afternoon next, 15th inst. Invitations have been issued by the Mayor of the town, Mr. G. Kitahara, to the principal native and foreign residents, and there is no doubt there will be a large assembly present on the occasion. The event will certainly be a very important one in the history of the town, as upon the amount of success which attends the enterprise will not only depend the fate of the spread of a systematic supply of properly filtered water, but also of other European much-needed innovations, in this part of the country. It is not for us to discuss the question, *pro* and *con*, as to the absolute necessity of the Water Works on the present plan, or the ability of the town to supply the necessary funds to undertake the work and carry it on: suffice it to say that after a protracted and bitter struggle in the Local Assembly between the two parties for and against the bill, it was finally passed by a majority, and sanctioned by the Imperial Government. It is, we believe, the fourth undertaking of the kind in the country, the other places where waterworks have already been introduced being Tokio, Yokohama, and Hakodate. The inception and accomplishment of the undertaking here are undoubtedly due to the energy and enlightened views of the Governor in office at the time, Mr. Y. Kusaka, whose only reward was being placed on the retired list as soon as sufficient pressure could be brought to bear on the Government to effect his removal. It was currently reported that Mr. Kusaka was to be present at the opening ceremony, but so far as we can learn there is no foundation for the rumour. That the new waterworks will prove of great benefit, in many ways, to the native town especially, there is no denying, providing, of course, that the sanguine expectations with regard to them are fully realized,—a question which we are not in a position to offer an authoritative opinion upon. The subject of supply and demand has been calculated by trained Japanese experts, and the construction of the works has also been carried out entirely without foreign aid, under the superintendence of Mr. Shimamura, a young civil engineer of considerable ability. To what extent the waterworks supply will be used in the Settlement it is difficult to say: there are, of course, many houses where water cannot be obtained on the premises, and these will no doubt gladly appreciate the advantages of the system; but there are again a great number that have good wells of spring water, which the occupants will prefer to continue to use, for some time, at any rate. The charges, as set forth in a recent article, are apparently very reasonable, and should not prove a deterrant to those who have no water on their premises. As a means of extinguishing fires the waterworks water will certainly prove a great factor, as the supply will not only always be reliable, but it will have sufficient force to have a dampening effect on any fire, no matter how strong it may be. There are, of course, a large number of fire brigades in the native town, but in the Settlement there is no organised service. The want of a brigade is always experienced whenever a fire occurs, which is fortunately not very often, and we trust no time will be lost in now forming a corps. The expense of the necessary hose, etc., would not be very great and the insurance companies doing business in the Settlement would no doubt assist in the matter. Public meetings, as a rule, are not very largely attended in Nagasaki; but if one was convened for the purpose of discussing the question, we feel confident sufficient interest would be taken in the matter to warrant further action. . . . Since writing the above, official notice has been received of the postponement of the opening ceremony, in consequence of the Czarevitch affair.

SHANGHAI.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *North China Daily News*, writing over the signature "Humanity," urges the Municipal Authorities to take steps for putting an end to the traffic in girls that goes on in the settlements at Shanghai. Having drawn a vivid picture of the part played by the British flag in eradicating slavery, he says:—

> In these Settlements shadowed over by these flags and ruled by Municipal councillors who are honest, honourable, and upright men, who hate sin and vice as they do poison, and who are representatives of the most civilised, humane and free nations, there is going on every day traffic in young girls and women sold and bought for immoral purposes! Turn your thoughts for one moment, O venerable Councillors! from bridge making, road levelling, and building, to the houses of prostitution in the alleyways on Lower Honan Road, the Cantonese houses of ill-fame on the Yangkingpang, in Hongkew, and to the low opium dens on the French side, and consider how and in what manner these places are stocked with young and hapless females. Some of these unfortunate inmates luckily find rich Chinamen who pay their ransom—which is always enormous—and become concubines. Almost daily young girls and women from Soochow, Sungkiang, Wusieh, Canton, Yangchow, and other districts are enticed to Shanghai and sold like so many cattle to supply the seraglios. These novices are taught to play the native guitar, to sing and to lead a shameful life. Rods, whips, burning hot opium needles and other modes of torture are resorted to in case these wretched girls are backward in these accomplishments. Were a record to be kept and published of the sufferings and ill-treatment of these poor girls, all England and France would be deeply stirred with indignation and horror! But what makes it more shameful is that within the Chinese city and in the native territory under the Shanghai magistrate and his deputies, no such traffic is permitted and not a single case can be found. Chinese law is most rigorous in such matters, the offenders being punished with banishment, transportation for life, or decapitation according to the degree of offence. A case in point, that of an old procuress, was being tried at the French Mixed Court only a few days ago. She confessed having engaged in the traffic in young girls and women. She first tried her hand in Sungkiang but was forced to leave, to avoid arrest. She next attempted the same thing inside the Shanghai city, and bolted just as the authorities were taking measures for her capture. The Elysium in which to carry on her nefarious work she found in the English and French Settlements. For five long years she speculated in human flesh and bones and did a lucrative trade. She got into trouble with detectives and made herself, at last, liable to the penalties of the law.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE OF PRISONERS IN HOKKAIDO.

THE *Kokkai* reports an affair of a serious and sanguinary character from Hokkaido. It appears that, on the 9th instant, a party of two hundred prisoners were sent from the jail in Sorachi to that in Kushiro. They were escorted by fifteen men and they travelled by the Horonai train. About two miles beyond Nopporo Station the train has to ascend a gradient, and while it was proceeding slowly at this spot, three of the prisoners managed to draw the swords of as many guards. The latter attempted to recover their weapons, and in the effort one of them lost a finger. Apparently several of the prisoners were acting in concert, for fourteen of them immediately jumped out of the windows of the train and took to their heels. Some of the guards followed and overtook them, whereupon a fierce fight ensued. The prisoners, wielding the three swords of which they had gained possession, tried to kill or maim the guards, but the latter, armed with rifles as well as swords, quickly despatched one man and then two more. Still the fight continued, and in the end no less than twelve out of the fourteen prisoners were either killed or badly wounded. Two succeeded in effecting their escape. The *Kokkai* adds that the officer in charge of the escort, Mr. Noma Masanori, distinguished himself especially. He was carrying a sword with a blade three feet long, made by a renowned smith of former times. Wielding this, he engaged a number of the prisoners at once, and cut down several, but finally his weapon broke on the skull of an assailant. The fight is said to have lasted forty minutes. Of course without knowing how many of the guards were engaged in it, no definite opinion can be pronounced. Probably only four or five were able to pursue the fugitives, as the others would have had to stay with the 176 remaining prisoners. Glaring inequality of numbers justifies recourse to extreme measures by the weaker side, but that twelve out of fourteen fugitives were killed or wounded seems a shocking record.

THEATRICAL.

"IT never rains but it pours." After a long spell during which no dramatic entertainment has enlivened the Settlement, we are to witness the amateurs in one of Gilbert's comedies on the 26th, and this is to be followed two nights later by the advent of a professional company, who will open with "Hamlet." We know the calibre of the local talent, which under the able direction of the energetic gentleman who has the thing in hand, is bound to produce a success. As to Shakespeare in Yokohama, notwithstanding the completeness with which works of the "Immortal Williams"—as a Paris paper had it—may be placed upon the stage, it cannot pay. We are informed that Mr. Miln heads a large and highly salaried company, and this being so, it is safe to predict that their stay in Yokohama will be very short indeed. With London's millions to appeal to, metropolitan managers, for years previous to the undertaking of Shakespearean rôles by their present great exponent, found that Shakespeare spelt ruin. There is a section of this community who will be certain to be at the Public Hall at every performance Mr. Miln is able to give, but there is another section, and not a small one, who (*chacun à son goût*) mostly patronise *café chantant* entertainments and "legs.".

AN EVENTFUL VOYAGE.

THE *Tsuruga Maru* had a somewhat exciting voyage from Newchwang to Kobe. Detained sixteen hours at anchor in a dense fog which covered the sea shortly after leaving Jinsen, on the 10th, she arrived at Fusan on the evening instead of the morning of the 12th. She had 180 Chinese passengers for Vladivostock, mechanics and artificers of all kinds, from the province of Shantung. These were to be transferred at Fusan to the *Takachiho Maru*, due there on the 11th, but the Captain was met by the news of the shipwreck of that steamer off the south end of Tsushima, and ordered off instantly to render assistance to passengers and save mails and treasure. The 180 Chinamen having been duly placed in a strong and well-roofed hulk there to await conveyance to their destination, and being let out in small batches for air and exercise on shore, the *Tsuruga Maru* proceeded at 6 p.m. for Itsugahara, arriving off the port at two next morning. The dead people in the neighbourhood may have heard the continued blasts of the steam whistle on which the whole energy of the ship seemed concentrated, but the echoes from the amphitheatre of hills were the sole reply vouchsafed to Captain Thomsen. At daylight the steamer was taken into the snug little cove that is only a harbour by courtesy, as it is entirely open to the east, and anchored close to the still sleeping villages. The steam whistle was again put on duty, and without unreasonable delay a Japanese of that country, the Agent of the Company, came off in a small sampan, and interviewed the Japanese purser of the steamer. Some unaccountable misunderstanding rendered his information practically useless, for he was supposed to say that there were no passengers or anything there, but that all had remained at the scene of the wreck. Thither therefore

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the steamer proceeded, arriving about 7 o'clock in sudden view of a fine steamer with her bow raised and her stern depressed within a mile of the main land of Tsushima. She had run on the reef that extends from the southern extremity of the island early on Monday morning the 11th, and was obviously a hopeless fixture. Going near the steamer and getting no response to his hail, Captain Thomsen then steamed in about two miles towards the long village which grows round the open bay that fills the space between the two horns of the crescent forming the southmost end of Tsushima. Three ship's boats were observed on shore, and a great pile of cargo covered as much as possible by sails. After some time it was ascertained that five Russian passengers and 50 Japanese and Chinese were on shore, and they were got on board with their baggage as expeditiously as possible. But the treasure, mails, and two English passengers had proceeded to Itsugahara as the most likely place to find succour. This necessitated a second visit to Itsugahara, and altogether twelve good hours were lost. But no one regretted it, for the weather was fine and it is by a rare chance that foreign travellers see the beauty of that gem of an island. In the Inland Sea, again, about 130 miles from Kobe, after lying at anchor during the night on account of fog, a steamer was descried at daylight on the 16th, end on to a small round island, and heeling over about 60 degrees. She was the *Albany*, of Leith, and had only stranded at midnight. Nothing could be done for, the concerned except to bring the poor Captain's letters to Kobe. These wrecks are saddening sights, and prompt in the minds of spectators thankfulness that the case is not their own.

THE PIED LEADER.

THE *Nippon* came out the other day with a leading article the type of which had been so blurred and pied as to be unintelligible. Of course the object of this was to show the effects of the new regulation providing that all matter relating to the country's foreign relations shall be submitted for official inspection before publication. Such childish journalism serves only to justify the action taken by the Authorities. No newspaper with a proper sense of its dignity would resort to the silly device of presenting to its readers several columns of topsy-turvy, defaced ideographs, merely to show its own incapacity to compose matter which, in the opinion of the Government, is not detrimental to international amity. It is as though a school-boy were purposely to cover his copy-book with blots and blurs to prove that he could not write unless he were suffered to hold his pen in his own fashion. Exhibitions of this kind sometimes almost compel us to doubt whether the Japanese are to be taken quite seriously. The sole object of the Government is to conduct the country's foreign relations in an amicable and orderly manner. Having found that the writings of some journals tend to excite among a certain section of the people, a spirit of which the extreme manifestations are calculated to involve the nation in grave troubles, the Government issues a regulation requiring that all matter bearing on foreign relations shall be submitted for examination before publication. Against this regulation, obviously dictated by a sincere desire to promote the nation's best interests, one newspaper protests by issuing an undecipherable scrawl in lieu of a leading article. What is the inference? It will be easily drawn by those who have followed the writing of the *Nippon* during the past twelve months. And, apart from the inference, the act, as we have said, is entirely childish and paltry.

NEW RACE PONIES.

SEVENTEEN ponies from Mr Sassoon's stable arrived by the *Yokohama Maru* from Shanghai and were drawn on Saturday. They are said to be a much superior lot to the animals obtained for some time past from the Horse Bazaar. Twelve are griffins, while the names of some of the others appear as runners at the late Shanghai meeting, notably Streamer, against whose name 1.34 is set down for three-quarters. This pony started in the Griffins' Plate with Mr. Sassoon up, from which it may be inferred that he was thought to have had a chance even in a field of 24. He also ran in the Spring Cup and the Chau Shang Kiuk Cup, both one mile. May Morn started twice, in the Jockey Cup—once round, and the Taotai's Cup—one mile; this pony is credited with 2.46 for a mile and a quarter. Perhaps started in the Hart Legacy Cup half a miles. The griffin Harold has 59⅓ against his name for half-a-mile, the griffin Hanover the same time for that distance and 2.12 for a mile. There are no small ponies among them—nothing under 13 hands, and as there are only five over 13.1 it will be seen that they are a fairly level lot as to size, and this is also indicated by the time with they are credited over various distances from half a mile to a mile and a half.

NEWS FROM CHINA AND THE SOUTH.

THE ordinary meeting of the Singapore Insurance Co. was held on the 2nd instant, when the report, already published, was adopted. Questions were asked as to the scheme of amalgamation circulated in the colony, but the Chairman said it arose from no suggestion of the directors' and had not been considered officially by them. * * * The *Hongkong Daily Press* hears that A. M. P. da Silva, who on the 21st May last was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for embezzling some $23,000 from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, has been released. * * * The boiler of a steam launch called the *Macao*, the property of Chinese merchants, purchased last year from the *Macao* Government for $2,850, exploded on the 7th inst., while lying at Gibb's Wharf, Hongkong. One man was killed and five injured. * * * His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong Sir G. William Des Vœux, K.C.M.G., Lady des Vœux and family left Hongkong for Europe *via* America in the O. & O. steamer *Oceanic* on the afternoon of the 7th inst. Prior to his departure, His Excellency was presented with three addresses, one from the Educational Department, one from the members of the Civil Service, and one from the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association in recognition of his passing the Bill for restricting Sunday labour in the Harbour. The first two were presented to him at Government House; the last on board the steamer just before his departure. His Excellency was visited on board by H.E. Major-General Digby Barker, C.B., the Chief Justice, Sir James Russell, Hon. J. J. Keswick, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, several heads of departments, and some personal friends. On embarking from Murray Wharf he received the usual salute. Major-General Digby Barker has been sworn in as Acting-Governor of Hongkong. * * * A correspondent writing from Peking to a Hongkong paper says the Empress-Dowager was in a convenient pavilion very close to the Foreign Ministers on the occasion of the Audience on 5th March, and examined them all minutely with an opera glass. "The Chinese are very well satisfied with the respectful conduct of the foreigners on that occasion. The Ministers, through their *doyen* Mr. von Brandt, first asked to be received in the Palace, but quickly dropped that demand, refusing, however, to go to the "Hall of the Tributaries," as some one has called it. This is not the Chinese name for it, although the Tz Kuang Ko is unquestionably the place where the tributaries are received. Then the Foreign Ministers consented to go there, but only for this once, and they make a great boast of the excellent convention they made with the Tsung-li Yamên as to the next audience. This convention is, I am told, the most ridiculous thing ever thought of. It stipulates that foreigh Ministers are not to go to the Tz Kuang Ko any more, but another pavilion, also in the Imperial Gardens, far away from the Palace, is to be specially erected for their reception. This closes the question of a reception in the Palace for ever, and gives no security for the new pavillion being less derogatory than the old. The latter had at least a history, and had been consecrated by the use of a succession of Emperors. The new one will have no character whatever, and will never take equal rank with the Tz Kuang Ko. Its isolation and specialization give it the character of a sort of leper hospital. It has never been stated in any newspaper. I have seen that Foreign Ministers were refused the consideration accorded to the Mongol and other tributaries. These pass to the Tz Kuang Ko through the Palace grounds over the Marble Bridge, while the Foreign Ministers were conducted by a long circuitous route outside the wall of the Imperial city, and were only admitted to the pavilion by a side door. The natives of Peking speak very disparagingly of the foreigners, and think they have been very submissive." * * * The *Hongkong Daily Press* understands it is estimated that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will lose £17,000 or £18,000 by the failure of Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.; and says rumour has it that a Japanese Bank may lose three or four times that amount. * * * Mr. Chaloner Alabaster, senior of the British Consular service in China, left for home on the 8th inst. It is understood there is little probability of his return to the Celestial Empire.

DEATH OF A CHINESE INTERPRETER IN JAPAN.

IN the Peking *Official Gazette*, as translated by the *North-China Daily News*, we find the following:—"Li Shu-ch'ang, the late Chinese Minister in Japan, reports the death in that country of Yang Chiu-t'ing, who has been interpreter to the Consulate in Kobe ever since its establishment in 1879. He suffered from the dampness of the climate which brought on hemorrhage from which he died on the 15th January last. The deceased was an excellent Japanese scholar and had an exceptionally good record during a service of more than 10 years in the country. Undue exertion in the discharge of his duties is in part responsible for his death, and the Minister hopes that the Emperor will be pleased to console the spirit of the dead by making a liberal grant of posthumous honours."

MR. MORTIMER MENPES.

ONE of the most interesting of the small exhibitions that will take place between now and the opening of the R.A., says the *World*, will be that of Mr. Mortimer Menpes' sketches in India, Kashmir, and Burmah. Those who remember with lasting delight his Japanese sketches, exhibited at Messrs. Dowdeswell's two years ago, may look forward to an even greater treat, for these Indian sketches show an immense advance on Mr. Menpes' former works. Besides the sketches in oil, water-colour, and pencil, Mr. Menpes will also exhibit some etchings, done on ivory with a diamond point, which will probably cause something little short of a revolution amongst the Society of Painter-Etchers, not only on account of the originality, but also of their rare technical excellence and extraordinary delicacy.

CHILI.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Valparaiso, under date January 16th, 1891, says:—"You will be interested in getting a bit of news from Chile at this time. We are in the midst of a revolution. I say midst, but it may be only the beginning, or it may be near the end; no one knows. So far it has been with almost no shedding of blood, and it is the desire of the revolutionary party to avoid this if possible. For many months the possibility of this movement was foreseen, but it was hoped that it might be avoided. Since the first of January the President has taken the law into his own hands, and, according to a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the land, he has been governing contrary to the Constitution. The latter document requires Congress to vote the appropriations and determine the land and navy forces. But the President, knowing that the overwhelming majority of Congress was against him, refused to call this body together lest while voting the needed bills they should also impeach his ministry. Therefore, on January 1st, he issued a cool proclamation, full of notorious mis-statements of facts, and putting all the blame upon Congress; and, holding himself up as a much-abused patriot, declared that of his own right as

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President he should determine the budget and fighting forces, in short that he should govern without Congress. All went on very quietly for the first few days, and some thought that the dictatorship of President Balmaceda would be acquiesed in by the people. But on the morning of the 7th, Valparaiso awoke to find that the navy had revolted. At midnight all the men-of-war sailed out of the harbour, having on board as authorized representatives of Congress, the Vice-President of the Senate and the President and Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies. Since that time the operations of the navy have been principally in the north and south, leaving Valparaiso for a final joint effort before marching upon Santiago. The great majority of the people are with the Congressional party, and it is only by the most vigorous harsh measures that the Government has been able to prevent a general uprising and desertion to the fleet. All the printing offices of the opposition were closed on the first day of the revolution, and on the next night many were entered by roughs under the protection of the police, and the machinery ruined. This and the daily arrest and imprisonment of any one who is known to have any influence with the Congressional party, shows the spirit of the Dictator's policy. He seeks not the good of the people and their will, but his own purposes and interests. The cause of the opposition is the cause of the people, of liberty and principle. It has the sympathy of almost the entire foreign populace. It was hoped at first that the struggle would be brief and bloodless; but it now looks as if it might last a month and bring sharp fighting. It is not likely that the foreigners will suffer except in the way of business; but the country must lose heavily."

THE DECORATED DRAWERS.

MINUTE details are published about the action of the Czarevitch towards the two *jinrikisha* men who, by their presence of mind and courage on the 11th instant, have become the heroes of the hour. We find little to add, however, to what we have already written. It seems that Mukobatake Jisaburo was the man who clasped Tsuda's legs and threw him down, while Kitaga Ichitaro seized the fanatic's sword and slashed him with it. We learn also that the present of 5,000 *yen* to the two men was from the Czarevitch, and that the life pension of 1,000 *yen* annually is the Czar's munificent recognition of their act. When they went on board the flag-ship to be decorated and enriched, the Prince Imperial is said to have given them most kindly and excellent advice, urging them not to over-estimate their suddenly acquired riches, and otherwise admonishing them in a manner that bespoke genuine benevolence. As they were about to leave the ship, the sailors got hold of them, drank their healths, cheered them, chaired them, and behaved with all the exuberant gratitude that loyal men might be expected to feel under the circumstances. The quondam coolies are said to have been greatly astonished and abashed. They averred that any Japanese would have acted as they did under the circumstances, but of course the Russians did not take that view. It is altogether a pretty little episode, serving in some degree to lighten an otherwise sombre situation.

* * *

One of the leading Tokyo journals suggests that the critics who from Tsuda Sanzo's act infer the existence of an anti-foreign feeling in Japan, ought to consider the conduct of these two coolies, and the unanimous applause it has elicited. Is it consistent, our contemporary asks, to assert that wide-spread dislike of foreigners prompted the universal execration evoked by Tsuda's deed, or inspired the chorus of praise that greeted the coolies? We fear that the *Yomiuri's* appeal to reason and logic will have little effect against sentiment and suspicion. We foresaw and foretold that Japan would be hardly judged in this matter, and that all the obvious and intelligible explanations of Tsuda's proceeding would be set aside in favour of a far-fetched and unreasoning hypothesis. It is Japan's misfortune to still lie under suspicion of not having put aside all her old ways, and divested herself of all her old prejudices. It is also her misfortune to be so circumstanced that the interests and inclinations of some folks impel them to keep up this suspicion. Thirty years ago every act of violence by which a foreigner suffered in Japan was attributed to one unvarying cause. To-day the same indiscriminating tendency prevails among a small number of persons. Japan has changed, but a few foreigners continue to read her always by the same light and with the same glasses, while, on the other hand, a few of her people have not entirely qualified to be read otherwise. Perhaps they never will qualify. Perhaps the prejudice that exists against all foreigners among a certain class of Englishmen, for example, will find its counterpart within a limited circle of Japanese for years to come. Certainly years must elapse before the identity of the feeling is recognised.

COUNT ITAGAKI.

COUNT ITAGAKI is now on a tour through the eastern and central provinces. On the 15th instant he delivered a speech in Aichi, of which the *Kokkai* gives a resumé. The first subject taken by the Radical leader was the demeanour of the people towards their representatives in the Diet. He blamed the constituencies for behaving as if they imagined that their representatives were sent to parliament simply for the sake of local interests, a conception carried to the length of requiring the representatives to resign if they had failed to obtain prominence for local affairs in the Diet. The Count pointed out that the duty of the representatives was to their country in the first place, and to their constituencies in the second, and he added that, having accepted the position of leader of the Party, he intended to bring this matter to the attention of his colleagues at an early date. He then passed on to the important question of the operation of the Commercial Code, but expressed no definite opinion about it, promising only to have the fullest attention paid to it. Finally, he approached the problem of Treaty Revision, chiefly with reference to mixed residence. He declared himself unable to comprehend why people should oppose this at the present time, seeing that practically no voices had been raised against it in the days of either Count Inouye or Count Okuma. If Japan continued to exclude foreigners from free intercourse with her people, the former would finally conclude that the Japanese were a despicable and craven race, whereas, on the contrary, there was no valid reason of any kind for Japanese to fear foreigners. The clam in the proverb closed its shell and thought itself safe, but the fisherman came and carried it off. Count Itagaki told his hearers to apply the saying themselves.

* * *

Count Itagaki is apparently waking up to the fact that the world, one of these fine mornings, may grow weary of Japan's secluded attitude and decline to trifle any longer with her. The nations did not hesitate much in the presence of her mediæval traditions thirty-five years ago, though they were not then confronted by any such anomaly as they find here to-day. Never has there been seen a country where the conditions of civilized intercourse exist in such conspicuous juxtaposition with the restrictions of semi-barbarous isolation. Railways, steamers, telegraphs, posts—every possible means of communication reaching to the very doors of the foreign Settlements, yet the inmates of the latter forbidden to step beyond fixed and narrow limits without a passport, and altogether forbidden to trade outside the Settlements. Never, we repeat, was such an anomaly seen, and to imagine that it can endure long demands a striking stretch of credulous capacity. The barriers will be broken down incontinently some of these days. As Count Itagaki appositely said, the clam with its closed shell imagines itself in safety, but, in the sequel of its complacent reserve, will find itself landed helplessly on the fish monger's stall.

JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

NATURALLY the effect likely to be ultimately exercised on the relations between Japan and Russia by the unhappy incident at Otsu has been a fruitful topic of conjecture. The first positive statement on the subject is found in the *Kokkai*. That journal takes a very optimistic view. It holds that, judging by the telegrams which have passed between the two countries, the issue of the incident will be to cement the friendship of Japan and Russia more firmly than ever. There is an old Japanese aphorism which says that rain makes the soil bind; or as we should put it in English, the falling out of constant friends renewing is of love. The sentiments evoked by the Otsu affair have—so the *Kokkai* thinks—laid bare Japan's heart to Russia, and the exposé will help to strengthen and sweeten the social, political, and commercial relations of the empires. Not content with this forecast, the *Kokkai* goes on to demonstrate that no European Power lies so close to Japan geographically and commercially as Russia. She competes with England, we are told, for leadership in the Orient, and her vast dominions are separated from Japan by a comparatively narrow channel. When the Siberian railway is completed, the insignificant trade between Japan and the Great Northern Power will increase considerbly. In view of all this, the *Kokkai* regrets that the Russian language is not taught in any Japanese college, whereas Russia has established in her University a class for Japanese students. The public of Japan is urged to acquire a knowledge of Russian manners and customs, tradal usages, and language. A certain sage, concludes the *Kokkai*, prophecies that at a date not more than ten years hence Japan's relations with Russia will be much more important than her relations with Great Britain, France, or Germany. Ten years is but a brief period in the history of a nation.

ANOTHER RIOT IN CHINA.

ANOTHER of those periodical outbursts of anti-foreign feeling which occur so frequently in China, has taken place at Wuhu, particulars of which we find in the *N.C. Daily News* of the 14th instant and following issue:—"News has been received by wire that there was a riot at Wuhu on Tuesday, the premises of the Catholic Mission being burnt. The priests escaped and there were no lives lost. The foreign residents at Wuhu are now on board the hulks." The trouble at Wuhu appears to have had its origin in the stock story of taking out the eyes of children at the Roman Catholic Orphanage. The common people cannot understand how it is that foreigners are anxious to care for other people's children without any compensation, and so come to the conclusion that the foreigners have sinister motives in thus taking children into orphanages. This feeling has obtained at Wuhu during the last few days, and upward of 2,000 country people, mixed up probably with rowdies, collected inside Wuhu, their avowed object being to release the inmates of the Roman Catholic Orphanage. On Sunday night they became threatening, and the Roman Catholic missionaries informed the Taotai that threats had been uttered that if the children were not given up, the mob would burn the Orphanage down, a threat that was carried out on Tuesday afternoon. Before this had been consummated, however, the residents had been informed of the state of affairs, and it was arranged that they should meet at the Custom House if the riot actually broke out, but up to midnight of Monday nothing serious had happened. Several telegrams were received yesterday showing the serious nature of the rioting. One telegram dated 10 a.m. yesterday stated that the mob were still rioting, and burning, and steamers were being detained for the protection of the community. The British Consul-General sent letters by the *Kowshing* and *Ichang* to H.M.S *Linnet*, if she could be found, requesting her to proceed at once to Wuhu. * * * The riot at Wuhu commenced on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock and continued up to 5 p.m. During that time, the mob burnt the Roman Catholic Orphanage and the quarters of the Customs officers, having first looted the premises; and it is also reported that the Catholic Mission and

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Church have been burnt. The Customs officers were all armed, but were not allowed to fire at the looters, so they saw their property destroyed before their eyes without being able to interfere, and they lost everything. The rioters proceeded to the Consulate and smashed everything they could in it, and afterwards returned to loot it. The Consul, Mr. Colin Ford, and his wife escaped from the building in Chinese clothes, and all the foreigners went on board the *Li-tai*, Butterfield & Swire's hulk. The *Ella* was detained to render assistance, and as soon as it was known that the *Tchshing* was expected the former left Wuhu, starting at 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday. Everything appeared to be quiet then, but when the *Ella* reached Chinkiang it was reported that a telegram had been received from Wuhu stating that the Consul had been wounded. We know from a telegram dated 10 a.m. on Wednesday that rioting and burning were still going on, so the mob had started afresh and it is probable that it was during the second riot that the Consul was hurt. The Methodist Episcopal Mission had not been interfered with up to the time the *Ella* left. As this steamer was on her way down the passed a boat-load of Roman Catholic priests, but they did not wish to be taken on board. At the time of the riot there was a Chinese man-of-war at Wuhu, but her crew did nothing to help the foreigners. Seven other Chinese gunboats were passed on the way up, and the French man-of-war *Inconstant* was at the Centaur Buoy early yesterday morning. She left here with a letter for the *Linnet*, and appears to have gone down the river to find her, but not succeeding had turned back and proceeded up the Yangtze alone. The following telegram from Wuhu was received yesterday afternoon :—"All quiet again, *Yuen-wo* standing by till *Ngankin* arrives." Efforts have been made to communicate with H.M.S. *Linnet*, but although several vessels coming in have seen her, none of the outgoing vessels have had that luck. The *Linnet* was seen yesterday between 10 and 11 a.m. snugly at anchor six miles S.E. of Tungsha. A tugboat went out last night to find her, and asked the *Kiangteen* for information as to the gunboat's whereabouts. We may mention that the first telegram as to the riot was received at H.M. Consulate by Mr. Mansfield at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, and he at once sent Mr. Fraser into the city to get the Taotai to send up a man-of-war, and went himself in a sampan on board the French man-of-war *Inconstant*. Her departure was delayed because it was thought that there might be some trouble in the French Settlement here."

LUXURY.

Looking at the display of jewelry in the last exhibition of the Fine Arts Society in Tokyo, it was impossible to avoid the reflection that Japan would do well to halt in her route towards Western fashions if it leads her to the almost insane extravagance of nineteenth-century Europe and America. A Japanese lady of luxurious bent may manage to spend a thousand *yen* on her head gear. We have heard of a comb and hairpin of tortoishell so delicately tinted, so perfectly pure in tone, that five hundred *yen* had to be paid for them. Such specimens appeal only to highly educated tastes. An infinitesimally small difference of hue marks the passage from amber to the palest straw-colour, yet to accomplish that passage, the patient worker in tortoise-shell has to multiply the pain of his laborious task to an almost incredible extent. The slightest carelessness or error in selecting the fragments of shell which, welded together, give material sufficient for a comb or a hairpin, means that the whole work descends to a comparatively low plane, and that, instead of obtaining a yellow so faint as to be almost imperceptible, there results a vulgarly solid colour like that of common amber or a canary's breast. It was so with the coral bead also, which completed the pin. Tone was everything. A substantial flawless bead of rich red coral might be procured for fifty or sixty *yen*, but a bead of the same size showing the genuine "peach-bloom" hue of the connoisseur was worth two or three hundred. Yet, after all, the most luxuriously-minded dame of old Japan could scarcely lavish upon the adornment of her person more than from three to four hundred sovereigns, whereas the adornment of one finger of a Western belle's hand may cost five or six times as much. Thus a display of jewelry in Occidental style at a Japanese exhibition sets us speculating whether the country will one day come to waste its substance in the riotous extravagance carried to such a pitch by the fair sex in Europe and America. The same range of conjecture offers in respect of furniture and buildings. Contrast, for example, the simplicity of the most aristocratic Japanese dwelling with the following description of what the rich burgeois of Paris loves to live among in this year 1891 :—"The amount of money that is being disbursed upon house decoration by a few of the richer of the Paris *bourgeoisie* is extraordinary. Staircases lined with marble of every hue lead up between ten-thousand-pound pictures to suites of rooms where old tapestry of fabulous price is framed into panels with the most costly carved woods. Each piece of furniture around the room has come from some ducal palace, and their garniture from the ends of the world. Painters of the first rank are employed to decorate the ceilings, whilst the floors are covered with Persian carpets it is a sin to tread upon. Such establishments are either the result of the small profits and quick returns of the enormous houses which answer to our stores, or of the huge profits made by those who cater for the adornment of the fair Americans who come to Paris with more dollars than they know what to do with."

FAREWELL OF THE CZAREVITCH TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN.

The Czarevitch, on leaving Japan, instructed Prince Bariatinsky, General of the Suite of His Imperial Majesty the Czar, to insert in the leading vernacular newspapers the following farewell to the people of Japan :—"The subjects of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, deeply grieved on account of the injury received by my revered and beloved master the Crown Prince of Russia, have sent thousands of telegrams and letters to inquire after his condition, and many hundreds have offered presents, while others have appointed Committees, delegated representatives, or come themselves to Kyoto and Kobe to convey their condolences. All these circumstances the Russian Minister and myself have had the honour to submit to His Imperial Highness, informing him of the deeply respectful sentiment expressed, and laying before him the gifts, one by one. His Imperial Highness instructs me to say that he is profoundly gratified, and to convey his sincere thanks to all. He greatly regrets that the imminence of his departure from Japan does not leave time for the expression of his thanks in detail, and he has accordingly directed me to have recourse to the press for the purpose of proclaiming his sense of gratitude to all ; which facts I respectfully make known."

JAPANESE METAL WORK.

It was with much amusement that we read, in a recent issue of a Yokohama English journal, this statement :—"The facts are, as we are informed, that the simplest floral design engraved on a silver card-case, for instance, cannot be reproduced in Japan, at least not in the capital, wherever else talent may be hiding. * * * We are quite ready to give Japanese artists credit for great skill in inlaid and raised metal work, but as engravers, especially in gold and silver, they will not be able to equal very ordinary European work for many years to come, and they are honest enough to acknowledge their want of skill and experience in that kind of work." Imagine such assertions as these being gravely printed in the columns of an English journal, published in Japan and edited by a man who has spent some twenty-five years in this country! The Japanese engraver in metals will be unable to equal very ordinary European work for many years to come! It is deliciously ignorant and ridiculous. Why, the Japanese engraver has for the past three centuries been drawing upon gold, silver, copper, iron, *shakudo*, and *shibuichi* the most marvellous pictures ever executed in such materials. He is drawing the same pictures to-day. A visit to any exhibition of his products, or to the atelier of any artist in Tokyo, will show engraver's work of microscopic accuracy and delicacy. He wields his chisel with scarcely less fidelity, force and feeling than a skilled painter shows in managing his brush. Every stroke that he cuts upon the hard surface of iron or gold is a study and every line has its special merits of strength and freedom. The record of his extraordinary achievements is written upon tens of thousands of *tsuba*, *kozuka*, and other objects familiar to every collector. To talk of his being unable to "equal very ordinary European work," is to display a degree of crass ignorance almost without parallel.

THE ORIENTAL CLUB (*TOYO CLUB*).

We have already made brief reference to a meeting held by the Oriental Club—a section of the Radical Party—on the 15th instant. Mr. Kokubo Kihichi, one of the principal speakers, made a wild assault upon the Government. His ground of attack was that the assailant of the Russian Prince Imperial being a policeman, and policemen being employés of the Central Government, not only ought the Governor of Shiga and the Chief of Police to be dismissed, but the Ministry also should resign. Mr. Kokubo's utterances were arrested at this stage. He obviously needs a mentor. Another speaker was Mr. Oi Kentaro. He took Treaty Revision for his theme. Having frankly confessed that his knowledge of Viscount Aoki's proposals was derived entirely from newspaper reports, he proceeded to denounce the idea of allowing mixed residence. If foreigners were allowed to make their way into the interior, he said, they would bring cheap money from Europe and America, and appropriate all the profitable enterprises out of the hands of the Japanese. As for the view entertained by some, namely, that a marked increase of prosperity would result from mixed residence, Mr. Oi declared it to be absurd and dangerous. At the same time he did not hesitate to say that Japan must insist on the full restoration of her tariff and judical autonomy. In other words, while clinging to the isolation of mediæval prejudice she is to enjoy all the privileges of modern international intercourse. Mr. Oi Kentaro is a clever man, but whether he seeks to be taken seriously is another question.

DUMAS PÈRE.

Here is a pretty anecdote about Albert Delpit, who has just had performed at the Odéon in Paris with great success, a comedy called *Passionnément*. He was the elder Alexander Dumas's secretary with two hundred francs salary, not much of which remained at the end of the month. "One day," said Delpit, "I had the greatest longing to go to the ball at the Opéra House, but funds were lacking. Unable to stand it, I braced up my courage and went to Dumas and, red as a beet, I begged him to be kind enough to advance me ten francs. 'Ten francs!' replied Dumas laughing, 'ten francs with which to go to the ball at the Opéra House ; but what can you do, little one, with your ten francs? You have not thought of your supper and what not. Ten francs indeed. Look here, here are five louis for you.'" This flash of generosity and humour is very characteristic of the elder Dumas.

THE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO KYOTO.

It was a foregone conclusion that whatever Japan did in respect of the Otsu affair would be adversely criticised by a section of the local English press. Did she show herself zealous in her manner of expressing abhorrence of the crime of Tsuda Sanzo, she would be accused of truckling to Russia; did she exhibit any passiveness or imperturbability, she would be charged with condoning the murderous assault because its victim was a foreigner. In no way could she be right. This was well understood. But there was one incident that ought assuredly to have escaped adverse comment, namely, the visit of the Emperor to the wounded Czarevitch. There is

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not, we venture to say, a ruler or potentate in the civilized world who would have acted differently. The ordinary instincts of humanity, to say nothing of the dictates of hospitality and courtesy, required that His Majesty should proceed to Kyoto with all speed. Had he failed to do so, had he remained coldly in Tokyo while his guest, the Prince Imperial of Russia, was suffering in Kyoto from the effects of a murderous assault at the hands of one of the men entrusted by the Japanese Government with the duty of guarding him, there could have been but one opinion as to the Emperor's estimate of the obligations imposed by international friendship. It is humiliating and repugnant to be obliged to notice such criticisms, inspired by a reckless love of fault-finding, and couched in language as vulgar as it is clumsy and ungrammatical. But if they are suffered to pass without protest, the Japanese people may fall into the error of imagining that the British residents sympathise with writers who are in reality a byword among their own nationals, and who exist simply by charitable sufferance.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE CZAREVITCH.

THE three Japanese men-of-war *Fayeyama Kan*, *Musashi Kan*, and *Takao Kan*, preceded the Russian Squadron to Mutsuri-jima, beyond Shimonoseki, and, lying there until the arrival of the Squadron at 7 p.m. on the 20th instant, fired twenty-one guns each by way of farewell to the Czarevitch, the band of the *Fayeyama* playing the Russian national anthem. Thus the Russians sailed away amid smoke and music, a not inappropriate finale to the somewhat chequered visit of His Imperial Highness to Japan.

* * *

The departure of the Czarevitch without visiting Tokyo was a measure decidedly disagreeable to Japan, and its unwelcome character was accentuated by the fact that instead of the Prince's coming to the Gotei-tei to lunch with the Emperor and bid His Majesty farewell, as originally arranged, the Emperor had to proceed to the Prince's ship to say good-bye. It is now explained that the cause of this change of programme was a suddenly developed tendency to inflammation on the part of the Prince's wounds, and that His Imperial Highness' physician, finding the patient disposed to ignore his veto, declared that he should not be answerable for the consequences and must beg the Prince to accept his resignation. The Emperor, hearing this, at once decided to visit the Prince on board ship instead of receiving him on shore.

ECCENTRICITIES.

THE mania for eccentric journeyings seems to be spreading. Here are a few samples of its manifestation. A fencing-master in Liege, in France, has announced his intention of proceeding from that place to Moscow on an elephant's back. An inmate of the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, proposes to make the journey from that city to Moscow likewise, by hops upon his wooden leg. A glazier bets he will go from Marseilles to Paris, to there pay reverence to the ashes of the First Napoleon, and cover the distance walking backwards. If he succeeds in his undertaking his takers will each pay him a hundred and fifty francs; if he fails, he will contribute three hundred francs to the fund for the benefit of the few remaining recipients of the St. Helena medal. A Russian captain of Gendarmerie in Wladivostock, has made a bet that he will perform the journey from there to Paris on all fours. All calculations made, he will probably reach the Place de la Concorde somewhere about the 1st April, 1893. After receiving the homage due to his exploit and to his nationality, he binds himself to return to his post still on all fours, but this time backwards.

CHOICE OF LANGUAGE.

THE *Choya Shimbun* enters a timely and sensible protest against the use of old-fashioned forms of speech by the public writers of modern Japan. The impression conveyed to outsiders by such language is far stronger than the impression conveyed to Japanese, in whose vocabulary these methods of expression have become mere conventionalisms. When a Japanese journalist, alluding to the supposed want of courtesy shown by a foreign lady to the Emperor at the Yokohama races, said that had a Japanese woman behaved similarly, it would not have been too much to "cut her down and be done with her," his own countrymen, reading the comment, understood that he merely conveyed his indignation by means of a formula which had long ceased to have any literal significance. So again, when one of the Tokyo newspapers, in order to convey an idea of the nation's abhorrence of Tsuda Sanzo's deed, said that the public "would like to eat his flesh," it did not contemplate any veritable act of cannibalism, but merely resorted to an old-fashioned form of speech used entirely in a figurative sense. At the same time the *Choya* truly observes that such language tends to educate among foreigners a very false notion of Japanese ideas, and is, for the rest, inartistically extravagant and vulgar. Writers of education and refinement ought to eliminate this mediæval hyperbole from their columns.

ADDRESS BY THE FRENCH RESIDENTS TO THE CZAREVITCH.

WE learn from *Le Japon* that the French residents of Tokyo and Yokohama sent to the Czarevitch, by Consular hands, the following address :—

"Les soussignés, membres de la Colonie française de Yokohama et de Tokio, se réservaient de saluer Son Altesse Impériale à son passage ici et de lui exprimer de nouveau, en même temps que leur indignation contre le lâche attentat du 11 Mai, toutes leurs félicitations d'avoir heureusement échappé au danger qui a menacé sa vie.

Apprenant que le Grand Duc Césaréwitch doit incessamment quitter Kobé pour se rendre directement à Wladivostock, ils tiennent à lui faire parvenir la présente adresse, revêtue de leurs signatures comme un témoignage de leur profonde et respectueuse sympathie et de leurs vœux bien sincères de guérison définitive."

Yokohama, 18 Mai, 1891.

His Imperial Highness replied by the following telegram :—

Grand Duc Césaréwitch partant ce soir pour Wladiwostock remercie Colonies françaises de leurs cordiales manifestation.

* * *

Our French fellow-residents have set, in this matter, an example which might well have been followed by other nationalities. It is to be wished, however, that they had avoided the use of the word "colonie" in their address; for though they doubtless use it in the sense of "settlement," it is a misleading and objectionable term, all things considered.

VISCOUNT TORIO.

THE *Kokkai* says that Viscount Torio, leader of the Independent Conservatives, who used to be a bitter opponent of Treaty Revision on any lines other than those of absolute equality with Western States, has now changed his mind and become an advocate of Viscount Aoki's proposals. Certain critics attribute this wholesome metamorphosis of the Conservative chief's sentiments to the influence of religion. An ardent disciple of the tenets of the Zen sect of Buddhism, it is probable that his benevolent creed has gradually softened the obduracy of the Viscount's heart, or else that some eloquent preacher has recalled him to his better nature. Whatever be the cause, the result is satisfactory, supposing it to be credible.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.

A CORRESPONDENT asks for details regarding the total eclipse of the moon, which is to take place on May 23rd, Greenwich reckoning. In Japan it will really take place on Sunday 24th, beginning about 40 minutes after midnight of the 23rd. The first contact with the true shadow will be at 1h. 41m. a.m.; the beginning of totality at 2h. 50m.; the end of totality at 4h. 8m.; and the shadow will pass off at 5h. 17m. The last contact with the penumbra will be at 6h. 21.5m., by which time the moon will have set. The eclipse of the Sun, mentioned by our correspondent, is not visible in Japan. It is an annular eclipse visible as such over a small belt in the Arctic regions north-east of Siberia, and will be seen as a partial eclipse in Europe, Canada, and the north-western parts of the United States.

FIRE IN A HAIR CUTTING SALOON.

FIRE broke out about three o'clock on Monday morning in the hair-cutting saloon at No. 80, Main Street, formerly occupied by Mrs. Geffeney, and within the past few days transferred to Mr. Campbell, from Kobe. Mr. Campbell, who resides on the second floor, was awakened by a servant who detected smoke. The flames, which are supposed to have arisen from sparks or embers from the pipes of workmen who were employed on the premises on Sunday, broke out violently on the saloon doors being opened, and before they could be subdued had burned through the ceiling into the dining room above, where some damage was caused. In all the tenant calculates that his loss will amount to quite $5,000, to which extent the damage is covered by insurance. One steamer and three stand pipes were taken to the scene, and a copious supply of water was available at an early moment, but it was impossible—though the flames were confined almost entirely to the place of their origin—to prevent the injury to stock and fittings caused by the joint action of fire and water.

THE POLICY OF THE CZAREVITCH.

ON reaching Kagoshima, says the *Choya Shimbun*, the Czarevitch assembled the clergy of the Greek Church in that district, and made a brief address to them. In the course of his remarks he impressed upon them that the main principle of the Greek faith is to fear God and reverence the King. It followed, therefore, that, while in Japan, they had to reverence the Emperor of Japan. The Prince added that by observing this point, they would not only fulfil the tenet of their creed, but satisfy his wishes. The *Choya* doubtless has good authority for this statement. It is interesting as an evidence of the wise tact displayed by the Prince, evidently at the suggestion of sage advisers, for beyond question the growth of the Greek Church in Japan is regarded with uneasiness by a section of the nation, however small.

THE WAR OFFICE.

THE long expected change in the direction of the War Office has been gazetted. Lieut.-General Count Oyama Iwao, Second Grade of the Second Rank, First Order of Merit, becomes a Privy Councillor, and is succeeded at the War Office by Lieut.-General Viscount Takashima Tomonosuke, Second Grade of the Third Rank, First Order of Merit. Both the outgoing and the incoming Ministers are of Satsuma extraction. Viscount Takashima has long been regarded as a coming man. During several years his name has been frequently spoken of for the portfolio of War, and when the recent Cabinet changes became imminent the public unvaryingly indicated him as Count Oyama's successor.

JAPANESE COAL FOR STEAMSHIPS.

FROM reports which have reached us (*Industries*) recently, it would appear that some kinds of Japanese coal are well suited for steamship requirements. That obtained from the Miike mines, owned by Messrs. Mitsui & Co., is now largely used in steamers calling at the Chinese and Japanese ports. One large shipping firm report very favourably of this coal. In referring to it they state :—"Our ships used it on several occasions when in China and Japan, and the captains and engineers reported most favourably as to its steaming power and the quantity burnt per diem. In fact, they considered it almost equal to the best Welsh coal."

THE NEW JUDGE OF H.B.M.'S COURT IN JAPAN.

THE London *Gazette* of April 3rd contains the following :—"Foreign-office, April 1st.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Nicholas John Hannen, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for China and Japan, and Her Majesty's Consul-

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General at Shanghai; George Jamieson, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court for China and Japan, and Her Majesty's Consul at Shanghai; Chaloner Alabaster, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Consul-General at Canton; and Robert Anderson Mowat, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Judge for her Court in Japan."

LOSS OF THE STEAMER "ALBANY."

"A TELEGRAM from Onomichi," says the *Kobe Herald* of Saturday, was received by Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co., stating that the steamer *Albany*, which left Kobe yesterday, lies a total wreck on Matsusima, about 130 miles from Kobe, and 10 miles from Matsuhama, in the Inland Sea. The telegram was sent by the Captain, and was received at 2.30 p.m. to-day. As far as we know no lives are lost." The *Albany*, Captain Hood, left Yokohama on 9th instant. She was a vessel of 1,742 tons. The *Hyogo News* notices the stranding of the *Albany* in the following terms:—"We regret to record the fact that the steamer *Albany*, of the Mogul Line, has gone ashore at Matsushima, a small island about 120 miles from Kobe in the Inland Sea. She is said to be lying at such an angle that it is impossible for any one to stand on her decks, or for the extent of her injuries to be ascertained. She left here, Friday afternoon, in charge of an unlicensed pilot named W. Houghton. She was in command of Captain Hood, whose first trip it was. She was bound for New York. She was engaged in the Japan trade for several years and was a well-found vessel. The island she is wrecked on is said to be very precipitous, with about 100 yards of sandy beach. This, with the *Melita*, makes the second vessel ashore in a year in the Inland Sea when in charge of unlicensed pilots."

TELEGRAMS OF CONDOLENCE.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun* alleges that during the forty-eight hours immediately succeeding the Otsu incident, over ten thousand telegrams of condolence reached the Russian Prince Imperial from various parts of Japan. The duty of translating these, as well as the innumerable letters received, devolved upon the unfortunate members of the Entertainment Committee, who of course found themselves quite unequal to such a wholly unanticipated strain on their capacity. They had to obtain aid from the Local Authorities, but, even thus assisted, the task must have been immense, seeing that the epistles of condolence numbered many hundreds every day. To prepare a romanized list of the callers, who, up to the time of the Prince's leaving Kyoto, are said to have aggregated over twenty thousand, would have been in itself a big performance.

MISS ARMY SHERWIN.

IT has come, says the *Whitehall Review*, as a disappointment to the Australasians, however complimentary to their musical talent, that the Australian nightingale, Miss Amy Sherwin, who is a native of Tasmania, and now attached to the Carl Rosa company, has elected to stay in Europe for the present. That other operatic star from the Antipodes, Mme. Melba, has been winning golden opinions during her tour in Russia, so our colonial cousins cannot complain that it is only "foreign" talent which receives approbation.

THE SPECIAL EMBASSY TO RUSSIA.

THERE is evidently to be no delay about sending the Special Embassy to Russia. The *Choya Shimbun* says that Prince Arisugawa Takehito, the Envoy, will leave Japan on the 24th instant. The *Kokkai* fixes the date as the 25th instant, and says that the Prince will proceed in two men-of-war, one of which will be the *Takachiho Kan*. But in other quarters there is talk of a mail steamer. If the Prince must go, it is better that he should go as soon as possible, and get to Russia as quickly as may be.

OCCUPATIONS.

SAYS a Singapore contemporary:—"It was to be expected that some curious answers would be found on the Census Schedules. The 'occupation' column seems to have puzzled a good many. Here are a few of the entries:—Verandah snuff bazar, Christian, Washing Coat, Negapatam Klerk, Shipping Cargo, Globe Trotter (the gentleman hailed from one of the 'Hotels' near the Central Police Station), Eating and playing (a schoolboy), Cuting hare, Washing Cloth, Learning Chinese (a little girl), Scholar under 10, Married, Cooker, Wayanger, Virgin, Sexton."

THE EMPEROR AT YOKOHAMA.

THE special train conveying His Majesty the Emperor drew up about a hundred yards outside the platform of the Yokohama Station yesterday a little after noon. The train, which consisted of ten cars, the Imperial saloon in the centre, was drawn by one engine. No one left the train while the Tokaido locomotive was being uncoupled and a fresh engine backed up and coupled to the former rear, and now the front of the train. The whole operation did not occupy more than a minute, and immediately on its completion the train started for Tokyo. At the point where the train came to a standstill a small crowd of persons had assembled. Among these were Mr. Utsumi, Governor of Kanagawa, Mr. Tanuma, Secretary, and Messrs. Mitsuhashi and Ooki, Councillors of Kanagawa Prefecture, Mr. Sugaye, Chief Police Inspector of Kanagawa, Mr. Hirose, Chief of the Prefectural Tax Bureax, the Superintendent of the Yokohama Jail, and twenty-two other officials of the Prefectural Government Office; the members of the Yokohama City Assembly and Yokohama City Council, numbering in all about forty; representatives of merchants of Yokohama (about thirty), members of the Yokohama Medical Society (about one hundred); pupils of the Kanagawa Normal School, of the Yokohama Commercial School, and of a number of other public and private elementary schools in Yokohama.

PRESENTATION.

BEFORE leaving Kobe, says the *Hyogo News* of Thursday, the Admiral of the Russian fleet presented Captain Mahlmann, the harbour-master, with a handsome diamond scarf-pin as a souvenir of his visit, accompanied by a letter written at the instigation of the Czarevitch thanking him for the trouble he took during the stay of the fleet here. The Admiral also had copies of the recent letter on the navigation of Japanese waters, which appeared in the *Hyogo News*, from the pen of Captain Mahlmann, circulated amongst the officers of the fleet, and and at his suggestion the Captain of the *Aspic* also wrote for a copy. Captain Dithlefsen was also presented with a diamond scarf-pin.

THE VENETIAN LION.

ITALIAN newspapers announce that the celebrated lion that stands upon one of the two columns in the Piazetta at Venice, has been greatly damaged by this winter's frosts, and that its condition necessitates thorough repair. A scaffolding has therefore been placed around the column and the lion is in a state of being lowered from its pedestal. But the artists entrusted with its restoration do not agree as to the best method of procedure. The bronze is much slit and it seems that some people think the best plan would be to put the present lion in the Museum, and to replace it upon the column by a copy.

MR. OKI MORIKATA.

WE read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that Mr. Oki, the Governor of Shiga Prefecture, would have been degraded as well as deprived of his office but for the intercession—already recounted—of the Czarevitch. Plainly the only plan for a Japanese Governor is to pray perpetually for one of two things, that heaven will either grant him omniscience or keep foreign Princes away from his district.

THE "JAPAN GAZETTE."

WE are requested to state that Mrs. W. H. Smith, not Mr. W. Dening, is responsible for the matter now appearing in the columns of the *Japan Gazette*. There has been some difficulty between the former and the Directors of the Printing and Publishing Company, but we trust that it is not a difficulty of a permanent character, and that Mr. Dening will consent to resume his functions. An editor possessing his wide knowledge of Japan and close acquaintance with her language and literature is not to be found twice in a decade.

ODDS AND ENDS.

MRS. X. is chatting with a young wife not long ago a widow. "My dear," says she, "you are very hard on your new husband." "You see," was the reply, "to have the dear deceased kept in remembrance is a religion with me, and for that reason I have the death of my first husband mourned by my second."

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The judge, to a loafer whom he has just sentenced to two years' imprisonment—"You have nothing to add, have you?." "No, your honour, I would deduct rather."

A RAPACIOUS EAGLE.

IN the neighbourhood of Trensein in Hungary, a child of two and a half years of age, was playing a few steps from its father, a gate-keeper on a railroad. Just as the latter was engaged in setting the signals, the child was snatched up by a colossal eagle and carried off to the mountains. The unhappy mother of the poor baby witnessed this heart-rending spectacle from a window in her house, unable to succour her child, the whole scene having passed in the space of a few seconds.

THE SPECIAL EMBASSY TO RUSSIA.

IT is stated that the proposed Special Embassy to Russia will not be despatched, the Czar having telegraphed that he is entirely satisfied with the *amende* made by Japan, and that he begs her to dispense with the Special Embassy. But for this telegram Prince Arisugawa and Viscount Yenomoto would have started by the next Canadian-Pacific mail.

THE ASHIO FIRE.

THE forest fire which occurred at the Ashio mountain at 9 a.m. on the 13th instant, and continued burning until 3 p.m., seems to have destroyed a large number of trees. The *Jiji Shimpo* says that the length of the devastated space was twenty *cho* (2,400 yards), but as nothing is mentioned about the breadth, we are left to conjecture the area.

THE CZARKVITCH AND THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

THE Czarevitch has presented to the members of the Reception Committee, from Lieutenant-General Kawakami downwards, handsome presents in the shape of gold cigarette boxes and rings.

TSUDA SANZO.

TSUDA SANZO is not to be left without defence. Messrs. Mori Hajime and Kojima Nakazato, both barristers of repute, have been detailed to conduct his case. Presumably the plea will be temporary insanity.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Last week the columns of the vernacular press were entirely occupied by descriptions and discussions of the Otsu incident, so that our usual summary was not called for. This excitement had almost subsided and things were falling into their wonted groove, when suddenly the Government issued an Ordinance providing that all matter bearing upon international relations should be submitted to the Home Department for inspection before publication. To this regulation the attention of most of the papers has been directed during the week. The *Mainichi* calls it "an evil event for liberty" and writes:—"This is the outcome of the 8th article of the Constitution which says:—'The Emperor, in conquence of an urgent necessity to maintain public safety or to avert public calamities, issues when the Imperial Diet is not sitting, Imperial Ordinances in the place of law.' Submitting matter for publication to official inspection, viewed

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from the point of liberty of speech, is not a procedure to be welcomed. It is a great inconvenience to our community, and we cannot but lament that our country's circumstances have necessitated the issue of such an order. What did the Government consider the urgent necessity demanding this regulation? Gladstone once said 'nothing would be more imperfect then the English Constitution, were there not a fair understanding between the Crown and the people.' From these words of the great statesman, we can safely infer that liberty of speech in England, which is more complete than anywhere else in the world, depends not so much upon an explicit article in the British Constitution, as upon a fair understanding between ruler and ruled. The insane attack of an insane man upon the Czarevitch was indeed an ill wind blowing nobody any good. Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress were deeply grieved, and none could refrain from sighing for the country's and the Sovereign's sake. On such an important occasion, when journalists ought to exercise the greatest circumspection and prudence, and do everything in their power to maintain peace and harmony, both abroad and at home, in order to alleviate the pain of their Majesties, some inconsiderate papers did not hesitate to insert inflammatory phrases, or to circulate groundless rumours, without judgment or consideration; and some, it seems, even took advantage of the catastrophe to promote the wretched aims of vulgar speculators! Such members of our editorial fraternity have shocked the Authorities, and the liberty of the whole press has been curtailed. The prudent as well as the inconsiderate, the circumspect as well as the restless are caught in the same net! We cannot censure too much the journals that seem to have been the cause of this evil!" The *Mainichi* goes on to enumerate the ills that might be wrought by disorderly literature in general, and ascribes not only the maintenance of the Peace Preservation Regulations, so strongly opposed to the wishes of most Progressive politicians, but also the violent acts of Tsuda Sanzo, to the instigation of unrestrained journals. At the same time it asks the Government not to see the bad side alone, but to note also what assistance the prudent portion of the editorial community has rendered towards preserving national order and political harmony.

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The *Jiji* and the *Kokkai* treat this topic with comparative indifference, and have no leaders upon it. The *Yomiuri*, devoting a short editorial to the matter, boasts that the regulation is nothing to a journal which, like itself has always been and will always be extremely circumspect and cautious. It feels ashamed that some of its contemporaries should have been so reckless and unreasonable as to provoke the issue of such an Ordinance, and while warning over bold members of the editorial corps to restrain their wayward pens, tells the more timid, in a paternal tone, that they should not go astray from truth and fall into flattery and adulation in order to avoid offending the Authorities.

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The *Hochi* wishes the Authorities to exercise caution in applying the Regulation. The *Nippon* speaks in the loudest tone of all, enumerating what it considers to be the detrimental effects of the Ordinance. The catalogue of evils runs thus:—"1. The merit of careful reporting is destroyed. "2. The labours of the editor will be often lost." By way of exemplifying this point, our contemporary says that the allegory 'I should like to eat his flesh,' often used to express the rancour one bears to another, may be erased by the inspectors on the ground of its liability to be misunderstood by foreigners reading it in a literal sense. (What a loss this would be!) "3. The pages of a paper may become offensive to the sight." This point our contemporary has illustrated only too clearly in its own pages, as described by us last Wednesday. "4. The distribution of the papers in the morning will be delayed, as the natural consequence of time being occupied in the work of inspection." The *Nippon* says that at one moment it determined to suspend publication for a time, and actually issued an extra informing its subscribers of its resolution. This course, however, it has been dissuaded from taking by reluctance to inconvenience its thousands of readers. In conclusion it writes:—"Being under the strict supervision of the law, we fear that we may not be able to express our opinion in full, but we flatter ourselves that we can convey the news to the world at least as well as any other periodical." The astute *Nippon!* If ever a journal put the cap on publicly, it is our aggrieved contemporary!

* * *

The *Kokkai* continues to urge the study of Russian affairs. "We have already," it says, twice apprised the public of the importance of Japanese learning the Russian language. Nothing could give us so clear a notion of how the late event has affected the Russians, and how we shall be looked upon by them in the future, as to peruse the newspapers and magazines published in that country. It is not enough that we should be placed *au courant* of a fraction of Russian sentiment by translations in the English or German periodicals. The late event has made the importance, nay the necessity of learning the Muscovite tongue painfully clear, and we earnestly hope that more of our nationals will devote themselves to the study. Did Japan possess a thousand persons versed in Russian, we make no doubt that she would benefit largely. The editor next dwells upon the importance of geography to all men, especially to the people of this island empire. He says, the greatest questions that demand solution at present are: "How can the independence of Nippon be maintained? How can her development be hastened?" To solve them, we must first examine the problems:—"How can Japan become competent to stand independently among the Powers of the world? How should she deal with the Eastern Question? How should she proceed with regard to her immense population, increasing at the rate of four hundred and thirty thousand a year? If it happens in the future that she possesses a surplus of products as the result of increased industry, how should she dispose of her surplus to most advantage. These and all such questions must be answered by data drawn from geography. In short, the study and investigation of geography will furnish the key for the solution of problems involving nothing less than the fate of the empire. Nor is this all. Geography enlightens the mind and expands the heart. The petty, party spirit which certainly does more harm than good, and is the greatest of all evils of the present Nippon, will find no place on the map of the world. In conclusion, the *Kokkai* says:—"The study of geography is the pilot that makes a ship safe on the sea, and the barometer to guide people in their voyage through the world. Let the heads of the majority of our countrymen be furnished with this immaterial barometer at the earliest opportunity. Thus and thus alone, can we manage to steer the Ship of State through the present eventful world, calmly and yet boldly." A remarkable rhapsody this. The *Kokkai* certainly manages to be original, but the effort is made at the cost of some other desirable qualities.

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A writer under the *nom de plume* of "Gen Kaisei" sends to the *Kokkai* an article about Korea, which is now becoming a favourite topic with political speculators. Starting with the bold assertion that Korea is no longer an independent state, he goes on to say:—"The reader may be surprised at my apparent audacity in making this statement, and may retort: 'And did not Japan once acknowledge the independence of the island Kingdom? Have not the Powers of Europe and the United States of America alike acknowledged it? Has not even China consented to it? Does the Commercial Treaty between Korea and Western Powers leave a doubt as to the independence of the little Kingdom. One who argues to the contrary in face of such glaring facts, must be either a promoter of the secret intrigues of Lord Li of China, or a propagator of the cherished sentiment of the *Jidai-to* (a political party in Korea that looks for protection from China)?' But I answer no: my assertion is an inference from the general tendency of the modern world, and a far-sighted view into the future of the Orient. What the Bosphorus is to the Black Sea, Gibraltar to the Mediterranean, and Herat to Central Asia and India, such is Korea to the China seas. These are all natural strongholds of the world, eagerly coveted by the Great Powers, for those that possess them can alone be leaders. To keep and defend them, vigour, resources and strength are needed. Now Korea, though such an important place, is rotten through and through in every respect, and, what is more, her people are well-nigh indifferent to her interests. Who knows but that her days are numbered! Even rotten ships can sail safely over a smooth sea, but when the billows begin to rage, can decayed timbers hold together? The Turkish frigate *Ertougroul* gave us a striking illustration of this truth. In days of yore, when countries were comparatively secluded from one another, even a corrupt State could maintain itself, but in this nineteenth century the world is changed. Look at India, Poland and Turkey; see Burma, Annam, Khiva, Khokand, Bokhara, Affganistan, and Persia, once great and glorious, now completely subdued, or at best humiliated, independent only in name. There are six conditions which a country must fulfill in order to keep its true independence. They are:—First, the people should have a strong spirit of independence, and union. Secondly, the position of the country must be suitable for defensive purposes, that is to say difficult of access from without. Thirdly, the customs and manners of the people must be natural. There must be no tendency to prefer the fashions of other States. Fourthly, the supply of the three requisites of life must be sufficient for the needs of the country. Fifthly, the people must be upright, pure-hearted, and courageous. Sixthly, the State must be free from foreign interference in matters of intercourse and finance. Among these desiderata of independence, the most important are the first, the third, and the fifth. That Belgium, Portugal, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Greece, Switzerland, and other such countries not only keep their independence, but rank among the civilised nations of the globe, is because they possess these three requisites in full, though they are somewhat lacking in the other three. On the contrary, India, Poland, Burma, Khokand, etc. have either lost the whole or a portion of these conditions, and they exist no more as free countries. Persia, too, has within recent years lost more than half of these requirements. During the past forty or fifty years she has been notably losing the first, third, and fifth. Every student of history remembers how she was encroached upon by Russia in the Caspian region in the north, and the Merv district in the north-east, and also how she made a secret agreement with the Muscovite Government to give up the Korassen and Mesbed territories, whenever the Czar should need them for civil and military reasons. Has she not then lost the second requisite too? Persia's independence has become little more than nominal. Afghanistan presents scarcely any better appearance than her effeminate neighbour. If, now, we turn our eyes to Korea, we find that her people are remarkably wanting in the spirit of independence and union. Russia is her close neighbour on the north, and China on the west. Nobody will be foolish enough to assert that she holds an advantageous position for defensive purposes. Her literature, traditions, customs, and manners are Chinese. Past generations as well as the present, have been worshippers of the Great Chinese Empire. Her industries, small as they are, have no prospect of increasing. Her people lack integrity, honour, and virtue. Nothing remains of their courage, though their physical development is comparatively good. In short Korea is a sick person in the last agony of mortal disease. Can she keep her place among vigorous and healthy giants? Nothing is more absurd than to think so."

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RETURN OF THE CZAREVITCH.

AN extra of the *Official Gazette*, published on Sunday evening, contains the following telegram, addressed originally by H.I.H. the CZAREVITCH, under date the 16th inst, to the EMPEROR, through the Minister of State for the Imperial Household, who is now with the EMPEROR in Kyoto, and transmitted by the Minister to the Vice-Minister of the same Department in Tokyo:—"The EMPEROR, my father, considers that before undertaking a journey through Siberia, it is necessary that I should rest for some time at Vladivostock, and has directed me to leave Japan. I have consequently determined to set out on my return voyage to Russia on Tuesday the 19th instant. Now that the time has come for taking leave of Your Majesty, I have to express again my sincere sense of gratitude for the friendly reception accorded to me in this country by Your Majesty and Your Majesty's subjects. I shall never forget the warm kindliness shown towards me of late by Your Majesty and Your Imperial Consort. It is a source of deep regret to me that I cannot have the honour of expressing my gratitude personally to Her Majesty the EMPRESS. Your Majesty, let me entreat you to understand that not the slightest sentiment of estrangement is mixed with the feelings which I carry away with me from Japan, and that my sole regret is my inability to proceed to the capital of Japan, there to have the honour of meeting Your Majesty and the EMPRESS."

This will be a sad disappointment to the Japanese nation. It was felt that if the CZAREVITCH would consent to visit the Capital, even for a day, the country could feel that he had not turned away from its threshold, and that the slur on its hospitality had been to some extent obliterated. But despite repeated messages of a hopeful tone from Kyoto, we never could believe in the probability of His Imperial Highness continuing his tour through Japan. So long as he remained here, no moment in his mother's life would have been free from harrowing anxiety. The CZAREVITCH himself would doubtless have been pleased to adhere to his programme, and the CZAR might have given his consent, but it would have been cruel to subject the EMPRESS to such an ordeal of uneasiness. The issue is galling and painful for Japan, but after all her people will be sufficiently reasonable to remember that the state of affairs in this country cannot be accurately understood in St. Petersburg, and that the exigencies of high policy are paltry matters when weighed against the promptings of a mother's heart. The CZAREVITCH and his august father have done everything in their power to deprive this precipitate departure of its sting. Nothing could be more gracious than the language, nothing more genuine than the tone, of the PRINCE'S farewell message to the Emperor of JAPAN. It is the message of a man who holds out the hand of hearty friendship, and who shows, delicately but unmistakably, his sincere desire to obliterate all memory of a painful past. Out of evil good sometimes comes. It may be that this unhappy incident will thoroughly rouse Japan to the danger of her light-hearted demeanour towards the mediævally-minded section of her population, and will teach her political agitators that when they burn incense at the tomb of a NISHINO or a KURUSHIMA, and devote their incomes to the support of truculent *Soshi*, they are unwittingly fostering a spirit which must bring upon their country disgrace, and possibly disaster.

ADDITIONAL PRESS REGULATION.

AN extra issue of the *Official Gazette* appeared in the afternoon of the 16th instant. It contained the following:—

IMPERIAL NOTIFICATION.

With the advice of our Privy Council and in accordance with the Eighth Article of the Constitution, We, deeming that urgent necessity exists, hereby make an enactment having reference to Newspapers, Periodicals, and Pictorial Publications, and order the same to be duly promulgated.

(Imperial Sign Manual.)
(Great Seal.)

(Signatures of the Minister President and other Ministers of State.)

IMPERIAL NOTIFICATION, No. 46.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs shall issue a special order directing that the manuscript of all matter relating to foreign politics, intended for publication in Newspapers, Periodicals, or Pictorial Publications, shall be submitted for preliminary examination, and that its publication may be prohibited. In the event of the provisions of this Regulation being violated, the Publisher, Editor, Vendor, and Writer of the offending sheet shall be liable to minor imprisonment for from one month to two years, and to a fine of from twenty to three hundred *yen*.

The re-publication of matter which has undergone the examination prescribed by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, shall not fall within the prohibition of this Regulation.

This Regulation shall come into operation from the day of promulgation.

Of course the first sentiment inspired by the enactment of such a Regulation is extreme regret. It is a distinctly retrogressive step. Slowly but surely the country was advancing towards the enjoyment of the highest privilege possessed by civilized people, freedom of speech, when suddenly it has been found necessary to subject to strict censorship an important branch of the topics discussed by the public press. The measure acquires new significance when we remember that it is taken under the provisions of an article of the Constitution which empowers the EMPEROR, in cases of "urgent necessity," to issue, when the Diet is not sitting, Imperial Ordinances in the place of law. HIS MAJESTY'S Councillors have decided that "urgent necessity" exists, and have acted upon their conviction. It is a pity that such should be the case, and still more regrettable that the soundness of the decision cannot be questioned. During the past few months the press of Tokyo, with a few admirable exceptions, has greatly disappointed those who hoped that a sober sense of responsibility was beginning to control the pens of Japanese journalists. Conspicuous above all for wildness, inaccuracy, unreason, and unfairness have been the writings about Treaty Revision. To some editors of Japanese newspapers it does not seem to matter whether the sources of their information be trustworthy or obviously tainted, provided only that the facts alleged furnish a weapon to attack the Government. Where national questions are concerned, patriotism dictates that party differences should be laid aside. But in the Japan of to-day this wholesome principle appears to lack application. Many political agitators are doubtless sincere when they clamour for better terms than those which their statesmen seem willing to accept; but many others have shown that beyond all question, no terms will satisfy them until they can themselves come into power. If sound public opinion could be trusted to stifle these malcontents, so careless of their country's interests, so careful of their own, Japan's position would be decidedly happier. But it appears that such a safeguard cannot be relied on: the strong arm of the law has to be employed. Thoughtful foreigners will sympathise with the Government's necessity. At this stage of the nation's career, a retrogressive step demands far more courage on the part of the Cabinet than a progressive. The urgency must be pressing. And indeed we are constrained to think that it is so, when we read of such doings as those of the Oriental Club at the Yayoi-sha on the 15th instant. Not much need be said of the pusillanimous inconsistency shown on that occasion by a man like Mr. OI KENTARO, a so-called "liberal leader," who contended that the interior of Japan must still be kept closed against foregners; in other words, that his countrymen were not yet fit to live among and compete with Western folks. Probably Mr. OI KENTARO believes this: the very shame of the confession would otherwise restrain it. But are such doctrines to be freely preached in the press and from the platform? Shall political agitators be permitted to abuse their position of prominence for the purpose of re-educating among their countrymen a spirit of national isolation? The men who made the *Meiji* era cannot quietly tolerate anything of the kind. Still more reckless was the speech of Mr. KOKUBO KISHICHI, who endeavoured to prove that responsibility for the attack upon the Russian CROWN PRINCE rested entirely with the Government. Such utterances deserve to be classed in the same category with the deeds of TSUDA SANZO and KURUSHIMA TSUNEKICHI. Their total lack of patriotism is as conspicuous as their unreason. In countries where the reading public has learned to discount journalistic expressions, effervescence such as

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we find in a portion of the Japanese press might be left to expend itself unrestrained. But it cannot be forgotten that though the vast bulk of the Japanese nation is thoroughly reconciled to the new regimen, there remains still a small section permeated by a sentiment of uneasy, dissatisfied conservatism. Declamations and diatribes which scarcely ruffle the serenity of men of the modern school, may rouse a desperate mood in these disciples of a fast fading past, and the interests of law and order, to say nothing of international relations, require that so peculiar an element of the population should be fully considered in fixing the limits of liberty granted to public speakers and public writers. The strongest sympathy will be felt with a number of Japanese journals which, having invariably shown themselves moderate and circumspect, in no way deserve to be subjected to censorship. But laws are made to restrain evil-doers. Great mischief has been done by the writings of certain newspapers during the past two years, and there are substantial reasons to fear that unless some check is applied, the country may suffer materially. Our only fear is that the dictates of caution may have been disregarded too long.

RESULTS OF THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE CZAREVITCH.

THE *Official Gazette* of Saturday announces that Governor OKI MORIKATA, of Shiga Prefecture, loses his position; and that Mr. SAITO SHUFU, Chief of Police in the same Prefecture, is deprived of office and degraded. Governor OKI is succeeded by Mr. WATANABE CHIAKI, Councillor of the Administrative Court, and Mr. SAITO by Mr. TATSUOKA NOBUKUMA, hitherto Chief of Police in Okayama Prefecture. The intelligence of these changes will be received with surprise. The punishment inflicted on the Chief of Police is exceptionally severe. It is many years since a sentence of *iki henjo* has appeared in an official notice. Only the gravest derelictions of duty are thus visited. We are compelled to conclude that the investigation undertaken in Mr. SAITO'S case showed him to have been guilty of culpable negligence. As to the nature of his fault, there is little room for question. Evidently it has been demonstrated that, at the time of the PRINCE IMPERIAL'S visit to Shiga, TSUDA SANZO'S mental condition did not justify his employment as one of the guards, and also that had due surveillance been exercised by his immediate superiors, his distraught state would have been recognised. On no other hypothesis can the sentence passed on Mr. SAITO be reconciled with the dictates of justice. So far as his record went, TSUDA SANZO was precisely the man whom a Chief of Police might have selected for a responsible and important post. During nine years' service in the Army he had risen to the rank of Sergeant-major, a position attainable only by unvarying steadiness and attention to duty; and for tenacious courage in the field he had received a decoration from his Sovereign. Such a man was prëeminently fitted to act as a constable on guard during the progress of the PRINCE IMPERIAL, unless some suspicion existed that his mind had been unstrung by illness or other causes. The punishment inflicted on the Chief of Police proves that there were grounds for such a suspicion, and that proper inquiry would have revealed them. It is plainly the duty of an officer to take care that among the men detailed by him for special service there are none whose steadiness cannot be implicitly relied on; and it is at all times the duty of an officer of police to exercise more than common caution in observing and testing his subordinates, since to their immediate guardianship the lives and properties of the people are entrusted. Mr. SAITO must have failed in this duty. It follows also that TSUDA SANZO is held to be insane now, to have been insane at the time of committing the act, and to have shown recognisable symptoms of insanity before the 11th instant. No medical verdict to that effect has yet been published, but we must assume that the authorities are professionally advised. With regard, however, to the Governor of the Prefecture, it is extremely difficult to conceive the grounds of his removal from office. Mr. OKI is a man of proved administrative ability, and probably no official in Japan would have been more earnest and zealous in arranging a worthy reception for the CZAREVITCH. Moreover, he entered upon the duties of Governor only three days before the Otsu incident. It was morally impossible that he could have made any scrutiny into the record or condition of each individual constable detailed for service in connection with the visit of the PRINCE. For the general scheme of the arrangements within his jurisdiction he was, of course responsible, but we do not understand that there is any question upon that score. Whether the dictates of caution were fully obeyed when the PRINCE IMPERIAL was permitted to drive in a *jinrikisha* separated from his guards, and at the head of the line, may not unreasonably be doubted. Certainly if a CZAREVITCH were travelling in England or America, where Jews, Nihilists, and Socialists take refuge, no such procedure would be followed, and in Russian dominions it would be wholly out of the question. But His Imperial Highness had come from Kyoto in that fashion, and Governor OKI was not the person to suggest a change, unless his three days' acquaintance with Shiga Prefecture had taught him that caution, superfluous elsewhere, was needful within that particular district. Possibly it has been discovered that such was the case: that an exceptional state of affairs existed in Shiga, and that the Governor should have been cognisant of it. But the thing is scarcely credible. Yet on no other supposition can we imagine a cause for Governor OKI'S removal. Naturally he placed his resignation in the hands of the Authorities without loss of time, and to accept it might have been deemed expedient for international reasons. But his removal from office, not his resignation, is gazetted. It would be premature to express any strong opinion until fuller information is obtained, but we are sure that public sympathy will be deeply stirred in Mr. OKI'S behalf. An alternative explanation of the affair is that Russia asked for the removal of the Governor and the degradation of the Chief of Police. The notion can scarcely be entertained. Such conditions are proposed by a foreign Government only for the purpose of vindicating national dignity. In this case no need of vindication existed. It would have been impossible for Japan to offer fuller reparation than she had offered. From the EMPEROR downwards the whole nation had virtually bowed its head to Russia. Nothing could have been more profound, more wide-spread, or more sincere than the pain and regret shown by all classes of the people. If Russia was not satisfied, her mood must have been curiously exacting, and not at all in harmony with the generally friendly nature of her policy towards Japan. She was certainly in a position to impose conditions, and Japan was morally bound to meet her with the fullest amenability. But the idea that Russia, failing to appreciate the temper of the nation, asked for anything in the nature of the measures announced by Saturday's *Gazette*, is repugnant to our estimate of her sagacity and magnanimity in dealing with friendly States. When fuller information is available there will doubtlesss be less difficulty in understanding these events. For the present we must confess that their depths cannot be reached by the plummet of ordinary intelligence.

THE TENDENCY OF THE TIME.

MANY Japanese hold that this country is now passing through a momentous epoch in its history, and that its situation is attended by not a few dangers of a serious nature. One of these dangers, according to the *Keizai Zasshi*, is the conspicuous absence in the present Japanese statesmen of moral courage to bid defiance to the hostile clamour of ignorant public opinion. By way of preface, the *Keizai* gives a general view of the rise and fall of successive dynasties of rulers in Japan as well as in China, but what it states about the earlier periods is not much to the point. We may pass at once to the fall of the TOKUGAWA Dynasty. The undermining of that Dynasty is ascribed to the growth of public opinion

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among the rising generation of the time. The Meiji Government, originally created by means of public opinion, has since been repeatedly compelled to yield to the same force, notably in connection with the contemplated sale of public property under the Colonial Department, and with the successive efforts of Counts INOUYE and OKUMA to revise the existing treaties. The power of public opinion has become so great that, according to the view of some students of the time, those at the helm of State—"the courageous and dauntless *soshi* of former days"—now find themselves in a helpless situation. Whatever they attempt is at once turned by the opposition into a means of attacking them. The opposition does not care a straw whether the policy it advocates is practicable or destructive. It simply seeks to embarass the Government. On the other hand, while such is the attitude of the public mind, those in power are lamentaly deficient in moral courage to pursue the course indicated by their mature judgment, regardless of adverse criticisms and even demonstrations on the part of the irresponsible portion of the public. The Tokyo journal is thus led to fear that the Meiji Government will be overthrown by the same agency to which its predecessor succumbed two and a half decades ago. Our contemporary concludes with the ominous words:—"From the tendency of the present times, it is to be apprehended that the country is destined once more to undergo a great disturbance."

The paper from which we quote this criticism and forecast is in no sense alarmist, being essentially a sober, thoughtful journal free from party prejudices. It echoes an opinion held for some time by observant foreigners. Theories of government, as stated by erudite philosophers, are pretty and convincing. They lay down general principles against which reason cannot revolt, and they indicate systems that command intelligent admiration. They do something else, too: they supply shallow theorists with arguments to assail every form of administration not on a level with book-borrowed standards. The careless critic, caught by the glamour of a phrase, shouts for "government by the people and for the people," denouncing as a corrupt traitor or a selfish office-seeker every one opposed to the immediate realization of his ideal. Concrete facts have little concern for him. Not his the duty of dealing with them or the penalty of failing to recognise them. Irresponsible, he postures as a noble victim of that "restless craving after good" which supplies the penny-a-liner with a perennial text and the agitator with a shibboleth. Japan is sorely beset by such faddists just now. They clamour for party government after the most approved models, and with nothing else will they be satisfied. During the past five-and-twenty years this country has been travelling at break-neck speed along a path of wholesale reform and innovation. Her rate of progress has been alarming. Often to sober onlookers a crippling fall seemed inevitable, but she remained erect, and happily still preserves her equilibrium. The feat is remarkable, but if we analyse it in detail something of the wonder disappears. For the great majority of these reforms have been either educational, constructive, or mechanical. Railways, telegraphs, a navy, an army, a postal system, school organization, a mercantile marine, codes of law, the elements of a judiciary, local government, and even a national assembly—all these things lie comparatively within the compass of wise statesmen and skilled administrators. It is necessary indeed that such reforms, to be successful, must be inaugurated under fairly favourable circumstances. But they need not be direct products of the nation's condition, and in this respect they differ radically from party government. Before party government can be introduced with any reasonable prospect of success, the people must be educated up to it—in other words, parties must exist founded on intelligent principles, differentiated from one another by distinct lines, and including in their ranks men competent to assume the direction of State affairs at any moment. Are there such parties, or anything resembling such parties, in Japan to-day? Assuredly not. Amid all the conflicts, reconciliations, disintegrations and re-unions of the past three years, only one thread of pratical continuity has made itself apparent in the many-hued garment of political agitation, namely, hostility to the Government. We do not urge this necessarily as a fault. The issue nominally at stake being the substitution of a party Cabinet for a clan Cabinet, the opposition may claim, not unjustly, that its prime function is to overthrow those in power, and that to reproach it with simple hostility to the Administration would be misleading. But a closer scrutiny is essential. What we have to consider, in forming a practical estimate of the situation, is whether the Opposition is knit together by any bonds strong enough to secure cohesion in the event of its accession to power. No such bonds are discoverable. Even in face of the foe it seeks to overthrow, disaffection and disunion are perpetual in its ranks. Where is the "great" Radical Party to-day? Split up into a number of sections that expend their strength in mutual squabbles. Subordination, the first essential of successful union, appears to be impossible. A movement towards reorganization under the authoritative direction of Count ITAGAKI, has thrown off a new ring of malcontents, who believe that the personality and peculiar views of the veteran chief stand in the way of accomplishing a general fusion of parties in opposition. If effective alliance on the threshold of the campaign be unattainable, what hope is there of union after the battle? The *Kaishin-to*, on the other hand, though possessing many admirable elements, is still too weak to govern. It holds the balance of power, but not the substance. Party government to-day would mean anarchy. How many sessions of the Diet will be needed to lay the foundations of stable and competent parties, no one ventures to predict, but that the process of evolution must take place in parliament, and must constitute the most useful business of parliament for several years, can scarcely be questioned. In the meanwhile, how are the affairs of State to be administered? We have not the smallest hesitation in answering, by clan combination. To the ears of theorists and book-worshippers "clan government" carries a sound of reproach. They seem to themselves to be fighting for a fine cause when they denounce such a system. Excellent folks, let them fight on: facts will not always be against them. They will see their ideal realized if they live long enough. But the State has to be governed. The crisis of the Restoration brought Japan's greatest men to the front. They remain her greatest men to-day. Clansmen, as they inevitably were, they accomplished their memorable achievement by the aid of the clans. By the same agency they erected on the ruins of feudalism a bureaucracy that has done for the country things which posterity will never cease to remember with gratitude. A bureaucracy is not the theorist's ideal polity: clan combination does not satisfy his conception of an administrative instrument. But a bureaucracy and clan combination have accomplished in Japan results of unexampled excellence and thoroughness. Let us see what is to replace them before we shout for their extermination. Like the *Keizai Zasshi*, we view the present state of affairs with much uneasiness. Many of the conspicuous men of the *Meiji* era have already separated themselves from the Administration, and others are preparing to follow their example. Count ITO has stood aside; Count INOUYE has stood aside; Count OKUMA has stood aside; Count KURODA has stood aside; Count YAMAGATA has stood aside; and there is strong probability that Counts YAMADA and SAIGO, will leave the Cabinet ere long. It seems as though, little by little and by a quiet, automatic process, the representatives of the old clan system were stepping down from the high place of power and leaving it to occupants whose tenure cannot be so firm that their final displacement will involve a catastrophe. There are some who congratulate the country on these events. "If," they say, "the men who made the *Meiji* era were seen clinging desperately to office and defying the operation of the forces called into existence by themselves, it might be feared that the next great step

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in Japan's constitutional progress would be attended by disturbance and tumult. But when we see that these men, having directed events up to a certain point, are now leaving them to shape themselves in the route inevitably laid out for them, we may hope that the story will reach its finale as quietly as it has advanced towards it through stages not less trying to the temper of the time or the forbearance of the actors." Gladly would we share this optimism. To us, on the contrary, it seems that, the country not being at all ripe for party government, and its immaturity being plainly recognised by the statesmen of the *Meiji* era, these are deliberately separating themselves from the administration in order to teach the nation the lesson of its own helplessness. Such a drastic measure, though necessary, perhaps, to bring the Opposition to its senses, cannot be regarded without disquiet. To use a homely metaphor, the meat may be overdone before the process of allowing it to stew in its own juice can be arrested.

JAPANESE PORCELAIN.

THE vernacular press recently contained some allusions to the trade in Japanese porcelain, suggesting that on the whole the trade is not in a prosperous condition, and that the potters are bestirring themselves to secure more animated custom. America is regarded as the chief market. We read that Chinese modern porcelains have lost caste in the United States, and that purchasers there look first for ware of German manufacture and give their preference in the second place to Japanese. Relying on this information, Mr. KATO KANEZABURO and several other Tokyo experts have formed a company for the purpose of supplying the American market. Statements of similar purport have so often appeared in the Japanese press that we read them now with a certain measure of listlessness. It has long been recognised that an immense field for the porcelain industry offers in Japan, but that its successful development under existing circumstances is more than problematical. A certain growth has indeed taken place during the past six years. The export figures since 1885 stand as follow :—

Year.	Value of Exports. Yen.
Porcelain, Faience, and Pottery 1885 ...	695,269
Porcelain, Faience, and Pottery 1886 ...	1,002,214
Porcelain, Faience, and Pottery 1887 ...	1,311,901
Porcelain, Faience, and Pottery 1888 ...	1,295,316
Porcelain, Faience, and Pottery 1889 ...	1,449,888
Porcelain, Faience, and Pottery 1890 ...	1,245,956

It thus appears that the export in 1890 doubled that in 1885, but, on the other hand, since 1887 there has been no progress, and last year's returns showed a considerable falling off. What are the causes underlying this unsatisfactory state of affairs? We believe that they are simple and easily explained. Technical difficulties stand at the head of the list, though not, perhaps, of prime importance. With incomparably abundant supplies of choice materials at hand, the Japanese potter does not possess sufficient knowledge to employ them so as to obtain sure results. At Seto, for example, where immense quantities of porcelain are manufactured for export, two ingredients are chiefly used to form the "mass." In one of these the quantity of silica varies from 49 to 82 per cent., and the quantity of alumina from 37 to 63; in the other, the silica varies from 98 to 66 and the alumina from 0.5 to 19. It is evident that in employing such materials according to any rule which takes note of quantities only and does not regard composition, the results obtained must be a lottery. And so indeed they are, for not only has the potter to reckon upon a large percentage of failures, but he is also precluded from attempting the manufacture of many articles offering a profitable field for his industry if better directed. The obvious remedy for this state of affairs is a combination of manufacturers and the establishment of an institution to analyse and, if necessary, to procure and distribute the raw materials. This difficulty, however, though obviously fatal to any really extensive development of the industry, does not prevent the potter from turning out great quantities of fine ware worthy to be offered in any market. Much more serious, so far as concerns the immediate prospects of the trade, is the want of intelligent direction in respect of shapes and decoration. If the potter works for foreign custom he must adapt his products to foreign needs. This necessity he recognises, to some extent, by manufacturing tea-sets, dessert plates and services, vases, and so forth. But in ninety-nine out of every hundred of his tea and coffee sets there appear pots, bowls, and ewers so clumsy and unattractive that the cups and saucers accompanying them are disfigured by their proximity. The consequence is that the buyer nearly always desires to take the cups and saucers alone, but the seller usually hesitates to break the set, or, if he consents, is obliged to make so small a reduction on account of the rejected pieces that a bargain cannot be struck. If, again, there is question of a dessert service, how often does it happen that shapes and sizes suitable for the proposed purpose are offered? Very seldom indeed. The great majority of the sets are quite unsalable, and the loss thus incurred either cripples the potter, or compels him to ask prohibitive prices for his successful pieces. This radical defect of intelligent direction runs through the whole of modern Japan's art industries. Even in such costly and beautiful work as the so-called "cloisson-less" enamels of NAMIKAWA in Tokyo and his scarcely smaller rival in Nagoya, we find innumerable specimens of almost shockingly inartistic character. The enameller is not in fault: his skill and accuracy are above reproach. With the designer lies the mistake. It is incredible that workmen should be deliberately set down to reproduce in enamels, at great outlay of labour and money, designs palpably faulty in drawing and grossly defective in conception. Yet this strange want of judgment is persistently conspicuous, and chiefly to the number of failures resulting from faults of design must be attributed the nearly deterrent prices of NAMIKAWA'S successful specimens. So the industry revolves in a vitiated circle. We cannot reasonably expect that Japanese artists should understand the needs of the foreign market, but it ought to be possible to supply guidance. The evident desideratum is a school of design, properly organised and of sufficiently wide scope to be generally useful. At the Art School in Uyeno, under the able direction of Mr. OKAKURA, a great deal is accomplished in the way of educating designers. But the purpose of the school is to train artists rather than to supply the industrial needs of the day. It is not in touch with manufacturers, and it has done little, if anything, to assist them. Still groping in the dark and hoping either by happy accident or costly experience to suit his products to foreign demand, the Japanese art-artizan, one of this country's chief sources of wealth, sees a great part of his fine effort wasted, and remains poor and unsuccessful though prosperity and triumph are certainly within his reach. We suggest no sacrifice of Japanese art motives and methods on the altar of Occidental taste. Far from it. Japan's strength and hope of achievement lie in preserving the distinctive character of her own genius. But we do say that to Occidental demand almost entirely have Japanese art-artizans to look for the support of their industries, and that their first business is to encourage and minister to that demand. Shut them off from the markets of the West, and it will fare with them as it would have fared with sericulture and tea-growing had not PERRY and ELGIN come to Uraga. The *dolce-far-niente* patronage of feudal chiefs has been exchanged for the hard practicality of the Western householder, who, though happily for Japan, his modern education makes him seek beauty and utility combined, will not be content with the latter without the former. It is pitiable to observe how fine capacity and patient industry are lost in Japan through want of experienced direction and wise organization.

THE "KOKKAI" ON MISSIONARIES.

IT is impossible to pass without strong protest the articles lately published by the *Kokkai* on the subject of missionary labours in Japan. We cannot, indeed, persuade ourselves to think that such writing appeals to any wide circle of readers or indicates any general feeling. It is probably

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the expression of some specially educated and comparatively limited sentiment, with which the great majority of the Japanese have no genuine sympathy. Still, it appears in the columns of a journal having access to a large section of the public, and its mischievous consequences may be correspondingly grave. Everybody recognises that among the foreign communities in Japan and China there is an element bitterly hostile to the missionary. From time to time the views of this singular coterie find exposition in the columns of some third-rate journal, the exceeding rancour of the language employed and the bitter bias of the writer furnishing a sufficient refutation of the theories advanced. Various explanations of so strange a mood have been hazarded, but inasmuch as neither the missionaries themselves nor their friends are disposed to say painful things, the backbiters escape with tolerable immunity. Perhaps we must be prepared to encounter a similarly hostile tendency among the Japanese, but assuredly the columns of the *Kokkai* are not the place where we should have gone to look for any manifestation of it. Roughly speaking there are some 700 Protestant Christian missionaries in Japan at present. These, with a very few exceptions, the *Kokkai* classes as second-rate men, not competent to find employment at home, and not courageous enough to go and preach the gospel in the interior of Africa or the South Sea Islands, where dangers and hardships are to be encountered. The exceptions are a handful of pioneer missionaries who came here in the very early days when foreigners carried their lives in their hands. For no better reason than because a measure of peril attended propagandism at that era, the *Kokkai* appears to think that propagandists were then able and sincere men. With the disappearance of danger disappeared also, according to its view, all incentive to the coming of clever and zealous preachers of the gospel. The conclusion is that the successors of the pioneer missionaries are persons not worthy of employment at home, who come to Japan merely to lead a life of ease and economy among its peaceful people, in its beautiful climate, and under circumstances not easily found elsewhere. This sweeping general charge is supplemented by the particular accusation that missionaries purchase large tracts of land in the names of Japanese, build magnificent houses there, and live luxuriously. Even their work as educationalists is decried. Students taught by them are said to know only foreign languages and foreign literature, having made little or no progress in the sciences, and as for their system of female education, it is condemned wholesale. The *Kokkai* finally recommends them to pack up their traps and go home as quickly as possible.

It will be observed that this criticism, however unjust, is cleverly couched in such general terms as to be difficult of direct refutation. That portion of it which refers to the purchase of land in the names of Japanese is true in fact, but nothing could be less accurate than the complexion imparted to it. Land acquired by missionaries outside the settlements is invariably intended for the building of schools, hospitals, or some other charitable institution. Residences erected for missionaries on such sites are subordinate affairs, and to apply the term magnificent to them is a total misnomer. We have never seen one that approached magnificence, or exceeded the bounds of the most ordinary comfort. Sometimes they are spacious, but in such cases it will invariably be found that they include class-rooms, or that they shelter more than one family. The writer in the *Kokkai* would discover, did he take pains to investigate, that the strictest economy is exercised in all these matters. For the rest, if he thinks that to mortify the flesh is an essential trait of sincere propagandism, the only answer to be made is that we no longer live in the days when men tortured their bodies to prove their sincerity; no longer worship a deity who is supposed to take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. The Protestant missionary lives about as frugally and economically as is possible for an educated gentleman. The notion that he should eschew everything but the barest necessaries, should refrain from all social pleasures, and, in a general way, should treat his body as though it belonged to a common labourer or mechanic, has descended from the age of semi-barbarous fanaticism, and accords better with the rites of Baal or Astaroth than with the worship of the Christian's Deity. We once heard an honest and doubtless well-intentioned man denounce missionaries in the most unmeasured terms, but when pressed to assign reasons for his asperity, he had nothing to say except that some lady missionaries, travelling by a steamer which he commanded, had declined to be landed on a remote island, not their destination; and that he himself had, at a certain period of his career, been obliged to wash decks during snow and frost in bare feet, which was rougher work, he opined, than Missionaries were in the habit of performing. The *Kokkai* does not seem to stand on solider ground than this gentleman did. Like him, it has a vague idea that missionaries should always be preaching among cannibals or savages, and that the intervals of their active propagandism should be devoted to self-torment of some kind or other. But though this quaint conception provokes only laughter, we do not find it so easy to treat lightly our Tokyo's contemporary's attempt to discredit the educational efforts of the missionaries. What they have accomplished in this line, what they are yearly accomplishing, deserves to be kept in grateful remembrance by Japan for all time. It is true that the curricula of missionary schools do not always include scientific training of a high character. But it is also true that by means of missionary schools a sound and sufficient education has been given to thousands and tens of thousands of Japanese youths who would otherwise have been condemned to comparative ignorance. We did not suppose it possible that any thoughtful Japanese, above all the editor of a journal like the *Kokkai*, could be at once so ungrateful and so unjust as to sneer at the admirable record of missionary educational work in this country.

But perhaps we err in discussing this criticism on its own merits. Perhaps the true inwardness of the attack is to be found in a subsequent article, where the *Kokkai* contrasts the lives and methods of Roman Catholic missionaries with those of Protestant, very much to the advantage of the former. The Roman Catholics, we read, are men of true benevolence, who practise the utmost self-denial, who make Japan their home, and who sacrifice everything to their cause; whereas the Protestants, while living luxuriously enough, save a large part of their salaries and regard the country merely as a money-earning place, to be abandoned when it has proved sufficiently profitable, much as Chinese labourers regard America. Was it for the purpose of drawing this miserable contrast that the *Kokkai* wrote, and did it imagine that any Roman Catholic missionary would approve such writing for one moment? The public knows well what the Roman Catholic missionary is in Japan; what a life he leads of noble heroism, of untiring but absolutely unostentatious benevolence, of perpetual but never demonstrative self-denial. Never from the lips of such men has there issued a word of disparagement of their Protestant fellow-workers, and to listen to the latter is to hear only generous and genuine appreciation of the former. If the *Kokkai*, in lending its columns to a traducer of the Protestant missionary, believes that it is helping the cause of the Roman Catholic, we can only marvel at its complete misapprehension of the spirit of Christian propagandism in this country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ATTACK ON THE CZAREVITCH.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—There are foreigners, neither Nihilists nor even Radicals, who feel that these excellent Japanese are allowing their very natural mortification with regard to the attack on the Czarevitch to carry them to ultra extremes of atonement. There is a point where civilized politeness comes dangerously near undignified debasement. A vast deal of worldly wisdom is contained in the maxim *qui s'excuse s'accuse*. It is much to the honour of Japan that such sincere surprise, as well as sympathetic condolence, should be universally felt and expressed because a fanatic lunatic tried to assassinate a representative of the divine right to rule. But in Europe to day, and in Russia especially, every head of every Government may reasonably expect sooner or later, once or many times, to serve as a target. Every year political malcontents or common maniacs

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are prompted to these crimes by hysteria and patriotic conviction, or by vulgar thirst for notoriety. Lawlessness based on one or other, or both, of these motives, is unfortunately of such very common occurrence in Europe, that really Japan need not feel so very humiliated because her political assassins or religious fanatics are not more law-abiding than those of Western civilizations.

This crescendo of apology, culminating in the disgrace of one who had been but two days governor of the province; this embassy of a Prince of the Blood, and an Admiral of the Fleet, who are to post off to St. Petersburg after the retreating Czarevitch; this humbling of themselves before that Government of all others the most impotent to eradicate intestine crime—all this, seems to me exaggerated. The proverbial pluck of his family, intelligent diplomacy, and usual politeness will doubtless dictate an *acte de présence* on the party of the Crown Prince at Tokyo, if only for two days.

Japan has already made more than the necessary ample apology, so let her now show no cringing or superfluous humility.

Tsuda Sanzo has given but a flesh wound to the Czarevitch. Time only can show how serious a blow he has struck at treaty revision!

I am, Sir, &c.,

AN AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE.

Tokyo, May 17th.

MR. ERNEST HART ON CHOLERA AND PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN JAPAN.

Mr. Ernest Hart delivered an address by invitation on the 12th inst. before, and was afterwards entertained at a banquet by, the medical practitioners of Tokyo, at the Seiyoken, Uyeno. Dr. Saneyoshi, Deputy-Inspector General of Fleets and Hospitals, presided, and interpreted Mr. Hart's remarks to the audience.

The following gentlemen were subscribers to the banquet:—Messrs. Indo Gentoku, Ishiguro Chutoku, Ino Shunki, Ikedani Yeijiro, Iwasaki Shusaku, Ito Suketaka, Hasegawa Tai, Hara Rishin, Hanaoka Dekisuke, Harada Teikichi, Toki Masajiro, Katagiri Shigeakira, Kato Tokijiro, Kasukawa Arinobu, Yoshimatsu Bunji, Tajiro Yoshinori, Takagi Kanehiro, Taguchi Atsunobu, Takamatsu Ryoun, Tamura Ryosai, Nakazaka Shuji, Namikawa Shin, Nunakata Ryu, Nomura Shozo, Kuwata Kohei, Kuze Yoshitaka, Kumakawa Soyetsu, Kuzume Itaro, Yamori Kanichi, Yamakawa Yukiyoshi, Yamazaki Genshu, Makiyama Shukyo, Maru To, Matsuyama Toan, Matsuyama Seiji, Marukawa Seijiro, Kondo Genrei, Yeguchi Yuzuru, Yema Shunkei, Anzai Tokunori, Ando Masatane, Arikabe Sei-ichi, Sato Tamotsu, Sasaki Tomei, Sasaki Toyo, Saneyoshi Yasuzumi, Saruta Kota, Sakamoto Shigenori, Kiribuchi Kosai, Miyake Naonojo, Miyamoto Chu, Miura Yoshizumi, Miyashita Shunkichi, Jimpo Bunsuke, Moriyasu Shimpei, Sewaki Hisao, Sudo Suyekichi, Suyematsu Jun, Suzuki Manjiro, Suzuki Sogen, Suda Tetsuzo. Among those present as guests were: Messrs. Tano Mitsuyoshi, Segawa Shozo, Ikuta Kiyosada, Shibuya Yo, Nakamura Yoshimasu, Mitsuta Hiroshige, Sasaki Tosui, Nakamura Shigeharu, Ban Seizaburo, Nakagawa Hannosuke, Kawamura Hoshu, Ito Sei-ichiro, Asai Senzaburo, Kaburage Toru, Suzuki Yoshitatsu, Kitao Jenichiro, Sumikawa Yasutami, Katayama Horin, Osawa Kenji, Kobayashi Ko, Kuwabara Morotake, Osawa Ryoho, Yamamoto Seian, Hongo Hanzo, Takinami Hisashi, Matsumoto Misao, Yatsumiya Hidezo, Kusoda Kenzo, Imamura Shigenori, Nitoda Tokitane, Ariga Takuji, Sogawa Shozo, Morooka Soshun, Tada Tanyo, Minayoshi Bun, Nishikawa Tomoyoshi, Ishida Junzaburo, Higuchi Junshi, Yamomoto Keitaro, Arakawa Yomei, Kikuchi Koan, Hagiwara Sankei, Nishimiya Toyohachi, Ogawa Michikazu, Osawa Tomesaburo, Ishikawa Tatsugen, Kikuchi Takemaru, Ogawa Ryotei, Koda Shosaku, Rokugo Masahiro, Morimoto Gennosuke, Azuma Utaro, Fukui Nobutoshi, Kawamoto Shigejiro, Tatara Gentaro, Kosuge Shuseki, Okubo Yasuzane, Suga Toshihide, Sasagawa Junichi, Imamura Tsunakiyo, Terada Junzo, Banno Hidekata, Takata Kisbiro, Ito Shinzo, Takemura Kichiji, Kitajima Tsuneyasu, Kashimura Kiyonori, Futakami Kanji, Hanaoka Keizo, Uchitori Toyotaro, Shindu Ryonosuke, and Abe Tokutaro.

Mr. Fraser, H.B.M.'s Minister to Japan, had intended to be present, but was at the last unavoidably prevented, and sent his apologies. Some official persons whose presence had been expected, were also similarly prevented by pressure of business arising out of the exciting incidents of the day.

Mr. Hart said—Gentlemen, it is a great honour to be welcomed for the second time by so influential an assemblage of professional colleagues in a foreign country, and it is also a great responsibility to be called upon to address them. I shall best fulfil that responsibility by trying to make the occasion one of solid, public usefulness. With that object I shall speak of one or two subjects which are of high importance to every nation, public health, the prevention of epidemic disease, and the improvement of medical education. On some of these various questions an experience of many years in Europe and especially of British methods and results prompts me to offer to you some remarks and suggestions. These will recommend themselves to you and to those who shape legislation here, and who conduct the affairs of this country. The progress of medical knowledge has made, I see, great strides in Japan. I have already, on a former occasion at the Koyokan, spoken to you in admiration of the chief work of your University in Tokyo and of the accomplishments of its professors. But, gentlemen, it is still necessary to crown the edifice, and to fulfil over a wider range the needs of Japan. I have spoken of this at Osaka recently with the approval of the great body of medical men there. Speaking here in the capital of Japan, at the seat of Government, and in the presence of so many influential and respected persons, let me briefly recapitulate. You have three doors of entrance to the medical profession—they are not all equally well guarded—the University, the medical schools, and the prefectural schools. The latter especially are forced into a competition for students and a struggle for existence. Such a competition tends inevitably to become a competition downwards. It may easily end, however well it may have began, and with whatever good intentions, in flooding the country with imperfectly educated and therefore incompetent practitioners. This result is indeed almost inevitable in the nature of things. We had once such a state of things in Great Britain, and have put an end to it. I beg you to profit by our British experience. Do not attempt to discourage or to crush out the excellent initiative of your prefectural schools. Do not discourage local effort and growth, but remedy their obvious defects and the danger to the State by persuading your Government to establish a general, central, Medical Council. On this Council let the University, the medical schools, and the prefectural schools each be represented by a delegate appointed by each of them. Let the Government nominate one third of the total number as its representatives. Let power be given to this Council by law to lay down the requisite curricula of medical education throughout the empire. Let it have legal power and duty to prescribe the requisite apparatus for teaching—as a minimum—at each school or college. Let it have the legal power and duty to prescribe the minimum examination by which any man shall receive the license to practise, and let it have the duty of inspecting and supervising the licensing examinations. Only in this way can an adequate and minimum qualification be safely assured; only in this way can security be had that an increasing proportion of practitioners will not as at present be admitted to practice, which have neither been adequately educated nor adequately tested. No arbitrary measures will be adopted by a Council so constituted. All interests and needs and all local conditions will be considered, because all will be represented. Thus public interests will be safeguarded and the highest interests of medical education and medical efficiency will be promoted. As one result, I think it will soon be found that it is not possible to turn out a large body of efficient practitioners without much greater provision for bedside study than your students at present enjoy. Without continuous study at the bedside of patients in hospital wards for a considerable part of the medical curriculum, it is not possible to turn out efficient practitioners. Laboratory research, physiological research, pathological work are insufficient without large facilities for bedside study. Do not let your close study of German methods blind you to the fact that no amount of bacteriological research or physiological experiment can be a substitute for sound practical clinical teaching in medicine and surgery in the wards themselves. Not even the smallest school, with the most limited number of students, can safely pretend to turn out efficient practitioners with a less number of patients to study from than 100. That is the minimum with which in Great Britain any school is allowed to exist. If it has not 100 beds in an hospital it is not accepted as a place where students can be taught. We are accustomed to hospitals of four and five hundred to eight hundred beds from which to teach. Judge, then, how absurdly inadequate are the clinical resources at present in your great University. Remember that it is from bedside clinical study, from the observation of patients and of diseases, that have sprung all the greatest results which have revolutionized the practice of medicine and surgery in the last 100 years. I am afraid that not all of you have as large an acquaintance as might be desired with English and French literature in which these results are mainly recorded. It was by observation and study of patients and at the bedside that Jenner discovered and worked out vaccination; that Hunter introduced the tieing of arteries, the cure of aneurism by ligature, and laid down the basis of our present doctrine of syphilis: that the Dublin surgeons introduced the treatment of aneurism by pressure. It was bedside study that led Brodie to the successful treatment of joint disease. It was clinical study that enabled Liston to revolutionize the treatment of wounds and to banish the ointments of ancient times. It was in the wards of the hospital that Fergusson and his pupils studied, laid down, established, and practised the excision of joints. Bedside study made Simpson the great man he was, and introduced chloroform. It was clinical study which enabled Sir William Jenner to establish the difference between typhoid fever and typhus fever, one of the most life-saving discoveries made in our time. It was hospital study in France which gave the knowledge and the usefulness to leading French surgeons which enabled them by introducing lithotomy to revolutionize the treatment of stone in the bladder. It was from the hospitals of France that there came to us the stethescope and the speculum. It was in the hospital wards that Baker Brien, Spencer Wells, and Lawrence Tait in England, and Marion Sims in America have created and worked out the new and life-saving science of gynakology as we now understand it. And finally it was in the wards that Lister applied scientific knowledge and worked out the antiseptic and aseptic methods in surgery which he is now working, and which have saved more lives than all the armies and all the generals of our time have destroyed. Do not therefore rely exclusively either on the laboratory or the lecture room. Let me hope that one result of the establishment of a general medical Council of education and registration such as I am proposing to you would be this: to require that every school shall have for the study of its students a hospital of at least one hundred beds always filled with patients; that every student here as in Great Britain will be required before presenting himself for examination to have spent at least two years in the hospital wards, and to have acted during that time for at least three months as a clinical clerk and for three months as a surgical dresser; that he will be required to have gone through a class of instruction in medical surgery, dressing, bandaging, and practical surgery; that he will be required to have attended under supervision at least twenty cases of childbirth before being allowed to present himself for examination. We do not consider it safe to turn out and declare a man to be qualified who shall be called upon to attend women before he shall be shown to have personally attended ladies before being qualified. The examinations, too, need to be clinical and practical as well as theoretical and in writing. All this, I am sure, a General Medical Council will establish. Pardon me if in endeavouring to be concise I have been forced to seem dogmatic. I desire to repay your kindness to-day by trying to be a little useful. Let me turn to another subject of palpitating interest to the whole nation. Japan suffers greatly from the ravages of cholera. During the last 13 years, in six successive epidemics she has lost upwards of 313,000 lives from this scourge alone, not to speak of the sufferings of those who have passed through it and survived, nor of the impoverishment and grief of the bereaved families. This is an unnecessary and preventible loss and suffering. You can teach the nation how to free itself from cholera as we have done in Great Britain. It is a power which lies in your own hands, and by properly spreading the necessary knowledge and impressing it on your legislators you can easily and entirely save Japan from cholera. If cholera comes to Japan so often; if it stays so long; and if it inflicts such severe losses, it is because its entry is facilitated; its stay is invited; and its extension is favoured. Alone among Asiatic peoples you possess the natural advantages and the cultivated intelligence which enable you to resist the entry of cholera, and to deprive it of the means by which it fastens and preys upon your population. In Great Britain we are an island people like Japan, and we have worked out the problem effectually. Cholera has many mysteries. We are as far as ever from knowing how to cure it. Even Koch's discovery of the cholera bacillus has done nothing to solve the therapeutic problem. But we know how to ward off cholera; we know how to prevent it from propagating itself, and with it from pro-

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pagating other kindred diseases. This knowledge is mainly due to a comparatively obscure practitioner, Dr. Snow, of London, and to another medical gentleman for many years medical officer of health in England. In the great cholera epidemic of 1846 in England, which destroyed 40,000 lives, Snow observed that one part of a street was swept by cholera while the other was comparatively free. He proved that this was connected with the fact that all those people where the cholera was most pestilential were drinking the water of a celebrated local well. The water was very nice and sparkling, and pleasant to taste—so much so that people sent for it from all parts of London. Snow traced that out, and he found that wherever that water went the cholera went with it. He examined the water and the position of the well. He found that the water was polluted with much organic matter, and he found that it communicated by a cleft in the ground with the cesspool of a house into which cholera patients had been brought, so that the cholera matter passed into the well. That clue was followed up and elaborately worked out. Two large water companies were at that time supplying a large part of London, nearly a million of its inhabitants, with drinking water. One was supplying water from the Thames, very much polluted with organic—that is cesspool matter; the other was supplying water from the Thames rather higher up and much less polluted with sewage water. Of the many thousands that died in that district, 40 per cent. more died who were drinking the more polluted water, than of those who were drinking the less polluted water. The company supplying the worse water was after the epidemic obliged to take its water from a point very much higher up the river, so as to supply a very much purer water. In the next epidemic of cholera, 16 years afterwards, the proportions of deaths of the people drinking the water of the two companies was precisely inverted. Medical men forced these facts upon the attention of the Legislature, and the London water supply was taken from a very much higher source and became almost—not quite—pure. From that time we have had no more cholera epidemics in London with one exception, which is in itself very instructive. In 1866 cholera was very prevalent on the continent of Europe. As our water supply was then, although not absolutely all that it ought to be, relatively pretty nearly pure, we had no great apprehensions of cholera in London. But on a sudden, an outbreak occurred in the poorest part of East London, Whitechapel, which caused an immense number of cases and deaths, 16,000 cases in all and 6,000 deaths. I was then editing a medical paper, and I said to one of my assistants—"There can be no cholera epidemic in England—at least without its having its cause in polluted water. Go down and see what those people are drinking." That gentleman was the late Mr. N. Radcliff. He went, and came back, and said: "The people are all drinking the water of the East London Water Company." The water was taken from the river Lea and the Company showed us that they had the most efficient filter beds, that this filtered water was the same water that they had been in the habit of supplying. But further investigation showed that for a few days one of their filter beds had been out of order. During two or three days, therefore, they had been taking part of their water direct from the river Lea and supplying it to the people to drink, without the long course of purification in successive filter beds which it ought to have undergone. That time precisely corresponded with the outbreak of the cholera epidemic. But that was not enough. Mere ordinary dirt will no more produce cholera of itself, cholera being a specific disease, than ordinary dirt will produce small-pox. It is bad enough to drink highly diluted sewerage at any time, although some people seem not to object to it and others are unwillingly forced to do it, under the name of drinking water. To produce cholera the water drunk must be specifically poisoned with cholera germs. We had then to find out how was this water poisoned with cholera germs. Not many days before—a week or ten days before—a ship had arrived from abroad at the port of Weymouth, having cholera patients on board. Some of the patients had been allowed to leave the ship, it being supposed they were nearly well, and to go to a village in Essex. They had poisoned the cesspools; and the cesspools had leaked into the local well and forty deaths had occurred there. It was a small well and in an isolated place. One family had come to a little house at the side of this river Lea; they had poisoned the cesspool of that house, and the cesspool had leaked into the river just at the time the company was suplying the river water unfiltered to the East End of London. So that one instance of neglect and one case of pollution sufficed, the Lea being a big river, and London a populous city, to give 16,000 people the cholera and to kill 6,000 of them. We have taken that lesson to heart and our water supply generally speaking is now so pure—although it is not so pure but that we have small epidemics due to local negligence—we have no fear in England of another visitation of cholera, and have escaped all recent cholera epidemics. We have had none now since 1866. Other countries in Europe have profitted only imperfectly and more slowly by our experience and by our results. They have consequently suffered in many instances most severely from recent epidemics, but the particulars, of which I shall only give you a few, are not less instructive than our own. Two of the countries have most neglected the purification of water supply are Spain and Italy—you all know how Spain suffered four years ago. But the most instructive examples can be drawn from Italy. Naples is a great city, somewhat like Tokyo, with about the same number of inhabitants, having a large and crowded population drinking their water largely from wells which are apt to be polluted by cesspools. The water supply of Naples,—pardon me for saying so,—was almost as bad as the water supply of Tokyo—in some respects probably worse. When the cholera was approaching Naples a correspondent wrote to *The Times* to say: "The authorities here are becoming very much scared at the approach of cholera, and are taking all sorts of sanitary precautions. They are cleaning out the sewers and pouring carbolic acid in quantities into the cesspools. One disagreeable consequence is that our drinking water is beginning to taste very strongly of carbolic acid." That sufficiently indicated, I think, the ease with which the matter from the cesspools filtered into the wells. Now, then, what happened? The cholera came; it swept Naples like a pestilence. People died at the rate of five and six hundred a day sometimes, until the deaths amounted to 30,000, and Naples was visited by one of the worst pestilences that have ever been known in any great city. The churches were open day and night; processions took place through the streets; the King came down; large sums were voted from public charity, and nothing sufficed to stay the pestilence until it wore itself out. Rome, by the wisdom of the ancients, is supplied with admirably pure water from a distance, and Rome escaped the cholera. Genoa has a pure water supply drawn from a mountain source, and believed itself safe, but on a sudden, an intense, though locally limited epidemic, broke out in Genoa. It was found that a party of cholera patients from the Riviera had taken refuge from the rigours of quarantine, broken through the gensdarmes, and encamped on the little mountain river which supplied that quarter of Genoa, and were fouling it with cholera germs. They were sent away; the water supply was stopped short off, and the epidemic ceased like a charm. There were 80 deaths a day, and then it stopped. I shall not weary you with further instances. But this lesson has to be learned: that a country which would be free from cholera must not only supply its population with an absolutely pure water supply for its cities, but must shut up by legal order as we do in England every well from which people can drink which is liable to be polluted with organic matter. It is not enough to give the people a pure water supply if you have a polluted water supply alongside it; for the slightest reasons of cheapness or convenience they will drink the polluted water. That has been proved with the most intelligent populations in the world. It was quite recently proved in Paris, and it is true everywhere. It is therefore the duty with us, of the Sanitary Authority, through their inspectors, to test the purity of the water of drinking wells, and if the water is found to be organically polluted that well is closed by order of the Authority. That is to say if the sources cannot be found out and cut off. If they can be found, then they are cut off at once. Now, you have great advantages in Japan, inasmuch as sewage, which with us is a simple nuisance, becomes under your system a source of profit if properly used. You need the sewage for your land; you can use it on your land, and it pays to remove it. It is therefore wasteful as well as a sin against the public health to allow the water to be polluted by sewage. A few simple precautions, everywhere enforced, would be of the highest use in this respect. You have what we call in Great Britain the pail or tub system. It is easy to enforce—as in some of our great towns, where the tub system exists, we do enforce—that the pail shall be of proper material, of pottery or if some suitable metal, and that it shall be emptied at least once in every twenty-four hours. With us the local sanitary inspectors enforce that regulation, and the neglect of it is punishable by a small fine. Japan has been called the Paradise of Travellers, and no doubt, in many respects it is so. But in respect of the bad smells which assail the nose at every corner, and which make even the most delightful tea-house almost untenable to Europeans, it is not a paradise. They are intolerable to foreigners and they do much to limit the flow of travel in Japan, and to Japan, and I am sure they cannot be pleasant to Japanese.—(Laughter.) They are the expression of a form of sanitary neglect which is shown most severely in the pollution which follows on this neglect, the pollution of the water supply, which lies at the foundation of cholera and of typhoid fever. Now it is in the power of the medical profession to prove that that is a scientific and not merely an æsthetic objection, and to save Japan from typhoid and from cholera. One word more as to the means of preventing the entry of cholera, of which a polluted water supply invites the stay, and propagates the travel. I began by pointing out that the position of Japan as an island makes it easy for her to do so. Any system of stringent general quarantine is opposed to the needs of the country, opposed to commercial extension, and is proved now to be altogether unnecessary for health purposes. Quarantine is either too much or not enough. It is spasmodic, irregular, and it is generally begun too late. What is to be substituted for it? A system, an inexpensive but a complete, continuous, and carefully arranged system of medical supervision of ships arriving at ports—port medical supervision. Under the present system you hear that cholera has broken out in Shanghai, or Hongkong, or Singapore, and you put on quarantine as against all ships coming from Singapore, Hongkong, or Shanghai. But your means of information as to what is going on at those places are insufficient: you do not hear it soon enough; you cannot hear it soon enough, and very often you cannot hear it at all. Foreign ships which arrive now at your ports are not required, unless in epidemic times, to produce a bill of health; they are not medically inspected; they are not required to receive a clean bill of health before proceeding to another port. Every ship that arrives at a British port, whether in Great Britain herself or at Gibraltar or Malta, or in any of her possessions, is required to produce a bill of health to the port medical officer before any one lands. If one is ill on board or has died on board, the illness must be stated: if it is of a contagious character the medical officer decides what is to be done—whether the patient is to be isolated or removed, or what other precautions are to be taken. He takes no unnecessary precautions; he does not obstruct trade, but he prevents the introduction of any contagious disease into any port. What is wanted, therefore, is something very simple: the appointment of a port medical officer with proper powers and a small staff at each of your half dozen ports at which you trade with foreign ports—and happily for this purpose you have at present very few ports of the kind. I know you have some sort of system which purports to do something of the sort, but it is wholly insufficient: there are no regular appointments; no adequate powers are given, and no established system exists. It is a very inexpensive matter, and it need in fact cost absolutely nothing — always a great recommendation.—(Laughter.) The dues which foreign ships pay now at Japanese ports are absurdly small, smaller than anywhere else in the world. A very small addition to the port charges would suffice entirely to pay for the cost of a system of port medical supervision and for providing that each ship shall produce a clean bill of health and shall only pass on when its bill of health has been signed. Finally, to sum up. If you wish to be totally and entirely free from cholera in Japan you have only to do three things. Supply your population with pure drinking water—which includes cutting off the sources of pollution of wells, or shutting them up; establish a system of a speedy daily removal of sewage from houses and of preventing it from being turned into ditches, rivers, or worse than all, the pipes which run along the streets. The formula for that is: The sewage to the soil, and the rain to the river. The third requisite is: establish a system of complete port medical supervision at the cost of the ships themselves, and not at the cost of the country, and establish isolation houses for use if people have to be brought on shore. I have to thank you for listening to me so patiently, and to express the hope that in endeavouring to offer some useful hints from my European experience I may not have seemed unduly censorious—as I did not mean to be—of the country where I have seen so much to admire, and spent the time so delightfully. I shall never forget the many friends I have made, or the many things I have seen to excite my interest and admiration. Especially I have to thank my medical colleagues here and throughout Japan for the very kind re-

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ception they have given me, and to express the hope that we may be able to see them in England in increasing numbers and be able to afford them a welcome.—(Applause.)

After the address, which was listened to with profound attention and warmly applauded, a series of entertainments were provided, artists painting some rapid pictures which were presented to Dr. Hart; single stick exercise; lacquered products and other things of interest being shown. Subsequently one hundred and twenty guests sat down to a banquet served in European style, and Dr. Hashigawa, Member of the House of Commons and Vice-President of the Tokyo Medical Society, read an address in which he thanked Mr. Ernest Hart on behalf of the profession in Japan for the able addresses which he had delivered at the Koyo-kan and that night. His presence in Japan had been welcomed by the medical men and the country generally, for his fame had preceded him and his love of Japanese art, and great knowledge of the subject were well known in Japan, where his writings had been translated and were much esteemed. They trusted his journey had been agreeable, and they wished him and Mrs. Hart health and prosperity.

Dr. SASAKI, Presidents of the Tokyo Medical Society, followed in a like strain. Some of the councils which Mr. Hart gave, he said, might be quickly followed, but others were not so easy to carry out at present. The medical profession highly appreciated the ability with which he had studied in so short a time their institutions, and the candour and courtesy with which he criticised them. The visit was a memorable one, and the Medical Society of Tokyo felt honoured by his presence and that of Mrs. Hart.

Mr. HART, in responding, said that highly as he valued the official kindness and distinction which had been so courteously shown him by members of the Government and high officials throughout the country, he valued even more these high honours and this cordial reception from the members of his own profession. He had spent two months in Japan, in which he had learned to admire the energy, skill, enterprise, and courtesy of the people; and his warmest hope would be to return. He left behind him friends in all parts, whom he hoped to revisit or to see again in England. He had endeavoured to make some useful suggestions, but his last words must be words of admiration and affection for a nation who were the hope and pride of the East.

"LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE."

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Vancouver, April 28th.

We left Yokohama on the *Empress of India* about 4 p.m. of Friday, April 17th. With somewhat of regret we saw ourselves gliding smoothly down the bay; and yet with pleasure we thought of ourselves as "homeward bound." Before we had passed out of the bay, darkness came on, and soon shrouded from our view the fair land of Nippon, without even a final sight of the Fuji, peerless. But while the land was still dimly visible in the enveloping darkness, we met a steamer, which displayed three blue lights from her mast heads, and was recognized as the *Batavia*. She was greeted by us with rockets; and was the only vessel we saw during during our voyage, until we sighted one far south of us on the 27th.

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We were out of sight of land 11 days, including, of course, the extra day we gained on the 180th meridian. During that period birds and even fishes were seldom seen. It was, in fact, the condition pictured in the Æneid:—

> *Maria undique et undique coelum,*
> "On every side the watery plain,
> On every side the expanse of sky."

This monotony was finally broken, when, in the morning of Tuesday, April 28th, we caught sight of land on both sides of us in the straits of Juan de Fuca.

Our course did not extend quite so far north as indicated on our chart. We found favourable wind and weather a little south of the planned course, and kept in that track. As it was, however, we approached on "Antipodes Day" within 130 miles of the Aleutian Islands. We experienced better weather than we had anticipated on our far northerly course. Some days were cold and snowy, but many were bright and pleasant; and a few moon-light evenings favoured us.

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The passengers on this trip numbered 485, of whom 131 were in first class, 5 were in Chinese second class, and 349 were Chinese in the steerage. Besides these, there were two stowaways, one European and one Japanese. The latter, in some way or other, eluded the Yokohama police, two of whom came on board, just before sailing, to make a search. This Japanese, it seems, is a tailor in Seattle, where his wife and children now are, and was one of some 40 or 50 who applied for passage, but were refused, because the steerage was full of Chinamen. He, however, being more adventurous than the rest, concealed himself among the Chinese in the steerage, where he was kindly abetted, and assisted to obtain food and lodging. The next morning, when it was impossible to put him on shore, he came out from his hiding-place, and implored the kind services of a well-known Yokohama merchant to make peace with the purser. With the latter, as the man was ready to pay his fare, it was a case of *shikata ga nai*.

The passengers are from many quarters,—from Canada, the States, England, China, and Japan. Some have been on board from the very beginning without a break; some, tired of waiting in England for the ship to start, went ahead, and joined her at Marseilles or Naples; some left her in China, and coming up to Japan in the *Djemnah* or the *China*, rejoined her at Yokohama. Of the original party, some stopped off in India, and some in Japan: but their places have been easily filled, so that there is no vacant room.

Of Canadian localities Toronto and Montreal are best represented; of the cities and States of the United States, Chicago and Illinois, Detroit, and Michigan, have sent out the largest parties,—about 20 each. I do not know what English places are represented; and among the China and Japan localities from which passengers hail, I can mention only Shanghai, Yokohama, Tokyo, and Mito. In the total, it is pretty close between British and Americans.

I do not profess to be able to tell all the trades and professions represented on this ship. It is not to be expected that 130 passengers, even if they should be together for two or three months, would become perfectly acquainted with each other; for cliques are inevitably formed in so large a company. Much less is it to be expected, that a newcomer, with never so much natural curiosity and reportorial "cheek," could learn all about his companions of only a few days. But I am able to say that there are magistrates, merchants, clerks, capitalists, teachers, preachers, doctors, army and navy officers, officials, and young men sowing wild oats. The clergy are represented by Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and a Congregationalist, the last of whom is Rev. Dr. T. P. Field, formerly a professor in Amherst College, Massachusetts. One of the Presbyterian clergymen is Rev. Mr. Crosby, of San Rafael, Cal.; he is a brother of Miss Crosby, well-known in Yokohama for her valuable work in the "Home" at 212, Bluff.

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So much has been written concerning the vessel, that it is hardly necessary to enter into any minute description. Her good sailing qualities are beyond dispute, and have been a source of great comfort. She is firm and steady on ordinary occasions; and, even when a hurricane struck her the third night out, she behaved admirably. A Toronto gentleman, who has travelled considerably the past two years, says that he has never fared so comfortably. Of course, there are grumblers, who are constantly whining about this, that, or the other, and make it very uncomfortable for the rest of the company and for the officers of the ship. They may be professional globe trotters, who seem to think that they know everything worth knowing, and own the sun, moon, earth, and stars; or they may be young men, away from home and off on a "bum," who try to appear manly? and independent, and succeed only in making fools of themselves; or they may be rich rustics, who have been accustomed to plain living, but "put on airs," in order to impress people with an idea of their "style." I am not saying that everything was absolutely faultless, that there was no occasion for criticism; but I am saying, that there was no cause for such frequent and petty croaking as was heard. I have no doubt, that there may have been inconviniences in the matter of accommodating so large a crowd, and some reason for disappointment in the quality of the cuisine during part of the trip. The postponements of the schedule were inconvenient to several, and the accommodations of the berths could not, of course, satisfy all. Some of these unsatisfactory matters were pointed out, but in a kindly way, by the respectable tourists, who fully realized the great pains taken to make them comfortable, and appreciated the kind attentions shown them by the officers of the vessel. Your correspondent detests shoddy and show, and dislikes to hear constant carping and fault-finding in trivial matters. Mistakes will happen, but are often excusable. He wishes, therefore, to express his humble opinion that the trip from Yokohama to Vancouver, in all essential particulars, was pleasant and comfortable.

* * * * *

We crossed the 180th Meridian, in Lat. 42° N., about the beginning of your Thursday, April 23. Inasmuch as this was during the night, the line was not visible, even in the moonlight: and, indeed, the fact of crossing was known only to those who were awakened out of sleep by the unusual bump! When we got across the line, we, of course, suddenly found ourselves back again in Wednesday, the 22nd. How much some of us would like to live over again the days we have mis-spent! A few of the passengers, however, jocosely took a different view of the matter, and looked upon the extra day as one on which "carry on" to their hearts' content, without having any account taken of their actions! The waiters, and, in fact, all the "labourers" on the ship regarded the day as an extra one of work without any extra pay! The sailors, however, took the opportunity to celebrate athletic sports; and several of them gathered in a little extra change in the shape of prizes. These sports, which were of the usual sort, were a delightful diversion; especially interesting was the mast-head race, in which the winner skipped to the top and back in 1 minute and 10 seconds.

In the evening of the "Antipodal Day" there was a special entertainment in the form of a concert. The programme consisted, not merely of vocal and instrumental music, but also of comic readings. The passengers hailing from Japan were much disappointed that a certain Yokohama gentleman, of great musical attainments, positively declined to take part in the programme.

* * * * *

The recreations on shipboard have been found, as usual, in cards, checkers, chess, chocolates, quoits, promenades, etc. The wide promenade deck has been very useful and comfortable; and with a long net spread over the outer railing, has been made available for even base ball and cricket.

* * * * *

The ship is fortunately possessed of a library of about 200 volumes, of both solid and light literature, and presenting a great variety of subjects. These books helped to fill up many hours which might otherwise have been tedious. And yet I must confess that I preferred and appreciated the *dolce far niente*, careless, and more restful to the mind than reading or writing.

* * * * *

By the kindness of Captain Marshall, I was permitted to receive from one of the officers a sort of digest of the log-book. Inasmuch as the *Mail* constituency includes many persons cognizant of sea-faring matters, I give herewith a copy of that document:—

April 18th, noon, moderate breeze and overcast, with small rain. Wind, E.S.E. to S.W. 4. Distance, 320. Barometer, 29.70. Thermometer, 59.

April 19th, noon, strong wind and overcast. Wind, W. 5/6. Distance, 366. Barometer, 29.40. Thermometer, 56.

April 20th, strong gale with furious squalls; very high sea; ship taking over heavy spray fore and aft. Distance, 371. Barometer, 29 81. Thermometer, 47. Wind, W.N.W., 8/9. Weather impeding considerably the progress of the ship.

April 21st, weather clearing; calm and cloudy. Distance, 376. Barometer, 29.73. Thermometer, 39.

April 22nd, fresh breeze and fine clear weather, with passing snow-squalls. Wind, W. 5. Distance, 381. Barometer, 29.75. Thermometer, 42.

April 22nd (extra day) light wind and fine clear weather. Wind, N. 1/2. Distance, 378. Barometer, 29 78. Thermometer, 55.

April 23rd, light breeze and fine clear weather. Wind, N.N.E. Distance, 372. Barometer, 29.70. Thermometer, 54.

April 24th, noon, fresh increasing wind and overcast. Wind, E. by N. 5. Distance, 379. Bar., 29 48. Therm., 34.

April 25th, noon, blowing a storm with very high head sea, shipping very heavy seas forward, and hard spray fore and aft. Force of wind, 11. Bar. 28.58. Therm. 35. Distance, 346.

April 26th, increasing gale with high southerly sea; ship rolling very heavily. Bar., 28.46. Therm., 39. Distance, 295.

April 27th, moderate decreasing gale and fine weather; ship rolling heavily at times. Bar., 29 59. Therm., 50. Distance, 349.

April 28th, fine weather.

Lowest reading of glass, 28.36."

The above "itinerary" may serve to show the fine sailing qualities of the ship. Please take notice that the report of April 18th is for only 20

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hours; that, in spite of the storm of the 19th and 20th, she made 371 miles; that, without any extra pressure of the engines, she made one record of 381 miles; that, notwithstanding the terrible storm of the 25th, she made 346 miles; that only once she dropped very low; and that she maintained a pretty uniform rate.

* * * * *

The foregoing paragraphs were written now and then during the voyage, and may often lack connection. Likewise, the reference above to the behaviour of the ship during the storm of the third night out may well be changed to a reference to her behaviour during the later and more severe storm of two days' duration. At that time every one spoke in the highest terms of the ship's firmness, and compared her favourably with all other vessels in which they had ever sailed. She is undoubtedly a fast and staunch ship.

* * * * *

When we awoke in the morning of Tuesday, April 28, we found ourselves in the straits of Juan de Fuca with land on both sides of us. About 7 o'clock we reached Victoria; and, leaving there at 9.30, arrived at Vancouver at 3 p.m. We are off at once on a special train, which is bulletined to make fast time. Thus endeth a pleasant and comfortable, and rapid trip from Yokohama to Vancouver within a period of 12 days of 23½ hours each.

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Matsue, May 14th.

The Exhibition of Fine Arts at Matsue closes to-morrow (the 15th), after the brief period of ten days from its first opening. It was organized by a company of wealthy men—such as Sato Kihachiro, the largest land owner in Matsue, and Katsube Osamu, proprietor of the oldest local newspaper, the *San-in Shimbun*. Some small assistance was, perhaps, given by the *Kencho*. A permanent museum, which had been established here for several years, served very satisfactorily for a building. Nevertheless, the exhibits were so numerous that in order to display all, it was necessary to change the articles on view almost every day; and as the exhibition was thus always new, the attendance did not fall off from the first to the last day. It varied from 1,200 to 1,700 admissions diurnally; but this variation was chiefly due to the free admission of students. I think the exhibition was not only creditable but absolutely surprising,—and I can frankly say so with the memory of the Tokyo Exhibition still fresh in my mind.

Izumo really contains a vast number of *objets d'art*; but they can only be seen on such occasions as these. By no chance can the stranger discover anything surprising in the shops of curio-dealers, or in stores of secondhand articles—rarely even in a pawnbroker's establishment. What fine art of Old Japan lingers here belongs to old families—either *shisoku*, or wealthy merchants of long standing,—who could not be induced to part with their heirlooms at the time when shrewd speculators were buying up everything for foreign purchase. Another resource of the exposition was the temples of the province, both Shinto and Buddhist. These possess treasures seldom exhibited to public gaze; and many generously forwarded their precious things to Matsue, despite risks of fire and the fact that the only prizes given were for the productions of living local artists.

As a stranger in the country, I know too little about Japanese artistic history to send you a letter worthy of the occasion; and being no judge of porcelain, lacquer-ware, or swordsmith's work, I will not dare to say anything about these three matters at all. I was most interested personally in the display of *Kakemono* and screens and bronzes,—and have ventured to make a few notes about the pictures in particular. There was really a rich display of these—some 1,300 cases having been accepted by the Committee, and many of these cases contained three *Kakemono*. Probably the total number on exhibition considerably exceeded 2,000. One of the first things that impressed me was a superb old dragon by Dasoku, otherwise known as Cho-ku-An. This monster was really terrible,—not simply grotesque. It was conceived according to the best traditions of the art, and instead of the usual vermiform appendages on either sides of the nostrils, were two vast elephant-trunks. The creation had the force of a tremendous nightmare. After this, my attention was most absorbed by a delicious screen by Okyo (belonging to Mr. Sato of Matsue)—the same painter, I believe, celebrated for his pictures of goblins and ghosts. Its subject was not at all supernatural, however, but charmingly realistic—wild ducks in the water at the edge of a lake. Early winter snows whitened the shore, and powdered the roads. Some of the ducks were diving, some swimming, others flying. The whole gave one the sensation of a delightful January morning, full of sharp crisp healthy frost. A *Bugaku* dancer, a girl in a very bright picturesque costume,—next took my fancy. The picture belongs to a Mr. Tsunematsu, of Matsue; but I could not find the name of the artist. Perhaps the work is not very old; but in colour and movement it is more than pleasing. Count Matsudaira had on exhibition several fine works of the Kano School. One immense screen, representing the Chinese Emperor Genso kote and his favourite Yōkihi, walking in their palace gardens, was very fine. Next to it, a screen 170 years old, by Domo no Matake, representing ancient life in Tokyo, was worthy of its position. Gold clouds separated the surface into compartments, within each of which a different phase of life was depicted. Next to these were a pair of fine old screens by Chōko Ichio—one covered with horse-subjects, another with cattle subjects. I liked the latter much the best, because of one charming compartment in which two steers are represented fighting while a boy-driver is vainly trying to separate them by beating them with a little stick. But the most extraordinary screen I saw was a *byobu* belonging to a rich citizen of Matsue, named *Okasaki*. It was painted by the famous *Sotan*. A more impressive Buddhist fancy I never saw. A group of Arhats (*Rakan*) one of whom flings the contents of a small cup into the air—it might be either fire or water. The spray at once forms into a terrific dragon,—which all the ascetics contemplate with the air of masters and magicians. The thing is haunting, almost terrible; and a lover of Buddhist esoteric philosophy would be crazy to possess it. Among the hosts of *Kakemono* the one which I would most like to have been able to buy, was a study by Sosen. The corner of a temple-court, perhaps, on a snowy morning; and three stone toros, in each of which monkeys are trying to shelter themselves from the cold. This is a gem! I would rather own it than all the other 2,000 *Kakemono* on view.

But there were many charming things,—of which I may mention the following:—

Apes trying to catch the reflection of the moon in water. By Tanyu.

A *sansui* study by Sotan (author of the remarkable screen before referred to): mountains and water in winter. Sotan's genius was weird: his peaks startle the fancy exactly like a lunar landscape;—tall sharp goblin shapes,—the volcanic children of another planet.

A wagtail and pink lotus. By Buncho. Delicious in colour.

Banana-tree and frog. By Bai Gai. Belonging to Judge Nakada Takewo, of Matsue.

Two carp-studies by Genki.

A lotos and a wagtail,—by Bokushin. A superb white-lotos study (the effect of sunlight on the tips of the leaves being an astonishment), by Sesshu.

Anonymous *Kakemono*: A priest teaching the Sutras to acolytes. All three from the famous Kiomidzu temple.

A triplet of Kakemonos by Yusei, an Izumo artist who deserves to be better known elsewhere:—"Three Cities." The three cities are Kyoto, Tokyo, and Osaka—each represented by one exquisite view of water and mountain scenery.

There was a picture of swallows painted by the chief of the forty-seven *ronin*, more of a traditional than of a historical curiosity.

A dragon and tiger, by Rosetsu; a study of herons, by Roki; a sparrow-piece, by Okyo; two very charming *joro*, by Toyokuni; Fuji in snow, by Rosetsu, remarkable for the soft weird effect produced by only half-a-dozen daring brush-strokes; three autumn evenings, by Go shun, full of magical haze; and a good dragon, by Masanobu, all deserved to be seen and praised outside of Matsue.

Nothing seemed to please the public more than a little *genre*-study, by Watanabe Nangaku, the property of Yamamoto Seihei, a wealthy clothier of Matsue. It represents an old married couple much excited about a captured rat. The old man grips the *masu otoshi* with might and main; while the wife tries to light a match. The rat, however, is no longer in the trap, but upon the old fellow's bald head—although he is too much interested to be aware of the fact. I remember also two imaginary monsters, animated *Karashishi*, glaring at each other across a precipice—(by Rosetsu); two dainty flower-pieces by Miss Y. Koteda, the daughter of our Governor;—and a powerful picture by Setzuko,—Ise Saburo Yoshimori, hiding his torch behind him, and waiting outside a gate, under falling cherry-blossoms, for the coming of his enemy. I may speak also of a religious *Kakemono* with a history to it. It is a *Migawari Botoke*. Nobody knows now who painted it; and the Amida it represents has become black with age. This is the story of it:—

In the war between Iyeyasu and the partisans of Hideyori, Kamiya Gengoro, one of the six chief retainers of the Daimyo of Izumo, was present at the attack on the castle of Osaka, with his master, Naomasu (grandson of Iyeyasu.) As the mother of Kamiya had been the nurse of Lord Naomasu, she had followed him with other attendants; and she had brought with her to the camp this *Kakemono* of Amida Buddha, before which she used to pray. Her son, during a subsequent attack on the castle, was struck by a bullet in the breast, but felt nothing until after the fight, when he discovered that his armour was broken and his breast very slightly wounded. On returning to his quarters in the camp after the action he was astonished to find the floor covered with blood. No one had been injured, however; and it was found that the blood came from the *Kakemono* which was pierced, as if by a bullet, exactly where Kamiya had been struck—a sign that the Buddha had vicariously suffered to save the life of his faithful servant. There is still the mark on the *Kakemono* to be seen and understood by those who believe.

Of the statuary I am unable to say much. There were comparatively few bronzes. Among the best things were a figure of Benkei seated in a conch-shell (belonging to the proprietor of the *San-in-Shimbun*); a Kwannon in wood; and a statuette of a Buddhist pilgrim resting by the roadside, with his hat upon his knees, and his staff across his feet (the expression of the fan was delightfully natural). There were some carvings by Jodei (temple-dragons); a beautiful relief representing a stork standing upon a lotos in a river (by Arakawa Junosuke), and a relief of Kwan-U, by Arakawa Moichiro. Prizes or honourable mentions were given only for work by living local artists. Arakawa Junosuke received one of the first awards for his superb stork. A great many second, third, and fourth awards of merit were made. Some local industries—expecially metal work—were thus encouraged; but the exhibition was strictly confined to objects of an artistic kind.

Among heirlooms on view was a glorious helmet, the property of Count Matsudaira. The golden dragon rampant upon it seemed to me the finest work of the kind I ever saw. Such a helmet must have cost a fortune.

The exhibition was, on the whole, a surprise and a success, as expositions go. No exposition, I believe, ever fully repaid its expenses out of its receipts. But, considering that this Matsue affair, open only 10 days, with an admission price of only 2 cents, can boast a receipt of more than $500—quite a large sum here,—I think it was as much of a financial success as most expositions. It proved also how fine a sense of art we have even in this little country province, and how many beautiful things are treasured up here; for probably not 1 in 1,000 of the really fine objects owned in Shimane Ken were forwarded for exhibition. What it did not show, I regret to say, was the possibility of the development of a fresh artistic movement. The prizes given to living artists were chiefly won by old men—very old men—survivors of a school which is passing away: men like Arakama Junosuke and Imuyama Rioto. A new school of art is certainly forming,—a school which is going to do extraordinary things; even in our public schools one can see the thing growing. But the exposition contained little to prove the existence of such an art feeling; and of the thousands of *Kakemono* exhibited, probably not half-a-dozen could be called modern. "The time is not-yet come." But I feel sure that it is not far off.

One amusing matter was the exhibition of several *Kakemono* of the same subject, bearing the same artist's name,—each professing to be the original and unique work. The Committee, with delightful malice, hung them all together, and left the public to decide.

MR. ERNEST HART ON JAPANESE ART TREASURES.

During a few leisure moments previous to setting out to deliver his lecture before the medical faculty of Tokyo at the Uyeno Seiyoken, Mr. Ernest Hart, well known as editor of the *British Medical Journal*, and hardly less as an authority on Japanese Art, gave expression to views on the subject of art treasures in this country which will no doubt be read with interest.

In reply to the question: What have been the chief objects which have interested you; and have you formed any conclusions which are of public interest?

Mr. Hart said—Of course, during so short a

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stay, it is only possible to form rapid impressions, and I should be the last person to attach too much importance to conclusions formed from so brief a survey. But, as you know, I had read and thought a great deal about Japan before I came, and thanks to the great kindness of many friends, official and professional and personal, I have had perhaps unusual opportunities of seeing much of what is best in Japan and of looking, beneath the surface, at many of its institutions. It would be very ungrateful of me if I were not to take the opportunity which your kindness affords me of thanking most warmly the distinguished persons who have shown so much kindness and afforded me so many facilities, especially Count Okabe, to whom I am indebted for most valuable personal introductions to the Governors of provinces and leading authorities in the cities; to Viscount Kuki, whose personal introductions to the guardians of the temples and the art treasures have been invaluable; to Mr. Okakura, the head of the Art School, a man to whom I think Japanese Art interests are now and will in the future be very deeply indebted; to the heads of the Universities and Medical Schools whose courtesy and kindness it is beyond my power to requite; and to a great number of leading manufacturers and others who have afforded me every facility for studying their artistic and commercial position. Japan has been truly described as a paradise for travellers, and I have found it so. I shall leave Japan with the utmost regret and in the hope of being able to return at no distant day. As to observations or suggestions; I may venture to speak of one point, in respect to the temples and monuments of art in Japan, which I have had so many opportunities of examining and such extreme pleasure in seeing. That pleasure has often been alloyed by the feeling that many of the most valuable of the art treasures of Japan are not at present either in positions of safety or adequately cared for, and that many of them are in imminent danger of destruction from fire at any moment by accidental conflagration, and many more are decaying and rusting for want of proper attention. At Nikko I found with great satisfaction an admirable society at work which devotes itself to the reparation of the temples, and to the maintenance of their decorations in repair. This society is largely supported by public subscription, chiefly of Japanese gentlemen, but also to some extent of the numerous visitors to whom facilities are afforded for resorting to these places and who, taking a deep interest in works of such world-wide fame, are naturally willing to make some contributions to the funds for keeping them accessible. The Government also have given a certain subsidy for the purpose. Elsewhere a very different state of things prevails. At Nara, the treasure-house of so many works which are associated with the ancient history of Japan and with its earliest and highest artistic triumphs, a large part of the most precious treasures are in buildings of which the very existence is by their structure precarious, and where they are subject to damp, mildew, rust, and decay. I need not particularise. It must be known to every one who has visited Nara that even those things which are accessible to visitors, Japanese or foreign, are for the most part ill lighted, incapable of being carefully inspected, or properly seen, and many of them, as at the Yakushi Temple, so crowded together on damp floors and decaying platforms as to lose a large part of their beauty from the badness of their surroundings and the unsuitable way in which they are placed. This is a striking instance, and I need not further particularise. Now the temples have of course a double interest. They had their religious interest, but they are also the great monuments of Japanese national art, of which the nation is justly proud, which attract annually some thousands of wealthy travellers from all parts of the world. The revenues, of the Buddhist temples especially, have been appropriated to other national purposes since the Restoration. The funds do not exist for properly caring for many of these temples or their treasures. To a few privileged persons such as I have had the good fortune to be, the godowns are opened, and works which form the glory of Japanese art are brought out and hung upon the wall, laid upon the floor, or put upon stands and shown for a few brief hours. There, therefore, are two obvious needs for reform; national artistic treasures should be accessible to the nation, and they should be well cared for. It is no doubt a question largely of funds, although possibly religious sentiment, old tradition, or occasionally family or local considerations may also have weight. It is a sad thing to see the magnificent tombs and chapels at Shiba rusting and being destroyed for want of the moderate expenditure necessary to keep them thoroughly rubbed and cleaned, and for properly showing the treasures which they possess put away in coffers and godowns. It is not for me to suggest the best method of remedying this state of things, nor probably have I the necessary local information to enable me to do so with effect, even if my words were listened to. But I think the method which would recommend itself in Europe is that a combined effort should be made by local subscription, by the munificence of wealthy individuals of public spirit, and by Government subsidy. If at Kyoto a society were formed such as that at Nikko I do not doubt that considerable sums would at once be forthcoming from the wealthy nobles, rich merchants and bankers, and public spirited men generally in Japan, anxious for the honour of their country, proud of its history and its great art treasures. Such sums should be funded to form a capital; not more than 30 per cent. need be expended for any immediate purpose, and 70 per cent. might be put aside to supply annual income out of interest. A government subsidy in fixed proportion to the sum publicly subscribed could give a national character to the movement, fix the stamp of State approval, and continue for the State its necessary control. Places such as Nara and other less wealthy centres would need to draw their funds from national sources, general munificence and State aid. I only venture to throw out these observations as expressing the impression made on my mind, and not doubting that the same problem has occurred to many others and especially to the Japanese authorities, and that they will know better how to solve the problem than any one else.

Are there any other topics that strike me? Well, yes. In connection with this same subject of art, I may venture to say how regrettable it is that in the anxiety to meet the growing demand for works of art by the historic artists of Japan an extensive trade has grown up of a very dishonest character, which consists in the wholesale fabrication and forging of so-called antiquities with false marks, added signatures and cleverly imitated appearances of age. As I am known to have a taste for collecting ancient works of art, I suppose I was in some respects a mark for ingenious activity of some of the leading persons engaged in this very unsatisfactory business. I have had submitted to me upwards of 15,000 objects during my two months' tour, and I can say with certainty that 13,000 out of the total were fabrications. In some cases not more than three per cent. of the subjects shown as antique, and with every kind of assurance and proffered guarantees, were either real or even plausibly real. I am very sorry to find that some of the most influential and wealthy of the dealers in this department, and specially those Japanese dealers who come most in contact with Europeans, were the most active in this trade. I am speaking quite plainly, although I do not wish to mention names here, because I have expressed myself quite clearly on the subject to the gentlemen themselves, and I have done so in one instance at least in writing and subsequently in the course of a detailed conversation held in the presence of a Government official. In this case the gentleman acknowledged that a large number of things which he had offered to guarantee were, as I said, probable fabrications, and the excuse which he offered was Socratic in its brevity, and epigrammatic in its expression. He said: "Old things very few; buyers very many; my eyes no good." He proffered a promise that in future he would never make any declaration as to age or to authenticity of any article that he sold, finding himself, as he said, so completely incompetent. But as he is a dealer in a large way of business, and has been in business for many years, I do not know precisely what value can be attached to this voluntary pledge. At any rate it would be very satisfactory if some method could be devised by which a check should be given to a system of fabrication of antiquities which is exceedingly detrimental to the best interests of Japanese art, and by no means creditable to the otherwise enterprising and useful class of persons who have been tempted to engage in it. The only suggestion which I can offer is either that the addition to modern pieces of the names of ancient artists should itself be made penal, or that it should be required that every modern piece to which a name is added should also have the date of its making appended. In connection with modern Japanese art work I should like to say how good it is in many directions; what admirable potters Japan possesses in men such as Seifu of Kyoto, Meizan of Osaka, Tanzan, Makuzu and one or two of the best Tokyo potters; and how fine is the *cloisonné* work of the modern men, especially such as Namikawa of Kyoto, Namikawa of Tokyo, and Honda of Nagoya. The work of the Art School at Uyeno is beyond praise. There are some respects in which I think its utility might be increased, especially if it were to be made a centre from which European needs could be studied and forms and designs suitable for the European markets could be issued, under the direction of the able artists there assembled, and with the superintendence of Mr. Okakura, to the great trade centres. A school of industrial design centralised, but having its local connections, and issuing patterns and instructions and teachers for local manufacturers, would be a great benefit to Japan. Still more beneficial I think would be some future arrangements, which I suppose are hardly possible now, by which the best Japanese manufacturers could be brought into more immediate relation with European needs and European methods of organization and be aided by European capital. The ideal combinations would be partnerships in actual business between skilled European art workers and men of business and Japanese. It is exceedingly difficult at the present moment for Japanese producers to produce on a sufficiently large scale, or to understand the needs of the European market, and Japanese trade is largely crippled by want of capital, by want of organization, by want of direct contact with the markets. This I have found in every trade, in almost every workshop that I visited. As my time is very short I cannot stop now to give you the details, but I may hope to be able to do so on some future occasion either here or in some paper which I may be able to write on my return to Europe.

BASEBALL.

The Baseball Match, postponed in consequence of unfavourable weather from Saturday last, took place on Tuesday and proved very enjoyable. We append the scores:—

"Monocacy."	Pos.	O.	R.	Yokohama and Tokyo.	Pos.	O.	R.
Mr. Liebenstein	c.f.	4	1	Mr. McNair	c.	1	0
Mr. Myer	3b.	4	1	Mr. Knox	3.b.	3	0
Mr. Welsh	c.	2	3	Mr. Nash	s.s.	3	1
Mr. Bryan	p.	2	3	Mr. Tilden	1.b.	4	0
Mr. Logan	2b.	3	1	Mr. Merriman	s.s.	2	0
Mr. Norris	l.f.	2	3	Mr. Page	l.f.	3	1
Mr. Anderson	1b.	2	3	Mr. Cole	r.f.	4	0
Mr. Whipper	r.f.	2	3	Mr. Macnodray	p.	4	0
Mr. Allan	s.s.	3	1	Mr. Williams	c.f.	3	0
		24	18			27	2

Innino.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total.
"Monocacy"	3	1	0	2	2	8	2	3	x	18
Yokohama and Tokyo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, May 16th.

The Times publishes a paragraph which states that the Portuguese Government has virtually accepted the proposals made by the Marquis of Salisbury.

London, May 17th.

The expulsion of the Jews from St. Petersburg and Moscow has been resumed.

The Portuguese Ministry has resigned.

London, May 18th.

The Prince of Wales is indisposed, and is suffering from rheumatism in the legs resulting from an attack of influenza.

Lord Edward Cavendish has died of influenza.

[Lord Edward Cavendish was a son of the Duke of Devonshire and a brother of the Marquis of Hartington, and sat in the House of Commons for Derby W.—Ed. *J.M.*]

London, May 19th.

The Bishop of Litchfield has been appointed Archbishop of York.

The Servian Government has expelled the Princess Nathalie.

[The late Bishop of Litchfield is the Right Rev. Dr. William D. Maclagan, who was appointed to that see in 1878.—Ed. *J.M.*]

London, May 21st.

Lord Salisbury has received the freedom of the city of Glasgow.

[From Tonkin Papers.]

Paris, May 2nd.

The first of May passed without any serious incident at Paris.

At Fournies a collision occurred between the troops and the strikers. Several victims.

The agitation was easily suppressed in Belgium and at Rome.

(From Manila Papers.)

Madrid, April 24th.

In the treaty with the United States the Philippines are not included. To-day's *Imparcial* contains an article recommending that this country should be included in the treaty. Notice of a question on the subject has been given in the Chamber of Deputies. The Philippines Council has presented a motion asking that the islands may be included in the treaty.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday May 29th
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 24th.*
From Hongkong.	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, May 24th.†
From Europe viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, May 29th.‡
From Hongkong.	per C. P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 26th.§
From America	per O. & O. Co	Sunday, June 7th ‖

* *Verona* left Nagasaki on May 20th. † *City of Rio de Janeiro* left Hongkong on May 19th. ‡ *Oxus* (with French mail) left Hongkong on May 21st. § *Abyssinia* left Hongkong on May 20th. ‖ *Belgic* left San Francisco on May 20th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, May 24th
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, May 24th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 26th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, May 28th
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 30th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, June 9th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, June 12th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 16th May,—Hakodate 13th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Homery, 16th May,—Hongkong 7th, Shanghai 11th, and Kobe 15th May, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 17th May,—Kobe 16th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 19th May,—Hakodate 16th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sevootch (8), Russian cruiser, Captain Nackeleff, 19th May,—Vladivostock 13th May.

Polyhymnia, German steamer, 1,052, Behrens, 19th May,—Hamburg viâ Hongkong 11th May, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Sussex, British steamer, 1,620, Holt, 19th May,—Portland 1st May, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Zambesi, British steamer, 1,654, Edwards, 19th May,—Kobe 18th May, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 19th May,—Kobe 18th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 20th May,—Hakodate 18th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 21st May,—Vancouver, B.C., 9th May, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,871, Cumings, 21st May,—Kobe 20th May, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 22nd May,—Kobe 21st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 22nd May,—San Francisco 7th May, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Blanke, 22nd May,—Hongkong 16th May, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Glamorganshire, British steamer, 1,845, Davis, 22nd May,—Kobe 21st May, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 22nd May,—Shanghai and ports 15th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

White Heather, British steam yacht, 307, Caines, R.N.R., 23rd May,—Kobe 21st May.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 23rd May,—Hakodate 20th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 16th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 148, J. T. Harrison, 17th May,—Guam, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,082, Macmillan, 17th May,—Honolulu, General and Emigrants.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 17th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuso Kan (6), ironclad, Captain Sameshima, 19th May,—Shinagawa.

Katsuragi Kan (7), composite-sloop, Captain Mochida, 11th May,—Shinagawa.

Takachiho Kan (8), steel-cruiser, Captain Yamamoto, 19th May,—Shinagawa.

Tsukuba Kan (8), corvette, Captain T. Kurooka, 19th May,—Shinagawa.

Yamato Kan (7), composite-sloop, Captain Morooka, 11th May,—Shinagawa.

Khio, British steamer, 1,552, Tyson, 19th May,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Nessan, 19th May,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 19th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 19th May,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gerard C. Tober, American bark, 1,390, Gibbs, 19th May,—Puget Sound, Ballast.—Captain.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 20th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sevootch (8), Russian cruiser, Captain Nackeleff, 20th May,—Vladivostock.

Sussex, British steamer, 1,620, Holt, 21st May,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 21st May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 5,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 22nd May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 22nd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Zambesi, British steamer, 1,654, Edwards, 22nd May,—Portland, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. Yurato Ito in cabin; 30 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Fd. Rochette, Mr. Oli Ogha, Mr. Mehemet Bey, Captain Gamble, Major Farmer, Messrs. A. B. Markham, C. B. Carroll, Degron, Mrs. L. Memsini, Mrs. L. Memsini, Mrs. Oagi, Messrs. M. W. Thorne, E. L. Hamilton, L. B. Hamilton, J. F. Macnair, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gomes, Misses A. Gomes, C. Gomes, G. Gomes, and H. E. Gomes, Messrs. J. M. Gomes, Chanteaume, C. Pretet, Mrs. Southead, Messrs. Robbins, Dobrie, O. C. Bevan, Y. Brume, Labeye, H. Renault, Mr. and Mrs. Leauz de Vesmand and infant, and Mrs. Bouchare in cabin; and 13 Japanese in steerage.

Per German steamer *Polyhymnia*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Hummel and Mr. and Mrs. Tutui in cabin.

Per British steamer *Sussex*, from Portland:—16 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Zambesi*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Edmunds and child, and Mr. Morris in cabin; 88 Chinese and 35 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. C. C. Bethune and N. Matsumoto in cabin; Mrs. Tamakawa Saki, Mrs. Tamakawa Hisa, Messrs. K. Mano and J. Sanjo in second class, and 44 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Baehr, Abbey, Kanoka, Tatsuno, Tanabe, H. Saki, Kawaguchi, Yamamoto, Sata, Kitabatake, Osaki, and Mr. and Mrs. Tsuda and family in cabin; 41 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Messrs. F. H. Balfour, N. P. Brown, W. Cabeldu, D. B. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Philp Carroll, Messrs. Herbert Gall, John M. Klensch, Elliott C. Lee, Dr. Henry H. Rhees, Mrs. H. A. Rhees, Mrs. D. T. Rhees, Master W. C. Rhees, Messrs. G. H. Tilden, Geo. Francis Train, and Geo. S. Williams in cabin; Messrs. B. R. Becker and F. H. Leaton in second class, and 98 Chinese and 8 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Monmouthshire*, from Kobe:—Mrs. J. J. Efford, son, and daughter in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Kobe:—Miss Krohnke, Miss Taylor, Dr. Kimball, Mr. F. S. Morse, and Mr. G. Nakanishida in cabin; 36 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, from San Francisco:—Mr. W. C. Sandemann, Mr. Vortman, Mr. C. Du Brul, Mr. K. Yokota, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Lawrence and 2 children, Mr. M. Russell, Mr. F. Dauckweitz, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hootling and son, Mr. J. Lawton, Mr. A. J. Salnias, Mr. E. Kildoyle, Mr. and Mrs. F. Winfield, and Mr. W. D. Tillotson in cabin; 7 Europeans in steerage. For Hongkong: Mrs. F. H. Hayes, Captain Lee, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Heyne in cabin; 2 Europeans in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Mosthaf and child, Messrs. A. H. Ward, A. W. Schellfals, E. Grabert, T. Weston, Miss A. Geerts, Messrs. A. F. Fryer, N. Yamamoto, E. H. Shepherd and child, E. King, Wong Hai Wan, Wah Fan, and Man Chan in cabin; 1 European and 93 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—The Earl of Galloway, Lady Isabel Stewart, Miss Parry, Dr. Renton, Mr. and Mrs. Sparham, Miss Lee, Messrs. W. Cooper, Harris, Merill, Delaval, Cobham, Longfellow, Ambrose, Winckler, Denison, Von Kienshin, McIvor, Nagano, Miyaoka, and Captain Chiba in cabin; Messrs. Dubois, F. Tonda, S. Tonda, M. Tsuda, Uchiyama, Tama, and Igarashi in second class, and 62 passengers in steerage. For London: Mr. D. W. Crawford in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. A. Schomburg in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Hakodate:—Captain Hardy in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. F. M. Willis, C. A. Sherring, W. J. Courtauld, W. B. Thompson, Dernen, J. Walker, Miss Braithwaite, Captain Cameron, Miss Robinson, Messrs. Chew Yok Wa, J. Stoddart and servant, Rosenfeld, H. L. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Dexter, and Mr. H. M. Pugh in cabin; 4 Chinese in steerage.

Per British schooner *Esmeralda*, for Guam:—Captain Nicolle, Mr. J. Kammingo, and Mrs. Toka in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. J. W. Cains, Mr. and Mrs. Rikami and 2 children, Messrs. N. Onaka, Tallaksen, Toyama, H. Soma, H. J. East, Mr. and Mrs. Jensen, Mr. A. Jensen, and Mr. A. Linton in cabin; Mr. Brandelin in second class, and 65 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $30,000.00.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 47 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $244.88.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Kobe the 16th May at noon; had southerly winds with S.W. swell to Oshima; thence strong northerly winds to Omai-saki; thence fine weather to Rock Island, which was passed at 3.5 p.m. on the 17th; thence moderate N.E. winds with cloudy weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama at 10 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 16th May at 2 p.m.; had light to gentle winds with cloudy weather to Shiriya-saki, which was passed at 6 p.m.; wind hauling W. to N.W. increasing to strong wind with high southerly sea. Arrived at Oginohama the 17th at 1.50 p.m. and left the 18th at 4.30 a.m.; had light southerly winds and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 19th May at 6.35 a.m.

The British steamer *China*, Captain Seabury, reports:—Left San Francisco the 7th May; had fresh westerly winds the entire passage, three days blowing hard with heavy head seas, thick fogs on the coast. Time, 14 days, 3 hours, and 34 minutes.

The German steamer *General Werder*, Captain Blanke, reports:—Left Hongkong the 16th May at 2.12 p.m.; had through the Formosa Straits strong N.E. winds and rough sea, and passing showers of rain; thence to port good weather with variable light winds and light sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd May at 1.10 p.m. Off Breakers Point passed the wreck of a capsized junk.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 16th May at 4 a.m. Arrived at Nagasaki the 17th at 10 p.m.; had fresh to moderate breeze from N.N.W. across the China Sea. Left Nagasaki the 18th at 5 p.m. Arrived at Kobe the 20th at 7 a.m. and left the 21st at noon. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd May at 4.10 p.m.; experienced light variable winds with pleasant weather on the voyage from Nagasaki to destination.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There has been a very steady hand to mouth sort of demand for English Yarn of certain kinds, chiefly two-fold spinnings, and sales for the week amount to about 500 bales split up into driblets within 25 bales, which shows how little speculation is rife in the trade at present, dealers avowing they are not going to be caught again with another Silver Bill. This feeling seems to be shared by most of the dealers in other departments of

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trade, and autumn contracts have consequently been few and far between. Yarn prices show scarcely any change, but as regards Bombays the market is a blank, Bosékis or native spinnings having quite cut them out in the matter of prices. Sales are reported of 2,000 pieces 8¼lb. Shirtings, 1,000 pieces Itagimis, 500 pieces Turkey Reds, and 3,000 pieces Victoria Lawns.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—8¼lb. 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb. 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.40
T. Cloth—7lb. 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per piece. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 0.10	to	1.37½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.30	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.75	to	1.97½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	5.00	to	6.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32 inches	0.55	to	0.70
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.35	to	2.25

Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 42 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	5.50
Italian Cloth, 40 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	per picul. $24.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.25	to	28.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.25	to	30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	30.00	to	31.00
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30.50
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	30.50	to	31.50
Nos. 36/42, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	33.50	to	34.50
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to	37.00
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—	

METALS.

Market very quiet, and next to nothing doing in heavy goods. Small business in Wire Nails. Prices generally have a downward tendency.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80	to	2.95
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.80	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.05
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.50	to	4.65
Tin Plates, per box	5.60	to	5.80
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to	1.35

KEROSENE.

No business to report.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.60	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

Very little enquiry, all kinds firmly held.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$4.15	to	4.20
Brown Daitong	3.15	to	4.10
Brown Canton	5.00	to	6.00
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	4.90	to	7.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 15th instant, since when only a small business has been done in our market, total net settlements amounting to 120 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures* 90 piculs, *Oshu* 40 piculs, aggregating 130 piculs from which are to be deducted 10 piculs excess of rejections over settlements of *Re reels*. Direct shipments 39 piculs, which bring the week's total business up to 159 piculs.

Prices appear to be a shade easier, but against this must be set the falling off in quality, so that we really stand just about as high as before.

Arrivals have exceeded settlements to some slight extent, and stocks on the market are now estimated at 2,600 piculs against about 2,000 piculs last year and 1,550 piculs in 1889.

As regards the new crop the reports from all districts are good; as to quality, it is of course too early yet to speak, but the weather has been all that can be desired. Native sdkmen are unable as yet to give any reliable estimates as to quantity.

There have been three shipping opportunities during the week, the Canadian Pacific steamer *Parthia*, on the 15th instant, taking 56 bales, the Occidental and Oriental steamer *Oceanic*, on the 16th, which took 244 bales, and the English mail steamer *Ancona*, on the same day, carrying 42 bales. This brings the season's export figures to 32,735 piculs, against 35,303 piculs at same date last year, and 40,347 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—Nothing done.

Filatures.—Among the settlements is one parcel of about 25 piculs Shinshiu *Kaimeisha* of low grading at $600; the rest consisted of a great number of small lots ranging from $590 down to $560.

Re-reels.—This class has been distinguished by comparatively heavy rejections; altogether 66 piculs had been taken into godown, but 76 were returned during the week, leaving a minus quantity of 10 piculs. The following prices were reported for parcels sent in:—*Tengensha* $585, *Koshusha* $580, and *Wutarasse* $595.

Kakeda.—Not a single transaction to report for the week, but at the close we hear of some important transactions in this class.

Oshu and *Hamatsuki.*—One parcel of about 10 piculs *Hamatsuki* changed hands or $547½ and the remainder of the settlements consisted of several small lots *Sendai* at $515.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$525 to 535
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	515 to 520
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	500 to 510
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.		620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		590 to 610
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		600 to 605
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		580 to 590
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		550 to 560
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		590 to 600
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		570 to 580
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		540 to 550
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520 to 530
Kakedas—Extra		595
Kakedas—No. 1		575 to 585
Kakedas—No. 1½		565 to 570
Kakedas—No. 2		545 to 550
Kakedas—No. 2½		530
Kakedas—No. 3		520
Kakedas—No. 3½		510 to 520
Kakedas—No. 4		505 to 510
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	500 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 22nd May, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	14,309	14,750	20,823
America	17,789	20,099	19,143
Total	Bales 32,098	34,849	39,966
	Piculs 32,735	35,303	40,347
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 33,700	35,475	40,550
Stock, 22nd May	2,600	1,975	1,550
Available supplies to date	36,300	37,450	42,100

WASTE SILK.

This branch has been equally quiet, the total settlements of the week amounting to only 200 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi* 93 piculs, *Kibiso* 10 piculs, *Sundries* 97 piculs.

Buying is becoming daily more difficult; all the parcels offered have now been many times picked over and what remains is mostly of quality not fit for export. Small lots are still arriving from the interior and, if in the least of acceptable quality, are taken up at once at full prices. Stocks remain unaltered.

The P. & O. steamer *Ancona*, on the 16th instant, carried 357 piculs of sundry Waste to Europe, this bringing present export figures up to 30,655 piculs, against 28,858 piculs at same date last year, and 30,434 piculs in 1889.

Noshi ito.—Some 30 piculs *Joshu* were taken up at from $75 to $82½, and a lot of *Hachoji* at $93 to $142½. A rather large parcel of *Tama-ito* brought $210.

Kibiso.—Only 10 piculs settled, being *Filature* at $112.

Sundries.—These settlements consisted entirely of *Neri* at from $6½ to $9½.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		$135 to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100 to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—
Noshi-ito—Hushu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85 to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½ to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70 to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		55 to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50 to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good		45 to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½ to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15 to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180 to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 22nd May, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	29,368	26,668	27,956
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	30,655	28,858	30,434
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 31,300	28,900	31,000
Stock, 22nd May	3,200	5,000	2,800
Available supplies to date	34,500	33,900	33,800

Exchange closes as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3½; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3 3⅜; Documents, 3/3½; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78½; 4m/s. U.S. $79½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.12; 6m/s. fcs. 4.15.

Estimated Silk Stock, 22nd May, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	230	Cocoons	50
Filatures	880	Noshi-ito	980
Re-reels	980	Kibiso	1,960
Kakeda	320	Mawata	160
Oshu	180	Sundries	50
Tavsaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	2,600	Total piculs	3,200

TEA.

A large daily business has been done, and prices which had a tendency downward early in the week have again stiffened for all grades. The higher qualities have come in large supply, but mediums are beginning to arrive now.

	per picul.		
Extra Choicest	$36	to	45
Choicest	28	to	35
Choice	25	to	27
Finest	23	to	24
Fine	21	to	22
Good Medium	19	to	20
Medium	17	to	18
Good Common		—	
Common		—	

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has not fluctuated much, and closes with a downward tendency.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/1
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2½
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 2⅞
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.01
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.13
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78½
Silver	44⅛

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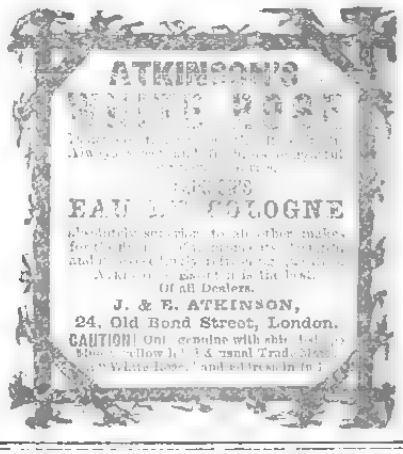

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1891.

BIRTH.

At 152, Bluff, on the 25th inst., the wife of JAMES WALTER of a Daughter.

DEATH.

At Yokohama, on the 25th inst. DAVID WELSH, aged 57.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

COUNTS SAIGO and YAMADA left the capital on the 25th instant for Otsu.

MR. OKI MORIKATA, the former Prefect of Shiga, arrived in Tokyo on the 22nd instant.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO left the capital on the 26th instant for Mishima, Shizuoka Prefecture.

A SLIGHT shock of earthquake was experienced in the capital on the 26th instant, at 12h. 19m. 55s. p.m.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL proceeded to the Palace on the afternoon of the 26th instant to pay his respects to the Emperor.

DURING last month 812,185 cases of matches, valued at *yen* 185.519, were exported from Japan to various foreign countries.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Takashima, recently appointed Minister of State for War, arrived in the capital on the 24th instant from Osaka.

TSUDA SANZO, who assaulted the Czarevitch in Otsu, was brought up for trial on the 27th instant, and sentenced to penal servitude for life.

AN extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 24th instant, at which there were present Counts Matsukata, Yamada, Saigo, and Goto, Viscounts Aoki and Kabayama, and Messrs. Mutsu and Yoshikawa. Count Oki, President of the Privy Council, was also present at the meeting.

THE Prince Imperial visited Enoshima and Kamakura on the 24th instant. He left the capital at 8 in the morning, and returned late the same afternoon.

VISCOUNT YOSHIDA KIYONARI, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, is ill of inflammation of the lungs.

A KOBE telegram reports that the *Fayeyama Kan*, *Musashi Kan*, and *Takao Kan* arrived at that port on the night of the 21st instant from Shimonoseki.

CAV. R. DE MARTINO, Italian Minister to Japan, who returned home last year on leave of absence, is expected to arrive in Japan about the 3rd of the next month.

ON the 22nd instant 410.000 *kin* (one *kin*=1⅓lb.) of tea, arrived at Yokohama from the interior, and 437,500 *kin* were sold to foreign firms at the port.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received to the effect that H.I.H. Prince Kwacho Hiroyasu, who proceeded abroad to continue his studies, arrived at Kiel on the 29th of March last.

AN outbreak of fire took place in a house at Kuroishicho, Tsugaru, Aomori Prefecture, the other day, and before the flames could be subdued 36 buildings were entirely destroyed.

A PRIVATE meeting, which was attended by Counts Saigo, Yamada, and Goto, and Viscount Aoki, was held on the forenoon of the 25th inst. at the official residence of Count Matsukata.

A TELEGRAM from Nagoya dated the 22nd inst. reports that Dr. Yokoi Nobuyuki, Chief Medical Officer of the Third Army Division (Nagoya), expired suddenly on the night of the 21st inst.

ON the 28th instant, the birthday of H.I.M. the Empress, an entertainment was given to members of the Imperial family and to higher officials of the Imperial Household Department.

FOR the convenience of Japanese students wishing to enter the Michigan University Mr. Fukuda Yusaku, a graduate of that institution, has been appointed local examiner in Tokyo of the University.

FIRE broke out on the night of the 23rd instant in a house at Hongo, Sanchome, Tokyo, and before the flames could be subdued 9 houses were entirely destroyed and 6 dwellings partly damaged.

MR. MUTSU, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, left the capital on the 23rd instant for Oiso to call on Count Yamagata, whence he was to proceed to Odawara to see Count Ito.

THE work of constructing the new buildings of the Honganji Temple, Tsukiji, Tokyo, named the *Renge den* or Lotus Palace, has been completed, and a ceremony in honour of the completion will take place on the 2nd and 3rd June.

ON the night of the 20th instant an outbreak of fire took place at Honjomachi, Yurigori, Akita Prefecture, and destroyed one district office, one police station, and over 700 dwellings. Four lives were lost before the flames could be got under control.

A RUMOUR is current that Lieutenant-General Baron Kurokawa, Commander of the Third Army Division (Nagoya), will be appointed Commander of the Fourth Army Division (Osaka), and Lieutenant-General Katsura, Vice-Minister for War, will take the position of Baron Kurokawa, the post of Lieutenant-General Katsura being given to Major-General Kodama.

DURING the twenty-two days ended the 22nd instant the receipts of the Osaka Railway Company were *yen* 34,852.424 (of which *yen* 29,831.560 was realized by the sale of tickets, *yen* 4,877.810 from freight, and *yen* 140.050 were miscellaneous receipts), showing a daily average of *yen* 20.945 per mile.

CAPTAIN FELKERSAM, of the Russian gunboat *Djigit*, which arrived at Yokohama on the 23rd instant, called on Mr. Utsumi, Governor of Kanagawa, at the official residence of the latter gentleman the same afternoon. Governor Utsumi visited the ship on the 25th instant at 9 a.m. The *Djigit* sailed on the afternoon of the same day for Vladivostock.

FROM the 11th instant, when the attack on H.I.H. the Czarevitch took place, to the 17th instant, the total number of telegraphic messages despatched from and received at the Kyoto Post and Telegraph Office, and its branches at Nijo and Shichijo was 7,679, of which 3,273 (3,246 domestic and 27 foreign messages) were despatched, and 4,406 (4,398 domestic and 8 foreign messages) arrived. As compared with previous weeks, the above figures show a large increase, which was of course caused by the Otsu affair.

THE condition of the Import trade has improved at last, and the present agricultural outlook ought to be good enough to inspire dealers with some spirit for trade and confidence in the future, the crops everywhere and of all descriptions promising a heavy return when harvested. Yarns have been sold to the extent of 1,250 bales, and, while prices are firm all round, 50 cents more per picul have been paid for certain spinnings. The business has been entirely in English, nothing whatever having been done in Bombays for the reason reported last week. A movement has been also made in Piece-goods, 10,000 pieces of Shirtings having been taken, as well as small lots of Victoria Lawns, Prints, Turkey Reds, Cotton Italians, Mousseline de Laine, and Velvets—the latter at an advance of 25 cents per piece. The Metal trade continues to drag on in a small way, with no change in values. Kerosene has been in some request, both American and Russian oil being taken at late rates. There has also been a fair demand for Formosa Sugar, though White sorts are almost entirely neglected. There is nothing worth reporting in the Silk trade, on account of the extremely poor assortment remaining. There was the usual cry about hailstorms and frost—propagated as it always seems to be by persons apparently interested in the circulation of such rumours—but no trustworthy information has been received from any quarter indicating that the *kaiko's* food supply has been injured to the smallest appreciable extent. On the contrary, the mulberry has never looked finer, and there is more than abundance, the new plantations put down in recent years being now in full and heavy bearing. The Tea trade is in full swing, and all grades have now been dealt with, Medium, Good Common, and Common coming in heavy parcels, for which full rates are paid, though prices have settled down to the usual figures for this period of the season. The quality, so far, has been good, though the latest arrivals are said to be not quite equal to anticipation, having regard to the first of the crop. Exchange has been fairly steady and closes firm.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE "SOSHI."

THE *Soshi* have been busying themselves again, the object of their barbarous attention on this occasion being Mr. Seki Naohiko, editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, a member of the House of Representatives, and one of the most enlightened and moderate men of his time. It appears that, two or three *Soshi* having paid visits to the office of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and failed to obtain access to any responsible member of the staff, one of them presented himself at Mr. Seki's private residence at 6 a.m. of the 24th, giving his name as Igarashi Hachiro, and professing to have been sent on business by Mr. Oyagi Biichiro, the well-known barrister. The man's appearance did not inspire confidence. A student, Iida Kenjiro, who resides in Mr. Seki's house, came out and said that Mr. Seki was absent. The visitor, muttering something, took himself away, but returned immediately afterwards, accompanied by another man who gave his name as Abe Gorokuro. The two, declaring that Mr. Seki could not be absent, and that they were resolved to see him, began to force their way into the house, despite the struggles of Iida, who resisted the intrusion with might and main. Happily two friends of Mr. Seki's, Messrs. Itabe and Akiuji, chanced to be in the house. Hearing the disturbance, these two, accompanied by a *jinrikisha* coolie, Harukichi, ran out and grappled with the *soshi*. A violent struggle ensued, but finally one of the *soshi* was thrown down and secured, while the other fled, pursued by Mr. Itabe and the *jinrikisha* man. As the fugitive sped along the street a policeman was seen approaching from the opposite direction, whereupon the *soshi* endeavoured to escape through the grounds of a neighbouring *yashiki*, but was overtaken and seized. It is stated that all the persons engaged in the struggle with the *soshi* were more or less severely injured, from which we infer that the latter carried clubs or some other weapon. How long is Japan to be disgraced by occurrences of this nature? Probably until public opinion declares itself unequivocally opposed to the doings and methods of *soshi* under any circumstances whatever. It is impossible to avoid the conviction that the vernacular press is greatly to blame in this matter. Were the leading journals courageously outspoken and unanimous in denouncing the conduct of these wretched youths who belong to an age with which the Japan of to-day has nothing in common—an age of reliance on the resources of savages and animals—there can be no manner of doubt that they would gradually disappear amid the disgrace and contempt alone appropriate to them. The light-hearted indifference shown towards them, to whatever motive it be ascribable, is thoroughly discreditable to Japan.

THE CASE AGAINST THE "NIPPON."

IN September of last year, the *Nippon*, in common with several other journals, published a copy of a memorial addressed by a league of politicians from twenty-two of the eastern provinces of Japan to Count Yamagata, Minister President of State. Proceedings were instituted against the journals by which this action had been taken, and heavy sentences were pronounced—a year's minor confinement with fines. The *Nippon*, which had been arraigned before the Tokyo Court of First Instance, appealed against the decision, and the Tokyo Appeal Court gave judgment in favour of the appellant. But the Public Prosecutor carried the case to the Supreme Court, and the latter ordered a rehearing by the Nagoya Court of Appeal, where, after arguments of some length, a decision was pronounced on the 22nd instant. The article of the Press Regulations under which the prosecution was commenced, says:—"If a journal publish matter intended to overthrow, or change the form of, the Government, or to foment disloyalty towards the Imperial House, the editor, publisher and printer shall be liable to imprisonment for from two months to two years, together with a fine of from 50 to 300 *yen*." The prosecution had, therefore, to show that the memorial was of a seditious character, and with this object the Public Prosecutor dwelt much on certain passages wherein a change of the Constitution was urged upon the Minister President. Strange to say, the vernacular press, in reporting the case, omits this part of the Prosecutor's argument, though it is obviously the most interesting and important of the whole. Counsel for the defence, on the other hand, argued that since a thousand memorials of the character of the one in question could not bring about a change of the Constitution, such a step being plainly *ultra vires* of the Cabinet, it was not conceivable that the publication of the document had been inspired by treasonable motives. In fact, the memorial being obviously incapable of accomplishing anything, no editor could have seriously conceived the idea of employing such a weak and childish instrument for treasonable purposes. It was further argued that the compilers of the document were equally guiltless of seditious design, since they had merely submitted their views as to the functions of the Crown and the Ministers of State. The Judges, however, declined to admit the force of this reasoning. They held that the *Nippon* had violated the law, and they confirmed the judgment of the Tokyo Court of First Instance. The *Nippon* has appealed to the Supreme Court against this decision.

ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.

THE eclipse of the moon calculated to become visible in Japan during the first hour of the morning of the 24th instant, was seen excellently from Tokyo and Yokohama. Climatic conditions were not altogether favourable. Smoke-like clouds floating up rapidly from the southward more or less obscured the face of the moon, and, owing to their varying density, produced from time to time the impression that the rotundity of the disk was impaired at places distinct from the point where contact with the shadow ought to commence. These deceptive appearances were specially visible at 12.40 a.m., the time when the eclipse should have begun, but in ten or fifteen minutes the misty rack rolled away, and the moon shone out in perfectly normal condition, so that observers began to doubt whether some mistake in calculation had not been made. But the first phases of a lunar eclipse are never of a striking character. The phenomenon commences by contact with the *penumbra*, which incident cannot be seen, and even when the edge of the moon becomes involved in the *umbra*, or true shadow, the portion thus involved is invisible without the aid of a telescope. It was not until nearly half past one on the morning of the 20th instant that the immersion became deep enough to cause a distinct defalcation of light. The lower edge of the moon's disk on the east was then seen to be tinged with grey, as though a thin cap of dark gauze had been drawn over it. The effect of this touch of shadow was very beautiful, for by throwing the still radiant portion of the orb into strong relief, it imparted an appearance of unwonted sphericity to the moon. By slow degrees the eclipse advanced, the *umbra* showing the usual gradation of beautiful colours due to refracted light, until at one time the face of the orb seemed overspread by a fiery copper-coloured glow, through which the irregularities on its surface showed very distinctly. At about 4 o'clock in the morning these varied effects began to disappear. The moon was then low on the horizon, and the final phases of the eclipse were not visible in Tokyo or Yokohama.

FROM KYOTO TO TOKYO.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"Of the Emperor's farewell visit to the Russian Prince Imperial on board H.I.R.M.'s ship *Pamiat Azova*, at Kobe, on the 19th instant, I need not speak, accounts having already been published in your columns. It will suffice to say that the last meeting between the Emperor and the Prince Imperial was most cordial and friendly. Some persons are disposed to draw sinister inference from the fact that not a single Minister of State—not even the Minister for Foreign Affairs—was invited to the farewell dinner on the Russian man-of-war, His Majesty and his immediate attendants being the only guests. But I am in a position to assure these persons that no unpleasant meaning attaches to the exclusive character of the entertainment. The luncheon, as distinctly stated in the telegram of the Crown Prince, was intended to be unceremonious and private. The Imperial personages parted with expressions of the warmest mutual regard. On the 20th, the Emperor paid a visit to the mausoleum of His Majesty's father at Higashiyama, having the Palace at 10 a.m. and returning to it at noon. On the evening of the same day, a very sad incident occurred in Kyoto. A young woman of respectable appearance and comely features, cut her throat in front of the Local Government buildings. She had with her three documents, in which she declared herself to be from the Prefecture of Chiba, and explained that she had come in the hope of apologizing to the Russian Crown Prince for the injury received by him at the hands of a Japanese, but that, having been unable to obtain audience of His Highness she had made up her mind to commit suicide so as to establish the sincerity of her motives. Her wounds are said to be happily not mortal, though very severe. On the 21st, the whole city of Kyoto thronged to bid farewell to the departing Emperor. His Majesty left the Palace at 9 a.m. and the Shichigo station at 9.30 by special train, amid the flashing and cracking of fire-works, sent up in profusion by the inhabitants of Kyoto in honour of their Sovereign. The train travelled rapidly, stopping for a few minutes at the larger places, as Otsu, Nagoya, Hamamatsu, etc., but simply slackening speed at other stations. Everywhere His Majesty was greeted with the profoundest loyalty by his faithful subject of all classes, but by none so enthusiastically as by school-boys and school-girls. Reaching Shizuoka at 5.50 p.m., His Majesty and suite at once proceeded to the Taito-kwan (a hotel), where they put up for the night. The inhabitants of the place had intended to give a magnificent welcome to the Emperor and preparations had been partly made to that end; but it was ultimately decided to abandon the idea in view of the regretable incident that occasioned His Majesty's journey. None the less the Imperial party were received in the heartiest and most enthusiastic manner. The next morning (22nd) at 8 a.m., the Emperor left Shizuoka and reached Shimbashi at 12.50 p.m. At the latter place His Majesty was met by the Empress and the Crown Prince, and by a large crowd of courtiers and officers of State. In the Emperor's train from Kyoto returned Counts Saigo, Kuroda, Ito and Soejima and several other distinguished persons. Viscount Aoki is still staying at Kyoto."

* * *

In the capital, also, the Emperor's reception was enthusiastic. Nothing in the shape of public rejoicings had been organized, the general sense of the people being that in view of the cause of the Emperor's visit to Kyoto, the occasion did not lend itself with propriety to any fete or holiday celebration. But the Government offices and principal places of business were closed for the day, and immense crowds lined the streets along which the Imperial party passed from the station to the Palace, while every house of every degree hung out the rising-sun flag. There is no doubt that the Emperor's prompt action on this occasion, his complete indifference to his own comfort and the long wearisome round of painful duties which he performed in Kyoto, have increased the affection and reverence felt towards him by his people.

CONCERT AT THE CENTRAL TABERNACLE, HONGO.

ANOTHER of the series of literary and musical entertainments organized by the indefatigable gentleman who founded the Hongo Tabernacle, came off on Saturday last, being the second concert of the season. It had not so elaborate a programme as the first, there being no orchestra; but hired native talent was used to a

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considerable extent. Mr. Gauntlett presided at the organ, and opened the entertainment with a solo, "The Lost Chord." This was followed by a duet on the *Samisen* and *Shakuhachi*, by the two performers whose appearance at the first concert gave such unqualified satisfaction. On this occasion also they were listened to with enthusiasm. The lady vocalist who has on several occasions assisted with her full and finished voice, followed with a sacred piece. A new feature, or rather an old feature revived, was the solo on the "musical glasses," or Armonica, by Mr. Gauntlett. This was a very fashionable instrument in the gay world about a century and a quarter ago; indeed it was all the rage in the winter of 1761-2. In the *St. James's Chronicle* for Dec. 3, 1761, we read:—"At Mr. Sheridan's lecture on elocution (the father of the great Sheridan), Miss Lloyd succeeds Miss Ford in performing on the musical-glasses for the amusement of genteel company." The instrument was scarcely powerful enough, in the lower notes, to fill the large hall, but the notes of the higher octaves were well heard. Thanks are due to Mr. Gauntlett for the idea of reviving this quaint instrument, and thus giving the audience a special treat. Mr. Crane contributed an excellent violin solo, with organ accompaniment. The longest item in the programme was the song, with *Biwa* accompaniment by Mr. Miyohara, a martial ballad recounting the exploits of Ujiwa Senjin. In playing this instrument the musicians of Satsuma attained a high excellence; one Arion used to play by a lake side, and gather all the snipe about him. The long succession of verses, though well received by the bulk of the audience, grew a little monotonous to the foreigners present. In the interval between the two parts Dr. Eby delivered a short address explanatory of his methods in organizing these social entertainments. The second part of the programme was on the same lines as the first part. Mr. Araki and Miss Ishimura were, however, assisted by performers on the *koto* and *kokyu*, and Mr. Gauntlett was assisted at the Armonica by Master Eby. Many thanks are due to the lady who gave the two fine vocal solos, to Mr. Crane, and to the other voluntary helpers. The large hall was well filled, but, though the evening was a warm one, the excellent ventilation rendered the atmosphere quite agreeable. A programme is appended:—

PART I.

Organ Solo. "The Lost Chord," By Sullivan.
Mr. Ed. Gauntlett.
Duett, Shakuhachi, Samisen. "Nana Komachi."
Mr. Araki and Miss Ishimura.
Song. "Where is Heaven now?" Miss Lund.
Solo Armonica. "Last Rose of Summer." Mr. Ed. Gauntlett.
Violin Solo. Mr. Crane.
Satsuma-biwa Solo. "Ujigawa Senjin." Mr. Miyaharu.
Address. Dr. C. S. Eby.

PART II.

Song. "Not ash-med of Christ." Miss Lund.
Violin Solo. Mr. Crane.
Koto, Shakuhachi, Kokyu, Samisen. "Azumajishi."
Messrs. Kushida, and Araki, Misses Machida, and Ishimura.
Duett. Armonica. "Silver Chimes."
Messrs. Ed. Gauntlett and C. A. Eby.
Satsuma-biwa, Solo. "Ichinotani." Mr. Miyaharu.
Organ Solo. Prelude, Trio and Fugue, by Haydn.
Mr. Ed. Gauntlett.

THE WUHU RIOT.

THE following is an account by a French missionary of the commencement of the riot at Wuhu:—

On the evening of Sunday 10th May, two Christian ladies employed by the Mission, had gone out of their establishment and were crossing one of the streets of the quarter south of the canal, not far from the Taotai's yamên, when they were suddenly set upon, brutally arrested and dragged to the office of the local police officer. They were accused of having bewitched two children by the use of a drug; and in proof of the charge, two children, five and seven years old, were brought forward, who it was said had been their victims.

The police officer was glad of an occasion of showing his zeal in favour of the accusers, and in the night he had the two ladies transferred to the tribunal of the Chehsien.

The English Consul, Mr. Ford, applied to by the missionaries, requested the Taotai to interfere, but he contented himself with saying that it was a serious affair, which he must let take its course.

The mob, in spite of the great distance, had followed the prisoners to the Chehsien's office and was waiting for that magistrate's verdict. The Chehsien about midnight had both parties brought to his tribunal. After a summary examination in which the two ladies gave the most formal denial to the charge of having drugged the children, the Chehsien gave a provisory verdict, viz. that "the prisoners would be set at liberty as soon as the use of speech was restored to the children," for it would seem that the magical power of those poor girls had the effect of making the two witnesses dumb. In the course of Monday, the children had no patience to obey any longer the orders they had received; they spoke and thus relieved the Chehsien from his engagement. About 2 p.m. he came himself to congratulate the Catholic missionaries and announce the release of the ladies, who in fact returned home about 4 p.m.

It was perfectly clear that it had been a scheme prepared beforehand. As early as the evening of Sunday, the Customs authorities were informed that sinister rumours were spread in the Taotai's quarter and that there was a plot to make a rush against the European quarter. They therefore sent word to the missionaries of the danger, and invited them, on the first sign to repair to the offices of the Customs, from thence to be taken on board a steamer which was then loading rice in the river.

In spite, however, of these well-founded rumours, the whole of Monday and the morning of Tuesday passed without any outbreak. Nothing foreboded the storm at hand and the calumnies circulated in the tea-houses and other public establishments were no signs of the riot that was preparing underhand.

On Tuesday then, at 1 p.m. an unknown woman presented herself at the mission, followed by some twenty ill-looking fellows. Screaming out violently, she claimed her child whom the Missionaries had stolen, as they had done in the case of two others whose corpses were within the walls of the Catholic establishment.

This was the signal for a new attack. This the missionaries understood at once, and they went to beg Mr. Ford to appeal to the conscience of Chang Taotai; after which they came home to sent in order some urgent affairs.

In the mean time the mob was increasing in numbers and they began to surround the walls. About 3 p.m. on the request of the missionaries, a military officer had come to the rescue, and had taken hold of one of the assailants who was just trying to break open a door with a stone. At the same time the Chehsien, also applied to by the missionaries, made his way with great difficulty through the mob, and stood before the main entrance, where he harangued the people, who were already uttering hostile cries These magistrates both declared they would be trampled to death rather than abandon their post. In fact they remained to the last.

The wild clamour, however was, fast increasing, approaching nearer and nearer. About 4 p.m. the Chehsien informed the missionaries that he felt unable to restrain the mob; the English Consul ought to appeal again to the Taotai.

Mr. Ford, on being applied to, answered that the Taotai knew everything. But no one came, and such is the part taken by the first Chinese magistrate in defence of the Catholic Mission.

At 5 p.m. there began to fall stones and brickbats within the walls. The Chehsien sent to the missionaries, beseeching them to take refuge in the English Consulate, only separated from them by a narrow street. But they refused, unwilling as they were uselessly to compromise a family as innocent as themselves.

At last at 5.50 p.m. one of the side doors of the façade gave way. The three European missionaries who were still in the establishment thought it was time to slip out by a back door. On their way they were insulted in the coarsest language, the qualification of *Kwaitse* (children thieves), being predominant

On board the hulk of the Tai-Ku Co. they were most graciously received by Mr. Weatherstone, but unwilling further to compromise a company which had already had so much to suffer from Chinese brigands, they went into a small boat which took them to Chinkiang.

Before leaving the hulk, the missionaries witnessed the burning of all the buildings of their establishment. Two telegrams for Shanghai entrusted on the same evening to Mr. Weatherstone together with another handed to the agent on the following morning, were refused, on the plea that the Taotai had forbidden sending any despatch from the Catholic missionaries.

On their arrival at Chinkiang on Thursday, the missionaries heard that the fire of Tuesday had been followed by a pillage as complete as shameful, without any interference from the Chinese authorities.

The doctor of the Protestant Mission who came down with Fathers Havret and Debrix, assured them that the tombs of two missionaries had been broken open.

DISTURBANCE IN NAGANO.

A DISTURBANCE of rather serious dimensions is reported from Matsumoto, in the province of Shinshu. It appears that the people of the district have for some years complained of their distance from the seat of the Nagano Prefectural Government, and have advocated the erection of the place into a separate Prefecture. Agitators, taking advantage of this discontent, preached recourse to force, and finally succeeded in inducing a number of people to make a raid upon the police station and district office. This happened on the 23rd instant, and the following day a large crowd, estimated at over ten thousand, assembled at Shiroyama and assumed a threatening attitude. The arrangements of the police were, however, so thorough that the mob dispersed peacefully. The same night another attack was made on the police station, with the result that thirty-six of the ringleaders were arrested. The disturbance seems to have been commenced by persons described as *soshi*, who at the conclusion of a meeting held to discuss the question of a separate Prefecture, set upon the police and injured several of them. This was followed by the attack on the police station and the district office, when several of the assailants suffered severely. The authorities were doubtless prepared for trouble at Shiroyama the following day. The ordinary force of constables, fifty in number, had been increased by a hundred and twenty from Matsumoto, and the aspect of so strong a body over-awed the crowd, though it included some men carrying pistols. Seven constables were wounded during the attack on the police station on the 24th instant. A man named Kawamata Naoyuki, is said to be the principal ringleader. He and five others were arrested on the 25th. Mr. Kuroda, a councillor of the Home Department, with another official, was despatched to Matsumoto on the 24th. A telegram received yesterday announces that order has been completely restored.

THE SHANGHAI CONSULAR AMALGAMATION.

LORD SALISBURY has it seems been written to by the China Association through its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Dent, as to the amalgamation of the two offices of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Consul-General for Great Britain at Shanghai. The ground upon which the Association acted was the following telegram from Shanghai:—

Shanghai,

Proposed amalgamation of offices of Chief Justice and Consul-General strongly objected to. Large influential public meeting British residents held to-day, protesting. Signed protest follows. Request Foreign Office stay action. Ask support China Association and leading Chambers of Commerce—By order of meeting, John Macgregor, Chairman.

The reply to this (dated March 27th) was:—

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst., enclosing a copy of a telegram from the chairman of a meeting of British residents at Shanghai, and expressing the concurrence of the China Association in the opinion expressed therein, respecting the proposing amalgamation of the offices of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for China and Japan and of Consul-General at that port.

In reply I am to state to you that the change in the establishment at Shanghai was not decided upon by Lord Salisbury until the various questions connected with it had been most carefully considered,

Lord Salisbury thinks that the new arrangement, which was adopted after discussion of several alternate schemes, and was framed with the assistance of very competent advisers, must in any case be given a fair trial.

Should any real inconvenience be caused to the public service by the amalgamation of the two offices, the question can be reconsidered hereafter.

THE EDITORSHIP OF THE "JAPAN GAZETTE."

So many inquiries have been addressed to us with reference to the circumstances of the editorial complication in the office of the *Japan Gazette*, and such misleading rumours are in circulation, that we think it well to lay the facts before our readers. In view of the possibility of legal proceedings we are constrained from making any comment, but we may premise that the accuracy of what we are about to state has been carefully ascertained. Since some time in January, the 15th we think, the duties of sub-editing the *Gazette* have been carried on by a lady, Mrs. W. H. Smith. A change in this branch being contemplated, the editor applied to the Directors for permission to engage another person. The Directors answered that, according to their intention, a sub-editor should not be included in the staff of the journal after the 15th of June, but that they had no objection to the editor's procuring such assistance as would enable him to carry out his agreement with the Printing and Publishing Company. They added a desire that at least one column of the

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Gazette should be placed at the disposal of Mrs. Smith every day during the remainder of her period of service. This was on the 13th inst. The following day the editor wrote in reply, noting the instructions as to the proposed change of sub-editorship. With regard, however, to the Directors' desire that a fixed amount of space be placed every day at the disposal of the then sub-editress, he pointed out that such a course would interfere with his duties and powers as editor, since, in that capacity, he had to supervise and select the matter for daily publication. He added that in the particular case referred to, the necessity of editing was specially necessary, and that he could not be certain of having time for such supervision on any and every day. At the same time he stated that the services of the sub-editress had been and should be utilized as much as possible. The Directors then took the step which has caused so much surprise. On the day following the receipt of the editor's letter, they wrote to inform him that he was "dismissed from the service of the Company for disobedience to the legitimate orders of the Board of Directors." This letter, addressed to the Editor on the day of his marriage, reached him on his return, three days later, from his honeymoon. He then replied that he had not for a moment interpreted the expression of desire as to the daily column of matter in the sense of an order; that since he now understood it in that sense, he cheerfully complied; that it had seemed his plain duty, in the interests of the Company and of the paper, to point out the difficulty and possible disadvantage of laying down any hard and fast rule of the nature proposed; that he was, and had always been, ready to obey any instructions given by the Board of Directors, and finally that, not interpreting the letter of the Directors as a final dismissal, he should attend at the *Gazette* office and continue to discharge the functions of editor as heretofore. To this the Directors replied, the following day, that they had determined to abide by their previous sentence of dismissal, and at the same time they forwarded to the Editor a cheque for half a month's salary, up to May 15th, the day of dismissal. It only remains to add that the Editor had been engaged by the Directors for a period of four years, commencing January 1st, 1891.

THE LATE MR. SOON.

QUITE a romance has been manufactured by some Tokyo journals out of the death of Mr. Soon Tien, of the Chinese Legation in Tokyo, who committed suicide by jumping overboard from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Kobe Maru*. It is confidently asserted that Mr. Soon had recommended, for the post of Japanese Instructor at the Legation, Mr. Numata, the rival of Mr. Tei, and that the strange events connnected with the latter's candidature brought on the condition of mind which ended so tragically in the leap from the *Kobe Maru*. All this is pure myth. Mr. Soon was attacked by melancholia two months before the Tei affair occurred. He had no knowledge of it nor any connection with it whatever. Ordered by the doctors to return to China, as the best chance of recovering his mental balance, he took advantage of the first night at sea to make away with himself. His suicide seems to have been of a most determined character, for although a corpulent man, he managed to squeeze through the port of his cabin, injuring himself not a little by the process, as was proved by marks of blood on the sash. His wife and child have returned to Japan, by direction of H.E. Lord Li, who, we believe, is charitably exerting himself to provide them with means of sustenance.

SAILING RACE.

THE sailing race on Monday round the Nakane Course proved a wet job for those who took part in it. Mr. Beart got all the boats away at eleven o'clock before a strong southerly gale, all having two reefs in except *Molly Bawn*. *Traveler* did very well till outside the Lightship, when the sea was found to be too much, and she had to bear up about noon and come home. Very dirty weather was experienced by the others on the beat down from the Lightship to the Nakane Buoy. *Molly* carried away her jib out-haul, and, having trouble with her stay-sail, jibed off Tomioka and in doing so snapped her boom and carried away a part of her rigging, coming home under stay-sail alone. *Tortoise* also found the weather too severe, and after laying for a time on her beam-ends off Tomioka put about and came home. *Daimyo*, *Lady Louise* and *Princess Maud* went round, however, despite the difficulties of the course. The big cutter had too much of a lead to be touched by *Lady Louise*, and *Princess Maud* was too far astern to avail herself of her time allowance. Following were the times :—

Rating.	East end Breakwater.	Lightship (out).	Lightship (in).	Breakwater (in).	Finish.
	h. m. s.	h. m. s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.
Traveler 31½	11.08.50	11 24.05	gave up	—	—
Daimyo 31	11.08 07	11.23.45	3.03.25	3.27.00	3.36.45
Tortoise 25½	11.08.45	11.23.35	gave up	—	—
Lady Louise 25	11.08.35	11.24.05	3.28.30	3.42.40	3.59.55
Molly Bawn ...24½	11.08.45	11.27.00	gave up	—	—
Princess Maud...24	11.07.50	11.24.45	3.32.10	3.46.30	4.06.05

	Allowance. m.	Corrected Time. h.m.s.
Daimyo	—	3.36 45
Lady Louise	13	3.46.55
Princess Maud	10	3.50.05

JAPANESE CURIOS IN PARIS.

M. BURTY, the well known Paris dilletante, has disposed of his Japanese collection by auction. The *St. James's Budget* of the 2nd April writing about the event, says:—"The art event of the week has been the sum realized at the Burty sale of Japanese curios in Paris. Never have such prices been heard of—£500 for a little cabinet, £65 for a sword-guard, £50 for a tiny medicine-case, and a total approaching half a million francs for what cannot have cost the owner one-fifth of that sum. This has set every one speculating as to the cause. Japanese collectors, although much more numerous in Paris than in London, are still a comparatively select body; and few, if any, of them have taken a place amongst the purchasers at this sale, for the reason that the most distinguished—as, for instance, M. Gillot and M. Gonse—have already finer pieces in their collections. But M. Burty was a man of refined if of feminine taste, and timid collectors have felt they could not go far wrong if they acquired what he had set his cachet to. Besides, the sale was admirably advertised and catalogued (the catalogue being quite a monumental work), and this brought buyers from America, England, and other parts; and, further, buyers have begun to recognize that the supply of fine things from Japan is getting smaller every day. This last factor it was which turned M. Burty's francs into pounds, and which will continue to do so in the case of all the better class of Japanese wares."

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB DINNER.

AFTER the regatta on Saturday some forty members of the Yokohama Rowing Club sat down to a capital dinner purveyed by the Club Hotel, (Ld). Dinner was laid in the Boat Club, the tables and room being tastefully decorated for the occasion. Mr. Litchfield presided and proposed the chief toasts. Songs were sung and recitations given, the evening altogether being a most enjoyable one. Following is the *menu* of the dinner :—

Y.A.R. CLUB.
SPRING REGATTA, MAY 23, 1891.
MENU.
Printanier aux Quenelles.
POISSON.
Salmon Mayonaise.
ENTRÉES.
Pigeon and Green Peas. Galantine Capon Truffé.
Punch a la Romaine. Filet de Bœuf à la Richelieu.
ROAST.
Haunch of Mutton.
VEGETABLES.
Asparagus. Artichokes.
ENTREMETS.
Cream Puffs. Fruit Tarts. Assorted Pastry.
Curaçoa Jelly. Strawberry Ice. Dessert and Coffee.

THE CZAREVITCH.

THE Czarevitch reached Wladivostock safely on the 23rd instant, and at 2.25 p.m. telegraphed to the Emperor of Japan announcing that his voyage had been without accident and that his health was excellent, thanking both the Emperor and Empress again, and in warm terms, for the courteous hospitality shown to him in Japan, and declaring that it should always remain with him as a pleasant memory. The Emperor telegraphed an equally cordial reply, congratulating the Prince on his safe arrival in Russian dominions, expressing the greatest satisfaction at the news of his good health, and praying that the rest of his journey might be prosperous and secure. Whatever effect the Otsu incident may exercise on the mutual feelings of the Japanese and Russian nations, it has certainly brought the Governments of the two Empires into much closer and more cordial relations than was the case previously.

FRESH RIOTING IN CHINA.

THE *N.-C. Daily News* of the 18th inst. published a telegram from Wuhu dated 11.30. a.m. the previous day. It reads as follows:—Threatened outbreak at Nganking. *Inconstant* has left for there; *Linnet* expected.

* * *

The *N.-C. Daily News* of the 19th inst. published the following :—

Yesterday morning Mr. von Loehr, the Acting Consul-General for Germany, telegraphed to the Viceroy at Nanking, claiming his protection for the German missionary at Ngankin, and received last evening the following reply :—

"To the German Consul-General—

"I have received and read your telegraphic message. At present in the city of Ngankin there are the various officers in charge. There are also soldiers to keep the people under restraint. I shall certainly not allow ignorant persons to raise disturbances. I, the Governor-General, have already sent orders by telegraph to the prefect Shên in charge to carefully keep watch and thoroughly and securely protect (those who may be attacked).

"I of the surname Liu send this telegram."

On receipt of the news of the threatened trouble at Ngankin, Mr. von Loehr, the German Acting Consul-General, at once telegraphed to request the gunboat *Iltis* to proceed to the scene for the protection of a German missionary there.

LAND IN KOREA.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* asserts, on what authority we do not know, that the Government of Korea has given permission to foreigners to own real estate in the capital, and that, as land there costs only from 2 *sen* to 20 *sen* per *tsubo* (36 square feet), large quantities have been purchased by Russians and Frenchmen. We await some confirmation of this intelligence. The British Treaty with Korea secures to British subjects the privilege of renting or purchasing land or houses at Inchhŏn, Wŏnsan, Fusan, and Yanghwa-chin, but it is expressly stipulated that the opening of warehouses in the capital (Sŏul) must be considered a provisional arrangement. It will be surprising if the Korean Government has so far passed the limits indicated by this Treaty as to give to foreigners the privilege of owning real estate in Sŏul.

THE STEAMSHIP "ALBANY."—NAVAL COURT.

A NAVAL COURT was held to-day, says the *Kobe Herald* of Thursday, at H.B. Majesty's Consulate to enquire into the circumstances attendant upon the loss of the steamship *Albany*. The Court was composed as follows :—President, J. J. Enslie, Esq., H.B.M. Consul, Assessors, R. Nelson, master, steamer *Myrmidon*, G. Roy, master, steamer *Pathan*. The Court found that the steamship *Albany* was lost off Matsushima on the night of the 15th instant. That no blame attaches to the master, officers, and crew of the ship. That the pilot mistook the northern end of the Island for the southern, owing to the state of the atmosphere which, in the opinion of the Court, must have been denser than was at the time imagined.

MRS. BROWN POTTER AND MR. KYRLE BELLEW.

FROM a paragraph in the *Singapore Free Press* we gather that Yokohama theatre-goers may look forward to a visit from Mrs. Brown Potter and Mr. Kyrle Bellew. These distinguished actors, says our contemporary, "after a successful tour in Australia, have visited India, where their reception has been unique. Mr. Bellew is too well-known as an actor to need any extended notice, while to artistic merit Mrs. Brown Potter adds great personal charms, and has fully

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sustained her reputation as a 'realistic' actress. It is their intention to visit Hongkong, Shanghai, Yokohama, and Tokyo, and then return to Singapore, where they will appear for a short season, early next month.

YUKO.

THE report originally circulated that Hatakeyama Yuko, the unfortunate girl who went to Kyoto to apologise to the Czarevitch, did not succeed in killing herself, must be corrected. Her suicide was most effectual. It appears that she employed a *jinrikisha* coolie to carry to the gate-house of the Prefectural buildings three letters, two of which were addressed to the Government—*Seifu o-danna sama* was the form of inscription chosen by the poor girl—and the third to "the Russian Minister of State." While these letters were being examined, news came that a woman had committed suicide outside the gate of the Prefectural compound, and on investigation it was found that Yuko had inflicted fatal wounds on her throat and bosom with a razor. She had in her possession a copy of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, five *yen* and letters of farewell to her mother and younger brother. One of her letters to the officials of the Government was very plaintive. "Here," she wrote, "I lose the life that belongs to my Sovereign, and it pains me greatly to think that my act may be displeasing to His Majesty. My relatives will all be shocked. I earnestly pray that the petition presented by my uncle Yenomoto Rokubei, some years ago, may be granted. I also entreat that a message may be sent to my mother, my aunt, and my younger brother so that they may not suffer grief on my account." The uncle alluded to in this letter is said to have been one of the factors of the Tokugawa House. He possessed considerable wealth, and was able to lend forty or fifty thousand *riyo* to the Government for military purposes. A few years ago he presented a memorial on some subject, but failed to obtain a favourable reply. Yuko's letters indicate no symptoms of insanity. In this respect they do not resemble the letter of another girl who, on the day before Yuko's suicide, addressed a document to the Governor of Kyoto, saying that she must be permitted to proceed to Russia in company with the Czarevitch, and explaining that she wished to present a very beautiful Kyoto puppet to His Imperial Highness, and to go with it to Russia in the capacity of caretaker. Her application remains still unanswered.

TRIAL OF TSUDA SANZO.

THE trial of Tsuda Sanzo commences on Wednesday at noon. The three Tokyo barristers, Messrs. Mori Hajime, Aikawa Masamichi, and Shibuya Soji, who went to Otsu for the purpose of conducting Tsuda's defence, have had their services declined by the prisoner. The reason of this action is not quite clear. It would appear that the Tokyo barristers were employed by Tsuda's brother without consulting the prisoner himself, and, according to one story, the latter, when visited by the barristers in prison, declared that he had made up his mind to die, and that legal assistance was quite unnecessary. But inasmuch as two barristers of Otsu, Messrs. Tanizawa Reyuzo and Nakayama Kuanzo, were already engaged for the defence, it is not easy to credit this rumour, unless, indeed, the Otsu experts have been assigned by the Authorities as counsel for the prisoner. Another story is that the Court declined to allow the Tokyo barristers to appear, but nothing of that kind is credible. At all events Mr. Mori and his colleagues have left Otsu, and Tsuda will be defended by local experts only. It does not seem to us at all probable that a plea of insanity will be entered with the prisoner's consent.

* * *

Naturally now that public attention is so closely directed to Tsuda, all kinds of tales are circulated about him. We read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that he was originally a page in the noble house of Todo, and that during his service there, a concubine of his master's was guilty of infidelity. The *Daimyo*, much enraged, summond Tsuda and bade him punish the unfaithful girl, whereupon the page armed himself with a sword, and proceeding to the womens' apartments, deliberately took the concubines' life. This tale makes Tsuda a former retainer of the Tsu clan. The ideograph *tsu* is thus brought into singular relationship with the deed of the 11th instant. *Tsuda* Sanzo, of the *Tsu* clan, makes an attempt upon the life of the Czarevitch before the dwelling of *Tsuda* Iwajiro in the town of *Otsu*. What a basis for the building of a superstitious edifice!

* * *

The trial of Tsuda Sanzo for an attempt upon the life of the Prince Imperial of Russia was commenced in the District Court at Otsu on the 27th instant, and judgment was pronounced the same evening. The proceedings were *in camerâ*, for reasons that can easily be appreciated. The finding of the Court is given as follows by the *Kokkai*:—Tsuda Sanzo, a *shizoku* of Uyeno, in the Ahai district of the province of Iga, Miye Prefecture, domiciled at Oaza-mikami of Mikami in the Yasu district of Omi, Shiga Prefecture, aged 36 years and five months, was indicted by the Chief Public Prosecutor, and the following facts have been proved against him, namely, that he, Tsuda Sanzo, while serving in the police force of Shiga Prefecture, having conceived the false impression that the visit of the Russian Prince Imperial to Japan had some exceptional object, and having consequently become dissatisfied, formed the project of assassinating His Imperial Highness, and sought an opportunity to do so, he, the said Tsuda Sanzo, having been told off as one of the guards for service in Sakai, Miidera, of Otsu, on the occasion of His Imperial Highness' visit to Shiga Prefecture on the 11th instant, and being on guard in Shimo-Kogarasakicho, of Oaza, in the aforesaid town, His Imperial Highness passed that place at 50 minutes past one o'clock in the afternoon of that day, whereupon the said Tsuda Sanzo, concluding that if he lost that opportunity, no other chance of accomplishing his purpose would present itself, drew the sword he wore and struck two blows at the head of the Prince Imperial, wounding him; that thereupon His Imperial Highness attempted to escape, when the said Tsuda Sanzo, seeking to achieve his object, started in pursuit, but was restrained by others, and failed to accomplish his purpose. The Courts finds that these facts are fully proved by the confession of the said Tsuda Sanzo, by the oral testimony of the witness Mukobatake Jizaburo, by the depositions taken at the preliminary examination by the District Court of Otsu, including the evidence of the witnesses Kitaga Ichitaro, Nishioka Tarokichi, Doctor Nonami Rokichi, and Constable Kikuchi Shigekyo, and by the sword of the said Tsuda Sanzo, which was picked up. The Court finds that the prisoner Tsuda Sanzo has been guilty of an unsuccessful attempt to commit wilful murder, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 292, Article 111, and the first clause of Article 113 of the Criminal Code, the Court sentences the said Tsuda Sanzo to imprisonment for life with hard labour.

(Signed) TSUTSUMI MASAMI, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court.

NAKA SADAKATSU,
HOJI TSUNENORI,
YASUI SHIUZO,
INOUYE SHOICHI,
TAKANO SHINSON,
KINOSHITA TETSUSABURO,
} Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court.

Dated at the District Court of Otsu, 27th day of the 5th month of the 24th year of Meiji (27th May, 1891).

* * *

It will be seen from the above that in spite of very general predictions as to the resolve of the Authorities to try Tsuda Sanzo for a political offence, the sound view was finally taken that, in respect of the provisions of the Japanese Criminal Code, a foreign Prince or Potentate travelling in Japanese territority cannot be counted more than an ordinary individual. The Code provides exceptional punishments for offences of violence against the persons of the Imperial Family, but when the law of a country speaks of "the Emperor," "the Crown Prince," and so forth, it can only allude to the Emperor and Crown Prince of the country itself. This is plain both in fact and in principle, but up to the last moment the public imagined that by some legal subtlety Tsuda Sanzo's offence would be raised above the category of an every-day murderous assault. The expectation is happily, falsified. Japan would have greatly added to the discredit of this most unfortunate affair if she had adopted an illegal method of punishing the offender. Her proper and dignified course was to strictly abide by the provisions of her Code. For the rest Tsuda Sanzo is amply punished.

* * *

But there remains one perplexing element of the affair, namely, the interference of the Supreme Court. It will be remembered that the mandate of the Minister of State for Justice ordering a special session of the Supreme Court in the District Court at Otsu, was based on the 50th and 51st Articles of the Law of Constitution of the Courts of Justice. The second clause of the 50th Article, specially referred to in the mandate, runs thus:—

> The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction in first and last instance over the preliminary examination into and decision of crimes mentioned in the Penal Code, Book II., Chapters 1 and 2, as well as offences committed by members of the Imperial Family, which render them liable to imprisonment or to a higher punishment.

The 51st Article says:—

> For the trial and decision of matters mentioned in the preceding article, sub-section 2, the Supreme Court may, if found necessary, hold its sittings in an Appeal Court or District Court

Naturally when the above mandate was issued, and when Judges of the Supreme Court were detailed to open a session at Otsu, people concluded that Tsuda's crime was to be brought into the categories enumerated in Book II., Chapters 1 and 2 of the Penal Code, namely, offences of violence against the persons of member of the Imperial Family, or offences connected with the country's foreign relations. But the articles of the Code cited in the judgment delivered at Otsu on the 27th instant, have nothing to do with the first and second chapters of Book II. In short, a session of the Supreme Court appears to have been opened in the District Court of Otsu for the trial of an ordinary case of assault with murderous intent, whereas the law does not confer on the Supreme Court any jurisdiction in first instance in respect of such crimes. We confess our inability to understand this. Possibly legal experts may have some explanation to offer.

* * *

The sentence of the Court disposes finally of the plea of insanity, and establishes the interesting fact, suspected by many people, that Tsuda's murderous design was inspired by the rumour that the visit of the Czarevitch to Japan had been planned in pursuance of a sinister policy. It will be remembered that such a rumour found its way into the columns of the vernacular press. The *Hochi Shimbun* published it in March, and the *Mimpo* followed suit. According to the strange fancy ventilated by these journals, the Czarevitch was coming to make a kind of military inspection of Japan in pursuance of Russian aggressive projects. Of course the idea was subsequently denied, but such stories, once told, are pretty sure to find credence in some quarter. Tsuda Sanzo believed that the Czarevitch was the arch enemy of his country, and that he himself was the proper instrument to avert the consummation of Russia's supposed designs against Japanese independence. Such a notion when given practical effect in such a fashion, amounts to insanity. But where is the line to be drawn? If journals like the *Hochi Shimbun* and the *Mimpo*—the former universally regarded as one of the soberest and most circumspect newspapers in the capital, the latter edited by the well known Mr. Ozaki Yukyo—can persuade themselves to seriously lay before their readers tales of the above character, are men

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like Tsuda Sanzo to be counted delirious because they credit them? If British journals of similar standing published similar stories, thousands of Englishmen would be fully persuaded of their truth. It does not often happen that the prime responsibility for a public calamity can be so clearly traced as in the present instance.

* * *

With regard to the exclusion of the public from the trial, we read that the Judges adopted this course, apprehending that privacy would be most conducive to the interests of peace and order. It appears that despite the stories circulated about the services of the Tokyo barristers, Messrs. Mori and Nakayama, having been rejected by the prisoner, these gentlemen were present at the trial. The number of barristers admitted to the Court was only fifteen, and they are said to have been required to give a promise that they should not communicate the speeches of counsel to the press.

THE THREATENED RIOT AT NGANKING.

THE *N.-C. Daily News* publishes the following from a Nganking correspondent:—The events at Wuhu have nearly had a serious repetition at Nganking. On Thursday the 14th a rumour spread through the town that the Taotai of Wuhu had forwarded to the authorities a long despatch in which he stated as true the calumniatory and infamous deeds laid at the door of the missionaries. From another source, the passengers who arrived by the steamer helped by their accounts and their excitement to irritate the inhabitants of the capital. On the morning of Saturday the 16th placards were already posted, especially in the neighbouring of the Western Gate. These placards said that on that day they were going to settle the old quarrel with the Catholic Mission, and that, if they were not successful on the 16th, they would begin again on the 18th. About 10 o'clock in the morning certain individuals forced open the doors of the missionaries' house and refused to listen to the request politely made to them by the servants to withdraw. One of the missionaries then came forward and told them that strangers were not allowed that day to visit the house unless they came as representatives of the authorities of the town. The intruders slowly retired, and the door was shut. But at the same time information was sent to the nearest *yamén* and help asked for. The help arrived, and it was time; the crowd steadily increased, and in a short time, several hundreds of persons arrived from all sides, and massed themselves around the house and the orphanage of the mission. During the whole day the position was a very critical one. There were several alarms; they tried to break upon the door of the orphanage. Fortunately one of the assailants was at once seized and punished on the spot by the Chinese officer on duty; then the arrival in succession of about 15 mandarins, of whom some were of high grade, kept back the crowd till the evening. Meanwhile, the Catholic Mission was not alone in danger. A crowd equally great attacked the Inland Mission situated at the Northern Gate. The Chinese authorities arrived in time at this second point of danger, and so for this day further mischief was prevented. On the morning of the 17th the rioters changed their tactics. Women came to the doors of the orphanage to reclaim the children whom they had long before handed over to the mission. It is true that all this was done very quickly, but this concourse of people looked dangerous, and the authorities were requested to take further precautions. At this moment the missionaries, knowing that a French man-of-war was at Wuhu, telegraphed to the English Consul at that town asking him to inform the captain of the danger they were in. An answer was received a few hours later announcing the departure of the *Inconstant* under Captain de Jonquières, who was making for Nganking. This intelligence was immediately made known to the Chinese authorities. On the morning of the 18th the *Inconstant* anchored below the walls of the town, not far from the house of the missionaries. The captain at once received a letter from the Fathers informing him of the state of affairs. Besides he was himself already on the way in a steam launch to get intelligence. He went on board again to write a letter to the Governor of the town, assuring him of his peaceable intentions, of his desire to act in concert with the Chinese authorities to maintain order and put down the riot. But he made it understood that if the rioters did not listen to the magistrate, as was the case at Wuhu, he would not hesitate to take strong measures, leaving the responsibility of any further consequences to rest in the proper quarter. The Governor replied that order would be maintained, and that there was no need of alarm. He ordered the Taotai to go the next day and carry from him this assurance to the captain of the *Inconstant*. As a matter of fact on the 18th perfect quiet seemed to prevail in the town. On the 19th the German gunboat *Iltis*, Captain Ascher, which was coming down the river, anchored also below the walls of Nganking. * * * At the present moment (20th May) all danger is not at end. Placards posted up this evening announce for Friday the 22nd the total destruction of all the buildings of the mission.

U.S. DECORATION DAY.

THE following circular has been issued over the signature of Rear-Admiral Belknap:—

Flagship "MONOCACY," Yokohama, Japan,
May 21st, 1891.

The officers and men of the Naval Force on this Station, present at Yokohama, will unite for the purpose of giving due observance to Decoration Day here on the 30th, instant.

It is expected that as many officers and men as can be spared from duty will attend, and take part in the ceremonies of the day.

The uniform will be "Dress." Officers and Marines helmets.

All who are so entitled are requested to wear their decorations.

Lieutenant Commander B. S. Richards of the flagship, and Ensign C. C. Marsh of the *Alliance* are hereby designated to act as Commanding Officer and as Adjutant of the battalion respectively.

The formation will be as follows:—Band, Marines, Petty Officers and men of the ships and hospital, Officers, Admiral and Staff, Citizens.

All American citizens are cordially invited to attend and participate in the observances. Cordial invitation is also extended to the subjects of all other nationalities to be present.

The battalion will march to the cemetery on Camp Hill, where during appropriate exercise the graves of deceased comrades will be decorated with flowers.

A detachment will also proceed to Ikegami for like purpose.

The battalion will be landed at the Creek Landing in time to fall into line at 10 o'clock a.m., and formed on the Bund facing the Grand Hotel.

NEWS FROM CHINA AND THE SOUTH.

TONGKIN papers report the formal opening of the first section of the Phu-lung-thuong and Lang-son Railway by the Resident Superieur. Fault is found with the arrangements for the ceremony and the construction of the line is also criticised, but the work is stated to have already had a beneficial influence on the country through which the line passes, the natives regarding it as a guarantee of peace and order and taking up lands for cultivation which during the recent troubles have been allowed to lie fallow. * * * The following incident is judged by the *Hongkong Daily Press* to show that life in Tongking has a little "zest" in it:—"On the night of the 2nd instant Dr. Lalound was sleeping on the first floor of a house at Thai-nguyen, when he heard his boy cry out in the next room, of which the door had been left half-open. Thinking it was an affair of robbers, Dr. Laloud seized his revolver, opened his door quickly, and found himself in the presence of a royal tiger, which in two bounds sprang out of the house. The doctor fired instinctively on the chance of mortally wounding the animal, which went off to die at a distance. (It is not mentioned that the body was found.) As to the unfortunate boy, his carotid artery was open, and the head had been gnawed; he died in ten minutes. It appears that the next day the marks of another tiger were seen in the same neighbourhood." * * * * A Saigon paper suggests that by way of reparation for the injury to which the Czarewitch has been subjected on Japanese territory the Government of Japan might undertake not to oppose the annexation of Korea by Russia. * * * The present season is said to be the hottest experienced in Bangkok for fifteen years. A local journal perspiringly cites stories current about the mercury in thermometers having been seen sitting on the very top of the glass with its tongue hanging out. * * * Writing of the Wuhu riot the *N.-C. Daily News* says.—"It would be a great mistake to suppose that the attack on the Roman Catholic property was a mere local outbreak, motived by suspicion of the objects of the Fathers in collecting young children for their Orphanage. It was, we are assured, an incident in a very much more serious and wide-spread scheme; and the popular suspicion, as well as the readiness to plunder and pillage of the rowdies of whom Wuhu is a centre, were only the tools used by the leaders of the Secret Societies, of which the famous *Kolao Hui* is the most important. It will, of course, have been noticed that the Wuhu outbreak was not an isolated affair. It was preceded by an outbreak at Yang-chow, which was stopped by the energy of the officials, and has been followed by a threatened outbreak at Nanking, which was also stopped in time by similar means, the local authorities being stimulated to activity by the Viceroy at Nanking. In fact, the whole Yangtze valley, from the junction of the Han with the Yangtze down to Chinkiang, is, we are assured, seething with excitement. * * The *N.-C. Daily News* says it cannot be concealed that a very strong feeling prevails among the Chinese in Shanghai over the death of a Chinaman after an encounter with a French policeman. Those responsible for the safety of the settlements are, however, on the alert, and all necessary preparations have been made in the event of the services of the Volunteers being required.

NEWSPAPER PETTISHNESS.

IT seems to us a great pity that a newspaper like the *Kokkai* should resort to the childish and undignified course inaugurated by the *Nippon*, namely, the issue of column after column of defaced matter. Can this be called serious journalism? If there were question of writing intended to criticise or discredit the Government, one could easily understand that a strong opposition newspaper might find difficulty in filling its columns so as at once to content its own conscience and to satisfy the official censors; and that, under such circumstances, it might feel justified in publishing the undecipherable débris of a mutilated article. But in this case the subject of discussion is the empire's foreign affairs, concerning which it is obvious that the sole motive of the Government must be patriotic. The *Kokkai's* columns of defaced ideographs signify, in our opinion, nothing more or less than a confession that a leading Japanese journal is unable to discuss the foreign affairs of the State in such a manner as to appear useful and prudent to the officials best qualified to pass intelligent judgment on these questions. If what the *Kokkai* has to say be worth saying and calculated to promote the national interests, the impossibility of saying it so as to pass the censors is inconceivable. To issue blurred lines of unintelligible characters is merely to foment unreasoning discontent. Such a procedure is not a protest against the new Regulation but a us tification of it.

PORTUGAL.

A TELEGRAM sent from the Japanese Representative in Paris and published in the *Official Gazette*, says that a Cabinet crisis has occurred in Portugal, but that the Ministers finally consented to retain their portfolios, with the exception of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is replaced by Count Valbon. The new Minister is an influential politician of the Progressionist Party, which, during the past twenty-five years, has been represented in every Cabinet. He

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held for some time the position of Portuguese Representative in Paris, and his record shows him to be a statesman of ability. It is an unhappy time for Portuguese Ministers of Foreign Affairs. We can scarcely look for anything like a solid Cabinet in Lisbon until the African complication is settled.

THE PRESS CENSORSHIP.

As days go by the discontent of the press is beginning to make itself very loudly heard in reference to the recent Regulation, directing that all matter relating to the country's foreign politics must be submitted for official examination before publication. The *Kokkai* declares that the position of a journalist in Japan is becoming intolerable. It describes its own experience under the provisions of the new Regulation. An article, entitled "The course of Japanese diplomacy," was submitted for inspection on the 20th instant, at 2 p.m., and returned two hours later with 3,200 ideographs effaced by the official brush. "Nor do we alone find ourselves in such a plight. Other journals suffer equally." But the extra labour thus entailed upon editors gives the *Kokkai* less concern than the fact that foreigners will undoubtedly make use of this new Regulation to prove that Japan is not ready for the abolition of extra-territorial jurisdiction. Restrictions upon free speech, they will say, are evidences of a state of affairs not consistent with Japan's claims to civilized progress. The *Kokkai* is right. Some foreigners will say this. But they will be, for the most part, foreigners bent upon opposing Treaty Revision by any and every means. The more intelligent class of foreigners appreciate and sympathise with Japan's peculiar difficulties. They understand that some manifestations of impatience are inevitable on the part of a nation which has been struggling unsuccessfully for years to recover autonomy. They understand, also, that freedom of speech is a privilege which can be safely enjoyed by very few nations, and that to insist upon its full exercise in a country where the newspaper press is not yet a quarter of a century old, would be extravagant.

* * *

That was a remarkable article of the *Kokkai's*. Three thousand two hundred ideographs mean, at least, two thousand words. One thousand words make an ordinary article, and it is therefore plain that the effaced portions of the *Kokkai's* essay amounted to two leading articles of every-day length. The *Kokkai's* writings are usually of a moderate, and if we may be allowed to say so without impertinence, a highly intelligent type. We cannot understand why it should have been subjected to such sweeping correction. One thing is certain, namely, that the exercise of such strict censorship must be quite as distasteful to the authorities as it is irksome to editors.

AN IMPORTANT LAW CASE.

A DECISION was rendered by the Tokyo Local Court on the 15th instant in the suit of Messrs. Kitamura Tsunesaburo and Kitamura Masuo, wax merchants of Kyoto, against Messrs. Fujita Kinnosuke and Fujita Shinhichi of Tokyo. The Messrs. Fujita had acted for years as superintendents of the plaintiffs' branch store in Tokyo, and in that capacity had exercised control of a large amount of property, consisting of lands, houses, Government bonds, shares of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and the Japan Railway Company, as well as other securities, the whole representing about three hundred thousand *yen* in value. The greater part, if not the whole, of these securities had gradually come to be registered in the names of the Messrs. Fujita, who appear to have taken improper advantage of their position, making away with some of the property, treating the rest as though it were their own, and resisting all interference on the part of the original owners. The latter were finally obliged to bring the matter into Court, and after a trial of some length the case has been decided in their favour, the defendants being not only required to make restitution of all the property, but also severely punished for fraudulent dealing. Fujita Kinnosuke was sentenced to a year's imprisonment together with a fine of 20 *yen*, and Fujita Shinhichi to ten months' imprisonment with a fine of 10 *yen*. Compared with the amount at stake and the terms of imprisonment, these fines impart a certain air of comicality to the judgment, but it may be that their payment is a serious matter to men circumstanced as the two Fujitas now are.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for April, showing the foreign trade of Japan for the month:—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	1890. SILVER YEN.	1891. SILVER YEN.
Exports	4,467,415,330	6,940,995,730
Imports	5,511,883,640	5,580,671,570
Total exports and imports		12,531,667,300
Excess of exports		1,370,324,160

CUSTOMS DUTIES. SILVER YEN.

Exports	157,503,969
Imports	192,808,806
Miscellaneous	10,671,016
Total	360,983,791

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
Great Britain	872,983,930	2,605,650,770	3,478,614,700
United States of America	1,934,423,010	531,055,550	2,465,479,460
France	1,528,077,450	172,002,520	1,700,139,970
Hongkong	1,181,542,750	492,821,350	1,674,364,000
China	392,658,220	967,589,180	1,360,247,400
Germany	312,694,290	546,357,930	859,052,220
British India	72,015,200	420,361,830	492,377,230
Korea	133,143,460	343,777,390	476,920,850
Russia	41,465,040	87,187,050	128,653,290
Australia	74,014,150	20,729,710	94,806,860
Belgium	5,037,900	50,162,960	55,200,860
Switzerland	17,204,080	36,223,020	53,427,700
Italy	48,399,950	2,964,200	51,364,150
Canada & other British America	33,826,400	1,939,930	35,766,330
Austria	32,150,430	172,860	32,323,290
Philippine Islands	19,337,000	8,713,070	28,050,070
Siam	570,600	16,951,800	17,521,800
Holland	1,446,600	6,112,840	7,559,440
Spain	—	5,328,640	5,328,640
Portugal	—	1,400,040	1,400,040
Denmark	—	1,213,560	1,213,560
Hawaii	789,060	12,000	801,060
Peru	—	123,340	123,340
Other Countries	819,469,760	362,715,820	381,285,580
Total	6,810,580,840	5,580,671,570	12,401,361,410

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Totals. Silver Yen.
Yokohama	3,883,921,010	2,450,439,460	6,309,360,470
Kobe	2,263,408,510	2,054,408,710	4,317,817,220
Osaka	85,765,800	364,610,480	450,376,280
Nagasaki	335,120,120	584,679,240	919,799,360
Hakodate	64,157,500	40,000	64,197,500
Shimonoseki	274,195,480	96,369,670	370,565,150
Moji	12,997,200	—	12,997,200
Hakata	1,200,040	12,196,590	13,402,630
Karatsu	17,045,500	—	17,045,500
Kuchinotsu	54,968,720	—	54,968,720
Misumi	83,290,520	—	83,290,520
Idzugahara	4,540,850	9,033,790	13,574,640
Shishiuni	1,172,900	683,600	1,856,500
Sasuna	1,205,500	2,179,970	3,385,470
Specie and Bullion	Exports		31,104,720
	Imports		372,020,410
Total			403,125,130
Excess of imports			340,915,690

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	653,419,010
	Imports	1,515,379,800
Imported by Government		5,441,020

THE "JIYU-TO."

A MEETING of the principal members of the Radical Party, to the number of forty-three, was held at the office of the Party in Shiba, Tokyo, in the forenoon of the 24th instant, under the presidency of Count Itagaki. A report—the compilation of which had been ordered—on the legal aspects of Tsuda Sanzo's crime, was handed in by Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Nakajima Matagoro and Yamada Toji, but with regard to its nature nothing has been published. The meeting then proceeded to consider a platform for the Radical Party, prepared and reduced to writing by Count Itagaki. This document is said to have obtained unanimous approval. Judging from these indications it would seem that the section of the *Jiyu-to* under Count Itagaki's direct leadership has recovered solidarity and cohesion, a result upon which the nation is to be congratulated. After all, however, the point of real moment is, not the state of any particular section of the *Jiyu-to*, but the chances of a union between that Party and the *Kaishin-to*. It seems perfectly plain that until such a union is accomplished Japan will not possess a really powerful and competent Liberal Party. The *Choya Shimbun*, now one of the soberest and soundest journals in the empire, discusses the possibilities of union in an article which we have read with interest and attention. Plainly our contemporary is not sanguine. It recalls that in respect of original object,—the establishment of constitutional government,—there was but one fraternity of liberals, but that, owing to some inherent elements of discord, they broke up, as early as 1882, into the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to*. The breach between them, instead of narrowing, seemed to widen as years went by, and attained its greatest dimensions in 1889, when the *Kaishin-to* supported Count Okuma's programme of Treaty Revision as vehemently as the *Jiyu-to* opposed it. Then followed unsuccessful attempts to fuse the two parties, and then the elections for the first Diet, when the contests between *Jiyu-to* and *Kaishin-to* candidates became occasionally so acute as to lead to acts of violence. The whole tendency of those days was towards sectional rather than party politics. But the great question of the Budget effected an unlooked for union of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to*, and sanguine persons predicted that temporary coalition would be converted into permanent fusion. Possibly had success attended the combination it might have assumed a lasting character. Failing, however, to overthrow the Cabinet, its chief result was to give additional salience to a fact long recognised by observant folks, namely, that in respect of sobriety, political strategy, ability and organization, the advantage was distinctly on the side of the *Kaishin-to*. Consciousness of this, perhaps, helped to deepen the old doubts of certain members of the *Jiyu-to* that in a permanent union they must fall into the second place, and that any concessions made by the *Kaishin-to* in the interests of combination were dictated by far-reaching projects. These doubts, the *Choya* says, do not find open expression just at present, but would become prominent and active at once in the face of any resolute attempt to bring the two parties into the same camp. Indeed our contemporary goes so far as to suggest that the efforts of Kiushu politicians, nominally directed towards accomplishing a union, are really intended to bring about a final separation by precipitating the crisis. It is difficult to divine how much reliance may be placed in this analysis.

THE JUDGMENT IN THE CASE OF TSUDA SANZO.

THE trial of Tsuda Sanzo and the decision of the Court in his case are commented on by all the leading journals of Tokyo. In most cases the newspapers devote themselves chiefly to congratulatory notices of the fact that the Judiciary has shown itself independent of all extraneous considerations, and taken its guidance entirely from the letter of the law. The writing of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is a fair specimen of this class of opinion. "The Administration," says one contemporary, "originally proposed to regard the crime as one committed against the Imperial Family, and a session of the Supreme Court was opened in Ostu. But the Criminal Code of Japan provides only for crimes committed against the Japanese Emperor, Prince Imperial, Empress or Dowager, and does not provide for crimes committed against foreign potentates or Princes. The law, therefore, does not allow that an offence like that of Tsuda Sanzo shall be regarded as a crime against the Imperial Family. By deciding as it has done, the Court has shown to all the world that the Judges of this country, without regard to the administration's desire, without regard to the pressure of public opinion, without regard to the power of foreign States, render decisions in strict accord with the law of the land, and that the Judiciary is absolutely independent. Against a decision rendered without reference to the special circumstances of the case, but in strict accord with justice, the Russian Government will raise no question. Rather, we are persuaded, will it praise the independence and uprightness of the Judiciary. If, on the contrary, through fear of injuring our good relations with Russia, a different course had been adopted, our Judiciary would have been brought into contempt. The

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Government, impelled by considerations of friendship to Russia, would have made the crime political. The Judges, reverencing the law, decided that it was a case of common assault with murderous intent. Russia, considering the matter carefully, will doubtless appreciate that, on the one hand, the Government was swayed by solicitude for its relations with a neighbouring State, and, on the other, the Judiciary had respect for its independence."

* * *

Such is the general tone. But a few journals, notably the *Rikken Jiyu*, consider the question from another standpoint. "It was argued," says the *Rikken Jiyu* paper, "that the Otsu affair ought to be treated as a crime against the Imperial Family, and the Chief Public Procurator, deeming that it fell within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, laid his indictment accordingly. Such being the case, the Supreme Court ought to have decided, before opening its session, whether it could assume jurisdiction over Tsuda Sanzo's crime. We do not know whether the Supreme Court actually came to any such decision. But if it did; if it concluded that Tsuda's offence fell within the category of crimes against the Imperial Family, and if, in accordance with that view, it opened a session, then surely the judgment ought to have had reference to a crime of that character. If, on the contrary, the Supreme Court decided that the crime was judiciable by a District Court or a Local Court, it should have taken steps to have Tsuda Sanzo tried by such a Court. We cannot regard it as a proper proceeding that the Supreme Court, while deciding that the crime was not political, and that it belonged to the category of ordinary criminal assaults, committed against an ordinary subject, should nevertheless have assumed jurisdiction. An ordinary criminal has the right of appeal from the judgment of the tribunal by which he is sentenced. Tsuda Sanzo, even though he might have grounds of complaint against his sentence, has no means of appealing from it. The principles of justice seem to be violated when Tsuda Sanzo alone among criminals is deprived of his right as such. We do not understand it. Experts must decide."

* * *

Other journals take a similar line, but follow it more cautiously. Indeed the general opinion seems to be that while the supremacy of the law and the independence of the Judiciary have been admirably asserted, the question of jurisdiction invites grave criticism. Had the proceedings been open to the public, the views of the Court itself would doubtless have been ascertained, for we cannot suppose that the point was not raised by the prisoner's counsel. The trial, however, was conducted *in camerâ*—a course distinctly regrettable, though having regard to all the circumstances, unquestionably prudent. One fact, apparently unknown to the vernacular press, or, if known, certainly not mentioned, is that the District Court at Otsu decided, originally, that it had no competence to assume jurisdiction in Tsuda Sanzo's case; a decision based on the hypothesis that the crime had been committed against a member of the Imperial Family. It then devolved upon the Supreme Court to determine whether its own jurisdiction, in first and last instance, could be extended to the case, or whether the ruling of the District Court at Otsu should be quashed. The Supreme Court decided in the former sense, and, as we know, assumed jurisdiction under a law referring to political crimes only. Ultimately, however, the prisoner was found guilty of an ordinary murderous assault over which a District Court has full jurisdiction. It seems to follow, therefore, that the District Court at Otsu erred in declining jurisdiction originally, and that the Supreme Court erred in accepting jurisdiction. Possibly some explanation may be forthcoming, but at present we can only regret that procedure otherwise so praiseworthy should be open to this censure.

THE DERBY.

As will be seen by our telegram, Common has pulled off the double event—Two Thousand Guineas and Derby. This performance has now been repeated a dozen times since Smolensko's year (1813), and four times in the last decade, by Shotover in 1882, Ormonde 1886, Ayrshire 1888, and the son of Isonomy and Thistle this year. Sir Frederick Johnstone's colt appears to be as well suited with Epsom Downs as over the Rowley Mile, and as he is entered in the Leger and possesses a good strain of staying blood he must stand a great chance of crowning his three-year-old career by repeating the performance of Ormonde, Lord Lyon, and Gladiateur on the Town Moor, and thus carrying off the three classic events of the turf. We gave the winner's pedigree and two-year-old performances on the occasion of his winning the big race at Newmarket a month ago. The second horse, Gouverneur, a chesnut colt by Energy—Gladia, belonging to Mr. E. Blanc, was bred in France, and was backed as far back as Christmas to win the Derby. He started five times as a two-year-old, and first carried silk at Kempton Park in the Spring Two-year-old Stakes, where he started favourite, but ran third to Lady Heron and Charm in a field of twelve; and his next essay was in the Portland Plate, where he ran unplaced. Gouverneur won his next three races, however, the Rous Memorial Stakes at Newmarket September Meeting, where he turned the tables on Lady Heron; the Middle Park Plate, at the Newmarket October; and the Criterion Stakes at the Houghton Meeting, where he started at 100 to 30 on and won by three lengths. Martenhurst, a bay colt by Wenlock—Hirondelle, is the property of Sir Charles Duke, and won three races as a two-year old out of seven attempts, but appears to have ran somewhat in and out. His wins were the Abergavenny Stakes at Lewes, the Great Kingston at Sandown Park, and the Findon Stakes at Goodwood, but in neither instance was the company first-class. Gouverneur is engaged in the St. Leger, but Martenhurst is not. We see by the latest London papers received to-day, that Gouverneur was favourite for both Two Thousand and Derby on the 13th of last month, being quoted at 7 to 4 for the former and 5 to 1 for the latter race, Common being at 33 to 1 for the Derby on that date. The next day Gouverneur went to 6 to 4 for the Newmarket race, but The Deemster headed the list in the Derby betting at 5 to 1. On the 15th of April Peter Flower, at the short odds of 3 to 1 taken and wanted, was the favourite for the Rowley Mile contest, Common having come to 20 to 1 for the Derby, and in the latest betting we final Gouverneur again favourite for the Two Thousand at 2 to 1, while Peter Flower headed the Derly list at 6 to 1.

THE EDITORSHIP OF THE "JAPAN GAZETTE."

Strange rumours are circulated about the circumstances under which Mr. Dening has temporarily ceased to edit the *Japan Gazette*. Although the uniformity of these rumours seems to guarantee their truth, we hesitate to give them publicity, for they cast serious reflections on the methods pursued by the Directors of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, whom we believe to be upright and fair-minded gentlemen. An editor of a newspaper, who sacrificed a lucrative post for the purpose of assuming the editorship at the request of a Company the Directors of which understood and appreciated his special qualifications, is not a person to be treated as though he were a common servant. The whole story, as generally told in Yokohama and Tokyo, is astounding and incredible.

THE PRESS CENSORSHIP.

The operation of the new Regulation relating to censorship of journalistic matter connected with foreign affairs, has been suspended. The Regulation itself remains law, but the notification issued by the Home Minister, under the provisions of which the Regulation was put into force, is withdrawn. To make this clear to our readers, we may explain that the Regulation belongs now to the same category as the Peace Preservation Regulations. Just as the latter can be put into operation at any moment should it be judged that necessity has arisen, so the Minister of State for Home Affairs may, at his own discretion—with the consent of the Cabinet, of course—enforce the former also. The reason for this sudden suspension of the operation of the law is not very clear. The Regulation had been in force only thirteen days. Probably its enforcement proved too irksome and oppressive. It is emphatically to be regretted that this contingency was not foreseen by the Cabinet. Such fitful legislation cannot be commended. The inevitable conclusion drawn by the public will be that the Regulation had its origin in the Otsu incident, and that its suspension must be attributed to the closure of that incident—entirely erroneous inferences, we imagine.

NEWS FROM CHINA.

According to the *N.-C. Daily News* on the 25th inst. the five foreign men-of-war on the Yangtze were stationed as follows:—*Swift* at Chinkiang, *Linnet* at Wuhu, *Inconstant* and *Vipère* at Ngankin, and *Iltis* at Kiukiang. At Wuhu the Amerian mission was protected by Chinese soldiers, while four of the rioters at Ngankin were wearing the cangue. * * * We note in Shanghai papers that English merchant steamers seem to have quite given up the habit of recognising the Queen's birthday. Even the representative of "England's unofficial fleet," as Sir Edwin Arnold calls it, the *Ravenna*, took no notice of the day. This sets out in pleasing contrast the action of the *Monocacy's* commanding officer, who fired a salute here in honour of the day, there being no British man-of-war in Yokohama to perform that function. * * * The mainmast of the *City of Rio de Janeiro* was struck by lightning, and the top part of it split into fragments, in a thunderstorm which passed over Hongkong on the 16th. * * * A panther or jaguar which had carried off a dog was killed by the quarrymen at Shaukiwan with their bamboos on the 16th. This is probably the animal whose foot-prints caused some excitement on more than one occasion in various parts of the island. * * * The *Pakling* has just made the run from Singapore to Hongkong in 4 days, 18 hours. * * * The Portuguese have discovered a gold mine in Timor. * * * Mr. Playfair, formerly of the O.B.C., has been appointed Chief Manager at Hongkong of the National Bank of China, Ld.

CENSORSHIP.

The operation of the new Regulation as to press censorship is daily apparent in the pages of the Tokyo journals. Two methods of showing the results of the censorship are followed: one is to issue the paper with almost entirely blank spaces in lieu of leading articles, a few traces of illegible ideographs being the only evidence of printed matter; the other is to replace the objectionable characters with solid black leads. These plans are called respectively the "white" and the "black." Some curious person amused himself on the 27th instant preparing statistics to show to what extent the various papers suffered that day at the hands of the censors. His results are published by the *Kokkai* as follow:—The *Shogyo Shimpo* had five lines effaced; the *Tokyo Chiu Shimpo*, thirty-nine, the *Kokkai*, eleven; the *Kaishin Shimbun*, nine; the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, fourteen; the *Mainichi Shimbun*, twenty-seven; the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, four; the *Rikken Jiyu*, a hundred and twenty-four; the *Choya*, thirty-one; the *Chinsei Nippon*, twenty; the *Nichi Nichi*, nineteen; the *Miyako*, three; and the *Toyo*, fifty-eight. Thus the total number of lines suppressed in one day was three hundred and sixty-four, or about 6½ columns. This is an interesting record. It shows that if the press of the capital had been left to its own devices, it would have laid before its readers, on the 27th of May, three hundred and sixty-four lines of matter which, in the opinion of the Authorities, would not have conduced to the interests of the empire's foreign relations.

INTERJECTIONS AND EXPLETIVES.

In the *Romaji Zasshi* there appears a series of papers giving explanations and Japanese equivalents of the difficult expressions and idioms that occur in Longman's Fourth Reader. It is

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amusing to observe how truly these translations bear out the often-repeated comment that the Japanese language contains no forms of oath, and very few of invective after the most approved Western models. "By the light of heaven!" becomes in this translation "Jitsu ni!," which means nothing more than "verily" or "in truth;" and "the foul fiend on thy grandsire and all his race!" is rendered by "Ei, chikushome! Kisama no jiji ya sono shison no koto wa dō demo ii"; which literally signifies simply, "You beast! who cares about your grandsire and all his race!" The Japanese equivalents are decidedly weak in character.

THE "QUEEN ELIZABETH."

Our Nagasaki contemporary states:—All hopes of raising the *Queen Elizabeth*, which went ashore on the island of Ikushima about a month since, have been abandoned. On account of her position and also other favourable circumstances it was at first thought that she might be raised, but the strong winds that have prevailed lately have rendered impossible the work that was expected to have been done, and she is now gradually going to pieces. The greater part of her cargo will be salved, though accomplished under a good many difficulties and at considerable expense.

THE COMMERCE OF OSAKA.

Some interesting items relative to the commerce of Osaka are given (says the *Hyogo News*) by Mr. I. Ishihara, of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, in behalf of the owners of steamers at Osaka, in a memorandum presented by him to Governor Nishimura, praying for the extension of the hatoba there. It seems that there are 108 steamers now belonging to the harbour, 77 of which come up to the hatoba, the number of daily arrivals and departures numbering over 30, while the hatoba is only 600 ft. long Naturally great inconvenience results.

THE CABINET.

Many rumours are in circulation as to Cabinet changes, some people confidently asserting that the Minister President will retire; others that, under no circumstances, will Count Saigo and Viscount Aoki remain in office. All these predictions, are to be treated, we think, as mere surmises. It is possible that changes which have been in contemplation for the past two months may be accomplished ere long, but for the rest we are of opinion that no transfer of portfolios is imminent.

THE RIOTING IN CHINA.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of the 21st says:—"H.I.G.M.'s gunboat *Iltis* arrived at Ngankin on Tuesday, and the commander telegraphed to Mr. von Loehr that all was quiet, but the German missionary there had asked that the *Iltis* might remain for three days. One of the steamer companies having allowed one of their pilots to go in the *Swift*, that vessel left here yesterday morning for the river. According to telegrams received yesterday, all was quiet at the Yangtze ports."

THE CLUB HOTEL, (LIMITED).

A general meeting of the shareholders of the Club Hotel (Limited) was held on Monday afternoon in the Hotel—Mr. J. Johnstone presiding. The Chairman stated that, first, owing to the day being a holiday, and very few being present, and, secondly, to the accounts not having been fully audited, he would propose that the meeting be postponed till Monday, 22nd June. This was seconded, and agreed to. The proceedings then terminated.

TSUDA SANZO'S CAREER.

Two or three days ago we re-produced, from the columns of a vernacular journal, a story to the effect that Tsuda Sanzo had been formerly a retainer of the Tsu Clan, and that, while acting as a page in the *yashiki* of the *Daimyo*, he had killed his lord's concubine by order of the former. This tale now turns out to be absolutely groundless. It is denied *in toto* by the present representative of the Toda family, and the journal responsible for its publication acknowledges itself misinformed.

THE LATE MR. WELSH.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. D. Welsh, which took place on Monday evening an hour or two after he had been struck down by a sudden paralytic or similar seizure. Mr. Welsh had been engaged for many years in the curio business at this port.

* * *

We understand that a post-mortem examination conducted on Tuesday morning revealed the fact that Mr. D. Welsh died of aneurism of the heart. No inquest has been held.

FAREWELL MEETING.

Last evening (April 14th) at 8 o'clock, says the Williamsport, Pa., *Gazette*, a large audience met at Mulberry Street Methodist Episcopal Church, to participate in the farewell meeting given to Rev. C. H. Correll, a returned Missionary from Japan, prior to his return to that distant land where he has laboured in the Missionary cause for seventeen years. Mr. Correll will leave for Japan on Wednesday next. His children will remain here and finish their education at the Seminary.

THE "TAKACHIHO MARU."

From a private telegram received in Yokohama on the evening of the 22nd inst., and probably despatched from the *Takachiho Maru* about noon, we learn that the divers have planked the hole in the coal bunkers, but have still a nasty hole to fix in the fore hold. Captain Walker's many friends will be glad to learn that with fine weather the condition of the ship is hopeful.

FEMALE STUDENTS IN TOKYO.

According to the *Jogaku Zasshi* (*Woman's Magazine*) of a recent date, the present numbers of students in the seven principal female schools of Tokyo are as follows:—Nobles' Female School, 309; Higher Female Normal School, 86; Toyō Eiwa Jo-Gakko, 99; Atomi Jo-Gakko, 232; Tokyo Eiwa Jo-Gakko, 38; Joshi Gakuin, 172; Meiji Jo-Gakko, 200.

THE NEW CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

We note the arrival in Yokohama of Mr. W. D. Tillotson, the new Consul-General of the United States of America, who reached here on the 22nd inst. in the *China*, and has put up at the Grand Hotel.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The "Emergency Ordinance" relating to the censorship of the press continues to call forth journalistic comments of increasing bitterness and rancour. The *Nippon* and some other papers of the same eccentric type are furious—or at least they pretend to be furious, for reasons best known to themselves—at the measure, which they have in no small degree been instrumental in forcing on the Authorities. It is not necessary, after what has already been reproduced in our columns, to refer at length to the articles appearing on this subject.

* * *

The whole of the Metropolitan papers united in welcoming back to the capital His Majesty the Emperor, in loyal and grateful terms. In these expressions of genuine feeling, the press doubtless echoed the sentiments of the people, whose hearts have been touched by the part which their Sovereign played in connection with the recent unhappy incident. The papers recount the anxieties felt and hardships undergone by His Majesty, and many of his subjects are said to read these stories with tears of gratitude in their eyes.

* * *

Rumours are again rife about probable changes in the *personnel* of the Cabinet Ministers. It is stated that the Minister President and all his colleagues have presented a *shintai ukagai* to their Sovereign; that is to say, have applied for His Majesty's decision as to the propriety of their remaining in office under the circumstances. The papers state that this step has been taken by the Cabinet in view of the Otsu affair. Rumour does not yet announce what decision has been arrived at by the Emperor, but the press seems to take it for granted that at least four of the Cabinet Ministers will resign. They are the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of Home Affairs, of Education, and of Justice. The last two Ministers' resignation had long since been decided upon; but the retirement of the two former is, say the newspapers, a direct outcome of the lamentable incident at Otsu. The names that have thus far appeard as successors to the retiring Ministers are as follow:—Mr. Mutsu, Viscount Nomura, Minister to France, Viscount Yoshida, Viscount Enomoto, and Count Soyeshima for the part of Minister of Foreign Affairs; Viscount Shinagawa, formerly Minister to Germany, for the portfolio of Home Affairs; Mr. Kōno, Privy Councillor, Viscount Tanaka, and Count Ōki for Justice; Mr. Kuki, former Minister to the United States, Viscount Tanaka, and Viscount Kawase, Minister to England, for Education. Some papers also state that Count Ōki, President of the Privy Council, will be succeeded by Count Ito; but the latter forecast is entirely groundless so far as present indications go. Indeed, all these predictions must be taken with great reserve.

* * *

The papers, in commenting upon these rumours, seem to agree in thinking that the present Ministry, no less than the local officials of Shiga Ken, is to be held accountable for the deplorable incident at Otsu. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* believes that, in consulting the Emperor's pleasure as to their continuance in office, the Cabinet Ministers have only done their duty under the circumstances. Our contemporary believes in the rumour that Viscount Aoki and Count Saigo will leave office on account of the Otsu affair. As to a successor to the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, the *Nichi Nichi* draws attention to the vital importance of selecting a man of first-rate ability, for, after what has been done at the Foreign Office for the last few years, no statesman of ordinary capacity can maintain the dignity of the country in its foreign relations. "We are," it says, "decidedly opposed to the appointment to that post of a man in his dotage, who can only be a nominal occupant of the chair."

* * *

The *Toyo Shimpo*, in an article part of which bears the marks of official inspection, deplores the entire absence of stability and energy in the present Cabinet. If the Ministers no longer think themselves competent to carry on the administration in a proper manner, they are advised to hand over the reins of Government to "young and able men, who, though their inferiors in age and rank, are their superiors in energy and in talent."

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* laments that the statesmen who brought about the Restoration have too soon manifested symptous of sensibility. Our contemporary refers to the recent conduct of Prince Bismarck, and observes that, before the great German, these "Oriental statesmen" should be ashamed of their love of ease. It is now the fashion among statesmen of the elder generation to hold themselves aloof from political responsibility as far as possible. As an illustration of this assertion, we are referred to the conduct of Count Yamagata at the time of his resignation, as well as to that of Counts Ito and Saigo, who refused to succeed the former Minister President. The *Jiji* especially regrets on behalf of these statesmen that they are now so supine and inactive, seeing that they cannot hope to retain the full possession of their faculties for many years longer.

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The press comments at length on the trial of Tsuda Sanzo, but we give the gist of its remarks elsewhere.

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FUJISAN AND THE SEISMOLOGISTS.

THE Seismological Society contemplates dissolution just at the moment when some exceedingly interesting work offers for its investigations. We read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that Fujisan has begun to show signs of renewed life. Rumours of a marked increase in the temperature of the earth at the summit, and of subterranean rumblings, having reached the Home Department, experts were sent to conduct examinations on the spot. Their inquiries established the fact that such an increase has taken place. Five years ago the area of distinctly sensible heat on the slope of the mountain between Subashiri and Suyama was only a quarter of an acre, but it is now found to be ten times as large, namely, two acres and a half. Moreover, not only is the area extending, but the degree of heat also is developing so rapidly as to be this year twice as great as it was last year. The *Jiji* says that the ground is now hot enough to mull wine or bake eggs. The outburst of a hot spring is thought not improbable, an event that would be welcomed with great delight by the people of the district, for thermal baths at such an altitude could not fail to attract numbers of summer visitors. But these changing conditions may have another and a much less agreeable denouement. Fujisan may be on the eve of a performance after the manner of Bandaisan, possibly on a larger scale. If among the valuable records compiled or collected by it during the years of its busy existence, the Seismological Society possesses any statistics bearing on the behaviour of volcanoes before a period of renewed energy, such facts would be of immense interest and value now. Unfortunately, in the case of Bandaisan no trustworthy observations of the mountain's condition had been taken immediately prior to the catastrophe of 1888, though the outlines of the volcano's chequered history in past centuries indicated a perpetual possibility of contingencies, to foresee which would have been a triumphant vindication of the seismologists' usefulness. In Fujiyama's case, however, if the *Jiji Shimpo's* news be correct, there are indications apparently of a very significant character, and if these phenomena of increasing heat and disturbance continue, it would obviously be of vital interest to have scientific evidence of the fact, and scientific measurement of the degree of change. Professor JOHN MILNE indicated a valuable line of research when he collected and made easily accessible such meagre records as were to be found with regard to the past conduct and conditions of the principal earthquakes in Japan. But we do not remember that the Society has yet devoted itself to supplementing these records by trustworthy observations of its own. Such work would, of course, be troublesome and expensive, but neither of these conditions has ever proved deterrent in the case of the Seismological Society of Japan. How greatly the value of Seismic Science would now be enhanced could the Society tell us accurately what, if any, changes have occurred in the volcanic conditions of Fujisan during the past ten or fifteen years; and how incalculably the interest of such information would be deepened if, in addition, some approximate inference as to the issue of the changes could be deduced from similar statistics previously compiled with respect to volcanoes in other countries. We all know what excellent work the Society has done without official aid of any kind. Once or twice it has received small grants of money from the British Royal Society, if we remember rightly, but Japan, the country of its birth, the country that has derived almost the sole credit and advantage of its existence, has never taken any public notice of it. It would seem as though Fujisan, the King of Japanese volcanoes, entered a protest against this neglect, by reminding the public that seismology has to deal with practical and vital issues, as well as with recondite theories and purely scientific speculations. There will be cause for lasting regret should the Society expire at this stage of its career. Rather let it claim that the time has come when its past work and future capabilities ought to be recognised by State aid. A comparatively trifling annual grant would put the cachet of public approval on the Society's achievements, secure it against financial vicissitudes, and enable it to extend the sphere of its usefulness. The demise of such a body will be interpreted in a manner not at all to Japan's credit, and will be distinctly prejudicial to the interests of science.

THE OTSU AFFAIR.

DETAILED accounts of the incident at Otsu on the 11th inst. show that some rather serious inaccuracies disfigure the descriptions hitherto published. It has been stated, our readers will remember, that when the Imperial party set out from the Prefectural buildings in Otsu, the procession was formed with the CZAREVITCH driving in a *jinrikisha* at the head, and Prince GEORGE of Greece immediately behind him. Such was not the case. At the head of the procession rode Mr. OKI, the Governor; his *jinrikisha* being followed by that of the Prefectural Chief of Police. Then came two police inspectors, also in *kuruma*, and after them the *jinrikisha* of the CZAREVITCH, followed by those of Prince GEORGE and the rest of the escort and suite. Governor OKI was not in uniform: he had exchanged his official dress for plain clothes by desire of the CZAREVITCH. When TSUDA SANZO, with drawn sword, made his attempt upon the life of the CROWN PRINCE, the shafts of the latter's *jinrikisha* were quickly lowered, as has been already described, and the PRINCE, leaping out, began to run towards the head of the procession. TSUDA sprang foward in pursuit, but his advance was immediately checked by one of the *jinrikisha* drawers, who grappled with him and threw him down. The shock of the fall jerked the fanatic's sword out of his hand, and another *jinrikisha* coolie, seizing the weapon, wounded TSUDA in two places. Meanwhile, Governor OKI, who appears to have been constantly looking back in the direction of the two Princes, saw the CZAREVITCH running with his hand to his head, and blood streaming down his face. The Governor jumped from his *jinrikisha*, and led the PRINCE into a neighbouring shop, where his wound was attended to. The PRINCE showed little concern, and made light of his hurt. But the romantic incident relating to the blow which TSUDA was supposed to have received from the stick of Prince GEORGE of Greece, has to be eliminated from the story. These details correct the impressions gathered from the original accounts, namely, that the visit of the CZAREVITCH to Otsu was treated by the Authorities in a somewhat light-hearted manner, and that in the absence of all suspicion of danger, the precautions taken for His Imperial Highness' safety were not as thorough as might have been the case. The idea was founded chiefly on an erroneous statement that the CZAREVITCH had been suffered to drive off at the head of a procession of *jinrikisha* in Indian file, thus exposing himself and diminishing the possibility of prompt succour in case of need. But the criticism loses all point, when we find that the vehicle of His Imperial Highness was preceded by those of the Governor, the Chief of Police, and two Inspectors of Police, and when we remember that the road was guarded by constables on either side. In point of fact no inference whatever as to insufficiency of precaution can be drawn from the event, for the PRINCE'S injury was inflicted, not by an outsider whose approach ought to have been prevented, but by one of the very men appointed to keep off outsiders. A mounted escort would not have furnished any additional protection against the extraordinary and obviously inconceivable contingency that in the ranks of the guard themselves a TSUDA SANZO might be found. The only question is, could more minute inquiry on the part of the police officers have discovered evidence of TSUDA'S unfitness to be trusted with the duty of guarding the CZAREVITCH? If so, then the Japanese Authorities are decidedly to blame. It is not superfluous to allude to these points, because rumours have been freely circulated to the effect that the EMPEROR had given a special assurance as to the safety of the CZAREVITCH, and that the measures taken

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were not adequate to such an engagement. We have the best reasons for believing that the EMPEROR did nothing of the kind. Obviously nothing of the kind was needed. The Japanese nation, by consenting to receive the CZAREVITCH, tacitly pledged itself to take every reasonable step for his protection within Japanese territory. Beyond that well understood and clearly implied pledge the Sovereign could not have been asked, and would certainly have declined, to give any promise. The country, by its unanimous and sincere attitude of regret and apology, has showed a proper appreciation of the responsibility it had undertaken, and the EMPEROR and his Cabinet have done everything that was possible to atone for the misfortune. It is generally understood that Russia did not find herself called on to prefer a demand or to propose a condition of any kind, and that Japan's spontaneous and thorough reparation of the wrong has had the happy effect of deepening the *entente cordiale* between the two Governments. Wisdom that follows the event is a common faculty. In some quarters there will doubtless be a disposition to draw *ex-post-facto* inferences from incidents in the recent history of Japan, and to argue that such happenings ought to have educated prescience to guard against the Otsu catastrophe. A little indulgence in this propensity may easily bring about the only result that would be really lamentable, namely, estrangement between Russia and Japan. The CZAREVITCH himself, in his kindly, courteous way, did everything in his power to avert that issue, and it will be well if his fine example is generally followed.

THE TOKYO POLICE.

THE police of Tokyo are usually so civil and considerate that we have some hesitation in publishing an incident which has just been brought to our attention, but it will be obvious that if such things are passed without notice their repetition may at any moment lead to serious trouble. On the 22nd instant, when the EMPEROR'S return to the capital was imminent, crowds of people collected in the streets. At one point on the route of the procession stood a knot of gentlemen, all in foreign costume, though only one among them was a foreigner. The Imperial cortége had not yet come in sight, and many minutes must still elapse before it passed the point of which we speak. The police, however, were naturally exerting themselves to keep back the crowds, and to provide against any semblance of disorder. In their perhaps over-zealous discharge of this duty, two of the constables had apparently become fussy and excited, for one of them, perceiving that the foreigner had not removed his hat, in loud tones directed him to uncover, an order which the other closer at hand, repeated in a not less peremptory manner. There was as yet no question of the passage of the Imperial cortége, and none of the Japanese in company with the foreigner had thought of removing their hats. If the time to perform this act of courtesy had come, it was obviously no less incumbent on the Japanese than on the foreigner to perform it. But to the former the constables did not address themselves at all. They confined their attention to the foreigner who, had he obeyed their arbitrary mandate, must have stood uncovered for many minutes, while all the Japanese about him kept their hats on. It happened that the foreigner, being able to speak Japanese, could make an intelligible remonstrance, and the police, perceiving their mistake, did not press the matter. But such a termination cannot always be looked for. Foreigners will naturally resent being singled out as a butt for the exercise of exceptional and unnecessary police authority, and if the constables, believing themselves in the right, insist upon enforcing their mandates, very disagreeable contingencies may arise. Such conduct on the part of the police is quite exceptional. Their demeanour as a rule is eminently courteous and forbearing. But this affair of the 22nd instant comes in the sequel of other suggestive happenings. We recall the conduct of the lancer last spring who behaved with such brutal rudeness to Mr. SUMMERS. We recall also the behaviour of the students of the First Upper Middle School towards Mr. IMBRIE, which affair and its treatment by the Authorities constitute the most disgraceful episode in Japan's modern history. Finally, we recall the baseless story circulated a short time ago about the supposed disrespect of a foreign lady towards the EMPEROR. All these incidents bear out what we have often said during the past two years, namely, that a strong spirit of self-assertion has taken possession of the Japanese, and that some of its manifestations may assume most unpleasant forms. There is a tendency to look for an imperious and masterful demeanour, even on the part of foreigners who would be the very last to exhibit anything of the kind, and there is a disposition to suspect slights and insults which are never intended. The gentleman whom the police would have compelled to remove his hat on the 22nd instant long before the Imperial cortége came in sight, happens to be the best known and most universally popular foreigner in Tokyo among all classes of Japanese, and if the constables had preferred against him a charge of disrespect towards the SOVEREIGN, they would have been laughed to scorn. Thoughtful foreigners readily admit that in the demeanour of their nationals towards the people of this country there has, on the whole, been reason for the self-assertive mood now displayed by the Japanese. We are reaping what we have sown. But it ought to be impressed on the soldiery and the police, and the nation should understand, that all the proper forms of courtesy and respect towards the ruler of the Empire and towards members of the Imperial Family are invariably observed with the utmost punctiliousness by foreigners. The latter know much better than the Japanese how to behave towards royalty in the streets, for however perfect may be the politeness of the people of this country, they have lost their old methods of exhibiting it on such occasions, and have not yet properly learned the Western methods appropriate to their newly adopted fashions. When there is question of doffing hats or otherwise expressing loyal feeling as the EMPEROR drives past, the foreigner has always been conspicuously ready—far readier than the Japanese themselves—and it savours strongly of burlesque that two Tokyo constables should single out a respectable Englishman in the streets, and undertake to teach him how to behave as the SOVEREIGN of the State passes. Foreigners will never willingly err in these matters. Their national habit, no less than their friendly desire to respect the sentiments and traditions of the people among whom they live, dictates a courteous demeanour, and the sooner the guardians of the law understand this, and show that they understand it, the better for both sides. From the action of constables who single out a foreigner as a proper person to be prematurely coerced into complying with the ordinary forms of public etiquette, an observant Japanese crowd necessarily infers that the disposition of the foreigner is to contumeliously neglect such forms, and thus, by indiscreet zeal, the police may themselves become propagandists of a misapprehension not at all conducive to the preservation of good order, and decidedly hurtful to the maintenance of friendly relations between Japanese and foreigners.

OWNERSHIP OF REAL ESTATE BY FOREIGNERS.

THE excitement caused by the affair of the CZAREVITCH having to some extent subsided, the vernacular press returns to the topics which constitute its staples of discussion in ordinary times. Prominent among these is the ownership of real estate by foreigners in Japan. The *Jiyu* takes up this subject. It recalls the fact that, in his speech in the House of Peers, Viscount AOKI clearly stated that the Government is averse to allowing foreigners to own real estate. But the *Jiyu* alleges that rumour now attributes a different policy to the Cabinet. It further directs attention to the fact that unless this privilege be specially withheld by Treaty, foreigners would enjoy it under the provisions of the new Civil Code, since the

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latter says that, except in cases prohibited by law or treaty, aliens in Japan shall possess all personal rights, and the right of owning real estate is, of course, included in this category. The *Jiyu* also professes to have found that England's counter-proposals contain a clause providing that after the abolition of the foreign settlements Japanese subjects shall be at liberty to own or rent houses or lands within the old settlement limits, in the same manner as foreigners, and from this it infers that the privilege under consideration is to be granted. What strikes us, and must strike every foreign reader, as curious about this discussion is that the *Jiyu* does not take the smallest trouble to demonstrate the disadvantages of allowing foreigners to own real estate in Japan. The Radical organ placidly assumes that every one is agreed upon that point. But in truth very few are agreed except those who have nailed the *tochi-shoyu-ken* motto on their political platform. Thoughtful Japanese must know perfectly well that there is not the smallest danger of foreigners purchasing large tracts of land in this country to the inconvenience or detriment of the Japanese. The question is purely one of profit and loss, and where no profits offer, foreigners have no idea of investing their money. The editor of a journal like the *Jiyu* is well aware that prohibitions as to the ownership of real estate by aliens have no rational basis except in newly settled countries, where large tracts of land awaiting reclamation invite speculative purchases. It is not expedient, in the interests of rapid colonization, that these lands, being bought and held by capitalists—whether foreign or native—should cease to be procurable by settlers at tempting rates. In such cases a plain argument exists against allowing everybody and anybody to come and invest his money to the detriment and obstruction of genuine settlers. But nothing of that kind exists in Japan. There is, indeed, plenty of unreclaimed land which ought to become profitable in time. But if the Japanese, than whom no more painstaking or minutely patient agriculturists exist in any country, have suffered these tracts to lie waste for centuries, discerning no hope of utilizing them, we can be tolerably certain that foreigners are not going to be more sanguine. All that the foreigner asks for in this country is to be permitted to engage in business without impediment. If he decides to turn his attention to manufacturing, in combination with Japanese, he will require to possess some title to the premises where his business is conducted and to the land on which they stand; but it really makes very little matter to him whether he works under a lease or a fee-simple deed. He has no romantic notions about acquiring Japanese soil, but simply seeks a field for the lucrative employment of his capital, his knowledge, and his experience. If Japanese agitators and exclusionists imagine that by withholding the right of owning real estate they will subject the foreigner to a serious disability or deprive him of a much coveted privilege, they labour under a great misconception. A lease for a reasonable number of years will satisfy all his practical requirements, and we presume that outside the ranks of Mr. OI KENTARO'S little band of mediæval recluses, there are no Japanese sufficiently bigoted and benighted to advocate a veto on the tenure of houses and lands by foreigners under leases. Such an attitude, if carried into practice, would mean the preservation of the Settlements in perpetuity, and on that basis Treaty Revision becomes an absurdity. It is plain that if foreigners may not own real estate in Japan, they will be more or less deterred from building costly residences and laying out handsome domains. To them the loss will be one of pleasure; to the Japanese, among whom the money required for such work would be spent and to whom the work itself would remain, the loss will be substantial. But foreigners will not break their hearts because Japan chooses to stand in her own light. "Let her indulge her romantic fancies," they say. "For us, we care only to be allowed to go about our business. Her so-called 'liberals' and her political agitators who profess to be working in the cause of constitutional government and national enlightenment, may, if they please fix upon her the stigma of semi-civilized seclusion and surround her, like a partially domesticated animal, with a fence of timid restrictions. If she listens to such advisers, that is her own affair. We are sorry for her, but it does not hurt us." By way of contrast to this eminently practical attitude on the part of foreigners, we have the vapouring of Japanese party politicians, who deem it sufficient to cry out in alarm that the Government is about to grant to foreigners the privilege of owning real estate, but who do not deem it worth while to show why the Government should not do so, or how the country would suffer by such liberality. Ample for them and for their purpose is the simple juxtaposition of ideas, a privilege to foreigners and the Government granting it. They know what kind of ring such a cry will have in the ears of the ignorant classes whose support they court. But they forget that it supplies also a sure measure of their own patriotism; patriotism which unhesitatingly sacrifices national interests to the unique purpose of embarrassing those in power. We wish that we could credit the Authorities with a policy so liberal as that assigned to them by the *Jiyu*. There was a time when the action of the Japanese Government remained manifestly faithful to the unchallenged principle that no system of Treaty Revision could work well were it repugnant from the outset to the foreigners who would have to submit to it. From that sound position party politicians, irresponsible, unpractical and careless of the real issue, have been exercising all their strength of late years to drive the Government, opportunity after opportunity having unfortunately been created for them by the obduracy or tardiness of foreign States. The Government, however, still professes the same creed, though compelled to modify its tenets in deference to the growth of public opinion and to the strength of party agitation. But there is a distinct danger that the problem may be dragged altogether into the arena of party politics, unless the Cabinet resolutely and courageously raises it from such a hopeless and unworthy position.

THE NEW PRESS REGULATION.

THE *Hochi Shimbun*, having translated our comments on the recently issued Regulation as to the censorship of journalistic matter that relates to the nation's foreign affairs, says that we appear to have fallen into two errors; first in supposing that permanent need of such a regulation exists, whereas in reality it is intended only to meet a special conjuncture; and secondly, in implying that the Government intends to extend the censorship to all items of news, in whatsoever journal they appear, that have any connection with foreign affairs. Both of these interpretations seem as strange to us as to the *Hochi*. It did not occur to us to form any estimate of the time during which the enforcement of the new Regulation may be necessary. We should rejoice sincerely did the Authorities see their way clearly to abrogate it to-morrow. Neither did we think of defining the scope of its application. Since the *Hochi* raises the latter question, however, we may call attention to the fact that such regulations are not less tyrannical to their framers than irksome to those required to observe them. For the moment that the Government announces its intention of supervising matter relating to foreign affairs, it takes upon its own shoulders the responsibility of all such matter, and its censorship must be correspondingly thorough. We do not see how any discretion can be exercised. Of course the Regulation becomes glaringly superfluous when enforced against a journal like the *Hochi Shimbun*, which in respect of sobriety and moderation of comment offers no room for censure. But we trust that the *Hochi* will not mistake our friendly intention if we say that, to outsiders, the attitude of the leading journals of Tokyo,—papers like the *Hochi*, the *Nichi Nichi*, the *Jiji*, the *Choya*, the *Mainichi*, the *Kokkai*, the *Yomiuri*, and so forth—seems in a certain degree responsible for the state of affairs in which this new Regulation finds reason and justification. It rests with these journals to mould public opinion into really rational shape, and to cure it of the

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hyper-sensitive mood into which it has partially drifted with regard to foreigners, their ways and their customs. But the press does not appear to recognise this obligation. Did any of the great dailies of the capital condemn the letter of Professor NAITO CHISO, published by the *Nippon* and written by way of response to the Asiatic Society's appeal for cöoperation in unravelling the details of Japan's old-time customs and institutions? We did not discover any such condemnation, yet a more wretchedly narrow-minded, a more disgracefully unintelligent, production we have never been fated to peruse. Coming from a Professor of the Imperial University, the thing cast infinite discredit on educated Japan, and every Japanese journal of note ought, in our opinion, to have joined at once in proclaiming its disapprobation of such uncivilized bigotry. What, again, was the line taken by the Tokyo press with regard to the IMBRIE affair? Never can that incident be forgotten by Japan's friends. We do not care to speak of it again, since the terms it deserves are painful to employ, but in connection with the immediate topic of discussion we are constrained to say that the tone of the leading vernacular journals on that occasion, half apathetic, half apologetic, astonished and discouraged us. The effect of their writing could only be to multiply such miserable incidents by condoning them. The same disposition was shown in respect of the stoning of ladies and children on the day of the opening of the Diet. An unwitting failure on the part of a few foreigners to observe a virtually obsolete and quite exceptional Japanese custom, was apparently counted by the vernacular press sufficient excuse for the brutality of street roughs, as conspicuously lacking in manliness as incapable of law-abiding self-restraint. What, finally, is the degree of earnestness shown by the press in seeking to cure that recrudescence of an uncivilized evil, the *Soshi?* Is it conceivable that a spirited, unanimous and determined crusade by the principal newspapers could fail to eradicate this disfiguring pest of modern Japan? But no. Such manifestations, in common with blood-spilling by distraught fanatics and madly romantic honour paid to the memory of picturesque assassins, are treated by the press with easy-going tolerance, or else chidden so daintily that the note of censure has an echo of applause. Newspapers thus conducted fail to discharge their highest and noblest function, the education of a wholesome public opinion. Only where such an opinion has been educated, and where the checks it applies are rigid and effective, can freedom of speech be safely conceded and enjoyed. A negatively respectable attitude will not suffice. The press by its own resolute and positive application of high standards has to create a force which shall take the place of the restrictions now imposed by law. Until that is accomplished, it is vain to complain of the crippling effect of ordinances and regulations. The force of the law is lilliputian compared with the might of public opinion, but public opinion will never attain to any imposing stature so long as it is fed on the innutritious food now supplied by the Japanese press. We do not write in any spirit of fault-finding. To criticise Japanese institutions or doings is not our business, and would be a mere impertinence were it not prompted by a hearty desire to see the nation successful in every way. Genuinely sympathetic observers of Japan's progress, we do not hesitate to tell her journals what foreigners say of them, hoping to hasten the advent of the day when a powerful and sound public opinion will replace the feeble, inefficient, and discreditable regulations now in force.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"COLONIE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—With reference to the statement (*Japan Mail*, 21st inst.), that the word "colonie" used by the French residents of Tokyo and Yokohama, is "*misleading* and *objectionable*," will you allow me to quote here one of its various acceptations given by Littré's French Dictionary?

"Les gens d'un même pays habitant une localité étrangére.

"La *colonie*, les résidents qui ne sont pas originaires de la localité."

The English residents in Paris are thus spoken of in the newspapers, and by everybody, as "La colonie anglaise à Paris." In public inscriptions, even in titles of French newspapers published in foreign countries, the word is continually used with the same meaning.

Let me further add that the expression "La Colonie Française de Saigon, d'Alger, etc.," would not be readily understood by a Frenchman, in the meaning of French residents, since it conveys the idea that the French are foreigners in their own possessions.

The writer of the article referred to, seems to forget in his patriotic bias, the true meaning of the English word "*settlement*," both grammatical and historical, so often used for British possessions, so that the horrible sin, reproached to the French, is daily perpetrated by the English speaking residents in Japan.

Requesting your kind insertion of the above, and enclosing my card,

I remain, Sir, yours very truly,

IMPARTIAL.

May 22nd, 1891.

[Our correspondent seems to have read our comment somewhat harshly. We said distinctly that we had no doubt of the word's having been employed in the sense now indicated by him, but at the same time we thought, and do still think, that these equivocal terms had better be avoided, *all things considered*. We did not reproach the French with any "horrible sin." Quite the contrary.—ED. *J.M.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—My impression in reading your yesterday's remark, is that you fail to recognize here one of so many niceties to be found in the acceptations of an unlimited number of words, common to the English and French languages.

"Colony" in England, has the somewhat lofty meaning of most Latin words in that language; in my opinion, it signifies "British Colonial Possession." If you give this shade to the French expression, I may agree with your comment, but such is not the case.

The term "Colonie" in French, and, in the other neo Latin languages, is more an indigenous plant, having taken root long before the Colonial Era, with the introduction of the Latin Language. It is used therefore in an absolute sense (see Littré) for a community of strangers or foreigners living in a locality, which is not their birthplace. Hence, "la colonie anglaise or "la colonie Marseillaise à Paris." Is "colonie" an *equivocal* term, when you find in New York Central Park "LA Colonia italiana in Nova York"? Is "colonie" an *equivocal* term, when you find in Mexico a newspaper, called "La Colonie Française"? Is colonie" an *equivocal* term, when it is daily used by the French press to designate foreign residents at home or French abroad? This term, allow me to say, is, contrarily to your assertion, emphatically and positively, an unequivocal term, of so common use that no ambiguity whatever can possibly occur.

With this meaning in view, I ask you, has your comment of the address in question, not to be read "somewhat harshly" and does it not lead one to suppose in its writer a partial sensitiveness, when he criticises the term "colonie" used for any collectivity of strangers and foreigners in European countries, whilst the term "settlement" which he thinks the proper one, is used for European communities in all Oriental nations and among all kinds of African tribes.

If you take exception to the friendly word "colonie," has your comment not to appear again as an over-sensitiveness, reluctant to the reader, towards this nation, which is very far from indulging such delicate considerations, when the foreign element is referred to.

Requesting once more your kind insertion of the above,

I remain, Sir, yours very truly,

IMPARTIAL.

Tokyo, May 24th, 1891.

[The use of the English word "colony," as applied to the British residents in Japan, would be distinctly wrong. We are aware that the French word *colonie* has not necessarily the same signification as the English term. Therefore we were careful to avoid any distinct criticism at the outset. Admitting the truth of everything advanced by "Impartial," we still say that we do not like the word *colonie* in the context referred to. Our remark did not go beyond a suggestion. Perhaps our correspondent will be good enough to accept it as such.—ED. *J.M.*]

LECTURE ON GOLDSMITH'S "VICAR OF WAKEFIELD."

A lecture on Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield" was delivered in the Hongo Central Tabernacle, on Saturday evening, May 9th, by Professor Dixon, of the Imperial University. The lecture was illustrated by a series of excellent stereopticon views, most of them borrowed from *The English Illustrated Magazine*, of October, 1890. This number of the magazine contained an excellent article on the subject by Mr. Austin Dobson—the same accomplished writer who has contributed a Life of Goldsmith to the "Great Writers" series. The large hall was packed, and the audience listened with marked attention. Mr. C. M. Hosoki, of the Technological College, Asakusa, gave a lively translation in Japanese. The stereopticon threw on the white curtain a likeness of the author, of whose life the lecturer then gave a short summary:—

The author of the "Vicar of Wakefield," whose likeness is now displayed in the fleeting lime light, was an Irishman by birth and was born a hundred and sixty years ago. His father was a benevolent and much respected Protestant clergyman:—

> A man he was to all the country dear,
> And passing rich on forty pounds a year

Goldsmith cherished through life a singular esteem for this worthy father, who is undoubtedly in many characteristics the prototype of his Vicar. As we know scarcely anything of Goldsmith's mother, it is probable that she possessed many of the weaknesses of the fussy and vain Vicar's wife. Goldsmith's life was marked by great vissicitudes, and his misfortunes were largely due to his own absurd extravagance and thoughtlessness. Money, as the proverb goes, seemed to burn a hole in his pocket. He was unhappy until such sums as he had earned were lavished away in gay apparel and feasting. He never had a home; the most delicate painter of English domestic life was a Bohemian, a man of lodgings and garrets and undomestic ways. Expelled from Dublin University for some breach of rules, a student of medicine at Edinburgh University, but only nominally—for he was a confirmed "waster"—and a doctor of Louvain (if he really had a diploma), his connection with all three places, was scarcely respectable. However, he was beloved as a rollicking, kind-hearted, blundering, unselfish original. In person he was short; in his movements he was clumsy and awkward. His face was deeply pock-marked, and he had no readiness in speaking. Garrick's epitaph, made in sport, is well known:—

> "Here lies poet Goldsmith, for shortness called Noll,
> Who wrote like an angel, and talked like poor Poll!"

He even died in a blundering way, one of the many victims to his medical want of skill. But his friends, of whom he left many, were sincerely grieved to lose so sympathetic a companion. He died young, aged only forty-six. To turn to the story.

The "Vicar of Wakefield" is a story of English country life a hundred and forty years ago. It

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has been called a prose idyll because of the exquisite pictures it gives of country scenes and the social gatherings of simple-minded country folks. Country life in England presents to the student of social customs many more attractions than country life in almost any other land. It has been the habit of the English gentry to establish themselves, not in cities and towns, but in the country, which they do not leave except for a short period of two or three months. As Emerson remarks, English grandees affect to be farmers. Attached to the gentry are the clergy, many of whom are younger sons of landholders and titled personages. The clergyman is, therefore, not the son of an uneducated peasant whose connection with the upper classes is of a distant and professional nature, but is a social link between the rich and the poor. As he is generally a married man, his wife and family are frequently inspired with ambitious desires to mix freely with the best society, an ambition often difficult and painful of realization when the clergyman's income is small. In our present tale Mrs. Primrose, the vicar's wife, had all the weaknesses of her sex and of her position. The scene of the story is laid in the north of England, with which Goldsmith was well acquainted, having made a pedestrian tour through its localities. The title scarcely describes the book, and is of a very accidental nature. Wakefield is mentioned but once or twice in the early chapters, and all the interesting events and descriptions are concerned with other places. A vicar, as most of you know, is the clergyman in charge of a parish. Our vicar was Dr. Charles Primrose, who, when the story opens, was possessed of ample means, and gave away his whole salary in charity. His wife, Deborah, had borne him six children, all of them active and intelligent, and regarded with pride by their fond parents. George, the eldest, was attending the University of Oxford. He was followed by two sisters, Olivia and Sophia, just blooming into womanhood. Olivia was tall, sprightly and commanding, anxious to see the world, and to receive universal admiration. Sophia was more retiring and more serious, with less flow of spirits, but more evenness of temper. Next came Moses, a raw boy anxious to be thought a man in learning and an adept in worldly wisdom. His adventures afford much amusement in the story. Last of all come two youngsters, Dick and Bill. The vicar having been unfortunate enough to lose his private means through the bankruptcy of the merchant with whom he has invested them, is compelled to seek a new home where he may eke out a scanty salary by attending to a farm. Farming, owing to the different conditions of agricultural life in Western countries, is considered an occupation by no means degrading or ungentlemanly. The vicar's new life and surroundings were of a much humbler kind than he and his family had hitherto been accustomed to, and the girls and their mother found it a hard task to accommodate themselves to the unpretentious round of their new life. The first illustration we will give represents the family enjoying an easy afternoon after the labours of the morning. Mrs. Primrose can fancy herself a fashionable lady once again as she pours out tea for her husband and four children. Tea was still at this period a fashionable and expensive drink, which the family could not afford to use except on special occasions. It will be noticed that George and Moses are absent. George is in the capital, living from hand to mouth, and trying unsuccessfully to make his fortune. Moses is either looking after the horses or is busy with his books. The following is Goldsmith's description of the scene:—"At a small distance from the house my predecessor had made a seat, overshadowed by a hedge of hawthorn and honeysuckle. Here, when the weather was fine and our labour soon finished, we usually sat together to enjoy an extensive landscape, in the calm of the evening. Here, too, we drank tea, which now was become an occasional banquet; and as we had it but seldom, it diffused a new joy, the preparations for it being made with no small share of bustle and ceremony. On these occasions our two little ones always read for us, and they were regularly served after we had done. Sometimes, to give a variety to our amusements, the girls sung to the guitar; and while they thus formed a little concert, my wife and I would stroll down the sloping field, that was embellished with blue-bells and centoury, talk of our children with rapture, and enjoy the breeze that wafted both health and harmony. In this manner we began to find that every situation in life may bring its own peculiar pleasures: every morning waked us to a repetition of toil, but the evening repaid it with vacant hilarity." The pictures mentioned below were then displayed in succession, with a running commentary:—

I.—"The Honeysuckle Hedge."—In charming modern-antique style, by Randolph Caldecott. It forms the frontispiece to the "Parchment Library" edition of Messrs. Kegan Paul, published in 1883.

II.—"The Procession to Church—'Blackberry' is stubborn."—A wood-cut by Bewick, an effective engraver on wood, though an indifferent artist, 1798.

III.—"Hunt the Slipper." By Rowlandson, 1817. This is more of a caricature, and is distinctly vulgar in conception. It possesses neither chronological accuracy nor essential truth.

IV.—"Brilliant conversation of the Town Ladies."—By Chodowiecki, a Pole, who was celebrated in Berlin at the close of last century for his etchings. The present picture is found in a work dated 1777. It is quaint rather than appreciative, the artist being scarcely at home in English subjects.

V.—"Moses' Return from the Fair."—This picture is from a etching of Cruickshank, dated 1832. It is effective, but, like much of that great caricaturist's work, leans to the grotesque.

VI., VII.—"Mr. Burchell and the Pocket-Book."—The two pictures are in vivid contrast. The coarse parson of Chodowiecki is not an English Vicar at all, but comes of a different stock. The other picture is by an excellent artist, Dodd, and was published in *Harrison's Magazine* at the close of last century (1781).

VIII.—"Olivia and the Squire.—Mrs. Primrose's Craft." By Mulready, a celebrated artist and Royal Academician. Mulready gained a high reputation for his illustrations of the work. The present picture is a very pleasing one.

IX.—"The Vicar finds his Daughter."—This is a French picture by Tony Johannot, and is dated 1838. His pictures are effective but theatrical. The hostess, with her arms stuck akimbo, reminds one of Madame Angot. The vicar also has a French rather than an English physiology.

X.—"The Rescue of Sophia."—This is a companion picture to No. 6, and also appeared in *Harrison's Magazine* in 1781. It is the better of the two, and was executed by an artist named Walker.

XI.—The last is engraved from a washed drawing by Stothard, an excellent artist and a Royal Academician. He was a contemporary of Dodd and Walker, and was also, like them, connected with *Harrison's Magazine*.

THE CHRIST; JUDGED BY SCIENTIC METHODS.

LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE STUDENTS OF THE IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY AND OTHERS AT HONGO TABERNACLE, TOKYO. BY PROFESSOR B. HOWARD, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

From many conversations with Japanese friends of the scholastic class I have rightly or wrongly got the impression that both in the College Curriculum and in private study, it is a present fashion that Religions of every kind whatsoever be entirely ignored; that to know nothing of religion, counts in favor of superiority in Science; that science is for men, religion for women and children.

In denouncing religions of which they professed to have no exact knowledge, my friends have deemed it sufficient to assure me that they were in substance only repeating what as I must be aware, had been said over and over again by all the scientific men most distinguished in Europe. Respecting this attitude, and this statement respectively, I wish to make a few friendly observations as introductory to the special subject before us.

There are few scholars, however irreligious, but will admit that a so-called history of a country which omits the religion or religions of that country—is no history at all. It may be a partial catalogue of events, but to the philosopher, to the scientist, whose business is with causes and effects, such a book can have but little value. So far as we know, no nation ever did exist or does exist without its religion, and from all we know it is unlikely any nation ever will exist without its religion. In each case so far as we know, religion has not only been an integral factor, but a metrical factor. No nation has ever risen higher than its religion, but every nation has lived below it, and of the nations of the past, every one has buried its religions in its own grave. If, then, the religion of a nation be a premise on which we may fairly substantiate a predicate concerning the future of that nation, he who ignores its religion, may be a pedant, but he is not scientific; he is not a philosopher. To such as pronounce conclusions against any religion without having investigated it, I say the conclusions you utter are not your conclusions, you are merely repeating the dictum of another man, who may be in error; you are a victim of authority—this is superstition.

To such as add to this, an empty unasked enthusiasm and championship—I say, if you look in the dictionary you will find you are there termed a fanatic. The names of all the eminent scientists and philosophers in England and Europe referred to by my friends, I have on several occasions asked for, and putting together every one of those cited, I find a list, the total of which numbers three.

Of these three marvellously clever thinkers and writers, you may read the biographies from material presumably furnished by themselves, and in the entire three biographies, you will find not one single pretension to a single discovery, to having added one fact to the sum of human knowledge. To show that I say this in no spirit of detraction I will at once quote from what the more eminent two of these three have said on the question of religion and science now before us. (Spencer, Education p.90) Mr. Spencer in his work on education, says "True science is esentially religious" and then, quoting from Mr. Huxley, adds, "True science and true religion are twin sisters, and the separation of either from the other is sure to prove the death of both. Science prospers exactly in proportion as it is religious, and religion flourishes in exact proportion to the scientific depth and firmness of its basis. The great deeds of philosophers have been less the fruit of their intellect, than of the direction of that intellect by an eminently religious tone of mind. Truth has yielded herself rather to their patience, their love, their single-heartendess and their self-denial than to their logical acumen." In the double spirit referred to here by Mr. Huxley we may, I think, proceed to the task immediately before us without doubt or misgiving either as to the worthiness of the subject, or the value of its bearings on the social and political economy of peoples, on the history of nations.

THE STORY OF THE CHRIST.

As some of my Japanese friends may have heard, there is a story, which I ought to say is by some people called a mere tradition, that only about eighteen hundred years ago there was in the distant Province of Judæa a humble village carpenter who, on account of his innocent pretension to be a King, was made to die on a gibbet and the form chosen for this gibbet was that which added to his death the deepest penal disgrace.

To-day, every independent kingdom and power in Europe and in the entire hemisphere of America nominally acknowledges one King, one Power greater than itself and all these Powers by common agreement are known under one single appellation of Christ-en-dom, or the Christ-realm. All the learning and the Power meant by the term Modern Civilization owns this one designation, and after the name of this same carpenter-King is called Christendom.

To-day all these different and otherwise differing nations have one Symbol, single and supreme. The form of the gibbet on which this innocent Pretender was crucified, has for 1,400 years been that one Symbol. To-day the Cross (†) of that Christ is the sacred standard of all Christendom.

Such another contrast, such another antithesis this world has never seen.

It is into this antithesis I propose in this lecture to indicate certain lines of inquiry. For this tradition, this superstition, this alleged Christ, to indicate such tests as within the knowable are imperative in the scientific mind in order first, to determine belief or un-belief concerning that part which is alleged to be known, and second to justify faith, or to preclude faith, in that part which legitimately grows out of the facts known, but, projects into the region of what is to ourselves at present unknown, and unknowable, except as revealed to us by the All-knower. In applying the historical test to the facts alleged to be known, we will begin with a consideration of

THE MAN CHRIST AND HIS EARLY FOLLOWERS AS REPORTED BY HOSTILE HISTORIANS NEARLY OR QUITE CONTEMPORANEOUS.

As rightly enough, you may have greater confidence in the authenticity of writers familiar to you in profane history, I would suggest that at your leisure you examine on these points the writings of Josephus, of Tacitus, and of Suetonis, of Juvenal, of Pliny, of Trajan and of Hadrian from which you may find sufficient to convince you so far as their combined authority may go that the man Christ in them denounced, and the successive denounced persons who believed in Him, did at least, exist. In these writers you will find not only that, but so much of what Christ taught, and the early Christians believed, as to fully authenticate the leading facts respecting both this Teacher and his Believers, though no writers called sacred, had ever existed. Concerning all the so-called sacred writers, however, it may be here stated that with them, you will find all these so-called profane writers, are as to the facts, in all cases in full accord.

Josephus was born A.D. 37, and lived until 26 years of age in Jerusalem the city in which much of the life, and finally the death of Christ is alleged to have transpired. Though almost beneath notice

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as these events were then considered, Josephus among other things incidentally remarks "At this time appeared Jesus (another name for Christ) a wise man. He performed many wonderful works, and He gained over to His doctrine many Jews and Gentiles. After Pilate on the ground of the accusation of many of the chief men among us had condemned Him to death on the cross, those who had first attached themselves to Him did not cease their attachment, for He appeared again after three days. The class of men who after Him are called Christians exist to this day."

In the New Testament, several of the writers tell of a total darkness, and other wonderful natural phenomena which occurred at the death of Christ on the cross. Dionysius lived at the time of it in Alexandria, and though quite ignorant as far as we know of even the existence of Christ, made a separate note of the darkness which reached to that distant place, causing him to say "Either the God of nature is suffering, or the machinery of the world is tumbling into ruins." This same darkness is referred to in the Roman Annals by Tertullian also, as having occurred in connection with the crucifixion of the Christ.

Throughout the entire life of the Christ as recorded in the New Testament, the Topography connected with each respective event is given in as much detail as might be found in a corresponding newspaper report of to-day. The larger number of those places still exist. My own familiarity with them is such that I think I could myself go blindfold from the birthplace of Christ at Bethlehem to Jerusalem, where he taught, thence to the garden of Gethsamane where he was arrested, back to Jerusalem near which he was crucified and thence on the road towards Emmaus where he is said to have re-appeared the first day of his resurrection from the dead.

I will ask you to mention the name of one other person so far back in history, the accuracy of whose biography can have corresponding corroboration.

Discovered only in modern times, from the catacombs of Rome have sprung secrets placed there not to be preserved, but to be hid;—Cut in the solid rock over the tombs of the early Christians, have been found memoranda beginning as early as A. D. 72. from which it is said nearly all leading events in the life of the Christ are corroborated. Hundreds of these may be seen in the Vatican, and scores of others in various European museums. Many of these, especially the symbolic ones, I myself saw before their removal, just where, and as they were made, and some of them I have been able to decipher.

The Eucharist; Through all the changes historical and doctrinal, this sacramentum is to-day, and has been every day in its essential form, observed by all Christians of every sect whatsoever, without a break back to the time when just before, and in anticipation of His own death, the Christ invited those then eating with Him, to take bread and drink wine in token of that coming and predicted event. Of what other person has there been a memorial so simple, so touching, so vivid, so significant, which after eighteen hundred years has for such wide-spread and various peoples the same freshness and force as on the day it was instituted? I will ask you to shew me any such testimony to any other man in all human history.

The Anno Domini; this memento which is written or implied in every date recorded throughout Christendom, and more or less throughout the world, is more widely than any other perhaps, a perpetual testimony to the fact of the Christ, and to the Majesty of the Christ. The force and the Majesty of this, from its mere commonness, is passed over by us almost entirely unnoticed.

Until equal dis-proof be forthcoming, I think it may be fairly admitted that the Christ is not merely a Tradition, is not essentially a superstition, but that He was at least a man, who lived at or about the time history records.

WHAT DID THE CHRIST APPEAR TO BE, TO EYE-WITNESSES, SOME OF WHOM HAVE DESCRIBED HIM?

I am obliged here to assume that we agree as to the authenticity of the New Testament, and that its authors described what they saw and heard as these things appeared to them at the time. In passing I will simply interpolate for what it is worth that not long since 617 scientific members of the British Association passed a resolution to this effect: "It is a perversion of Science to cast doubt upon the Scriptures."

From what we may gather in the New Testament, we may infer that for the larger part of his life, the Christ was, as the son of a village carpenter, in no special way conspicuous either among his own class, or beyond His own class.

When at about the age of 30 He began to do and to teach the things so unique and distinctive, it had probably become forgotten except by a few —(for we never again hear of it) how before, and at his birth, such marvellous and supernatural events occurred as led the Jewish King Herod to fear that what others hoped and looked for, had really come to pass, the which to circumvent, he slew all the children in Christ's birthplace of Bethlehem of two years old and under.

But the Messiah or Sent-One, as Christ was called in the Prophecies, which Herod feared had come; the child to ensure whose death alone, this wholesale slaughter was effected, was the very child, and as far as we know, the only child which escaped. Herod having died, the parents with their child had returned, and for nearly twenty years so far as appears there was no sign from him, no word from him, until now in the midst of his humble toil he begins to the evident astonishment of his friends and neighbours, to proclaim, not doctrines as other great Teachers had done, but to proclaim Himself and also his mission.

WHAT WERE CHRIST'S PRETENSIONS AND TEACHINGS?

There were some old books in Judea in those days in which there centered much interest. Some cherished them as historical, others scouted them as legendary. We have those books with us to-day, and we call them the Old Testament.

Within the present century, and mostly within the last 50 years, excavations have exposed to our astonished eyes, sculptures, tablets, inscriptions, records, in Assyria, in Egypt and in other parts, many of which I have myself seen, just where they were found, which even in those days, 1800 years ago, would have silenced those scorners, and would have convinced them of those days that these sacred writings of the Jews were the oldest and best authenticated historical books in the world. Such they have been ever since and such they are to-day.

By the more learned of the Jews, the having and the holding of these books, was deemed one of the highest functions of their race, for these writings contained not only their own genealogies, history, and laws for about 1,500 or 2,000 years, but in those genealogies was to be traced the seed, whence should arise in their midst, a mighty Messiah King, who from Roman subjection, should deliver them and lead them to universal Empire.

Notwithstanding all the changes, all the incongruities which in Jerusalem are now mixed together, step into that ancient city even to-day, and groups of venerable Rabbis will be seen at their only occupation of reading, copying, and reciting these same sacred books. In the time of the Christ, however, Jerusalem then, the capital of the then Jewish nation, in it, their temple unequalled, these books were to the Jews the core of all that was organic morally, socially, and politically in their nation. Here in Jerusalem amongst the teachers of these books, in the temple, would this Christ, a gentle unknown man, as the custom allowed, unrolling the scroll to the earliest prophecy, and rolling it up again to the latest prediction which contained their hope, explain these prophecies, with such clearness and authority, as aroused their astonishment; then calmly pointing to himself he said to these astonished Doctors, "In me are all these predictions fulfilled." That "Messiah, or Sent-One whom ye seek — I am He—Behold your King! Be it insanity or be it blasphemy, such a paradox of humility and pretension they determined must die; and in the end, for this cause, they crucified him. Though unchanged in the simplicity of his life, he never relinquished his pretensions. Throughout the gentile world then, as now, men preferred questions to duties, and were everwhere, respecting the inexplicable first cause of things, asking: What? Whence? Respecting themselves,—Who? What? Whence? Whither? Plato had lived, Plato had died—but left no answer; Socrates had lived, Socrates had died—but left no answer.

In this universal darkness this simple man, speaking to Gentile, to Jew, to all mankind, proclaimed—"I am the light of world." To the above universal questions, he came to all the world with universal answer. Respecting the great first cause, he confirmed the Jewish Revelation that there is one God, who created the heavens and the earth. Asked. What is God? He again for answer as before the Doctors, pointed to Himself, to his own life. He intimated that he came from God, not to expound God or to explain God, but that all men ignorant as well as learned, might *see* God, so much of him as it was expedient or possible for them to know. Asked respecting himself, Whence? Whither? Answer,—From everlasting to everlasting. Respecting man, Who? What? Whither?—he again confirmed the revelation of the Jewish scriptures, that all men are the children of God and come from Him but added the further information that unto God all men must return to give account, thus, initiating what to-day we mean by the word Duty.

Respecting the universal and elementary sense of sin, he taught that to provide an assuagement and atonement for this, he had come to be the sacrifice. This carpenter king, in inviting and gentle terms, demanded the allegiance of every man, of every nation, but explained that this allegiance was strictly and solely spiritual. That it consisted in a Life, which was an imitation of his life, a Life of which love to him was the inspiration; that this His Kingdom which must become universal, is a Spiritual kingdom. Certainly these pretensions were unprecedented then; by no other man of sound mind have they ever been pretended to be made since.

While the ordinary life of the Christ, from its perfectness, continued to be inconspicuous, His public utterances and doings increased in attraction. To all the kingdoms men had then heard of, the pretended kingdom of this pretended King, were in antithesis, for the practice of humility was so integral in this kingdom of God, or kingdom of heaven, as Christ called it, that one of its axioms was this, that "whosoever is least, the same is the greatest." This might be divine,—but it was strangely paradoxical; further, it appeared to be revolutionary. Christ shocked his Pharisaic hearers by informing them in substance that before God, reputation even of the best, is as nothing; that character is everything. He taught the common Father-hood of God *with* the common brother-hood of man. That we should love even those who hate us, and that, whatsoever we do, whether for ourselves or for others, it should be done as unto Himself. That religion is not a ritual, but a life; that life being from Him, hence making our human life divine. That the central reciprocal elements uniting each man to all other men, and all men and God together, is Love.

It does not appear that the Christ was looked upon so much as a great teacher as that He was the teacher of great things. There is no sign that like some other great teachers, He tried to perpetuate his fame by founding a school, or by having organised a church; yet He taught things never heard before, taught them to the commonest people; taught them so that they understood him, followed Him. When asked to substantiate his Kingly and Godly pretensions by miracles, He did not say He could not, but He would not. The Christ came not to display God, but to reveal Him. The Christ shewed the common people a life they saw to be quite within their reach, yet which afterwards, they found to be Divine. By the concealment of His Omnipotence there was room and occasion for the faith in Him, through which alone, He said men could be subjects of his kingdom. Miracles He did perform, never to demonstrate His divinity, but only to give help to the needy who came to Him as He went his ordinary way, such as the healing of the sick, the lame, the blind.

Though the teachings of the Christ occurred in a decaying and outlying country, the race, manners and customs unique, the language, just dying, and for the past 1,700 years dead, the manner of his teachings was such, their meaning even to uneducated people has always been and is to-day as vivid as when first uttered, and this to the most different and distant nations and tribes from the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic Circle.

THE CHRIST COMPARED WITH OTHER GREAT RELIGIOUS TEACHERS.

Make a careful comparison of the teachings of all the other great teachers, philosophers, reformers antecedent to the Christ, and I think you will find

1st.—No other of the great teachers pretended to have been foretold, or did, or could, point out centuries of foretelling concerning himself. 2nd.—No other teacher pretended to be himself the God, or the equal with the one only living and true God. 3rd.—No other teacher pretended that his own life should be the model and example for all time throughout the world. 4th.—No other teacher wrought miracles exclusively to meet human needs when and where they were wrought. 5th.—No other teacher pretended that his own death (which came violently as he predicted) was an efficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 6th.—No other teacher taught the common Father-hood of God with the common brotherhood of all men. 7th.—The philosophy, maxims, teachings, of no other teacher have shewn their adaption to universal needs; those of Zoroaster, of Buddha, of Mohammet, and of the Vedas, are to this day confined to the same quarter of the world in which they originated. 8th.—The teachings of the Christ alone are to-day throughout the world exactly as first uttered, and the transformation of character and of conduct they effect is the same everywhere. 9th.—The teachings of the Christ alone, assure an unbroken and continuous development regardless

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of death. 10.—The teachings of the Christ have proved themselves to be adapted to the continuous development of nations as of individuals, keeping before every nation an ideal which must ever be in advance of its utmost progress. All these statements I cannot wait to prove, but leave you to disprove them if you can at your leisure.

THE COLLAPSE AND THREATENED EXTINCTION OF THE CARPENTER KING AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

Pointing the Jews to some of their sacred writings, Christ showed them accounts written hundreds of years before, both of His genealogy, (which was correct) and also of the manner of His coming death. Strange as it may appear, exactly in accordance with these predictions, by a conspiracy headed by one of his own trusted followers, He was arrested amidst others of His followers, all of whom at once forsook Him and fled. Arraigned, totally disowned by such of His remaining friends as had been accused of complicity with Him, acquitted as a "just man" by Pilate the Roman Governor, but by Him delivered over to those of His own race who had accused Him, this then silent gentle-man, was nailed to the cross with the inscription, ironically, written over Him, "The King of the Jews." In a tomb of rock, the door sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers, lay dead and buried, the late forsaken pretender, and with Him in that tomb lay dead also the last hope of His renegade followers. Two of these men three days afterwards entertaining an unknown man, perceived to their amazement the stranger was the Christ, and then remembered how He had previously told them, that in accordance with Prophecies He had pointed out to them in their sacred books, He would the third day from His death rise again. Forty days after this, His occasional appearances were such as to be duly attested by all His several Apostles.

The reports of this created new alarm, and under special decrees both by the Sanhedrim or Government of the Jews, and by the Roman Governor, the larger number of these cowardly followers had an opportunity of testifying to their reinforced faith, and of redeeming their credit by sealing that confession with their blood; thus dying for Him who first had died for them. Banishment had scattered others of His followers in various directions, many being sent direct to Rome. Though all the gods of all the dependencies of Rome were allowed in the Roman Pantheon, a Temple many of us present have visited, the belief in the Christ was proclaimed illicit, and all persons assembling under that name were liable to arrest, torture, death. Notwithstanding this suppression, Tacitus in his Roman Annals about 30 years after the death of the Christ speaks of people called by the vulgar "Christians" as being a great multitude. He says they were called Christians after the name of their founder, the Christ, who suffered death in the reign of Tiberius under his Procurator Pontius Pilate, and that they were held in great abhorence; that their sufferings at their executions were aggravated by insult and mockery. Put into the skins of wild beasts they were worried to death by dogs; wrapped in pitched shirts, they were arranged as torches to illuminate the public gardens during entertainments by night, so that the spectators, though haters, could not withhold their pity. Further accounts of the persecution and repression of these despised and hated people are given at successive periods by Suetonis, by Juvenal, by Pliny, by Trajan, and by Hadrian, all of which are available to you. Notwithstanding this persecution was so relentless and so widespread, you may find that in the writings of Tertullian about 200 A.D. there is an elaborate defence of Christianity, which at that time he could address without fear to the officials of the Roman Government. In this defence he vindicates the principal writings of the New Testament, and says that if the Roman officials wish to see the originals, they have but to go to the Churches which the Apostles founded in Greece, in Corinth, in Macedonia, in Philippi, and in Thessalonica. Before the close of that century, it was stated that nearly half the population of Rome were nominally Christians. After this, persecution was so renewed, that during the first three centuries, it is said hundreds of thousands were put to death so as in the surest way to exterminate what remained of even the traditions of the Christ. Notwithstanding all this you will find, as all the world knows, that at the beginning of the 4th century, the Roman Emperor Constantine himself, professed the once despised faith, and the Christian religion became the State religion of the entire Roman Empire. I cannot stop to trace each forward step of Christianity since, but as you know, and as I have before said, it is nominally the religion of the world of progressive civilization, and it would be hard to name a people or even a considerable tribe anywhere to which the name of the Christ is to-day entirely unknown. In every country now, as at the beginning, the more devoted followers of the Christ are not chiefly the rich, whose wants, such as they may be, can be satisfied or smothered from other sources. Concerning the Learned, however, it may safely be said the same rule does not so entirely hold good. For the reasons which I have quoted from Spencer and Huxley at the beginning of this lecture, nature has yielded her secrets chiefly to the devout mind. From Galileo to Copernicus, thence to Newton and Herschel, on to Liebnitz, to Helmholz, to Faraday, to Sir William Thompson and to Pasteur, we find the real discoverers in science have been and are, men of devout humble Christian faith. While in Art from Michael Angelo downwards, those whose works bring them within the catalogue of the great masters, have in the very subjects chosen for their works, ranked themselves amongst the historic propagators and illustrators of the Christian faith. In the medical profession amongst its distinguished discoverers may be mentioned Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, Jenner, discoverer of vaccination, Sir Charles Bell and Hunter, the anatomists, the late Sir James Simpson, first to use chloroform, and the present Sir Joseph Lister, all pronounced believers in Christianity. The Christian Evidence Society of England has, for its president, the president of the Royal Society of London, and includes amongst its members Cady, the most distinguished professor in the field of pure mathematics, Dawson of Canada, Pasteur of France, and others of like standing, while amongst all the universities and colleges of the United Kingdom and of America, from their presidents to their Tutors, the professor who is not also a Christian by actual profession, is a rare exception. It is because of the general uniformity of this rule, that the rare objectors, if only clever writers, are as they themselves know, the more particularly distinguished. And this, I fear, is a temptation to such men to magnify their unbelief, and thus to magnify themselves as unbelievers.

THE RELATIONS OF THE CHRIST TO THE GREATNESS OF THE GREATER NATIONS OF CHRISTENDOM.

In contrast to other religions, all of which have been and are manifest by their one or many rituals, one or many objects of external worship, the religion of Christ begins with, and is, an allegiance of the heart to the Christ as supreme. Love and obedience of the individual on one part,—the living Christ on one part; this in miniature, is the Kingdom of the Christ; the larger entire Kingdom is this, multiplied. This living relationship implies, and indeed consists in, the highest activity of all man's powers. This intense individualism makes the Christian a multiplicity of activities, an epitome of force beyond anything else within the observation of man. The most powerful storm defying steamship is but one of his creatures. The force in this epitome, however, is the minor factor; the highest activity of this force; this it is which constitutes the Christly man the so-called Christian. Imagine a nation of such individuals. Given to this nation one hundred years, and what it would not be, is more difficult to conceive, than what at the end of that time it would be. Given, distributed equally throughout the national area, one such man to every fifty in the entire population, would not the mere material prosperity sure to come to the 50th man, attract the attention of the forty-nine, and would not some of the forty-nine be thus stimulated to at least a fuller activity of their lower powers, for the sake of the lower gains such industry would bring, notwithstanding that the Christly source and inspiration in the 50th man be perhaps ignored, perhaps scorned, perhaps unperceived. And might not the consequent riches and influence of the 49 soon overshadow the 50th man, to whose Christly influence the 49 in reality owe their more apparent importance? The 50th man, truly Christly, and the 49 other men together, illustrate more or less nearly the components and aggregate of what by a solecism is called Christendom.

Some of my more travelled Japanese friends have reminded me as against Christianity of some things they have seen in the Japanese Treaty Ports; of the open vice and drunkenness they have seen in European capitals, of selfish, violent foreign encroachments, of unjust indemnities. To all this the illustration just given may be taken I think as supplying the answer.

I have travelled in Siberia, where in the winter you may go for hundreds of miles, no dust to soil you; not a serpent, wasp, mosquito to sting you—also,—nothing to eat. I have travelled in the Tropics, where under the warmer sun, food the most delicious, literally falls into the lap of the sleeper. In this larger universal activity however, you also find clouds of dust, deadly snakes, stinging wasps, swarms of mosquitoes, all of which with ferocious beasts of prey, are there to dispute with man, until as the fittest he survives to Reign. The activities of so called Christian civilization, without the Christ, are ruthless, and to an already contented people are of doubtful advantage; with the Christ as the source and inspiration of these activities however, whole nations have been transformed, and each nation finds within itself the germ and assurance of its highest developement its noblest destiny.

I am well aware of the contempt which some affect for the obscure and doubtful evidence of personal experience. While duly respecting your right to regard belief in such evidence as vulgar credulity, I will venture to ask your attention to

THE PERSONAL PHENOMENA SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE IN EVIDENCE OF THE LIVING CHRIST.

What do you feel? This is the first question a scientific physician asks a new patient. The patient's answer added to and compared with the symptoms the Physician himself observes (*i.e.* the symptoms subjective and objective) are the material out of which the competent physician makes his diagnosis. This is scientific, this is rational. This holds equally with the treatment, which is always more or less held subject to the test and evidence of the patient's experience under it.

Should a person otherwise credible, inform me he had an hour ago felt hunger, but his dinner had removed it and made him feel comfort, I should not ask him to prove it. I should believe him. If he said he had felt shame, guilt, remorse, forgiveness, peace, joy, hope, I should also believe him. If his countenance and conduct agreed with his words, I should take them as objective proof of his alleged subjective experience. To do otherwise would not be scientific, not reasonable.

Spiritual phenomena attend the reign of selfishness and of crime in the human heart; they are known to the subjects of them and they sometimes are manifest to observers. Equally, spiritual phenomena of an opposite character attend the reign of the Christ in the human heart, and these also sometimes are manifest to outside observers, especially where a change from the former to the latter condition has been great and sudden, as where notorious drunkards and criminals have under this influence become models of Christly conduct.

Examples of these phenomena amounting to complete transformation of life and conduct, exist wherever Christianity exists.

Infinitely various these phenomena may be, according to the infinitely various shades of human character, but there is one fact in connection with these changes which in its significance is to us in this connection of supreme importance. These changes always have been, always are, the *same in kind*.

Be the persons, ranks, races, tribes what they may, be they known to each other or unknown to each other, these phenomena are in the main universally identical.

Of the identity, sincerity, universality of these phenomena, I will submit just now one single test.

The test is an acute test when applied to individuals and nations naturally shrewd and selfish —for it is a money test. Wherever money is known and Christ's teachings have been subjectively received, money is subscribed to send those teachings to other peoples or tribes whether they be friendly or whether they be hostile to the subscribers.

For this purpose, private Christian men and women of the Protestant Church alone subscribed last year (1890) the sum of $9,518-214-71. Of this sum $600,000 was last year sent to Japan.

These large sums are made up of individual contributions, and in thousands of instances at the cost of personal deprivation. These are not only the test, but the testimony, of millions of individuals to the reality of the subjective phenomena now under consideration. These people are not giving these sums under the impression so prevalent throughout the Orient, the more given the better for the giver, but under the contrary teaching of the Christ that they must not hope to receive anything whatsoever in return.

Show me any other system of morals, any other religion, the personal phenomena attending which, so substantiate the belief in the conscious Fatherhood of the one God, and the actual brotherhood with all mankind.

If my object were persuasion, I might try to show how reasonable it is that the Almighty, having created man like himself, for himself, with elementary sense of need of him, and aspiration towards him, should in some way, so reveal himself as to enable man to fulfil his destiny, and to find him. If you please, try to suggest and elaborate some better way to this end than the one now before us.

I have intimated that the Christ in Christendom, like the gold in a gold mine, is in the very nature of the case not always visible on the surface; but as the mineralogist in the one case, indicates the ways to the hidden recesses where the gold in the

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gold mine may be found—I have tried in the other case, to indicate some of the ways by which in Christendom, you may find the Christ.

To the historical parts of this question, I have in a limited degree applied historic tests; to the moral parts, moral tests. This I have tried to do from your own standpoint, and in a strictly scientific spirit. To those of you to whom the subject is new, but to whom it may hereafter have sufficient interest, I would suggest that you commence with such parts of the subject as are nearest to your hand.

Take for example the teachings of the Christ as contained in the cheaply published gospels; study them, not in parts, but throughout. Weigh carefully the evidence, internal, and external, concerning them; for one year practice their precepts; after that, find for them if you can, some better explanation than that alleged.

Take the Jew, as he exists to-day in some Japanese ports, and everywhere throughout Europe. Do the same by him, his unique isolation amongst all nations, just as the Christ predicted, when in the capital of the then Jewish nation.

Take any dozen irreligious Europeans, and whether professors or merchants you will find not one of them will pretend to be strongly anti-Zoroastrian, anti-Confucian, anti-Buddhist—respecting each of these systems of morals they are entirely apathetic. Towards the religion of the Christ on the contrary, you will find a distinct and supercilious hostility, and as far as good breeding will allow, a certain number of them will lose no opportunity of making this hostility conspicuous.

This also is just as the Christ predicted. For this interesting fact, find a sufficient explanation, apart from the *personal* Christ.

Select a dozen Japanese Christians in whom on all other points you have confidence—get from them their personal experience, and find for that, some other explanation apart from the alleged *living* Christ.

Now as a Layman and Student like yourselves, I do not pretend to be either the superior example or authority on these matters I would like to be, but when along these lines, and along the other lines I have previously indicated, you shall have applied your tests and counter tests to the central subject before us, simply as a reasonable man speaking to equally reasonable men, I will ask you on the evidence before us concerning the Christ:

Who was He? What was He? If an impostor, a delusion?; Shew me such another impostor, a better delusion. If a man only, shew me another such man. If more than a man, how much more? If more, was he not Divine? If Divine, are not his words true. If his words are true, between the living Christ and ourselves there is a relationship, which though we may not be able to explain, we cannot escape; a relationship it were wiser then to cherish as the transcendent factor in our existence.

The heavenly lights, cold and beautiful, which from successive philosophers, have in different ages flickened in the mysterious darkness suggesting the infinity above us and deepening the impenetrable darkness before us, at the dawn of this sublime truth, have one by one faded uselessly away, while in the growing brightness of its shining, the whole creation is filled with light, revealing to each Believer a new Heaven, a new earth, a new hope, a Life Eternal.

REVIEW.

Noto, an unexplored Corner of Japan. By PERCIVAL LOWELL. 1890: Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

MR. PERCIVAL LOWELL has published another of his characteristic and delightful volumes about the Far East. This time he takes us to "Noto, an unexplored corner of Japan;" describes his journey thither, the scenery *en route* and the scenery of the place, and gives us his own bright, sparkling company throughout the whole journey. Noto is a *terra incognita* to most people. That very fact, supplemented by a romantic curiosity which the cartographical position of the sea-ward jutting province inspires, led Mr. Lowell to turn his footsteps thither. To reach the district one must strike right across Japan, climb the huge mountain ranges occupying the interior, and attain the extremity of the Western coast. A route offering closer acquaintanceship with Japan of the pre-Meiji era could scarcely be discovered. It presents difficulties and hardships sufficient to whet, if not to satiate, the appetite of the sturdiest tourist, but it presents also beauties of varied scenery more than ample to atone for the pain of discovering them. Mr. Lowell has managed to tell the story of his journey and its experiences in an enchanting fashion. He possesses an admirable knack of blending the subjective and objective elements in his narrative. Rarely does a writer of travels contrive to make himself the companion of his reader. Mr. Lowell achieves the feat. Without a touch of egoism, he manages to be always present in his pages, using his personality as the medium for reflecting impressions, not as the screen upon which they are cast, after the manner of most tourists. Readers of his "Chosön" and "Soul of the Far East," know how extensive is his command of language. Sometimes, allowing himself to be carried away by his facility, he has sacrificed his sense of proportion to a love of word-painting, just as a sweet singer dwells upon a note to the detriment of time. But in "Noto" there is no trace of this defect: the art, present throughout, is nevertheless successfully hidden. From cover to cover we follow him, or rather accompany him, in his wanderings, closing the dainty little volume with the feeling that a veritable idyl of travel is contained in its two hundred and sixty pages, and perhaps also with a feeling that it is better to rest content with Mr. Lowell's account than, by actual experience, to court prosaic acquaintance with the impressions he poetically depicts. Poetry of vision being the gift of the very few, painful disillusion alone awaits common prosaists who seek poetic sensations outside the poet's pages. Let them be satisfied to view Noto and similarly unexplored regions through the lens held by Mr. Percival Lowell. Not otherwise will they discover the true inwardness of an article so seemingly matter-of-fact as a *yanagi-gori*, for example:—"It consists simply of two wicker baskets, of the same shape, but of slightly different size, fitting into each other upside down. The two are then tied together with a cord. The beauty of the idea lies in its extension: for in proportion as the two covers are pulled out or pushed home will the pair hold from a maximum capacity of both to a minimum capacity of one. It is possible even to start with more than a maximum, if the contents be such as are not given to falling out by the way. The contrivance is simply invaluable when it comes to transporting food; for then, as you eat your way down, the obliging covers shrink to meet the vacuum. If more than one *Kori* be necessary, an easy step in devices leads to a series of graded sizes. Then all your baskets eventually collapse into one." Thus idealized the plain wicker baskets of the Japanese traveller set out with Mr. Lowell, and thus idealized they returned with him. For the idyl is sustained throughout. The last stanzas are as fresh and bright as the first. There can be no better way to review the book than to quote a few passages at random. They convey a fair idea of the style and scope of the volume:—

Besides, the weather was perfect: argosies of fleecy cloud sailing slowly across a deep blue sky; a broad plain in all its spring freshness of colour, picked out here and there with fruit trees smothered in blossom, and bearing on its bosom the passing shadows of the clouds above; in the distance the gradually growing forms of the mountains, each at first starting into life only as a faint wash of colour, barely to be parted from the sky itself, pricking up from out the horizon of field. Then, slowly, timed to our advance, the tint gathered substance, grew into contrasts that, deepening minute by minute, resolved into detail, until at last the whole stood revealed in all its majesty, foothill, shoulder, peak, one grand chromatic rise from green to blue. * * *

These fellow-passengers fully made up for the room they took by their value as scientific specimens. I would willingly have chloroformed them all, and presented them on pins to some sartorial museum; for each typified a stage in a certain unique process of evolution, at present the Japanese craze. They were just so many samples of unnatural development in dress, from the native Japanese to the imitated European. The costume usually began with a pot-hat and ended in extreme cases with congress boots. But each man exhibited a various phase of it according to his self-emancipation from former etiquette. Sometimes a most disreputable Derby, painfully reminiscent of better bygone days, found itself in company with a refined kimono and a spotless cloven sock. Sometimes the metamorphosis embraced the body, and even extended down the legs, but had not yet attaked the feet, in its creeping paralysis of imitation. In another corner, a collarless, cravatless, semiflannel shirt had taken the place of the under tunic, to the worse than loss of looks of its wearer. Opposite this type sat the supreme variety which evidently prided itself upon its height of fashion. In him the change had gone so far as to recall the East End rough all over, an illusion dispelled only by the innocence of his face. * * *

Toward the middle of the afternoon we reached a part of the coast locally famous or infamous, for the two were one; a stretch of some miles where the mountains made no apology for falling abruptly into the sea. Sheer for several hundred feet, the shore is here unscalable. Nor did it use to be possible to go round by land, for the cliffs are merely the ends of mountain-chains, themselves utterly wild and tractless. A narrow strip of strand was the sole link between Etchiu on the one hand and Echigo on the other. The natives call the place *Oya shirazu, ko shirazu*, that is a spot where the father no longer knows the child, nor the child the father; so obliterating to sense of all beside is the personal danger. Refuge there is none of any kind to have been caught here in a storm on the making tide, must indeed have been to look death in the face.

Between the devil of a precipice and the deep sea, he who ventured on the passage must have hurried anxiously along the thread of sand, hoping to reach the last bend in time. As he rounds the ill-omened corner he sees he is too late; already the surf is breaking against the cliff. He turns back only to find retreat barred behind by rollers that have crept in since he passed. His very footprints have all been washed away. Caged! Like the walls of a deep-down dungeon the perpendicular cliff towers at his side, and in the pit they rim, he and the angry ocean are left alone together. Then the sea begins to play with him, creeping catlike up. Her huge paws, the breakers, buffet his face. The water is already about his feet, as he backs desperately up against the rock. And each wave comes crushing in with a cruel growl to strike—short this time. But the next breaks closer, and the next closer still. He climbs a boulder. Their spray blinds him. He hears a deafening roar; feels a shock that hurls him into space, and he knows no more. * * *

It was late afternoon when we issued at last from our two days Thermopylae upon the Etchiu plain. As we drew out into its expanse, the giant peaks of the Tateyama range came into view from behind their foothills, draped still in their winter ermine. It was last year yet in those upper regions of the world, but all about us below throbbed with the heartbeats of the spring. At each mile, amid the ever lengthening shadows, nature seemed to grow more sentient. Through thick air the peaks stood out against the eastern sky, in saffron that flushed to rose and then paled to gray. The ricefields, already flooded for their first working, mirrored the glow overhead so glassily that their dykes seemed to float in sunset illusion, a mere bar tracery of earth between the sky above and a sky beneath. Upon such lattice of a world we journeyed in mid-heaven. Stealthily the shadows gathered; and as the hour for confidences drew on, nature took us into hers. The trees in the twilight, just breaking into leaf, stood in groups among the fields and whispered low to one another, nodding their heads; and then from out the shadow of the May evening came the croaking of the frogs. Strangely the sound fitted the hour, with its like touch of mysterious suggestion As the twilight indefinite, it pervaded everything, yet was never anywhere. Deafening at a distance, it hushed at our approach only to begin again behind us. Will-o'-the-wisp of the ear, infatuating because forever illusive! And the distance and the numbers blended what had perhaps been harsh into a mellow whole that filled the gloaming with a sort of voice. I began to understand why the Japanese are so fond of it that they deem it not unworthy a place in nature's vocal pantheon, but little lower than the song of the nightingale, and echo its sentiment in verse. And indeed it seems to me that his soul must be conventionally tuned in whom this even-song of the ricefields stirs no responsive chord. * * *

Then other inns in Japan came up regretfully across the blue distance of the intervening years, midday halts, where an hour of daydream lay sandwiched in between two half days of tramp. And I thought of the companions now so far away. Having heard the tune in a minor key, these came in as chords of some ampler variation, making a kind of symphony of sentiment, where I was brought back ever and anon to the simple motif. And the teahouse maidens entered and went out again like mutes in my mind's scene. * * *

Amid farewell wavings from the jinrikisha men we pushed off into the stream. In spite of the rush of the water and the creaking of the oars, a strange stillness had fallen on everything. The swirling, inky flood swept us on past the hushed banks, heights of motionless leaves nearly hiding the gray old rock. Occasionally some puff of wind more adventurous than its fellows swooped down to make the leaves quiver a moment, and then died away in awe, while here and there a bird flew in and out among the branches with strangely subdued twitter.

Although this part of the river could show its gorge and its rapids, it made only the preface to that chapter of its biography we had come to read. At Iokimata, some hours further down, begins the voyage proper. The black water glided sinuous along, its stealthy course every now and again interrupted by rapids, where the flood lashed itself to a passion of whitecaps with a kind of hissing roar. Down these we shot, the boat bowing first in acquiescence, and then plunging as madly as the water itself. It was hard to believe that boat and river were not sentient things.

At intervals we met other boats toiling slowly up stream, pulled laboriously by men who strained along the bank at the ends of hundreds of feet of tow-rope, the ropes themselves invisible at first for distance; so that we were aware only of men walking along the shore in attitudes of impossible equilibrium, and of boats that followed them doglike from pure affection. It would seem weary work even for canal-boating. It takes weeks to toil up what it once took only hours to float down. As we sped past the return convoys, we seemed sad profligates, thus wantonly to be squandering such dearly-won vantage of position. The stream which meant money to them was, like money, hard come and easy go.

Still the stream hurried us on. We hugged the cliffs, now on one side, now on the other, only to have them slip by us the quicker. Bend after bend opened, spread out, and closed. The scene changed every minute, and yet was always the same. Then at times were vouchsafed openings in the surrounding hills, narrow bits of foreground, hints of a something that existed beyond.

For three hours and more we kept on in our serpentine course, for the river meandered as whimsically as if it still had a choice of its own in the matter. Then gradually the land about began to make overtures toward sociability. The trees on the banks disappeared, the banks themselves decreased in height; then the river to a more genial flow, and presently we were aware of the whole countryside to the right coming down in one long sweep to the water's edge. * * *

Shortly after ducking under the last ferry rope we reached the gateway to the cañon. Some rapids made an introduction, rocks in places jutting out of the foam, and while we were still curveting to the waves the hills suddenly closed in upon the stream in two beetling cliffs, spanned surprisingly by a lofty cantilever bridge. An individual who chanced to cross at the moment stopped in mid-path to watch us through. The stream swept us in, and the countryside contracted to a vanishing vista behind. We were launched on our long cañon voyage.

The change was as sudden as a thunderstorm of a smiling summer afternoon. It was an eclipse of the earth by the earth itself. Dark rocks picketed with trees rose in [illegible] on either hand, higher than one could

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see. The black river swirled beside us silent, sullen, swift. At the bottom of that gorge untrodden by man, borne by the dark flood that untouched by sunlight coiled snakelike along, we seemed adventured on some unforgotten Styx.

For some time we had voyaged thus with a feeling not unlike awe, when all at once there was bustle among the boatmen, and one of them went forward and stood up in the bow. We swept round a corner, and saw our first great rapids three hundred yards ahead. We could mark a dip in the stream, and then a tumbled mass of white water, while a roar as of rage came out of the body of it. As we swept down upon the spot, the man in the bow began beating the gunwale with his oar in regularly repeated taps. The board gave out a hollow ring that strangely filled the river chasm; a sound well calculated to terrify the evil spirits of the spot. For indeed it was an exorcism of homœopathic design. This incantation finished, he stood motionless. So did the rest of us, waiting for the plunge. The boat dipped by the bow, darted forward, and in a trice we were in the midst of a deafening turmoil of boiling waters and crashing breakers. The breakers laid violent hands upon us, grappling at the frail gunwale and coming in part aboard, and then, as we slipped from their grasp, impotently flung their spray in our faces, and with a growl dropped astern. The boat trembled like a leaf, and was trembling yet, when, with nightmare speed, the thing had slipped into the past, and we were shot out into the midst of the seething flood below.

Not the least impressive part of the affair was the strange spirit-rapping on the bow. The boatmen valiantly asserted that this was simply for signal to the man in the stern. Undoubtedly now the action has largely cloaked itself in habit, but that it once was superstitious is unquestionable. Devils still constitute far too respected a portion of the community in peasant parts of Japan.

The steering the boatmen did was clever, but the steering the stream managed of its own motion was more so. For between the rapids proper were swirls and whirlpools and races without end. The current took us in hand at the turns, sweeping us down at speed straight for a rock on the opposite bank, and then, just as shipwreck seemed inevitable, whisked us round upon the other tack. A thick cushion of water had fended the boat off, so that to strike would have been as impossible as it looked certain. And then at intervals came the roar of another rapid, like a stirring refrain, with the boatman in the bow to beat the time.

So we swept on, now through inky swirls of tide, now through snow-capped billows, moods these of the passing stream, while above the grand character of the gorge remained eternally the same.

> The trees far up, sharp etched against the blue,
> Let but the river's strip of skylight through
> To trees below, that on each jutting ledge
> Scant foothold found to overhang the edge,—
> As still as statues on their niches there,
> Where no breeze stirred the ever-shadowed air,—
> Spellbound spectators, crowded tier on tier
> From where the lowest, bending to be near
> The shock of spray, with leaves a-tremble stood
> In shuddering gaze above the swirling flood.
> The whole deep chasm, some vast natural nave
> That to the thought a touch of grandeur gave,
> And touch of grace,—for that wistaria clung
> Upon the trees, its grapelike bunches hung
> In stretch to catch their semblance in the stream;
> Pale purple clusters, meant to live in dream,
> Placed high above man's predatory clutch,
> To sight alone vouchsafed, from harming touch
> Wisely withheld as he is hurried past,
> And thus the more a memory to last.
> A violet vision; there to stay—fair fate—
> Forever virginly inviolate.

Slowly the strip of sky overhead became steeped in colour, the half light at the bottom of the gorge deepened in tint, and suddenly a turn brought us out at a blaze in the cliff, where a handful of houses straggled up toward the outer world. We had reached Mitsushima, a shafting in the tunnel, and our halting place for the night.

We take leave of this delightful volume by echoing the words of the accomplished author:—"What a blessed trick of memory that, of winnowing the joys of travel from its discomforts, and letting the latter slip unconsciously away! The dust and the heat and the thousand petty annoyances pass with the fact to be forgotten, while the snow-headed mountains and the deep blue sea, and the smiling fields stay with us, a part of ourselves." Mr. Lowell's writing is a conspicuous verification of this tendency: he preserves everything that is charming and beautiful, banishing to the limbo of forgetfulness whatever might mar the pleasant picture. As we lay down "Noto," his own thought recurs to us in the words of another poet:—

> Ah the old dreams, old times, old joys
> Buried below the present's noise,
> How still they sleep beneath time's river;
> All their sorrow and pain forget,
> All their beauty without a fret,
> Living to perfume the memory for ever.

BASE BALL.

"MONOCACY" V. YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO.

This game, played on Thursday, was a return match between these teams, and resulted, as will be seen by the appended figures, in an easy thing for the "Monocacy" men. At the commencement of the game, the "Monocacy's" pitcher evidently expected to steal a "strike" off the Yokohama team by sending in an easy fair ball at the very first; but Nash was not to be caught napping, as he sent it back "hot" to Bryan, who was so surprised that he fumbled it, though he managed to get it to first in time to stop Nash. In the second innings Bryan and Logan very nearly made a mess of it by trying to catch the runner off second base, after which Whittlesly and Logan made pretty and successful double play. while Bryan managed to get under and hold a very difficult foul, in which the necessity of steering carefully amongst the legs of some of his sailors added to the trouble. If Stone had practised more he would have got away a good deal quicker on the dropped third strike, and might easily have reached first base. In this innings a very bad throw to first proved terribly expensive for the Yokohama team. It was a pity that Knox could not get anything out of the clean base hit he made in the innings. Knox made a wonderfully clean catch off Meyer in the sixth innings, but Logan managed to send a corker, just out of reach of McNair and Merriman, down into centre field territory, too far from Stone to be stopped, and made a home run. In this innings Norris gave Stone a chance, a very high fly, which the latter accepted and stopped Anderson from scoring. The game shows more than ever the necessity for practice on the Yokohama side. The umpire (always a thankless job) was thoroughly conscientious, but the turn of the balance was against the home team, for only "close" points were given against them—certainly against the fact twice, for the visitors admitted that the men were out—and in both instances the misfortune enabled the "Monocacy's" to score runs that never should have been allowed. Merriman neatly caught a straight hot one, but probably the best play was a liner to Bryan, held and quickly passed to 1 B, making a double play in the last innings. Following are the scores:—

"Monocacy."	R.	O.	A.	P.O.	Yokohama and Tokyo.	R.	O.	A.	P.O.
Mr. Meyer 3B	1	4	—	—	Mr. Nash ..... RF	0	3	2	1
Mr. Logan 2B	2	3	2	2	Mr. McNair ..... P	0	3	8	1
Mr. Bryan ..... P	1	1	7	4	Mr. Knox ..... LF	0	3	0	1
Mr. Daly C	1	3	6	6	Mr. Tilden ..... SS	0	4	2	1
Mr. Anderson ... 1B	3	1	0	11	Mr. Tison 1B	0	4	0	9
Mr. Norris ..... LF	0	3	0	0	Mr. Shitosu C	0	3	0	7
Mr. Whittlesly ... SS	0	3	2	3	Mr. Stone ..... CF	1	2	0	1
Mr. McCormack CF	0	4	0	1	Mr. Page 3B	1	2	1	3
Mr. Allen ..... RF	2	2	0	0	Mr. Merriman ... 2B	0	3	4	0
	10	24	17	27		2	27	17	24

Innings.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
"Monocacy"	0	1	4	1	1	3	0	0	*—	10
Yokohama and Tokyo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

CRICKET.

A match was played on Monday between a team representing visitors to the port and a local eleven. Play began at half past eleven, the visitors going in and playing till tiffin. After the adjournment play was resumed, and the first innings concluded about half-past two, with a total of 81. Yokohama went in about three o'clock and very soon ran up a big score, Fenton contributing 72 by very fine and free hitting. Stewart also put together 30, the only other batsman reaching double figures, however, being Kenny. The visitors went in a second time but about half-past five play was interrupted by rain. Following are the scores:—

Yokohama, First Innings.

Mr. Fenton, c. Barton, b. Reid	72
Mr. Stewart, run out	30
Mr. Dickenson, c. Barton, b. Reid	0
Mr. Watson, c. Sydney, b. Reid	0
Mr. Morriss, c. and b. Jamble	0
Mr. Dodds, c. Pollard, b. Reid	1
Mr. Kenny, c. Brown, b. Pollard	12
Mr. Kenyon, c. Butler, b. Jamble	1
Mr. Young, b. Reid	0
Mr. Abbey, c. Reid, b. Sydney	2
Mr. Fardell, not out	—
Extras	7
	125

Visitors.	First Innings.	Second Innings.
Mr. W. J. Reid, c. Dodds, b. Watson	3	c. Dickenson, b. Dodds 0
Mr. W. K. Sydney, b. Morriss	10	c. Young, b. Morriss ... 20
Capt. Jamble, b. Watson	6	c. Morriss, b. Dodds ... 14
Sir C. Miles, run out	3	c. Young, b. Dodds ... 1
Mr. Pollard, c. Dodds, b. Dickenson.	10	did not bat ... —
Capt. Brown, c. Watson, b. Dodds..	11	not out ... 2
Mr. Barton, bit wicket, b. Dodds ...	12	not out ... 3
Mr. H. Butler, run out	8	run out ... 4
Mr. Firth, not out	3	did not bat ... —
Mr. Bankier, c. Dickenson, b. Dodds	0	c. Kenyon, b. Dodds ... 11
Mr. Arnold, b. Dodds	0	did not bat ... —
Extras	9	Extra ... 1
	81	65

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB REGATTA.

The spring regatta of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club took place on Saturday under the most favourable conditions of weather that could have been wished. The occasion was successful in the highest degree, a result which has beyond doubt been very largely due to the energy manifested by the recently elected Hon. Secretary, Mr. Marshall Martin. Attracted by the fine weather and by pleasurable anticipations of good racing, a large number of ladies assembled on the Boat Club verandah and while listening to the excellent music of Admiral Belknap's band, watched with much interest the various events.

The proceedings opened with the Junior Pairs, the preliminary heats of which had been rowed during the week, leaving only two crews to contest Mr. Boag's prize. Chances seemed about even when the crews started, but Gibbs lost his head before the course was half covered and the pair could never regain their place, though they spurted gamely at the close, and came in a bare length behind their opponents. The two-mile race for double banked men-of-war boats brought out a cutter each from the *Alliance* and *Monocacy*. The latter got the lead on the outward trip, but rounded the wrong way and had to return and do it over again. This lost them the race, but they finished only five lengths astern of the *Alliance*. Both pulled ten oars. Four crews went out for the Club Fours, a fifth which had been got together having collapsed. Martin brought home his team in fine style many lengths ahead of Rothwell, who stopped rowing some distance out but, drifting in, got the second gun. Four men-of-war boats started for the next race, and *Monocacy* won easily with a six-oared gig, nearly a hundred yards ahead of the *Alliance* 5-oared. The final heat for the Ladies' Purse brought out Martin and Payne against Stewart and Hood and a fine race was anticipated. But the former drew away to the front at an early stage in the race, and pulled in easily, their opponents spurting unsuccessfully.

The prize was presented immediately after the race by Miss Rice, who, addressing Messrs. Martin and Payne, said:—It is with very great pleasure that I present you, on behalf of the ladies, with this well-earned prize. I congratulate you both heartily, and trust that all your future efforts to please them may be equally successful.

Mr. Martin in reply, thanked Miss Rice and the ladies, on behalf of Mr. Payne and himself for the prize presented. He had also specially as a member of the Committee, and in the name of his colleagues, to thank the ladies for so kindly offering prizes which form strong incentives to competition, and to express the hope that the interest manifested on this occasion would be shown in future. He then asked Miss Rice to accept a handsome bouquet of flowers, and called for cheers for the ladies, which were heartily given.

The race for members of the Imperial University Rowing Club, put down on the programme after, but rowed before, the Ladies' Purse was participated in by three crews attired respectively in the red, white and green costumes of the Sumida-gawa. Red won easily. White in a fine spurt was gaining hand over hand on Green, but at the first gun all ceased rowing and Green drifted into second place. For the match between former residents of Kobe and Yokohama men, the former were greatly fancied, Pearson's well known qualities at the stroke oar arousing a good deal of confidence. But it soon became apparent that this confidence was misplaced, for Yokohama at once began to draw out a long lead and in spite of a plucky struggle on the part of their antagonists at the close, finished many lengths ahead. Quite a furore of excitement was evoked by the "over 44 v. under 22" race. The oldsters were, of course, favoured by those who remembered the deeds of derring-do recorded of them "long ago," but even their backers quaked when enquiries were made about the staying powers of the "Ojii-sans." Besides, Mr. Rickett wasn't at all sure about them, and shook his head dubiously when questioned on the subject. It was understood that they didn't quite come up to his standard of what was necessary to win. But it was generally felt that if they could stand being bustled along from the P.M. wharf, the race was theirs;—that if they got the lead they wouldn't lose it; that if they set themselves in motion Litchfield would hurry them up somewhat. Well, none of these things happened. The youngsters got to the front and came along with a good strong lead; people began then to recollect that after all Anglin was a big, strong fellow, with a good deal of judgment, that Eyton, if not stronger was at any rate bigger, and that Morris and Gibbs were not by any means ballast in a boat—that, in fact anybody might have foreseen the result. So the "boys," pulling very nicely, got as far almost as the Club House, when Litchfield roused up his fellow "Ojii-sans" for an effort, and a truly fine piece of rowing took place just under everybody's eyes. The youngsters did their best, but their doom was sealed, and they were caught just on the line, losing a pretty race by something like a foot. The International Fours seemed to lie in Pearson's hands for England, and a slight change in the Scotch crew,—Hood moving up to bow and Hamilton coming into the seat next to him—did not seem to promise much, for the new comer had just finished assisting the other ancients to beat the boys. Campbell's place at the rudder yokes also was taken by McLaren, and

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in nomenclature at least the crew was not merely Scotch, but almost "Hielan." They got the lead, however, and kept it tenaciously. The Sassenachs spurted hard and pluckily, and Pearson was able to materially reduce the lead, but two could play at that game, and the northern "loons" won an arduous finish by two lengths. Four scratch fours turned out to close up the regatta. Layard in the blue boat had the best of the start but green (Rothwell) soon came to the front. The real struggle however, began when Black (P. de C. Morriss) and Red (Young) took a hand, and a game contest ended in a dead heat between those two. On rowing off Red won by about a foot.

At the close the various prizes were handed to the winners by Mrs. Rickett, and an enjoyable afternoon was thus brought to a close. About 40 members of the Club afterwards dined under the presidency of Mr. Litchfield.

The following formed the Committee of Management:—Messrs. J. Rickett (Captain), C. Marshall Martin (Hon. Sec.), H. J. Rothwell (Hon. Treasurer), Chandler Gibbens, W. W. Campbell, G. W. Barton, J. T. Boag, H. C. Litchfield (Judge), N. J. Hannen (Starter and Umpire), J. F. Pinn (Timekeeper), Jas. Walter, Dr. Wheeler, Messrs. G. H. Goodrich, H. V. Henson, J. A. Jeffrey, F. Walkinshaw, and Lieut. Chas. A. Foster, U.S.N.

Following is the result of the racing:—

JUNIOR PAIRS, FINAL HEAT.—Three-quarters of a Mile. (Prize presented by Jno. T. Boag, Esq.)

G. W. Barton
D. McNeill
D. McLaren (Cox.) } 1

J. Eyton, Junior
J. B. Gibbs, Junior
W. W. Campbell (Cox.) } 2

Time 6.27.

MEN-OF-WAR BOATS (DOUBLE BANKED).—Two Miles. Allowance: 15 seconds per oar per mile.

Alliance, 10 oars ..... 1 | *Monocacy*, 10 oars..... 2

Time 20.5⅘.

CLUB FOURS.—One Mile.

White.
Marshall Martin (Stroke)
J. D. Anglin (3)
Geo. Hood (2)
A. B. Smith (Bow)
J. Rickett (Cox.) } 1

Black.
H. J. Rothwell (Stroke)
J. Eyton, Junior (3)
R. De B. Layard (2)
G. Rogers (Bow)
E. O. Kenyon (Cox.) } 2

Red.
D. McNeill (Stroke)
Alan Stewart (3)
B. H. Pearson (2)
A. J. Watt (Bow)
D. McLaren (Cox.) } 3

Blue.
G. W. Barton (Stroke)
J. B. Gibbs, Junior (3)
E. Morriss (2)
O. Balk (Bow)
W. W. Campbell (Cox.) } 0

Time 7.54.

MEN-OF-WAR BOATS—ALL COMERS.—Two Miles. Allowance: 15 seconds per oar per mile.

Monocacy, 6 oars ..... 1 | *Alliance*, 5 oars 2

"LADIES' PURSE" DOUBLE SCULLS, FINAL HEAT.—Three-quarters of a Mile.

Marshall Martin ... } 1 | Alan Stewart ..... } 2
A. W. Payne ..... } | Geo. Hood ..... }

Time 6.32¾.

MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY ROWING CLUB.—Three-quarters of a Mile.

Red.
T. Kato (Stroke)
Y. Edakuni (5)
Y. Sameshima (4)
S. Hori (3)
K. Hida (2)
H. Ishikawa (Bow)
K. Tsutsumi (Cox.) } 1

Green.
F. Yasuda (Stroke)
M. Shiraishi (5)
T. Kanamori (4)
B. Kikuchi (3)
H. Hatano (2)
N. Kato (Bow)
J. Nakahara (Cox.) } 2

White.
S. Ishimaru (Stroke)
K. Niho (5)
T. Sakuma (4)
S. Hinata (3)
M. Ioka (2)
T. Kihara (Bow)
M. Kinoshita (Cox.) } 3

Time 6.42.

KOBE V. YOKOHAMA.—One Mile.

Yokohama (Black Boat.)
Marshall Martin (Stroke)
G. W. Barton (3)
J. D. Anglin (2)
A. B. Smith (Bow)
J. Rickett (Cox.) } 1

Kobe White Boat.)
B. H. Pearson (Stroke)
H. J. Rothwell (3)
R. De B. Layard (2)
P. De C. Morriss (Bow)
D. McLaren (Cox.) } 2

Time 7.55.

"OVER 44 V. UNDER 22," FROM P.M.S.S. WHARF.

Over 44 (Black Boat.)
H. C. Litchfield (Stroke)
Geo. Hamilton (3)
Jas. Dodds (2)
M. T. B. Macpherson (Bow)
J. Rickett (Cox.) } 1

Under 22 (White Boat).
J. D. Anglin (Stroke)
J. Eyton, Junior (3)
J. B. Gibbs, Junior (2)
Ed. Morriss (Bow)
J. Carst, Junior (Cox.) } 2

Time 2.12.

INTERNATIONAL FOURS.—One Mile.

Scotch.
W. McNeill (Stroke)
Alan Stewart (3)
Geo. Hamilton (2)
Geo. Hood (Bow)
D. McLaren (Cox.) } 1

English.
B. H. Pearson (Stroke)
H. J. Rothwell (3)
G. W. Barton (2)
H. J. Snow (Bow)
J. Rickett (Cox.) } 2

Time 4.7½.

SCRATCH FOURS.—One Mile.

Red.
Young (Stroke)
Watt (3)
Midzu-umi (2)
Nakahara (Bow)
E. Morriss (Cox.) } 1

Black.
P. de C. Morriss (Stroke)
Kondo (3)
Inoue (2)
Hori (Bow)
Carst (Cox.) } 2

Green.
Rothwell (Stroke)
Stadelmann (3)
Sameshima (2)
Hinata (Bow)
Henson (Cox.) } 3

Blue.
Layard (Stroke)
Abenheim (3)
Ishimaru (2)
Kikuchi (Bow)
Pearson (Cox) } 0

White.
Kenyon (Stroke)
Worbs (3)
Kato (2)
Ioka (Bow)
Campbell (Cox.) } 0

Time 2.26.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS,
"ENGAGED."

Gilbert's amusing comedy "Engaged" was played on Tuesday with pronounced success by an amateur company before a very fair house, the proceeds realized from the performance going to that most deserving institution the Public Hall. By no means a one-part piece, "Engaged," with no more material substructure than a somewhat dubiously constituted marriage contracted in the neighbourhood of Gretna Green, moves on with lots of laughable situations through the varied series of incidents hinging upon that ceremony, and the finely unselfish and self-abnegating people whose interests centre in it. It is unnecessary to describe the comedy at any length, but to do even the scantest justice to the performers would be impossible without a brief précis of the business.

The first characters whose acquaintance we make are *Maggie* (Mrs. Carew) a pure and modest Lowland lassie, and her sweetheart, *Angus Macalister* (Mr. G. Philip) a peasant lad whose noble qualities render him truly worthy of this rustic gem. The latter with a fine ingenuity which enhances his innate nobility of character, has wrecked a part of the adjoining railway line in order to detain the trains and thus bring a little custom to the cottage of his betrothed; which leads to the appearance of *Belinda Treherne* (Mrs. A. C. Read) and *Belvanny* (Mr. A. C. Read) who are eloping. From their conversation we learn that the pair are chiefly apprehensive of the wrath of *Major McGillicudy* (Mr. W. J. Kenny) whom *Belinda* has thrown over almost at the altar, and that the tender and passionate fair one tempers with an "ardour which seems to parch her very existence" a just anxiety as to *Belvanny's* intentions in the matter of settlements. These characters are succeeded by *Cheviot Hill* (Mr. W. G. Bayne) a young man of property, of an exceedingly impressionable nature, and a very consistent eye to the main chance, and *Mr. Symperson* (Mr. H. V. Henson) who is principally put in the piece to supply *Minnie* (Miss Ingles) with a father and to receive the £1,000 a year, which, while *Cheviot* remains unmarried or refrains from dying, is allowed to *Belvanny* by *Cheviot's* father, but on the young man's marriage or demise goes to *Symperson*. *Cheviot* justifies his amatory reputation by falling in love with *Maggie*, to whose sweetheart he offers thirty shillings as a small solace, on condition of his relinquishing his claims to the rustic maiden. The proposal not being favourably received, he raises the bid to two pounds, and feelingly points out the unwisdom—not to say selfishness—of a person in *Angus'* position entangling a girl of *Maggie's* personal charms in matrimonial bonds. His description of his own claims is so moving that *Maggie*, in despair, beautifully chastened by resignation, asks her lover to give her up, reminding him that "twa poun's twa poun'." *Angus* is able to view the matter in this light, and accepts the "twa poun'," leaving *Maggie* to become, in *Cheviot's* robust metaphor, the "tree upon which grows the fruit of his heart." *Miss Treherne*, however, appears and the gentleman at once falls a victim to her beauty—and tells her so in language which wins her admiration. But the avenger—*Major McGillicuddy*—is at hand, and to protect *Belinda*, *Cheviot* declares that she is his wife, a statement which she endorses. Upon this ornate complication the first act closes.

We next find *Cheviot* about to marry simple-hearted *Minnie Symperson*, having forgotten all about his contracts in the garden at Gretna Green. *Belvanny*, however, reminds him of *Belinda*; *Maggie* comes in to remind him of herself, accompanied by the inevitable sweetheart, engaged as ever in twining his arms round the young lady, much to *Cheviot's* disgust. Here—in the *Sympersons'* drawing room—we also meet *Belinda* in mourning, who has been unable to discover the name of her husband, and indeed does not know whether she is married, a widow, or a bigamist. Having decided to attend *Minnie's* marriage, she and *Cheviot* recognise each other, and the latter sets out to ascertain the exact site of the cottage and find whether his contract with *Belinda* took place in Scotland or England; but he is unsuccessful and, returning, looks forward with much pleasurable anticipation to a long engagement with *Belinda* and *Minnie* pending a settlement of the question. Finally he loses his fortune—by the perfidy of *Belvanny*—regains it somewhat in the same way; receives a letter stating that the cottage was in England; offers himself to *Minnie*, is refused, to *Maggie*, same result; decides to shoot himself, to *Belvanny's* intense horror (the £1,000 of course going to *Symperson*) but changes his mind, is crushed by *Belvanny's* appearance with *Belinda*, whom the former has just married; but discovers that on another page the letter states that the garden is in Scotland, claims *Belinda*, and gets her, *Belvanny* throwing himself into *Minnie's* arms, and so tableau.

From first to last Mrs. Read's acting was a finished study. Her rendering of *Belinda*—her impassioned avowals of affection, her thoughtful regard to the settlements—in every phase of the character, her impersonation was an artistic one. Miss Ingles was a capital *Minnie*, expressing with a great deal of drollery the ideas that entered the "silly little noddle" of that simple-hearted girl. Mrs. Carew as *Maggie* was a capital Lowland maiden, with perchance a little more of the plaid than the accent about her, but withal a very demure lassie, evincing, as *Cheviot* put it, a great deal of natural modesty about her guileless appreciation of her own charms. As *Parker* (*Minnie's* maid) Mrs. Mitchell made the most of a small character. Mr. Bayne, it need hardly be said, imbued his *role* with all the interest that the thoughtful and cultured actor could create. In his hands *Cheviot* was a capital character. Mr. Read was quite at home in the part of *Belvanny*, whose matrimonial hopes and schemes he did full justice to. Mr.

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Philip made up and acted the part of *Angus* Macalister in capital style, his accent savouring very strongly of the heather. Mr. Henson did full credit to the peculiarities of *Uncle Symperson*, and Mr. Kenny as the *Major* fumed and stormed his part to perfection. It is hardly necessary to say that the piece under Mr. Bayne's superintendence was effectively mounted.

During the evening the band of the *Monocacy*, kindly lent by Admiral Belknap, played a number of selections, which added greatly to the enjoyment of those who attended the performance.

"HAMLET" AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

On Thursday Mr. Milo and his company opened at the Public Hall with "Hamlet," a large audience, drawn by the high reputation which has preceded them, attending to welcome them to Yokohama. The newspapers of the various communities which they have favoured with a visit on their way to Japan had without exception employed such unequivocal terms of praise in noticing the performances, that, not unnaturally, public expectation in Yokohama was raised to a high pitch, so high indeed that there was danger of disappointment through over-anticipation. But we believe we may say safely that Mr. Milo's acting has quite fulfilled the highest estimates formed of his powers. Opinions of course have differed and will continue to differ as to the parts in which his great qualities are most markedly displayed. On that point perhaps we in this community may form our impression and have our say later on. It is enough to note now that in his first appearance Mr. Milo has made an impression which he will not find it at all easy to improve upon. From the moment when he uttered the words to the *Queen* "Seems, Madam! nay it is; I know not 'seems;'" the attention of the house was fixed on the *Prince* —his easy but dignified carriage engaging the eyes hardly less impellingly than did his fine and striking declamation the ears of those present. It would be idle to recite particular passages from the play to illustrate this, for Mr. Milo never lapsed from the dramatic eloquence which at the very first set the key-note of his language, or the grace of movement which at once betokened the skilled actor. Miss Jordan made a very favourable impression as *Ophelia*, charmingly rendering the various sentiments and moods which sway the *Court Chamberlain's* daughter in the earlier stages of the play, and rising to real power in the pathetic flower scene. We cannot think, however, though indeed a more charming *Ophelia* it would be difficult to conceive, that the character suits Miss Jordan as well as some others in her repertoire, and we look forward, therefore, to seeing her in some better adapted to her powers, and offering scope in various other directions to her undoubtedly high histrionic abilities. Miss Kate Douglas also aroused good opinions by her portrayal of the *Queen*, showing great power in the colloquy with *Hamlet* before and after the stabbing of *Polonius*, and Miss Frances Ross won a large share of approving attention as the *Player Queen*. Mr. Athelwood's *Laertes*, especially in the closing scenes of the play, was a forceful conception, brought out with much feeling and fine appreciation; and Mr. Stark was able to invest the character of *Polonius* with a carefully studied share of the interest inseparable from the personality of the old *Chamberlain*. Mr. J. H. Nunn, though somewhat hoarse, was a dignified *King*. Mention must be made of Mr. Chauncey Edcott's *First Gravedigger*, which was a really good piece of acting; and, a word of praise should be given to Mr. Montgomery for his careful impersonation of *Horatio*. The other characters were well filled and rendered excellent support to the leaders. It only remains to add that the company evidently do not intend that their performances shall lack the aid of good scenery, &c., for "Hamlet" was excellently mounted. The band of the *Monocacy*, by kind permission of Admiral Belknap was present, and played a number of selections during the evening. Finally it might be worth the while if the management could contrive some means of securing the presence of all the audience in the house before each act begins. The time between the acts last evening—unavoidably so, of course, bearing in mind the length of the play—was too short to permit the smoking of a cigarette, and as a consequence some of the finest passages, notably the "To be, or not to be" soliloquy, were marred by the noise of people entering the hall, or moving about in the corridor.

TONIC SOL-FA JUBILEE.

On Friday evening a meeting in celebration of the Jubilee of the Tonic Sol-fa system was held in the Van Schaick Hall, lent for the occasion by Rev. Mr. E. S. Booth. The meeting, promoted by Mrs. E. S. Patton, who has distinguished herself during her short stay in Japan as a successful teacher of music and an enthusiastic exponent of the Tonic Sol-fa system of teaching, was designed, as indicated, to mark the fiftieth year of the existence of this now popular method. An inscription in camelia leaves "Success to Tonic Sol-fa in Japan" graced one end of the fine hall in which the meeting took place, and several charts illustrative of the system were hung in the vicinity of the platform. There was a large attendance.

Rev. E. S. Booth, who presided, introduced Mrs. Patton to the audience. He said it seemed to him that he was playing a peculiar rôle in being called upon to speak on the subject of Tonic Sol-fa. Not a musician himself, and knowing very little of the system except such as had come within his own observation within the past year and a half, he would leave the subject of Tonic Sol-fa to those who could speak with more experience and knowledge. Music, according to Plato, was a moral law: it gave the soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything; it was the essence of order, and led to all that was good, just, and beautiful, of which it was the invisible but nevertheless the dazzling, passionate, and eternal form. If Plato was right, then no apology was needed for having invited them there to witness the practical working of a system of music instruction, which began in England fifty years ago, and which had become during the past few years in many quarters exceedingly popular, and was destined to become still more so as its advantages were still better understood. There might be, in the minds of some, misapprehension as to what the Tonic Sol-fa system of education in music really did—a misapprehension like that which existed in the mind of the man who, having heard that a certain spectacle maker advertised "helps to read" for sale, applied for his wares, but the help was not forthcoming when the spectacles were tried, and he was obliged to confess that he had never learned to read. Tonic Sol-fa did not propose to make a musician of one who had not any music in him, or of one who, as Shakespeare said, was fit for treason, strife, and spoils. It was rather to help those who had the root of the matter in them, to give intelligent expression to it—it would help those who sang with the spirit, to sing also with the understanding. How that was done would be illustrated in the course of the evening. Those who had attempted to teach the Japanese according to the gamut of the West knew what almost insurmountable difficulties were met with. The Japanese were not a music-loving people, as we speak of music-lovers. We hear very little discussion about music, of people going to listen to music rather than to hear sermons or lectures. The Japanese knew very little of harmony. Both ear and voice were crude and undeveloped. The missionaries had spent much time and labour in endeavouring to teach their converts to sing the simple tunes used in ordinary social and church worship, with what success those who had attended Japanese Christian services might judge. That their efforts at melody, not to say harmony, left much to be desired went without saying. Here and there very creditable attempts had been made after weeks and months of almost daily drill with piano and organ accompaniment, but no definite knowledge of vocal music had been imparted. For himself he had arrived at the conclusion that with few rare exceptions the most to be expected of Japanese was a poor imitation of foreign music, a strictly mechanical performance. He in company with others who might be present there listened to a lecture by the Rev. Mr. Allchin of Osaka on the Tonic Sol-fa system. It was decided then to introduce it in this school; it had been introduced, and with most satisfactory results. One year ago while on a visit to Osaka he had the privilege of hearing Mr. Allchin's class of about a dozen voices sing in a most charming and accurate manner several part songs. The faultless accent, the purity and sweetness of tone, and the apparent appreciation on the part of the performers of melodious cadences were surprising. He ought to say this performance was given in the absence of the music-master and of accompaniment of every kind. He could only conclude that either the master was an exceptional genius or that the system of instruction pursued had merits of its own. And one of the chief advantages of the Tonic Sol-fa system to his mind was that it taught to sing without organ or piano accompaniment—from the point of economy a very valuable consideration to the Japanese, few of whom could afford to have a piano or organ, but who could for ten or fifteen cents, or at most a dollar, provide themselves with a pitch pipe or a turning fork, and thus starting with the fundamentals make melody in their homes and educate in their minds what they have not yet had—a love of melody. Music that was performed in accompaniment with the piano or organ could be, so far as harmony was concerned, but a mechanical performance. It was well known that the scale of the piano and the organ was an accomodated scale, and did not follow the laws of nature in its construction, but the human voice, like the violin, was susceptible of the sweetest and most accurate intervals and in that way harmony as well as melody was secured. With these remarks he introduced Mrs. Patton, adding that that lady had had years of experience in the practical execution of instruction by the Tonic Sol-fa method.

Mrs. Patton, who was cordially received, said: —Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—As it appears to devolve upon me to explain the special objects which have led to our meeting here night, I will—though I wish some abler exponent could have been at hand to do so—state as briefly as possible the progress of musical events connected with the Tonic Sol-fa movement which have culminated in the celebration of its Jubilee in this present year of 1891. And this, I think, cannot be better effected than by reading you a circular sent to all Tonic Sol-fa teachers throughout the world from the head-quarters of the system—the Tonic Sol-fa College, London, a copy of which reached me in due course about two months ago. The circular states that in the year 1841 the Tonic Sol-fa method of teaching to sing, now so widely employed, may be considered to have had its rise. "The Rev. John Curwen, then a young minister, paid a visit to a school in Norwich where Miss Glover, daughter of the Rector of St. Laurence, was teaching the children to sing from her new musical notation. Mr. Curwen had been trying to outshout children while teaching them by ear. It was difficult and superficial work, but in the limited time at disposal it was hopeless to attempt to teach them the complexities of the staff notation. Towards the close of the year he was commissioned, at a Sunday School Conference at Hull, to find some easy way of teaching children to sing, and he, therefore, turned his attention to Miss Glover's invention. This, with her sanction, he altered, improved, and propagated under the name of the Tonic Sol-fa method of teaching to sing. This method, with its simple notation and its educational plans, has brought music within the reach of the masses: has given to young and old the power to sing from note; has improved music in worship; and has popularised the teaching of singing throughout the United Kingdom and abroad. Three millions of children are learning the system in schools. An enormous unknown number of members of choral societies and choirs owe their musical knowledge to it. Twenty-four thousand of the Tonic Sol-fa College Certificates were issued last year. By this system thousands of students regularly and quickly master the higher branches of music; harmony, composition, counterpoint, canon, fugue, orchestration, acoustics, form, expression, voice-training, vocal-physiology, theory and practice of teaching: and in these subjects Sol-faists are constantly winning honours from all examining bodies. Testimonies and demonstrations in every English-speaking country have convinced the most sceptical as to its value. Almost all the leading living musicians have approved and admired it. The demand for music in the notation has led publishers to issue Sol-fa editions of every important classical choral work, in addition to a great quantity of popular music, and all the most used tune books. Missionaries find it a powerful help in their labours. Workers in Mission Halls, Temperance Societies, Bands of Hope, Sunday Schools, Orphan Homes, Girls' Clubs, and every kind of philanthropic work, have, by the aid of this easy, cheap, and true system, been able to make most effective use of the refining, innocent, and healthy pleasures of music. It is intended during the year 1891 to celebrate the Jubilee of the birth of this movement, and it is hoped that Tonic Sol-faists will co-operate to make the Jubilee Celebrations worthy of the great and important occasion. It appeals to all who are interested in music. It should be the means of arousing the enthusiasm of musical reformers, and extending Sol-fa work in each district. Sol-fa Teachers should take the opportunity of starting fresh classes and choirs. Sol-faists in various towns could arrange to meet and discuss plans for the Jubilee Celebration, in London and in certain districts. Sol-faists might be gathered together to form Choirs specially to take part in

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the Jubilee Festivals. Advantage should also be taken of this opportunity for urging pupils to take the Sol-fa Certificates. One special feature of the celebrations should be the honouring of Tonic Sol-fa veterans and pioneers, and the recognition of their past and present work in the cause." Various suggestions for Jubilee festivities followed. Accompanying this circular was a request that all teachers unable to attend the Jubilee in London on July the 18th would do their best to promote some local celebration of the event wherever their sphere of work lay. It appeared at first an impossibility for any thing of the kind to be done in Yokohama, so very recently had the system been introduced here and so limited was its influence, but I felt as an ardent admirer and enthusiastic teacher of the method, that something must be done, and with the kind co-operation of Mr. Booth and Miss Moulton, and the obliging assistance of the pupils who will give illustrations to-night on the different points of the system, we are enabled to carry out the programme presented to you. It is a matter of great regret that two other teachers who, I am sure, would have assisted us in making a more varied programme, are not within reach to do so. I allude to Mrs. Hinton, who took up the new system very earnestly and whose opinion in its favour as an educational lever I consider from her musical experience, well worth recording; and the Rev. Mr. Allchin of Osaka, who has for some years been doing such good work there, and who has recently left Japan in order that he may attend the Jubilee in London. Time will not permit of my adding much to the information contained in the circular I have just read, though, the interesting experiences connected with the teaching of music by Tonic Sol-fa which have come under my own notice and that of other teachers are simply endless. This system, which originated, as you have heard, in the efforts of an English country clergyman's daughter to supply the children of her Sunday school with the means of singing by note without the aid of an instrument, has grown and spread under the supervision of the late John Curwen, and his able band of pioneer teachers, until it has assumed the dimensions of a great musical power in Great Britain. Although Miss Glover must always be credited with having originated the idea out of which was evolved the Tonic Sol-fa system, her method was crude, and probably would never have gone beyond its original intention had it not been brought under the notice of Mr. Curwen, who so developed the original idea that manyyears after Miss Glover declared that she would scarcely have recognized her own invention under its altered conditions. Curwen himself was no natural musician, in fact was so destitute of voice and ear that an anecdote is related of him that when a youth at the Theological College, where he was pursuing his clerical studies, some fellow-students proposed among themselves as a capital joke, that they should teach John Curwen the scale—and it was more than two months before they succeeded in doing so! To quote his biographer, Mr. Curwen always disclaimed the title of "Musician," and yet it may be safely said that no musician of the present century ever did such great work as he in bringing vocal music within the reach of millions who had voices to use, but knew not how to use them. He was a student of music in all its roots and branches, and he was willing to encourage all inquiry. He did not play any instrument, and he had no endowments of voice. He was a teacher and methodiser. Often he remarked that if he had been quick at music he would not have been able to sympathize with beginners and those possessing no natural advantages. It may be safely added that it would have been scarcely possible for one who had fallen into the ordinary lines of musical practice and prejudice, to have constructed the Tonic Sol-fa system. At every point he took the view of an educationalist. Musical tradition was with him of no account; everything was weighed, and nothing that could confuse a beginner was accepted. Such being the nature of the man, as indeed it must be of all great reformers—he unhesitatingly struck at the root of the musical difficulty, viz:—its time honoured staff notation, and conclusively proved that all the redundancies and excrescences of clef signatures, key signatures, time signatures, and a host of other superfluous signs, were not only quite needless to the perfect rendering of vocal music, but were positive hindrances to the student of music generally. He said: "Always remember that we do not *make* music simple. It *is* simple. We only remove the unnecessary trappings in which grammarians have dressed it." Many are the defenders of the staff notation, and numerous the arguments for retaining it that I myself have had to refute. It has been said that "a notation which was good enough for Mozart and Beethoven is surely good enough for us;" to which I reply, "Because Mozart and Beethoven wrote their immortal works with a quill pen by the light of an oil lamp or tallow candle are we therefore to eschew steel nibs and electric lights?" Again, it is declared to be impossible to study or appreciate the works of the great masters in any notation but the one in which they wrote. If this be a true argument, then the works of Shakespeare should never have been printed in modern type, but we should be made to grope for their beauties amongst the maze of Elizabethan black letter. I can assure you there is as much advantage in point of convenience, and musical legibility in using the Tonic Sol fa notation as there is between the old Roman and modern Arabic numerals. Just look at the figures 1888 written in Roman numerals thus—MDCCCLXXXVIII, and ask yourselves how you would like to make all your business calculations, and teach your children all their sums (including fractions) in the latter system of numeration, and you will have some conception of the difference between teaching music by Staff notation and by Tonic Sol-fa. I speak from actual experience, having taught by both. It is astonishing to note in face of all this the bitter opposition with which Tonic Sol-fa has had to contend. Never was the truth of the saying "None are so blind as those who won't see" more fully exemplified than in the absurd, and unreasoning objections raised by the opponents of the system. History repeats itself, and in the face of the arguments used against the introduction of vaccination—that it would cause cow's horns to grow out of the heads of those operated on; against the introduction of railroads, that if they went at a greater speed than 10 miles an hour they would endanger the lives of all who travelled by them; against the introduction of chloroform for surgical operations, that it would be going against the decrees of Providence, which had ordained that man should suffer pain—we see the same spirit that actuated those who oppose the use of the Tonic Sol-fa notation. Even those who are persuaded to try it either do so fearfully, as though they expected there was some dynamite concealed somewhere in the system which might explode at any moment, or else go to the other extreme, and seem to think the new notation has some mysterious power of making them musicians without any active exertion on their parts. Modern society abounds with young men who ought to know how to use their voices sufficiently to take part in a quartette when called upon, but who, when the critical moment arrives that they are requested to do so find themselves in the position of the young man who was asked if he could sing tenor on an emergency, and who replied after much humming and hawing, and pulling of his moustache, "that he thought he could sing tenaw, if some other fellaw would sit by him and sing tenaw too!" Well this young "fellaw" who I need scarcely say, is *not* a Solfaist, is told by another young "fellaw" who also cannot sing, but who has a friend who learnt Sol-fa, and consequently is a fair reader of vocal music: "I say old fellaw, you go, and join a Tonic Sol fa class for three months, and you'll be able to sing any thing at sight—I know a fellaw who can." So the would-be tenor joins the first Sol-fa class he hears of, attends a few evenings, then votes it "a bore" and vanishes before the end of his first term, telling his friends he does'nt see much in Tonic Sol-fa, for he can't read music a bit better than he did before! I know these young men well—I have had them in my classes—they never open a book from one lesson to the next, and as I have often said they come to the class and expect the teacher to go round with a bucketful of Sol-fa, and pour it into their open mouths, to be then by some chemical process, absorbed into their systems and convert them into finished vocalists. No—Sol-fa is not for the idle and frivolous, but for the earnest and industrious. It can only be mastered within a certain time, and not without a fair amount of hard work—but it will return a thousand per cent. more real musical value for the time and money expended on it than will the staff notation. It is essentially an educational course, and should commence with the kinder-garten: in fact I should have a very poor opinion of any kinder-garten teacher who undertook to teach her little pupils songs by any other means, for it would only mean that they were singing by ear with the aid of the piano, laying the foundation in short of that vicious habit prevalent amongst trainers of adult voices, of pinning every vocal exercise down to the piano or violin, thereby forcing that most beautiful and perfect of all instruments, the human voice, down to the level of a mechanical invention of wood and wire, which they make the model of instead of merely the adjunct to the voice. I may safely state as a fact that defies contradiction that Curwen's Tonic Sol-fa course for studying music presents an unbroken graded system such as no other musical system affords, which, starting at the kinder-garten with infants of four years of age, only ceases with the standard of the Degree of Doctor of Music. It commences with the coloured pictorial devices and simple hand-signs of which you will have illustrations to-night, and I cannot better show in few words its highest point than by quoting the recent report of a newspaper interviewer of Dr. Samuel McBurney, one of the latest created Musical Doctors of Trinity College, Dublin, who took his degree at Christmas last. I must explain that Dr. McBurney was the President of the Tonic Sol fa Association in Melbourne, who went home to get his University Degree of Music with the express object of thereby more effectually benefiting the cause on his return to Australia. His interviewer asks "What led you, Dr. McBurney, to give up so many months to prepare for a Degree?" "I was anxious," replied the newly-created Doctor of Music, "to show what Tonic Sol-fa could do in the highest branches of music, and at the same time to place my advocacy of the system on an unimpeachable basis. No one can now say that I advocate Tonic Sol-fa because I do not know the Staff notation." "Has your Tonic Sol-fa knowledge helped you in the examinations?" "Without it I do not think I could possibly have done the work. For example, of the four candidates at the final examination, I was the only one who completed the paper on counter point and canon, and I attribute my rapid working to the fact that I did it in Tonic Sol-fa notation. The certainty and convenience of this musical short hand to the harmony student, are beyond dispute." The system has met with the most determined and bitter opposition from all conservative musicians wherever it was introduced. When Dr., then Mr. McBurney, passed through America on his way to England about three years ago, with a view to bringing the system under the notice of the professional musicians and School-Boards of that country, in many places he was scarcely allowed an impartial hearing. But this feeling must have since undergone a change, for in a leading musical periodical published in Philadelphia, I read in the August number of last year the following paragraph—"The Philadelphia Tonic Sol-fa Summer Tustitute, for the training of students and teachers by the method, established by Mr. D. Batchelder, has been prosperous beyond the hopes of its friends, large and earnest classes being present. Its corps of teachers are of the best. As students reach the established standard, they pass the examinations and receive the various certificates and diplomas. This institute is admirably conducted, having a staff of eight teachers. It gives eight half-hours a day, so arranged that the students are changed from one teacher to another, thus learning all that is best from each." Although opposed by conservative musicians it has been in use for many years by missionaries in all parts of the world. A friend in Melbourne who 25 years ago was teaching in a large American Mission school on Mount Lebanon, established for the education of Syrian and Armenian young ladies, informed me that the Tonic Sol-fa was translated into both those languages for the use of the pupils, with great success. It is familiar in Madagascar, Zulu-land, in short wherever missionaries have penetrated, and I have no doubt that Mr. Allchin, by starting the system four years ago in Osaka, has been the pioneer of Tonic Sol-fa in the Mission Schools of Japan. It was my hope on coming to this country, to have found the Japanese Government in a position to take up the new system, which would have been simply invaluable as a means of introducing European music to the Japanese nation. I was not aware until my arrival that a system instituted some years ago by Luther Mason was already in active use in the Public Schools, which is supposed to fulfil all present requirements, though I have every hope that the day is not far distant when the authorities will find that a musical system so admirably adapted to every other nationality must be also the best for the Japanese. An instance of this can be adduced by referring to the Welsh nation, always a most musical people, who since they have unhesitatingly and universally adopted Tonic Sol-fa as the national system of education, have the lead at all exhibitions and competitions of choirs against all other competing musical societies in Great Britain. The very first piece of a classical nature published in Tonic Sol-fa—Romberg's "Lay of the Bell"—was issued from John Curwen's printing press in 1855, and now the amount of music to be had in that notation is enormous, and yearly increasing. All the great oratories, the Roman Catholic Masses, all cantatas, all part-songs anthems and church music of every description are to be had in Sol-fa, at about one-fourth the price of the same works in staff notation, and such is now the demand for it, that Novello the music publisher is issuing his music in both no-

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tations. It will be fitting to mention here an interesting coincidence that in this year of the Jubilee of the system, two initiatory efforts in the same direction have been made in Japan. One by the Rev. Mr. Allchin, who has published through a Japanese printing firm in Yokohama, a translation into Tonic Sol-fa of a collection of Hymns and Songs of Praise issued last year in Japanese and staff notation by a committee in Tokyo. This work will form an interesting feature amongst the exhibits of the progress of Sol-fa at the meeting in London. So will also a translation in manuscript into Japanese of Curwen's "Pupils' Manual of Tonic Sol-fa for the use of classes" by a young Japapese singing-master of Tokyo, who finds the work of great benefit in his private teaching. The young pupils who will perform this evening have at the most only learnt music by Tonic Sol-fa for a period of fifteen months, and the majority—I speak of my own pupils—have barely learnt by the system for four months, but I think they will acquit themselves in such a manner that their parents' acquaintances will no longer feel disposed to remark "Do you really let your children learn Tonic Sol-fa?" in such a tone of voice as though they thought there was some serious unknown danger in their doing so. This is no pleasantry of mine. I assure you a lady came to me once in Melbourne with a most alarmed face, saying that the teacher whom she had engaged to commence her little girl's musical education was using Tonic Sol-fa, and she wished to know whether it would be really injurious to her daughter in after life? I said no; I thought with judicious treatment that the child might possible survive the ordeal without suffering permanent injury; and then, seeing that the sarcasm was partly thrown away, I said, "Do you think Tonic Sol-fa is only another name for typhoid fever, that you come and ask me such an absurd question?" It is sometimes too aggravating to hear the remark, "Oh! are you a Tonic Sol-faist?" uttered in a tone of ineffable superiority as though the speaker meant to infer "Ah! yes, you have been placed in an inferior position in life, where you have not been able to have the inestimable privilege of learning music by staff-notation!" Very different sounds the same remark when uttered by one Sol-faist to another, "Oh! are you a Tonic Sol-faist!" and with the exclamation out goes simultaneously the hand of friendship, for there is a bond akin to free-masonry between Sol-faists only known to themselves. The jealous bickerings of professional musicians are proverbial—but I am happy to say that the genial spirit of their founder has descended to the teachers of his system, who are held together in amity by the bond of love for their system, and enthusiasm in their work. Some years ago I was in the company of a leading music-teacher and his wife, who had no sympathy with the Tonic Sol-fa movement. They were recently from London, where the Tonic Sol-fa Choirs throughout England had been the winners in a Grand Choral competition held at Exeter Hall. "Oh, yes," remarked the lady who was quite a society woman, "We always knew when the Sol-faists were in London, by their unfashionable bonnets and country-made boots!" "Yes," I retorted, "but as they brought with them something more than bonnets and boots, you might have known them better from the fact of their having carried off the prizes from your Staff Notation Choirs!" Then said her husband—"The extraordinary success of the Sol-faists is undeniable, but it is entirely due, not to any inherent merit in the system, but to the wonderful enthusiasm of its teachers." "Then," I said, "is that to be taken as a tacit admission that there is no enthusiasm amongst Staff notation teachers?" "Very little, I am sorry to say." "Yes," I said, "and I will tell you why—because you go on teaching year after year, and, excepting in the case of a specially gifted pupil here and there, you get a very poor return for all your labour—and so you go on to the end, working for a living, but with no real interest in the work itself—while we Sol-fa teachers are ever cheered by the sense that we have gained a step at every lesson, for Curwen's motto was 'One thing at a time, *but that thing well*.'" Consequently not only is our own enthusiasm kept up, but what is of far greater importance, the permanent interest of our pupils is awakened and their musical intelligence cultivated on every point, as I think you will not fail to notice in the exhibition that follows.—(Applause).

Before exhibiting the pianoforte illustrations, Mrs. Patton requested permission to give the following explanations. This portion of the entertainment, she said, is intended to refute one of three erroneous statements which are constantly being made concerning Tonic Sol-fa, by those who know nothing whatever about it, namely, that it was very good for the voice but could not be applied to instruments. The other two statements are that no good pianoforte music is published in Sol-fa, and therefore that pupils must learn staff notation before they can study or play good music. That can be refuted by me at any time, for I happen to have with me classical movements in Sol-fa by all the great masters. The third mis-statement is that when pupils go on to staff notation, they will have to begin music all over again *de novo*. In order to disprove this, I shall have to wait until the time comes when I consider these young people ready to go into staff notation, and will then leave it to their parents and friends to say whether the time spent in acquiring music by Tonic Sol-fa has been thrown away. The illustrations now to be given are not to be regarded as exhibitions of pianoforte skill, for, as in the vocal part of this exhibition, the pupils have been learning too short a time to do anything but the most elementary work, but it is to exhibit the leading first principles of the system as applied to the pianoforte, namely, the power to play with equal facility in any key, and consequently to be able to transpose as well. We all know how long in every staff notation book, the pupil is kept in the key of C natural, the prevalent idea being that a child should acquire a certain amount of facility on the key board in that key before going on to the others. One instruction book much used in Australia contains 27 exercises and tunes in the key of C before the key of G with one sharp is introduced, and the whole book does not contain anything beyond the keys that contain 1 sharp or 2 flats. This system, unconsciously to the pupil, lays the foundation of the feeling that music with many black keys must be dreadfully difficult. Now although it is a fact that they do increase in difficulty to a certain extent, owing to the necessity for new fingering in almost every key, still the difficulty lies only in the keyboard, not in the music. Young children commencing Sol-fa have no idea that the keys of B with 4, and B with 5 sharps are any harder than any other; on the contrary, when the matter is left to their own choice I find they invariably choose keys with the greatest number of black notes. In this respect also the system is carefully graded. None of the pupils who are going to give illustrations in transposition have yet been asked to play beyond B with 5 sharps, or F with one, because all the keys that have white notes for their "dohs" are taken first, but a little pupil of 8 informed me the other day that he was sure he could play in F with 6 sharps as easily as in the others. Now there are 15 keys in music, and the proposition to be placed before the notice of parents by the exhibition this evening is whether it is better for the ultimate success of their children as pianists that they should commence by being able to pay 15 tunes in the key of C natural, or one tune in 15 different keys. For those who choose the former there is the staff notation by which they can acquire music, for in such cases Tonic Sol-fa is not the system for them, but happily for the young people who will exhibit the system to-night their parents have made the latter choice. I wish to add one more word of explanation. It will be observed that all the short illustrations given are in dance forms, being either polka or waltz movements. It is not because I happen to be a teacher of dancing that this is the case; it is because long experience in teaching has convinced me beyond a doubt that indefiniteness in the rendering of accent and rhythm is one of the worst features of the staff notation system, and that pupils are given classical music a great deal too soon, before their innate sense of these important musical subjects has been cultivated, or the power of producing them accurately has been acquired. Again, I think it a great pity that the best music should be spoilt in the rendering, by being put into the hands of beginners. When we begin to teach a little girl to sew we do not give her a valuable cambric handkerchief to hem, but her first efforts are made on a piece of white rag, which when spoilt, as it is pretty sure to be at a first attempt, is thrown away. Now it does not matter very much whether a waltz or polka more or less is spoilt by a beginner, but it matters a great deal whether a distaste for really good music is implanted at the commencement of a child's musical education, from his physical inability to bring out its beauties. Therefore to pursue the simile, we take a piece of fresh rag every time a new stitch is being taught, and cast it aside for something better when the stitch is learnt. The eight bars of polka movement which this little boy will now play you was given him in order that he might acquire precision in playing with a good sforzando touch, and he will play it in 7 different keys—namely C natural, G with one sharp, D with 2, A with 3, E with 4, B with 5 sharps, and F with one flat, that being the limit of the grade he has reached. The next illustration of 8 bars of waltz movement will exhibit a sound knowledge of the primary major chords of a key, and will also serve to display another point wherein Tonic Sol-faists have an immense advantage over staff notationists—namely, a sense of the great fact that every chord has a distinct musical colouring of its own which greatly enhances its value in musical expression. To the Staff-notationist all chords are alike, unless they have a special mark over them—they are only made up of certain combinations of notes, as A natural, C sharp and E, etc., but to the Sol-faist every chord he plays has to his mind a distinct individuality of its own, as it truly has, so that even the merest beginner has the same sense of musical colouring as the educated musician. To assist in forming this sense we call in the aid of colours in the early stage.

The programme of exercises was then gone through, consisting of a two-part song, by Miss Moulton's 1st class, and illustrations of the system by the same class, including modulator voluntary, ear exercises, etc.; illustrations of the primary steps of the system, by Mrs. Patton's elementary class; illustrations of the system as applied to the pianoforte by Mrs. Patton's pupils; two-part song, by Miss Moulton's 2nd class, who afterwards joined with the 3rd class in giving illustrations of the system; sight-singing of musical intervals from black-board, supplied by audience, and a two-part song not seen before, selected by the audience, sung at sight by twelve of Mrs. Patton's and Miss Moulton's pupils; Mrs. Patton's theory class, illustrations of musical analysis, chord-naming, ear exercises in time and musical phrases; two-part song by Miss Moulton's 1st Class; Japanese National Anthem sung from modulator, and American and English National Anthem sung from hand signs, by the combined pupils.

These various illustrations of the system were highly successful and evoked hearty applause from the audience. Special interest centred in the performances of Master Lindsley, Master Carst, and Master Sargent, who demonstrated the benefit of the Sol-fa method in the teaching of harmony and other kindred branches.

At the close Mr. Booth thanked the audience, on behalf of Mrs. Patton and Miss Moulton, for their presence, and on the part of the latter lady said, to correct the impression that Sol-fa would not help pupils to sing in the staff notation, that she had tried her pupils with pieces in staff that they had not seen before, and found they were able to sing the intervals correctly.—(Applause.)

The audience then dispersed.

THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The annual meeting of the Seismological Society of Japan was held on May 27th in the Engineering College, Imperial University, Tokyo, Dr. Divers, Vice-President, in the chair.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The SECRETARIES presented their annual report, from which it appeared that fourteen papers had been read and discussed. Eight of these papers had been published as part of Volume XV. of the Society's Transactions. Copies of this volume had been issued to the members of the Society and to various institutions in foreign countries, from most of which exchanges had been received.

The TREASURERS presented their statement for the financial year ending May 25th. The balance of $378 with which the year began had become reduced to $131. This was mainly the result of the fact that the previous year's balance was not an accurate representation of the true state of things. Several printing bills of long standing had not been settled till the present year, not because of any failure on the part of the Society, but simply because payment had not been sought. The balance of $131, together with the subscriptions for the present year which had not yet been collected, would bring up the Society's available funds to about $300. This would easily cover the expense of printing the next volume of the Transactions; so that the Society might be regarded as in a fairly flourishing condition.

The Secretaries' and Treasurers' Reports having been put to the meeting and adopted, the CHAIRMAN remarked that it was satisfactory to find that the Society was continuing to discuss and publish valuable papers on Seismology, and was able to collect funds sufficient for its needs. He would call upon Mr. Omori to read the first paper ordered for the day.

Mr. OMORI's note was a description of the testing of a vertical motion seismograph. Horizontal motion seismographs had frequently been tested by placing them on a shaky table and comparing their records with the records obtained by the mo-

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tion of the table relatively to a really fixed point. Nothing of a similar nature, had, so far as he knew, been tried with the vertical motion instruments. This he had recently effected by placing the vertical seismograph on a board resting on springs, and susceptible of an up and down motion. To a neighbouring post a lever was attached so as to give a record of the vertical motion of the board. This record was traced side by side with the record given by the seismograph. They were found to be practically identical, not only as regards the larger motions, but even to the smallest irregularities. It was thus demonstrated that the suspended weight of the vertical seismograph gave accurately a steady point.

The SECRETARY then read a few notes by Mr. Pownall upon construction in earthquake countries. These formed an appendix to a previous paper, and referred to the effects of earthquakes upon historical buildings in Europe and more particularly in Italy. The general conclusion was that the effects had been slight.

Mr. MILNE then read portions of the continuation of his series of papers on earthquakes in their electrical, magnetic, and meteorological aspects. The paper was partly a compilation of many of the curious observations that had been made, partly an account of his own experiments, and partly a discussion of what phenomena might be expected if certain internal distributions of magnetic or electric potential were assumed. Generally speaking it was impossible to draw any sure conclusions from recorded observations of electric or magnetic disturbances supposed to have occurred simultaneously with earthquakes. Such disturbances seemed to occur indiscriminately with or without earthquakes; while on the other hand large earthquakes were often unaccompanied by any of these disturbances. Comparisons had been made between earth currents and earthquakes, between atmospheric electricity and earthquakes, between magnetic variations and earthquakes, between rainfall and earthquakes; but all without any definite conclusion. It was curious that the earth currents along the telegraphic lines in Japan were less intense than in England; but extended statistics alone could establish if this difference depended upon the volcanic or non-volcanic nature of the rock and soil. The more speculative part of the paper seemed to suggest many promising lines of investigation in the general subject of earth physics.

A short discussion followed on each of the papers; and the CHAIRMAN in the name of the Society thanked the authors for their interesting contributions.

The Officers and Committee for the past year were re-elected for another term of office, as follow:—

President, H. Kato, Esq.; Vice Presidents, Dr. Divers, Professor Kikuchi; Secretaries, Professors Milne and Yamakawa; Treasurers, Dr. Knott and Professor Sekiya; Committee, Messrs. Koto, Shida, Burton, Mason, Pereira, and Shand.

A general discussion followed as to the advisability of modifying the Constitution of the Society so as to enable it to accomplish with greater ease than heretofore the prime objects of its existence—namely, the collection of material relating to seismology and the elucidation of the principles governing seismic action. It was felt by some that a modification in the Constitution was desirable so as to sustain the scientific reputation which the fifteen published Volumes of Transactions had won for the Society. Others again were of opinion that no really radical change was called for. The work in connection with all societies of the kind was performed by the few, the many being satisfied with the privilege of belonging to the Society and, in so far, aiding in the carrying out of its aims. The general feeling seemed to be, however, that some modification would be acceptable which would relieve the Secretaries of the labour of arranging for meetings and so enable them to concentrate their energies on the editing of the Society's *Journal*, by which chiefly the work of the Society had influenced the general scentific world. A series of recommendations was finally drawn up, which it was resolved to print in circular form and forward to each member along with the announcement of the date of the General Meeting at which these recommendations would, in accordance with the existing Constitution of the Society, be considered and voted upon. Any contemplated radical change could not of course take effect until after the publication of the volume of Transactions now in preparation.

The meeting then adjourned.

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Matsue, May 19th.

The news about the attempt made upon the life of the Russian Prince Imperial created here a feeling which I can only compare to the feeling of the people in America at the news of the assassination of Lincoln. All the pleasure-resorts were closed; and even private entertainments were postponed indefinitely. Private individuals sent telegrams to Russia,—expressing the grief and pain of the community. Preparations for the farewell banquet to be given to Governor Koteda were abandoned; and the public feeling was evidenced even in the demeanour of people, usually gay and communicative. This feeling was, of course, largely due to the news that His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, was grieved; for the incident in itself was generally considered to be no more than the unforeseen and unpreventable act of a man smitten with sudden insanity. As an interesting example of the universal sentiment here, it may be worth while mentioning that some days before the occurrence, the students of one of the higher classes of the Middle School, had been asked by their English teacher to write a composition upon what they considered to be "the worst thing in this world." Nearly all the compositions subsequently sent in made answer:—"The action of Tsuda Sanzo."

LETTER FROM DENVER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Denver, Colo., April 28th.

Since I wrote last we have survived a heavy attack of purification issue in municipal politics. The conscience of the city was up in arms against a corrupt ring of professional wire-pullers who had conducted their electioneering business in league with western "Soshi," called "thugs, toughs, thieves and hold-ups." Fortunately for the friends of reform, the police force had just been remodelled and freed from the fear of political bosses. A few rowdy "repeaters" were lodged in jail, some "saloonists" were also "jugged" for disobeying regulations, and the end was wholly satisfactory for the respectables. This has already had a good effect on elective bodies generally, and, in consequence, the Board of Public Works is bestirring itself in the matter of street repairing and sewerage. Hitherto Denver has been sadly neglected in both respects. The exceptional moisture of the past winter gave us weeks of knee-deep slush in the centre of the town. Moreover the absence of sewerage and the sandy nature of the soil have conspired to make Denver's death rate terribly high as compared with cities much less salubrious by location. Typhoid, diptheria, scarlet fever and other zymotic diseases have yearly claimed numerous victims. Some of the finest houses stand on ground that teems with rotten sewage from cess-pools. All this is hidden by that noble animal the land-shark, or real estate agent, who advertises Denver to mankind as a desirable health resort. It was desirable, as God made it; but as man has marred it I cannot accord it unqualified praise. And so we anxiously wait the tardy action of health commissioners and boards of works to provide every house with the means of sanitation.

Some months ago I noticed cards in all the store-windows, advertising a certain College of Drama and Oratory, and decorated with the face of a conceited-looking youth who wore a merino singlet and a Roman toga. I now find that this ambitious gentleman has issued circulars, for the use of his students and mankind at large, on one page of which are "pointers," presumably intended for advanced pupils. Herein you may read those deep mysteries known hitherto only by Demosthenes and the youth with the singlet and the toga. I select the most valuable and suggestive:—

"Culture corrects the theory of success; the would be genius hates and criticises; true genius loves and creates."

"Give to your mind noble habits. Study elocution, oratory, poetry, music, and, by all means, deep breathing."

"Do not expect the world's patronage without seeking for it."

"The beautifuls come only after long and careful preparatory culture."

"Instruction from the true artist opens the mind."

"The drama and the stage alone actually unite art and nature and a most noble undertaking."

We are threatened with a continued depression of trade and scarcity of money. The panic of the winter has left its traces, and, though things are improving slowly, it seems as though many months must pass before they regain the buoyancy of last year. High prices rule in the money market. The demand is great, and excellent security goes begging. The banks hold their funds and demand "gilt edged" security and 12 per cent. on loans. This policy is probably a wise one, but it certainly increases the pressure on men who are hardly able to hold their own. But we expect grandpa's hat shortly, and that may give Denver an additional and much needed boom. We live by the favour of booms. Our solidity is adorned with inflation, but we hold the orthodox belief that however great the inflation may have been, or is, the steady growth of the solid substructure is certain to overtake it. With so large a mineral wealth at hand and so many new farming lands being taken up every year, the prospects of Denver and other Colorado cities are as good as those of any city in the Union. Nevertheless it cannot be doubted that just at present a lull has supervened upon the tally-ho progress of recent years. It will do us good. It will give us leisure to pave our streets and complete our sidewalks and our drainage before the World's Fair is upon us.

Another murder trial has ended in the verdict "Serve him right." The victim was an ex-prize fighter, the "shootist" a farmer fuddled with bad whisky. In the judgment of all engaged, the accused was promptly acquitted without so much as a reprimand. Another imbecile blackguard who killed a Chinaman for fun, and was condemned to the penitentiary for 10 years was surprised at the severity of his doom. So you see that if a man happens to be a fool as well as a rogue he is punished in the interests, apparently, of abstract justice.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Boston, April 25th.

The talk of the day in Boston, in New England, and to some extent throughout the country, is of the forcible ejectment of General Benjamin F. Butler from the United States Court at the order of Justice Carpenter.

According to report, Gen. Butler and Carpenter have been at variance for several years, although the cause is unknown. A few days ago when Gen. Butler arose in court to speak on behalf of his client, Carpenter refused to listen, and ordered him not to address him further "now or any other time."

As the General's manner was as courtly as usual, and as nothing transpired at this time to warrant such a proceeding, much surprise has been expressed at this harsh treatment. If it sprang from petty spite of a personal kind, it may prove to be a boomerang for Carpenter. Last Tuesday, the General appeared for his client, and began to address the Court, when Carpenter ordered the marshal to remove General Butler for being disorderly, his disorderly conduct consisting of addressing the court after he had been ordered not to.

The sympathy of the bar, and the people generally, is not with Carpenter, the pigmy in the fight, but with the giant who was compelled to suffer at the hands of "official insolence." It is the opinion of friends and foes alike that the action of Carpenter was ill-judged, if not worthy of a stronger term. General Butler, 72 years of age, has practised law for 56 years, and has appeared in almost every court in the United States, but he was never treated as he was at the hands of Carpenter, nor was any other lawyer ever treated with such indignity as far as the memory of the oldest lawyer runs.

The *Globe* says:—"The spectacle of a venerable lawyer like General Butler, famed throughout the country as among the most eminent of practitioners, a man who has rendered his country distinguished service in war and in peace; an ex-governor of this commonwealth, being forcibly ejected from court under such circumstances, is a most painful one."

In Rhode Island, Judge Durfee, chief justice of the Supreme Court, after twenty-six years' service, has resigned, and Judge Matteson already associate justice, has been elected to succeed him.

The 116th anniversary of the battle of Lexington was observed with more than usual ceremony in Concord on the 19th of April.

The first blood in the war of the rebellion was shed in Baltimore on April 19, 1861, when the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment was fired on by the mob. A part of the old Sixth Regiment was in Baltimore on the 19th instant, and was most hospitably entertained. On the occasion, some

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southern papers were moved to say that those who fired on the Sixth Regiment on the 19th of April, 1861, were patriots as much as those who fired on the British soldiers in Concord in 1775. Thus does the southern rebel keep up his yell.

President Harrison has started on his trip to the Pacific coast. He is travelling leisurely and making many rear-platform speeches. The anti-administration papers, of course, declare that the President is on a fence-building tour, and is attempting to put down as many pegs and stakes as possible to hold fast till election. Presidential election is only eighteen months away. Really, the time is short, and all the big and little guns are beginning to get into position, indeed, some of them are already in line practising for the actual engagement. Harrison's chances for re-nomination are good, in the opinion of his friends.

Senator Chandler says:—"I expect to give President Harrison my hearty support. There is a strong sentiment in the East, and in fact all over the country, favourable to Blaine. This sentiment is growing, but I understand that Mr. Blaine will not allow his name to be used."

Interest in the "Italian episode" is growing less. It is evident that the Marquis de Rudini perhaps represented Rudini more than the Italian Government in his fire-works correspondence, and that he was attempting to make capital for himself. It was the mighty Rudini himself who proposed to humble the United States. At all events, the danger is passed; Rudini as much as says that we may be "let live" a little longer, and hence we, the people, breathe a bit easier, thanks to Rudini, till our navy is ready.

Certainly, there is no fear that a country whose Government and press will not pay telegraphic tolls on the letter of Secretary Blaine from London to Rome, is likely to go to the expense of declaring war and of battering down American cities with its wonderful fleet of tubs. Rudini informs us that our constitutional system cannot be tolerated. It is good enough for Americans, and Rudini will be obliged to put up with it, much as it may hurt him.

It is known that the United States Government is collecting information as to the Italians who lost their lives in New Orleans. It will be shown, it is believed, that one of those precious Italian subjects had for years been a bandit, and that the Italian Government had offered a prize for his head; that another had escaped to the United States when already sentenced for murder, and that a third entered the United States in violation of our immigration laws; while all of the alleged subjects of Italy had, through fraudulent registration, voted at both state and national elections, in contravention both of the laws of Louisiana and of the United States.

The reciprocity convention between Spain and the United States, as drafted by Premier Canovas del Castillo, representing Spain and General J. W. Foster, the United States, is based, as far as the United States is concerned, upon the third or reciprocity section of the new American tariff law. In return for the privilege of free entry into the United States of Antilles sugar, molasses, coffee, and hides, and a reduction of the duty on tea, America will obtain exemption from duties on most of her raw and manufactured products and a reduction of the tariff on cereals and flour.

Cuba consumed 300,000 barrels of flour yearly, mostly Spanish admitted free of duty, and pays for it $12 a barrel. Trade in American flour, duty of 20 per cent. since 1889, was kept out to the advantage of the Spanish product. Under the new convention, the entry of American flour practically free of duty, will lower the price to about $6 per barrel and will put an end to the importation of Spanish flour, while increasing the Cuban consumption to a million barrels yearly, all of which will be American.

It has transpired that one of the Italians lynched in New Orleans, was actually at the time of his death the recognized consul at that port of a foreign government, namely, of Bolivia. If Bolivia was a mighty country, and should proceed to seek redress for the slaughter of her consul, joining forces with Italy, what terrible times might come!

The subject of immigration is up again, and is receiving the attention of government officials. The time has come, indeed has been long here, when immigration must be restricted. We have kept open house long enough for the scum population of Europe. Every revolutionary ripple, every local disturbance from the Pillars of Hercules to the Caspian Sea is felt in the United States, a tidal wave of immigrants overruns the land, entering at all the ports, and quietly slipping in on the borders. Hundreds, aye, thousands of immigrants set out for this country with as little preparation and forethought as they would on a ten-mile journey. The clothes they wear—and some wear very little—is all they can boast of as tools of trade in the new country.

These immigrants have been wofully misled and deceived. They expect on their arrival in this country that their services at fabulous prices will be in instant and urgent demand, that they may almost pick up gold in the streets. Not only for the good of the United States should such unwise immigration be stopped, but, also, for the good of the immigrants themselves. The life of many after they reach this shore is simply a fight against starvation.

Even educated men from Germany, with slender means, yet gifted, capable, strong, willing to work at anything, have become office sweeps and floor scrubbers at a mere pittance per week to keep from starving. Every representative of a foreign country in the United States is besieged with applicants for relief, for help in returning home.

Secretary Foster is giving his attention to the matter, and is collecting data from all sources. Owing to the fact that many pauper immigrants have been sent back to their respective countries, immigrants land in Canada and enter the United States by rail. A steamer sailing between Liverpool and Portland, Maine, stopped at Halifax to leave 1,700 passengers—immigrants—the destination being the United States. It is reported that by one railway line 400 immigrants per day enter the United States through the State of Vermont. This fact should be sent broadcast throughout all countries, namely, that there is not to-day labour enough in the United States for its present population, and the warning "Turn back," or "Stay at home," should go with it.

It has been decided by the authorities at Washington to enlist the Indians in the cavalry service. A troop of Brule Sioux has been organized already and is now in the field. This practically settles the question of a spring uprising, as the most warlike, uneasy warriors, the Brule Sioux, have enlisted in the service.

But what do we the American people, care about the presidential election, the menace of Italy, reciprocity, or any such trifles when the "base-ball season" has opened, and is claiming the attention of the country!

THE RIOT AT WUHU.

We extract from the *N.-C. Daily News* the following detailed account of the Wuhu riot:—

For some time past rumours had been afloat here that the mob intended burning down the Jesuit cathedral, buildings, etc. At first no great credence was placed in these rumours, but on the 12th inst. immense crowds began to assemble in the vicinity of the Jesuit compound. The Consul, acting on information received, had repeatedly warned the Taotai that he feared a riot was imminent, and asked him to concert measures to prevent destruction of property and probable loss of life; however, with typical Chinese apathy, no measures were apparently taken to disperse the rioters who had now assembled outside the Jesuit compound to the number of about 5,000. Meanwhile numbers of old women were howling round the walls and endeavouring to incite the mob to attack the Fathers by saying that their children had been killed by the Fathers and their eyes used as medicine. The *raison d'être* of this attack on the Jesuits is not very evident. The following facts may, however, throw some light on the situation. On the 9th instant, two Chinese nuns from the Catholic mission went into the city on their usual round of visits to the sick. They discovered one family suffering from an infectious disease; the parents only had been attacked so far, so they determined to remove the children till such a time as the parents were convalescent. They had set out with the little ones when they were met by a relation of the children, who spoke to them and requested them to return. On the children refusing to comply, and rushing to the nuns for protection, the relation called for help, seized the nuns, and carried them before the Pao-chia-chu and accused them of spiriting the children away by some occult means for the purpose of killing them in order to use their eyes as medicine. This seems a popular belief here, even among educated Chinamen, that the eyes of young children are used in this way. This mandarin being unable to decide the matter sent the nuns under escort to the Hsien or district magistrate, where they were detained. The Roman Catholic Fathers on hearing this hastened to the magistrate's *yamén* and obtained their release. The populace became infuriated at this, and declared that the magistrate had been bribed to release the nuns. They then declared their intention of attacking and burning the Roman Catholic Mission and the Custom House on the morrow.

About 5 o'clock p.m. on the 12th instant, they began the attack by endeavouring to force the doors of the French Fathers' compound; not succeeding however in this they applied themselves vigorously to the walls, which soon fell before a somewhat persuasive ram wielded by some hundreds of the mob. This breach was followed by many more, through all of which the mob rushed with demoniacal yells till this immense compound was filled with howling savages. Conspicuous among the mob were two or three respectably dressed Chinamen who appeared to direct the work of destruction. They each carried a little flag which would point to their probably belonging to one of the many secret societies which appear to flourish so exceedingly well in China. They were very undemonstrative and appeared to give their orders with that perfect precision and *sang-froid* which can only be acquired by long practice.

Once in the compound, the mob quickly effected an entrance to the main building, which they looted, and fired in two or three places at the same time. The fire spread rapidly so that in a short short space of time this immense building was enveloped in flames. The Fathers just managed to escape by the back as the mob forced the main entrance, and succeeded in reaching the *Letai* hulk in safety. They remained on board the hulk for about half an hour and then proceeded to Chinkiang in a Chinese junk.

At this stage of the proceedings about twenty soldiers appeared on the scene and commenced firing blank ammunition at the mob, who evinced such a decided distaste for "villainous saltpetre" that they turned tail and displayed as much anxiety to get out of the compound as they had previously exhibited to get in. Finding, however, that no casualities resulted from the soldiers' fire, they appeared to take heart and returned to their work of destruction with redoubled vigour. The soldiers having apparently either exhausted their ammunition (blank) or their orders—or perhaps both,—shouldered their rusty muskets and disappeared at the double, leaving the rabble in full possession of the field to work their own sweet wills. They now proceeded to ruthlessly destroy and fire the cathedral, which was in an advanced stage of completion and was an exceedingly handsome building. By this time the crowd must have increased to about six thousand; all the rising ground in the neighbourhood seemed one mighty sea of struggling, yelling savages, who gave vent to their feelings in mighty yells as they witnessed each fresh act of vandalism performed by their friends within the compound of the Fathers. The consular boundary wall at last gave way in several places, and the rabble streamed into the grounds trampling on and destroying whatever came in their way. Beyond throwing a few stones and smashing some panes of glass they did no other damage to the Consulate. Up to this time the Consul and his wife had remained in their house, but momentarily fearing an attack, they disguised themselves in Chinese clothes and by this means managed to run the gauntlet of the rabble and reached the Custom House without sustaining any injury, beyond being hustled a little. Mrs. Ford was sent on board the *Letai*—all the other ladies having gone there in the earlier part of the day—where Mr. Weatherstone endeavoured to make everyone as comfortable as circumstances would permit.

On the first alarm the Wuhu Customs' Volunteer Force under their adjutant (Captain Parr) got under arms, and I must say they presented a very formidable appearance, indeed, with their new Lee magazine rifles. Of their doings during this trouble I shall have something to say later on.

The rabble having completely gutted all the buildings within the compound of the French Fathers proceeded next to loot and fire the school house belonging to this mission. This completed, nothing intervened between them and the Custom House save a row of houses, newly erected by the French Fathers and occupied by the members of the Customs' outdoor staff. These had all been evacuated in order that the men might be concentrated at the Custom House for its better defence, and, therefore, fell an easy prey to the rabble, who proceeded to loot these houses in a thoroughly business style, and then attempted to fire them. In this diabolical attempt they were happily frustrated by the arrival of the Taotai and the prompt action of the Customs' staff, who soon got the flames subdued. Had they succeeded in firing these buildings, the Custom House must inevitably have been destroyed. Some clever and plucky captures of incendiaries and looters were made by the Customs' volunteer force, who really handled their weapons splendidly; indeed, some of their charges against the mob were executed in first-class style, and I may add a word of praise for the gentleman who so brilliantly led these charges. After the looting of the officers' quarters, the Customs' Library was transformed into a temporary barrack-room for the accommodation of the volunteer force. It was rumoured on the morning of

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the 13th that the mob, having failed in their attack on the Customs' premises on the previous day, intended at 5 o'clock p.m. to again make the attempt. Long before that hour, however, immense crowds assembled along the shore in front of the Customs, and towards 5 o'clock p.m. began to throw stones. On receiving the first volley of stones the Customs' force charged the mob and drove them back. The force was then drawn across the shore in order to prevent the mob passing through. They, after a time, found this restraint somewhat irksome and very soon gave vent to their feelings in a shower of stones which struck some of the Customs' force rather severely. The order was again given to charge, with the result that after the persuasive argument of the bayonet and a few well directed sword cuts, they were still further driven back. However, they seemed determined to once more try the effects of a volley of stones which certainly compelled the Customs' force to fall back; this, I fancy, the rabble considered a retreat, for they now advanced yelling and hooting, but the Customs soon rallied and led by their adjutant with his "at them again, my boys" drove the crowd back once more. This last charge seemed to instil into them a holy dread of cold steel, which, combined with the arrival of the Futai with three gunboats, completed their discomfiture. The crowd now began to grow gradually and beautifully less till eventually but a remnant of that immense mob remained.

I think there is no doubt that but for the prompt and effective charges of the Customs' force matters would have assumed a very serious aspect, as there is not the slightest doubt but that the mob meant business.

There are now on the spot some 500 Chinese "braves," so, I fancy, the affair may be considered at an end. But there is no doubt that had the Taotai promptly put 100 men in the field the mob would never have attempted to attack the French Fathers. It appears, however, that although he draws pay for over, he actually has not fifty available men; so this may in part explain his apparent inability to cope with the situation. A gunboat might have done some good, but even that luxury was denied us.

It strikes one forcibly that the idea of having a Volunteer force at Wuhu is a good one, and the services they have rendered on this momentous occasion, I think, eloquently suggest the advisability of raising similar forces at all the other outports. Of course every port cannot boast a military gentleman as Wuhu can, but, I think, if these forces were raised, some one capable of instructing them could easily be found.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, May 23rd.

The populace of Belgrade is bitterly incensed against the Government owing to the expulsion of Princess Nathalie.

London, May 24th.

Mr. Gladstone is suffering from a very severe attack of influenza.

The programme of the reformed Portuguese Ministry includes large reductions in colonizing schemes to avoid war.

[The latter portion of this telegram is somewhat vague as received.—ED. *J.M.*]

London, May 26th.

Two hundred and fifty Portuguese arrived at Massitessi on the 11th inst. and, finding the place evacuated, proceeded to Fort Salisbury where they met the Chartered Company's Police. A fight ensued, in the course of which the Portuguese lost seven men. The Police loss has not yet been ascertained. The Pungwe route is closed.

Later.

The Czar has, to mark the occasion of the visit of the Czarevitch to Siberia, commuted two-thirds of the sentences of various prisoners sent into exile.

London, May 27th.

The following is the result of the Derby, run to-day:—

Common	1
Gouverneur	2
Martenhurst	3

Grant, of Manipur fame, has received the Victoria Cross and has been promoted.

May 28th.

Lord Randolph Churchill telegraphs from Capetown that the Portuguese have assaulted British subjects at Delagoa Bay, and that he considers the immediate occupation of the coast imperative.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, May 9th.

British annexation of the Bastards' country to the west of Bechuanaland has been proclaimed in order to prevent the Boers trekking in that territory.

London, May 11th.

The Right Honourable Lord Knutsford, Sir J. E. Gorst and many members of the House of Commons are suffering from influenza.

Mr. Brymer, Conservative, has been elected for South Dorset by a majority of forty, and Mr. Logan, Liberal, for Harborough by a majority of four hundred and ninety.

A decree issued by the Portuguese Government orders the coinage of silver to the value of half a million sterling.

[FROM TONGKING PAPERS.]

Paris, May 9th.

An interpellation on the Fourmies occurrence ended on Monday by the adoption of a vote for the order of the day demanded by the Government.

A proposition for an amnesty, which was opposed by the Ministry, was rejected by a majority of 103 votes.

Labour disturbances still continue in Belgium.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40‡ a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 7.30, 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.10, and 11.25‡ a.m., and 12.55, 1.50,† 2.55, 4, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8.58,† 9.55, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.35, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.12, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 60, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to Kozu, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri*.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri*.)

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26, 9.40, and 11.03 a.m. and 12.20, 2.10, 3.50, 5.09, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35, 9.51, and 11.13 a.m., and 12.31, 2.20, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43, 10, and 11.22, a.m., and 12.40, 2.29, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m.; YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, 10.25, and 11.40 a.m., and 1.30, 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, 10.40, and 11.55 a.m., and 1.45, 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 10.49 a.m., and 12.04, 1.54, 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Dzushi *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

SHINJIKU-HACHIOJI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE SHINJIKU, TOKYO, (down) at 6.55 and 9.55 a.m. and 12.52, 4, and 7 p.m.; and HACHIOJI (up) at 5.25, 8.25, and 11.25 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.30 p.m.

FARES—First-class *sen* 90; second-class *sen* 60 third-class *sen* 30.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 5.25 and 10.05 a.m., and 12.25 and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen*; third-class, 25 *sen*.

TAKETOYO-OBU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OBU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.05, 4.42, 6.09, and 12.08 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.08, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1, 4.35, 7.08, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.20, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.44, 6, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 9.55 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OBU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.26 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, 6.03, 10.05, and 12.05 p.m., and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, 7, 11.15, and 12.57 p.m., and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, 7.29, and 11.40 p.m., and 1.25 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 5.40 and 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 2.40 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 5.54 and 8.43 a.m., and 3.59, 7, and 8.57 p.m., and 2.51 a.m. and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 7.35 and 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.36, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.20 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 8.27 and 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.21, and 11.05 p.m., and 5.05 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 10.04 a.m., and 12.36, 8.20, 10.51, and 12.30 p.m., and 6.28 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, 3.20, and 9.48 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, 4.25, and 10.55 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45, 4.34, 6.02, and 12.30 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, 5.19, and 6.50 p.m., and 1.15 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, 6.59, and 8.27 p.m., and 2.50 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3.05 a.m.; OGAKI at 6.10 and 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 6.41 and 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OBU at 9.01 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 6.15, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11.50 a.m., and 5.54 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.14, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Obu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2.35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5.60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6 and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40, 5.45, and 8.50 p.m.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 7.10 and 9.20 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.25 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 5, 9.04, and 11.14 a.m., and 4.19 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 6.10 and 10.15 a.m., and 2 and 6.30 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 5.10, 7.10, and 11.17 a.m., and 3.07 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—FARE, *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki & Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 5th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 7th.†
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 7th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 20th.

† *Belgic* left San Francisco on May 20th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Hesperia*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 2nd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, June 7th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, June 9th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, June 12th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, June 21st.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Djigit (13), Russian gunboat, Captain Boyle, 23rd May,—Kobe 21st May.

Meiji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,010, Allen, 24th May,—Hakodate 22nd May,—Lighthouse Department.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 24th May,—Kobe 23rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 24th May,—Hongkong 16th, Nagasaki 20th, and Kobe 23rd May, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 25th May.—Hongkong 19th May, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Abyssinia, British steamer, 2,300, Williamson, 26th May,—Hongkong 20th May, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 26th May,—Hakodate 23rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 26th May,—Kobe 25th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Euphrates, British steamer, 1,300, J. Edwards, 27th May,—London viâ ports 20th March, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 27th May,—Hakodate 25th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, E. Hass, 27th May,—Nagasaki 23rd May, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Tartar, British steamer, 1,567, Bailey, 28th May,—Kobe 27th May, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 28th May,—Kobe 27th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 29th May,—Shanghai and ports 23rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oxus, French steamer, 2,500, Chaboud, 29th May,—Hongkong 21st, Shanghai 25th, and Kobe 28th May, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 30th May,—Hakodate 27th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Protos, German steamer, 1,093, Johannsen, 30th May,—Takao 22nd May, Sugar.—Chinese.

DEPARTURES.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 23rd May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 24th May,—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Bichel, 24th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Homery, 24th May,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 24th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Polyhymnia, German steamer, 1,052 Behrens, 25th May,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Volturno (8), Italian corvette, Captain Royche, 25th May,—Chefoo.

Djigit (7), Russian gunboat, Captain Felkersam, 25th May,—Vladivostock.

Alliance (6), U.S. screw-cruiser, Captain H. C. Taylor, 26th May,—Wuhu.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 26th May,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 26th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 27th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 28th May,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Hass, 28th May,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 28th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 29th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 30th May,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, from Kobe:—General Viscount Takashima, family, and suite in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 36 passengers in steerage. For Hakodate: 1 passenger in second class, and 10 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Miss McRae, Major Costobadie and servant, Messrs. B. A. Hopkins, W. M. Goal, W. S. Brockman, Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. E. Vincent, Skeffington, T. E. Davis, P. D. Fota, W. G. Reid, N. S. Spark, Sir Cecil Miles, Mr. Bankier, Dr. Gray, Mr. E. J. Barnes, Mrs. Ah Ling and child, one Chinese lady, Messrs. Wong Mow, Ah Chew, Li Poo Ching, Shadwell, Mrs. Clark, and Mr. N. Laurie in cabin; 4 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. M. S. Chambers, B. F. Khan, Fitch, and H. E. Hall in cabin. For San Francisco: Major Wilkinson, R.E., Messrs. F. Holmke and L. Haas in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. and Mrs. R. Gordon Wickham, Miss Clark, Miss M. Clark, and Mr. Vandenkerckove in cabin; 21 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Milo and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Nunn, Mr. and Mrs. Bickmann, Misses Douglas, Ross, Wade, Messrs. Montgomery, Hill, Asholwood, Wakshield, Stark, Inouye, Tomita, A. W. Quinton, Rev. T. C. Ambler, Rev. John Mackin, Messrs. Beane, Deagon, and H. Bond in cabin; 28 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. Wilson in cabin; Mrs. Shimbayama, Mr. O. Watanabe, and Mr. R. Matsumoto in second class, and 24 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. de Hindelino and 2 children, Mrs. Anita, Miss Burnet, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Von Krenchi, 3 children, and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Feicke, Messrs. E. Stephens, F. W. Johnson, Menju, Sogo, T. Nakamura, R. Holme, P. Kautenkruntz, Dr. Lanning, and Dr. J. Murdock in cabin; Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Korde, and 3 U.S. sailors in second class, and 83 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Oxus*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. Yoshida Jiro, Amedie Guibert, Rousseau, E. Rochette, Carter, King, Lea Smith, Mrs. Ohmi, Messrs. Omatani, Schatz, Salmon, G. Hayes, Raising, Mrs. M. Benecki, Mr. Walford, and Mr. Crosby in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Hakodate:—Captain W. G. Bluhm, Mr. Kuhn, Chief Officer, and 8 of the crew of the American schooner *W. S. Bowne*, and 21 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Dr. Schmidt-Leda, H.I.G.M. Consul-General, Messrs. B. Tamane, W. E. Pritchard, G. Jahnes, Schüller, Lachefsky, Ah Dela, Miss Takahashi, one European sailor, and Mr. King Hein; 7 Chinese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. de Bavier and servant, Mr. G. Elwes, Mr. Munter, Miss Munter, Messrs. A. B. Walford, A. H. Kimball, G. Lestevaide, J. Guracy, and L. Dubuy and Sister Slacide in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Sandford, Mr. Sondheim, Mr. C. D. Moss, Rev. G. Gardner, Mr. Kashimura, Right Rev. Bishop Bickersteth, Miss Lee, Messrs. Isahaya, Hayata, Galt, and O. Vortman in cabin; Mr. Niiyachi, Mr. Sasaki, Mrs. and Miss Tagari, Miss Johnstone, Mrs. Adolphe, Messrs. Horiye, Newall, and Uchiyama in second class, and 59 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—Commander H. C. Taylor, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Brown, Mons. Moussy, Mr. and Mrs. R. Gordon Wickham, Mr. and Mrs. Lafone, Mr. C. D. Twopeny, Mr. J. H. Parkin, Mr. W. P. Symonds, Mrs. Quigley, Miss Palmer, Mr. G. Waterman, Mr. G. Harris, Mrs. J. D. Redding and child, Mrs. F. P. McLennan and child, Rev. L. A. Eaton, 2 children, and infant, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Norvell and infant, Paymaster J. S. Phillips, U.S.N., Miss Mailes, Madame Moussy, Mr. G. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. J. McWhae, Miss Douch, Mr. G. Wendrich, Lieut. Shafranoff, Mr. and Mrs. A. Laughland, Mr. Siddeley, Mr. E. G. Veening, Mr. W. S. Paterson, Mr. S. R. Levy, Mr. J. H. J. Hornsby, Mr. F. Holmke, Mr. L. Haas, Major Wilkinson, Mr. E. Vincent, Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Beebe, child, and infant, Mr. O. Burchardi, Mr. H. Symons, and Mr. Geo. E. Freeman in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure $200,000.00.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France 91 bales; Waste Silk for France 92 bales. Treasure for Shanghai $2,800.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	55	3,348	2,960	6,363
Yokohama	600	5,176	5,878	11,654
Hongkong	7	—	—	7
Total	662	8,524	8,838	18,023

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	169	—	169
Hongkong	—	21	—	21
Yokohama	—	294	—	294
Total	—	484	—	484

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 23rd May at noon; passed Oshima at 8.50 p.m., had light southerly winds and misty weather; passed Omai-saki the 24th at 8.7 a.m.; thence to Rock Island, light S.S.E. winds and fine clear weather; passed Rock Island at 11.10 a.m.; Cape Sagami at 3.7 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama at 5.30 p.m. From Rock Island to port moderate S.S.E. winds and fine.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain Wm. Ward, reports:—Left Hongkong the 19th May at 1.57 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 25th May at 7.17 a.m.; dense fog from Oshima to Kanonsaki. Passage, 5 days, 15 hours, and 38 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Hakodate the 23rd May at 2 p.m.; had moderate S.W. winds and fine weather to Shiriya-saki, which was passed at 5.52 p.m.; thence light southerly winds with foggy weather down to Kinkasan, which was passed at 1.33 p.m. on the 24th, one mile off in a dense fog, the fog syren at the Lighthouse not working; thence light variable airs and foggy weather to Oginohama, which was reached at 3 p.m.; left the 25th at 4 a.m.; had strong southerly winds with thick rainy weather and very high sea down to Noshima, which was passed at 10 a.m. on the 26th; Inuboye being passed at 1.40 a.m.; thence light variable winds and cloudy weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama at 2 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 27th May at noon; had light southerly winds and fine weather; passed Oshima at 9 45 p.m., light S.W. winds and fine weather; passed Rock Island at 1 p.m. on the 28th. Arrived at Yokohama at 7.30 p.m., light winds and fine weather throughout the passage.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 23rd May at 10.30 a.m.; weather hazy but fine until 3 p.m. thence came on dense fog and moderate southerly winds; sighted Cape Goto lighthouse at 5.58 p.m. on the 24th; thence to port had dense fog and very heavy rain. Arrived at Nagasaki the 25th at 5 a.m. and left at 5 p.m.; had fine weather with moderate variable winds. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 26th at 5 a.m. and left at 10 a.m.; had bright and clear weather with gentle breeze throughout the passage. Arrived at Kobe the 27th at 5.30 a.m. and left the 28th at noon; had cloudy weather with moderate variable winds; passed Oshima at 7.30 p.m.: thence to port strong head winds and sea; passed Rock Island at 9.22 a.m. on the 29th. Arrived at Yokohama at 3.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain Arai, reports:—Left Hakodate the 27th May at 2.15 p.m.; had moderate variable winds and southerly swell. Arrived at Oginohama the 28th at 3 p.m. and left the 29th at 3 a.m.; had light fair winds and smooth sea all the way. Arrived at Yokohama the 30th May at 6 a.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The brilliant condition of all crops favoured by unprecedentedly fine weather is quietly but surely having its effect on trade, and confidence in the future seems to be gaining ground in more than one department, although less than a month ago most melancholy and disheartening sentiments were expressed by dealers as to trade prospects in Japan. The drawbacks, however, to any great improvement in prices are the existence of large stocks and the uncertainty of how soon they may be pressed for sale, whilst they serve as a caution against becoming too sanguine and adding fresh supplies to the market. Sales of Yarn for the week amount to 1,250 bales, more than half being composed of two-folds; prices are firmer, and in some cases quite 50 cents per picul higher. No sales of Bombays are reported. About 10,000 pieces Shirtings have been sold at former prices,

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also 1,000 pieces Velvets at 25 cents advance, 5,000 pieces Victoria Lawns, 1,000 pieces Prints, 1,000 pieces Turkey Reds, 300 pieces Cotton Italians, and 5,000 pieces Mousseline de Laine.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼ lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.10	to	1.37½
Turkey Reds—2½ to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.30	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.75	to	1.97½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	5.00	to	6.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 12-3 inches	0.55	to	0.70
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 44 yards, 32 inches	$4.00	to	4.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 51 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$24.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.25	to	28.25
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	29.50	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30.75
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to	33.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	33.50	to	34.50
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to	38.00
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77.00
Nos. 10/12, Bombay		—	

METALS.

There is no improvement in the value of Metals, and only a small business has been done.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80	to	2.95
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.80	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.05
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.50	to	4.65
Tin Plates, per box	5.60	to	5.80
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to	1.35

KEROSENE.

There have been sales of both American and Russian oil, but holders have been unable to raise values, and the transactions put through have been at barely late rates.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.60	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

There has been more demand for Formosa kinds but hardly any transactions have taken place in Whites.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$4.15	to	4.20
Brown Daitong	3.15	to	4.10
Brown Canton	5.00	to	6.00
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	4.90	to	7.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 22nd instant, since when there has been improved demand in this market, total settlements amounting to 539 piculs, divided as follows:—*Hanks* 27 piculs, *Filatures* 315 piculs, *Re-reels* 43 piculs, *Kakeda* 142 piculs, *Hamatsuki* 12 piculs. Direct shipments 36 piculs.

This increased business is principally due to a desire on the part of holders to clear their stocks before the opening of the new season, and consequent concessions in price made by them.

Arrivals have been almost *nil*, and the stock has been considerably reduced, standing now at 2,100 piculs against 1,900 piculs, last year and 1,300 piculs at same date in 1889.

Crop reports continue good from all quarters; the weather is favourable and if any complaint could be made, it would probably be that a little more rain would have been acceptable.

Quotations cannot be materially altered, as with the present ill assorted stock it is almost impossible to give general current prices, and most of them must be considered nominal. High grades of all kinds are almost entirely out of stock.

There have been three shipping opportunities during the week, the French mail steamer *Saghalien*, on the 24th, which carried 91 bales, the N.D. Lloyd steamer *General Werder*, on the same day, taking 20 bales, and the Pacific Mail steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 28th, which took 294 bales for New York. These shipments being the season's export figures up to 33,143 piculs, against 35,379 piculs at same date last year, and 40,771 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—A lot of common *Shinshu* has been placed at $505. The remaining stock—200 piculs—does not contain much that could tempt operators to buy.

Filatures.—A large number of small parcels makes up the quantity settled, mostly at prices ranging from $540 to $570.

Re-reels.—In this class likewise the principal trade was in lower grades from $530 to $560. A few bales *Iwashiro* changed hands at $582½, some *Joshu Kosuisha* at $570, and a parcel of *Watarasse* best at $595.

Kakeda.—Some rather important transactions have taken place in this class, nearly one half of the remaining stock having been taken up, at all prices ranging from $560 down to $520.

Oshu and *Hamatsuki.*—One lot of 12 piculs *Hamatsuki* at $530 is all the trade done in these kinds.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1½	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	$525 to 535
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	515 to 520
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	500 to 510
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	650
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	640 to 645
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nom.	620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		600 to 605
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		570 to 580
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		550 to 560
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	600 to 610
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		590 to 600
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		570 to 580
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		560 to 565
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		540 to 550
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		520 to 530
Kakedas—Extra		595
Kakedas—No. 1		575 to 585
Kakedas—No. 1½		565 to 570
Kakedas—No. 2		545 to 550
Kakedas—No. 2½		530
Kakedas—No. 3		520
Kakedas—No. 3½		510 to 520
Kakedas—No. 4		505 to 510
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	535 to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	500 to 520
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 29th May, 1891:—

	Season 1890 91.	1889 90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	14,420	14,778	21,141
America	18,083	20,145	19,248
Total { Bales	32,503	34 923	40,389
Total { Piculs	33,143	35,379	40,771
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	34,250	35,500	40 650
Stock, 29th May	2,100	1,900	1,300
Available supplies to date	36,350	37,400	41,950

WASTE SILK.

Hardly anything of interest to report in this branch, total settlements during the week amounting to 199 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi* 162 piculs, *Kibiso* 28 piculs, *Mawata* 9 piculs.

There have been no fresh arrivals and the stock is reduced to 3,100 piculs against 5,000 piculs last year and 2,000 piculs in 1889.

Both the French and German mail steamers, *Saghalien* and *General Werder* took some Waste to Europe, the former 323 piculs, and the latter 24 piculs. This brings present export figures up to 31,002 piculs, against 29,222 piculs last year and 30,526 piculs in 1889.

Noshi-ito.—Buying has been almost without exception confined to *Joshu* at prices ranging from $88 down to $62. One parcel of *Hachoji* changed hands at $65, and another at $142½.

Kibiso.—The trade done hereon consisted of common *Joshu* at $18.

Mawata.—A small lot of fair quality brought $170.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good		$135 to $140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium		120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good		100 to 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium		—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best		130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		85 to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good		77½ to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary		70 to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected		110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds		100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		55 to 60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair		50 to 40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common		35 to 30
Sibiso—Hachoji, Good		45 to 40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low		32½ to 27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		15 to 8
Mawata—Good to Best		180 to 190

Export Table Waste Silk to 29th May, 1891:—

	Season 1890 91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	29,715	27,034	28,048
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	31,002	29,222	30,526
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,500	29,000	31,100
Stock, 29th May	3,000	5,000	2,000
Available supplies to date	34,500	34,000	34,100

Exchange closes as follows:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3; Documents, 3/3⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3¾; Documents, 3/3⅞; NEW YORK, 30 d/s. U.S. $78½; 4m/s. U.S. $79½; PARIS, 4m/s. fcs. 4.11; 6m/s. fcs. 4.14.

Estimated Silk Stock, 29th May, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	200	Cocoons	50
Filatures	660	Noshi-ito	880
Re-reels	900	Kibiso	1,960
Kakeda	170	Mawata	150
Oshu	160	Sundries	60
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	2,100	Total piculs	3,100

TEA.

The market continues active, and prices have been well sustained for the large quantities that have changed hands. There is a large demand for Medium and Common grades, but the latter have not yet come down in very large quantities.

	per picul.		
Extra Choicest		—	
Choicest	$27	to	—
Choice	24	to	26
Finest	22	to	23
Fine	20	to	21
Good Medium	18	to	19
Medium	16	to	17
Good Common	14	to	15
Common	12	to	13

EXCHANGE.

Rates, which have been fairly steady and fully maintained during the greater part of the week, close firm.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/2¾
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 3
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3¼
On Paris—Bank sight	4.03
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.14
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½% dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅜% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	78½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	78½
Silver	44½

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1891.

MARRIAGE.

On the 30th instant, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Kobe, by J. J. Enslie, Esq., Consul, and afterwards at the Union Protestant Church, by the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A., C.F., GEORGE, second son of P. Grimble, Hongkong to EDITH E. A., daughter of the late George Nankivell, Kobe. No cards.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

COUNT ITO has consented to re-enter the Administration in the position of President of the Privy Council.

MR. YOSHIDA JIRO, Japanese Consul in London, returned to Japan on the 29th ultimo by the French steamer *Oxus*.

MR. HAMANO NOBORU, President of the Saisei Hospital, Chiba, has received permission from the Authorities to use Dr. Koch's lymph.

A MAN was killed and two women more or less severely injured by lightning at Mizuhomura, Shinobugori, Fukushima Prefecture, on the 28th ultimo.

THE value of porcelain, consisting of *setoyaki*, *tokonabeyaki*, and *shippoyaki*, manufactured in Aichi Prefecture during last year was about *yen* 756,989.

THE cost of repairing the *Tokio Maru*, which went ashore at Merazaki, Boshu, last winter, and is at present in the Yokosuka Dock, is estimated at *yen* 250,000.

AN earthquake was felt in the capital on the 1st instant, at 12h. 38m. 43s. p.m. The duration was one minute and 23 seconds, and the direction from south to north, the maximum horizontal motion being 0.4 millimètre in 0.7 second. The shock was a sharp one. A slight shock was experienced the same day at 10h. 11m. 0s. a.m.

THE Radicals and the Conservative members of the Upper House have been carrying on an extraordinary agitation to bring about the resignation of the Cabinet *en masse*.

THE opening ceremony of the Iwamizawa and Sorachi section of the Hokkaido Coal Mining Railway will take place on the 1st proximo. Mr. Matsumoto, of the Railway Bureau, will attend.

AN outbreak of fire took place on the 1st inst. at about 6 p.m. in a building in the enclosure of the Patents Bureau at Otecho, Kojimachi, and destroyed the structure where they originated.

FIRE broke out on the 29th ult. at 12.30 a.m. in a house at Akasakacho, Itchome, Niigata, and before the flames could be subdued at 1.20 a.m. thirty dwellings were burned to the ground.

MESSRS. AYAI TAKKO, Yoshida Masaharu, Mori Hajime, Nakanishi Genjiro, and a few other leading members of the *Kokumin Jiyu* (National Liberal) party have withdrawn from membership.

ON the 31st ultimo the resignations of four Cabinet Ministers were accepted and their successors appointed. Only one half of the Yamagata Cabinet remain under the Matsukata régime.

AT three o'clock this afternoon a violent storm swept over Yokohama. It commenced with a heavy fall of hail as big as horse beans, and was followed by a perfect deluge of rain lasting fifteen minutes, accompanied by a strong wind.

ON learning of the spread of cholera at Bangkok a meeting of members of the Central Sanitary Association was held on the 29th ult. at the Home Department to discuss matters in connection with the examination of vessels coming from that port.

THE work of constructing a railway between Kurashiki and Kasaoka on the Sanyo Railway has been nearly completed, and the Government examination will, it is expected, take place about the 10th inst. The line will be opened about the 20th inst. for traffic.

AN earthquake was experienced in Tokyo on the 30th ultimo, at 2h. 20m. 19s. p.m. The duration was one minute and 30 seconds, and the direction from N.W. to S.E., the maximum horizontal motion being 0.5 milimetre in 0.9 second. The shock was a weak one.

AT a general meeting of members of the Central Sanitary Association held on the 29th ult. it was decided to apply to the Authorities to put in force the *Kenyeki Kisoku*, regulations for the examination of vessels coming from localities where infectious disease prevails.

DURING last month the Imperial Museum, Uyeno, was visited by 6,801 persons, of whom 6,124 were adults, 207 children, and 470 students. The number of visitors to the Zoological Garden, Uyeno, during the same period was 21,084, of whom 18,247 were adults, 2,000 children, and 837 students.

LATER details have been received of the destructive fire on the night of the 20th ultimo at Honjomachi, Yurigori, Akita Prefecture, from which it appears that 614 dwellings, 58 godowns, 848 sheds, 3 shrines, 8 temples, one district office, one police station, one post office, 15 telegraph posts, 693 *koku* (one *koku*=2½ piculs) of rice, 16 *koku* of large beans, various commodities to the value of over *yen* 30,000 and a large quantity of timber were destroyed. Four lives were lost and three persons were more or less severely injured, of whom one has since died.

A LECTURE meeting in aid of the expense of erecting a monument in commemoration of Sakura Sogo, was held on the 28th ult. at the Tsuta Theatre, Yokohama, at which over four hundred persons were present. Messrs. Inouye Kakugoro, Ito Nitaro, Minagawa Kosai, Wakamiya Manjiro, Hayashi Kaneakira, and Soda Hisaburo delivered speeches on the occasion.

AN ordinary Cabinet meeting was held on the 29th ult. at which there were present Counts Matsukata, Saigo, Goto, and Yamada, Viscount Takashima, and Mr. Mutsu. The proceedings were commenced at 11 in the forenoon and were not closed till 4 in the afternoon. Lieutenant-General Katsura, Vice-Minister for War, and Viscount Okabe, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited the Cabinet Office the same day.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL KATSUURA, Vice-Minister for War, was appointed on the 1st instant Commander of the Third Army Division (Nagoya), and was succeeded by Major-General Okazawa, Commander of the Eighth Brigade, whose place is taken by Major-General Kawamura Kageakira. Lieutenant-General Baron Kurokawa, Commander of the Third Army Division, was appointed the same day to succeed Lieutenant-General Viscount Takashima, Commander of the Fourth Army Division (Osaka), who was recently appointed Minister of State for War. Major-General Okazawa received the additional appointment of Director of the Bureau of General Affairs, being raised to second class *chokunin* rank.

DURING February last the import and export trade of Jinsen amounted to *yen* 210,647.384 in value, of which *yen* 139,855.224 represented imports and *yen* 70,792.160 exports. Imports and exports by Japanese merchants were respectively *yen* 78,271.594 and *yen* 61,193.400 in value; by Chinese merchants *yen* 51,822,290 and *yen* 9,594.260; and by foreign merchants *yen* 9,761.340 and *yen* 4.500. The values of commodities over *yen* 1,000 imported and exported by Japanese merchants during the period were as follows:—Imports: *yen* 28,019.900 muslin, *yen* 2,108.000 *kaiki* (lustring), *yen* 2.616.760 refined copper, *yen* 6,629,510 crude copper, *yen* 32.058.884 miscellaneous goods, and *yen* 3.797.320 Japanese wine; exports: *yen* 20,123.460 large beans, *yen* 36,791.640 rice, and *yen* 1,416.980 cow-hides.

THE Import market has further improved in the matter of Yarns and Shirtings, of which 1,500 bales and 20,000 pieces have been taken at full rates. Fancy Cottons are only in small request, and Woolliens are still neglected. Metals are dull, and not much has been done in Kerosene. There has been some Sugar moved, but the trade is not brisk. The Tea trade has been extensive, and prices for leaf have been well maintained. A small trade in Silk continues to be done as parcels are found that are worth the attention of exporters. How small a quantity there is fit for export may be seen when it is stated that there is but little over a thousand piculs in stock. But there are buyers when anything decent is offered, and the few arrivals of quality that come in do not lie long without purchasers. The reports are generally favourable to the new crop, and it has been stated that a larger quantity of seed was laid down this year than last. It is said that severe frost had appeared on two nights in Shinshiu, but the report lacks confirmation. Waste Silk has been taken in small lots, most of which were fresh arrivals. Exchange has been steady; and the tendency is upwards.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ON THE MINISTERIAL CHANGE.

THE opinions expressed by the vernacular press with reference to the resignation of Viscount Aoki are various and interesting. The *Hochi Shimbun* says that there was no valid reason why the responsibility of the Otsu affair should have fallen on his shoulders, but that the members of the Privy Council advocated his retirement as a becoming finale to the steps taken by the nation in respect of that lamentable incident. These statesmen, in short, were of opinion that the sacrifice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs would round off the whole transaction, and they succeeded in getting the Cabinet to endorse their view. The *Hochi* also hints that Viscount Aoki's relations with the Russian Legation were of a strained character, a circumstance which, in view of the Otsu incident, may have been an assistant, though of course not the prime, cause of his resignation. Our contemporary adds that the members of the House of Peers also advocated a change of Minister of Foreign Affairs. Their notion was that as the judicature had done its part handsomely and expeditiously, the Executive also should make a fitting display. In fact the *Hochi* writes as though the sequel of the Otsu business were a kind of drama in which the various branches of the Government had to play their parts artistically and harmoniously. The *Kokkai* looks at the matter from another standpoint. It believes that Viscount Aoki's German proclivities stood fatally in the way of his success at the Foreign Office, especially *vis-à-vis* Russia. Appreciating this stumbling block in his path, he endeavoured from the outset to remove it both by word and deed, but the fact remained always. Viscount Yenomoto, on the contrary, is on the best terms with the Russian Government, and will be a *persona gratissima* at the Foreign Office under existing circumstances. The *Kokkai* thus appears to think that the first duty of the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs is to conciliate Russia, a view doubtless inspired by the shock of recent events. The *Jiyu* denies that the Otsu incident is responsible for Viscount Aoki's retirement. It finds such a reason quite insufficient, and opines that there are deeper influences at work. As to the nature of these influences it says little, contenting itself with the observation that Viscount Yenomoto, who succeeds to the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, is a close friend of Count Kuroda. The *Jiyu* thus leads its readers to suppose that the change is the result of some re-combination or re-assertion of the influences behind the Throne. The *Choya* writes at greater length. In the Otsu incident it sees only a proximate cause of Viscount Aoki's resignation. Doubtless the Minister of Foreign Affairs felt a grave responsibility towards his Sovereign in connection with that matter, but occult considerations of a profounder and more wide-reaching character were also at work. The retirement of the Minister was not a business suddenly or quickly resolved upon. Viscount Aoki had undertaken to wipe out the disgrace suffered by the country in consequence of the failures made by Counts Inouye and Okuma in the matter of Treaty Revision. This project prospered plainly in his hands. He succeeded in effecting an understanding with England, hitherto the most obdurate of all the Powers, and full achievement had come in sight. But when Count Matsukata assumed the reins of power, the question of the degree of expedition to be observed in conducting the negotiations, was brought upon the *tapis*, and there is much reason to think that great difficulty was experienced in reconciling the views of the Minister President with the action contemplated and hitherto taken by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Then ensued the Otsu incident, which many politicians were disposed to regard as extremely prejudicial to the cause of Treaty Revision. They considered that in the face of such an affair, the successful conduct of the Treaty Revision negotiations would be scarcely possible. But Viscount Aoki was not a man to shrink from facing difficulties. No such consideration would have induced him to resign. Account must be taken, also, of the rapidity with which his successor was appointed. Changes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had previously required considerable time for their consummation, but in this case Viscount Aoki's successor was gazetted within 48 hours, from which it may be inferred that arrangements must have been made beforehand. The *Toyo Shimpo* attributes the resignation to the combined influence of the Otsu incident and of a change of policy on the part of the new Minister President in respect of Treaty Revision. The *Jiji Shimpo* regards the Otsu incident as quite a secondary cause. Its information is to the effect that Viscount Aoki's retirement became inevitable so soon as Count Matsukata's policy of proceeding more deliberately with Treaty Revision received the endorsement of the Cabinet, and that he only remained in office for the purpose of carrying to a successful termination all the arrangements connected with the visit of the Czarevitch. In respect of the latter's tour through the Empire the Russian Minister had more than once sought and obtained assurances from Viscount Aoki as to the absence of any grounds of apprehension, and naturally Viscount Aoki felt that the undertaking given by him having been proved abortive by Tsuda Sanzo's crime, the sooner he carried out his resolve to resign, the better. The *Tokyo Shimpo*, discussing the question from the same standpoint as the *Jiji*, but independently, denies that any special responsibility devolved on Viscount Aoki in connection with the Otsu incident. It justly remarks that Viscount Aoki could answer the queries of the Russian Minister in only one sense, having regard to the fact that Japanese laws and the machinery for carrying them out afford ample guarantees for the security of any foreigner travelling in the country. Viscount Aoki's responsibility did not exceed that of any of his colleagues, nor was any atonement required of him which they were not equally bound to make. The *Chiusei Nippo* (conservative organ) takes a different view, however. It relegates Treaty Revision to a secondary position, and regards the Otsu incident as the prime cause. Viscount Aoki, it alleges, having given strong assurances to the Russian Minister, could not fail to feel humiliated by the result. Moreover, he had made another promise which events prevented him from fulfilling. The *Chiusei Nippo* refrains, somewhat ostentatiously, from explaining what this promise was, but one can easily read between the lines that the reference is to Tsuda Sanzo's punishment, a curious *canard* for the conservative organ to ventilate. Finally, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes with its usual moderation and thoughtfulness. It regards Treaty Revision as the prime cause. Viscount Aoki had identified himself so closely with the success of a programme calculated to take the place of Count Okuma's scheme, that a change of policy could not possibly be endorsed by him. The *Nichi Nichi* fully sympathises with the embarrassment of the Cabinet, which sees itself confronted by the certainty of trouble in both official and non-official circles if it pushes Revision at present. But our contemporary points out that postponement for such a reason would forfeit the confidence of foreign Powers. It urges Count Matsukata, assuming that he is not satisfied with Viscount Aoki's programme, to put forward another set of proposals, and then, if these do not obtain acceptance, to give practical effect to his policy of delay.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ON THE OTSU TRIAL.

WE have already alluded briefly to the criticisms of the vernacular press in relation to the trial of Tsuda Sanzo, but it will be well to place on record that the leading journals are unanimous in their approval of the sentence pronounced by the Judges of the Court of Cassation in special session at Otsu. Declaring that they hold Tsuda in the profoundest detestation and that no form of punishment, however severe, could suffice to atone for his heinous crime, these journals regret that, according to the law of the country, the severest penalty imposable for his offence is imprisonment for life with hard labour. It was at one time extensively rumoured that the Government had decided to treat Tsuda's crime as an attempt against the life of a member of the Japanese Imperial family, and the sending down to Otsu of a batch of judges from the Court of Cassation for the trial of the prisoner, lent strong colour to this rumour. But a capital sentence would have been possible only under a most violent perversion of the obvious meaning of the law, and, few thoughtful person imagined that the Judges of the Court of Cassation were in danger of committing such a fatal mistake. Nevertheless, serious apprehensions seem to have been entertained in some quarters as to the result of the trial, and the press is now a unit in applauding the impartiality of the judgment and the independence of the Judiciary. The *Kaishin-to* organs, the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, and the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, express doubts as to the perfect legality of the procedure followed. They refrain from pronouncing a decided opinion on the subject, but they question whether it was right that the case should have been tried by a special session of the Court of Cassation, instead of by a Local Court. They promise to discuss the point at length in future issues, and there can be no doubt that it will afford material for criticism of a damaging character, both by the press and in parliament. Possibly the discussion may indicate or elicit some explanation of the action of the Supreme Court in assuming jurisdiction, or, as some put it, in accepting the Otsu tribunal's declarations of incompetence. Another paper, the *Choya Shimbun*, expresses the earnest hope that a bill will be introduced in the Diet next session providing special punishments for crimes committed against foreign Imperial or Royal personages, but we do not see why Japan should give herself much concern about such a matter.

THE RIOT IN SHINANO.

THE recent riot at Matsumoto in the Province of Shinano, receives some attention from the Metropolitan papers. Shinano is one of the most mountainous districts in Japan. Means of communication throughout the province are extremely defective even to this day. It is not surprising, therefore, that the inhabitants of the southern half of the province should complain of the inconvenience entailed on them owing to their distance from the seat of the Prefectural Government, which is at Nagano near the northern borders. From a geographical point of view Matsumoto has better claims than Nagano to be the capital city of the Prefecture. The inhabitants of the former place have done their utmost, during several years, to bring about the removal of the seat of local government to their town, but they have not succeeded in accomplishing their object, and their excitement, fanned by the agitation of adroit malcontents, became so intense as to flame out into a riot of considerable magnitude. The Tokyo papers, while sympathising with the motives, condemn the violent methods, of the disaffected inhabitants, and observe that they have only made their position worse; for to accede to their demands now would be to put a premium upon rioting and disorder. They should have resorted to the constitutional resources of petition and representation.

THE INTERMINABLE QUESTION.

IN view of the recent Cabinet change, it is interesting to note the present attitude of the vernacular press with reference to Treaty Revision. The excitement about the Otsu affair having subsided, the leading journals are gradually returning to the discussion of the old problem. The *Jiji Shimpo*, under the heading "The Matsukata Cabinet and Treaty Revision," alludes to a current rumour that one of the conditions upon which Count Matsukata consented to become Minister President, related to the suspension of the negotiations for Treaty Revision. Our contemporary professes inability to believe that Count Matsukata can have insisted on such an irrational condition, and opines that amendment of the present scheme of revision, not suspension of the negotiations,

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was what he bargained for. But, says the *Jiji*, the result is the same, either way. What it asks, can be the object of calling a new halt in the progress of negotiations? On the whole the *Jiji* seems to conclude that the Cabinet has abandoned, for the present at least, all idea of effecting Revision of the Treaties, and it strongly condemns such a course of policy. Ardently as it desires to have the Treaties revised on the basis of perfect and absolute equality, it frankly admits that in connection with this question there is a history which cannot well be discarded, and that consequently Japan cannot, under present circumstances, hope for more than a good compromise. "Had Count Okuma's programme been carried out, we should now," says the *Jiji*, "be collecting customs duties at the rate of 10 per cent. while Consular Jurisdiction would be within three years of final abolition. The public opinion of the day was, however, opposed to the Count's programme and declared it prejudicial to the interests of the country, and the Government, for reasons which we fail to comprehend, suspended the negotiations. But even to-day there does not seem to be any better hope than there was then of getting the treaties revised on an equal footing. The suspension of negotiations may be injurious, and will certainly not be conducive, to the interests of the country."

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The *Kokkai* observes that, in certain well-informed circles, a belief prevails that the Otsu affair may lead to suspension of the negotiations for Treaty Revision, but our contemporary treats the idea with scorn. Ignorant fanatics like Tsuda, says the *Kokkai*, are found in every country, and the recent incident at Otsu cannot, with any show of reason, be turned into a weapon for opposing Japan's demands to enter the comity of civilised nations as an entirely independent country. Japan has done everything in her power to show her profound sense of regret and sorrow for the incident. It has been brought to a satisfactory close, and can never have any serious bearing on the ill-fated problem of Treaty Revision. Thus should the negotiations now in progress be suspended, as is rumoured in certain quarters, such a contingency cannot be laid to the charge of the Otsu affair; "it must be attributed to incompetency on the part of our statesmen." From all these utterances it will be seen that the Cabinet is placed between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea in respect of this interminable problem. Any solution that it can propose, short of the absolute recovery of Japan's autonomy, will be attacked by party politicians, and if, in view of the certainty that treaties on a basis of complete equality cannot be made the subject of negotiation at present, the question be temporarily shelved, then an equally fierce outcry will be raised in other quarters. So the circle leads us back to what we have always maintained, namely, that the opportunity was lost twice, and that heaven does not vouchsafe its favours to a State three times in such matters.

TRADAL DEPRESSION.

THE question of tradal depression has begun to press upon public attention. It is discussed by several of the Tokyo papers. The *Jiji Shimpo* remarks that had the Russian Prince Imperial come to the capital, the general activity among the people with reference to his reception would have in no small degree contributed to reanimate the business world. The probable expenditure of the Czarevitch and his party does not, of course, constitute a factor of this calculation, but the *Jiji* thinks that the excitement connected with the affair and the monetary outlay of the citizens would have helped to dissipate the thick atmosphere of stagnation now brooding over Tokyo. What is done cannot, however, be undone, so our contemporary concludes its article by enumerating a few of the schemes proposed in certain quarters with the object of restoring business activity. These schemes are, first that the circulation of capital should be stimulated by allowing the shares of the better sort of companies to be taken as securities; secondly, that an Industrial Bank should be established; thirdly, that a bourse should be opened for transactions in silk, salt, oil, cotton, etc.; fourthly, either that the Government should buy up all the railroads in the country, or that a big company should be established for controlling the entire system of lines; fifthly, that foreign capital should be introduced; and, sixthly, that lotteries should be permitted for the purpose of collecting funds for the preservation of noted shrines and temples, and also for the encouragement of emigration to Hokkaido. The *Jiji*, of course, does not approve of these proposals. It simply enumerates them for the information of its readers.

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A writer signing himself "H. S." discusses the same subject in the columns of the *Hochi Shimbun*. He observes that the most popular schemes for the revival of trade are the introduction of foreign capital and the recovery of tariff autonomy. But he himself thinks that the principal cause of the present depression is, not want of capital, but want of means for collecting and distributing capital. The Japanese have not yet come to appreciate the value of depositing money in banks, and the processes prescribed by the banks themselves are so minute and troublesome that people are deterred from having recourse to them. Develop the system of genuine banking, says the writer, and have plenty of capital at a low rate of interest becoming available, and there will no longer be any tradal depression. It appears, therefore, that "H. S." does not attach any importance whatever to the recovery of tariff autonomy, and to the proposed introduction of foreign capital. He thinks that there is money enough in the country if only it could be made available for purposes of sound trade and industry.

GOLD AND SILVER RATIOS.

THE *Official Gazette* gives the following table of comparative values of gold and silver coins and of the pound sterling for the week ended the 30th ult., as derived from the returns of the Bank of Japan and the Yokohama Special Bank:—

Day	Gold Coin. (Per *yen* 100) Silver Yen.		Pound Sterling (Per £1) Silver Yen.
25th	128.200	A.M. P.M.	6.3157
26th	128.200	A.M. P.M.	6.3366
27th	128.200	A.M. P.M.	6 3366
28th	128.200	A.M. P.M.	6.2950
29th	127.800	A.M. P.M.	6.2950
30th	127.800	A.M. P.M.	6.2950
Averages	128.060		6.3123

The above averages show for gold coin an increase in value of *yen* 1.027 per cent., and for the pound sterling an increase in value of *yen* 0.0395 as compared with the previous week.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR WORKS.

THE busy-bodies whose tongues were so nimble recently, did not allow the Yokohama Harbour works to escape criticism. They declared that the dredger had been purchased at an extravagantly high price; that repairs had been necessary very soon; that there had been no proper certificates, and so forth. The Home Department ordered an investigation, and the Audit Board employed Mr. Maruki, a naval architect, to examine and report upon the dredger. His report was that the dredger had been purchased for a proper figure, her value being ninety thousand *yen*, not sixty thousand, as alleged; that the statement about repairs was incorrect, and that the certificates were all in order.

TSUDA SANZO'S WIFE AND FAMILY.

THE case of Tsuda Sanzo's wife and children is certainly very pitiful. Tsuda's crime brought such disgrace on Japan that the whole nation is enraged against him, and his unhappy wife and children will find few, if any, to succour them in their distress. If newspaper reports may be trusted, instead of receiving the sympathy that ought to be extended to a woman and her children under such circumstances, they have already been included in the ban of execration under which the would-be assassin himself lies. We can hardly conceive any misfortune more terrible than that which has overtaken them, and if there is any possibility of extending a helping hand, we would gladly adopt the suggestion made by our correspondent "Justice," and advanced originally in the columns of the *Japan Herald*. But before asking the foreign public to assist in such a matter, it becomes necessary to ascertain whether the circumstances of the family warrant interference. When Tsuda's crime brought his name into prominence, more than one of the Tokyo journals said that his pecuniary condition was good, and that he had saved money. Possibly—though the hypothesis is not easy to entertain—his family may be fairly provided for, and in that event the charity of the foreign community would be misplaced. Before opening a subscription list, we propose to ascertain the facts of the case. If help is really needed, the foreigners of Yokohama and Tokyo will assuredly give it, for they have never been found wanting where charity is in question. We may add that we greatly doubt the story as to the woman and her children having been driven away from their home. Such action on the part of their neighbours is exceedingly improbable in Japan.

SAILING RACE.

A SAILING race for boats of the B Division of the Yokohama Sailing Club took place on Saturday afternoon, the course being what is known as the Inside Course,—round a mark at the end of the south breakwater, another mark at Kanagawa, and home, finishing between the Bathing Barge and the French Hatoba. Mr. Beart, at whose disposal Mr. West placed *Daimyo*, started the boats at 2.30 p.m. The wind was flukey, and the competitors kept pretty close together till near the close, when *Sayonara* dropped astern of *Isabel*, and *Jessie and Petrel* took the lead. *Jessie* went out among the shipping, getting perhaps more wind, but falling in with a foul tide which did her nothing but harm, while *Petrel*, hugging the shore from the English Hatoba, gradually drew into the windward position. Coming in on the port tack *Jessie* stayed three boats' lengths astern of her antagonist, who was able to shove across with a short board and win a minute and a half ahead. Following are the times:—

		Breakwater.	Kanagawa.	Fin.	Time Allowance.
		h.m.s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.	m.s.
Isabel	17	2.39.10	3.03.50	3.56.55	—
Jessie	16	2.39.35	3.03.30	3.54.05	0.57
Petrel	16	2.39.20	3.03.31	3.52.40	0.57
Sayonara	13	2.41.05	3 09.40	4 00.45	6.29

	Corrected Time. h.m.s.
Isabel	3.56.55
Jessie	3.53.08
Petrel	3.51.43
Sayonara	3.56.16

HATS OFF!

A JAPANESE nobleman tells us that he had an experience similar to that recounted in these columns with regard to a foreigner whom the police ordered to remove his hat long before the Imperial cortége came in sight on the 22nd instant. An officious constable sought to enforce the same mandate in the case of the Japanese, but the latter, to the great amusement of the bystanders, begged the guardian of the law to instruct him as to how he should proceed when the Emperor actually came in sight, if his hat had been removed prematurely. Should he pluck at his forelock, or should he nod to the Sovereign, or should he kneel on the road or should he have himself decapitated. The policeman was utterly discomfited, of course, and equally of course took his discomfiture most good-humouredly. But this experience pales completely before another incident, concerning the truth of which we have excellent authority. Recently when the Emperor honoured the residence of Admiral Count Kawamura with a visit, a party of foreign children with their nurses repaired to a convenient place to witness the Sovereign's passage. The party consisted of two girls, aged respectively twelve and

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ten, a boy of five, and a baby of four months, the last carried on the back of a *mori*. Presently a policeman came up and, although the cortége was not in sight, ordered the two girls to uncover their heads. They remonstrated mildly, saying that they feared to catch cold, but the policeman regretfully insisted, and so the hats were taken off. Then the constable turned his attention to the little boy of five, and his cap had to be doffed. But finally—we almost hesitate to tell the sequel, so incredible is it—finally the man in uniform intimated that the wee baby also must have its head-gear removed, and with this injunction also the nurse had to comply. We wonder whether the Tokyo police have received instructions to try and correct the want of respectful etiquette so often shown by a Japanese crowd in these times when, the old methods of salutation having gone out of use, no thoroughly well understood and universally observed fashion has yet replaced them. It may be so. What is certain is that these recent incidents are quite out of character with the usual demeanour of the Tokyo police, than whom a more obliging and considerate set of officials could not be found in any country. We wish that the Emperor could hear of the unbonnetting of the little tot of four months of age. His Majesty would enjoy a hearty laugh over the incident.

AN IDEA ABOUT MARITIME AFFAIRS.

SOMETIMES we are constrained to wonder whether the gravest writers in the gravest Japanese journals are quite serious in their suggestions and comments. We shall be thought extremely impertinent, doubtless, if we admit that this sense of uncertainty has ever been produced by anything appearing in the *Jiji Shimpo*, but our readers will hold us justified when they learn the subject that provokes our comment. The *Jiji* thinks that Japan should have a line of steamers of her own plying to San Francisco. That, of course, is a rational and intelligible idea. But the reasons that suggest it are the puzzle. Why, asks the *Jiji*, is it that the Japanese who go to settle in America are all of the worst classes? It is because a strongly deterrent cause exists which prevents people of a more respectable grade from crossing the broad Pacific, and that reason is the want of a Japanese line of steamers between this country and San Francisco, or some other American port. When a Japanese thinks of embarking in a steamer under a foreign flag, commanded by a foreign captain, manned and travelled in by people speaking a strange language, proceeding to a strange land many thousands of miles away across a strange ocean, he is beset with so many anxieties and apprehensions that he ends by contenting himself with his own paltry fortune at home rather than brave all these risks and uncertainties. But if Japan had her own fleet of steamers navigating the Pacific; if her people could be sure of making the voyage in a ship flying their country's flag, commanded and manned by their own nationals, many of the respectable middle and even upper classes would take their wives and families, and set out from their island home to settle on the great American continent, there to show to Americans the fine character and honourable nature of the Japanese race. Thus the evil name that has been fixed upon Japan by the dregs of her populace settling in the United States, would soon be effaced. And for these reasons the *Jiji* urges that the Government should subsidise a line of Japanese steamers to ply on the Pacific!

THE WRECK OF THE "W. S. BOWNE."

THE captain and crew of the three-masted American schooner *W. S. Bowne*, which recently went ashore in Tsugaru Straits, came to Yokohama on Saturday morning in the *Niigata Maru* from Hakodate. From Captain Bluhm we have learned the following particulars of the casualty. The *W. S. Bowne*, which was built five years ago at Port Blakley (Wash.), was owned by Captain Bluhm and others, and was of 391 tons. She left San Francisco on March 6th for Vladivostock, with a general cargo consigned to Messrs. Kunst and Albers, with orders to call at Hakodate. On April 23rd, land to the south of Shiriyasaki was sighted, and at 5 p.m. the same day the vessel entered the Tsugaru Straits with baffling winds. At 4 a.m. on the 24th, the lead having been kept going and bottom found at 39 fathoms twenty minutes before, the mate took charge of the deck, and the Captain, who had had little rest for two nights previously, went below, Omi or Low Island then bearing N.W. by W. ½ W. distant about 4½ miles, the wind light from S.W. and the course N.W. ½ N. for Hakodate, the ship keeping on the south side of the Straits to avoid the strong tide. Having left orders to be called if any change took place in wind or weather, the Captain lay down, but in an hour heard a noise on deck and going up found the ship in stays and shooting up on the rocks close to a small island, the wind still from S.W. A kedge was run out on the port bow and the ship swung round, but her heel took the ground, and in less than an hour she had smashed her rudder and stern post. Half an hour later with the kedge and her head sails she came off with three feet of water in her hold. An attempt was made to sail her on the starboard tack, but the vessel could not now be handled, and to avoid a reef about a mile from where she first struck, the anchor was dropped. As she swung round on the other tack sail was made on her about seven o'clock, but having now nine feet of water in her hold, and endeavours to steer her with a spar rigged over the stern proving unsuccessful, she was beached on a sand and gravel bottom. The breeze having freshened off the land, however, the schooner soon worked herself off with the heavy sea that had got up, and as she seemed to float though waterlogged, the anchor was dropped in 6½ fathoms. On the 26th the captain went to Hakodate in a small schooner and tried to get assistance. On the 28th at 10.30 a.m. the *Suruga Maru* proceeded to the vessel, and after considerable trouble in consequence of her erratic movements in the strong tideway, took her into Hakodate where a survey decided that she could not be repaired there, and suggested the advisability of selling her by public auction.

THE "TOYO SHIMPO."

IT was recently remarked with much truth that the Japanese vernacular newspapers are allowed to say almost anything they please about foreigners. The critic might have supplemented his comment by extending it to the foreign local press, which certainly has shown very little reserve from time to time in its harsh verdicts about the Japanese. We have always maintained that the unkind utterances of a few cynics must not be taken as a true indication of the general sentiment of foreigners towards the people of this country, and similarly the Japanese may justly claim that the intemperance of their lowest class of journals does not fairly represent the feeling of the nation. The subject is brought forcibly to our attention today by an editorial note in the *Toyo Shimpo* referring to the proposal to get up a subscription for the succour of Tsuda Sanzo's wife and family. The proposal emanated from a correspondent of the *Japan Herald*, who wrote in a spirit of obviously genuine benevolence, and obtained the endorsement of the newspaper to which his letter was addressed. The *Toyo Shimpo* translated the letter and the journalistic comment appended, adding on its own account this brief criticism:—"Who imagines that these foreigners entertain hatred of the crime and not of the criminal?" The obvious intention of this criticism, the inference inevitably suggested by it, is that foreigners—may we not say Englishmen?—sympathise with Tsuda Sanzo's heinous attempt. For publishing such a disgraceful suggestion the *Toyo Shimpo* was promptly suspended. We cannot but think that it deserved the punishment. As for its construction of charitable foreigners' motives, the thing is too ludicrous to be treated seriously. The only reflection it suggests is that the editors of Japanese journals ought to exercise closer supervision over the matter admitted to their columns. The editor of the *Toyo Shimpo* is Mr. Suge Ryoho, formerly a prominent politician of the *Daido Danketsu* Party, and now a member of the House of Representatives. Nobody imagines for an instant that Mr. Suge had any cognizance of, or gave his sanction to, the publication of this silly and vindictive libel. In the same way, when the *Tensoku* published an even more mischievous paragraph, after the stoning affair at the Russian Legation—a paragraph distinctly inciting to acts of violence against foreigners—it was not imagined that the editor-in-chief of the magazine, Mr. Kato Hiroyuki, who is also President of the Imperial University, could have lent any countenance to the seditious and most unjust comment. But, after all, who is to be held responsible? If editors of newspapers and periodicals allow their miscellaneous columns to be filled by anyone having a desire to ventilate slander or to promote crime, they must ultimately bear the blame. Journals are not playthings to be toyed with by adult juveniles. They require to be treated seriously. The functions of an editor are by no means ended when he has provided matter for a column or two. Perhaps neither Mr. Kato nor Mr. Suge considers that he has incurred any disgrace in connection with the *Tensoku* and the *Toyo Shimpo*. We do not agree with them. For while we are entirely persuaded that both gentlemen are equally innocent of any connection with the obnoxious paragraphs, we cannot possibly acquit them of having signally and culpably failed to discharge the most obvious duties of editorship.

THE RADICALS AND THE CABINET.

THE Radical members of the House of Representatives and several prominent associates of the Radical Party now in Tokyo, held a meeting at the offices of the Party in Shiba Park on the 31st ultimo, Count Itagaki, leader of the Party, being in the chair. By an almost unanimous vote the meeting decided that the present Cabinet must be held responsible for the anxiety and trouble caused to the Emperor by the attempt on the life of Tsuda Sanzo, and that the Ministers should be urged to tender their resignations in a body. It was agreed that a document recommending this course be prepared and submitted to each member of the Cabinet, and the duty of transmitting it in person was entrusted to those present at the meeting in the following manner:—Count Itagaki to wait upon Viscount Hijikata, Minister of the Imperial Household. Messrs. Arai Shogo, Kudo Kokan, Tanigawa Shochiu, and Hayashi Homei, to wait upon Count Matsukata, Minister President of State. Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Takeishi Keiji, Yamada Buho, and Sugita Teiichi, to wait upon Count Saigo, Minister of State for Home Affairs. Messrs. Kono Hironaka, Shiota Okuzo, Itakura Noka, and Nishigata Tamezo, to wait upon Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce. Messrs. Ishida Kannosuke, Yamada Taizo, and Ta Teikichi, to wait upon Count Yamada, Minister of State for Justice. Messrs. Ishizaka Masataka and Shimoizaka Gonzaburo, to wait upon Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of State for Education. Messrs. Suzuki Manjiro, Shibahara Masataro, and Ito Daihachi, to wait upon Count Saigo, Minister of State for Home Affairs. Messrs. Shoma Shuku, Kozato Yorinaga, and Tanabe Sangoro, to wait upon Viscount Takashima, Minister of State for War. Messrs. Komabayashi Koun, Yamada Toji, and Noguchi Kei, to wait upon Viscount Kabayama, Minister of State for the Navy. And Messrs. Matsuda Masahisa and Yoshida Tanojiro, to wait upon Viscount Yenomoto, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

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These various delegations lost no time in proceeding with the duties entrusted to them. Mr. Arai and his associates went to Count Matsukata's residence the same evening but failed to find him. They repeated their visit twice the following day (1st instant) and were finally promised an interview at 7 a.m. on the 2nd. The delegation to Mr. Mutsu found that gentleman at home and were politely received by him. Mr. Mutsu declared himself much obliged for their kind counsel, and promised to talk the matter over with his colleagues at the

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Cabinet meeting the next day. Count Goto's visitors found him just setting out for the Cabinet and obtained a promise of an interview the next day, but the other delegations do not appear to have had much success. The twelve gentlemen appointed to visit the Cabinet went there in the forenoon of the 1st instant, but were told that the Ministers were too much engaged to receive them. They were finally obliged to leave their memorial and take their departure. In the afternoon, however, Mr. Matsuda Masahisa, who is reputed to be the most influential man in the Radical Party, after Count Itagaki, received an invitation to visit the Cabinet. He repaired thither, but having forgotten to take his pass, could not obtain admittance. It almost seems as though the Ministers were disposed to treat this affair seriously, which is more than we should have expected.

THE CONDITION OF THE "TAKACHIHO MARU."

VERY little reliable information, says the *Rising Sun* of the 27th ult., can be obtained as to the condition of the *Takachiho Maru*. There is no doubt but that her position is a precarious one but if the elements will remain favourable, the authorities have every reason to believe that she will not be the total wreck that was at first expected. The extent of her damages cannot at present be accurately estimated, but they are not thought to be as serious as were those of the *Tokio Maru*, and since the latter vessel was raised after having been for a long time exposed to the ravaging effects of wind and water, we surely ought to expect as much from the *Takachiho Maru*, especially as everything seems to be more in her favour. Capt. Walker is still at the scene of the wreck working hard in the interests of his vessel, and we hope that his efforts may meet his most sanguine expectations.

THE SIX AND A HALF MILLIONS.

ACCORDING to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, there have been no less than fourteen propositions advanced for employing the sum of six and a half million *yen* economized on the expenditure side of this year's Budget by the vote of the Diet. They are: (1) Increase of the Navy; (2) Endowment of the University and the various Government Schools; (3) Increase of the Militia; (4) Appropriation for the survey of the Empire by the Staff Department; (5) Harbour construction; (6) Dredging of rivers; (7) Building of river embankments and of bridges; (8) Repair of Shrines; (9) Preservation of Temples; (10) Capital for the promotion of art industries; (11) Capital for developing production; (12) Reclamation of land in Hokkaido; (13) Construction of official buildings; (14) Construction of permanent Houses of Parliament.

THE UNSOLD ARTICLES OF THE UYENO EXHIBITION.

THE extraordinary delay that has occurred in connection with the disposal of the articles remaining unsold after the Industrial Exhibition of last year at Uyeno has given rise to much comment. Very soon after the close of the Exhibition, a project was started to assist the exhibitors by means of a lottery, the prizes to consist of the exhibits for which purchasers had not been found during the course of the Exhibition. In pursuance of this scheme an association called the *Kwangyo Gisei-kai* was formed, an air of benevolent purpose being imparted to it by the use of the ideograph *gi*. Some seventy thousand *yen* worth of goods had to be disposed of, and the public bought the tickets with alacrity, partly tempted by the novelty of the thing and partly prompted by kind motives, for it was generally felt that the enterprise shown by Japanese artists and artizans in connection with the Exhibition had been ill-rewarded. The sale of the tickets, at one *yen* each, commenced in February, and it was confidently stated that the lottery would come off during March, the 15th being at first of that month named, and subsequently the 31st. But again and again the drawing was postponed, and to this day no one seems quite clear as to when the affair will be brought to a conclusion. Naturally many injurious rumours have been circulated. At one time it was confidently asserted that a considerable amount of the money paid by purchasers of tickets had been made away with by dishonest agents. Then people said that the sum collected had been largely in excess of the limit originally fixed, and that the committee were hopelessly perplexed as to the best manner of dealing with the surplus, to take back tickets already sold being obviously impossible, and to supplement the articles for distribution being a proceeding of doubtful integrity. This second story obtained credence for a long time, though in truth it had no foundation whatever, we believe. The whole difficulty is in connection with the legal aspect of the affair. Lotteries are contrary to law in Japan. The prohibition is understood not to extend to cases in which every ticket-holder receives a prize of some kind, but there are doubts whether the principals in a lottery, such as that projected in this instance, would not lay themselves open to prosecution, and most assuredly kind folks would be found to prosecute them if an opportunity presented. It is to this and to nothing else that the delay must be attributed. All the preparations for the lottery have been made and could be carried to completion at a day's notice, but the Committee hesitate. We hear that some spirits bolder than the rest have offered to accept the responsibility and put the affair through. What must be regretted is that the projectors did not pay closer attention to the legal question before their scheme became a practical reality. It would be an expensive, troublesome, and disappointing business to be obliged to return the sums paid for tickets by purchasers all over the empire. At all events some definite step should be taken without further delay.

THE RADICALS.

AT a meeting held on the 29th ultimo under the presidency of Count Itagaki, the Radical Party, or rather 52 of its leading numbers, adopted the following programme as the platform of the Party, and decided that the various subjects enumerated should be introduced into the Diet next session:—Reform of the Law of the Houses, of the Land Tax Regulations, of the Newspaper, Public Meetings, Political Parties and Publication Regulations; abolition of the Peace Preservation Regulations; reform of the local government system, of the Law of Election; fixing of customs dues; establishment of a local assembly in Hokkaido; reform of the Law of Organization of the Courts of Justice, and the manner of disposing of the surplus revenue of the current fiscal year. A list of subjects for investigation was also drawn up. It included the following items:—officials connected with public property; the registration law; charters to mail companies; law of taxation; system of forestry; control of fisheries; the organization and pay of the administration; the educational system; export duties; the Commercial Code, the Criminal Code; the Civil Code; the weighing of postal matter; the conscription laws; coast defence; the Navy; and so forth.

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Referring to this action of the Party, the *Jiyu* says that the burden to be borne by the Radicals grows heavier daily. Formerly, when confronted by an absolute monarchy, the sole aim of the Party was to introduce Constitutional Government. But now it has to declare its principles of administration, a process that will estrange some friends if it attracts others. The *Jiyu* adds that the Party is now quite ready to undertake the direction of State affairs, if the public be minded to allow it.

JAPANESE WOMEN ABROAD.

WRITING on the question of the exportation of Japanese women of ill-repute, the *Jogaku Zasshi* (*Woman's Magazine*) observes that the only practicable method of dealing with the evil is to attack it at the root. Our contemporary thinks that the abolition of the present system of licensed prostitution is the one feasible way of coping with the evil. Formerly it inclined to the belief that the exportation of women of the kind under consideration was in no small degree attributable to want of vigilance on the part of the Authorities, but it now acknowledges that the Government is doing everything it can do within the bounds of the Constitution and law, and that despite this vigilance, the evil-doers manage to leave the country in great numbers. Among these women, a few leave Japan without fully comprehending the nature of the life they are about to lead, but the majority go voluntarily, in the ignorant belief that they are doing something not necessarily disgraceful. The facts that the law recognizes the existence of prostitution and that licensed prostitutes receive a certain degree of social consideration, are productive of exceedingly pernicious and misleading effects on the minds of ignorant and low-born girls. Girls are to be found, we read, who even desire to become licensed prostitutes with the hope of bettering their position. While such a state of things exists at home, it is futile to attempt to prevent the evil under consideration. Thus the *Woman's Magazine* attaches no importance to the Bill for the Protection of Japanese Women Abroad, which was introduced into the Diet during its first session. According to that Bill, those in any way aiding or inducing the prostitution of Japanese women abroad are to be fined or imprisoned. How, asks our comtemporary, can it be a crime to do abroad what one can lawfully do in Japan? The explanation may be that the commission of such an act in foreign countries is more injurious to the national reputation than its commission at home. But such a contention is not worth a moment's consideration, seeing that whatever immoral customs exist in Tokyo or Kyoto are sure to be described in the leading papers of Europe and America. So our contemporary believes that the first step should be the abolition of public prostitution within the territories of Japan.

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Apropos licenced prostitution, the movement for its abolition is still going on. The Committee of the Tokyo Abolition Society recently held a conference for the promotion of their cause. The annual meeting of the Abolition Union of the whole country is to take place some time in September next in Tokyo.

A GERMAN AND A JAPANESE.

THE *Kokkai* publishes a letter from a correspondent who recount a strange story—a story that wants supplementing, we imagine. The writer signs himself Takahashi Masao, and dates his letter from Kitamachi in the Ushigome district of Tokyo. He sets out by laying down the proposition that instances of contemptuous treatment of Japanese by foreigners are not novel, but that violent conduct on the part of a teacher belonging to the well known German Society (*Doitsu Kyokai*) is something not previously dreamed of. Nevertheless, at 9 o'clock in the evening of the 22nd ultimo, as he was walking home from Kagurazaka, he passed by No. 9, Fukuromachi, the residence of a German gentleman, Mr. Welfen, a teacher in the *Doitsu Gakko*. The German, who happened to be drinking in company with two friends from the Shinagawa Glass Works, ran out as Takahashi passed, and seizing the latter, twisted his left arm so as to hold him prisoner, at the same time abusing him. Takahashi remonstrated, but did not, according to his own account, make any vehement resistance, desiring to avoid a disturbance. He was led back, in that fashion, to the German's house, but finally released after much talk between the latter and his friends. The German told him, however, to come the next morning "if he was an honest man." Takahashi went the following day with two friends, companions who had witnessed the assault, but failed to obtain admittance. Not until his third visit, the next evening, did he succeed in getting speech of the German, and the latter then cut matters short by producing a pistol, and taking aim at Takahashi, who made off without delay. The letter goes on to say that the writer did not complain to the police, being unwilling to take such a step in respect of a gentleman of social position. He did, however, carry his story to Mr.

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Kato Hiroyuki, President of the School where the German teaches, but as Mr. Kato professed himself unable to do anything, Mr. Takahashi ends by appealing to public opinion through the columns of the *Kokkai*.

* * *

It is easy to see that this story lacks completeness. There is something wholly incredible in the idea of a German teacher rushing out of his house and assaulting an innocent Japanese who happened to be passing. Our own inquiries disclose some features of a different nature. We learn that Mr. Welfen was sitting in his garden with some friends, when a Japanese youth began to throw stones over the wall. Though warned to desist, the lad continued his rough pastime, when finally Mr. Welfen went out, and gave him a thrashing. As for the other details mentioned by the *Kokkai's* correspondent, they seem to be imaginary. We learn that there is considerable excitement among the boys of the *Doitsu Gakko* against Mr. Welfen, since the letters appeared in the *Kokkai*. Of course it is to be regretted that Mr. Welfen did not content himself with handing the youth over to the police, but to cuff a boy behaving himself in such a fashion would be the course pursued by ninety-nine men out of every hundred under similar circumstances in any country. It is significant that the correspondent of the *Kokkai* omits all mention of the stone-throwing.

ART IN VENICE AND ROME.

As one of the series of entertainments given in the Central Tabernacle, Hongo, Tokyo, Miss Mary Prince gave a lecture on "Glimpses of Art in Venice and Rome" on the evening of the 30th ult, illustrated by excellent stereopticon views with the aid of a powerful limelight. The lecturer's voice was distinctly heard in every part of the building, and her fine choice of language and impressive delivery, coupled with the interest of the subject, must have proved a treat to all who understood English. It is much to be regretted that on this, as on several other occasions, much of the benefit was lost on a considerable portion of the audience from defective rendering into Japanese by the Japanese interpreter. Even with this imperfection, however, the evening's entertainment must have afforded the audience both pleasure and profit, as choice pictures were presented to the eye and lucid explanations in detail were given. The views exhibited were as follow:—the Port of Venice; the Columns of St. Mark; the exterior of the Church of St. Mark; the interior of the same; a Venetian palace; the Rialto; the Palace of the Doges; the Bridge of Sighs; Cathedral and Leaning Tower of Pisa; exterior of St. Peter's at Rome; interior of same; statue of Moses (M. Angelo); the Persian Sybil (M. Angelo); the Espousals of the Virgin (Raphael); the Annunciation; The Virgin and the Holy Child (Raphael); St. Cecilia (Raphael).

THE JUDGES OF THE OTSU SESSION.

The rumour that the Judges of the Supreme Court who presided at the trial of Tsuda Sanzo in Otsu, had resigned their seats on the Bench, has been officially contradicted. Such a proceeding would have been indeed singular. The Judges have nothing to reproach themselves with. On the contrary, their action deserves the highest praise. They administered the law calmly, resolutely and uprightly under circumstances of great difficulty. Their conduct has contributed not a little to strengthen public confidence in the integrity and independence of the Japanese Judiciary. Why such men should think of resigning passes our comprehension. We can only conclude that the false report had its origin in the hysterical mood by which a section of the nation seems to have been seized in the sequel of the Otsu incident.

* * *

It appears now that in exercising jurisdiction in Tsuda Sanzo's case, the Supreme Court merely followed the usual procedure. The District Court at Otsu having declared itself incompetent, nothing remained but for the Supreme Court to assume the charge. This action seems to have been entirely independent of the Notification issued by the Minister of State for Justice, ordering that a session of the Supreme Court should be opened in the District Court of Otsu. The Minister's Notification was based on an article of the Law of Organization of the Courts of Justice, which provides that for the trial of political offences—against either the persons of the Imperial Family or the tranquillity of the empire's foreign relations—the Supreme Court many assume jurisdiction in first and last instance. Hence people were led by the Notification to conclude that the Supreme Court purposed having Tsuda arraigned as a political offender. The Court, however, had nothing to do with the nature of the indictment. It assumed jurisdiction, not because, or by the authority, of the Minister's Notification, but because of the declared incompetence of the District Court of Otsu and by the authority of its own powers. Doubtless the Minister of Justice, acting under the advice of the law officers of the Crown, sought to have Tsuda indicted as a political offender, and we may fairly assume that such an offence constituted one count of the charges preferred by the Public Procurator. But there would also be an alternative charge of common assault, and of this the prisoner was adjudged guilty. That the Supreme Court should have exercised jurisdiction in a case of common assault is easily understood when we remember that it is always within the competence of a legal tribunal to convict the accused of a lesser crime than the crime which originally brought him under its jurisdiction. It is possible that if a demurrer as to jurisdiction had been raised by Tsuda's counsel with reference to the charge of common assault, the Court might have allowed it, and might have ordered the lower tribunal at Otsu to re-open the case. But in the absence of any such plea, the Court naturally and inevitably proceeded to try the prisoner. If after hearing evidence and arguments, the political crime was set aside, and the offence treated as an ordinary assault, the conclusion to be deduced is, not that the Court acted *ultra vires*—its title to jurisdiction being based on the self-effacement of the District tribunal and not on the nature of the crime—but that the Judges interpreted the law calmly and intelligently, and refused to give any weight to international considerations.

* * *

Public curiosity has naturally been greatly disappointed by the decision of the Court to conduct the trial *in camerâ*. But no Japanese journalist or politician has questioned the prudence of the resolve. The administrators of the law in Japan have always to reckon with the special element of the population—a small and fast dwindling but still potential element—which includes men like Nishino, Kuroshima, Tsuda, and the *soshi*. What is mainly regrettable, we think, in regard to the privacy observed, is that the evidence as to Tsuda's sanity was thus hidden from the public. Some facts, however, have become known. It seems that, at the preliminary examination, answers were extracted from him with great trouble. He did not appear to have any difficulty in arranging or expressing his ideas, but he did appear very uncertain as to the amount of information he ought to convey. The reasons understood to have been assigned by him are consistent with a theory of fanaticism, but not with a hypothesis of insanity. He objected, in the first place, to the fact that the Czarevitch had visited Kagoshima, Kyoto, and other places before paying his respects to the Emperor. Such a course did not consist with Tsuda's estimate of what was due to the dignity of the Tenno. He objected, in the second place, to the route chosen for the Czarevitch. A route so devious and unusual lent, according to his heated imagination, strong corroboration to the recently circulated rumours that the Russian Prince had come to Japan to spy out the land and in pursuance of a sinister project. Tsuda conceived that this suspicion was confirmed by inquiries as to distances and so forth which the Czarevitch or members of his staff made of the Japanese. He did not, however, make up his mind at once to commit an act of violence. Uncertain how to proceed, he let more than one occasion pass, and only the reflection that another opportunity would not occur, induced him suddenly to take the fatal step on the 11th of May. He would not—so our information goes—have chosen that moment deliberately, for since he carried a sabre only and not a Japanese sword, he had little hope of complete success. But in a moment of hot excitement he made his attempt. Evidently the man was not mad.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

The following is the Directors' Report, presented at the thirty-seventh ordinary general meeting, 15th April, 1891:—The general balance-sheet and profit and loss account to 31st December, 1890, now submitted, show that, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, the net profits, with the addition of £9,767 17s. 11d. brought forward, amount to £123,104 16s. 1d. After deducting the interim dividend paid in October last, the present balance is £95,104 16s. 1d., out of which the Directors propose that a dividend be declared for the second half of the year, at the rate of nine per cent. per annum, free of income tax (making with the interim dividend eight per cent. for the year); that £50,000 be added to the reserve fund, bringing it up to £300,000; and that the balance of £9,104 16s. 1d. be carried forward. The Directors have deemed it right, in the interests of the bank, to join to the extent of £100,000 in the guarantee given to the Bank of England with reference to the affairs of Messrs. Baring Bros. & Co. Mr. James Whittall and Mr. William Christian, who now retire by rotation, present themselves for re-election. The Auditors, Mr. William Vanner and Mr. Maurice Nelson Girdlestone, again tender their services.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Viscount Shinagawa is rumoured to be more than reluctant to accept the honours offered to him. The *Jiji Shimpo* says that while men imagined the Matsukata Cabinet to be at last definitely organized, it turns out that the new Minister of Home Affairs declines to take up his functions. According to our contemporary, and indeed according to general report, the portfolio of Home Affairs was originally offered to Viscount Nomura, but as he declined to accept it, the Cabinet had recourse to Viscount Shinagawa. On the 30th ultimo Count Matsukata, we read, visited the latter and endeavoured to secure his acquiescence. Failing in his object, the Minister President invoked the intervention of Count Yamagata, who visited Viscount Shinagawa on the 31st ultimo. It was apparently imagined that Count Yamagata had succeeded, for on the 1st inst. Viscount Shinagawa was gazetted to the portfolio. But when, in the afternoon of that day, notice of the fact was officially conveyed to him, he declared his resolve not to serve, and formally notified the Cabinet to that effect. The next morning Count Kuroda visited him, but failed to obtain admittance, and the Viscount has now been attacked by diplomatic illness and is said to have left Tokyo. To be gazetted to a portfolio one day and to resign it the next is considered by the *Jiji Shimpo* an unusual event, auguring ill for the stable organization of the present Cabinet. But it remains to be proved that the *Jiji's* story is correct. Viscount Shinagawa had obtained leave of absence before he was gazetted to the Home Office, and his departure from Tokyo may be wholly unconnected with any intention of resigning. Well informed people do not endorse the *Jiji's* account, though it is generally admitted that Viscount Shinagawa showed great reluctance to enter the Cabinet.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS.

It is doubtless fresh in the minds of the foreign public that a great outcry was made some time ago about supposed malpractices in the Communications Department. Certain journals

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affirmed that grave corruption existed there, and various charges of a more or less striking character were advanced. The talk, bandied from one newspaper to another, grew so loud that the Government finally ordered the Audit Board to undertake a minute investigation. It was recently brought to a conclusion, with the result that all the accusations preferred against the Department were proved absolutely groundless, except that in one instance the minimum fixed by the Department in respect of a tender for the carriage of certain mail matter, had been suffered to become known before the date fixed for sending in the tenders. The journals which made themselves most conspicuous in preferring the charges, notably the *Mainichi Shimbun*, show their fairness now by publishing the fact of the Board's examination and expressing satisfaction with the decision. One additional mare's nest was discovered while the Board's audit was in progress. Mr. Sawada Ho, hitherto one of the finance officials in the Department, having been transferred to the post and telegraph office in Hiroshima, the critics declared that he had been put out of the way to prevent the Board from examining him. But they presently learned that he had been examined before his departure, so that on every point their suspicions proved to be baseless. All this is curious and interesting when taken in connection with the sweeping charges lately preferred against the Department, and with the fact that Mr. Mayeshima was said to have resigned his position as Vice-Minister because of the corruption prevailing.

MISSIONARIES.

It becomes an interesting though not a pleasant psychological study to observe the rancour and persistence with which some persons pursue the missionary in Japan. Why they are so anxious to drive him away from these shores is a mystery, unless indeed they feel that his presence as a practical representative of certain qualities not clearly typified in their own lives, casts a silent reflection on their manners and customs. It amounts almost to hatred, does their mood; and since their style of writing precludes the hypothesis that they are actuated by philanthropic or charitable motives, we must be content to call them the natural enemy of the missionary. Nature begets such antipathies for reasons sometime explicable, but sometimes also beyond ordinary comprehension. Our own reflection, after reading the attacks penned by these crusaders, is that they themselves are sadly in need of missionary teaching. Their latest representative, a writer most infelicitously calling himself "Anti-humbug," endeavours to draw a picture of crime in America as compared with crime in Japan. He finds the latter country free from much that disfigures the former "no bloated drunken hags making the place hideous by foul oaths and savage fights;" "no footpads, except in rare instances, to hold up belated wayfarers, and after robbing them, beat them into insensibility;" "no lawyers and merchants carrying pistols and knives to shoot or slash one other on the public streets and in public places;" "no 'injured women' to shoot or horsewhip their 'betrayers,' and relate the story of their 'wrongs' in detail, in public court to a grinning audience, as in any city large or small in America." He finds these things happily wanting in Japan, but, on the other hand, he finds that "there is no social or commercial stigma attached in Japan to lying, cheating, and breaking of verbal or written engagements." And having drawn these comparative caricatures, he asks:—"Are the minor evils resulting from these Japanese practices so crying that men must leave crime and vice, and the heathen of their own land to take care of themselves, and come to Japan to show the Japanese the error of their ways?" Truly a kindly and accurate idea of the state of affairs prevailing in the United States is conveyed by this writer, and equally veracious is the picture he draws of Japan. "No social or commercial stigma attaches to lying, cheating, and breaking of verbal or written agreements." How gently and courteously a Japanese critic would be greeted who should deliver himself of a similarly sweeping and unjust verdict about a Western people! Consider, again, the account penned by "Anti-humbug" about missionaries:—

> At least they can take their three or four months' holidays a year, besides Sundays, or go home on a year's leave after the "arduous labours" of the remaining six months, without the road to Sheol getting crowded any more than usual, in consequence of the faithful shepherds being on leave, or at a favorite summer resort. Missionary work in the slums of New York, Chicago, London or Liverpool, knows no holidays; no ten-roomed residence with a lawn, no staff of servants, no first class travelling, with native servants, but it knows poverty, disease, vice, danger, depravity and crime, and as the world is, it does and always will associate the term "missionary" with privations, danger and suffering with the poor, but not with luxury, ease, collections of curios, lawn tennis, pony traps, and purchasing of land in Japan sometimes in order to evade the law, under Japanese names, which the owners will certainly not sell for what it cost them, whether they want it or not, the 10,000 tsubo missionary work requires a good deal of room you must know—owned by a mission at Aoyama for instance, the title deeds of such property, as missionaries themselves have stated in the press, being locked up in the mission safes. With more holidays and vacations then, than any one else in the East, good opportunities to make money, fine houses, no anxiety as to whether a floating order will be taken delivery of or not, it is no wonder that Japan is a favorite hunting ground for missionaries, and if they were only honest enough to say that they have come here to make money, and enjoy themselves the same as other people, and were not permanently squabbling with one another in the local press, no one would have much to say about them, even if every street in America and England were reeking with blood shed by murderers and assassins.

The writer of this is the man who complains that "no social or commercial stigma attaches in Japan to lying;" the man who has the splendid assurance to sign himself "Anti-humbug." Why, in these forty lines referring to missionaries, there are twelve falsehoods as flagrant as anything we have ever seen in print: an average of one falsehood to every 3½ consecutive lines. Evidently "Anti-humbug" really believes that "no social or commercial stigma attaches to lying in Japan."

KOREAN LEGENDS.

THE SECOND KING OF KOKORIA.

When Chu Mong fled from his home in Puya because of the hatred of his younger brothers, he left behind him a wife and an infant son. As this child grew up he became remarkably large for his age, being nearly full grown at seven years. He was also a close student, and acquired in hours what it took others days to learn. His favourite form of amusement was throwing pebbles in the air, and catching them as they came down, or keeping several in the air at once after the manner of modern mountebanks. One day as he was playing in the street tossing up stones, one of them happened to strike an earthen pot of water that a woman was carrying on her head and deluged her with its contents. In her anger she forgot all considerations of prudence and screamed at him, "You good-for-nothing child. You do not know who your father is." This set the boy to thinking, for it was true that he did not know who his father was. He went home and said to his mother "Where is my father?" The mother, being curious to see what the child would do, answered: "You have no father." The boy turned away with a strange look upon his face, but said nothing. The mother followed him softly and saw him go straight to the place where the knives were kept, and she had barely time enough to rush forward and seize his arm as he was on the point of stabbing himself. In answer to her tearful question, he said: "If I have no father I do not wish to live; let me die." The the mother confessed that she had deceived him, that his father was living and that he was the ruler of a great people to the south. "When your father left," she said, "he told me that under a certain tree in the forest he had hidden a token of some kind and that when you were old enough you must find it and carry it to him and he would acknowledge you as his son." The boy was delighted at this news and was eager to go in search of the taken. The very next day he set out, and ascending the hill beyond the limits of the city, he sat down and tried to make a plan of action. "Here are thousands and thousands of trees" said he to himself, "more than I could dig under in a lifetime, so it must be that when I see the right one I shall recognize it by some sign;" so he started through the woods looking this way and that all day long, but no tree attracted his attention or gave sign of being the one he sought. At night he turned sadly homeward, but with the next sun his courage rose again and he went forth in quest of the token. For a full month he continued the search and then hope seemed to desert him. One morning as he sat behind his house on a stone wondering how he could ever find the token, he seemed to hear a peculiar tapping, picking sound coming apparently from the corner of the house, Curious to discover what caused this sound, he approached the house and was astonished to find that it came from the corner post of the house. "This is very strange," he said to himself; "I wonder if this can have anything to do with the token. There is no tree here but—oh perhaps it may be that this post is the tree my father referred to." Determined to follow any clue, however unpromising, he began to dig under the stone that supported the post and before he had gone far he disclosed the rusty handle of a sword. He grasped it eagerly and dragged it out. It was a broken sword, the point, with half the blade, being missing. "This" said he "must be the token;" and he made instant preparations for his journey to the south. After a weary struggle through tangled forests and well nigh impassable mountains he arrived at the confines of his father's kingdom ragged and starving. He begged his way from village to village until he came to the capital. He walked boldly up to the gate of the palace but to his chagrin the guards refused him admission. Why, indeed, should they allow such a ragged dirty fellow to come into the presence of the king! But finally he succeeded in evading the guards, and slipped in. He walked straght up to his father's throne without saying a word and held out the rusty sword blade. The monarch rose hastily from his seat and took the broken sword in his trembling hand, and feeling in his bosom drew out a tarnished sword point. When he saw that the two matched exactly he dropped them, and stepping forward embraced his son, ragged and dirty though he was, and then turned to the astonished courtiers and proudly said, "Beho'd my son, who has come from the far off land of my nativity! See! Here is the token which I left that I might know him when he came. He shall be king when I am gone."

THE CONCUBINE'S DEVICE.

When Oo-wi-gan, the eleventh King of Kokoria, died, his son Yang-no came to the throne. The only thing recorded of his reign besides the fact that he killed both his younger brothers lest they should conspire against him, is the following short but trajic tale. He had a marvelously beautiful concubine. The fact of her extraordinary beauty was known throughout the kingdom, for in spite of the seclusion of women in Korea beauty is bound to be celebrated here as elsewhere. It is said that her hair was nine *cha* (fifteen feet) long, and though this may be a slight exaggeration it must be conceded that she had unusually long and beautiful tresses. That human nature is the same all the world over is evinced by the fact that the Queen was jealous of her, as she had a right to be, and the hatred was repaid with interest by the lady in question. Each tried every means to mortify and humiliate the other until at last the concubine became desperate and decided to risk her whole fortune in one supreme venture. She knew the king was infatuated with her, and would resent any injury done her, so she built her hopes upon the plan of making it appear that the Queen was plotting against her life. She sent a trusty servant out into the town to purchase a couple of ox-hides, and when they had been smuggled into the palace under cover of the darkness she hid them away in her private apartments and secretly sewed them together so as to form a great bag which would be watertight excepting at the opening. This bag she hid away and bided her time. Fortune seemed to favour her,

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and the opportunity she sought soon came. The king was walking in the garden behind the palace with some of his courtiers when he heard a loud scream, and there came running toward him the beautiful concubine with her hair streaming out behind her, her clothes torn and with every evidence of having been engaged in a fierce struggle. In her hands she carried the leather bag. She fell on her face before the astonished king, but for some time appeared unable to speak. When at last she gained control of her voice she implored the king to save her from the Queen. It appeared from her story that she had been seated in her own apartment when the Queen sent for her, but the moment she entered the Queen's palace she was seized and was about to be thrust into this bag, doubtless to be floated away on the river by night, when she slipped from her captors' grasp, snatched the bag, and fled for her life. When she finished this ingenious falsehood the king stood looking at her intently a few moments and then said: "How do you know that it was the Queen who desired to put you out of the way of others?" "Oh! I am sure of it; I heard her give the order." "Then," said the King deliberately "it must be done," and that very night the wicked creature was tied up in the bag and floated away to her doom. The King, with marvellous acuteness, saw through her evil plot, and punished her, not so much by killing her as by allowing her to believe to the end that he did it because the Queen desired it.

MRS. BROWN-POTTER AND MR. BELLEW.

In view of the fact that we are promised a visit shortly from Mrs. Potter and Mr. Kyrle Bellew it is interesting to note that these artists have created success wherever they have gone. In Bombay, in Calcutta, indeed in every community where they appeared they were received with perfect ovations. Mrs. Potter's *Lady Macbeth* is, says a critic, "the study and work of true art. There was scarcely a blot upon the whole performance, and her delineation of the wicked temptress deserves to rank high in the scale of the conceptions of this *rôle* which have from time to time appeared on the English stage. The sinister expression of countenance, the cruel craft and the blood-curdling denunciation of the faltering hand of *Macbeth*, all inspired the character with a life and light that are only begot of hard, earnest study and inborn histrionic ability. Mr. Bellew's *Macbeth* was, as might have been expected, on a par with everything he undertakes. He leaves nothing to chance or impromptu inspiration. He carefully studies every expression, every gesture, every movement, and the relative value and force of every sentence. Shakespeare's divine language was music in his mouth, and but for the hideousness of its import would have been sublime." Of Mrs. Potter in *Camille*, another critic writes:—"Her performance was a masterpiece, the like of which has never been witnessed in the East. She filled the whole piece with her bewitching individuality. Her guise and movements enhanced its poetry; her love and despair constituted its pathos and chief interest. She is a graceful and enchanting actress, and in the glare of the lights and the artificial surroundings of stageland one is apt to find in her his ideal of a woman." From these two, from the many favourable opinions that have been expressed, it will be seen that Yokohama people have an histrionic treat before them.

A PLEA FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

There is no doubt that the feeling of the Japanese nation against Tsuda Sanzo is of the bitterest description. The universal desire was that he should be capitally punished, and if lynching were in fashion it is more than probable that an attempt to put it in practice against him would have been made. To the feeling of disappointment engendered by his escape from the gallows, must be attributed, we presume, a bizarre contention now advanced by the *Tokyo Shimpo*, in which journal we do not, as a rule, look for anything that is not solid and sensible. The *Shimpo* declares that Tsuda should either have been convicted of a criminal offence or acquitted. It arrives at this conclusion by the following line of argument:—"The Czarevitch was not travelling incognito: he was the guest of the nation. From the moment that he set foot on Japanese soil the fact of his being an Imperial Prince received public recognition by the whole nation from the Sovereign downwards. Any crime committed against his person could not, consequently, be regarded as a crime committed against an ordinary individual. The Japanese Penal Code distinguishes between common assaults and assaults on Imperial personages. The Czarevitch obviously belonged to the latter category, and therefore, if Tsuda Sanzo could not be indicted under the provision of the Code relating to attacks upon Imperial personages, he ought to have been acquitted altogether." Such is the *Tokyo Shimpo's* line of contention. Now it true that when the question of Tsuda's crime first came upon the *tapis*, not a few people contended, as we explained at the time, that since the Czarevitch was travelling openly in the capacity of the nation's guest, a murderous assault committed on him by a Japanese subject should be punished as a political offence. Such a contention did not appear consistent with the principles underlying the law. The exceptionally severe penalties provided for the protection of a country's reigning family derive their justification entirely from considerations of national expediency. A nation deems that its interests are best consulted and that its happiness is best secured by adopting every possible means of preserving the stability of the Throne, and one method of effecting this is to environ the persons of the Sovereign and his family with special forms of protection. But a State lies under no such obligation, and is bound by no such considerations, towards a foreign country. It would, no doubt, be satisfactory in certain cases—particularly in such a case as that now under consideration—if the persons of a country's Royal or Imperial guests could be exceptionally guaranteed. But when the Japanese Code speaks of the Emperor, the Empress, the Empress Dowager and the Prince Imperial, it refers to Japanese Imperial personages alone, and by no possible twisting of language can it be interpreted as applying to foreign personages. The Judges of the highest Court in the land decided in that sense, and we venture to predict that every foreign jurist will endorse their views. Still this phase of the question did admit of some discussion. But what is to be said of the *Tokyo Shimpo's* allegation that if Tsuda could not be convicted of a political crime, he ought to have been acquitted altogether? That is equivalent to saying that if a foreign Prince travelling in Japan cannot be specially protected as a Prince, it is open to any Japanese subject to shoot him or stab him with impunity.

COUNT OKUMA.

The *Kokkai*, in its extensive process of purveying news, occasionally stumbles upon items of a remarkable and incredible character. Its latest is that Count Okuma's financial affairs are exceedingly embarrassed. The total of the Count's debts is assessed by our contemporary at about a million *yen*, of which sum four hundred thousand is said to be due to the Mitsui Bank. If these items comprised the whole statement, cursory readers would treat it as an ordinary rumour. But the *Kokkai* lays on some local colouring of a startling and skilful character. Count Okuma, it says, has devised a clever stratagem for bluffing his chief creditor. An influential Director of the Mitsui Bank is Mr. Nishimura Torajiro, who holds unpaid shares to the value of a quarter of a million *yen* in the Marine Products Company (*Suisan Kaisha*). The President of the Company, Mr. Nakamura Michita, is said to be a great friend of Count Okuma, and has been persuaded by the latter, we read, to press for payment of Mr. Nishimura's shares. The *Suisan Kaisha*, it will be remembered, found itself in serious trouble a short time ago owing to the discovery of a quantity of scrip having been fraudulently issued in excess of the nominal capital. The director of the Bank, importuned by the President of the Company, and Count Okuma, the debtor of the former, acting as mediator—all this forms a peculiar and intricate picture. But where, we wonder, does the "miscellaneous" reporter of the *Kokkai* obtain such monstrous items. The idea of Count Okuma being in debt to the extent of a million *yen*, or even of a small fraction of that amount, is manifestly ridiculous. When the Count received his title of nobility, his circumstances were so affluent that he presented to the Specialists' School the sum of thirty thousand *yen* which accompanied the patent. The idea that he suffers from the smallest pecuniary embarrassment is absolutely irreconcilable with his mode of life and with the estimate of his circumstances formed by those who know best. But the *Kokkai's* note is not aimed, we suspect, at Count Okuma. It reads much more like an attempt to "bear" the market for *Suisan Kaisha* and Mitsui Bank scrip. Such journalism does not command confidence or admiration.

THE JUDGES AT OTSU.

When a foreign local journal derives its information from a Japanese contemporary, it should be careful to obtain the latter's latest before composing a leading article on the news thus procured. This precaution, obviously prudent under all circumstances, is especially necessary in Japan, where an item published yesterday by a vernacular newspaper, is apt to be erased to-day. A case in point is the false rumour about the resignation of the Judges who tried Tsuda Sanzo. The *Mainichi Shimbun* gave a place to the *canard* in its issue of the 2nd instant, and withdrew it explicitly in its issue of the 3rd. Nevertheless on the evening of the latter day a Yokohama English journal published a strong article condemning the action of the Judges, and drawing inferences most injurious to the Japanese Judiciary and to Japanese reputation generally. We do not say that the criticisms would not have been in great part justified had they been founded on fact, but the point is that some ten hours before the English journal's article appeared, and probably three or four before it was written, there had been laid on the editor's desk, or at any rate delivered at his office, a copy of the *Mainichi Shimbun* unequivocally withdrawing the story about the Judges. The editor of the local English newspaper, in short, by not taking the trouble to consult the very journal from which he confessedly derived his information, committed the quaint blunder of founding a column of criticism on facts which the same journal had already confessed to be fictions. Of course the difficulty of translation goes far to account for such an accident, but the trouble is that the impression produced by the column of criticism will not be effaced by the three or four lines of withdrawal which the editor will doubtless feel called on to insert.

NEWS FROM CHINA.

The present disturbed condition of China *vis-à-vis* foreigners generally and missionaries in particular has not been equalled for many years past. Since the destruction by fire of a river steamer some months ago, when the passengers in attempting to escape with bare life were treated with such inhuman barbarity, outbursts of the constantly slumbering anti-foreign feeling have been continuous. These exhibitions for the most part have taken place at points more or less remote, but Chinese umbrage appears to have extended to the centre of foreign residence and interests—Shanghai. There is not an issue of the *N.-C. Daily News* received yesterday but what indicates that a condition of affairs exists at the present moment that is without a parallel at any period during the past twelve or fifteen years. Our contemporary of the 26th ult., showing how the Chinese in the Settlement are affected towards foreigners, says:—"Some of the bamboo coolies of Shanghai appear to be imbued with the animosity of their countrymen at Nanking. On Saturday a lady arrived here in a river steamer, and the coolies on the wharf, having discovered that she came from Nanking, were under the impression that she was a Frenchwoman and refused to carry her luggage. A friend

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having procured some carriers from the settlement, the coolies on the wharf called out and asked them why they were carrying the luggage of a Frenchwoman." Referring to the prospect of trouble in Nanking, the same issue says:—"Telegrams and letters were received here prior to yesterday from Missionaries to the effect that rioting was expected to commence at Nanking on Monday, and as a consequence some of the lady missionaries had left, and others were leaving when the rioting commenced yesterday. At Wuhu, the natives had stated their intention of completing the work of destruction yesterday, but as we have not heard of any telegrams from that port, it is to be hoped that mob law has not been again in the ascendant." In its editorial columns the morning journal has the following:—"That the rioting on the Yangtze should have spread to Nanking, the seat of the Viceroy of the Two Kiang, who telegraphed only a week ago to the German Acting Consul-General here that he would certainly not allow ignorant persons to raise disturbances, shows how determined the Ko-lao Hui is. The only news so far received is in a telegram sent yesterday afternoon to the U.S. Consul-General, 'Riot and Pillage commenced at Nangking,' but we learn that the Rev. J. C. Ferguson of Nanking telegraphed to this yesterday morning that he was sending his wife down to Shanghai, as he was apprehensive of some disturbance. Later in the day other telegrams were received announcing the departure for Shanghai of other Nanking missionaries. Telegrams were sent yesterday afternoon to Nanking asking for particulars, but no reply was received, as far as we could learn, but the occurrence in a couple of weeks of outbreaks at Yongchow, Nanking, Wuhu, and Ngankin, as well, as will be seen by reference to our notes from native papers this morning, as at Hochow, shows that it is a concerted movement. As H.M.S. *Porpoise* is now on her way up the river, every port will have its gunboat again, except Hankow, and as the Foreign Ministers at Peking are to meet this week to take concerted action we hope that their eyes will be opened, and they will make the home governments see the absurdity of trusting foreign life and property here to Chinese protection." The next day's paper contains a telegram from Nanking, which we reproduce in another column, then follows this:—"Trouble is anticipated at Kiukiang, and some of the residents are sending their valuables to Shanghai. On Sunday the *Iltis* and *Vipère* were at Kiukiang. The *Linnet* was at Wuhu with two Chinese gunboats, the *Swift* at Chinkiang, and the *Inconstant* was below Tatung, while H.M.S. *Porpoise* is at Woosung." After which comes the statement that—"Some of the missionary ladies living in the suburbs of Shanghai, have been advised to stay in the settlement to-day as a precautionary measure. A missionary recently returned to Shanghai from a river port was informed by some natives that an attack was to be made on the Jesuit Mission at Sicawei to-day. News having been received that a number of strangers had arrived at Fahwa, some detectives were sent from the French Police yesterday to find out who the strangers are." The same paper of the 28th contains a long and interesting letter from Mr. W. V. Drummond, in which he shows how he predicted the present condition of affairs and gives reasons for their existence, and the *Hupao* contains a statement that—"The Shanghai Magistrate has also issued a proclamation forbidding anonymous placards which have made their appearance at Sicawei. The Magistrate states further that he is taking steps to have the writers of such placards arrested and punished. All people who fabricate rumours and cause trouble to the [foreign] religious orders, will have to answer to the law for their misdeeds." It appears, however, that it is not alone that foreigners are to enjoy the present mood of the subjects of the "Continuation of Glory," for it was reported when the *Tungchow* left Chefoo that "news had come from Tientsin that placards had been posted up in Peking threatening the young Emperor and foreigners; and that the government had telegraphed to the Viceroy Li at Tientsin, that he was not to proceed on his intended tour of inspection, but was to wait at Tientsin for further instructions." From a letter in the *N.-C. Daily News* written from Nangking on the 26th May, it appears that the people there were not taken by surprise, as indications for some time past showed a disposition on the part of the roughs to create trouble if the opportunity to do so occurred. The letter concludes with the statement that a "gentleman just arrived from Fung-yang reports an attempt made a few days since by the White Lily Society to stir up trouble there. Some of the best informed officials in Nanking express the opinion that these outbreaks are but the prelude to a general uprising, and that no security should be felt because the present riots are quelled. In that case the duty of foreign Powers to keep a strong fleet on the Yangtze is quite evident. As yet no foreign gun-boat has put in an appearance here." * * * Of general news there is not much of importance. H.M.S. *Alacrity*, with Admiral Richards on board, left Shanghai on the 25th ult. for Taku. The *Porpoise* left the same day for Nanking, and the U.S.S. *Palos* was hourly expected from the south to go up river. * * * There is a report from the Kiangsu silk districts to the effect that this year's crop will be a very bad one. It is estimated that only half of last year's quantity of cocoons will be procurable, a storm about a fortnight ago having destroyed a large number of worms. One proof of the smallness of the crop is afforded by the price of mulberry leaves, which are now very cheap—from 50 to 60 cents a picul instead of from $1 to $2 as in most seasons. The market was opened at Woosieh on the 17th of the moon (24th May). From Hangchow and other centres in Chêkiang, on the contrary, the crop is reported as a very good one. * * * Perhaps it was anti-foreign feeling that induced a crazy Chinese priest, whose peculiar hallucination induced him to believe that he was a prize-fighter, to appear on the Bund stripped to the waist in the attitude of sparring with the statute of Sir Harry Parkes. A crowd of upwards of a hundred natives appeared to enjoy the exhibition till a foreigner went as far as the Custom House where he found a policeman, and the local Sullivan was haled to the Central Station. * * * Events have occurred to keep up the record of fire and flood which figures so conspicuously in the history of the Middle Kingdom. The *Hupao* says:—"On the 4th May at about 9 o'clock p.m. the new cotton mill outside the Wên-chong gate of Wuchang city, took fire, which spread rapidly and fifty-five houses were consumed. Forty-three were thatched huts for the workmen who are engaged in building the factory. One man was buried under the falling walls, an old woman over 80 years of age was so severly burnt that her life is despaired of, and a soldier of the fire brigade while drawing two buckets of water for the fire engines, slipped and fell into the river." And according to the *Shenpao*:—"Over one hundred houses were reduced to ashes on the 17th May in the busiest part of Tientsin outside the East gate. Many stores, shops, and family houses of the rich suffered through this dire calamity. The loss is very severe. From the 2nd till the night of the 3rd ultimo a terrible wind storm swept over Têngchow Fu in Shantung and its adjacent seas. It was just fishing season and over 1,000 fishing junks were capsized and swept away by the mighty waves. It is calculated that 10,000 lives were lost. The boats belonged to the inhabitants of the coast of Têngchow Fu and of the group of small islands to the westward of the place. Thousands of poor fishermen's families are thrown into want and destitution. About Tls. 20,000 is absolutely necessary to succour the immense misery, and contributions are earnestly solicited. * * * According to our morning contemporary the "Silk Guild have drawn up a memorandum to be signed by all silk-buyers, and which has already received the signature of some of the prominent houses, agreeing that all white silk bought is to be paid for within 24 hours of weighing, and all yellow silk within 48 hours." The proverbial coach and four can be driven through this arrangement, however, as no time is specified within which the silk must be taken delivery of after settlement, so that the buyer has still the opportunity of deferring the weighing until he thinks exchange is favourable. * * * The latest news from the Yangtze states that "everything is quiet on the River, and notice has been given by the authorities at Wuhu that they would cut off eleven heads on the 27th.

VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA.

THE newspapers which accepted the story about Viscount Shinagawa's resignation of the portfolio of Home Affairs the day after being gazetted, turn out to have been somewhat "previous." We explained, yesterday, when re-producing the rumour that it did not seem worthy of credence, inasmuch as the new Minister's departure from Tokyo on sick leave had been arranged before there was any serious question of appointing him to the Home Office. The Tokyo News Agency confirms our view. Special inquiries, it says, made with reference to the story, show that there are absolutely no grounds for the statement. Viscount Shinagawa was under medical treatment at the time of his appointment, and could not even proceed to the Palace to receive his commission. He has gone to Iga by his physician's advice, and no reliance whatever is to be placed in the tale of his having sent in his resignation.

THE "KAISHINTO" AND THE OTSU INCIDENT.

THE members of the *Kaishin-to* have apparently come to the conclusion that it behoves them also to take some steps in view of the public excitement about the Otsu incident. They held a meeting on the evening of the 2nd instant at the office of the Party, and decided that a general meeting should be convened for the 6th and 7th instant at the Yayoi-kan, when distinct views will be publicly formulated. We trust that the *Kaishin-to* leaders will seize the opportunity to enter a strong protest against the want of moral equilibrium displayed by some politicians in respect to the Otsu affair. The proceedings of the Radicals and of a section of the Conservatives savour of hysteria, and though their motive, doubtless, is purely and simply hostility to the Government, their conduct, viewed by outsiders, will have the effect of inspiring strong doubts as to the practicality and sobriety of the Japanese character.

CHOLERA.

CHOLERA, according to the *Official Gazette*, has made its appearance at Malacca and also in Siam, but Singapore is not yet affected. A telegram received on the 2nd instant from the Japanese Consul at Singapore, says that Bangkok has been declared an infected port. This is one of those ominous notices the sequel of which we have been taught by experience to foresee. Once again Japan is threatened by an invasion of her deadly foe, and once again her people have to ask when their cities will be provided with the only fortification capable of resisting its attacks successfully, a pure water supply. Tokyo and Osaka have been playing with this question for the past four years. Probably tens of thousands of their citizens will be struck down before a work financially profitable and hygienically essential is completed.

COUNT MATSUKATA'S ANSWER TO THE RADICALS.

WE have already described how the representation forwarded by the *Jiyuto* to the Cabinet, urging the resignation of the Ministers *en masse*, was returned as not being a public document. The *Chiusei Nippo* says that the Radicals presented the document at Count Matsukata's residence on the 2nd instant, and received the following answer, short and sweet:—"The enclosed document having been submitted to the Minister President of State, he instructs me to return it. I do so, accompanying it by the letter recently sent by you, which enclosures please find." This letter was signed by Mr. Matsuda Masahisa, Count Matsukata's Private Secretary.

THE SPECIE BANK.

A NUMBER of the shareholders of the Yokohama Shokin Ginko are said to be taking steps for convening an extraordinary general meeting,

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at which they propose to move changes in the constitution of the bank. These changes are, first that the amount of capital employed for the purpose of foreign exchange be limited to one-third of the total capital of the Bank, to the end that more attention may hereafter be paid to the development of home business. Secondly, that the present amount of capital, 4,500,000 *yen*, be reduced by 1,500,000 *yen*, the reduction to be effected by buying up shares of the bank to that amount. Thirdly, that a number of "advisers" be appointed from among the shareholders. Messrs. Nakamura Michita and Kato Rin are reported to be the principal originators of the movement. It is extremely problematical whether these propositions will obtain the approval of a majority of the shareholders.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

THE *Mainichi Shimbun* has an excellent article under the above heading. "That the Otsu affair ended peacefully," says our contemporary, "was because of the action taken by the Russian Minister and the Russian Admiral. Had these officials been disposed to rely on their country's strength, had they allowed themselves to be transported by anger without consideration for the relations of the two States and for the latter's usual amity, the Admiral, not seeking permission from the Japanese Government, might have at once landed a large number of marines, and a collision might have occurred between these and the Japanese troops or police on shore. The Russian Minister again, had he been of a similar mind, representing to our Government that as Japanese constables were not trustworthy the Czarevitch must be guarded by Russian marines, might have summoned several hundreds of the latter to Kyoto. Further, whatever cordiality our Emperor might have shown in his conduct towards the Prince, the Russian Minister might not have reported the facts home, and great excitement might have resulted among the Russian people. That the trouble ended amicably is due, therefore, to the Minister and the Admiral. We have to express our sincere gratitude towards these two officials. It is owing also to their endeavours to preserve the friendly relations between the two countries, that the people of Russia, appreciating the strength of our nation's feeling, did not commit any outrage against the Japanese Legation in St. Petersburg. Had the Japanese Prince Imperial been made the object of a similar attack in Russia, the hot-headed youths of our country, not pausing to reflect, might have committed an outrage against the Russian Legation in Tokyo. We have nothing but praise to give the Russians for their calm treatment of this affair, for their magnanimity, and for their speedy recognition of the services rendered by Japanese of the humblest class. It behoves us to do everything in our power henceforth to increase intercourse with Russia."

* * *

We are glad to see such a strong and spontaneous expression of gratitude in a leading Japanese journal, not only because it is a just as well as a graceful act, but also because the sympathy of the foreign community with the Russian Representative in this matter is very sincere, though journalistic utterance has not hitherto been given to it. It was scarcely within the range of human capacity, we imagine, to make fuller and more prudent provision against every contingency connected with the visit of the Czarevitch than was made by Mr. Schévitch. That the sequel of so much care and forethought should have been an accident so terrible, must have greatly intensified the Minister's sorrow. Moreover, preparations of an extensive and costly character had been made at the Russian Legation. The demolition of the spacious banqueting hall specially erected for the ball that should have taken place on the 18th ultimo, has only just been completed, and it is an open secret that in many other ways the Minister spared no trouble and expense to add *éclat* to the auspicious event which ought to have marked a fortunate epoch in his own life. The marring of all this was a trial such as few men are fated to bear, and the *Mainichi Shimbun* does well to applaud the tact and good temper shown by M. Schévitch under such circumstances. The Russian Government and the Russian people undoubtedly behaved in a manner that merits Japan's gratitude, a result that might have been very different but for the statesmanship and forbearance cited by our Tokyo contemporary.

MARINE TRANSPORTATION IN JAPAN.

THE *Keisai Zasshi* has commenced a crusade against the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. It accuses that company of charging such high rates of passage and freight as to cause serious obstacles to the colonization of Hokkaido and the development of industries which, for their successful conduct, depend upon the facilities afforded by marine transportation. In consequence of the exorbitant rates exacted by the big company, Hokkaido is placed at a two-fold disadvantage: it has to pay high prices for the articles imported from the south—which articles constitute the bulk of local requirements—and it is deprived of a large portion of the profit derived from every commodity shipped from its ports. Referring to the harbours in the Tokaido region, our contemporary asserts that the Yusen Kaisha takes the freight rates of the railway as the basis of its own charges. But railway rates are everywhere considered decidedly high for the transport of goods, when compared with rates for water carriage. The result of giving a subsidy of 880,000 *yen* per annum to the company is, in the *Keisai's* opinion, to enable it to monopolize almost the whole carrying trade of the country and to impede the opening of the island of Hokkaido. Public opinion recognises the importance of encouraging the development of navigation, but, if things be allowed to go on in the present state, our contemporary sees no hope of realizing that great object.

TSUDA SANZO'S FAMILY.

APPLICATION for information as to the condition of Tsuda Sanzo's family has elicited the following response from the proper authorities:—"Tsuda Sanzo's family resided at Mikamimura, in the Yasu district of Omi, Shiga Prefecture. On the 14th May, Sanzo's elder brother, Okamoto Shizuma, came from Uyenomachi in the Ahai district of Iga, for the purpose of taking charge of Sanzo's family. On the 18th he left Mikami-mura, taking with him Sanzo's wife, Kyo, his daughter, Mitsu, and his son, Motohisa. Among the people of the neighbourhood some had declared that Tsuda's family must not be allowed to live in the place, but others had combatted this idea, maintaining that however heinous the man's crime might be, his family could have no connection with it and were entirely innocent. The justice of this latter view was recognised and the matter went no farther. The wife and children, however, were not troubled in any way. They left with Tsuda's brother. The latter has some little property. Tsuda's family have no savings, but are not in any distress. Okamoto Shizuma has consulted with their relatives and made arrangements for their support. The wife, Kyo, is a skilled needle-woman and can earn a fair wage, so that she is in no need of assistance from strangers, nor would she be willing to accept such assistance even though it were offered. She wishes only to hide her shame in a life of seclusion."

* * *

From the above it will be evident that the case does not call for any charitable effort on the part of foreigners. We have very serious doubts whether such an effort would have been wise even under different circumstances, but happily the necessity of discussing so delicate a question is obviated by the above letter. The concluding paragraphs show that steps were taken to ascertain the views of Tsuda's wife herself, and that the unhappy women would only be pained by an act of benevolence tending to drag her shame into still greater prominence. The letter confirms also a fact stated emphatically and distinctly more than once by leading vernacular journals, and translated in the columns of the local English press, namely, that the idea of driving Tsuda Sanzo's family away from their home never took practical form, but was quickly stifled by the better sense of the majority. Under such circumstances we cannot but express surprise that the correspondent with whom the project of a subscription originated, should have allowed himself, in a letter written the day before yesterday, to repeat his former charges against the Japanese. In his last communication to the press he accuses the nation of "mediæval barbarism," and of "senseless persecution," and declares that "the old spirit of wolfish unreasoning revenge lives on in their hearts." Now, as this correspondent signs himself "Fair-Play" and advocates a deed of charity, it may not be amiss to remind him that the principles of fair-play and charity alike require a man to be sure of the facts on which he founds injurious charges against others. If the correspondent lent such ready credence to the report published by vernacular journals at the outset, why should he altogether ignore the explicit contradiction subsequently made by the same journals? Charity signifies more than mere gifts of money to needy persons.

THE RADICALS' MISTAKE.

THE Radical Party has not scored by its last move, its extraordinary attempt to induce the Cabinet to resign because of the Otsu affair. Some good-natured folks say that the Radicals were not moved by any serious purpose in taking such a step. They knew that the Cabinet would pay no manner of attention to their representation, but they wished to show their constituents that the ball was kept moving, and that the Government was not suffered to repose on a bed of roses. One imagines, however, that they should have been able to devise some way of demonstrating their activity without making themselves ridiculous. They get soundly trounced by several of the leading journals. The *Kokkai* says that the notion of attempting to persuade the Cabinet to resign by private representation is childish and unreasonable. Such attempts might be well enough under an absolute monarchy, but where parliament offers a constitutional battle-field for fighting out disputed issues, action like that of the Radicals becomes ludicrous. If the Matsukata Cabinet has committed a blunder, the Ministers, instead of being urged to resign, should be held in office with an iron chain until the Diet can call them to account. Such is the *Kokkai's* idea, just and sensible so far as the Radicals' action is concerned, but a little eccentric, we venture to think, in respect of the last conclusion. The *Kokkai's* mood towards the Government in this particular case, savours of vindictiveness. If we accept its own version of its sentiments, it would rather keep a blundering Cabinet in office six months longer, than let it go now unpunished. The *Choya Shimbun* is even more outspoken. It likens to old-time *Ronins* the Radicals and the Conservative Peers who are working in the same cause. Advice, it observes, is all very well among friends, but to knock at the door of a man whom one treats uniformly as a stranger, if not as a foe, and to advise him to resign a position of honour and power, is a trifle silly. The *Choya* is astonished that men of mature years and high social position should resort to such methods. It concludes that the Radicals must be classed among folks whose useful function cannot be clearly discerned.

* * *

The action of the Peers referred to above is understood to have taken the form of meetings at the Secretariat and discussions having for their object the presentation of an address to the Sovereign, in the name of the Upper House, urging that the Ministry be changed. Of course such a step on the part of the Peers would be wholly unconstitutional, and we take leave to doubt emphatically whether there is any truth in the story so far as the mass of the Peers is concerned. It is confidently stated that Viscount Tani, Count Higashi-kuze, Messrs. Kayeda and Miura, and a few other members of the section with which their names are associated in the House of Peers, have recently been holding meetings with closed doors at the Secretariat for the purpose of discussing measures in

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connection with the Otsu incident, but it is stated with not less assurance that this course of procedure is strongly condemned by the other Peers, who justly hold that secret meetings of a small section of the House at the Secretariat for the purpose of taking action in State affairs, while the House is not in session, are contrary to every principle of constitutional Government. If, therefore, Viscount Tani and his followers have been behaving as rumour says, they are not unlikely to be called very severely to task when the House meets in November.

CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS.

It is evident that the new Regulation as to press censorship would have caused much friction between the Authorities and journalists had its operation been continued. Some newspapers described the quantity of matter submitted for inspection as so great that to deal with it speedily was out of the question. For the sake of celerity the examination became superficial, and since the censors naturally erred on the side of caution, matter was struck out that might with perfect safety have been published. Moreover, there were complaints about inequality in the manner of enforcing the Regulation in the provinces. It will at once be understood that a strong disposition to magnify these troubles was displayed by opposition journals, but beyond question the operation of the Regulation must have been exceedingly irksome. On the other hand, there is no concealing the fact that the newspapers themselves are responsible for their misfortunes. Ever since 1887, they have not hesitated to drag the foreign affairs of the Empire into the arena of party politics. A more unpatriotic and imprudent course could scarcely have been pursued. In the face of such action it becomes almost impossible for responsible statesmen to conduct the country's foreign affairs satisfactorily. Japanese journalists above all should have avoided this mischievous proceeding, for Japan's position towards foreign countries requires particularly delicate management. Time and again during the past two years have we read with astonishment the articles of certain newspapers which, while urging that Treaty Revision could not possibly be achieved without the unanimous support of the whole nation, nevertheless devote themselves persistently to preventing anything like unanimity. What could be more glaringly inconsistent than to be told at one moment that solidarity of public opinion is essential, and the next to have the whole question at issue reduced to a mere bone of party contention? Of couse there are newspapers to which this criticism does not apply, but they are the exception. The sinners have been largely in the majority, and the chief sinners are precisely the journals that distinguished themselves by loudest protests against the operation of the new Regulation. No one can be satisfied with the situation. The evils inseparable from press censorship generally outweigh any advantages achieved by it. Apart from its inconvenience and discredit, it has the inevitable effect of alienating public opinion from the Government, and provoking the hostility of journalists to officialdom. Japanese statesmen are placed in an embarrassing situation. They have to deal with circumstances on the one hand claiming liberty, on the other demanding severity.

THE WHALER "NARWHAL."

The whaling schooner *Narwhal*, built and engined by the Yokohama Engine and Ironworks (Ld.) for the Eastern Whaling Co., has been thoroughly fitted out for the work in which she is to engage, and was on Wednesday moved fromthe place where she has been lying off the French Hatoba to a position outside the South Breakwater. She has taken in her store of explosives and will, as soon as the weather favours, proceed on her cruise. The preparation of the *Narwhal* has been hurried forward a good deal, but under the skilled and experienced superintendence of Captain Bowles and the officers and men who have accompanied him from the States, her equipment has been as thorough as it has been extensive. During the cruise nothing will be taken but whale-bone, and towards the acquiring of this product, of course every appliance on board is designed.

SAILING RACES.

A circular has been issued by the Committee of the Sailing Club announcing the following races:—

On Saturday, the 13th June, 1891, there will be a race for the B division. Start at 2.30 p.m.; Inside Course, once round, viz:—From an imaginary line between the Bathing Barge and a Flag Boat, around a Flag Boat off the E end of E. Breakwater, a Flag Boat at Kanagawa, and finish between the Bathing Barge and end of the French Hatoba, 4½ miles. Finish within —3 hours

On Saturday, the 20th June, 1891, there will be a race for the A division. Start at 2 p.m.; Home Course, as given above, once round; time limit—4 hours.

On Saturday, the 27th June, 1891, there will be a race for the B division; Start at 2.30 p.m.; Inside Course, as given above, once round; finish within 3 hours.

Note.—A flagboat will be used to mark the E. end of E. Breakwater.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The resignation of Lieut.-General Katsura, Vice-Minister of War, which began to be talked of a few days ago, has become an accomplished fact. He is succeeded by Major-General Okasawa Sei (Second Grade Fourth Class), a native of Choshu, who distinguished himself in the War of 1877. General Katsura's retirement is regarded in some quarters as an additional blow to the so-called German section of the Government, but that view of the case does not merit any special consideration. Three other promotions are gazetted in the War Office. Colonel Sano Nobukatsu, of the Cavalry, and Colonel Kawamura Kageakira, of the Infantry, become Major-Generals, and First-Class Inspector Noda Kwattsu becomes Chief Inspector.

POSTAL STATISTICS.

The *Jiyu* says that the number of letters and other matters passing through the post during the second half of last year was 107,613,619, being an increase of 14,984,596 as compared with the corresponding period of 1889. The subdivisions of the total were as follows:—

Letters	32,153,245
Post cards	45,688,483
Newspapers and Periodicals	22,179,794
Books	1,273,570
Patterns	96,931
Agricultural Seeds	28,443
Letters with money enclosed	2,700
Free Letters	4,848,742
Registered Letters	1,341,711

SPECIAL EMBASSY TO RUSSIA.

It is asserted that the members of the House of Peers are disposed to urge the Emperor to adhere to his original intention of sending a special embassy to Russia in connection with the Otsu affair, despite the Russian Government's protest that no such step is necessary. We trust that the Peers will not succeed, if indeed they entertain any such design, for the Russian Government's disclaimer represents the general view of the foreign public.

A MIXED STORY.

It may interest the shareholders of the Printing and Publishing Company to hear the version which the *Kokkai* gives of their affairs. "There have been constant differences of opinion between Mr. Dening, editor-in-chief of the *Japan Gazette*, and the owners of that journal, and as the friction was incessant, the manager, Mr. Anglin, finally dispensed with Mr. Dening's services. But the shareholders, after general consultation, decided that the manager was not competent, of his own authority, to dismiss Mr. Dening, and it is said that they contemplate taking legal proceedings shortly against the manager. As the latter is sick, however, his recovery must be awaited before the suit commences."

THE RETIRING MINISTERS.

Mr. Yoshikawa, the retiring Minister of Education, is gazetted a Court Councillor. Counts Saigo and Yamada receive no new appointment, being already general officers on the active list, but it is ordered that they are to be treated in the future as Ministers of State. The same *Gazette* announces that Mr. Inouye Ki, hitherto Secretary of the Bureau of Imperial Private Records, and Privy Councillor, is relieved from the duties of the former office. Nothing is yet known as to changes in the Vice-Ministries of the Departments affected by the new distribution of portfolios.

FANS.

We read in the vernacular press that the Tokyo Kozan-Kaisha was organized originally for the purpose of exporting fans, especially the variety which does not fold (*uchiwa*). Investigation has shown, however, that a larger profit is to be made by supplying the home market. No workman is willing to undertake the exceedingly cheap and inferior article required by exporters, and the company has accordingly given up the idea of exporting.

THE LADIES' LAWN TENNIS CLUB.

We have been requested by the Committee of the Ladies' Lawn Tennis Club to mention that the Yokohama Band will play during the summer months at the Bluff Gardens every Thursday afternoon from five to seven.

SALE OF THE "ALBANY."

We are informed by Mr. J. M. Mur, of Kobe, that he submitted the steamer *Albany* to auction on Saturday last and the price obtained was $28,000, the cargo being knocked down for $7,552.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The recent changes in the *personnel* of the Cabinet form the principal topic of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the present week. Having already reproduced the remarks of the leading papers on this subject, we confine ourselves now to a general summary of the views expressed. The journals seem to agree in ascribing the resignations of Viscount Aoki and Count Saigo to a change of policy on the part of the Minister President with regard to Treaty Revision. Thus thinking, they consider it very curious that Count Goto has not followed the example of these two statesmen, as he, together with them, was specially charged with the task of conducting the negotiations for Treaty Revision. The resignation of Count Yamada is traced back to the time when the date of the coming into operation of the Commercial Code was postponed; while that of Mr. Yoshikawa is attributed to his desire to follow his patron Count Yamagata into retirement. Of the successors to the outgoing Ministers, Viscount Shinagawa is spoken of in the most respectful and sympathetic manner, first on account of his undoubted ability and secondly on account of the circumstance that he has entered the Cabinet very much against his own inclination. But the statesman who has attracted the largest share of public attention by accepting office at the present moment, is Count Ito. At his own request, he has no seat in the Cabinet, but the public unanimously regard him as the most important acquisition to the Administration. Many papers do not hesitate to declare that his entrance into the Government has given a considerable degree of stability to the Matsukata Cabinet. Some even state that the present Ministry had better be called the Ito Cabinet. Several journals also blame him for not coming forward as Minister President instead of wielding the powers of that office behind the curtain.

* * *

Previous to the recent Ministerial changes, the members of the *Jiyu-to* appointed delegates to wait upon the Ministers of State for the purpose of advising them to resign in a body in connection with the Otsu affair. There have been instances of *soshi* and men of cognate character giving similar advice to statesmen in power and to members of the Diet. But the public was not quite prepared to find the leading

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members of a great party like the *Jiyu-to* deliberately following the example set by the violent or mercenary section of political agitators. The general public is inclined to view the whole business as a sort of practical joke. The leading papers do not attach much importance to it, but the *Kokkai* and the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, especially the former, strongly condemn "the childish conduct" of the leaders of the *Jiyu-to*. The *Kokkai* observes that if the Radical politicians considered the Cabinet blameworthy, they should have brought the matter before the Representatives of the people at the coming session and passed a vote of censure or of want of confidence in the advisers of the Crown. To summon the latter to resign their posts, as the *Jiyu-to* leaders have done, smacks more of despotism than of constitutional government. The *Yomiuri* advises Japanese politicians to desist from taking such abnormal steps, and to approach the Government through constitutional avenues on the floor of the Diet.

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The termination of the censorship of the press was welcomed with great relief by the papers of the capital. They say that the Emergency Ordinance was a disgrace to Japanese progress. It did not serve any good purpose; on the contrary, its effect, these papers aver, has been to rouse unjust suspicions in the minds of foreigners as to the probable meaning of the lines mutilated by the censors. The *Kokkai* recommends the Government not again to be betrayed into such a fatal blunder by petty officials, whose mental vision is limited to the narrow bounds of the present. The same journal complains that the censors went beyond the terms of the Ordinance itself by erasing matters that had no connection with foreign relations.

* * *

Referring to the Tsuda affair, the *Kaishin-to* organs and a few other papers, notably the *Kokumin Shimbun* and the *Choya Shimbun*, have repeatedly remarked that the Conservatives are greatly to be blamed, as their writings have been instrumental in reviving the old *jo-i* spirit, of which Tsuda was a fanatical slave. The Conservative paper, the *Chiusei Nippo* (Viscount Torio's organ), indignantly rebuts the accusation. "How absurd," it says, "to charge us with inciting Tsuda Sanzo to attack His Majesty's respected guest! Loyalty is ever our guiding principle." The *Chiusei* further remarks that it is extremely misleading to state, as some papers have stated, that the old *jo-i* spirit has been revived. Such a contingency is, in the opinion of the conservative paper, entirely outside the pale of possibility. It laments the unpatriotic conduct of certain journalists who, regardless of the interests of their country, are ever on the watch to cast a stigma on the fair name of their opponents, and who, in the present instance, have sought to dishonour a contemporary by charging it with resuscitating a spirit belonging to a painful page of history, a spirit that could not fail to be cited by Western Powers as a conclusive justification of their objection to conceding Japan's demands with reference to Treaty Revision.

* * *

The *Jiyu-to* recently issued a manifesto which has not made that party's situation clearer than before. The document is too long to be reproduced here; but its gist may be summarised as follows:—That human beings are endowed with natural rights; that it is the primary object of Government to protect those rights; that freedom and *laisser faire* should be the guiding principles of Government; that the age of contest between intelligence and stupidity has passed away, and that we are now in the age of contest between riches and poverty; that the tendency of European Governments is to help the rich to oppress the poor; that in Japan more virtuous relations exist between the rich and the poor; that the object of the *Jiyu-to* is neither to assist the rich nor to oppress the poor, but to enable these two classes to obtain their just dues. The manifesto goes on to point out the course of policy that ought to be followed in the various branches of the Administration. The management of domestic affairs, we read, should be based on the principle of local self-government; in foreign affairs, confidence and friendship should be the guiding motives, self-defence should be the aim of military and naval equipment; finance should be conducted economically and in proportion to the resources of the people; in agriculture and commerce, protection should be given only for the benefit of the general public; education should be directed on the principle of freedom; the independence of the Judiciary should be strengthened; facilities of communication should be extended; the rights of the Legislature should be developed.

* * *

The Liberal organ, the *Jiyu*, in commenting upon this manifesto, states that, in days when the object of the party was to secure the establishment of a constitutional system of government, it was thought sufficient to declare the policy of the party in general terms. But now that constitutional government is an accomplished fact, it is the duty of every political party to indicate clearly its object and principles, and to declare its views in relation to the practical questions of the day. In obedience to this duty the *Jiyu-to* has anticipated all other parties by issuing its manifesto.

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimpo* criticises the Liberal Party's manifesto as being ambiguous and inaccurate. The declarations as to the principles upon which the different Departments of State should be conducted, will be approved by every one without distinction of party or class. What is wanted, argues the *Tokyo Shimpo*, in the manifesto of a political party, is that it should indicate how and in what manner those guiding principles of administration are to be carried into practice, and this is just what the *Jiyu-to's* document hides from the public. Our contemporary is of opinion that the Liberal party's unwillingness to commit itself to any definite course of policy in administrative matters, is to be attributed to two circumstances, namely, first, that the leaders of the party are apprehensive of dissension among their followers should they enunciate any definite course of policy, and secondly, that they regard such a step as not unlikely to impair their prospects of alliance with certain other parties.

* * *

The *Minken Shimbun*, as the former *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun* is now called, made its first appearance on the 1st instant, but unfortunately that number contained matter deemed by the authorities as injurious to the public peace, and the paper is still under the ban of suspension. Besides the offensive article, the same issue had a significant editorial about the amalgamation of the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to*. The writer, whoever he may be, spoke in high terms of the unimpeachable integrity of Count Itagaki and of the great ability and dauntless courage of Count Okuma. Should the two parties, with such statesmen at their heads, combine, they would constitute an irresistible body, competent to form a strong Ministry at any moment. Such is the gist of the articles. It would appear that the question of amalgamation has taken a new turn by the appearance of the *Minken Shimbun*, which represents in some respects both Liberal and Progressionist interests. Mr. Ozaki Yukio and Mr. Inukai Ki, the editors of the defunct *Mimpo*, a *Kaishin-to* organ, will regularly contribute articles to the *Minken Shimbun*.

* * *

The *Kokkai* reproduces from a Chicago paper a picture showing the sale of Japanese girls in San Francisco, and earnestly calls the attention of the Japanese Government and people to the steady fall of Japanese reputation abroad. Our contemporary has little sympathy for women whose presence in foreign lands casts unspeakable disgrace on their country, but it cannot allow the sale of those unfortunates by public auction to pass without entering a strong protest against the insult which is thus offered to this country and to humanity. After quoting evil reports that prevail in various places about Japanese women, the *Kokkai* observes that the spreading of such accounts about Japanese emigrants of both sexes is in part to be ascribed to the jealousy entertained by the Irish against the influx of Japanese labour. It therefore recommends the Government to make a thorough investigation of the whole matter before adopting a definite line of action. The *Kokkai* apparently forgets that the story about the sale of Japanese girls by auction in San Francisco was proved to be entirely baseless.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing on the same subject, objects to any remedial plan which consists in putting restrictions upon the emigration of Japanese to foreign countries, not because such a plan is injurious, but because it is ineffectual and impracticable. The reason why the present Japanese emigrants abroad principally consist of the worst type of the people, is, in the opinion of our contemporary, to be sought in the backward condition of Japanese commercial navigation. Many Japanese of honest and industrious type are desirous of emigrating to foreign countries where they can get more money. But they are deterred from carrying out their object by the dreary prospect of sailing in a foreign ship manned and officered by people of strange visage and language. Were there a Japanese line of steamers to San Francisco, for example, emigrants of the above mentioned class would go to the United States, and their presence there would contribute to the enhancing of the reputation of the whole body of Japanese emigrants. Such is the singular argument of the *Jiji Shimpo*.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* publishes a report of an address on the same subject delivered before the Ladies' Educational Society by Mr. Soyeda Juichi of the Finance Department. He gave his audience a vivid description of the disgusting conduct of Japanese women abroad, and expressed the opinion that vigorous laws should be enforced to restrain women of doubtful character from going abroad. It is important at the same time, he went on, to aim at the eradication of the evil at home. For this purpose religion as well as education must be invoked as the most potential remedies, and must be supplemented by teaching girls of the lower class some method of earning a livelihood. The lecturer expressed satisfaction that the Society which he had the honour of addressing contemplated the establishment of a special seminary for the poor, and hoped that the project would be soon carried into practice.

* * *

The Tomioka Silk Filature, a Government property, is now for sale. Established in 1869, it soon became the centre of improvement in the manufacture of silk. Filatures established after its pattern now number more than a thousand. The original educational object of the establishment having been thus amply realized, there has been during the past few years a clamour for its sale to private individuals. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* calls the attention of the Authorities to the importance of handing over the Filature to individuals of sufficient standing and wealth—by preference noblemen or respectable and wealthy merchants. The *Hochi Shimbun*, while approving in the abstract the sale of the Filature, expresses doubts as to the strict constitutionality of the procedure. Since the maintenance of the Filature enters into the Budget for the current year, the Government, argues the *Hochi*, is not authorized to sell it now, unless such a course be necessitated by some unavoidable circumstance. Our contemporary further questions the wisdom of selling the Filature at a time like the present, when the price of silk is low and people are reluctant to invest capital in sericulture. The *Hochi* is informed that the price at which the Filature is assessed by business men of a certain class in Tokyo is about 30,000 *yen*, whereas its actual value is over 250,000 *yen*. The Authorities are warned against parting with it at a nominal figure.

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THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

A CHANGE has taken place at the Foreign Office. Viscount AOKI'S resignation was accepted on the 28th ultimo, and the following day the fact was officially announced, Admiral Viscount YENOMOTO being at the same time gazetted to the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. Up to the morning of the 28th ultimo no such result had been anticipated. When Count YAMAGATA retired from the control of the Cabinet, Viscount AOKI signified his wish to resign, but subsequently a compromise was effected and he consented to remain in office. The intelligence of the attempt on the life of the CZAREVITCH made him again declare a desire to retire, and it is understood that the Minister of State for Home Affairs contemplated a similar step. When, however, it became evident that any change of Ministers at this juncture would certainly be misconstrued, that Cabinet decided that for the present things must remain *in statu quo*, and by this decision, to which he was a consenting party, Viscount AOKI seemed prepared to abide. In the forenoon of the 28th instant, however, for reasons not publicly known, he again tendered his resignation, with so much insistance that it was finally accepted, and the *Official Gazette* announced the fact the following evening. It is, we think, distinctly regrettable that Viscount AOKI could not see his way to retain the portfolio of Foreign Affairs for two or three months longer. His resignation will unquestionably be attributed to causes entirely wide of the mark. Already stories of the most fanciful character are beginning to circulate, and for a time they will obtain credence. So far as the Viscount himself is concerned, he probably feels little regret at retiring. A man of active hopes and high projects, he accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs at a time when the chances of achieving anything satisfactory were marred by friction within Government circles and among those who represent the powers behind the Throne. His supposed German proclivities also stood in his way, and only now when he retires from office will men observe how little grounds for attributing to him any such bias were furnished by his conduct of the Empire's foreign affairs. In truth, throughout his tenure of the portfolio, it was with Great Britain alone that his negotiations for Treaty Revision were carried on, and his principal foreign adviser from first to last was an American. If he did not accomplish much, it was because nothing could possibly have been accomplished, not because he failed to obtain the sympathetic cōoperation of foreign States. Admiral YENOMOTO, who succeeds to the portfolio, will make an excellent Foreign Minister. A universal favourite, his relations with the Foreign Representatives will certainly be of the most cordial character, and it is probable that, for a time, no problem of a dangerously vital nature will present itself for his solution. He is a *persona grata* with Russia, having spent some years in St. Petersburg as Japanese Representative, and it will be fresh in our readers' memory that he was chosen to proceed thither again to convey to the Czar expressions of regret from Japan on account of the Otsu affair. That selection, apart from his qualifications, may possibly have furnished an additional reason for his nomination at this juncture. He will have the staunch support of Counts ITO and KURODA among the "occult powers," and he enjoys the respect equally of officials and of non-officials. Viscount AOKI is not unlikely to proceed to Europe in a diplomatic capacity. His own choice would doubtless be the Court of St. James's, where he would be entirely removed from the influences that make the exercise of statesmanship in Japan so difficult at present.

CABINET CHANGES.

ON the 31st ultimo the long talked of changes in the Cabinet became an accomplished fact. The resignations of Count SAIGO, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Count YAMADA, Minister of State for Justice, and Mr. YOSHIKAWA, Minister of State for Education, were definitely accepted, and their successors appointed as follow, namely, Viscount SHINAGAWA YAJIRO, First Class of the Third Grade and Second Order of Merit, to the portfolio of Home Affairs; Count OKI TAKATO, Second Class of the Second Grade and First Order of Merit, to the portfolio of Education; and Viscount TANAKA FUJIMARO, First Class of the Third Grade and Second Order of Merit, to the portfolio of Justice. Viscount SHINAGAWA has never before been a member of the Cabinet. In 1885, he was appointed Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, and the following year he became Japanese Representative in Berlin. On his return from Germany he was nominated (November, 1887) a Court Councillor, which post he filled until his appointment to the important portfolio of Home Affairs. Viscount SHINAGAWA is a native of Choshu. He has always been a close friend of Count ITO and Count INOUYE, and when the latter resigned the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce in 1889, it was expected by many people that Viscount SHINAGAWA would be his successor. For several years he has been recognised as one of the ablest men of his time. His first service of special note was performed during the Satsuma Rebellion of 1877. Despatched by the Government to Kumamoto with orders to the garrison at that place to hold the castle to the last against the rebels, he remained with the beseiged, and throughout the long and successful resistance made by the troops under General TANI, he distinguished himself by courage and fertility of resource. There can be no doubt that he brings to the Cabinet a large access of administrative ability. Still the entrusting of such a portfolio as that of Home Affairs to an official who enters the Cabinet for the first time, must be regarded as an exceptional measure. On the whole, the public had concluded that if Count SAIGO persisted in his resolve to retire, Count GOTO would probably be transferred from the Department of Communications to that of Home Affairs, and the inference generally drawn from the present distribution of portfolios will doubtless be that Count ITO'S influence has been paramount. Viscount SHINAGAWA is a good German scholar, but a German bias has never been attributed to him. The manner of bestowing the other two portfolios is somewhat unexpected. Count OKI'S official career has been chiefly connected with the Department of Justice, of which he was Minister for several years. Under his direction the compilation of the new Codes was undertaken, and even after his transfer to another office, his influence and interest in the Department of Justice remained active. On the other hand, Viscount TANAKA FUJIMARO'S association with the Educational Department has always been very intimate. He served as Vice-Minister, and subsequently as Minister, of that Department during the years when the educational system of the empire was in process of elaboration, and his recall from the Legation in Paris to resume the portfolio of Education after Viscount MORI'S death, was regarded as a very probable contingency. Had he been appointed to the post which now falls to Count OKI'S lot, and *vice versâ*, the distribution would have appeared to be in better consonance with the records of the two statesmen. But if Count OKI presided over the Judicial Department during an important era and with marked success, he also held the portfolio of Education in 1885-6; and if Viscount TANAKA'S principal labours were formerly in the cause of Education, it can also be said that from the time of his appointment to the Privy Council in 1890, and during his Ministerial residence in Europe, he devoted himself chiefly to judicial questions. On the whole, therefore, the appointments just gazetted cannot be considered incongruous. Count ITO'S return to the Presidency of the Privy Council was not unexpected. The EMPEROR desired to have the benefit of his advice again, and as the Count could not be induced to re-enter the Cabinet, the only post possible was that of President of the Privy Council. Count ITO filled the same post after his resignation of the Premiership, but he then continued to sit in the Cabinet, which he is understood to decline on the present occasion.

Looking at the Cabinet as now organized, we are constrained to think that

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the elimination of clan influence has been a leading object with its organizers. At no time since the Restoration has there been a Cabinet so free from *Sat-cho* elements and of such a widely representative character. It is true that three out of the nine portfolios are held by Satsuma men. But of these portfolios two, those of War and the Navy, are in the hands of officers specially qualified for the posts; officers whose names have been written in the same places even on the slates prepared by Radical and Progressionist politicians. Besides, the public generally recognises that the affairs of the Army and Navy lie more or less outside the sphere of politics, and that for several years to come their control must inevitably be entrusted to men of Satsuma or Choshu extraction. Indeed the statement may be still further narrowed, for though a Satsuma official might preside either at the War Department or at the Admiralty, it is exceedingly problematical whether the latter Department could be directed by a Choshu statesman. Considering, then, the seven portfolios, exclusive of the Army and Navy, we find that they are distributed thus:—Satsuma, one (Count MATSUKATA, Finance; Choshu, one (Viscount SHINAGAWA, Home Affairs); Hizen, one (Count OKI, Education); Bakufu, one (Viscount YENOMOTO, Foreign Affairs); Bishu, one (Viscount TANAKA, Justice); Toshu, one (Count GOTO, Communications), and Kishu, one (Mr. MUTSU, Agriculture and Commerce.) In short the seven portfolios are held by representatives of seven different clans. It would be difficult to devise a distribution more conspicuously inconsistent with the much talked of *Sat-Cho* supremacy. Whether the force of circumstances has brought about this state of affairs, or whether it has been deliberately contrived, we cannot pretend to say. At all events that target against which so many political shafts have been discharged during the past few years, the *Jojitsu Seifu*, has now become a somewhat impalpable mark.

THE NEW CABINET.

THE four changes in the Cabinet, gazetted on the 31st ultimo, followed so closely on the heels of the Otsu disaster that we cannot be surprised to find certain vernacular journals connecting the two events. Others, however, scout the notion. The *Jiji Shimpo* forcibly points out that no Cabinet could justly be held responsible for such an incident as the outrage at Otsu. TSUDA SANZO'S deed was beyond all human powers of foresight or prevention. It might have happened in the best regulated State conceivable, and the *Jiji* declines to believe that one criminal's dementia was directly or indirectly responsible for the recent convulsion in the Cabinet. Yet, while professing this confidence, the *Jiji* allows itself to urge that the Cabinet should be proof against any perturbation in connection with unforeseen incidents—advice not altogether consistent with its context. We are disposed to think that in this, as in so many other cases, the truth lies between the extreme views taken by the two sections of the press. Some of the recent changes had become inevitable before the Otsu incident, and their consummation was probably postponed rather than precipitated by that unhappy business. But others can scarcely be included in the same category. Up to the very eve of Viscount AOKI'S resignation the inopportune character of any immediate reconstruction of the Cabinet is said to have been fully recognised. None the less the temporary solidarity resulting from that conviction was suddenly and unexpectedly disturbed, and unless the disturbing cause was connected, directly or indirectly, with the affair of May 11th, its source becomes exceedingly difficult to conceive. Whatever may be said of Count YAMADA and Mr. YOSHIKAWA, it is probable that Count SAIGO and Viscount AOKI found themselves constrained to yield to circumstances which history will scarcely pronounce rational or adequate. For the rest, the comments of the vernacular press confirm the impression that the manner of re-casting the Cabinet is intimately connected with the question of clan Government. The Ministers of State, all of them ready enough to meet the views of outside politicians in this matter, set themselves to organize a Cabinet free from any trace of the old *Sat-Cho* preponderance, and so far as that aim is concerned, they have undoubtedly succeeded. But is the situation radically altered? Assuredly not. A nation has to be content with the best administrative instrument at its disposal, and that instrument, in Japan's case at present, is clan combination. The country begins to cry out for a stable Cabinet. No wonder. But would party government produce stable Cabinets? An answer is furnished most unequivocally by the Radical Party's latest performance. Its has resolved itself into a number of Committees to urge upon Ministers of State the necessity of resigning *en masse* in consequence of TSUDA SANZO'S attempt upon the life of the CZAREVITCH. And these are serious politicians! These are the men who ask to be entrusted with the management of the empire's affairs! These are the men to whom a section of the nation looks for a stable Cabinet! For the past three years the question of united Cabinet responsibility has been a prominent plank in the Radical platform, and now we are supplied with a practical definition of their idea of responsibility. The *Kaishin-to*, we imagine, would scoff at such a notion; and indeed it is on the *Kaishin-to* that the country's hopes of a sound and intelligent Opposition must gradually centre. Its leader, Count OKUMA, is one of the very greatest of Japanese statesmen, and the whole course of the Party's procedure ever since its formation has been marked by a degree of sobriety and deliberation conspicuously absent from the conduct of its political rivals in opposition. Nothing is easier than to demonstrate that factors owing their strength to feudal connections ought not to be prominent in the administration of a State which has turned its back finally on feudalism. Nothing is easier than to allege, as several newspapers now allege, that the Cabinet must attribute its vicissitudes to the incongruity of the influences constantly presiding at its organization. But the question for practical men is, what politicians are prepared to undertake the direction of State affairs. Dispense with the great clan leaders who have made Japan what she is to-day; who overthrew feudalism; who constructed on its ruins an edifice of public administration not unworthy of comparison with Occidental models; who gave the State good laws; who established security of life and property; who built up systems of judicature, police, posts, telegraphs, railways, finance, mercantile marine, and local government; who have conferred on the nation representative institutions—dispense with these men, and what follows? We cannot tell. This only we know, that the country possesses no political party even approximately strong enough to administer the State; that the coteries calling themselves parties are incapable of permanent fusion even by the heat of a great national issue; and that the Radicals, who aspire to rule, have just shown themselves the victims of such light-headed phantasies as would disqualify and discredit a far more powerful combination. There is a time for everything, and the time has not yet come for party government in Japan. The Cabinet has now virtually emerged from the shadow of the *Sat-Cho* sway. But to whom does it owe its re-construction? To the same statesmen who ably directed it in former years, and whose direction, whether concealed or revealed, is just as indispensable to-day as it was then. Let us have a strong, firm Government, cry the agitators. And then they define what is meant by strength and stability, namely, a Cabinet that shall run to lay its portfolios at the feet of the Sovereign should any unit of the thirty-six million Japanese subjects commit a striking crime.

THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE list of resolutions which were considered at the special meeting of the Seismological Society on Friday, show, we fear, that the Society is on the eve of dissolution. That the fact will be not only regretted by the public but also a distinct loss to Japan, goes without saying. Even those who take no scientific interest in seismic problems have come to regard the Society as in some

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sort an old friend, while from others it receives support and admiration for the sake of its valuable labours, and of the little band of untiring investigators who founded it and have so bravely maintained it through all these years. Its Transactions occupy on our book-shelves a place only second to that occupied by the invaluable volumes of the sister society, the Asiatic, and all of us seem to have a share, however remote, in the high reputation it has won. Knowing something of the great difficulties with which the Society has had to contend, and observing how successfully it has overcome them, we had learned to consider it an institution proof against all vicissitudes. And indeed its Transactions as well as the accounts submitted to the last meeting, show that neither matter for publishing nor money to publish is wanting. If the Society expires, it will be not of inanition but of deliberate choice. In one respect this is fortunate: it would have been painful to see our old friend die of decay and starvation. From another point of view, however, regret is made keener by the reflection that its cause is not inevitable. The Society might retain its organization and continue its work as before, could it reconcile itself to the neglect of its meetings shown by the members, and especially by the Japanese members. There is nothing surprising in the general fact that few persons are sufficiently energetic to attend lectures at fixed times dealing with a particular and recondite branch of physical research, when they know that they can read the lectures afterwards at their leisure. For that the Seismologists must have been always prepared. But the attitude of the Japanese involves special considerations in the case of an association the working members of which are chiefly Professors in the Japanese University or employés of the Japanese Government. Such a Society has to regard not only the fact of Japanese abstention, but also its motive. In this case there appears to be a motive apart from mere listlessness or indifference. The Japanese are willing enough to pursue seismological investigations, as in their own *Chiri Kyoku*, or in the Science College of the University, but they seem to think that the results of such investigations ought to be reserved for the pages of the Journal of the College of Science, instead of appearing in the Transactions of the Seismological Society. We cannot be surprised at this. In so far, indeed, as the foreign character of the Society deters Japanese cō-operation, if it does at all act as a deterrent, there is no excuse to be made. But the Japanese men of science in the University owe their energies in the first place to the Journal of the College of Science, a publication necessitating steady original research, and probably absorbing all the material at their command. It is natural that they should give the preference to that Journal. They are in a measure bound to do so. To such a feeling the leading members of the Seismological Society would, of course, take no exception. On the contrary, it is probably out of deference to a sense of conflict between the interests of the Transactions and of the Journal, and because of a desire to eliminate every source of friction from the path of scientific research, that they are resolved to dissolve their association. On the other hand, two considerations present themselves; considerations which the Japanese, on their part, cannot fail to respect. The first is that all Japanese activity in registering and studying seismic phenomena in the observatories and the University, is a direct outcome of the work of the Seismological Society, and it would be contrary to justice as well as to the interests of science that the foreign members, the fathers and founders of Seismology in Japan, should quietly efface themselves at this stage. The second consideration is that a general journal of science hardly meets the requirements of Seismology in Japan. There must be many semi-scientific papers, many brief records and statistics, many short accounts of less important classes of phenomena, which, while finding no fitting place in the pages of the Journal of the Science College, have interest and value and are well deserving of preservation from a Seismic point of view. Influenced by these reflections, the members have resolved that though dissolving their organization as a Society, they will found a Journal of Seismology, of which Professor J. MILNE, F.R.S., shall be conducter and proprietor. Probably no other course was open, but we cannot without very great regret record the demise of an association which the labours of men like MILNE, GRAY, EWING, KNOTT and others have made famous throughout the length and breadth of the Continents; an association which inaugurated Seismic science in Japan, and has incalculably aided to bring the name of this empire to the notice of the Western world.

ENGRAVING ON METALS IN JAPAN.

THE question whether engraving on metals has been successfully practised by Japanese artizans, and is still possible to them, having been lately raised, we expressed surprise that any doubt could exist on such a subject, in view of the fact that most exquisite work of this character is in the hands of all collectors of Japanese objects of *virtu*. Our position is challenged by a writer who claims that he "can certainly give us points in this branch of art," and says that we are "evidently unable to distinguish between the inlaid metal work, such as is usually done in *shibuichi*, carved or raised work as seen in *tsuba*, and engraving in gold and silver pure and simple." He makes other courteous statements which, with his permission, we will leave unnoticed. Since the subject has interest for many readers, and since these singular doubts have arisen, it will not be amiss to mention one or two elementary facts. Inlaying or damascening, called in Japan *zogan*, has been successfully practised for many centuries. Broadly speaking, it is divided into two classes, *hon-zogan* and *nuno-me-zogan*. The former is much the more difficult of execution. The design has to be cut in furrows, of which the bottom is wider than the top, so that their section is that of a truncated cone. Into these under-cut furrows the metal for inlaying is hammered until it fills the furrow completely, the "splay" of the lower portion holding the strip firmly in its place. The work is then polished. Sometimes the inlaid pattern is in relief—*i.e.* the strips of inlaid metal project above the furrow—when it receives the name of *taka-zogan*. Sometimes it is cut level with the surface, and becomes *hira-zogan* (flat inlaying). The second-class, *nuno-me-zogan*, or "linen-mesh inlaying," differs from the first only in the shape and depth of the grooves. Japanese tradition says that the origin of this kind of work is Moresque. It derived its name from the fact that in the first examples the surface was "scored" in a pattern of meshes. Into these meshes a leaf of the inlaying metal was beaten, the surface being subsequently polished. The process, simpler, quicker but much less durable than that of *hon-zogan*, subsequently came to be extended to designs of all kinds, retaining, however, its original appellation of "linen-mesh inlaying." The *hon-zogan* method has been known and practised in Japan since the eighth century at least. Splendid specimens of it on forged iron armour of the 16th and 17th centuries, are preserved among the heir-looms of many Japanese families. Its application to cast iron dates probably from the 18th century. REIN gives an excellent account of this. He describes the curious and ingenious method by which the surface of cast iron, ordinarily too hard and brittle to be worked with the hammer, chisel, and burin, is decaburised until its structure becomes capable of elaborate treatment. The writer referred to above speaks of "inlaid metal work such as is usually done in *shibuichi*." He probably means inlaying with *shibuichi*. Gold, silver, and *shibuichi* are the metals usually employed for the inlaid design, the body of the piece being iron, *shakudo*, or bronze. Turning now to the kind of work probably most familiar to foreigners, namely *niku-bori*, or carving in relief, we find an immense number of specimens unsurpassed by the artists of any other country for beauty, delicacy of execution, and extraordinary skill of manipulation. We need not dwell upon these. The *usu-niku-bori* (carving in low relief), the *taka-bori* (carving in high relief), and the combinations of both with

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uchi-dashi (repoussé) inlaying, and so forth, are well known to every collector of Japanese art objects. But there remains another class of work, apparently little observed by some connoisseurs—if we may take this latest critic as a type—which the Japanese themselves value very highly, and in which, according to our opinion, some of the most striking examples of their handicraft is to be found. Neither REIN nor ANDERSON dwells much on this branch of the metal worker's art, but that the former appreciated its excellence is evident from a passage in his admirable chapter on "metal industry," where he says:—"The wonderful skill with which apparently insurmountable difficulties in damascening, *chasing*, and other work are overcome, surprises us no less than the great ability to work effective colour combinations, and the means of their representation." Engraving on metal has, in truth, been carried to a pitch of marvellous success by the Japanese. There are two varieties, the *ke-bori*, or hair-cutting, and the *kata-kiri*, or hard cutting. The former corresponds with what is usually called "engraving" in the West. The lines are exceedingly fine, and for the most part of uniform depth and thickness. It is of considerable antiquity in Japan, and as some of the decorative designs bear a close resemblance to those seen in the well-known Moradabad and Baroda wares, Indian affinities have been attributed to the art. This point, however, does not concern us here. What we have to note is merely that the *ke-bori* style of engraving in Japan exhibits delicacy and accuracy which will bear comparison with the finest engraver's work of any country or any period. But it is in the *kata-kiri* that the Japanese engraver achieves his most remarkable results. Using his *tagane* with all the feeling and strength that a skilled painter puts into his brush, he cuts upon the surface of the metal lines of varying depth, every one of which is a study. An experienced connoisseur can identify the hand of any of the great masters by special qualities always present in their engraving. In fact the connoisseur's education commences by learning the *iye-bori* of the thirteen generations of the GOTO family. All these things are so well known to every student of Japanese art that we are astounded to hear them denied after the sweeping fashion of our critic. On the other hand, we can well understand the difficulties experienced by any one in attempting to have foreign designs engraved in Japan. Such work is novel to the Japanese, and a first-class artizan would be unwilling to undertake it. Doubtless if a design characteristic of Japan were offered to a European engraver, he would hesitate to attempt its reproduction, or attempting, would produce something far inferior to the original. Another point is that the Japanese artizan has no idea of economizing the quantity of metal employed to produce a particular shape. He will make a silver cream-ewer or card-case so heavy and massive as to be absolutely inconvenient, and of course needlessly costly. This defect is not apparent in the case of utensils of traditional forms and for native uses: it shows itself only in objects of foreign shapes, and designed for purposes strange to the workman. So far as concerns the question of engraving, however, there can be no shadow of doubt that the ability of the Japanese is of the very highest order, and that the work of this class done by them in the past, and still done, will support comparison with the achievements of the most renowned Western artists.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE DOG?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Has it ever occurred to you that there are in Yokohama more "orphan dogs" than is absolutely essential to either the prosperity or happiness of her citizens? The fact has been brought to my ears of late, with a clarion voice. The most common remark of a stranger is "What a wealth of dogs you have." But the suffering is not confined to transients. We all of us come in for a share, and sometimes for more than our share. As the warm weather necessitates the opening of our windows at night, this curse becomes more noticeable in summer. There has not a night passed for several weeks in which I have not been waked once or more times by the howling of dogs. Of course we have all experienced this to some extent, and when, as in my own case, the animals are owned by a man who thinks more of them than of the comfort, or even the expressed opinions, of the neighbourhood, there seems to be no help for it. But when as is generally the case, the annoyance is caused by animals having no owners, who are a disgrace to our streets in day time and a curse to all lovers of an unbroken night's rest—the case is altered. These mangy, half starved, homeless brutes are on hand—"fifty score strong" for concerts at night. They are so far from being of any use to any one that they are universally hated. They get enjoyment out of living, commensurate with the agony they cause sensitive eyes and ears. Not only unhappy themselves, they render every one else unhappy. Why not kill them? We know they are a nuisance to eye and ear—a disgrace to the city—a terror to all who know anything of the horrors of hydrophobia. And the only reason I can see for their being permitted to drag their festering carcasses about our streets by day, and penetrate, with their discordant voices the privacy of our nightly slumbers, is rank negligence on the part of some one. I presume it is the duty of the City Government to keep our streets free from live, as from dead, nuisances. Why not let some of our ornamental and doubtless capable policemen practise on vagrant dogs.

At any rate, in any manner, and at any cost, free us from this nuisance, the disgraceful prominence of which is rendered more prominent from the very fact that it is unnecessary and can be cured in a week, with no cost and but little trouble on the part of our leisurely police force.

Yours feelingly, A. G. SUFFERER.
May 30th, 1891.

A PLEA FOR MISSION SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I do not wish to dwell on the comments made recently in the *Kokkai* on the "personnel" of missionaries. Missionaries are human beings—therefore fallible. They cannot hope to escape or disarm criticism. Their only desire is to deserve adverse criticism as little as possible.

It is not the first time that the sweeping charges, made recently in the *Kokkai*, against mission schools have been brought to the notice of missionaries. It is a part of a missionary's experience that he is often obliged to listen to adverse criticism of his efforts from those to whom he is devoting his life.

It may be interesting to the *Kokkai* to know that there is no reluctance on the part of missionaries to avail themselves of the advice of competent and experienced educators in the conduct of their schools.

When such criticism has arisen, every effort to ascertain specifically in what respect the schools are wanting has been made. It will be regarded as a favour, I believe, by all missionaries engaged in school work, if the *Kokkai* or other competent critics will point out in detail wherein mission schools have failed to meet the needs of Japan. Sweeping charges we have found ineffectual. We have come to do good, not evil to Japan. But is not so pronounced a verdict premature? When the Japanese farmer plants his rice in the spring how eagerly the heavens are scanned; how earnestly rain and sunshine at the proper season are prayed for; how the gods are implored. But it is not until the 210th day is passed that he can say with certainty whether his crop is a success or failure. Has the 210th day of mission schools passed?

Thanking the *Japan Mail* for its kindly reference to the fact "that by the aid of these schools, hundreds of the youth of Japan who would otherwise have been left in comparative ignorance, have been educated and fitted to fill useful places in society," I would beg to add a word of personal experience.

One of our pupils married a rising man in official life—a man faithful and efficient—as is proved by the many embassies he has been sent on. A letter from him in my possession says—"My little daughter, now 6 years of age, shall as soon as old enough enter the school her mother was educated in." This is only one of many instances to prove that the 210th day of mission schools has not come, but is approaching.

Thanking you, and enclosing my card,
Yours truly,
AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY.
May 29th.

FREE COINAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The *Japan Gazette* of the 27th inst. contains an article on the "Free-Coinage Question." The writer evidently thinks that all that is worth knowing about the coinage of silver money and the effects thereof can be gained by the reading of it. I take the article as being best read beginning with the last proposition. "To put the matter in a simple form it amounts to this: The Government takes a piece of silver worth only 80 cents, puts a stamp on it, and declares by law it shall be considered worth 100, and those living under that law are compelled to receive the article at that price. But the law of that country cannot in the slightest degree affect the price in other countries." "In this country the metal circulating medium is all that can be desired; Japan's coinage is an honour to her. The ring of it is true and upright." Just so. But what then. The Japanese *yen*, is ever a *yen*, a good and honest coin as was ever made, but, unfortunately for the holder thereof, it has only bullion value because it is not exchangeable with gold. The silver coins of England, of France, of Italy, of the United States are as good as gold, as are the silver coins of all gold standard countries. No matter what the price of silver bullion, the silver coins of the gold standard countries never fluctuate in value. The stamp of the Government Mint makes the bullion coin as good as gold coin. Now I go to the first paragraph of the article.

"When the United States Government suddenly appeared in the money market as a wholesale buyer of silver, the vacillating value was felt the whole world over, the market value of the dollar fluctuating almost hourly." What dollar, or whose dollar fluctuated in value? It was not the dollar of any gold standard country. The Japanese silver *yen* fluctuated in value; the rupee of India fluctuated in value. The silver of China fluctuated in value; old silver ware fluctuated in value. The dollar of the United States did not fluctuate in value the one thousandth part of a cent. The writer says: "By the term Free Coinage is meant, as many of our readers doubtless know, that the United States mints shall be at liberty to flood the markets with any quantity of silver coins, and that there shall be no law restricting the period of such flooding." This is not so; it is a mistake. Free coinage does not implicate the Government at all, but free coinage, as demanded by the American people, is that any citizen being a holder of silver bullion may take it to the mints and demand its coinage into silver dollars, and dollars only. Free Coinage does not suppose that the Government will coin a single silver dollar on its own account. The writer says further, "The law of the land declares that 80 per cent. shall be considered 100; (*sic*). A Government like the United States can of

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course strike off any number of coins and declare by law that the dollars with 80 per cent. of silver in it is equal to a dollar with 100 per cent." How strange! Evidently the writer can learn very much more than is at his command at present in regard to the silver problem. I advise him to wait with what patience he can until the next American Congress convenes, wait until a free coinage bill is passed by that Congress, before he further ventilates what he does not know about silver money. The *Gazette* had better hasten to enlighten the "British capitalists in the States who have debts fixed on a gold basis" of the danger because of the accumulation of silver!! I had supposed that the idea had exploded ere this which attributed the fall in the price of silver to the coinage of dollars by the United States mints. If the suspicion that a free coinage measure would be passed by the last American Congress caused the value of silver to advance to within 6 per cent. of its old value as compared with gold, making the silver *yen* of Japan good for 95 gold cents in the money market of the world, is it not well to suppose that had the bill been actually pased silver would have resumed its old time gold value and maintained it. The question as to the advisability of free coinage of silver has assumed in the United States an importance that it demands. The thinking masses of the people, as forecast by the results of the last general election for members of the House of Representatives, which will assemble in Congress in November next, have determined that free coinage of silver shall be made the law of the land. The friends of silver will be in a overwhelming majority in the next congress; a free coinage bill will be passed, and if President Harrison, who is in leading strings held by the gold standard advocates, should veto it, his political life will end with his present tenure of his office, and the Republican party will fall to pieces because of it. I prognosticate that the Republican and the Democratic parties, as well as the Farmers' Alliance, will nominate candidates pledged to the free coinage of silver. Free coinage will be established in the United States. The silver *yen*, now worth 78 cents in gold will command 100 cents in gold, as it did when it was first coined, and what it should be worth to-day but for the war that the holders of gold have made upon silver.

Yours truly, X.

Yokohama, May 29th, 1891.

SUCCOUR TO TSUDA SANZO'S FAMILY

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Having noticed a letter signed "Fair Play" in last night's *Herald*, under the above heading, and fully sympathizing with and approving of the sentiments of the writer, I herewith beg to hand you *yen* 3 as a contribution towards a subscription for a similar purpose which I would respectfully request you to open in your paper.

I would suggest that it would be a graceful act on the part of the ladies of the foreign community to extend the hand of sisterly charity to the wife of this unhappy man in her distress and sorrow—remembering that while she is perfectly guiltless of participation in the husband's crime, yet the imprisonment for life of the bread-winner means life-long misery to her also. The Court has unfortunately been obliged to inflict punishment, but charity towards the innocent who are suffering for the guilty is imperative and a universal duty. Therefore:—

> Though justice be thy plea consider this
> That, in the course of justice none of us
> Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy:
> And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
> The deeds of mercy.

Tsuda Sanzo's hand was directed against a foreigner—what can be more meet than to show the Japanese nation that foreigners can forget, and while agreeing that it is correct to punish the criminal, preach a sermon by deeds—more eloquent than words—that Christianity is a living faith and not a mere dead creed among us. The people who have behaved so badly to this family in their native village, and the newspapers who have so bitterly reviled them, evidently believe in "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but we can teach them by our deeds on this occasion that Europeans can sympathize with no such barbarity, and, on the contrary, have hearts large enough to pity and help even those who might have been counted enemies under different circumstances.

Apologizing for trespassing on your valuable space,

Yours respectfully, JUSTICE.

Yokohama, May 30th, 1891.

DECORATION DAY.

The touching and impressive ceremony in which Americans take part once every year—the decoration of the graves of the "Nation's Dead"—was conducted on Saturday forenoon with all suitable observances by detachments from the U.S.S. *Monocacy*, and was attended by a large number of the residents of Yokohama of all nationalities. Usually on this station the celebration of Decoration Day has been confined to the landing of a small party from any man-of-war that might be in the harbour, to lay flowers on the graves of American soldiers and sailors, but in 1889 a welcome departure was made from this custom, and the community was permitted to witness the ceremony, conducted with all the dignity and solemnity that could be imparted to it by the presence of men from the ships of war in the port, the delivery of an oration and the recital of an original poem appropriate to the occasion. The orator then was Comrade Tilden of the *Omaha*, and the poet of the ceremony was Lieut. Foster. For the celebration of 1891 Dr. Eldridge consented to deliver the oration, and by a happy coincidence Lieut. Foster's presence in Yokohama allowed him to fill a part similar to that which he discharged in 1889. Had the *Alliance* remained in harbour, instead of being despatched to China, consequent upon recent troubles there, the event would have benefited by the presence of a larger number of marines and blue-jackets, and the detail of officers who walked beside Admiral Belknap would have formed a more imposing array, but the ceremony was not permitted to suffer materially in impressiveness by their absence.

Shortly after ten in the forenoon the detachment from the *Monocacy*, consisting of the band (numbering a score of performers) a similar number of marines, and over sixty blue jackets landed from the ship, and were duly formed and proved in companies on the Bund near the Grand Hotel. Lieutenant-Commander Richards was in command, Ensign Bryan acting as his adjutant. The line of march to the cemetery was then taken up, the band heading the column, next the marines, then the blue jackets; the officers of the *Monocacy* followed; then came a dozen veterans, mostly from the ship, and lastly those members of the general public who had elected to accompany the detachment from the landing place. On entering the cemetery the detachment, the band playing "General Grant's Funeral March," proceeded at once to the *Oneida* enclosure where, in a space marked off by iron rails, on the brow of a bluff removed from the din and clamour of the native crowd that thronged up to the fence on the Bluff road, fringed by umbrageous trees through which shimmered blue patches of the bay, the column erected to the memory of those who died on the *Oneida* stood in a thicket of miniature flags. Marching half round the spot the marines were drawn up with their left wing to the monument; the blue jackets formed two sides of a square, the officers a third, while the band took up a position in which they were partially hid by the trees that surround the scene, and by the tall pyramidal flower offerings which Japanese custom has made familiar to residents in this country.

After a minute's rest, the order "uncover" was given, and Rev. Mr. Loomis delivered the following invocation:—Oh Thou who art King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we rejoice that we are under the government of a Being who is not only Almighty but righteous and wise and good, and that all things are appointed and arranged by Thy paternal care. We recognize especially at this time Thy gracious hands in the past history of our nation, and we thank Thee for its wonderful growth and its present greatness and prosperity. We especially thank Thee that through various conflicts Thou hast been her helper and guide, and that to-day peace and happiness are the portion of a great and united people. Make us mindful of the sacrifices that have been made to preserve her unity and highest welfare. And may we be truly thankful to and honour those who have gained for us the privileges and blessings that we now enjoy. May the heroic deeds of the past be a stimulus to us to do our part in whatever field we are called to act. Help us to realize that we should live not simply for to-day, but so that when we are gone the world shall be made better by our influence and example. As we gather to do honour to those who have departed, may we dedicate ourselves anew to promote the peace and welfare of our beloved land. Bless our country. Bless those who are gathered here to-day. Bless the people of Japan. Bless the homes that have been made desolate by the loss of dear ones whom they shall meet here no more. Prepare us all for the final summons to Our Father's house above; and to the Father, Son and Spirit, will we give the praise for ever. Amen.

The men then resumed their caps and helmets while the band played the hymn "The Sweet Bye and Bye."

Dr. Eldridge, sometime a major in the U.S. Volunteers, who stood at one corner of the square, behind a small table covered with bouquets, then delivered his oration. He said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Fellow Citizens, and brethren of the Army and Navy of the United States: To-day, in our native land, our people are met, by tens of thousands, to honour the memory of those who died that we and our children, might still enjoy, unbroken and undiminished, the proud heritage bequeathed to us by the fathers of the Republic. Many, ah, many, were they who so died, ere yet the end was accomplished, and, of the men who fought yet lived to see the mighty struggle ended, the roll-call day by day grows shorter. But now we mourn two great ones, lately gone; in Sherman, type of all that is best in soldierly manhood, simple, true, loving, skilful, and brave, close friend of all his fellow countrymen, the admiration even of those whom once he vanquished; in Porter, hero son of hero sires, in battle awful as the ocean he so loved when tossed by wintry storm, in peace, serene and gentle as a summer sea, sailor and soldier, patriot and scholar. Not all of those whose deeds we celebrate to-day lie buried in the great camps of the dead, which dot the Southern plain, or sleep beside their fathers, who fell at Lexington or Trenton, nay! for some lie even here, garnered by the Death Angel, not from the field of battle, amid the roar of cannon, and the shriek of hurtling shell, but, standing firm, each at his post of duty, until as the circling foam alone marked the spot where sank the doomed *Oneida*, their souls went up to God! Just a generation ago, the tempest of blood and fire that, for four long years, swept over a once happy and peaceful country, began with the thunder that, resounding from the walls of Sumter, reverberated from the granite hills of New England, to the pine-clad Sierras of the Pacific; calling a great people to arms to maintain their existence as a nation. Treason and rebellion, organized in defence of that "sum of all villanies" slavery, an anachronism threatened by the very development and progress of the human race, menaced the integrity of the land. Nor was the call unheeded. From prairie, forest, and city they came, the stalwart sons of the Union, leaving the plow in the furrow, the axe in the tree, the shop unwatched, the smack at anchor. The pale student abandoned his books, the judge his bench, yea! the husband left his bride, the son his widowed mother, the lover the arms of his mistress! More in sorrow than in anger came they together, with naught of malice or revenge toward their misguided brethren, even with pity for their error, yet with firm purpose to fight, and, fighting, die, if need be, so that our country's flag, emblem of union, should still float proudly o'er us, its bright firmament lacking no single star of all the beauteous constellation! So gathered our countrymen at the call of duty, and fought and died by thousands, on a hundred fields of battle, by land and sea, from broad Mississippi's tawny flood to the shores of the blue Atlantic, from the dark and bloody ground of the old Indian wars, its stains, alas! renewed and deepened, to the sunny borders of the Gulf; their blood was poured like water, a sad libation to human freedom. And many there were who died, but not in glorious battle, the death a soldier craves. Witness the myriad victims of the foul mists and poisonous waters of the Southern swamps; and pitiful, most pitiful of all, those who perished prisoned, yearning for home and loved ones, eating out their hearts in hope deferred, finding release in death! Yet, may-be happier those who died outright, no matter how, than many who survived, poor wrecks of a once god-like manhood. Remote and dream-like as now seems the story of the war, the dread reality was close to every home in all the broad land.

> How, as the soldier, powder grimed and weary,
> With teeth still set in grim determination of the fight
> Stretched his sore limbs upon the sod of Shiloh,
> To rise with morning's sun, and fight again;
> Or picked his way through the débris of battle
> O'er decks all slippery with his comrade's blood.
> The loving wife or sister, far away,
> Pored on the scanty scroll that told the story,
> Fearing lest, in the tale of that day's slain,
> The name that meant all else on earth to her,
> May sear the sight, blasting all happiness.
> Or, as the picket tramped his darksome beat,
> Hour by hour, on Rappahannock's shore,
> How oft the mother wrestled with her God,
> In night-long prayer, if only he may live!
> E'en when the peals of Victory rang from many a joysome bell,
> Their tone, to thousands, spoke hope's funeral knell.

Ah! when we think how many the mourners of but a single battle, it seems incredible that the vail of sorrow should not, even now, o'ershadow our country! And was the result worth the cost? Yes! a thousand times yes! Long years of an unexampled prosperity, and of devotion to material interests alone, bade fair to destroy much

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that was greatest and noblest in the national character; and a war of principle and self sacrifice was a bitter, but most wholesome, moral tonic. The credit of the country, weakened as it had been by threatened, or actual, repudiation of obligations on the part of certain States, and notwithstanding a national indebtedness almost unparalleled, was established so that its securities were eagerly sought in all the world's exchanges. The grim spectre of Disunion, which had so often frightened the wisest and most patriotic of our statesmen into dubious paths of compromise and surrender of principle, is laid, we trust, forever. The shriek of weak woman, under the lash, or the bitter groan of the fugitive as his limbs were torn by brutes, less savage than the yelling crowd that set them on, no longer cry to Heaven of vengeance. Our erring brethren, no less brethren for their error, a sin blotted out in blood and tears, strengthened and purified by suffering, with new and higher aims, shaking off the trammels that slavery, long ago felt and acknowledged as a curse unspeakable by some of the greatest and best of Southern publicists, damning alike to master and to bondsman, had thrown about their manhood, have risen to bring forth out of the sloth and wickedness of the past a new and nobler Southland. Where sounded the whip of the overseer and the muttered imprecation of the slave, unwillingly wringing from the shuddering soil a fraction of its wealth, now rings out the merry music of free and happy labour, producing tenfold. The energy of Southern youth, dormant before or spent in ways that yielded Dead Sea fruit, now tears from the rocks their hidden stores, so long neglected, rears great factories, palaces of the dethroned king, Cotton, and, with patient skill, renews the fruitfulness of mother earth, exhausted by the reckless methods of an older day; while, from North to farthest South, from East to rosy West, the iron belts of inland commerce bind the land as one, in common interests. Not least among causes for congratulation is it, that the victory of the Union was unstained by any act of vengeance or oppression of the coquered. Mistakes in policy have, no doubt, been made, in the solution of the problems without precedent, arising from the peculiar conditions of the case, but, despite these, history presents no equal example of such speedy calming of passion and renewal of brotherhood, after the agony of civil war, save in this bright foreign land where now we sojourn, and whose flowers we strew to day. Side by side, in the councils of a redeemed nation, sit those who, sword in hand, met in the crash and din of bloody conflict. Shoulder to shoulder, yea! hand in hand they march, even on this day of sad, yet glorious, associations, hiding in garlands sweetly odorous as the memory of the brave, the tombs where sleep alike the blue and grey!

"Not in anger, not in pride,
Pure from passion's mixtures rude,
Ever to base earth allied,
But with far heard gratitude,
Still with heart and voice renewed,
To heroes living, add dear martyrs dead.
The strain should close that consecrates our brave,

* * * * *

'Tis no Man we celebrate,
By his country's victory great,
A hero half and the whim of fate;
But the pith and marrow of a nation
Drawing force from all her men
Highest, humblest, weakest, all,
For her time of need, and then
Pulsing it again through them,
Till the basest can no longer cower
Feeling his soul spring up divinely tall
Touched but in passing, by her mantle hem!

* * * * *

Be proud, for she is saved and all have helped to save her!
She that lifts up the manhood of the poor,
She of the open soul and open door,
With room about her hearth for all mankind!
The fire is dreadful in her eyes no more,
From her bold front the helm she does unbind,
Sends all her handmaid armies back to spin,
And bids her navies, that so lately hurled
Their crashing battle, hold their thunders in,
Swimming like birds of calm, along the unharmful shore.

* * * * *

Oh Beautiful! My Country! ours once more,
Among the nations bright beyond compare
What were our lives without thee?
What all our lives to save thee?
We reck not what we gave thee,
We will not dare to doubt thee,
But ask whatever else, and we will dare."

It need not be said that the silent crowd who stood bareheaded outside the lines of sailors, listened attentively to the oration, the eloquent language of which was rendered with all the advantages that powerful declamation or apt gesture could supply. When Dr. Eldridge ceased, a dirge was played, and the blue-jackets with the exception of a couple of files left to guard the colours, broke their ranks and dispersed over the cemetery to lay flowers on the graves of their dead comrades.

After an interval of about a quarter of an hour, the ranks were reformed and Lieut. Foster read the following poem:—

THE NATION'S DEAD.

We have met in reverent mood to-day
To honour the Nation's Dead;
They are our own—both the Blue and Grey,
But unseen they march in their close array
And we hear not their noiseless tread.

Their Strife it is ended; at Peace are they,
In a Brotherhood of Love:
They are marching on, the Blue and the Grey,
And with spirit blossoms they strew the way
That leads on to the One above.

Their flowers are spirits of those below,
Their fragrance more refined;
Their faces are lighted, their eyes aglow,
But not with the hatred we worldlings know;
'Tis the Light from the Master's Mind.

Their thoughts are on Him, they ever aspire
To emulate His Love;
Each is a spark of the Infinite Fire,
They think not of Self, or of mad desire
And turn ever to Him above.

And while marching on in their long array
They would have us all to know;
That all strife has ceased for Blue and Grey,
That united by Love they march to-day,
For they know not friend from foe.

"Old Hundred" was now played by the band, and Mr. Loomis pronounced the benediction, after which the detachment was marched out of the cemetery in almost the same order as before, proceeding thence to the strains of "Marching through Georgia" down the Camphill and so to the Bund, whence it went off to the ship.

As we have already stated, the ceremony was witnessed by a large crowd of people. Among those whose presence may be said to have official importance were Admiral Belknap, and all the officers who could be spared from the ship; the new U. S. Consul-General, Mr. Tillotson, and the officials of the Consulate-General. No formal invitations were issued, but we learn that the Governor of Kanagawa and his Secretary and Councillors would certainly have been present had not most pressing business demanded their attention.

The following detail proceeded under the command of Lieut. Foster to Ikegami by the 12.55 train, and decorated with flowers the shaft erected there to the memory of the crew of the *Oneida*:—Pay Clerk H. Stemper, U.S. Navy, C. Anderson, M. at A.; J. H. Bullard, Sergeant; T. Dunn, C. A.G.; K. Forbes, C. Qr. Mr.; E G. Freyer, S.W.; R. F. Gray, C.B.M.; W. Godfrey, C.F.; S. Mc. Ginnity, C. Gr. M.; J. Habel, Eng. Yeo.; J. J. Jensen, Mach.; E. Murphy, Arm.; C. J. Olsen, Mach.; G. Williams, Equip. Yeo.

EXAMINATIONS FOR JUDGES AND PUBLIC PROCURATORS.

Regulations for the Examination of Judges and Public Procurators shall be decided as follows.

Count YAMADA AKIYOSHI,
Minister of State for Justice.

Dated May 15th, 1891.

NOTIFICATION, No. 3.

CHAPTER I.—COMMITTEE OF EXAMINATION.

Article 1.—The Committee of Examination for Judges and Public Procurators shall consist of a chairman and members.

Article 2.—The Chairman and Committee of Examination shall be appointed by the Minister of State for Justice from among Judges and Public Procurators of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, and higher officials of the Judicial Department.

Article 3.—The Chairman of Committee shall superintend the committee and preside over all affairs relating to examinations.

Article 4.—Clerks of the Committee shall be appointed by the Minister of State for Justice for each examination from among *soku* of the Judicial Department or clerks of Courts of law.

CHAPTER II.—QUALIFICATIONS.

Article 5.—Candidates for examination shall be males of or over their majority who belong to one of the following classes:—

1. Who have graduated from the Division of Law in the First or Third Higher Middle School.
2. Who have the diploma of any private schools where law is taught in accordance with the rules sanctioned by the Minister of State for Education.
3. Who have studied law at and obtained the diploma of a foreign university or a foreign school similar in rank to a university.

Article 6.—Persons coming under Article 66 of the Law of the Constitution of Courts of Law shall not be permitted to attend examinations.

CHAPTER III.—THE FIRST EXAMINATION.

Article 7.—The first examination shall be conducted in the Judicial Department, on a day to be appointed and notified in the *Official Gazette* by the Chairman of the Examination Committee.

Article 8.—Candidates for examination shall send in a letter of application (*shigansho*) with the following documents, to the Chairman of the examination Committee:—

(1.) Description of candidates' antecedents.
(2.) Certificate as to identity and military service.
(3.) Certificate required by Art. 5.

Article 9.—The examination is to test the knowledge of law possessed by the candidates, and consists of two modes, written and oral.

Article 10.—The written examination (*hikkishiken*) shall deal with the Civil Code, Commercial Code, Criminal Code, Code of Civil Procedure, and Code of Criminal Procedure.

Article 11.—If the Committee, after examining the written answers of a candidate, consider him qualified, they shall proceed with the oral examination.

Article 12.—The oral examination shall refer to at least three of the Codes—the Civil, Commercial, and Criminal Codes, and the Codes of Criminal and Civil Procedure.

Article 13.—The results of the examination shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority of the Committee with regard both to the oral and written examinations. When opinions as to whether a candidate has passed the examination or not are equal, he shall be regarded as unsuccessful.

Article 14.—When a candidate does not attend the oral examination, the examination shall be held as non-existent.

Article 15.—The chairman of the Examination Committee shall report the names of those who have passed the examination, and its result, to the Minister of State for Justice.

Article 16.—Graduates of the Law Department of the Imperial University who desire to become judicial officials shall send letters of application to the Minister of State for Justice in accordance with the provisions of Article 8.

CHAPTER IV.—PRACTICAL TRAINING.

Article 17.—Each candidate (*shiho*) must go through a course of practical training in the local and district courts as well as in a public procurator's office, under one or more judges or public procurators.

Article 18.—The direct guidance and superintendence of the candidate during practical training shall be vested in the President of the local court (*chiho-saibansho*); and where the business of public procurators is the subject of practical training, in the office of the Head Public Procurator.

The President of a district court or the Head Public Procurator shall sign a certificate relating to the private and professional conduct of each candidate, as well as to the business transacted by him at the end of each year, and transmit the same to the Minister of State for Justice through the President of the Appeal Court or the Chief Public Procurator.

Article 19.—Candidates shall keep a journal of their course of training (*shushu-mokuroku*), and state in it the cases conducted by them. This journal shall be presented each month to the official under whose control they are, whose inspection of the same must be obtained.

Article 20.—Periods aggregating not more than two months in each year, during which practical training is not engaged in by a candidate on account of illness or the performance of military service, shall be included in the term of practical training.

Periods aggregating not more than one month in each year, during which practical training was not engaged in owing to holidays and other causes, shall be included as in the last paragraph.

Where absence has occurred in one year both on account of holidays and illness, such periods cannot be included in that of training unless they aggregate less than two months.

Article 21.—If a candidate neglects his official duties, or conducts himself in a manner unsuitable to his position either in his office or in his private life, he shall be warned by the official under whose control he is. In such a case, an entry shall be made of the fact in the candidate's journal by such official.

Article 22.—Should it be thought of any candidate that there is no prospect of his passing through the second examination either on account of improper conduct or of imperfect knowledge, his superintendent shall report the fact to the Minister of State for Justice through the medium of the President of the Appeal Court or the Chief Public Procurator.

The Minister of State for Justice may, on receipt of a report such as is provided for in the last paragraph, dismiss the candidate.

CHAPTER V.—SECOND EXAMINATION.

Article 23.—The Second Examination shall be conducted in the Appeal Court.

The place of such examination shall be decided by the Minister of State for Justice, and the day of the examination fixed by the Chairman of the Examination Committee.

Article 24.—Candidates shall, in order to take part in the second examination, submit letters of application to the Minister of State for Justice

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through the official superintending them. A statement as to the practical training of the candidate, and a certificate as to his full performance of, or discharge from, military or naval service must be submitted with the letter of application.

Article 25.—The Minister of State for Justice shall notify the names of candidates for the second examination to the Chairman of the Examination Committee, and instruct him to carry out such examination.

Article 26.—The principal object of the second examination is to ascertain whether a candidate has made himself acquainted with the practical business of his profession, and the examination shall be in two parts, written and oral.

Article 27.—The Examination Committee shall deliver to each candidate legal documents referring to two or more cases, on which to conduct the written examination.

Article 28.—The candidate shall on these documents draw up a decision with a statement of reasons. Such decision must be given within 20 days, otherwise the examination shall be void.

Article 29.—The oral examination shall be conducted on at least three of the Codes—Civil, Commercial, and Criminal Codes and the Codes of Criminal and Civil Procedure. Questions shall also be given on legal documents, and replies to them shall be required. The documents shall be given out three days previous to the opening of the examination.

Article 30.—The Minister of State for Justice shall, in the following cases, dismiss candidates according to the report of the Chairman of the Examination Committee:—

(1.) Where a candidate does not pass the second examination.

(2.) Where the second examination is declared void.

Article 31.—Should a candidate prove the existence of unavoidable facts in connection with the foregoing conditions, and the Examination Committee recognize them as proper, the latter shall report the same to the Minister of State for Justice.

Should the Minister of State for Justice receive such a report as is provided in the last paragraph, he may cause the candidate to continue in practical training till the next examination.

Article 32.—Articles 11 and 13-15, relating to the first examination, shall also be applicable to the second examination.

Reference:—"Law of Organization of the Courts of Law (Law No. 6, 1890)."

Article 66.—The following persons cannot be created judges or public procurators:—

1. Persons who have been convicted of a crime, unless such crime be of a political nature, and they have been rehabilitated.
2. Persons who have been convicted of a delict punishable with hard labour.
3. Persons who are in the condition of undischarged bankrupts."

THE PHOTOGRAPIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The annual meeting of the above mentioned Society was held at the rooms of the Geographical Society of Japan, Nishikonya-cho, Tokyo, on Friday, May 29th, at 5. p.m.

Mr. ISHIKAWA, having announced that he had received a note from Viscount Okabe, Vice-President of the Society, who had been asked to preside, to the effect that he would not be able to to attend, Mr. Edmond R. Holmes took the chair.

The following report of the Secretaries, for the past year, was read:—

Like the last year's report, the present one need be but short, as there is little to record save the successful working of the Society for another year. The membership of the Society now exceeds a hundred. Since the last annual meeting, there have been only four ordinary meetings, but there have also been two exhibitions of photographs. One was held in Tokyo in the Autumn of last year, the Exhibits consisting of the photographs done by members during the vacation. The other was held in Yokohama quite recently, the object being the exhibition of the results of work done on bromide paper that had been presented to the Society by Mr. S. Cocking, and also to award prizes kindly offered by Mr. Cocking, to the exhibitors of the three best pictures. Both exhibitions were highly successful. Besides these there were several outdoor meetings that afforded great pleasure to those who attended. It is to be regretted that the attendance at-out-door meetings is not larger.

The following processes have been described or demonstrated at different times since we presented you with last year's report:—The Developement of Bromide Prints, Husband's Photolithographic process, the carbon process, the Gelatino-chloride printing process, the renovating of spoiled Eikonogen, flash light photography, and a new silver-printing process.

As regards the number of membership, attendance of meetings, and work done, we venture to pronounce the Society a success, but we still have to regret that the Society does not receive more support than it does from the profession generally.

Mr. J. Johnstone, of Yokohama, expressed some time ago his wish to resign his position as member of Committee, as he found that he had not sufficient leisure to attend to the business of the Society. It was thought best, however, that he should remain on the list of Members of Committee till the present annual meeting.

Dr. W. S. Bigelow, having no present intention of returning to Japan, naturally ceases to be a Vice-President of the Society.

The following balance-sheet was read by the Treasurers, who pointed out that it indicated a decided advance in the prosperity of the Society:—

BALANCE SHEET OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN FOR THE YEAR 1891.—CASH ACCOUNT.

To Entrance fees and subscriptions from 54 members.		175.000
To Balance from 1890		23.585
		$198.585
By Expenses, annual meeting, 1890		20.000
By Rent of rooms for meeting and refreshments, 1891		51.250
By Printing expenses—		
Japanese	28.50	
Foreign	3.50	32.000
By Stationary and postage—		
Japanese	11.15	
Foreign	6.83	17.980
By Flags used at meeting		7.000
By Balance in favour of Society		70.355
		$198.585

ASSETS.

Subscriptions and entrance fees unpaid—		
1890 ..... Japanese	24	
1890 ..... Foreigners	21	
1891 ..... Japanese	36	
1891 ..... Foreigners	28	109.000
Property of the Society		10.800
Post cards on hand		.750
Balance in cash		70.555
		$191.105

LIABILITIES.

Rent and expenses annual meeting 1891 (about)	26.000
Balance in favour of Society	165.108
	$191.105

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with.

With the exception of Dr. W. S. Bigelow, Vice-President, who has left the country, and Mr. J. Johnstone, Member of Committee who resigned some time ago, on account of his not having time to attend to the work of the Society, all the Officers of last year were unanimously re-elected.

Proposed by Mr. W. K. BURTON, seconded by Mr. E. P. PALLISTER, Mr. J. B. Rentiers, was elected a member of Committee.

Proposed by Mr. BURTON, seconded by Mr. A. J. HARE, Mr. C. D. West was elected a Vice-President.

Proposed by Mr. I. ISHIKAWA, seconded by Mr. HARE, Mr. Y. Ishidzu was elected a member of Committee.

A large number of samples of their manufactures that had been presented to the Society by the Fry Manufacturing Co. of London, were distributed amongst the members present. Some excellent work, in the way of bromide prints and opals, done on certain of the samples by Mr. S. Kajima were also shown. Mr. C. D. West had tried the plates, and had found them of very high quality. M. W. K. Burtion showed some platinotype prints. These, he explained, had been done on paper that had been kept for more than a year, and that gave nothing but deep fog worked in the usual way. Excellent results had, however, been got by printing very deeply, then developing with a cold solution made up as follows:—A five per cent. solution of washing soda, 20 ounces; a saturated solution of bromine, in water, 30 minims. He did not remember who had first suggested the use of soda as a developer for platinotype prints. The bromine had been suggested by Dr. E. Divers, F.R.S. It formed hypobromite of sodium with the soda solution, and this was a powerful restrainer of fog, in platinotype work.

Mr. K. Arito showed some prints on drawing paper that were of a remarkably fine black tone. They had been prepared by the following formulae:

SALTING SOLUTION.

Chloride of ammonium	50 grains.
Gelatine	100 grains.
Water	10 ounces.

This was warmed, and 2 ounces of negative varnish were added.

SENSITIZING SOLUTION.

Nitrate of silver	2 ounces.
Water	10 ounces.

TONING SOLUTION.

Chloroplatinite of Potassium	15 grains.
Citric acid	50 ounces.
Water	25 grains.

FIXING SOLUTION.

Hyposulphite of soda	2 ounces.
Water	10 ounces.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the officers for their labours during the past year, and to the Chairman of the meeting just finished.

After this there was a conversazione.

THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A special meeting of the Seismological Society of Japan was held yesterday at the College of Engineering, Imperial University, Tokyo. Among those present were Dr. Divers (in the chair), Professors West, C. G. Knott, Milne, Yamagawa, and Kikuchi, and Mr. C. A. W. Pownall.

The minutes of last meeting were read and adopted.

The following resolutions, of which notice was given at last meeting were then brought forward for discussion:—

(1).—That the Seismological Society of Japan be dissolved as soon as the present Volume of Transactions (in the press) is published.

(2).—That the Committee of the Society be instructed to endeavour forthwith to found a Journal of Seismology to take its place as a means of advancing the Science.

(3).—That the present Secretary of the Society Professor John Milne, F.R.S., be asked to become Proprietor and Conductor of the Journal.

(4).—That the Journal be left for ultimate support to annual subscriptions from those interested in seismology, and to sales, but that to assist it at first the Society give over to the Proprietor any balance of funds, and also the remaining stock of printed Transactions to be afterwards sold in the interest of the Journal as occasions offer.

(5).—That the collection of books and periodicals forming the present library of the Society be presented for acceptance to the Imperial University, Japan, for the use of its Seismological Department.

After some discussion it was decided to discuss the resolutions separately.

Professor KIKUCHI, who was not present at the previous meeting, asked what were the chief grounds upon which it was thought necessary to bring forward these recommendations.

Professor MILNE said one great difficulty that had been experienced in connection with the Society was in reference to the getting of members to attend not only meetings where papers were to be read but even Committee meetings. The interest appeared to be flagging, and the Committee found themselves, specially the Secretary found himself, in the awkward position that after people had been asked to contribute papers no one appeared to hear them read. That was certainly an important reason why there should be something proposed in the way of alteration.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the want of interest extended even to the Committee meetings. It simply resulted in two or three men having the settling of the affairs of the Society.

Professor KIKUCHI said it seemed to him that there would be no dearth of papers so long as they had Professor Milne, and there would always be plenty from other authors so long as there was some one to hunt them up. They were not in want of funds, and he thought it would be a great pity to dissolve the society while they were still in a position to publish their transactions, even though they might not get people to come to the meetings. He did not see why they should not suspend the meetings and simply go on publishing the Transactions. He did not know whether this would be against the constitution or not, but if it was, the constitution might be amended.

The CHAIRMAN said it was not against the constitution.

Professor KIKUCHI said of course if anything occurred of special interest, such as the eruption of Bandai-san, they could have a meeting and be certain to get a large audience. Further, perhaps the subscription might be reduced from five *yen* to three *yen*, and thus a larger number of members secured.

The CHAIRMAN said something of that sort had been talked about already, but the difficulty was that they would have a Society in name but not in reality. They would have a number of officers who would have no functions, and the whole thing would be a sham. Speaking of the scope of the College of Science Journal *vis-à-vis* the Seismological Society, he said he had seen it suggested in one of the newspapers that the latter should take the leavings, the bits of odds and ends that were not reported in the Journal of the College of Science. That might be all very well, but he did not think many would care to run such a society.

In reply to Mr. POWNALL,

The CHAIRMAN said he understood the intention was that the journal should be subscribed for and that its formation should depend on the amount of support given. That was meant in paragraphs 3 and 4. It was proposed that a circular should be sent round by the new proprietor.

Professor KIKUCHI said he thought he could say that many of the Japanese members who would continue members of the Society would cease to subscribe for the Journal.

The CHAIRMAN said that might naturally be the

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case as the Journal would be published in English. The loss of Professor Sekiya was a most serious blow to the Japanese side of the Society.

Mr. KNOTT thought there was great difficulty in running the Society and publishing exactly the same papers as those in the College of Science Journal. Naturally all the papers prepared in connection with the College of Science would be published in the Journal of the College. He did not see very well how the society could exist on such terms.

The CHAIRMAN said it could not complain.

Professor KNOTT said of course not.

Professor KIKUCHI did not see how that objection could be met by the publication of the Journal now proposed.

Professor WEST pointed out that the Journal could quote information from other sources.

The CHAIRMAN said it would have its base in Japan, but its scope would be much more general.

Professor KNOTT said the Journal would have a character essentially different from the Transactions. There was more freedom in connection with a Journal run by an editor: he could take what he liked.

Mr. POWNALL expressed himself in favour of keeping the Society going.

Professor KIKUCHI thought that as a matter of fact they had been doing pretty much as he proposed for some time; holding about a couple of meetings a year.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that with the small attendance at their meetings they really could not have the face to ask people to read papers. The very word "Society" seemed to be lost if they did not hold meetings.

Profesor KIKUCHI thought it would certainly break the continuity of the transactions to call them a Journal.

Professor MILNE said there must be some alteration in the status of the society. On one or two points he was quite satisfied. He should not care to be an officer of the Society in its present state—to call committee and general meetings and not have them attended. He would work individually for seismology in carrying on a Journal either connected with or unconnected with the Society, but not if meetings were held.

The first resolution was then put and carried.

In the course of discussion which took place on the next proposals, several gentlemen expressed the view that in reference to the second and third it was impossible to act without the concurrence of Professor Milne, and the CHAIRMAN said he thought they should express the hope that the Professor would carry on the Journal, and that they ought to give him all the support they could.

Professor KIKUCHI eventually proposed the following to take the place of the third and fourth proposals:—"That the present Secretary of the Society, Professor John Milne, F.R.S., be asked to found a Journal of Seismology to take its place as a means of advancing the science."

The CHAIRMAN explained that as this proposal did not involve an amendment of the Constitution it could be decided at this meeting.

The proposal was then put to the meeting and adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said if the meeting was with him he would now ask Professor Milne whether he would consent to endeavour to found the Journal.

Mr. POWNALL, before the question was put, asked leave to so far touch on the fourth proposal as to say that it would hardly be fair to ask a man to start a thing until he knew how much support he would have. He would therefore propose that the first part of the proposal be altered, the whole reading:—"That the present members of the Society be invited to transfer their support to the Journal and that to assist it at first the Society give over to the Proprietor any balance of funds, and also the remaining stock of printed Transactions to be afterwards sold in the interest of the Journal as occasions offer."

After slight discussion, the amended proposal was agreed to.

The fifth proposal was then put and likewise agreed to.

Professor KIKUCHI suggested that the Committe should be instructed to take the necessary steps to wind up the Society.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that they had not obtained from Professor Milne a formal statement as to whether he was prepared to act on the modified resolutions.

Professor MILNE said he would take steps to find out what chance there was of getting support for the Journal, after which he would be in a position to decide whether he should be able to carry it on or not.

On the motion of Professor KNOTT, it was agreed "that the Committee be instructed to carry these resolutions into effect and to report to this society before its dissolution."

This terminated the business.

LETTER FROM CHINA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, May 29th.

The inhabitants of the Yangtze Valley were severe sufferers through the Taiping rebellion, and the cities, towns, and villages devastated by the rebels, or the Imperialists, took many long and weary years to recover their prosperity, but the sufferings occasioned by that period of anarchy are now forgotten. Peace, however, has not brought content, and recent events have proved that it requires very little to cause the masses to rise against authority. All the disturbances that have taken place in the Yangtze Valley are attributed to the secret society known as the Ko lao Hui, and no doubt rightly so. The ultimate object of such disturbances is to oust the present Government of China, in favour, it must be presumed, of a purely Chinese dynasty. The Ko-lao Hui is an exceedingly powerful association, and its members are known to consist largely of high officials, influential gentry, and *literati*, as well as of thousands of the working classes of this country. There seems to be no doubt but that the Ko-lao Hui is dreaded by the Authorities, who are powerless to suppress the Society, and who have therefore frequently had recourse to bribery in order to secure temporary immunity from trouble. The tactics of this Society are, so it is declared, to embroil the Chinese Government in disputes with the foreign powers, which they trust will be too serious for settlement by diplomacy, for if by any complication the Chinese were involved in another war, that would be the occasion, so the active members of the Society think, to work their own projects for an overthrow of the hated Manchu dynasty. All this opens a very wide field for conjecture, and even alarm, as it is by no means sure that the great dignitaries of the Empire would loyally stand by the present Emperor and his family, if there were any chance of placing a pure Chinese on the Dragon Throne, and any serious defection in high quarters would very soon obtain a following of the people. Be it how it may, it seems certain that the recent outbreaks on the Yangtze are not prompted solely by hatred to foreigners, locally expressed, as there was a systematic organization about each outbreak which denoted something more powerful than opposition to foreign religious institutions, the off-spring of silly superstition. The first outbreak occurred at Yangchow some months ago, and was with difficulty prevented from becoming serious in its results. On the 12th of this month a very serious riot took place at Wuhu, when the Roman Catholic Mission at that port was destroyed, and all foreign residents there were in great danger. Neither the Taotai nor Magistrate acted with promptness and decision, and though the mob was kept in check by the determined attitude of the Commissioner of Customs and his subordinates, it was only owing to the accidental arrival at Wuhu next day of the Governor of Anhui—who was proceeding to his seat of government at Ngankin after acting as Viceroy at Nanking—with an escort of three Chinese men-of-war, that further destruction of foreign property was averted and the lives of foreigners rendered safe. The Governor, on being appealed to by the British Consul, anchored his vessels close to the shore, and at once took effective measures to disperse the mob, who rapidly melted away before the force opposed to them. At the time of the outbreak there was no foreign man-of-war at any Yangtze port, though the gun-boat *Inconstant* was despatched from this port on the 13th, but only arrived at Wuhu after all the trouble was over. The officers and men of the *Inconstant* were naturally very indignant when they learned that the mob had desecrated the graves of French priests, but ere their indignation had cooled they had to leave for Ngankin, where a similar outbreak to that which occurred at Wuhu was apprehended. Ngankin is 109 miles farther up the river than Wuhu, both places being in the province of Anhui, the former being the seat of Government, and the *Inconstant* arrived there on the 18th. Fortunately the Governor, who had but just arrived, acted with praiseworthy decision, and though at one time both the Roman Catholic and China Inland Missions were threatened, no serious damage was done and the mob dispersed. Hardly had these troubles subsided than they had warning that the Missions at Nanking were in danger. On the 24th instant foreign Missionaries received semi-official warning to leave the city as an outbreak was imminent, and this advice was promptly acted upon as regards the women and children, who left the city without being molested or threatened, yet after their departure the dreaded rising took place and the Methodist Girls' School was looted and an attempt was made to destroy it by fire, and other Mission establishments were attacked. The Viceroy took steps, it appears, to suppress the riot, and arrested several of the ringleaders, but it is not certain yet that all danger is past. There are also rumours of troubles with foreign missions at Hochow, a place on the Yangtze, forty miles from Ngankin. Whilst all these troubles were occurring on the Yangtze we were not without anxiety here in Shanghai. Some short time ago three natives were walking in Indian file on the French Concession, when the two leading men discovered that their companion was not following them. On turning back to look for him they discovered him lying on the ground in a dying condition, and as they had shortly before passed by a French policeman on duty, they promptly accused the foreign guardian of the peace of having knocked down and slain their companion. An enquiry was held before the French Consul-General and the Chinese Magistrate, but no satisfactory reason for the man's death could be arrived at, as the Magistrate would not allow a post-mortem examination of the body, and there was no direct evidence of assault offered. The policeman was consequently discharged, but it was thought advisable to ship him to France by the mail. The relatives of the deceased made as much commotion as possible, and this pretext was seized by disaffected persons or rowdies to issue placards calling for an attack on Frenchmen, and rumours of a serious nature were rife in the Settlement, especially that all French Missions were to be destroyed on the 27th. The Taotai was not intimidated, but took energetic measures to arrest the fomentors of trouble, and to prevent any outbreak. As a matter of precaution the foreign children being educated at some of the outlying French schools were sent to their homes for a few days, and a guard of native soldiers was sent out to the Roman Catholic Mission at Siccawei. Acting on the advice of the American Consul-General, the ladies living at St. Johns, Jessfield, came into Shanghai. Early in the morning of the 27th a large fleet of Chinese gun-boats, anchored off the city, commenced firing at intervals, just to show that a military force was handy, and in the afternoon the Shanghai Volunteer Corps were paraded. All this seems to have been sufficient to prevent any disturbance, and matters now seem to be quieting down; but yet those who know the Chinese and their peculier ways are not satisfied that all trouble is at an end, nor will they feel satisfied until energetic measures are taken by the Central Government to root out the Secret Societies which are at the bottom of all these disturbances. Mr. W. V. Drummond published a letter in the *North China Daily News* yesterday morning which attacks the reasons for these outbreaks in a very uncompromising and straightforward manner, and shows that the lives of foreigners will be imperilled before long unless the foreign Powers take steps to protect their nationals by ample naval-forces in Chinese waters. Unfortunately for us, the British Admiral who has just arrived on this station, is of opinion that the Chinese Government is able and willing to protect foreigners without aid, and it may be that he will not get rid of this idea until a few British Consuls at small out-ports have been massacred. I am glad to say that the latest news from the River ports is that all is quiet. At Wuhu eleven rioters who had been arrested were to have been decapitated yesterday.

The *Moyune* is the first steamer away with new season's teas. She left Hankow on Saturday the 23rd, but got on shore on Monday morning forty-five miles below Kiukiang, owing to shoal water in the river. We have had an exceptionally dry spring, and the water in the Yangtze is still falling, whereas it ought to have risen by this time of the year very considerably. Fortunately the steamer *Ghazee* was able to tow the *Moyune* off the bank, and the latter vessel arrived safely at Woosung about 9 a.m. yesterday, the 28th. She left for London shortly after noon, taking 4,100 tons tea at £4. The Blue Funnel steamer *Telamon* will be the second steamer away, and is to leave Hankow to-day, her rate being £2.5. The tea market this year has been very disappointing. The market opened on the 4th instant, and all the fine teas were immediately snapped up by buyers for Russia, from 50 to 100 per cent. above last year's prices having been paid. Yet buyers holding Russian orders cannot fill them, as only a small supply of really fine teas was procurable, and the result will be that teas will again be purchased in London for Russia. Settlements up to the 22nd instant were, for Russia 344,000 half-chests, against 449,000 half-chests last year; and for England 58,000 half-chests against 75,000 half-chests last year. The crop, with exception of the few fine teas, is complained of this year as being tarry.

Mrs. Brown-Potter and Mr. Kyrle Bellew gave a performance last night at the Lyceum Theatre to a good and very appreciative audience. Scenes from "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet" were the attraction, and the two artists were wonderfully

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good throughout, but perhaps Mr. Bellow excelled in the closet scene from "Hamlet" and Mrs. Brown Potter in the potion scene from "Romeo and Juliet." These artists proceed to Japan to-day, and residents at Yokohama should not lose the opportunity of witnessing how well they can interpret Shakespeare.

THE GROWTH OF THE ENGLISH NOVEL.

The following is the substance of a lecture delivered on Monday, May 11th, before the senior students of the Meiji Gaku In literary department, by Professor Dixon of the Imperial University:—

A great variety of opinion exists as to the precise date at which we should place the origin of our modern novel. Some would have it already in existence as far back as the sixteenth century. Mr. J. R. Lowell finds it budding prematurely before Cressy was fought, recognizing in the *Melusine* of Jehan d'Arras "the forlorn hope of the modern novel." The French term corresponding to our novel is *roman*, romance, a word which originally covered a far more extensive field than it does at present. The French *roman* might recount either a true or a fictitious tale, and might be either in verse or in prose. The word itself—to be carefully distinguished from *romain*, Roman,—was employed to define a language which was supposed to have stood mid-way between Latin and the modern languages founded upon Latin. More particularly was the name applied to the Langue d'Oc or dialect of Provence. In this sunny southern clime in which traces of the Greek civilization continued to linger and have never died out, there bloomed forth about eight hundred years ago a wonderfully rich and fascinating civilization. It was the land of the Troubadours, those knight-minstrels who travelled about in search of adventures, and like the Greeks of old mingled athletic exercises with literary pursuits. The fairest women of the time, who were worshipped with a devotion that would seem ridiculous in an Asiatic country, adjudged the prizes and conferred them upon the fortunate knights. Somewhat later a vast body of romantic literature sprang up north of the Loire, having in it more force and vitality than the ingenious and fanceful compositions of the Troubadours. The adventures and exploits of Charlemagne and his Paladins, the legendary tales of the British King Arthur, and even the loves and wars of Alexander the Great, formed the subjects of these lengthy compositions. The most famous of them all was the *Roman de la Rose*, which took the form of an allegory, and thus concealed its attacks on current beliefs. This long romance was followed by others in prose, but the more literal form of composition did not mark any approach to greater reality. The mediæval romances finally died out after they had descended to all manner of meaningless and fantastic nonsense. The Greeks and Romans had stories, but no novels. The Greek drama sufficed for the entertainment of the people, and the elements were not present in society for the production of the social conditions which give the zest to our modern novel. In both Greece and Rome the presence of a great slave community offered material rather for the merciless stylus of the satirist than the milder pen of the novelist. The growth of the novel and the growth of journalism have proceeded at almost the same rate. We trace our first English newspaper to the exciting days of the Spanish Armada, when every Englishman was on tip-toe to hear how Drake and Hawkins had fared in the struggle with the huge fleet from Lisbon. It was eight years before, in 1580, that Lyly published his *Euphues*, which a recent French author[1] regards as our first English novel. About this time, also, Sir Philip Sidney wrote his *Arcadia*, which was to delight so highly the impressionable ladies of the court of Queen Elizabeth. But neither journalism nor novel-writing was destined to show any specific growth until an English standing army marked the complete break up of feudalism, and the nobility as a class ceased to delight in arms. The novel was a product of a peaceful civilization. Defoe was both a journalist and a novelist. Of all writers who have ever written in English he had the completest power of presenting fiction so that it appeared like fact. Society by this time was ripe for the discussion of things on a rational and matter-of-fact basis. Then, moreover, began our modern system of entertaining friends at social gatherings, where opportunities were furnished for the meeting of the two sexes free from any other control than the mere demands of social propriety and etiquette. In Elizabeth's reign that imperious queen dictated to her courtiers when they should marry and whom they should marry. But in Queen Anne's time society had grown too strong for such control. Another cause favouring the rise of the novel was the keen appetite shown by women in the beginning of the eighteenth century to obtain a more nourishing and stimulating mental diet. The fantastic gallantry of the Cavalier, equally with the sober pedantry of the Puritan, had kept her in bonds that she longed to burst. The eighteenth century is in striking contrast with the preceding in the position attained, and the influence wielded, by able women. Steele, Addison, Richardson, and Cowper wrote for women rather than for men. Dean Swift complains of the way in which the readers of the *Spectator* were "fair-sexed;" his strong, coarse style found the milder and more refined feast tasteless and mawkish. Johnson was like Steele and Richardson, fond of lady's parlours; was unhappy without some lady to scold him and be scolded, and to pour out for him innumerable cups of tea. It is in the eighteenth century, then, that we for the first time find conditions suitable for the production of novels. A novel has been defined by a competent authority[2] as a composition which "arranges and combines round the passion of love and its course between two or more persons a number of events and of characters which in their action on one another develop the plot of the story and bring about a sad or a happy close. The story may be laid at any time, in any class of society, in any place." Richardson, the little London book-seller, is generally reckoned the first of our novelists. He infused into story-telling the final element which gave the world the modern novel. Defoe had prepared the way in a masterly manner by his realistic pictures of society as it actually was, but he had failed to touch the heart by describing the most important crisis in a woman's life and making this the hinge of the plot. All a woman's ambition and interests lie around that period in her life when she meets the man who is to be her life companion. The analysis of her hopes, fears, and fancies at this time, if skilfully managed, is a process of unequalled interest for a reader. Owing to the free condition of English society, which allowed the power of choice both to man and woman with no paramount family considerations to thwart their natural proclivities, the possibilities in courtship and marriage were and are innumerable; there is almost as much chance as in a lottery. Richardson is distinctly an author who wrote for feminine readers. It was not until he had passed the hey-day of his life, and was beginning to turn gray, that he took a novel writing. In those simpler days, ability to write a letter was an accomplishment not too wide spread among even well-to-do Englishwomen. Readers will remember the description of Mrs. Primrose in the first chapter of Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield"; "She could read any English book without much spelling." It was Richardson's business for several years to act the part of an amanuensis to visitors, mostly women, who desired his services. In the back parlour of his little stationery-shop he penned many an epistle that was of vast importance in the life history of the sender. An unrivalled opportunity was thus furnished him of learning all the ins and outs of a women's heart, and this knowledge he put to good use in the first typical English novel, "Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded." He knew that he was making a fresh departure, and in the preface to the work, expressed the hope that his story would turn young people into a course of reading "different from the pomp and parade of romance-writing." The venture was an unbounded success. Each part as it came forth was devoured with the keenest appetite, and what seems tedious and long winded to us was, in those days of quiet and leisure, a pleasant prolongation of a delightful feast—"Linkéd sweetness, long drawn out." The work takes the form of a series of letters, a method of writing a novel which has frequently being repeated by later novelists. It cannot be called the most finished and satisfactory form, for it is difficult to imagine, in cold blood, the satisfactory relation in actual life of a complete story through so accidental a medium as a series of familiar letters. As examples of this form of novel we may mention Scott's "Redgauntlet," Dickens's "Bleak House," Wilkie Collins's "The Woman in White," "No Name," and "The Moonstone," and Jane Susten's "Lady Susan," the last an unfinished work. Much of the sentiment in Richardson does not bear the test of strict examination. It is apt to be weak, low-pitched, and fanciful. The relationship between the two sexes had still to undergo many changes for the better. One of the main objections to the story of "Pamela" is equally valid against the ethics of the "Vicar of Wakefield." During last century the privilege of having been educated as a refined gentleman and of being acquainted with the usages of good society was estimated at far too high a value; the gentleman (Mr. B. of Richardson's story) who tries to ruin the heroine Pamela, instead of winning her contempt and abhorrence, becomes the legitimate object of her matrimonial schemes, and is afterwards duly worshipped by her when she becomes his faithful wife. So in the "Vicar of Wakefield," Squire Thornhill, who does all he can to betray Olivia, and is recognized as a would-be seducer by her family, is still considered *in every way* the superior of honest Farmer Williams. There was need of Burns to sound his clarion peal:

> The rank is but the guinea stamp,
> The man's the gowd for a' that.

It is therefore impossible for readers who look below the surface to have any complete sympathy with the woman, who in fact shows an equal shallowness of morality with the man. The game is an exciting one, and the sympathies of on-lookers may easily be changed to the side of the male intriguer. To call girls like Pamela and Olivia, models of virtue, when they are willing and eager to wed the arch-villain and become Mrs. arch-villain, is absurd. This weakness in Richardson's ethics was fully perceived by the more masculine mind of Henry Fielding. Fielding's first novel is indeed nothing more or less than a parody on Richardson's "Pamela," a work which appeared to him full of prosiness, sordidness and prudery. The younger writer's masterpiece, "Tom Jones," considered by many to be the first of English novels, suffers from the too pronounced desire to be free from priggishness and prudery. Many passages in "Tom Jones" are needlessly blunt and coarse, nay, obtrusively indecent. But nevertheless it is a wholesome tonic to the weak and flabby sentiment of Richardson. Several authors were to become famous before the Wizard of the North created a revolution in the whole art of novel writing. The coarse but graphic pen of Smollett has described the wonderfully primitive and rough life on board English war-vessels in the days of Chatham. The curious humour of Sterne found vent in "Tristram Shandy" and "The Sentimental Journey." And, most familiarly known of all, that exquisite prose idyll, "The Vicar of Wakefield," published in 1766, was to win immortality not only in England but also in France and Germany. As a precursor of the mediæval romances of Scott, Horace Walpole's "Castle of Otranto" is chiefly remarkable for its wildness and extravagance. There is, indeed, much reason to look upon it as partly a caricature. The mysteries and the machinery are of the crudest and most juvenile nature. The novelists of the eighteenth century, beginning with Richardson, did not err in the direction of idealism. Crafty servant girls, drunken squires, common-place libertines and men about town, and swearing Jack Tars are the characters which figure in their realistic pages. A reaction was sure to set in, from the natural craving in the human mind to be lifted out of itself into a higher and better world of fancy. The feeble attempts of Walpole and Monk Lewis to infuse mediæval romance into a readable modern story, do little more than show the drift of the current. Mrs. Radcliffe with her "Mysteries of Udolpho" and her "Romance of the Forest" held many readers spell-bound by their Byronic descriptions of gloomy scenes haunted by robbers and banditti and ghosts. We now come to two names, which reign supreme in the domain of fiction, Jane Austen and Walter Scott. Both are remarkable for the delicacy with which they avoid all that is improper or disgusting. During the latter half of the eighteenth century, the standard of English manners had wonderfully improved. The nation had come under the influence of a deep religious revival which had exercised a good influence even on those who were bitterly opposed to it. The English court, having good, simple, Farmer George at its head, with homely Queen Charlotte to help him, was also a wholesome factor in the improvement of the national morals. We have made not the slightest advance in real refinement and unostentatious morality since the days when Jane Austen and Walter Scott began to write. Neither of them ever depicts a gentleman or a lady who is held up to admiration and whom we cannot admire. Neither of them ever paints scenes of passion over which we instinctively seek to draw a veil. And yet thirty or forty years before they wrote there is scarcely an English writer, however high his moral tone, who does not offend us with scenes and with language from which we instinctively shrink. With these two authors we will close the present short survey, for with them is attained the highwater mark of novel-writing as a literary art.

[1] *cf. Marcillac*, the Greek Massilia.
[2] M. Jusserand; *The English Novel in the Time of Elizabeth*.
[3] Rev. Stopford Brooks.

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KOREA AS SEEN FROM THE SADDLE.

It is not surprising, under the circumstances, that Korea is, so far as its interior is concerned, a *terra incognita* to the people of contiguous countries, to say nothing of those of remoter countries. None of the books that treat of Korea give more than the barest outline of the topography of the country, while the natural scenery has not received the slightest mention. It is unfortunately true that there is nothing in the vicinity of the treaty ports to commend the scenery of Korea to the taste of those who may be passing. The lack of trees makes the prospect so flat and tasteless that one dreads to land and proceed inland. When you are sick it is hard to imagine yourself well. Even so when you pass along the barren coast of Korea it is almost impossible for you to believe that the interior of that country supports a heavy population on an average of greater comfort than is found in any part of China or India, and yet that is just what those say who are qualified by observation to express an opinion. And now a word in regard to the contrast between the sea board and the interior of Korea. We have been told by more that one writer that the cause of it lies in the fact that Korea laid waste its sea-board in order to make it as inhospitable as possible, that by this means it might preserve the seclusion on which it prided itself. There is a far better reason than this, and one that can be supported by historical facts. For hundreds and hundreds of years the coast of Korea was annually pillaged by Japanese pirates. Their depredations extended not merely along the south-eastern coast, but up the west coast far beyond the present port of Jinsen (Chemulpo). Time and again they raided almost up to the gates of the capital. The island of Kang Wha at the month of the Han river was a favourite "stamping ground" of these pirates. There are numerous authentic cases of their having gone up the eastern coast beyond the present port of Wonsan. Their descents upon the coast of Korea were so sudden and fierce that it was quite impossible for the people to guard against them. The writer has documentary evidence to show that the Government in several cases removed whole towns from the sea-board to the interior because it was impossible to protect them from the pirates otherwise. The real reason was not the desire to preserve their seclusion: it was a military act wholly unavoidable. It is with the desire to correct the popular impression of the barrenness and sterility of the interior of Korea that the writer invites the readers of the *Japan Mail* to accompany him along the great highway which connects the capital, Sōul, with the ancient city of Peyeng Yang, one hundred and fifty-three miles to the north. The preparations for a journey through Korea differ widely from those that are necessary in travelling in Japan. We have no railways, either present or prospective. We have no jinrikishas, and even if we had they would be left at home for a reason that will abundantly appear. There are three possible ways of travelling here: on foot, in a sedan chair carried by two or four coolies, or on the back of a hardy little Korean pony. Say what you may, the first of these is the royal way. It is only on foot that the traveller gets the most out of the country through which he wanders, but not every one can afford to travel on foot. It costs too much—not money, but time and strength. For preparation then—one stout pony under the saddle—a pony whose gait you have tried. He may not be a fast trotter, but he must have a good walking gait and a peculiar kind of slow pace, something between a walk and a pace which will carry him along all day at the rate of four miles an hour. Another pony to carry the pack. He must also have a four mile gait, for you cannot travel faster than your pack. "The strength of the chain is measured by its weakest link." So the speed of a trip in the interior of Korea is measured by the speed of the slowest horse. For food one must carry everything excepting rice, fowls, and eggs, but in some portions of the country it is possible to get potatoes, corn, game, fish, and delicious honey. In the large magisterial towns it is often possible to procure good beef. A passport from the Foreign Office is of course necessary. The Korean Government goes on the principle that all foreigners are guests, and consequently it is very generous in the terms of the passports. The document sent you from the Foreign Office calls upon all officials in the country to treat you with kindness and respect, to provide you with lodgings, to supply you with food and to procure you horses or anything else that you may stand in need of and they are able to supply. It enables you to procure money at any of the large provincial towns by simply giving a note of hand for the amount payable at sight in Sōul. This last is a very important item because silver money does not circulate in the country, and Korean cash is so bulky that it would be impossible to carry enough for a long trip. At the same time it is a convenience to the Government rather than otherwise for it saves the transportation of revenue from the country to Sōul. Although the passport says nothing about payment for lodgings, food, &c., provided by officials in the country and no charges are made, foreigners pay for what they receive by leaving at each place a sum amply sufficient to cover all actual expenses and a small bonus besides. Thus equipped you sally out of the west gate of Sōul accompanied by your *marpo* (or *betto* as you would call him in Japan), your "boy" who also acts as cook, and your *keniso*. This last servant has not his exact equivalent in any other country. The *dragoman* of Egypt and Turkey comes nearest to him, but there are radical differences. The *keniso* is a military servant, escort or body-guard, and is valuable not because you need protection in the country, but because his presence always insures obedience to your orders, and opens the doors of native inns when otherwise they would remain closed. Koreans retire early, especially in winter, and when the traveller arrives at a village at nine o'clock he finds it to all appearance as dead as ancient Thebes, and its inhabitants about as hard to rouse. More than once, when unaccompanied by a *keniso*, have I sat for half an hour on my shivering pony before a Korean inn on a January night while my servants were trying to rouse the proprietor; and they were successful only when it became evident that noncompliance on his part would result in the demolition of his front door.

So bidding good bye to our friends in Sōul, we mount our little ponies and the cavalcade files out the west gate; the gate whose lock the plucky little band of Japanese soldiers and citizens picked in making their retreat from Sōul on that eventful night in December of 1884. Just outside this gate is the residence of the governor of Kiung Ki, the province in which Sōul is situated. The land within the city wall is not under the jurisdiction of the governor of the province but has its own, of course, as does the District of Columbia in America. On emerging from the suburbs, which contain a population as great as the city proper, the first object of interest that presents itself is the great arch or [illegible] which marks the meeting place of important Chinese embassies and the representatives of the King of Korea.

It is an interesting fact that the most difficult point in the road between Sōul and Pyeng Yang is within two miles of the west gate and in full view of the city. A sharp range of hills runs along the west side of the city and through this is cut a deep pass. So narrow is it in some places that loaded oxen cannot pass each other. It is hemmed in by perpendicular rocks and the path is one confusion of rough loose stones among which the pedestrian must pick his way with care, and on which he cannot ride without being guilty of abuse to his horse. No cart or carriage could well pass through it without being lifted bodily in some places. In addition to its extreme roughness, this pass becomes in summer the bed of a stream which fills the interstices with mud while in winter ice forms among the stones and makes the passage well nigh impassable. A few hundred dollars would render this pass perfectly practicable for both beast and vehicle at any season of the year, and the fact that not a dollar is expended on it is a commentary on the attention that roads receive from the authorities. It is the more remarkable inasmuch as repairing of this one place would make it possible for carts to pass freely between Sōul and the important city of Song-do fifty miles distant.

After stumbling over this execrable spot as best we can, we remount and resume our journey with the comfortable assurance that the worst is over. Nothing can surpass the dazzling clearness of an autumn day in Korea. The air has a peculiarly exhilarating effect that makes the very act of breathing a conscious pleasure. In addition to this, picturesque scenery and the road alive with gaily dressed travellers mounted or on foot, make the commencement of a country trip a pleasure whatever its end may be. As we descend into the valley beyond and ford the stream which winds through it we are brought face to face with one important feature of travelling in Korea—the absence of bridges. Between Sōul and Peyeng Yang there is only one bridge that can, or is intended to, withstand the high water of the summer rainy season, and that is only a small stone bridge over an unimportant stream in the suburbs of Song Do. The result is that often in the months of July and August it is absolutely impossible to travel. When the rainy season is over little foot bridges are thrown across most of the small brooks, but as a rule bullocks and horses ford in preference to risking their weight on these frail structures. At no place were these little bridges more than eighteen or twenty feet long, all streams that were wider than this being crossed by ford or ferry. While on the subject, of bridges there is one in Korea that deserves mention. It is a wooden bridge a mile and a half long that stretches across an immense marsh just outside the gate of Ham Hung, the capital of the province of Ham Kiug. It is about twenty feet wide and is made of heavy piles and planks. It is considered to be of such importance that the Government annually appoints an official whose whole duty it is to keep the bridge in order. For this purpose an annual appropriation of a million cash (about $500), is made. In summer when the heat is intense the people of Ham Hung go out at night in great numbers and sleep on this bridge, and more than once a sudden heavy fall of rain in the neighbouring mountains has caused a freshet which has rushed down with terrific force and carried away the bridge with all its human freight. But while I have been deviating thus, our party has been ascending the opposite hill near whose top is a sulphur spring to which, in the warm months, many invalids resort in hope of being benefited by the baths. Near it you are pretty sure to find a line of mendicant cripples seated beside the road, some playing on rude flutes and others showing their ugly deformities in order to attract the attention and excite the pity of the passer by. A moment later we round the corner of the hill and before us rise the grand rugged peaks of Pook Han, in the depression between whose triple pointed top lies the almost impregnable fortress of the same name designed as a place of refuge for the King in times of disturbance. These craggy peaks remind us of those which one sees in descending the Usui Pass on the Nakasendo in Japan, the difference being that the former are absolutely naked and treeless while the latter are clothed at every possible point with luxuriant vegetation which is so characteristic of Japanese scenery and which, while adding to its picturesqueness, detracts from its grandeur. The peaks of Pook Han stand like grim sturdy sentinels without ornament of any kind. Seen from the north this magnificent pile of mountains looks like a gigantic castle of the middle ages rising straight from the valley for three thousand feet and then breaking into domes and pinnacles which seem to loom the higher the farther we recede. An interesting legend is extant concerning this mountain. It is said that when Ta Jo, the founder of the present dynasty, had obtained control of affairs at Song Do, the then capital of the country, he was at a loss to determine a site for the capital of his new dynasty (for in Korea it has always been the habit to change the capital with a change of dynasty). At that time the peaks of Pook Han were not visible from the mountains behind Song Do, but the new king ascending them one morning looked away to the south and lo! in one night one of the peaks of Pook Han had shot up into sight. Could providence have spoken more plainly? He built his capital at the foot of Pook Han, and his descendants are celebrating now the semi-millenium of that founding. But by this time we begin to feel the need of something more substantial than scenery, and we look eagerly forward to catch a glimpse of Ko Yang, the town where we are to tiffin. Ko Yang is a magistracy, and so we know what to look for—not the village itself but a clump of ancient willow trees in which it is sure to be hidden, for it is a peculiarity of this land that the magistracies are almost invariably surrounded by these trees. The magistracy is usually entered through a long line of willows, the only attempt at public ornamental horticulture that the Koreans have made. How shall we describe the streets of a country village in Korea? Those who know, say that they do not compare with Chinese towns for filth, but that is merely "damning them with faint praise." The street is the depository for all refuse garbage and abomination. When you have seen the street you have seen the worst. There is no shamming or hypocrisy about the Korean countryman's filth, no covering up, no euphemism, so to speak. Let us hope that it is true, as some say, that no sewerage is better than imperfect sewerage. Another disgusting feature is that the public wells are on the street and their curbs are the public laundries. It is a marvel that whole towns are not obliterated by pestilence when once it gets started. The law of the survival of the fittest has full sway here. The streets swarm with small, black, long-snouted swine which roam about at will and pick up a living as they may. The ordinary village consists of one long street, or rather the highway is lined for a certain distance with a single row of houses on either side. No attention whatever is paid to the repairing of this street, and in wet weather it is worse if possible than the road in the open country. The country inn is a factor of prime importance to the

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foreign traveller, for he cannot always time himself so as to reach a magistracy at night.

A large double door leads from the street into a court, on two sides of which are the stables and store houses, while the other two are occupied by the guest-rooms and the proprietor's private apartments. The horses stand facing inward toward the court and feed from troughs cut in long logs. They are not separated by partitions or even railings, and when the inn is fairly full the kicking and screaming among the animals in continual. There is one common guest-room facing the street, and in it all the guests are supposed to sleep, excepting when a traveller of quality arrives, in which case the other guests are relegated to a rear apartment or one of the private rooms of the host is given up to his entertainment. Sometimes when you arrive late at night in the winter you have to take what accommodation you can get, and you may have to sleep in a room eight by sixteen feet together with a dozen natives. Every door, window, and crack is tightly closed to keep out the cold, and the air becomes simply unendurable. Under these circumstances even a distant approach to comfort is out of the question. H. B. H.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

THE STOLEN PILOT BOAT.

In the autumn of a year in the sixties, the Pilot Commissioners in San Francisco were thrown into great consternation by the information that the pilot schooner *Magruder* had mysteriously taken her departure from the cruising ground outside the Golden Gate with nobody on board of her, and had disappeared to the westward on the broad Pacific. Of course such an incident created a great deal of excitement among the maritime population, and many and various were the versions given of the occurrence; some even attributing the vessel's disappearance to supernatural agencies. It happened on a day when a whole fleet of inward board vessels thronged the entrance of the bay, and pilots were in great demand. It was late in the afternoon when the *Magruder* had transferred her last pilot on board of an English bark, and there were still several ships waiting with their pilot flags flying,—and the boat-keeper, being as well acquainted with the bay as any of the pilots, concluded to bring one of these ships into port, to save the fee slipping into the pockets of the owners of an opposition boat, leaving the two sailors on board to take in the schooner, which had frequently been done before. The wind was blowing fresh from the southward as the two sailors pulled the boat-keeper to a ship waiting with her main yards aback, and the schooner was left with her fore and main sails and jib set, but with the jib-sheet hauled over to windward and secured, and the helm down, keeping her up in the wind and stationary. The distance they had to pull was short, and no further attention was paid to the schooner until they reached the ship, when a loud exclamation from the boat-keeper drew their attention towards her. To their amazement they saw the schooner with her head pointing to westward and with her all her sails drawing, and certainly making headway through the water. They started in pursuit of the schooner, but their efforts to overtake her were unavailing, as she rapidly increased her speed, and with great dismay they had to give up the chase and witness the *Magruder* keep a course almost due west, until at length she disappeared in the gathering darkness. The other pilot boats were already inside the heads, but even had they been still outside they could have done nothing, as the *Magruder* could out-sail them all, being the fastest of the fleet. The boat-keeper and the sailors returned to San Francisco in the ship piloted by the former, there to relate their misadventure to the wrathful pilots and to be ignominiously dismissed from the service. All incoming vessels were questioned for the next three months, but the *Magruder* was never seen more in San Francisco, and the story of her flight is still one of the standing yarns on the city front.

The following is the narrative of her disappearance and subsequent career, as told me by one of the participators in the affair, and I have no reason to doubt the truth of it, although the narrator was not precisely a "truthful James," but a many-sided man, who was well known in Yokohama, where he once narrowly escaped the long arm of justice.

The boat-keeper and the two sailors of the *Magruder* had scarcely pushed off from the schooner when a head protruded from the fore-scuttle, and seeing nobody on board, it was quickly followed by the body belonging to it, in the form of a middle-sized, active man. He wriggled himself carefully to the weather rail, where he quickly slacked off the stopper holding the jib to windward; as the jib filled he crawled rapidly aft and slacked off the main sheet a few feet, and gathered up the tiller ropes, meanwhile keeping himself well concealed below the low rail. The schooner soon began to shoot ahead, and in about five minutes was going at a good speed, by which time she had the full strength of the breeze on her canvas; and, as she was kept a couple points free, she had the full benefit of it. So far, only one man had appeared on deck, but seeing that he was now beyond pursuit, he made fast the tiller ropes and hastened to the fore hatch, which he flung open and sung out, "Dominick! Harry!" and then hurried aft again to attend to the steering. Two more men now emerged from the fore-hold; the first man coming up, on seeing the other at the tiller and the schooner bound seaward, threw himself on the deck in convulsions of laughter, rolling over and over. The steersman, however, eyeing these contortions disdainfully, said to the last man up from below "*Veni, vidi, vici!* a bloodless victory, my boy! but just throw a bucket of water on that confounded fool and stop his gyrations, and then go down and see if they have left any whisky for us,—'Frisco pilots generally keep a good supply on board!" The whisky was found, and enjoyed exceedingly under the circumstances, and, as night had now set in and the schooner was going ten knots through the water, success was drunk with great acclamation. The light on the Farralones was becoming faint astern before the trio thought of supper, so engrossed were they with their achievement. This job had been planned some time ago, but only on that morning had they gone on board the schooner, which they did with the connivance of one of the sailors, who was well bribed, and they had determined to capture her that day, after the pilots had left her, even if force had to be used, when an unlooked for opportunity threw her into their hands. Their laughter rang out as merrily when they talked of their exploit as if they only had perpetrated a good joke instead of a gross act of piracy; but they were endowed with very elastic consciences. Provisions had been provided in abundance, and Dominick soon prepared a good meal. After supper the course was set for the Gallipagos Islands, where they had been ordered to meet some one who in their conversation referred to as the "Governor." "Won't the Governor open his eyes when he sees the beauty under our feet!" said Dominick, as he looked over the side and watched the *Magruder* cleaving the water like a thing of life. "The Governor won't notice her as long as we are in time," replied Ben, the leader and real capturer of the vessel; "if we are not in time, and he has had to wait for us, then look out for squalls!" "Damn the governor, anyhow," said Harry Hines, the third man, "I am not going to do any more of his work." "You will do what you are told," replied Ben, as he looked at him curiously, "or the Governor will soon dispense with you, and you know what that means. Turn in now, both of you; I will take the first watch." For several days the wind remained steady from the same direction, and the *Magruder* was rapidly approaching her destination without a sail being touched; the sea was a veritable summer sea, although the season was winter, and the adventurers seemed to have everything in their favour. After the first week the breeze got lighter and hauled more to the eastward, but the schooner made good progress. Not a vessel had been in sight since they left, but on the morning of the 27th of December they sighted the northernmost island of the Gallipagos group, and on the 29th came to an anchor in a small bay of Hood's Island, their destination, in a heavy rain storm, the first bad weather they had experienced. The rain descended in torrents, the thunder rolled, and the lightning played about them in vivid streaks. The sails were lowered, but left unfurled until the tropical storm had passed, and Ben and his companions while congratulating themselves on having arrived first at the rendezvous, between the flashes of lightning perceived a large boat pulling towards them. "Here is the Governor," was the astonished exclamation, when they first observed the boat through the gloom. "Here is the devil," was Ben's remark, *sotto voce*, "and accompanied by thunder and lightning as usual!" and the man referred to, who now stepped on deck, in appearance almost merited Ben's appellation. Tall and thin, dark and sinister looking, with a wicked smile lovering around his closed lips, he really had the expression of the evil one. "How is my brave captain?" were his first words, "and his faithful companions—inseparable as ever? Good! Another task for you, my captain, and I am done with you, and you can go and get hung whenever you please, ha, ha, ha!" with which pleasantry he took Ben by the arm and invited him into the boat alongside. Ben went without a word, and was followed by the Governor, who nodded to the two remaining men as he went over the side. The rain ceased, the atmosphere cleared, and all trace of the late violent storm rapidly disappeared. A large three-masted vessel was then seen at anchor at the head of the bay, which as soon as discerned was seen to be the Governor's yacht, so often used by him in his nefarious schemes. She was presumably well-manned, as several boats were being hoisted over the side, into which casks and cases were lowered, and work was busily going on both fore and aft on board of her. Ben returned on board the *Magruder* in about an hour, and proceeded to acquaint his fellows with the orders he had received. The Governor wished them to be ready to go to sea again before night, as he had been there ten days waiting for them and was impatient to be gone. He had two passengers on board, a gentlemen and a lady whom he wished them to convey to some lone island in the Pacific where they could live undisturbed and where nature was bountiful enough to supply them with food when their own failed. These passengers were to be landed without any communication with any one on board; the cabin was to be given up to them exclusively and to two servants who would accompany them. The schooner would be loaded with stores for their use, which had also to be landed with them, and the *Magruder's* men would also be liberally supplied with everything needed. The Governor had offered them men from his yacht, but Ben had refused to take more than one to act as cook, as those on board could well handle the *Magruder*, and outsiders stepping in now would be regarded as interlopers. For this job the Governor would give them 10,000 dollars in hard cash, saying that after the passengers were landed he had finished with them for good. Ben said he knew an island exactly suitable, one where nobody could effect a landing unless perfectly acquainted with the place, and the Governor had approved his choice. While they were talking the boats from the yacht began to arrive alongside the schooner. Cases and barrels of provisions and stores of all kinds were hoisted on board and stowed away. Trunks and packages of clothing and bedding for their intended passengers were also passed on board, and handed down into the cabin by the two servants who had already taken possession without a word. A crowd had been specially detailed to bring water and wood on board, and as everything was done under pressure put on by the invisible but powerful Governor, at four in the afternoon the Governor was informed that they were ready for sea. A small boat capable of carrying six persons was then brought alongside, hoisted up, and secured. It was dark when the passengers were brought on board of the *Magruder* under the Governor's own care, and he handed them down into the cabin, where he followed them; they were well muffled up, and their features were not visible. After remaining below with them for an hour he reappeared on deck, evidently under the influence of strong emotions, as he paced up and down the narrow strip of deck several minutes before he could master himself sufficiently to speak. Leaning over the side he gave an order to the men in the boat, and presently several bags were passed up, which he placed in the hands of Ben. "These," he said, "contain the money promised; payment in full for this undertaking, and I think it will end all transactions between us. Be discreet, and do as you have been told, land your passengers safe without knowing more about them than you do now. Seek not to pry into my affairs,—beware, if you do! You know me, Ben! Get under weight now, and proceed as fast as you can to your destination. Good bye!" and stepping into his boat without any farther remark, he pulled to his yacht. The sails were immediately set on the schooner, and the anchor hove, and before many minutes she was going through the water under the moderate S.W. breeze. Everything was quiet on board. Below perfect stillness reigned, and nothing was heard except the creaking of booms and gaffs, and the splash of water alongside as the schooner rolled gently from side to side. When the tiller was relieved the usual long yarn was omitted and the conversation carried on in whispers. "The Governor's" orders were carefully observed during the passage to the island, and the passengers and their servants—their jailors they were surmised to be—were as completely apart from the *Magruder's* men as if they did not exist. The male passenger showed himself occasionally, but the woman never; he was a man of much the same appearance as the Governor, his features being nearly identical; he never addressed anyone or seemed to be aware of their presence. The wind hauled round to the N.E. and freshened before they sighted the island they were steering for, and, according to Ben's statement, this was the only wind which would allow them to effect a landing. Even here were they favoured by the elements, as they were in San Francisco. Heard's Island, as it called, is

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presumably only an inaccessible rock rising abruptly out of the sea to a height of several hundred feet. A nearer view of it, however, discovers clumps of cocoanut and other trees in a valley on the southeast side, but as passing vessels give the island a wide berth, only men like Ben and others, who may have had occasion to make use of it, know anything about its resources. The water close to its base, on which the waves beat unceasingly, is over 100 fathoms in depth, and the island, not being surrounded by any coral reef, without doubt owes its origin to some sudden volcanic upheaval centuries ago, and it stands alone, a grand ocean monolith. Off this island the *Magruder* arrived on a fine morning, and hove to close to the landing place. Ben and Dominick went in the boat for the first trip, and under the guidance of the former effected a landing without any mishap. Ben had said that they would find several houses and huts on shore, the remains of old filibustering days, some of which were in a tolerably good state of preservation, and into these the stores and provisions were unceremoniously piled up to be arranged later on. As the wind threatened to chop round to the southwest which would stop all landing, perhaps for weeks, matters were hastened in order to get finished before night came on. Harry and Dominick pulled the boat after the first trip, and successfully landed everything, and, at 5 o'clock the passengers were invited to land, the servants having previously disembarked. They received the summons with stoical indifference, and took their places in the boat without bestowing a look even upon their future island home, or on the vessel they were leaving. The breeze was continually freshening and drawing towards the southward; and when the boat had reached the beach and the passengers were stepping out, Ben —who was watching them through his glasses— conceived an idea which he immediately acted on, and much to the cook's consternation, ran forward and filled the jib, then, slacking off the main sheet and putting the helm up, stood away from the island, which very soon vanished in the haze astern; thus for the second time running away with the schooner, but on this occasion leaving his friends and partners behind to curse and lament his perfidy—leaving them on this island to remain probably for life, unwilling fellow residents with their former passengers. The thought of being the sole owner of so fine a vessel as the *Magruder* and the 10,000 dollars was too strong temptation for him, mingled with the spice of devilry inherent in his nature. He soon made it up with the cook, a South American darkey, and the two managed to take the schooner to an inhabited island where he obtained a crew of Kanakas. He subsequently took the schooner to an obscure port in New Zealand where he sold her, and where she may yet be running. His ill-gotten wealth soon took wings—he lost it in divers speculations; and when I saw him at Medway Island in 1874, not many months before he was killed on one of the Bonins, he did not seem to be in very flourishing circumstances.

The man they called the Governor was the Dictator of one of the Central American Republics,—a cruel, unscrupulous character, for whom Ben and his partners had done some curious and criminal work in former years. Ben surmised that the passengers were the Governor's own brother and political opponent, with his wife, and that instead of murdering him in cold blood he had him landed on that lone rock where he would be beyond human aid. There was probably some foundation for this belief, as the newspapers of the period refer to the mysterious disappearance of a noted political agitator, though the report current was that he had died in a house that was burned to the ground while he was defending the building with his followers against the Government troops who remained loyal, he having induced a portion of them to rise in revolt. Ben had not been near Heard's Island since then, nor heard or seen anything of those he left there, but he supposed that they still remained on it if they were alive, "the world forgetting, by the world forgot."

A German anatomist has called the attention of his class to certain hysterical women who are affected with a kind of "pain-joy—not only experiencing no pain from surgical mutilation, but having a morbid desire to bear without anæsthetics operations which should prove very painful. A young woman was introduced who had seriously injured her lower jaw during a paroxysm of hysteria, but who had insisted upon having the necessary removal of part of the jaw and ligature of two arteries performed without an anæsthetic, and subsequently declared that the operations had given her great pleasure.

CRICKET.

CLUB MATCH.

The toss was won by Fenton, and he elected to bat, against the deliveries of Edwards, W., and Walford. Watson (19) and Crawford (12) were the only two who got into double figures, and the innings closed for 62. Stewart and Dickenson went in first for their side, the former making 20 and the latter 15, but Walford made 5 more off his own bat than his opponents' side combined. The fielding was extremely loose, as is indicated by 37 extras, most of which were byes got two at a time. Nearly the whole side—well, nine bowlers —had a hand in the leather slinging, and Walford was ultimately removed by Brown. The total was 198. Following are the scores :—

Mr. Fenton, c. Firth, b. Walforth	6	Mr. Stewart, c. Richardson, b. Fenton	20
Mr. Watson, c. Adams, b. Walford	19	Mr. Dickenson, b. Fenton	15
Mr. Crawford, not out	12	Mr. Firth, c. Fenton, b. Kenyon	8
Mr. Brown, b. W. Edwards..	0	Mr. W. Edwards, b. E. Edwards	14
Mr. E. Edwards, b. W. Edwards	3	Mr. Walford, b. Brown	67
Mr. Richardson, b. W. Edwards	3	Mr. Adams, c. and b. Fenton	6
Mr. Barton, run out	6	Mr. Pollard	8
Mr. Kenyon, b. W. Edwards	0	Mr. Abbey, c. Fenton, b. Brown	13
Mr. Healing, b. W. Edwards	2	Mr. Mortise, c. Fenton, b. Brown	3
Mr. Fardell, b. W. Edwards.	2	Mr. Young	6
Mr. Another, b. Edwards	1	Mr. Nash, not out	2
b. 8, l.b. 2	10	b. 23, l.b. 3, w. 9	37
	62		198

BASEBALL.

This match took place yesterday and was not expected to result in favour of the Tokyo team. Details are appended :—

"Monocacy" and Yokohama.

	POS.	AT BAT.	RUNS.	P.O.	A.	E.
Mr. Nash	SS	6	1	0	0	2
Mr. Merriman	2B	6	1	0	0	3
Mr. Burns	LF	5	3	2	0	0
Mr. McCormack	1B	5	0	22	0	1
Mr. Page	P	5	1	1	8	1
Mr. Stone	3B	5	1	0	2	2
Mr. Daly	C	5	2	4	6	3
Mr. Macondray	CF	5	3	0	0	3
Mr. Anderson	RF	5	2	0	0	1
		47	13	27	16	15

Tokyo.

	POS.	AT BAT.	RUNS.	P.O.	A.	E.
Mr. Knox	C	5	3	3	5	4
Mr. McNair	P	5	2	1	10	4
Mr. Tison	1B	5	1	15	1	0
Mr. Wigmore	SS	5	0	4	1	1
Mr. Patton	2B	5	1	2	3	1
Mr. Tyng	LF	5	0	1	0	0
Mr. Cole	3B	5	1	0	1	3
Mr. Nally	RF	4	1	0	0	2
Mr. Gardiner	CF	4	2	1	0	0
		43	11	27	21	15

Innings.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
"Monocacy" and Yokohama	0	1	4	3	0	1	1	2	1	13
Tokyo	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	6	11

THE TSUKIJI RELIEF SOCIETY.

The Tsukiji Relief Society held its first annual meeting at No. 5, Tsukiji, Tokyo, on May 7th, when the annual reports were read, and the following officers elected to serve the ensuing year :—President, Miss Fanny Perry; Vice-Presidents, Miss M. E. V. Pardoe, Miss R. F. Heath; Secretary, Miss M. N. Page; Treasurer, Mrs. W. J. White; Relief Committee, Mrs. J. C. Brand, Mrs. D. B. McCartee, Miss F. E. Phelps; Advisory Committee, Rev. H. D. Page, Dr. D. B. McCartee, Rev. Julius Soper.

This Society, while no longer busily employed in feeding the starving, holds itself in readiness for any emergency, and has at present fifty very poor, aged, and sick persons under its care. The agent employed devotes much time to evangelistic work among the poor, and is in every way giving satisfaction. The Industrial Sewing Class is still continued.

The following is the Treasurer's Annual Report :—

Dr.

To Subscriptions and donations from May 1st, 1890, to April 30th, 1891		Yen 1,540.85
To Earnings of Industrial Workers		53.10
		Yen 1,593.95

Cr.

By Rice distributed to August 25th	407.53	
By Funds dispensed from Aug. 25th, to date.	439.47	
By Industrial work	513.04	
By Salaries of agents	139.00	
By Funeral expenses of six persons	10.28	
By Rent of three poor families	4.00	
By Clothing and *futon*	48.00	
By Donation to Akasaka Hospital	10.00	
By Sundries	4.97	1,376.19
Balance		Yen 217.78

M. A. Spencer, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct, May 5th, 1891. D. B. McCartee.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

The thirty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company took place on the 15th inst., at the Cannon Street Hotel; Mr. William Patterson presiding.

The notice convening the meeting was read by the Secretary (Mr. Wm. Charles Mullins), and the report was taken as read.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, I dare say you will recollect the great disappointment it was to the directors to meet you at this time last year, when it was agreed to place £50,000 to a contingent reserve fund on account of the very unpleasant news which had just come from Calcutta of the cashiers's defalcations, and I need not now refer at length to that subject. You will remember that at a subsequent meeting we had to tell you that the loss had been greater than was expected, and that, although we had obtained certain securities from him, we thought it advisable to write off the whole of the claim. This has now been done, I am sorry to say, at an additional cost of £35,000, which has been taken from the past year's earnings. We thought it better to clear the whole matter out of our books. I think, under these circumstances, you will not be dissatisfied when we inform you, that, in spite of this heavy and abnormal drawback, we are in a position, after making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year, and to place £50,000 to reserve, thus raising that important fund to £300,000, and leave £9,104 to be carried to the current year's account. The whole of the Calcutta loss has been written off, the cashier's securities still remaining in the hands of the official assignee there, so that whatever we may get out of them will be so much for the good in future years. I need not occupy your time with any general remarks regarding our business. The balance-sheet in your hands shows that we are in a very strong position, although it certainly does not give any indication of the great increase in the volume of our business, which has in fact grown very much, and you can well understand that the difficulties with regard to the currency in our sphere of operations magnify greatly the ordinary cares of our business. We are doing very well, gentlemen, and our prospects are favourable, at least, so far as we can judge. I will not occupy your time further, but propose the first resolution —"That the report now presented, together with the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, by approved and adopted."

Mr. Emile Levita seconded the resolution.

Mr. Hamilton said he entirely approved of the action of the board in joining to the extent of £100,000 in the guarantee given to the Bank of England with reference to the affairs of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co. He thought it would be satisfactory to the shareholders if the chairman stated whether there was any reason to apprehend any loss in connexion with this guarantee. He wished also to point out what appeared to be an omission in the report. Anyone looking to the report last year would expect to find a reserve fund of £300,000. The reserve fund then was £250,000, and the directors recommended an addition of £50,000. It was explained at the meeting, but anyone referring back to the report would not find any explanation.

Mr. Drake said he thought the chairman had rather understated the progress made by the bank since last meeting. He had carefully examined the present balance-sheet with the previous one, and he found that in a great many of the items there was a considerable increase, indicating an expansion in the volume of the bank's business. He referred specially to the amounts under the heads of bills payable, bills receivable, and notes in circulation. The whole of the defalcation referred to by the chairman had been written off, and their reserve now stood at £300,000. Moreover, it was a gold basis upon which the affairs of the bank were taken, in which respect, so far as he knew, this bank was exceptional amongst the Eastern banks. He had much pleasure, therefore, in expressing his approval of the report.

The Chairman, in reply to Mr. Hamilton, said the directors issued a report of their proceedings showing that the reserve stood at £250,000, with a contingent reserve of £50,000 absorbed by the Calcutta loss. With regard to the Baring guarantee, the directors thought it right to give their assistance, and they were very pleased to find that this action on their part was received with approbation. The directors had felt that the shareholders would consider that they were only doing what they themselves would have done if they had been in a similar position, and it was satisfactory to find that the prompt action of the Bank of England had really averted a crisis of inconceivable mag-

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nitude. With reference to Mr. Drake's remarks he (the chairman) meant that, whilst the figures in the balance-sheet showed a general increase, the volume of business, although largely increased, could not be shown in the accounts.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed, "That a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, for the half-year ended 31st December last be now declared, payable on and after 22nd inst."

Mr. WILLIAM CHRISTIAN seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

The retiring directors, Mr. James Whittall Christian, were then re-elected; and the auditors, Mr. William Vanner and Mr. Maurice Nelson Girdlestone, were also reappointed.

Dr. DRYSDALE proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the directors and staff for their excellent conduct of the bank's affairs during the past year.

Mr. MANN seconded the motion, which was cordially adopted.

The CHAIRMAN briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, May 30th.

Fighting between the British and Portuguese has taken place on the banks of the Bembe, in which the Portuguese were defeated.

London, May 31st.

The Czar will probably abandon his intended visit to Moscow, owing to the great ill-feeling that has been created in that city through the expulsion of the Jews and the harsh treatment of the students.

London, June 2nd.

The Premier of the Dominion of Canada has been attacked by paralysis, and is not expected to recover.

The Earl of Clancarty is dead.

[The Premier of Canada is Sir John Alexander Macdonald, G.C.B. The late Earl Clancarty, Richard Somerset La-Poer-Trench, was 57 years of age, and is succeeded by Viscount Dunlo, born 1868.—ED. *J.M.*]

London, June 2nd.

Mr. Deon has been elected for North Bucks and Mr. Dunn for Paisley, both Liberals.

London, May 4th.

A bill has been read a second time in the House of Commons to prohibit seal hunting in the Behring Sea until the month of May, which will become law and be put into force, providing Russia also assents to abstain from sealing until that month.

(FROM THE "N.C. DAILY NEWS.")

Nanking, May 25th, 10.45 p.m.

The foreign ladies and children left to-day in obedience to a semi-official warning. The Methodist Girls' School has been fired and looted, and the others attacked, but the soldiers dispersed the mob. There is no foreign gunboat here.

May 26th, 6.15 p.m.

All quiet. Several important arrests have been made. The Viceroy has been most prompt in using vigorous measures. It is rumoured that more trouble may be expected.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, May 13th.

Captain E. H. Verney has been expelled from the House of Commons.

London, May 14th.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and seventy members of the House of Commons are suffering from influenza.

May 15th.

The London *Times* announces that the Portuguese Government have virtually accepted the proposals made by the Marquis of Salisbury. By these terms Great Britain will concede to Portugal fifty thousand square miles of territory north of the Zambesi and in return will receive the greater part of Manicaland.

May 16th.

At Paramaribo, in Dutch Guiana, the lower orders have risen against the upper and middle classes. Numerous conflicts have taken place, in which large numbers have been wounded. There is a considerable panic, and the situation is most alarming. The Guiana Chambers have petitioned the Minister for the Colonies to allow the Public Prosecutor a free hand in order to repress the outbreak.

A British protectorate in Nyassaland has been gazetted.

London, May 19th.

Snow and hailstorms prevail in Great Britain and France and are greatly injuring the fruit trees.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone is still confined to his room.

[FROM MANILA PAPERS.]

Madrid, May 15th.

Values have fallen throughout Europe in consequence of a panic on the exchanges. The State Bank was disturbed, but confidence has been restored.

Russia is withdrawing its gold deposits.

The Bank of London has raised its rate of discount to five per cent.

The Municipal elections just concluded have given the following result:—Monarchists elected, 2,800; Republicans, 900.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40‡ a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 7.30, 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.10, and 11.25† a.m., and 12.55, 1.50,† 2.55, 4. 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8.58,† 9.55, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

OFUNA-YOKOSUKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OFUNA (down) at 7.26, 9.40, and 11.03 a.m. and 12.20, 2.10, 3.50, 5.00, 6.25, and 8.20 p.m.; KAMAKURA (down) at 7.35, 9.51, and 11.13 a.m., and 12.31, 2.20, 4.01, 5.18, 6.36, and 8.31 p.m.; and DZUSHI (down) at 7.43, 10, and 11.22, a.m., and 12.40, 2.29, 4.10, 5.25, 6.45, and 8.40 p.m.; YOKOSUKA (up) at 6.25, 8.02, 10.25, and 11.40 a.m., and 1.30, 3, 4.30, 5.45, and 7.35 p.m.; DZUSHI (up) at 6.41, 8.16, 10.40, and 11.55 a.m., and 1.45, 3.16, 4.46, 6, and 7.51 p.m.; and KAMAKURA (up) at 6.50, 8.25, and 10.49 a.m., and 12.04, 1.54, 3.26, 4.55, 6.08, and 8 p.m.

FARES—To Kamakura, first-class *sen* 9, second-class *sen* 6, third-class *sen* 3; to Dzushi *sen* 15, *sen* 10, *sen* 5; and to Yokosuka *sen* 30, *sen* 20, *sen* 10.

TOKAIDO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA (down) at 6.50, 9, and 10.25 a.m., and 12.35, 3.10, 4.30, 5.45, 7.40, and 10.40 p.m.; and KOZU (up) at 6.09, 7.30, 9.40, and 11.05 a.m., and 1.12, 3.13, 5.15, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m.

FARES—To Hodogaya, first-class *sen* 6, second-class *sen* 4, third-class *sen* 2; to Totsuka, *sen* 18, *sen* 12, *sen* 6; to Ofuna *sen* 36, *sen* 24, *sen* 12; to Fujisawa, *sen* 42, *sen* 28, *sen* 14; to Hiratsuka, *sen* 66, *sen* 44, *sen* 22; to Oiso, *sen* 75, *sen* 50, *sen* 25; and to KOZU, *sen* 93, *sen* 62, *sen* 31.

A tramway runs between KOZU and YUMOTO (distance 4 *ri*.) Jinrikisha may be hired between YUMOTO and MIYANOSHITA (distance 1½ *ri*).

OYAMA-MITO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 6.40 and 9.15 a.m., and 2.15 and 5.20 p.m.; and MITO (up) at 6.20 and 10 a.m., and 2 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, *yen* 1.56; second-class, *yen* 1.04; third-class, *sen* 52.

TAKETOYO-OBU RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TAKETOYO (up) at 8 a.m., and 1.50 4.20 p.m., and OBU (down) at 2.55, 5.25, and 9.05 p.m.

FARES—Second-class, 26 *sen*, third-class, 13 *sen*.

OYAMA-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE OYAMA (down) at 7.10 and 9.20 a.m. and 2.20 and 5.25 p.m.; KIRIU (down) at 5, 9.04, and 11.14 a.m., and 4.19 p.m.; MAEBASHI (up) at 6.10 and 10.15 a.m., and 2 and 6.30 p.m.; and KIRIU (up) at 5.10, 7.10, and 11.17 a.m., and 3.07 p.m.

FARES—Oyama to Kiriu, first-class *yen* 1.29, second-class *sen* 86, third-class *sen* 43; to Maebashi, first-class *yen* 1.98, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 66.

KOZU-KOBE RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE KOZU at 8.26 and 10.33 a.m., and 2.05, 4.42, 6.09, and 12.08 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 9.48 and 11.55 a.m., and 3.32, 6.08, and 7.35 p.m., and 1.24 a.m.; NUMAZU at 10.37 a.m., and 1, 4.35, 7.08, and 8.30 p.m., and 2.12 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 6 a.m., and 12.17, 3.30, 6.20, and 8.55 p.m., and 3.45 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 9.05 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.44, 6, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.10 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.08 a.m., and 1.05, 3.48, 7.08, and 9.55 p.m., and 7.20 a.m.; OBU at 11.51 a.m., and 2.49, 5.21, 8.52 and 11.26 p.m., and 8.59 a.m.; NAGOYA at 5.45, a.m., and 12.45, 3.35, 6.03, 10.05, and 12.05 p.m., and 9.43 a.m.; GIFU at 6.43 a.m., and 1.52, 4.45, 7, 11.15, and 12.57 p.m., and 10.48 a.m.; OGAKI at 7.10 a.m., and 2.22, 5.18, 7.29, and 11.40 p.m., and 1.25 and 11.20 a.m.; MAIBARA at 5.40 and 8.32 a.m., and 3.47, 6.47, and 8.46 p.m., and 2.40 a.m. and 12.50 p.m.; HIKONE at 5.54 and 8.43 a.m., and 3.59, 7, and 8.57 p.m., and 2.51 a.m. and 1.01 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 7.35 and 10.18 a.m., and 6, 8.36, and 10.26 p.m., and 4.20 a.m., and 2.40 p.m.; KYOTO at 8.27 and 11.05 a.m., and 6.50, 9.21, and 11.05 p.m., and 5.05 a.m., and 3.30 p.m.; and OSAKA at 10.04 a.m., and 12.36, 8.20, 10.51, and 12.30 p.m., and 6.28 a.m., and 5.05 p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE KOBE at 6.15 and 8.55 a.m. and 12, 1.50, 3.20, and 9.48 p.m.; OSAKA at 4.45, 7.27, and 10.05 a.m., and 1.08, 2.54, 4.25, and 10.55 p.m.; KYOTO at 6.07, 8.55, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45, 4.34, 6.02, and 12.30 p.m.; BABA (Otsu) at 6.47 and 9.38 a.m., and 12.23, 3.32, 5.19, and 6.50 p.m., and 1.15 a.m.; HIKONE at 8.16 and 11.07 a.m., and 1.53, 5.01, 6.59, and 8.27 p.m., and 2.50 a.m.; MAIBARA at 8.30 and 11.21 a.m., and 2.09, 5.16, and 7.16 p.m., and 3.05 a.m.; OGAKI at 6.10 and 9.48 a.m., and 12.35, 3.25, 6.32, and 8.35 p.m., and 4.19 a.m.; GIFU at 6.41 and 10.14 a.m., and 1.01, 3.51, 6.58, and 9.02 p.m., and 4.44 a.m.; NAGOYA at 8.20 and 11.14 a.m., and 2.05, 4.46, and 8.10 p.m., and 5.45 a.m.; OBU at 9.01 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.52, 5.23, and 8.50 p.m., and 6.20 a.m.; TOYOHASHI at 10.40 a.m., and 1.36, 4.48, 7.09, and 10.29 p.m., and 7.56 a.m.; HAMAMATSU at 6.15 a.m., and 12.15, 2.50, 6.15, and 11.40 p.m., and 9.02 a.m.; SHIZUOKA at 5.15 and 8.51 a.m., and 3 and 5.20 p.m., and 2.05 and 11.17 a.m.; NUMAZU at 7.03 and 10.35 a.m., and 4.45 and 7.14 p.m., and 3.40 a.m., and 12.55 p.m.; GOTEMBA at 8.15 and 11 50 a.m., and 5.54 and 8.28 p.m., and 4.52 a.m., and 1.57 p.m.; and KOZU at 9.40 a.m., and 1.14, 7.17, and 9.43 p.m., and 6.09 a.m., and 3.13 p.m.

FARES—Kozu to Gotemba: first-class, *sen* 66, second-class *sen* 44, third-class *sen* 22; to Numazu *yen* 1.11, *sen* 74, *sen* 37; to Shizuoka *yen* 2.13, *yen* 1.42, *sen* 71; to Hamamatsu *yen* 3.57, *yen* 2.38, *yen* 1.19; to Toyohashi *yen* 4.23, *yen* 2.82, *yen* 1.41; to Obu *yen* 5.22, *yen* 3.48, *yen* 1.74; to Nagoya *yen* 5.58, *yen* 3.72, *yen* 1.86; to Gifu *yen* 6.15, *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.05; to Ogaki *yen* 6.42, *yen* 4.28, *yen* 2.14; to Maibara *yen* 7.05, *yen* 4.70, *yen* 2 35; to Hikone *yen* 7.17, *yen* 4.78, *yen* 2.39; to Baba *yen* 8.10, *yen* 5.40, *yen* 2.70; to Kyoto *yen* 8.40, *yen* 5 60, *yen* 2.80; to Osaka *yen* 9.21, *yen* 6.14, *yen* 3.07; and to Kobe *yen* 9.81, *yen* 6.54, *yen* 3.27.

TOKYO-MORIOKA RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UENO (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50,* and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 9.52 a.m. and 3.04 and 6.14 p.m.; SHIRAKAWA (down) at 8 a.m. and 12.34, 5.50, and 8.53 p.m.; KORIYAMA (down) at 9.22 a.m. and 1.53, 7.03, and 10.04 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (down) at 7.30 and 11.35 a.m. and 3.48 and 11.44 p.m.; and SENDAI (down) at 6.15, 8 25, and 10.25 a.m. and 2.45, 3, and 6.50 p.m. and 2.55 a.m.

TRAINS LEAVE MORIOKA (up) at 5 and 11.30 a.m. and 5.50 p.m.; SHIOGAMA (up) at 6.50 and 11 a.m., and 3.55 and 7.25 p.m.; SENDAI (up) at 7.30 and 11 40 a.m., and 4.35 and 12.35 p.m.; FUKUSHIMA (up) at 6.40 and 10.26 a.m. and 2.38 p.m. and 3.25 a.m.; KORIYAMA (up) at 8.27 a.m., and 12.14 and 4.31 p.m. and 5.05 a.m.; SHIRAKAWA (up) at 9.41 a.m., and 1.33 p.m. and 6.25 a.m.; and UTSUNOMIYA (up) at 6.10 a.m. and 12.17, 4.18, and 6.30 p.m. and 9 a.m.

FARES.—Ueno to Utsunomiya, first-class *yen* 2, second-class *yen* 1.32, third-class *sen* 86; to Koriyama *yen* 4.10, *yen* 2.74, *yen* 1.37; to Fukushima *yen* 5, *yen* 3.32, *yen* 1.66; to Sendai *yen* 6.45, *yen* 4.30, *yen* 2.15; to Shiogama *yen* 6.75, *yen* 4.50, *yen* 2.25.

* Through Trains to and from Nikko.

UTSUNOMIYA-NIKKO RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE UTSUNOMIYA (down) at 5.25 and 10.05 a.m., and 12.25 and 3.05 p.m.; and NIKKO (up) at 7.20 and 11.55 a.m., and 2.25 and 4.55 p.m.

FARES—First-class, 75 *sen*; second-class, 50 *sen*; third-class, 25 *sen*.

TOKYO-MAEBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MAEBASHI (up) at 6 and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40, 5.45, and 8.50 p.m.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki and Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 12th.
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 7th.*
From Hongkong	per C. P. M. Co.	Wednesday, June 10th.†
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 20th.‡
From Europe viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, June 12th.§
From Europe via Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Saturday, June 20th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, July 3rd.

* *Ancona* left Hongkong on May 31st. † *Empress of Japan* left Hongkong on June 2nd. ‡ *City of Peking* left San Francisco on June 2nd. § *Caledonien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on June 4th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, June 7th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, June 9th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 9th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Friday, June 12th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 13th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 20th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, June 21st.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 30th May,—Yokkaichi 29th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 30th May,—Yokkaichi 29th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hesperia, German steamer, 1,050, Madson, 30th May,—Hongkong 23rd May, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 31st May,—Yokkaichi 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 31st May,—Kobe 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 31st May,—Yokkaichi 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 31st May,—Shimominato 29th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benvenue, British steamer, 1,467, Thompsen, 1st June,—Kobe 30th May, General.—Comes & Co.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 1st June, —Takao 25th May, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 1st June,—Yokkaichi 31st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 2nd June,—Hakodate 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 2nd June,—Niigata 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Leander (10), twin-screw-cruiser, Captain Burges Watson, 2nd June,—Kobe 1st June.

Mercury (13), twin-screw-cruiser, Captain Chas. J. Balfour, 2nd June,—Kobe 1st June.

Severn (12), twin-screw-cruiser, Captain Wm. H. Hall, 2nd June,—Kobe 1st June.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 2nd June,—Yokkaichi 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, John Wynn, 2nd June,—Kobe 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 3rd June,—Hakodate 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 3rd June,—Yokkaichi 2nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Spiegelthal, 3rd June,—Hachinohe 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Triomphante (13), French frigate, Captain P. de Cormelies Luciniere, 3rd June,—Kobe 2nd June.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 4th June,—Yokkaichi 3rd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 5th June,—Hongkong 30th May, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 5th June,—Handa 4th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 5th June,—Shanghai and ports 29th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Chinyetsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 928, S. Oka, 30th May,—Otaru, Ballast.—Japanese.

Glamorganshire, British steamer, 1,845, Davis, 30th May,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 31st May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 30th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Arai, 31st May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, Summers, 31st May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,005, Pyne, 1st June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, Mumesono, 1st June,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 1st June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 1,567, Bailey, 1st June,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,871, Cumings, 2nd June,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Nirei, 2nd June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 2nd June,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Meiji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,010, Allen, 2nd June,—Hakodate.—Lighthouse Department.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 2nd June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Euphrates, British steamer, 1,300, J. Edwards, 3rd June,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 3rd June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haiphong, British steamer, 1,122, Harris, 3rd June, —Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 3rd June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Muramatsu, 3rd June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abyssinia, British steamer, 2,300, Williamson, 4th June,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Protos, German steamer, 1,093, Johannsen, 4th June,—Kobe, Ballast.—Chinese.

Narwhal, British steam-schooner, 142, Bowles, 4th June,—

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, John Wynn, 4th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Nunome, 4th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 4th June,—Honolulu, General and Emigrants.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigelthal, 5th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hesperia, German steamer, 1,050, Madson, 5th June,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—5 Japanese in second class, and 20 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Shimminato:—1,101 emigrants for Honolulu.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Mrs. Kuki Mitsuko and 3 children, Mrs. Heathcote, Mrs. M. Okumura, Miss T. Okumura, Mr. C. Graham Gardun, and Mr. J. Atanzai in cabin; Messrs. G. Sakai, Y. Shiraishi, M. Mitsumori, S. Tsubokawa, and S. Hagehara in second class, and 35 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. Watabe, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Kuroama, and Mr. Sakata in cabin; 14 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong:—Mr. H. J. Just and servant, Miss L. Jeffries, Mr. H. Tanabe, and Mr. and Mrs. M. Okamura and child in cabin. For San Francisco: Mrs. E. Taylor, Miss J. Sherwood, Messrs. William Snell, R.N., O. Johnson, and G. M. Price in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Blain, Mrs. Brown Potter, Mr. Kyrle Bellew, Mr. Twinning, Mrs. Carl Bailey, Mr. Jas. Gurney, Mrs. S. Milton, Mrs. A. Tyler, Mr. John MacGregor, Mr. V. D. O. Wintle, and Mrs. MacBride and 3 children in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Fong Sam Poy and child, Mr. Hong See, Mr. and Mrs. Ogura, Mr. Mizuno, and Mr. Ando in second class, and 78 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Miss L. Radford, Mr. C. W. Arnould, Major Costobadie and native servant, Dr. and Mrs. Hartigan, 2 children, and maid, Dr. R. P. Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Dalrymple, Mr. J. Fraser and servant, Captain Irvine, Mr. C. Bertodano, Mr. C. J. Barnes, Mr. W. Lorry, Mr. Woo Pak Kei, Mr. and Mrs. Alford, Dr. Hudson, Mr. M. T. B. Macpherson, and Mr. Yong Hop in cabin; 4 Chinese and 2 seamen, R.N. in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. W. G. Sandeman, Mr. and Mrs. C. Whern and 2 children, Mrs. S. Eldridge, Mrs. B. C. Howard, Rev. J. Dooman, Rev. J. Ambler, Major-General Palmer, R.E., Dr. Laning, Messrs. Suzuki, M. F. G. Sale, J. Johnstone, W. Dobie, and Miss L. Webster in cabin; Messrs. Shibagaki, Fujikawa, and A. J. Allason in second class, and 62 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 47 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Kobe the 30th May at noon; passed Oshima at 9.20 p.m.; Rock Island at 1.57 on the 31st; Sagami at 6.15 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama at 8.15 p.m.; experienced light variable airs with fine weather and smooth sea throughout the passage.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Shimonoseki the 28th May at 6.14 a.m. Arrived at Shin-minato at 4 p.m. and left the 29th at 10.10 a.m.; passed Tomangai-shima at 3.07 a.m. on the 30th, Rock Island at 1.37 on the 31st. Arrived at Yokohama at 8.30 a.m.; had light variable winds and smooth sea throughout the passage and pleasant weather.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Hakodate the 30th May at 2 p.m.; had moderate to light westerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 31st at 1 p.m. and left the 1st June at 4.30 a.m.; had light southerly winds and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 2nd June at 6 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. Wynn, reports:—Left Kobe the 1st June at noon; had light variable winds with fine pleasant weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 2nd June at 5.45 p.m.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left Hongkong the 30th May at 2.56 p.m., to June 1st had light north-east and cloudy weather; thence to 3rd strong south-east gale with heavy rain; thence to Rock Island strong north-easterly wind and high sea, and thence to port light winds and cloudy. Arrived at Yokohama the 5th June at 4 a.m. Passage, 5 days, 11 hours, and 22 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate the 1st June at 2 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather and smooth sea during the voyage. Arrived at Yokohama the 3rd June at 1.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 29th May at 2.30 p.m.; had light winds with heavy easterly sea. Arrived at Nagasaki the 31st at 9.30 a.m. and left the 1st June at 5 p.m. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 2nd at 6.47 a.m. and left at 10.30 a.m.; had easterly winds with dirty rainy weather throughout the Inland Sea. Arrived at Kobe the 3rd at 2 p.m. and left the 4th at 6 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 5th June at midnight; had moderate northerly winds with fine weather throughout the passage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

During the past week there has been a good demand for best 9lb. Shirtings at steady to full prices and considerable sales to arrive have been made, total sales amount to about 20,000 pieces. In 8¼lb. Shirtings a more limited enquiry has existed, and sales are reported of about 2,000 pieces, also of 500 pieces T. Cloth. Quite a large business was doing in Yarns in the early past week and prices looked like going higher, but the demand was freely met and buyers soon found there was no lack of supply; quotations remain unaltered

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therefore; sales amount to about 1,500 bales, half of which consists of two folds, including a good deal for future arrival. Bombays remain a dead letter in face of the low prices accepted by the native mills. In Fancy Cottons and most descriptions of Woollens there has been little doing, as is usual when the Harvest operations have commenced, and it is quite exceptional to see Yarns and Shirtings being dealt in so freely at this season.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.		
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.65	to	2.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.10	to	1.17½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.30	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.75	to	1.97½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	5.00	to	6.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.55	to	0.70
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 44 inches	1.35	to	2.85
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40 42 yards, 32 inches	$1.00	to	1.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.12½	to	0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.30	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.		
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$24.00	to	27.00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.25	to	28.25
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28.50	to	30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	29.50	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30.75
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to	33.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	33.50	to	34 50
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to	38.00
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78.00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77.00
Nos. 10/12, Bombay		—	

METALS.

The Metal trade continues dull, and very little business has actually been done. There is no improvement in values.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80	to	2.95
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.90	to	2.95
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.80	to	2.95
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.05
Sheet Iron	3.00	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.50	to	4.65
Tin Plates, per box	5.60	to	5.80
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to	1.35

KEROSENE.

A few small sales have been effected at late rates. Clearances have been fair. Stocks are ample.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.60	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

Some Formosa Sugar has been moved at about late rates, but still little doing in White sorts.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$4.15	to	4.20
Brown Daitong	3.15	to	4.10
Brown Canton	5.00	to	6.00
Brown Java and Penang	5.50	to	6.00
White Refined	4.90	to	7.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 29th ultimo; since that date the business has been but small, the total settlements amounting to 279 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks* 11 piculs, *Filatures* 160 piculs, *Re-reels* 95 piculs, *Kakeda* 13 piculs. No direct shipments by native Kaisha.

There have been but a few lots of fresh silk sent in from the country and several large parcels returned for home consumption whereby the stock has been reduced to 1,770 piculs, against 1,850 piculs at same date last year and 1,100 piculs in 1889.

All is supposed to be going on well with the new crop, and it is generally expected that the outturn will be a good deal in excess of that of last year. Some small musters of early reeling have come to hand which all show good quality. There have been some reports of frosts in Shinshu on May 28th and 29th; this may be correct, but it is not supposed that any damage of moment was done thereby.

There has been but one shipping opportunity during the week, the P. & O. steamer *Verona*, on the 30th ultimo, which took 172 piculs to Europe, thereby bringing present export figures to 33,315 piculs; against 35,387 piculs at same date last year, and 41,083 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—Total net settlements in this class are 11 piculs medium *Shinshu* at $490 to $495, but a large lot has been taken into godown, being rejected by one firm and again taken in by another; whether to be retained or returned remains to be seen.

Filatures.—Most of the settlements in this class were common to medium grades from $530 to $600; a small lot of Ise *Maruyama* was taken up at $630.

Re-reels.—In this class also nothing but low grades has been purchased ranging from $450 to $550.

Kakeda.—A very limited business, only two parcels being taken up, 10 piculs at $515 and 3 piculs *Turtle shop* at $552½.

Prices paid appear lower, especially in common grades, but when real quality in taken into consideration they stand as before. All quotations must be taken more or less nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	$490	to 500
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.		—
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	630	
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.		—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	610	to 620
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nom.		—
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	Nom.	580	to 590
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	Nom.		—
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nom.	550	to 560
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nom.	530	to 540
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	600	to 610
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	Nom.	590	to 600
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	Nom.	570	to 580
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nom.	550	to 560
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nom.	540	to 550
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nom.	520	to 530
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	595	
Kakedas—No. 1	Nom.	575	to 585
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nom.	565	to 570
Kakedas—No. 2	Nom.	545	to 550
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nom.	530	
Kakedas—No. 3	Nom.	520	
Kakedas—No. 3½	Nom.	510	to 520
Kakedas—No. 4	Nom.	505	to 510
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	535	to 540
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	500	to 520
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 5th June, 1891:—

		Season 1890 91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
		Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe		14,591	14,778	22,150
America		18,083	20,154	19,547
Total	Bales	32,674	34,932	40,697
	Piculs	33,315	35,387	41,083
		piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		34,530	35,500	40 800
Stock, 5th June		1,770	1,850	1,100
Available supplies to date		36,300	37,350	41,900

WASTE SILK.

Very little business in this branch, total settlements during the week being 166 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi* 116 piculs, *Kibiso* 50 piculs.

Most of these settlements were made from fresh arrivals from the interior, the present stock on the market offering but little inducement to operators. Stocks remain unchanged at 3,100 piculs.

Shipments have been confined to the P. & O. steamer *Verona* on the 30th ultimo, which carried 71 piculs Waste to Europe. This brings present export figures to 31,073 piculs, against 29,250 piculs last year and 31,260 piculs in 1889.

Noshi-ito.—Some *Joshu* were taken up at from $60 to $80, whilst seven parcels of *Hachoji* brought from $100 to $142½. One lot of *Filature* changed hands at from $135 to $142, and a few bales of *Tama-ito* at $210.

Kibiso.—One parcel of very low grade *Hachoji* brought $13½ to $18, and a small lot of *Kudzu-ito* $65 to $80.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 5th June, 1891:—

	Season 1890 91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	29,786	27,060	28,782
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	31,073	29,250	31,260
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,650	29,150	31,250
Stock, 5th June	3,100	4,950	2,950
Available supplies to date	34,750	34,100	34,200

Exchange closes as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3½; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3⅜; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78¾; 4m/s. U.S. $79⅛; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.13; 6m/s. fcs. 4.16.

Estimated Silk Stock, 5th June, 1891:—

Raw.	piculs.	Waste.	piculs.
Hanks	190	Cocoons	40
Filatures	550	Noshi-ito	810
Re-reels	720	Kibiso	2,040
Kakeda	140	Mawata	150
Oshu	160	Sundries	60
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	1,770	Total piculs	3,100

TEA.

A large business has been done, and prices are well maintained.

	per picul.		
Extra Choicest			—
Choicest	$27	to	—
Choice	24	to	26
Finest	22	to	23
Fine	20	to	21
Good Medium	18	to	19
Medium	16	to	17
Good Common	14	to	15
Common	12	to	13

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has been steady.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2⅝
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/3
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.06
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.17
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	78
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	78
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	79½
Silver	44⅛

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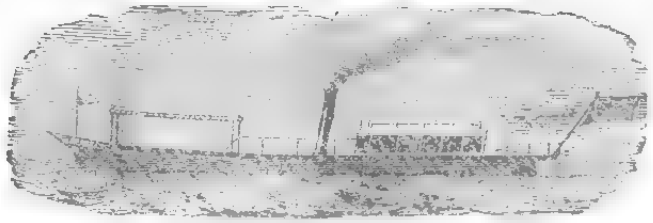

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1891.

DEATHS

On May 14th, at S. Lawn Ridge, Orange, New Jersey, U.S.A., MARY MURRAY DASHIELL, wife of Rev A. V. Heyen, in the 33rd year of her life.

At Kowaki-Jani, on June 8th, JAMES RAYMOND ANGLIN, Manager of the *Japan Gazette*, aged 49 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE number of medical men at present permitted to use Dr. Koch's lymph in Japan is 52.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL proceeded on the 7th instant to Uyeno to visit the Exhibition of Oil Paintings.

THE *Kaimon Kan*, a training-ship attached to the Saseho Admiralty Station, will start for Korea about the 20th instant.

A TELEGRAM from Kumamoto states that Mr. Hirayama, Director of the Fifth Higher Middle School, expired on the 7th instant.

THE Russian Prince Imperial has granted a sum of money amounting to *yen* 1,000 towards the funds of the Tokyo Poor Asylum.

THE promoters of the Yokohama Dock Company received sanction from the Government on the 5th instant, to establish the company.

SIR WILLIAM DES VOEUX, late Governor of Hongkong, who had been in Japan for some time, left Yokohama on the 9th instant for San Francisco.

THE Home Minister issued an order on the 7th instant directing that vessels coming from or having called at Bangkok or Malacca should undergo examination at the Nagasaki quarantine station.

THE Agricultural and Commercial Department proposes to build new premises for the laboratory of the Geological Bureau at an estimated cost of 30,000 *yen*.

A SUM of money amounting to *yen* 100 has been granted by the Emperor towards the expense of erecting a monument in commemoration of the well known painter Watanabe Kwazan.

THE *Shino-nome Shimbun*, a daily newspaper published in Osaka, was suspended on the 8th instant on the ground that it contained matter prejudicial to public morality.

THE *Niigata Maru*, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, which ran on a rock off the coast of Shimonoseki, Kishu, arrived at Nagasaki on the 7th instant to repair damages there.

DR. CARGILL G. KNOTT, of the College of Science, in the Imperial University, will leave Japan about the 17th instant for home, the term of his engagement in Japan having terminated.

THE Councillors of the Imperial University met on the 9th instant and decided to build new premises for the Colleges of Law, Literature, and Engineering in view of enlarging the class-rooms.

THE receipts of the Kyushu Railway Company during ten days ended the 31st ultimo were *yen* 10,909.37, of which *yen* 9,254.89 was realized by the sale of tickets, and *yen* 1,654.48 by carrying freight.

COUNT ITAGAKI and Mr. Tatsuno Shuichiro were to leave the capital on the 10th instant to attend a political meeting to be held on the 11th instant at Hojomachi, Awagori, Chiba Prefecture, by members of the *Jiyu* party in the district.

MAJOR-GENERAL NAGAYAMA, Director of the Hokkaido Administration Board, has sent in his resignation, and Mr. Morioka, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, has received a private intimation that he will succeed to the office.

SIR WILLIAM DES VOEUX, Governor of Hongkong, and Lady des Vœux, Mr. Hugh Fraser, British Minister, and Mrs. Fraser, and Captain Milner were admitted to audience of Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress on the 5th instant.

THE receipts of the Sanyo Railway Company during April last were *yen* 28,122.708, making a daily average of *yen* 907.188. Of the above total *yen* 25,039.968 was realized by the sale of tickets to 125,861 passengers, and *yen* 3,082.704 by the carriage of goods.

EARLY in the morning of the 3rd instant fire occurred at Wakagurimura, Shimo-Shinkawagori, Toyama Prefecture, and destroyed 2 houses, 7 godowns, and 5 sheds. Three lives were lost, and three men and one woman were more or less severely injured.

A SEVERE hail-storm visited Aoki, Uyeno, Nekozawa, and Oshika villages in the Fuji district of Shizuoka Prefecture on the morning of the 5th instant. Some of the hail-stones that fell were four and a half inches in circumference. Much damage was caused to crops, and a number of small birds were killed.

THE following is a return of the number of telegraphic messages and revenue throughout the empire for May last:—Inland: messages, 393,049 receipts, *yen* 105,434.91; foreign: messages, 4,504, receipts, *yen* 13,589.54; total, 397,553 messages and *yen* 119,024.45 receipts. As compared with the previous month, the above figures show an increase of 56,721 messages, and *yen* 34,013.50 receipts.

AN ordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held on Tuesday, the 9th instant, at which Counts Matsukata, Goto, and Oki, Viscounts Enomoto, Kabayama, Tanaka, and Takashima, and Mr. Mutsu were present. The proceedings commenced at 11 in the forenoon and were not closed till late in the afternoon.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received by the Yokohama Branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha to the effect that the company's ship *Niigata Maru*, which left Kobe on the 23rd instant for Yokohama, ran on a rock off the coast of Shiomisaki, Kishu, and put back to Kobe. The accident is reported to have taken place about 2 a.m. in the morning of the 4th inst.

A GENERAL MEETING of members of the Yokohama Sanitary Association was held on the 6th instant at the Machigai-sho, Honchodori. After the reading of reports on the finances and business of the Association during the past year, Mr. Utsumi, Governor of Kanagawa, was elected President. Mr. Hirose Sataro, Dr. Miyake Hiizu, Dr. Nagai Kyutaro, and Mr. Miyajima Manji delivered addresses in the course of the proceedings.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA TAKEHITO, accompanied by Mr. Sannomiya, with a present from H.I.M. the Emperor, visited H.I.H. Prince George of Greece on board the *Koreats* on the morning of the 9th instant. The Russian Minister and Consul, the French Consul, Mr. Utsumi, Governor of Kanagawa, and Mr. Mitsuhashi, a Councillor of the Kanagawa Prefectural Government, also proceeded to the ship to bid His Highness farewell. Prince George embarked in the *Gaelic* for San Francisco at 9.40 a.m.

THE improved condition of the Import market has been maintained, and a steady business has been done. Prices generally have been firm, and in some cases an advance has been paid. English Yarns have been sold to the extent of 1,500 bales, but only 5 bales Bombay have been taken; and beside 38,000 pieces of Shirtings—nearly all 9lb.—T.-Cloths, Velvet, Turkey Reds, Victoria Lawns, Mousseline de Laine, Italian Cloth, and Blankets, have all shared in the demand. The Metal trade continues quiet. A few small lots of Kerosene have been taken, and clearances continue good. The stock is ample, and three cargoes American oil are very near this port. Sugar has sold in small quantities—mostly Formosa—other sorts being slightly lower in value. The Silk trade has dwindled to retail proportions, and no improvement may be looked for till the new crop is on the market. In Waste Silk nothing done. The prospects of the new crop continue excellent, and it will soon be seen in quantity. After last Saturday's storm Japanese Silk men in Yokohama talked about prices going up ten per cent. in consequence, but as a fact that storm was purely local, being confined to Yokohama and the Bay. Reports of storm and frost have come from the interior, as usual, but the amount of damage in any direction is believed to be infinitesimal. A large business has been done in Tea, and settlements to the 10th instant total 132,323 piculs. The leaf now being mostly handled is said to be not quite so good in cup as the same grades last season. Prices are well maintained, and second pickings are coming in. Exchange, which has moved up a point or two during the week, is steady and firm.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE RADICALS.

THE public meeting of the Radical Party, dispersed by the police on the 3rd instant, owing to the seditious character of a speech delivered by one of the members, re-assembled on the 4th instant, only to meet with a more summary fate, for it was dissolved before any speeches whatever had been delivered. Count Itagaki's name stood first on the list of those who should address the meeting. At noon about a thousand persons had assembled, and a police force of 120 or 130 was present. Just as the meeting was about to be declared open, the chief of police informed the Chairman that, in accordance with the provisions of the 13th Article of the Public Meeting and Political Party Regulations, the meeting must be dissolved then and there. The chairman, Mr. Tatsuno, thereupon rose and said:—"We purposed holding this meeting in order to declare publicly the views, aims, and future policy of our Party, but I regret to say that we have been ordered to dissolve the meeting before it has been actually opened, on the ground that its continuance would be opposed to public order. We have no resource but to entreat your indulgence. Under the circumstances, the meeting announced for to-morrow will also be postponed." The 13th Article under which this action was taken empowers the police to dissolve a political meeting either when the audience behaves in a turbulent manner, or when the meeting seems calculated to be prejudicial to good order. It is not quite clear from the newspaper reports which clause the police acted on. The accounts published are identical. They show that before the meeting commenced an arrest had to be made, one of the spectators having greeted the police's injunctions to keep order by crying out, "This is not the first time we have felt the Government's oppression." It is surmised that the police took action in consequence of the disposition of the audience. There is, however, another explanation which reaches us from an independent source, and which we believe to be the true one. It is that the presence of a large body of *soshi* bent upon creating a disturbance compelled the police to put a stop to the meeting as a precautionary measure. The *soshi* have taken umbrage on account of the Radicals' action in urging the Cabinet Ministers to resign, a procedure which these custodians of political morality denounce as unconstitutional. A hundred of them attended the Radical meeting on the 3rd with the intention of demonstrating the soundness of their views by recourse to physical violence—which they do not, apparently, include in the category of unconstitutional methods—but their project was baulked by the premature dissolution of the meeting. They mustered again in even larger numbers on the 4th, but the police had obtained information of their designs. Accordingly, before the meeting commenced a warning was addressed to the audience that shouting or violent interruptions would not be tolerated, and this precipitated matters, so that the police deemed it prudent to stay the proceedings. It seems curious that the Radicals should become the *soshi's* target, but this is not the first instance.

THE IMPERIAL PRINCESSES.

WE read in the *Fiji Shimpo* that the little Princesses Tsune and Kane, the Emperor's only remaining daughters, are enjoying excellent health. The Princess Tsune will be three years old next September, and the Princess Kane was one year old last January. They have hitherto lived in the Aoyama Detached Palace, but a building having been completed for their use at Takanawa, on the site of the former Naval Hospital, they moved there on the 7th instant. The new Palace occupies the grounds of the former Hosokawa Yashiki. Twenty-five years ago this place was celebrated as one of the most beautiful gardens in Tokyo. The exceptional quantity of quaint and picturesque rocks (*ishi*) used in laying out the grounds, earned for the place the appellation of *Ishi-yashiki*. It was here that a number of the Forty-seven Ronins, who had been placed under the custody of Prince Hosokawa, of Higo, committed *seppuku*, and the well where their heads were washed is still to be seen. Of course like all the other residences of the feudal barons in Tokyo, the Hosokawa Yashiki suffered not a little during the years immediately following the Restoration. Many of the fine old trees were cut down, and several of the more easily removable rocks went to adorn the gardens of the Yashiki afterwards purchased by Marquis Hachisuka, and of the Palace of Prince Arisugawa. Enough remained, however, to suggest the original beauty of the place, and during the period—some fifteen years—while the enclosure served for a naval hospital, tolerable care was taken of the timber and rockeries. Doubtless the garden will now be gradually restored to something of its former state, and thus another of the fine old places with which Tokyo abounded in the Tokugawa days, will be saved from decay.

QUERY.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has an article meant, we imagine, to be read ironically, but written in sober and precise terms. When will the contemplated improvements be completed in Tokyo, asks our contemporary. Professor Inouye Tetsujiro has replied that he thinks five centuries must elapse before the capital of Japan can stand on anything like the same hygienic and architectural level as London, Paris, or Berlin. The citizens of Tokyo talk as though great improvements had been effected, but are content to inhabit wooden houses beside narrow, bad streets, without a proper water supply or any good system of drainage, and so straggling is the city that to establish telephonic or telegraphic communications demands a disproportionate outlay. Besides, adds the Professor, the costume of Japanese men and women is faulty and inconvenient, exposing the legs after the manner of savage people. Improvements have also to be effected in education, social intercourse, politics, literature, moral standards, and so forth. "If"—the writer goes on, and this is the singular part of his contention—"if in five hundred years we have rebuilt the city and reformed our manners and customs, then we can allow foreigners to live freely among us. But to sanction mixed residence before these improvements are accomplished, would be very dangerous. Look at Saghalien. Its exchange for the Kuriles was necessitated by complications arising out the mixed residence of Russians and Japanese. We must be careful, therefore, in the case of Tokyo and the interior."

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, of course, does not endorse these remarks. It has always been an advocate of Mixed Residence. What it does is merely to open its columns to Professor Inouye; not a kindness to that gentleman, we venture to think.

TELEGRAM FROM RUSSIA.

CONSIDERABLE curiosity, and perhaps some anxiety, were felt in Japan with regard to the reception likely to be given by Russia to the news of Tsuda Sanzo's sentence. Not a few men whose title to judge cannot be questioned, maintained that if the Japanese Penal Code cannot be interpreted so as to include Tsuda's crime in the list of offences against Imperial personages, then it ought certainly to contain some other clause providing for such a contingency as the Otsu affair. According to this view, we have to choose between the alternatives of a fault in the rendering of the Code or a defect in its provisions, neither of which conclusions could be very satisfactory to Russia. On the other hand, the law of the land is the sole guide of judicial tribunals, and when the highest court in the empire decides that penal servitude for life is the extreme sentence legally pronounceable against the assailant of the Czarevitch, a civilized Government has no resource but to declare itself content. This is what the Russian Government seems to have done. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that a telegram received from St. Petersburg on the 5th instant, was couched in very satisfactory terms. The exact language of the message is not published, but its gist runs thus:—"The Russian Government has received from the Japanese Government intelligence of the sentence passed upon Tsuda Sanzo, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs has declared that, without making further reference to the deep sympathy shown by every class of the Japanese people, he is entirely satisfied with the efforts made by the Japanese Authorities to have Tsuda Sanzo punished with the utmost rigour of the law; and expresses his sense of the propriety of the sentence pronounced by an independent tribunal according to the distinct provisions of the Japanese Code." The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* adds that the Japanese nation should be grateful for and appreciative of the moderation shown by Russia throughout this painful business.

THE "JIYU CLUB."

MESSRS MISAKI KAMENOSUKE, Takenouchi Tsuna, Uyeki Yemori, Kato Heishiro and others of the *Jiyu Club*, recently held consultations as to their future course of policy. They adopted a resolution to the effect that they do not attach so much value to increasing the members of their club as to securing harmony of views and unity of action; that the club shall be guided as little as possible by mere sentiment in considering the topics of the day; that opinions shall be published in the name of the club whenever questions of great importance arise, and that the members shall carry out the principles of liberalism in a sober and moderate manner. The *Kokumin-no-Tomo* remarks that, so far as Messrs. Misaki and Takenouchi are concerned, the last phrase, "in a sober and moderate manner," does not seem incongruous, but that it ill accords with the methods of men like Messrs. Uyeki and Kato. The Tokyo periodical further observes, with more sarcasm than justice, that the *Kaishin-to* of former days is now revived by a set of men who have hitherto stood at the opposite extreme of reckless progress.

PHENOMENAL HAIL STORM.

YOKOHAMA and the neighbouring districts were visited on Saturday afternoon with a hail storm such as the oldest inhabitant will scarcely dare to belittle. About tiffin time the sky began to darken, and by two o'clock several thunder peals were heard. The heavens grew momentarily blacker, lighted up at frequent intervals by flashes of lightning, and at length rain began to fall, at first lightly but after in a pretty heavy shower. About a quarter before three the rain gave way to a most violent hailstorm. The stones that fell, were in some cases as large as cherries—indeed one gentleman who experienced the full sweep of the storm in the bay declared most seriously that pieces of ice as large as the corks of beer bottles come down about his ears. At any rate, when the blast had spent itself, people were able to gather up in the corners of window sills handfuls of ice granulated to the size of cherries. The cricket match in course of progress had to be stopped incontinently. Many of the gutters in the streets were choked by the mass of half melted ice that filled them. A couple of enthusiastic yachtsmen who were watching the sailing race in the bay were scared almost out of their wits by the roar of the Brobdignagian hail stones as they bombarded the galvanized roof of the Boat Club. It is to be hoped that the storm was local, otherwise much damage must have been caused to crops.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCKS.

WE mentioned some time ago that the consent of the Authorities had at length been given to the construction of Docks at Yokohama. The *Mainichi Shimbun* now furnishes information as to the terms of the Company's charter. The official permission was conveyed to the projectors, Messrs. Asada Matashichi, Kurusu Sobei, and others, on the 4th instant by Mr. Utsumi, Governor of Kanagawa. The Government has agreed that of the total area of 38,031 *tsubo* (32 acres) reclaimed for the purposes of the works, 36,500 *tsubo* shall be ceded to the company

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free of charge, but that a yearly rental of 30.40 *yen* shall be paid for the space within the piers. The charter provides that the work must be carried out in accordance with the plans which have received official approval—the plans prepared by Major-General Palmer, R.E.—and that no change must be made without the sanction of the Governor. Farther, a sum equal to five per cent. of the total cost—three million *yen*—of the undertaking must be lodged in the office of the Prefecture by way of security for the carrying out of the work. During the progress of the work, measures for the maintenance of good order shall be under the control of the Governor, and on completion, business must not be commenced until after due inspection and approval of the docks by the Governor. The following must also be reported beforehand to the Governor:—dockage dues, cost of building or repairing ships, rules for the control of the works, method of taking charge of ships or ships' goods, and other matters of importance relating to the conduct of the Company's business. Finally, the Company is prohibited from mortgaging or selling its privileges without the consent of the Governor, and the work must be commenced within ten months of the day on which the charter was granted and must be concluded within four years from the time of commencement. The charter contains thirty articles, alterable only by the Governor.

THE CONSERVATIVE ORGAN.

WHATEVER doubts may have existed about the nature of conservatism in Japan have been most effectually dispelled by recent writings in the *Chiusei Nippo*, which is understood to be Viscount Torio's organ. On the 3rd instant it published an article—under the title "An invitation to sweep away the evil odours permeating the country"—which is particularly unequivocal. The creators of these evil odours are, in the opinion of the *Chiusei Nippo*, men who, under the thin disguise of assisting civilization and progress, worship and seek to introduce everything Occidental, thus vitiating the nature of the people, impairing the national spirit, and laying the foundation of the country's weakness. Japan, the *Chiusei* declares, can never become powerful so long as such evil odours prevail, for they taint the youths who would otherwise develop the Japanese spirit in all its purity. "Abandoning fidelity, forgetting loyalty, these men toil only for their own interests." The *Chiusei Nippo* announces its resolve to sweep them away, if possible, but inasmuch as it does not undertake to wield any weapon more trenchant than a sharp pen, the task before it is tedious. These comments may be regarded as the sequel of another article published last month by the same journal. We will translate it for our readers' behoof:—"Since the Restoration there has sprung up a party intoxicated with the Occident. It disturbs Japanese customs and runs counter to right. The opinion of the majority is converted into a weapon of oppression; liberty becomes an excuse for license. All this is owing to the spread of Occidental intoxication. The victims of the craze fix upon loyal *Samurai* the stigma of old fashioned folk, and call themselves the wise offspring of the era. They are the wise offspring of fashion. During the thirty odd years that have elapsed since the opening of the country, these men have been destroying the State. Not the things that have come from the West are working the downfall of the country; the true origin of the evil is the perversion of men's minds. Not the persuasion of the foreign residents is perverting men's minds: the true origin of the evil is the influence of those in high places. They struggle for novelty and contend for what is strange. Their houses they build in American style; their *cuisines* they fashion upon French models; their garments are German; they study the language of England; they imitate the political systems, the laws, the theatres, the social entertainments and the card-playing of the West. They lead the people of the empire into temptation, and have made Tokyo the very centre of this Occidental efflorescence. To the youth of the country they offer Occidentalism as a guide. Education is adapted to it. Religion is subserved to it. The foreigner they hold to be cleverer than any one else. Whatever is foreign they count good. Their reverance for imported things increases continually. With Japanese bodies, their hearts have crossed the seas and become naturalized in the West. The downfall of the State is before our eyes. In the Japan of to-day the upright have been displaced, and the vulgar stand across the path. National disturbance cannot be avoided." Strange writing this at the present epoch of Japan's progress. And yet it ought not to seem so strange. A tendency to praise the past on the part of those who have been outrun by the present is as old as the world. The little band grouped about the Conservative leader may perform a useful part. The extravagance of their declamation robs it of dangerous capabilities. By and by they will learn to drag the wheel instead of dashing themselves fruitlessly against it. Sympathy is not with them, but who will deny that the *Chiusei Nippo*, by provoking repeated suspension, may ultimately awaken pity which, metaphysicians say, is akin to love. At all events Viscount Torio and his followers are a picturesque spectacle.

ENTERPRIZE AT KOBE.

WE take the following from the *Hyogo News*:—

Through the enterprise of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., of Kobe, a very important business enterprise is about to be tried at Togahama, a place about midway between Kobe and Sumiyoshi, and close to the sea-shore. The building was commenced only four months ago, and to-day it is in complete working order, thanks mainly to the energy of Mr. John Craig, superintendent engineer, and of Mr. Wm. Bruce. The machinery was supplied by Messrs. Urquhart, Lindsay & Co., of Dundee, and is exceedingly complete in all its details. The buildings are within a brick enclosure, and consist mainly of two portions, the mill and the engine-room. The mill is a large building 208 ft. long and 71. broad, divided into two sections. There are 40 looms for making gunny-bags, six overhead sewing machines, two hemming machines, a cutting machine, a measuring machine, and a calendar for finishing. Besides which there are 100 spindles cop-winding machines, 80 spindles warp-winding machines, 12 spinning machines, two roving machines, four drying machines, four cording machines, and a jute softener. The whole of the machinery is driven by a powerful engine of 350 h.p., with high and low press Corliss valves, and a 33" by 16" minute marks cylinder. The huge fly-wheel is 18 ft in diameter, and has eight grooves, being driven by eight hempen cables. The boiler is 26 ft. by 7 ft., and works at 90 lb. pressure. The consumption of coal when all the looms are working is about two tons per day, while it is computed that 4,000 bags can be turned out in 10 hours, requiring 20 bales of jute, weighing 400 lbs. a bale.

On Monday a large company, with Mr. Bardens representing Messrs. Samuel & Co., and Mr. Koidzumi, the Japanese proprietor, met at the mills for the purpose of inaugurating the opening ceremony. Mr Bardens broke a bottle of champagne over the piston, and Mr. Koidzumi turning a wheel set the massive and complicated machinery in motion, the engine working with wonderful smoothness. A move was then made for the mill, where the machinery was inspected. The large spindles were rotating at the rate of 800 revolutions per minute, while the smaller ones acquire in one case a speed of 1,800 and another of 2,100. The ironing machine, composed of hollow steel rollers heated by steam and compressed paper rollers weighing 18 cwt., the sewing machine, and the jute softener all came in for attention and admiration.

After the inspection had terminated a move was made to the tent, where an excellent cold collation was served under the personal superintendence of Mr. Dyer, of the Hyogo Hotel. At the conclusion of the meal, Mr. Bardens, on behalf of Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Co., expressed satisfaction in welcoming the guests at the opening ceremony that day. He regretted that a member of the firm was not present to see how successfully Messrs. Craig and Bruce had carried out their work. Mr. Craig in reply thanked those present for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast. His satisfaction, however, he said, was marred by the fact that he had that day received the news of the death of Mr. Urquhart, a member of the firm who sent him to Japan. Mr. Koidzumi then rose and made a short speech in Japanese, after which Mr. Lucas remarked that not only had they to drink success to the new mill, but to assure the proprietors of all the support in their enterprise that they could obtain for them, especially if their productions were as good and cheap, or cheaper, as those obtained from India. He wished the proprietors all prosperity. Mr. Pearce complimented the proprietors on the excellent machinery they had obtained, and Mr Craig on the manner in which it had been set up. Mr. Craig having proposed the toast of the Press, the proceedings terminated.

SAILING RACE.

THE adventurous spirits who take part in the periodical sailing races had their fill of excitement on Saturday. At two o'clock Mr. Beart started three boats on their 8½ mile race—*Daimyo*, *Molly Bawn*, and *Princess Maud* the wind being then light from N.E. *Daimyo* was first round the east end of the south breakwater followed a minute later by *Molly*, *Princess Maud* nearly two minutes astern of the latter. Sheets were checked for the run thence down to a mark boat moored off Mandarin Bluff, and on this stage *Molly* gained considerably on *Daimyo*, on whom the small boat also reduced her distance perceptibly, though still one minute behind her class opponent. During the beat to the North Mark moored off the Tsurumi shore, the weather, which had lowered, broke in peals of thunder accompanied by vivid lightning, and in a hailstorm of dreadful violence, which swept up on the devoted craft before a fierce squall. For some time the boats were entirely lost to view from the shore, and indeed from the launch of the officer of the day. An anxious time ensued for the skippers of the yachts, who had to bustle about and make things snug, despite the volleys of missiles with which they were assailed. In half an hour the squall had passed, but left behind a strong breeze with biting rain showers. *Molly*, though well to windward of the small cutter, lost a good deal of time before she could get on her course again, but eventually under reefed mainsail and staysail was able to lay up again. After a while *Princess Maud* was able to carry gaff-topsail and *Molly* and *Daimyo* followed her example in getting up more canvas. *Molly Bawn* again led the *Princess* round the North Mark and increased her advantage in running back under spinnaker to the South Mark; working out a further lead on the beat back round the breakwater and the reach home, and finishing seven minutes to the good. Following are the times:—

	Rating.	Round Breakwater.	South Mark.	North Mark.	Finish.
		h.m.s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.
Daimyo	31	2.32.05	2.51.55	3.46 00	5.12.50
		4.58.00	4.14.35		
Molly Bawn	24½	2.35.00	2.51.55	3.57.00	5.23.40
		5.07.35	4 25.35		
Princess Maud	24	2.35.50	2 52.55	3.58.50	5.30.35
		5.12.00	4.27.20		

	Allowance.	Corrected Time.
	—	h m.s.
Daimyo		5.12.50
Molly Bawn	allows m.s.	5.23.40
Princess Maud	0.32	5.30.53

TOKYO CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

MR. MIURA YASU, a distinguished number of the House of Peers, is said to have declared himself opposed to the programme of the City Improvements Committee in Tokyo. He does not believe in widening the streets—we quote his opinions from the *Yomiuri Shimbun*—because in a wide street the shop-keepers find that fewer customers cross their threshold; a reason intelligible only when we remember that many Japanese streets have no side-walks, so that the wider the street the farther from the shops people are apt to pass. Another consideration advanced is that by increasing the width of the streets the apparent size of the houses is diminished. In this criticism every one will support Mr. Miura. Nothing could be meaner or more disproportionate than the little wooden houses look in some of the recently widened streets of of Tokyo. At the best of times a Japanese city, built according to the fashion of the country, appears little better than a collection of hovels. The people's sense of proportion formerly made them adapt the breadth of the streets to the lowly stature of the buildings on either side, but in the present scheme of City Improvement no value whatever is attached to proportion, and in the parts of the capital where the scheme has been carried out, an air of combined pretension and meanness prevails. Mr. Miura thinks that the city cannot afford to spend money upon such programmes until it possesses a good water supply and a good system of drainage. We have no hesitation in saying that we agree with him.

THE PENALTY INFLICTED ON TSUDA SANZO.

IT seems probable that the penalty inflicted on Tsuda Sanzo and the manner of his trial will continue to occupy attention for a considerable time. In a Western country if the Supreme Court of the land had decided such a question, the press and the public would bow to the decision; but here in Japan there is still a disposition to query the propriety of the result. A not uncommon mistake is to suppose that the Supreme Court opened a session at Otsu in

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obedience to an order of the Minister of State for Justice, but in point of fact the Minister has no power to order anything of the kind. The notification which appeared in the *Official Gazette* was merely an announcement. What really happened was that, the District Court at Otsu having declared itself incompetent, jurisdiction devolved upon the Supreme Court. It has also been erroneously stated that Tsuda Sanzo was arraigned upon a charge of common assault only. The truth is the Public Procurator charged him under the provisions of Japanese law relating to assaults upon the persons of the principal members of the Imperial Family. Such a charge could not possibly have been heard by the District Court at Otsu. The Judges of the Supreme Court did not sustain the Public Procurator's rendering of the law, but pronounced the prisoner guilty of the minor crime of ordinary assault. We now read in the *Jiji* that the opening of a special session of the Supreme Court in Otsu was in consequence of an opinion given by Count Ito to the Emperor that Tsuda should be tried for an attack upon an Imperial personage, and that Count Saigo, then Minister of State for the Interior, combatted the justice of this view. It is very probable that Count Ito did express such an opinion. There could be no doubt that Tsuda should be arraigned on the graver count if any prospect of convicting him under it presented itself. But an opinion expressed by Count Ito could have no more effect in moving the Supreme Court to open a special session than an adverse opinion of Count Saigo's could have in shaping the Judges' verdict. The interest of the affair scarcely justifies, in our opinion, some of the comments made upon it by the vernacular press. We may remind our readers here that on the occasion of the attempt upon the life of the late Emperor Alexander in Paris, his would-be assassin was indicted for a common assault with murderous intent, and was convicted on that charge.

A NEW RUSSIAN IRONCLAD.

According to the *Temps* of the 23rd April, the new Russian ironclad *Georgy-Pobedononets* (St. George the Victor), a vessel of 10,000 tons, building at the Black Sea Ironworks Company's yard near Sebastopol, will be fitted with steel plates supplied by the Creusot Works in France. This decision was arrived at by the Russian Government after the completion of a series of comparative trials at the Ochta Polygon, near St. Petersburg, between compound metal and steel plates of English manufacture and Creuzot all-steel plates. The armour of the *Georgy-Pobedononetz* will be from 20 to 40 centimetres on the water-line, according to design, and 30 centimetres for the casemates.

THE "KAISHINTO" MEETING.

The meetings of the *Kaishin* Party, held on the 6th and 7th instant in the Yayoi-kan and Koseikan respectively, proved somewhat disappointing. It had been expected that the speakers representing this important political association would address themselves to the current topics of the time, and declare their policy emphatically and clearly; but, guided perhaps by the caution which has always been conspicuous in their conduct, they adopted a reserved and decidedly non-expansive tone. A good many well-known men of the Party addressed the meetings. Mr. Hatano Denzaburo opened the ball with a speech on the methods of making Japan rich and powerful. Mr. Koizuka Ryo followed, taking for his theme official responsibility, but when he began to apply his theories to the cases of Counts Saigo and Yamada and Viscount Aoki, the police stopped him. Mr. Izuka Asajiro made an attempt to attack Count Goto, but the audience declined to listen to him. Mr. Ozaki Yukyo also called down upon himself the restraint of the police by undertaking to prove that the members of the present Cabinet behaved like people in private theatricals, and wriggled out of their responsibilities like tape-worms. A picturesque title for his lecture was chosen by Mr. Takahashi Soyemon, namely "don't pare your feet to make your boots fit." He undertook to prove that in Japan offices were created for the sake of the men to fill them, but the police interrupted his demonstration. One of the best and most practical speeches was delivered by Mr. Shimada Saburo, who maintained that Russia was not to be feared in proportion to her size, and that Japan need only stand firm and dread nothing. Before the Restoration, he said, the Japanese hated foreigners because they based their conception of them entirely on Chinese books and accounts. Similarly now they have no true or just idea of Russia, because they know her only through English representations.

THE CHICAGO EXHIBITION.

The following announcements appeared in the *Official Gazette* of the 6th instant:—

Imperial Ordinance.

We hereby authorize the organization of a Special Exhibition Bureau and order the same to be duly proclaimed.

(Imperial Sign-Manual.)
(Privy Seal.)

Ordinance 52.

Organization of the Special Exhibition Bureau.

Art. 1.—The Special Exhibition Bureau shall form a part of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and shall transact all business connected with the Columbian World Exhibition to be held in the town of Chicago, Illinois, United States of America, in the year 1893.

Art. 2.—The Special Exhibition Bureau shall include the following officials:—One Chief; two Assistant Chiefs; several Councillors; five Managers, and several Secretaries.

Art. 3.—The Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce shall be the Chief. The Assistant Chiefs shall be officials of *Chokunin* rank. The Managers shall be of *Sonin* rank. The Secretaries shall be of *Hannin* rank.

Art. 4.—The Councillors shall be chosen from among officials or men of learning or experience, and shall be appointed by the Cabinet at the recommendation of the Chief of the Bureau.

Art. 5.—The Chief of the Bureau shall have control over the officers of the various sections and shall decide all business relating to the Bureau. The Assistant Chiefs shall aid the Chief, and act in his stead should he be unable to attend to his duties. The Councillors shall investigate all such matters of importance connected with the functions of the Bureau, as may be submitted to them by the Chief. The Managers, in accordance with directions from the Chief, shall discharge the business of the Bureau. The Secretaries, under the instructions of their superior officers, shall do the written work of the Bureau.

Art. 6.—The Chief of the Bureau shall make all regulations connected with its work, and shall be competent to issue instructions to the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, the Chief of the Metropolitan Police, and the Governors of Cities and Prefectures.

Art. 7.—The Chief of the Bureau shall be competent to assemble and take counsel of experts in relation to the business of the Bureau.

Art. 8.—The Chief of the Bureau shall be competent to employ assistance within the limits of the appropriation for the uses of the Bureau.

Art. 9.—The Chief of the Bureau shall be competent to engage foreign assistance and employ foreign aid within the limits of the appropriation for the uses of the Bureau.

Art. 10.—The officials of the Bureau shall serve without pay, but in case of the business being considerable allowances of 1,000 *yen* and 500 *yen per annum*, at most, may be made to the superior officials and the Councillors, respectively, within the limits of the appropriation.

Art. 11.—The Chief of the Bureau shall be competent to suitably reward the services of the officials, within the limits of the appropriation.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY CHAIR OF ANATOMY.

We mentioned in a recent issue that Dr. W. Anderson, formerly Medical Instructor to the Imperial Japanese Naval Department, and now a leading member of the Surgical Staff of St. Thomas's Hospital, was among the candidates for the Chair of Anatomy at the Royal Academy of Arts, vacant by the death of the well-known Professor Marshall. Our readers will be glad to hear that Dr. Anderson has been successful in his candidature. He was elected by 23 votes against 4. The result could hardly have been otherwise, for Dr. Anderson's high attainments as an anatomist are supplemented by an art reputation founded on enduring work. The testimonials accompanying his application, for the post at the Royal Academy, show the great esteem in which he is held by the lights of the medical profession. Dr. Bristowe calls him "a distinguished Surgeon, Anatomist, and Artist," and says that "as a Lecturer and a master in Anatomical Science he has no superior." Sir William MacCormac writes:—"Mr. Anderson has been for many years one of the most successful Teachers of Anatomy in London, and possesses also perfect knowledge of his subject. He enjoys, besides, a facility for accurate and artistic illustration of what he teaches, which not many possess and few could surpass." Numerous other expressions of equally strong, or even stronger, appreciation from the great medical men of London were readily recorded in Dr. Anderson's favour, and doubtless helped to secure his signal victory over all rivals. It is interesting to note that Dr. Anderson, in addition to his important surgical appointments at St. Thomas's Hospital, is now Senior Lecturer on Anatomy in the Medical School, Examiner in Anatomy at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Member of the Council of the Anatomical and two other of the principal Medical Societies, and Hunterian Professor of Surgery and Pathology at the Royal College of Surgeons. But among all his posts we imagine that none can be more congenial to him than the distinguished chair to which he has now been appointed.

THE TROUBLES IN CHINA.

The following telegram was placed at our disposal by Admiral Belknap, Commanding the United States Squadron on the China and Japan Station:—"Shanghai, June 8th 1891, 6.09 p.m. Last Friday riot at Kiukiang. English and French gunboats and *Palos* stopped it. Foreign women and children on *Inconstant*. Two men killed at Wuhu. *Palos* proceeded there immediately. Threatened trouble at Hankow. Gunboat *Porpoise* there. Serious apprehensions are again felt here. Foreign Ministers at Peking informed Chinese Government that if foreigners are not protected they will take vigorous action. Seven foreign gunboats up river." The state of affairs in China is evidently of a very disquieting character. Our Shanghai correspondent, whose letter we published on the 6th instant, referred at length to the belief, now becoming current, that all these disturbances in the valley of the Yangtze owe their origin, not to any innate hatred of foreigners or desire to expel them, but to the machinations of a secret society called the Ko-lao Hui, which aims at overthrowing the Manchu dynasty and replacing it by one of pure Chinese blood. This Society, which is said to be very powerful, its ranks including high officials, influential gentry, and *literati*, aims at embroiling the Government in disputes with foreign Powers and ultimately in a war which would furnish the desired opportunity for a successful rebellion. Experience shows that the tendency of the public mind is to elaborate extravagant hypotheses and harbour unsubstantial suspicions at times of crisis or tumult, and we therefore hesitate to accept an idea involving such a dark outlook for the foreign communities in China directly, and the relations between that country and the West indirectly. Still, when we consider the series of anti-foreign disturbances that have taken place within the past few months in the valley of the Yangtze, it becomes difficult to attribute the catalogue to a factor of such capricious activity as mere anti-foreign feeling. Commencing with the trouble at Yangchow, a few months ago, there followed the riot at Wuhu on May 12th; then the disturbance at Ngan-kin, six days later; then the outbreak at Nanking, after another interval of six days; then threatened riots at Hochow; then the issue of incendiary placards in Shanghai; and now we have an outbreak at Kiukiang; threatened troubles at Hangkow, with, apparently, fresh agitation at Wuhu and renewed danger in Shanghai. It will be observed that Admiral Belknap's telegram speaks of two men killed at Wuhu, but does not mention their

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nationality. Official information received in Tokyo the same day says that the unfortunate men were foreigners, but gives Kiukiang as the seat of the tragedy. Of course it is conceivable that the occurrence of all this disorder at places situated along the banks of the same river may be attributable to interaction, and not to any far-reaching plot. In either case, however, affairs in China cannot but inspire great uneasiness. When foreign ships of war are obliged to interfere forcibly for the protection of their nationals within Chinese territory, the relations between China and the Treaty Powers cannot be very cordial.

* * *

On Wednesday morning we received from Admiral Belknap the following additional telegrams :—

Yokohama, Japan, June 10, 1891.

The following cablegrams were received by Admiral Belknap from Shanghai, China, last night :—

Shanghai, June 9th, 1891, 3.40 p.m.

Since McCurley telegraphed you this morning situation has changed. A band of Chinese, who have attacked Yangchow, were prevented at Chinkiang. Destroyed French Mission at Woosieh last night, and are reported to be at Soochow, 70 miles from here, now. Their route leads directly to Shanghai, and every indication they will come on to the hills, eighteen miles from Shanghai, destroy French Mission, and then attack Sicawei French Mission, four miles from Shanghai. A Russian and a French gunboat are now arriving for up the river, making nine gunboats for the river. One British and one German gunboat and *Alliance* here. I think it is a Chinese insurrection."

LEONARD, U.S. Consul General.

Shanghai, June 9th, 1891, 4.37 p.m.

From Commander McCURLEY, U.S.N.

Mob Yangtze, Chinese destroyed church and buildings at Woosieh yesterday, 70 miles from here. Situation looks serious, and residents apprehensive; ready to act here, or elsewhere promptly.

* * *

The following telegram dated at Kiukiang, June 6th, 1.15 p.m., has been courteously sent to us :—

Kiukiang quiet—Chinese troops guarding Concession—American residents out of city—Hankow quiet—*Porpoise Vipère* there—three ships here—men Green and Argent killed at Wusieh—was present at inquest—saw bodies coffined and sent to Hankow—all reports from rebel sources peaceable.

* * *

Another message, received on Wednesday night, dated Kiukiang, June 10th, says :—

Green customs officer—Argrens missionary British—*Iltis* gone Hankow.

* * *

A subsequent telegram from Commander Marthon, despatched from Kiukiang at 7.14 on Wednesday night, says :—

Twenty-two American missionary ladies arrived here safe to-day—all quiet.

JAPAN AND THE RIOTS IN CHINA.

WHEN the telegrams reached Tokyo announcing a wide-spread outbreak against foreigners in China, it is stated that five Japanese men-of-war were at once ordered to hold themselves in readiness to proceed at a moment's notice to Shanghai, if indeed they were not actually despatched thither by a route so chosen as to afford an opportunity of recalling them on the way, should the need of their presence have disappeared. This fact suggests the great additional security which may be derived by foreigners from the proximity of Japan. Of course the Japanese Government would be extremely reluctant to take any action suggesting doubt of the competence of the Chinese Authorities to protect foreign life and property within the territories of the Middle Kingdom. But circumstances may easily be conceived in the presence of which the same obligation would devolve upon Japan as upon any other foreign Power, and we may be sure that she would not shrink from discharging her duty. In the event of the worst apprehensions being realised as to the revolutionary character of these seemingly anti-foreign riots, the safety of Shanghai might be seriously imperilled, and the presence there of four or five thousand Japanese troops—a force that could be despatched at a few hours' notice—might be as welcome to the local authorities as it certainly would be to the foreign residents. We sincerely trust that such contingencies are utterly remote, but it is not altogether amiss to refer to them.

AN INCIDENT OF THE RIOTS IN CHINA.

IN the sad mysterious history of the recent anti-foreign riots in China, nothing more terrible has yet been told than the following incident, described by the Rev. Father Colombel as having happened contemporaneously with the destruction of the church, the priests' residences, the boys' school, and other buildings of the Christian mission at Tanyang :—"At one end of the enclosure, which is a very large one, there is a cemetery in which it has been the custom for a very long time to inter Christians of the town and children of the orphanage. The rioters dug up the bones and heaped them together. They put the heads in a pile and dragged the mandarin Heang to the spot, hauling him along, it is said, by his queue. One poor skeleton, on which there still remained some flesh and a few shreds of clothing, was carried off, and hung up in front of the priests' door, which looks out on the canal and a busy street. These outrageous doings were performed to the accompaniment of the usual calumnious and abusive shouts."

KOREAN LEGENDS.

BEGINNING OF HEREDITARY FEUD BETWEEN KOREA AND JAPAN.

FROM the very earliest times the tribes of Southern Korea had dealings with the dwellers on the islands of Japan. There is evidence of this in the language, customs, and traditions of the people; but the first definite account of direct communication between the two is based upon events that were transacted about eighteen hundred years ago. The result of those events were so disastrous that there has always existed a hereditary feud which has more than once led to sanguinary war. The native account of these events illustrate the truth of the proverb "How great a matter a little fire kindleth." For some reason not recorded, the Japanese decided to cultivate the acquaintance of the people across the straits, and to that end an envoy was dispatched to treat with the King of Silla. It seems that these people of Silla were a proud, independent race, who were not greatly given to acknowledging the equality of their neighbours on either side: least of all the Japanese to whom they were, at that time, undoubtedly superior in civilization if not in power. When the envoy from Japan landed on the coast of Silla he proceeded straight to the capital, and was met on the way by an official named Sok-oo-ro who had been sent by the king to escort the envoy to the city. We can only conclude that it was out of wanton insolence that Sok-oo-ro addressed the envoy in these words: "You ought to have brought your King and Queen to be servants in the King of Silla's kitchen," and we cannot wonder that the envoy turned straight back and did not rest until he had reported this terrible affront to his island lord. A month of ominous silence passed, and then the watchers on the heights of Silla descried a countless fleet of vessels standing across the straits. When it was announced, Sok-oo-ro began to fear the results of his impertinence, and coming before the king confessed himself to be the cause of the hostile array, and begged to be allowed to go alone and try to appease the anger of the enemy. It was granted, and he hurried away to meet the army which had already landed and was advancing on the capital. He came and fell on his face before its commander, and confessed that he alone was the author of the gross insult that had been cast in the teeth of the Japanese King and he begged that their vengeance might be wreaked on him alone. He was instantly bound and burned alive before the eyes of the whole army. It is much to their credit that they then turned about and sailed back to their own land without striking another blow. The next year the same envoy was sent again to treat with the King of Silla. Arriving at the capital, he was given a fine house and a large corps of attendants. All seemed in a fair way to cement a peaceful and fraternal union between the two kingdoms. But the wife of Sok-oo-ro had not forgotten the horrible fate of her husband, and burning for revenge she went before the king and asked him to let her try to atone for her husband's incivility by becoming a servant of the Envoy. The king was surprised at such a request from a woman of her position, but suspecting no treachery he gave his consent. She had not been in the envoy's house long before she found means to put some deadly poison into his bowl of rice and within the hour she had her revenge. But at what a cost! For seventeen hundred years a deadly feud existed between the two peoples which resulted in two most sanginary invasions each of which reduced Korea to utmost misery. All this resulted from a hasty word.

ORIGIN OF KOKORIA.

ON the northern boundary of Korea, midway between the Yellow and Japan seas, lies the lofty mountain called Pak Tou or "white head." Near the summit of this mountain in the crater of an extinct volcano, lies a little lake which gives rise to two streams, one called the Tumen river which runs eastward and empties into the Japan Sea, and the other the Amno river flowing south and west into the Yellow Sea. About two thousand years ago there was a little kingdom called Penya* just north of this mountain, its southern boundary being the Amno river. The king of this little state was very unhappy because he had no son. One day he mounted his horse and rode away into the forest until he came to a rushing torrent, on whose bank he knelt and prayed to the God of Heaven to give him a son. Remounting he turned his horse's head toward home. As he was passing a boulder which lay beside the path, his horse turned and faced the stone, sobbing and bending its head. The king in amazement dismounted and looked all about the boulder carefully, but could see nothing, and yet he could not get the horse to pass on. By this time the curiosity of the king was thoroughly aroused, and as a last resort he put his shoulder to the stone and pushed it over and there in the cavity beneath it he beheld the answer to his prayer—a little child of the colour of gold but shaped somewhat like a toad. Paying no attention to the apparent deformity, he lifted the child tenderly and carried it home under his cloak or outer garment. It was evident to the king that a child of such an origin must have a remarkable career before him, so he reared him very carefully, teaching him the use of the bow and the spear, so that he became the most skillful archer in the kingdom. When the time came for him to think of wedding, he did not wish to take one of the Puya maidens, so he mounted his horse and rode away to find a wife elsewhere. He found one among the people living near the mouth of the Amno river, and bringing her home was married to her after the rude custom of the land. After the ceremony she drew him aside and told him that she had a confession to make. She said: "I am the daughter of the Sea God, and the reason I am living on dry land, is this: One day I ran away from home and emerged from the water and walked upon the shore to see what the upper world was like. As I walked I beheld one of the princes of heaven standing on the bank of the Amno river and beckoning to me. Unsuspicious of harm I went to him—alas, and when I returned to my home my parents drove me from them and banished me to the upper world for my misdeeds. I am not worthy to be your wife." At this the prince looked very grave, but he decided to forgive her fault as it had been caused by a heavenly being. Not long after this she brought forth an egg, and the prince seeing it threw it out into the street. He was surprised, however, to see that whenever a horse or an ox passed by it came near and tried to warm the egg with its breath. So he ordered it to be taken away and cast in the midst of a field behind the town, but a great white stork came down from the upper air and spread its wings over it and warmed it against its breast. The prince ordered a blacksmith to break it with his hammer, but he could make no impression upon it. The mother

* Chinese Fuyu.

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had it brought back to the palace and wrapped in warm cotton. In a few days the shell opened and then stepped out a beautiful boy whom they named Chu Mong. As he grew he became as wise and good as he was beautiful. But in time he had five brothers who were jealous of him because he was the heir, and who tried to induce their father to kill him. His mother heard of it and gave him warning, and he fled southward by night with three trusty followers. Arriving at the bank of the Anmo river, he was dismayed to find that there was no means of crossing; but the fish of the river rose to the surface and ranged themselves side by side in such solid ranks that the fugitives crossed over on their backs as on a bridge. He joined his fortunes with the people whom he found just ready to revolt from the weakened power of China, under whose hand they had been for many years. They made him king, and he, after four years of war, opened his court at Chol Bon,† and named the kingdom Kokoria. The origin of the name Kokoria is as follows:—The family name of Chu Mong was Ko, and he was born near Korya San, a mountain in Puya, and so he united the two to make the name of his new kingdom—Ko-korya or Kokoria.‡

SOK TOL HA.

About two thousand years ago there was a little kingdom somewhere in Japan called Tap Ha Ra, but its name and the fact that it was the birthplace of the hero of this story are all we know about it. A woman in that country, after a pregnancy of seven years, brought forth an egg. The people considered it to be a bad omen, and counselled together to take it away and destroy it in order if possible to ward off the danger which threatened. The mother in some way became aware of the design, and in order to save her wonderful progeny, she wrapped it in cotton and silk and put it in a strong water-tight chest and committed it to the sea—the Japan Sea. Not long after this the wife of a fisherman on the south-eastern coast of Korea near the harbour of Ajin, while walking along the shore, spied a floating chest which was being beaten against the rocks by the waves. With great difficulty she succeeded in passing a cord through the handle and dragging the chest up on the beach. It was too heavy to carry home so she pried open the lid with a mattock and there before her lay, wrapped in silks, a beautiful child. The fisherman and his wife were old and childless, and so considered this child to be a gift direct from heaven. They watched over him with exceeding care and went to the very extent of their scanty means to provide him with everything that his childish caprices coveted. From the day that he was able to walk all the magpies of the neighbourhoods came and followed him about like a bodyguard wherever he went. It was for this reason that his foster parents gave him the name of *sok*, which is the first syllable of the word meaning magpie. At the age of six his precocity was known throughout all the district. Never was there a child that showed such intelligence and thoughtfulness at such an age. At ten years he was a full grown man; not only so, but he had attained a gigantic size. He was nine *cha* high, equivalent to fifteen feet! His foster parents were not able to give him a good education, and he was compelled to follow with them the calling of a fisherman. But his parents could not bear to see his great talents wasted in this way, so they decided to send him to a high official named Hogong, who was said to have been originally of Japan, but was now a councillor of the King of Silla. This man was so impressed with the intelligence and beauty of the young giant Sok Tol Ha that he presented him at court, where he found great favour. He there found opportunity for finishing his education and gradually rose to a high position. The King gave him his daughter to wife, and being old and feeble resigned into his hands the whole management of state affairs. On his deathbed the King appointed Sok Tol Ha to be his successor, over the head of his own son. After the funeral ceremony the son came to Sok Tol Ha and swore allegiance to him as his father's successor, but Sok Tol Ha would not listen to it and insisted upon the son's assuming the crown. For a long time the two contended on this point, each insisting that the other must accept the honour. But finally Sok Tol Ha said: "I have heard that if a man has sixteen-teeth in his upper jaw it is a sign of great wisdom and goodness. Let us find such a man and put him on the throne." The other agreed and search was made for such a man, but all in vain until it was discovered that the King's son himself had sixteen teeth in his upper jaw. Then he could no longer refuse. From that time the title of the Kings of Silla was *I-sa-goom*, which means, "The sixteen toothed;" and that word has been shortened to *Ingoom* which is the Korean word for King to-day.

† Probably near the present town of Song Chun.

‡ There probably never was a kingdom of Kokoria far north of the Pek Tou mountains, as is asserted by Ross and by Griffis.

NEWS FROM CHINA.

From Shanghai papers we learn that the U.S.S. *Palos*, while coming up the river on Saturday morning (30th ult.) shortly before 3 o'clock, drifted on top of the *Kiutoan* Light-vessel, and did some damage. The shock was so sudden that the light was put out. Owing to the damage done to the light-vessel, she has been towed up to Shanghai for repairs and has gone into the Old Dock for examination. Her stem is splintered and her bowsprit canted to starboard, the bulwarks on the port side forward are smashed in and on the starboard side they are started. Her hall-pole came down by the run and went overboard, while her lamp chimneys are smashed and her reflectors damaged. The force of the collision snapped her chain, so that she lost her mushroom, and then drifted nearly a mile from her position, before she could be brought up. It was here that she was seen by the *Ichang*. Her place is to be taken meanwhile by a junk. The *Palos*, after colliding with the *Kiutoan*, ran ashore and did not get off till the morning of the 1st. * * * The young sailor of the German gunboat *Wolf* who wrote home to his father the brilliant story of the crew of that vessel's encounter with pirates, which caused so much excitement in Germany, at the Admiralty, the Legation in Peking, etc., has been punished with three days' confinement. * * * The *N. C. Daily News* of 4th June says:—Hardly had Shanghai begun to recover from the shock of the suspension of one of the old-established English houses, than it is shaken again by the news of the suspension of Messrs. Russell & Co., the oldest American firm in China, and almost the oldest of any nationality. There were few firms anywhere with a more extended business than Messrs. Russell and Co., who had branches in New York, Boston, and London, as well as in most of the China ports. They have existed in China 67 years, and the profits they have made have been enormous. No firm has surpassed them in general popularity, or in the best form of public spirit. The growth of this community and the constitution of the Anglo-American settlement in its present form are largely indebted to the labours, freely given, of successive partners in Russell & Co., and the names of Cunningham, Forbes, and others, will be indissolubly connected with the history of Shanghai. The greatest sympathy is felt for the present partners, here and in Hongkong. It will be seen that as a consequence of the suspension of Messrs. Russell & Co., Mr. W. S. Jackson is appointed Underwriter and Acting Secretary of the Yangtsze Insurance Association, Mr. E. U. Smith, Secretary *pro. tem.* of the Pootung Wharf and Godown Co.; while an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders in the latter company is to be held on Monday, the 15th instant, to consider the proposed transfer of its agency to Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co.* * * The P. & O. steamer *Venetia* had rather a bad quarter of an hour of it on the morning of the 3rd instant. She had been towed up from the Old Ningpo Wharf in order to go under Hunt's Wharf shears in Shanghai. A wire hawser had been make fast to her from Hunt's Wharf in order to swing her, but through some cause she forged ahead, the hawser broke, and the steamer went over the Associated Wharves' upper buoy. She then swung round on to the C. M. Central Wharf pontoon, where she hung for some time after her anchors had been let go. Eventually she was taken under the shears. The steamer did not sustain any damage, but as the top of the buoy was only just above water in the afternoon it apparently was damaged.

HYPNOTISM.

The *St. James's Budget* contains the following, credible by the credulous:—"The New York *Sunday Sun* publishes the following extraordinary story dated from Mier, Mexico, a town of 1,500 inhabitants on the Rio Grande, 150 miles from its mouth:—Ten days ago an individual, who gave the name of Francisco Perez, arrived at Mier, and put up at the chief hotel. At dinner on the second day a waiter removed all the bottles of wine in front of the persons who were dining, and carried them to the table where Perez sat. The angry guests called up the proprietor, in answer to whom the waiter said Perez had ordered him to take the wine. Perez denied that he had told him anything of the kind, and the man was dismissed. During the afternoon of the same day one of the guests presented Perez with a magnificent watch, while a barman gave him a revolver. The next day presents began to pour in upon Perez, among them being a handsome bouquet with the name of a lady attached to it. She explained to her friends that the man in passing her had asked her to send him the flowers. Other persons who had made presents to Perez also stated that they had been asked by him for the articles given, and that they had found it impossible to resist the request. A number of citizens appointed a committee of ten to wait upon Perez, and warn him that he would be killed unless he left the town. Perez was alarmed, and explained that he was a victim of involuntary hypnotism. He said he was twenty-seven years of age, and a native of New Mexico. He had been trained for the priesthood for several years in Rome, and while abroad had practised hypnotism, with which he had made marvellous successes. In consequence of this it had become a passion with him, and he could not resist practising his gift upon those about him. The committee permitted Perez to leave the city, and he has departed for parts unknown."

RUSSELL AND COMPANY.

The great house of Russell & Co., whose regrettable failure has lately been announced, has a history indissolubly connected with that of foreign trade with China. It dates back to the first quarter of the century, in the days when a few "barbarians," cooped up in their factories at Canton and not allowed to stray beyond, were the forerunners of the present large foreign population of the treaty ports. According to Mr. William D. Hunter (whose books, *Old Canton*, and *Bits of Old China*, are among the most interesting memorials of the old days) the house of Russell & Co. was constituted at Canton on January 1st, 1824, in succession to that of Samuel Russell & Co., which had existed from 1818 to 1823. It then confined itself strictly to agency business. The first partners, from January 1824 to the middle of 1830, were Mr. Russell and Mr. Philip Ammidon. Other partners came from time to time in sailing ships (those were the days when the "latest" news from home was 125 days old when it arrived), among them Mr. Hunter, who was admitted in 1837 and retired in 1842. Mr. R. B. Forbes, who has written a history of the house from its foundation until a period of sixty years later, joined in 1839. In the old days, too, Russell & Co., were intimately associated with Howqua, the famous head of the hong merchants. The very short terms of service of the partners are significant of the rapidity with which profits were then made. Mr. Hunter gives the names of no less then 13 as residing at Canton at some time during the period 1823-1844. The Shanghai branch of the firm was one of the first commercial estsblishments here after the opening of the port to foreign trade in 1843. The house has always figured prominently in the history of the settlement.

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Sam Qua, the Taotai in the troublous Triad times (1853) took refuge in Messrs. Russell's house, then the American Consulate. The firm was in 1862 instrumental in founding the first great shipping enterprise in which foreigners and Chinese were associated—the Shanghai Steam Navigation Company, whose steamers were purchased in 1877 by the China Merchants' Company. At the beginning of the difficulty with France in 1884 this Company's steamers were transferred to the American flag and placed under the management of Russell & Co., but returned to Chinese custody in the following year. These facts are enough to show the high position occupied by "Kee-chong" for many years.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

PROFESSOR NAKAMURA MASANAO.

A PROMINENT figure has just passed from the stage of Japan's present history in the person of Professor Nakamura Masanao, who died on the 7th instant at the comparatively early age of 60. The deceased gentleman was one of the finest Chinese scholars of his time. He possessed also a considerable knowledge of English and Dutch, and was well versed in Buddhist and Christian theology. In 1868 he proceeded to England for purposes of study, but returned the following year, and after an interval of residence in Shizuoka, opened a school called the Dominsha, in Kobinata, Tokyo, which at one time promised to become a strong rival of Mr. Fukuzawa's famous institution. Having reached a maximum of 200 boarders and about twice as many day-scholars, the school declined, however, and while still occupying an important place as an educational institution, ceased to be counted among the greatest seminaries of the land. Mr. Nakamura did not confine himself to educational work on his own account. In 1874 he accepted the appointment of Director of the Female Normal College, and in 1881 he became a Professor in the Tokyo University. From this post he was promoted to be a Senator, in 1886, and in 1890 he had the honour of being nominated a life member of the House of Peers, by the Emperor, being at the same time once again re-appointed to the Directorship of the Female Normal College. He received the title of *Hakase* (Doctor) at the time of its creation in 1887. Several works translated by him from English are now standard books in Japan, as for example, "Smiles' Self Help," and Mill on "Liberty." By the general foreign public, however, he will perhaps be best remembered as the author of the inscription on the monument erected by a number of Japanese in 1882 to Richardson's memory, at Namamugi, on the Tokaido:—

"Shed by this sea-shore, the blood of a stranger
Flowed in a fountain of national progress.
Strong clans uprising, the hands of the Emperor
Swayed once again the sceptre of Sovereignty;
And towards reform the mind of the nation
Turning, awoke to the rights of the people.
Who in the homes of the dead or the living
Knows not this brave man? His name shall be written
Wherever the pages of history lie open.
We, on this stone his story recording,
Pray that the thought of the blessings he brought us
May gladden his heart in the land of the Shades."

MR. J. R. ANGLIN.

THE death of Mr. J. R. Anglin, manager and part proprietor of the *Japan Gazette*, is announced as having taken place at Kowaki-dani on the 8th instant. Mr. Anglin was a self-made man. He came to the East as a soldier in Her Majesty's 20th Regiment, and, purchasing his discharge, entered the printing office of the *Japan Times*, then edited and owned by Mr. Charles Rickerby. When the *Japan Times* passed into the possession of Messrs. Howell and Lay and became the *Japan Mail*, in 1867, Mr. Anglin found employment in the office of the *Japan Gazette*, which journal had just been established. By steady industry and patient application, he gradually rose from the position of foreman in the printing department, to be part proprietor, and in 1885 he managed to acquire the sole title to the journal; a title which the Printing and Publishing Company, established last year, valued at the very liberal figure of fifty-five thousand dollars, paying Mr. Anglin twenty-five thousand for the privilege of sharing the proprietorship with him. Possessing no educational advantages, Mr. Anglin nevertheless succeeded by the sheer force of attention to business and by native shrewdness, in attaining a position of respect and independence. His connection with journalism, begun in a mechanical and concluded in a business character, never extended to the literary department, but, when we consider his training and antecedents, it must be admitted that his influence upon the editorial functions of the *Japan Gazette* was remarkably free from tendencies which might not unreasonably have been expected. In this small community, where every one's life is subjected to the glare of strong scrutiny, he leaves behind him the reputation of a kindly, honest, hard-working, and keen-sighted man of business, who succeeded because he deserved success.

* * *

The remains of Mr. J. R. Anglin were interred on Wednesday forenoon in the General Cemetery. The coffin was carried to the grave by Dr. Wheeler, and Messrs. Lowder, Litchfield, Martin, Schwabe, and Eyton, the deceased's son being chief mourner. A large number of the public were present. Rev. E. C. Irwine read the funeral service, and at the close addressed those present in a few words expressive of the strength of character, resolution, and energy which characterised the deceased, and of the general regret for his loss and sympathy with those left behind, that were felt in the community.

THE "ALBANY."

THE sequel of the loss of the *Albany* has furnished material for sundry piquant comments by the English papers published in Kobe. One journal relates how the Japanese who bought the wreck at auction subsequently instructed the auctioneer to put it up again for sale, undertaking to pay the difference, a proceeding not particularly heinous in the eyes of every-day folks though denounced by the Hyogo newspaper as a glaring example of Japanese duplicity; the other journal describes a bit of pretty sharp practice on the part of some speculators, who, having been outbid for the steamer, conceived and executed the design of buying the island where she had gone ashore and demanding a big rent for its use by their successful competitors, the possessors of the wreck. This recalls a parallel case that occurred not many years ago at one of the Japanese open ports, which shall be nameless. An extensive scheme of foreshore reclamation was projected by the Local Authorities, primarily for reasons of sanitation, and secondarily for purposes of harbour improvement. One of the foreign Consuls at the port, having, in his official capacity, acquired a knowledge of the details and of the places that would be involved in the operation, purchased a small plot of land with a house, the demolition of which was essential to carrying out the plan. When the Authorities came to purchase the house and land, the price demanded made them pause, and in the end they decided to postpone the whole scheme rather than contribute to the success of such a peculiar manœuvre. So the thing rested there, and the enterprising gentleman had his house and land left upon his hands.

THE "HABEAS CORPUS" IN JAPAN.

WE are credited, we observe, with having denied the necessity of any such process as a writ of *habeas corpus* in Japan, "since no prisoner can by any possibility be detained in custody for long without being brought to trial." It is strange that any writer, honestly seeking to reproduce our assertions, should so greatly and palpably misstate them. The plain fact, as set forth in these columns, not once but several times, is that the framers of the Japanese Code of Criminal Procedure included in it provisions—as to bail and the limit of time during which a prisoner can be detained in custody without being brought before a magistrate—which, in their opinion, ought to obviate the abuses against which the *habeas corpus* is intended in other countries to provide. That it is perfectly possible to devise provisions of a sufficient character in that sense, no intelligent person doubts, and surprise has consequently been the chief feeling excited by certain well-meaning folks who, regarding only the fact that the process called *habeas corpus* does not exist in Japan, and ignoring the possibility of replacing it by substitutes equally efficient, argue that in the absence of this palladium security of person cannot be counted on. Thus much for the general theory. As to the actual practice in Japan, however, nothing would be farther from the truth than to say that we have denied the possibility of any prisoner being detained long without being brought to final trial. On the contrary, we have several times called attention to the occurrence of such abuses, and have pointed out that, whatever may have been the intention of the framers of the Code, the provisions of the law do not satisfy requirements in this respect. Not a few instances have been noted of men who, before being finally tried, remained in confinement for a length of time not consistent with any sound and just system of procedure. The law provides very distinctly that every prisoner must be brought before a magistrate within twenty-four hours of the time of arrest, and it also provides methods by which release can be obtained on bail. But to be brought before a magistrate does not help a prisoner much if he is remanded time after time, and for some unplained reason—whether because of the severity of the magistrates or the difficulty of finding sureties—the system of bail does not appear to be resorted to freely. There is a decided defect in the law, or in its working. We have frequently pointed this out. During the Diet's session revisions of the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure were submitted to the Lower House, but did not come up for discussion owing to lack of time. It was hoped then, as we explained, that the point alluded to above would be found amended in the revised Codes, and we trust that the hope will be realized next session. Meanwhile to accuse us of having denied the necessity of reform is to misrepresent us very flagrantly.

POLITICS AND PARTIES.

A CURIOUS little bit of political analysis is done by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. Briefly summarized it amounts to this: that in the troublous times of the Diet's session the members standing outside the ranks of the declared opposition included two sections. One of these adopted the view of Viscount Aoki and Count Yamada as to the expediency of putting the new Commercial Code into immediate operation; the other advocated the postponement of the Code. This latter section, to which the *Yomiuri* gives the name of the *Ito-ha* (Count Ito's section), was consequently opposed to the Government in respect of the Code, but on the other hand it supported the Cabinet, and indeed averted a crisis, by its attitude towards the Budget. The *Ito-ha* is now supposed to be closing up its ranks and forming a strong political phalanx, within which the places of Count Yamada and Viscount Aoki will be those of supernumeraries rather than of company-leaders—according to the *Yomiuri*. How much truth there may be in this diagnosis we cannot pretend to judge, but apart from its general significance the statement interests us as bearing upon the attempts made not long ago to prove that Viscount Aoki had deserted Count Yamada in the matter of the Commercial Code, and thus treated his Judicial colleague with considerable disloyalty. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which at any rate echoes the opinion of an important political coterie, brackets the names of the two statesmen together, and even to-day writes them down as connected by the very link which one of them was accused of having perfidiously snapped.

THE "NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN" AND MIXED RESIDENCE.

WE owe an apology to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* for having attributed to it sentiments towards which in reality it merely played the part of irresponsible publisher. In a paragraph relating to the condition of Tokyo, the *Nichi Nichi* laid before its readers the views of Professor Inouye, who holds that Japan is not ready

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for mixed residence, and who adduces the experience of Russian residence in Sagalien in support of his theory. We imagined that the *Nichi Nichi* inserted this opinion in jest, more especially as it was accompanied by an estimate that five centuries must elapse before conditions suited to mixed residence from that point of view could exist in Japan; namely before Tokyo could reach the same architectural and sanitary level as London, Paris, or Berlin. But our contemporary now explains that it merely gave space to the view of Professor Inouye, whose opinion it by no means endorses, having itself been a steady advocate of allowing mixed residence, and being still of the same way of thinking.

THE CABINET.

THE *Tokyo Shimpo*, which knows eminently well what it talks about in matters of administrative policy or organization, has an interesting paragraph about the relations of "the three Counts" to the present Cabinet. Loving above all things a *bon-mot*, or an epigram, Japanese politicians have given to the Cabinet the appellation of "the drop-curtain Cabinet;" a title the peculiar aptness of which is that the word *Kuro-maku*, which in Japanese signifies drop-curtain, immediately recalls Count Kuroda, who with Count Ito and Count Inouye are supposed to be the powers behind the scene. The *Tokyo Shimpo* puts its statement into the mouth of a Minister of State, who may or may not be an imaginary person, but who certainly avoids all diplomatic circumlocutions in expressing his view. The situation he depicts is that Counts Ito and Kuroda have taken an active part in forming the present Cabinet, the former statesman having given up his position of President of the Upper House and entered the Privy Council entirely for the sake of being able to assist the administration more efficiently. Count Kuroda, equally well disposed, is credited with having induced Viscount Yenomoto to accept the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and the two statesmen stand ready to advise the Cabinet in respect alike of its choice of officials and its direction of State affairs. Count Yamagata, however, owing to some unfavourable experiences of his own in the matter of receiving advice about administrative business, will refrain from tendering such advice, but will lend his aid in the selection of officials and in preserving harmony. From all this the *Tokyo Shimpo's* Ministerial informant infers that the Matsukata Cabinet is likely to be exceptionally strong and stable.

* * *

Different eyes see things under different aspects. The *Jiyu's* notion of the political situation does not quite tally with the above. It affirms that the "Undecemvirate" of the House of Peers who have been recently organizing attacks upon the Cabinet and urging the Ministers to resign, are puppets moved by the "drop-curtain statesman" Count Ito. The relations between the Cabinet and this "*Kuro-maku-haku*" are bad, just now, says the *Jiyu*, and the source of dissension is the Otsu affair, concerning which the views of the Count and the Cabinet did not tally. Further, the Ministers who lately resigned their portfolios are declared by our radical contemporary to be greatly incensed against Count Ito; so much so that the latter, appreciating the necessity of seeking new allies, is endeavouring to establish a *rapprochement* with the *Issoku-haku*, or "one-legged Count" of Waseda. Thus the *Jiyu*. It would have things so, and so it sees them so.

THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN AT ST. ANDREW'S UNIVERSITY.

THE recent address of the Marquis of Dufferin, delivered on the occasion of his inauguration as Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University, has been the subject of a great deal of comment. Most of the utterances of that genial diplomatist are well worthy of attention, and much wit and wisdom was expected from him in his new capacity. He appeared as the successor of a distinguished line of Rectors. Since 1859 when the office was instituted, its tenure extending over three years, Stirling-Maxwell, Mill, Froude, Stanley, Lord Selborne, and Sir Theodore Martin have worn the robes, and delivered memorable addresses. Lord Dufferin directed his remarks to no one subject in particular, but roamed pretty freely over the whole field of "Advice to Young Men," at least of advice so far as pertains to study. He expressed himself little satisfied with the usual methods pursued in the teaching of Latin and Greek. His real acquaintance with the latter language he dates from a time subsequent to his college days, which left him with but a lame knowledge of that great tongue. Better, he thinks, omit Latin than Greek from a college curriculum. On the whole, we think his remarks under this head will not help the devotees of a classical education. By far the best teaching material, at present, goes into the classical side, which has far more prestige; the modern side, had it better men, would attract more pupils. And now we are told that the classical side must be taken down in the old and put up in the new! The speaker's remarks on the study of French are well worth noting in this country, where German has enjoyed for many years an excessive prestige. Incomparably the most useful foreign language, said Lord Dufferin, for an Englishman to know is French, "for not only is its literature the most diverse and admirable possessed by any European community except our own, but it has long been accepted as the common channel of communication between European nations." One or two valuable hints regarding physical training were thrown out in the course of his remarks. He recommended fencing as an admirable means of giving suppleness and freedom to the joints, and helping the awkward student to more ease, aplomb, and self-confidence in his bearing. The peroration consisted of an appeal to the students to retain their youthful enthusiasm, and preserve through life, the spirit of justice and the sentiment of chivalry. "With knightly purity and white-robed justice for their companions on either hand, the magic light of which Wordsworth speaks in his glorious 'Intimations of Immortality' would never waver nor fade from their path, but would invest all their surroundings, inner thoughts, and the outward sight of earth and heaven with a magical glory and a divine irridescence, showering sunshine and gladness over their most commonplace employments, and illuminating their declining years with unspeakable content."

FIRE AT NAGASAKI.

THE value of waterworks for the extinction of fire has very quickly been exemplified at Nagasaki. The *Rising Sun* of the 3rd inst. says:—"A fire broke out in Tsuki-machi, in the native town, at 1 a.m. on the 29th ult., but owing to the Water Works water being available by the fire-brigades, it was confined to the vicinity in which it originated and was extinguished by about 3 a.m. Unfortunately the fire spread so raidily at first that two of the occupants of the house, father and son, were unable to effect their escape, and were burnt to death; whilst one of the employés was accidentally shut up in the godown, and was not discovered until the following day, when he was found in a very precarious condition, but eventually recovered. This is the first fire that has occurred since the completion of the Water Works, and although the formal inauguration has not yet taken place, the water is being used throughout the town."

THE FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

IN view of the numerous and varied rumours that have been circulated with reference to the resignation of Viscount Aoki, a representative of the Tokyo News Agency called on the Viscount and asked him for an explanation. The Viscount is said to have replied that rumour credited him with having given to the Russian Minister assurances of the Czarevitch's safety while in Japan, and the public were disposed to assign this as the cause of his resignation, but in point of fact he had given no such assurance. It was true that, a few months ago, the *Tensoku* magazine having published an inflammatory paragraph, a certain foreign official drew the attention of the Foreign Office to it, and asked whether the language used did not suggest the existence of such a feeling of hostility to foreigners as to imperil their safety in Japan. The question had indirect reference to the approaching visit of the Prince Imperial, but its direct import bore only on the general circumstances of foreigners in Japan. The Minister replied that, in his opinion, no grounds of apprehension existed. There might be one or two persons ill-disposed to foreigners, but the great bulk of the Japanese nation were entirely free from such a sentiment. Beyond this no assurance of any kind was given. The Viscount added with truth that no human being could venture to give a guarantee of the nature referred to. The Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs could only undertake that his Government would employ all reasonable measures of precaution. The Government had done so.

CARRIAGE ACCIDENTS.

ON MONDAY afternoon while a phaeton was being driven along Main Street the pony bolted at headlong speed. A Japanese who pluckily attempted to stop the horse opposite Langfeldt & Co.'s, was knocked down, but escaped the wheels, and the pony continued its course till near Messrs. Cocking & Co.'s. Here it slowed up, doubtless influenced by a Japanese who stood with extended arms in the road, and a lady alighted. The pony, however, again bolted. A foreigner (Mr. S. C. Nash) in an attempt to hold it in, hung on to the bridle for some time, but at length had to let go. A couple of badly damaged jinrikishas, and a demolished pane of glass in the window of Mr. Campbell's premises marked the subsequent course of the pony which was, however, soon quieted and led home.

* * *

We regret to state that Captain Jas. Martin was on Wednesday the victim of a rather serious accident. It seems that in avoiding some jinrikishas his carriage was almost upset and in jumping out Captain Martin broke one of his legs just below the knee. Medical assistance was at once procured, and we learn that the bones have set and the patient is progressing favourably.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

THE amounts of convertible notes and reserves in the Bank of Japan for the week ended the 6th inst. were as follow:—

Convertible Notes.	Yen.	Reserves and Securities.	Yen.
Notes issued	92,908,026	Gold coin and bullion	25,702,043
		Silver coin and bullion	21,355,462
		Public Loan Bonds	13,476,450
		Treasury Bills	—
		Government Bills	22,000,000
		Other securities	2,367,494
		Commercial Bills	8,606,687
	92,908,026		92,908,026

Of the above total issue of notes, the sum of *yen* 2,611,737 is in the treasury of the Bank, 22,000,000 has been transferred on loan to the Government, and *yen* 68,296,289 is in actual circulation, the latter showing a decrease of *yen* 771,821 as compared with *yen* 69,068,110 at the end of the previous week.

THE "JIZEN KAI" JAPANESE FAIR.

THE Japanese Fair promoted by the lady managers of the Yokohama Jizen-kai, which was postponed from Saturday on account of the weather, took place on Monday. The various shows in connection with the fair—the *Cha-no-yu* ceremony, the conjuring, and juggling entertainments, &c.—were patronised by large crowds, and the Bluff Gardens presented a most animated scene during the afternoon. Capital music was rendered by the Band of the *Monocacy*, kindly lent by Admiral Belknap, up till six o'clock, and the fair closed about seven after a most successful run. At the stalls for the sale of fancy articles, considerable sums were realized, and it is certain that the receipts at the gate combined with those taken at the different shows will amount to a very respectable total. Aunt Sally alone, was a large earner of

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money, being well patronised all through the afternoon. Altogether the affair resulted in success as creditable as it must be gratifying to the benevolent ladies, both Japanese and foreign, who started it.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

THE following Notice to Mariners, relating to the Chao-pei-tsui Lighthouse in the Chefoo District of the China Sea, has been advertised by the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs:—Notice is hereby given that a Light has been established at Chao-pei-tsui, to mark the east entrance to Wei-hai-wei harbour. The illuminating apparatus is revolving dioptric of the fourth order, showing white flashes at intervals of a minute. The Light is elevated 94 feet above the level of the sea, and in clear weather it should be visible at a distance of 15 nautical miles, except where obscured by the land. The tower is round, of iron, 21 feet high, with a total height from its base to the lantern vane of 35½ feet. The tower and dwellings are white. Approximate position:—Latitude, 37° 27′ 41″ N., Longitude, 122° 15′ 5″ E.

DR. J. C. HEPBURN.

FRIENDS of Dr. Hepburn will be interested in knowing that the veteran Missionary is engaged in compiling a Bible Dictionary, which is approaching completion. The Doctor is also erecting a very handsome church near the Yokohama station. He purposes placing the edifice at the disposal of the native Church. When these two works of benevolence have been completed Dr. Hepburn contemplates retiring from the field in which he has laboured for 31 years. The aged couple, whose golden wedding was celebrated a short time ago, will thus spend the closing years of their nobly lived lives in the land of their birth.

THE RADICALS' RECOMMENDATION.

THE Radicals, not content with submitting copies of the Recommendation to the various Ministers of State whom they sought to drive out of office, and to the Cabinet—in the latter case the document was simply returned to them as not legally receivable—caused copies of it to be printed and distributed broadcast. This proceeding, being in direct contravention of the Publishing Regulations, the unfortunate printer, Mr. Furuyama Matasaburo, was summoned, on the 3rd instant, to the Tokyo Local Court, where he is likely to receive a pretty broad hint about the propriety of his conduct.

POISONING BY PLUMS.

THE *Hochi Shimbun* reports a sad case of death from eating unripe plums. The victims were Kanejiro and Kesa, a boy and a girl, aged respectively seven years ten months and five years three months, the children of Arai Soyemon, a native of Bato-machi, in the Nasu district of Tochigi Prefecture. The two children ate the plums on the 18th of last month and were immediately taken ill. They both expired the following day. Another child, five years old, the grandson of Arai Genroku, also partook of the fruit and became seriously ill, but is now progressing towards recovery.

THE VICE-MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

THE *Official Gazette* announces that Mr. Miyoshi Taizo has been appointed Vice-Minister of State for Justice. Mr. Miyoshi served in the post to which he is now re-appointed from May, 1885, to the close of 1887; when he was named a Judge of the Court of Appeal and afterwards of the Court of Cassation. In 1890 he became Chief Public Procurator, which position he filled up to the time of his return to the Administration. He is a native of Hiuga, Miyazaki Prefecture.

A HERO IN TROUBLE.

MUKOBATA JISABURO, one of the two jinrikshamen who distinguished themselves in connection with the Otsu affair, seems to have attracted the attention of the police by some eccentricity of behaviour, if a telegram to the *Kokkai* from Kyoto is to be believed. With a companion and two girls he put up at a hotel in Idemachi, and there indulged in the freak of writing the name Unemoto Kyuichi in the register book. For this the authorities have instituted a prosecution against him.

GOLD AND SILVER RATIOS.

THE *Official Gazette* gives the following table of comparative values of gold and silver coins and of the pound sterling for the week ended the 6th inst., as derived from the returns of the Bank of Japan and the Yokohama Special Bank:—

Day	Gold Coin. (Per *yen* 100) Silver Yen.		Pound Sterling (Per £1) Silver Yen.
1st	127.800	A.M. P.M.	6.2950
2nd	127.800	A.M. P.M.	6.2950
3rd	127.800	A.M. P.M.	6 2950
4th	127.800	A.M. P.M.	6.2745
5th	127.200	A.M. P.M.	6.2540
6th	127.000	A.M. P.M.	6.2537
Averages	127.567		6.2745

The above averages show for gold coin a decrease in value of *yen* 0.493 per cent., and for the pound sterling a decrease in value of *yen* 0.037d as compared with the previous week.

A NEW VERSION.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—"An explanation of the conduct of Tsuda Sanzo in attacking the Czarevitch has reached us which we have not seen in any of the Japan papers. It is said that he had at some time rendered a service to a Russian man-of-war, for which he had been rewarded by the commander with a small decoration in the shape of a medal. On the occasion of the Czarevitch's visit he wore this decoration, and expected that His Imperial Highness in passing would have honoured him with some notice. In this he was disappointed, but he contrived to have himself posted a second time in such a position that the Czarevitch would pass him. Again His Imperial Highness failed to observe him, and Tsuda, in an access of rage induced by wounded vanity, dashed at him with his sword intending to kill him on the spot. The tale has an air of verisimilitude, but we are not in a position to vouch for its truth." Probably not!

THE FIRE IN SHINSHU.

THE fire which occurred in Nagano-machi, province of Shinshu, at 11 o'clock in the night of the 2nd instant, proved very destructive. It swept along the streets called Nishi-no-mon, Sakuraye, Motozen, Honendo, Higashi-no-mon, Ise and Higashi-zaka, consuming 245 houses, the children's school, the village shrine, the temple of Zenko, the Nio-mon, the temple of Daihangan and the theatre. Not until 3 o'clock the following morning was it extinguished.

THE KEISHIN CLUB.

THERE has been formed in Tokyo a Club the membership of which indicates its importance, since it includes such names as those of Messrs. Shibusawa, Masuda, Sonoda, Seki, Taguchi, and so forth. These gentlemen, we learn, are to hold a meeting to-day for the purpose of preparing a petition for the total abolition of export duties. Mr. Furuichi, an eminent engineer of the Home Department, is to deliver a lecture on the subject of the Tokyo harbour.

VESSELS PASSED ANJER.

THE following vessels, bound to Japan, have passed Anjer:—*Baring Brothers* (American), Captain Murphy, from New York to Yokohama, on May 6th; *Senator* (British), Captain Ellis, from Philadelphia to Hyogo, on May 14th; *Melanope* (British), Captain Tait, from New York to Yokohama, on May 15th; *Santa Clara* (American), Captain Fuller, from New York to Japan, on May 17th.

THE "TAKACHIHO MARU."

THE N. Y. K. steamer *Gembu Maru* arrived from Tsushima yesterday, says the *Rising Sun* of the 3rd instant, with cargo, etc., salved from the *Takachiho Maru*. Notwithstanding having experienced some bad weather since she stranded, we believe very sanguine hopes are entertained of being able to get her afloat again in a few days.

THE NEW STEAMER "EMPRESS OF JAPAN."

WE are informed by the Agents of the Canadian Pacific Railway Steamships, that the *Empress of Japan*, which arrived here on Wednesday, made the run from Kobe to Yokohama in 21 hours.

THE CZAREVITCH.

WE read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that the Czarevitch has forwarded to the Tokyo Charity Hospital, through the Russian Legation in Tokyo, a sum of one thousand *yen*, by way of donation.

THE NEW FRENCH ADMIRAL.

REAR-ADMIRAL PARRAYON, formerly flag-captain to Admiral Courbet, has been appointed to the command of the French Squadron in these waters.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The attention of the metropolitan journalists during the present week has been divided between the Otsu affair, the propriety of the Radical advice to the Ministers of State to resign, the great American Exposition of 1893, the situation after the recent changes in the Cabinet, and various other questions of more or less importance. According to some papers the Matsukata Cabinet is still surrounded by elements of uncertainty; but the general impression seems to be that, after its recent reconstruction, the Ministry has settled down into a state of stability for the present at least. The public, so far as we can judge from what has appeared in the press, does not expect any noteworthy change in either the domestic or the foreign policy of the Government, with the single exception of the question of Treaty Revision. As to this, the papers seem to take it for granted that Count Matsukata has decided to suspend the negotiations. For the rest whether the Cabinet will prove durable and strong, depends, in the opinion of the native press, upon the continuance or discontinuance of the present good relations between Count Matsukata and Count Ito. Some papers, the *Hochi Shimbun* among the rest, frankly express their apprehension that these two statesmen may come to regard each other with feelings quite opposite to those now entertained by them. The former, these papers fear, may resent the interference of the latter, while the latter may complain of the inactivity of the former.

* * *

Count Ito is now the focus of political attention. All the papers unite in recommending him to openly assume the supreme direction of the affairs of the State. The *Jiji Shimpo* says that he must be admitted to be the most popular actor on the political stage at the present moment. The secret of political success consists in making a timely use of one's popularity. Our contemporary therefore thinks that now is the time for Count Ito to become the chief of the Cabinet, not only in act but in name. He may be waiting for a future opportunity, but who can say that his popularity will not soon pass away, if he continues to be a Minister behind the curtain, and who can tell whether the occasion thus lost will ever present itself again? The *Jiji* illustrates its meaning by referring to the case of the late Saigo. He was able to exercise a powerful fascination over the minds of the people at the time of his rebellion, because he had chosen his time well. If he had waited a few years, his time for action would have gone, never to return. Now or never is, in effect, what the *Jiji* says to Count Ito.

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The comments of the vernacular press upon the Otsu affair have been reproduced at length, and it will be enough to state here that the objections at first raised against the propriety of Tsuda's case being tried by the Court of Cassation, are gradually giving place to acquiescence

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in the wisdom and legality of that course. We may also note that the *Mainichi Shimbun* speaks highly of the friendship shown by Russia towards Japan, and advises its countrymen to repay Russia's kindness by increased intimacy; the *Hochi Shimbun* recommends the people and the Government to make no more fuss about the regrettable incident, but to turn their attention to other topics of vital importance connected with national affairs both at home and abroad; and the *Chiusei Nippo* strongly refutes the objections which have been made against the manner of trying Tsuda's case.

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With regard to the movement of the Radicals and a section of the Conservatives in advising the Cabinet Ministers to resign in a body, we reproduced in our last weekly summary the comments of various papers, which are unanimous in disapproving the action of the agitators and the Conservatives. Now, therefore, it only remains to refer to what the Radical organ, the *Jiyu*, and the Conservative organ, the *Chiusei Nippo*, say in defence of the unpopular movement. The *Jiyu*, after referring to the unfavourable comments evoked by the action of its Party, observes the Radicals have no desire to get into power so long as the administration is carried on according to liberal principles, but that the practice of liberal principles can only be expected from a party professing such principles. The principal function of the *Jiyu-to* before the promulgation of the Constitution was of an educational nature, but its mission now is to carry into practice the reforms it has advocated, and for this purpose the essential preliminary is to get into power. Hence it may be inferred that the Radicals really meant to assume the responsibility of office, had the Ministers accepted their advice. But a few lines further on, we are told that the real object of the Radical party in offering such counsel to those in power, was, not to replace them in office, but simply to induce them to candidly consider their situation, and discharge their responsibility to the Sovereign as well as to the people.

* * *

In another article published a few days after the one just quoted, the Radical organ burst into an indignant protest against the charges of violence and recklessness commonly preferred against the members of its party. It does not state that these charges are untrue, but it refers in an exulting manner to the conduct of the men who opposed the Tokugawa Government and finally overturned it. Were they not also reviled as being violent and reckless? The critics who hurled such offensive epithets at the heads of these heroic men, had forgotten the tyranny and corruption against which their energetic conduct was a natural reaction. The Radical paper does not state that the present Government is open to the same charges, but it affirms that some politicians are doing all they can to fan into life once more the dying fire of despotism, and that these are the people who try to injure the cause of liberty by calling the Radicals bad names. Such benighted persons, says the *Jiyu*, cannot discern the direction in which the current of events is tending.

* * *

The Conservative organ, the *Chiusei Nippo*, has two articles, written with the object of defending the conduct of those Conservatives who recently joined, though not directly, in advising the Ministers of State to resign in a body. Our contemporary is of opinion that the members of the Cabinet are not directly responsible to the people, yet that, whenever they fail to discharge their duties, the people are justified in expressing a wish that they should resign their posts. What is required is that such advice should be given in a conscientious spirit, and only when the Ministers are really culpable. Referring to the Otsu affair, the *Chiusei* remarks that "the measures taken by the Government about this affair are open to blame." Whether their error is of a nature to require their resignation, the *Chiusei* does not undertake to decide, but it observes that, if the error was deemed grave enough to necessitate the sacrifice of one or two of the Ministers, the Cabinet ought to have resigned in a body. For on any great national question the Cabinet Ministers must necessarily acknowledge joint responsibility.

* * *

The growing strength of the moderate or, as some papers delight to call it, the Government party, seems to cause no small anxiety to the Extremists. The *Kokumin Shimbun* observes that the Government party is steadily encroaching upon localities hitherto considered to be under the control of the progressive parties. Upon the whole, the Government party has now assumed an attitude of aggression, while the progressive parties are on the defensive. The *Kokumin* recommends the Extremists to muster their forces, and not only to drive the foe out of their territory, but also to carry the war into the heart of the enemy's country.

* * *

There is a wide-spread rumour that General Nagayama will be released from the post of Chief of the Hokkaido Administration Board, and that his successor will be either Mr. Narabara, President of the Japan Railway Company, Mr. Morioka, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, or Baron Takasaki, formerly Governor of Tokyo. It is also stated that Count Kuroda is desirous of having Mr. Suzuki, Governor of Akita, appointed to the post. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* does not pretend to know the reason why there should be any change in the occupant of the position, but opines that the difficulty with the Sugar Manufacturing Company may have something to do with the matter. General Nagayama enjoys the enviable reputation of being the organizer and commander of that excellent body of soldiers, the colonial militia. As Chief of the Hokkaido Administration Board, which part he united, a few years ago, to the Command of the Colonial Militia, he has been known to be assiduously devoted to the development of the resources of the northern island. But frankly speaking, the *Nichi Nichi* thinks that he is too honest to be proof against the arts of cunning folks. It recommends the Cabinet to appoint to the difficult post a man of exceptional capacity for business and organization. Hundreds of millions have been spent upon the development of the island, but things, complains the *Nichi Nichi*, remain much the same as ever. The Government is open to the charge of setting age and past career above the higher claims of ability and accomplishments. It is advised to make an exception in the case of the position under discussion.

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The *Kokumin Shimbun*, writing on the same subject, accuses the Government of hitherto choosing for the important post whatever man may be most serviceable to a little band of individuals who monopolize all the profitable commerce and enterprises in the island. If things be allowed to continue in the present condition, Hokkaido, the Tokyo paper fears, will become another Ireland, the springs of its large wealth entirely monopolized by a race of adventurers and swindlers. The *Kokumin*, therefore, thinks it vitally important for the interest not only of Hokkaido but of the country at large, to appoint a man of unswerving righteousness to the post of Chief of the Hokkaido Administration Board. Are men, asks the Tokyo paper, like Mr. Narabara and Baron Takasaki specially fitted for such a post?

* * *

The promulgation of the Organization of the Temporary Bureau for the conduct of business connected with the World' Columbian Exposition, and of the Regulations about the sending of exhibits to the fair, has furnished to the Tokyo papers an opportunity to call the attention of Japanese merchants and manufacturers to the importance of the exhibition as a means of developing Japan's foreign trade. The *Mainichi Shimbun* speaks of a peculiar historical interest which the Chicago Exposition possesses for Japanese. The supposition that the object of Columbus in sailing to the west was to reach Japan, which had been reported by Marco Polo to be full of gold and precious stones, though not established, is credible. Thus the memory of the discovery of the American continent by Columbus cannot but have great interest for the Japanese nation. This interest is heightened by the recollection of what the great Republic beyond the sea has done for Japan in modern times. The Tokyo journal calls upon its countrymen to bear the circumstances in mind, and to spare no pains to make good use of the rare opportunity which the Exposition affords for extending Japan's tradal relations with the world in general and with the United States in particular.

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The *Yomiuri Shimbun* also refers to the importance of American custom in disposing of Japanese produce and manufactures. One-third of the total exports of the country are purchased by the trans-Pacific Republic. Hitherto Japanese merchants and manufacturers have been accustomed to entrust their exhibits to Government officials or to companies, and have not shown any curiosity to pay personal visits to foreign Exhibitions. They are entreated to divest themselves of their indifference, and go over to Chicago in person, to better study the requirements of foreign customers.

* * *

In the person of Professor Nakamura Masanao, Japan has lost one of her greatest benefactors of modern times. All the papers, without distinction of party in principle, unite in paying warm tributes to the memory of the departed scholar and moralist. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* observes that Professor Nakamura, in common with Mr. Fukuzawa, rendered inestimable services to his country in educational affairs. It asserts that a majority of the useful men now in active life are indebted, directly or indirectly, to the educational influence of one or other of these two men. In character and temperament, the two were quite unlike. Mr. Fukuzawa is a Kumagawa Banzan, while the late Professor Nakamura was a Nakae Tôju. Mr. Fukuzawa is pre-eminently distinguished for practical common-sense, while Professor Nakamura was conspicuous for his influence in the sphere of morals. Indeed, his services as a moral teacher were equal, if not superior, to the services rendered to the cause of Western civilization in Japan by Mr. Fukuzawa who, with Voltairian wit and penetration, waged a courageous war against the evil customs and notions bequeathed by feudalism and by the Chinese philosophy. If Nakae Tôju may be called the sage of Omi, and the late Rev. Mr. Nishima the sage of Kyoto, then surely Professor Nakamura may with equal propriety be called the sage of Koishikawa. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* admires him not on account of either his erudition, his literary ability, or his political services, great as is his claim to celebrity in these respects, but on account of his virtues. Whatever he taught his desciples, he was the first to illustrate by action. "The country has lost by his death a moral standard of perfect beauty." The editor of the *Jiyu*, Mr. Kurihara, also publishes in his paper a touching essay on the character and work of his whilom master. For some years he studied at Professor Nakamura's school in Koishikawa, Tokyo, but in 1877 he left the school and went to Kochi, where he first made the acquaintance of Count Itagaki. He recalls the fatherly love with which Professor Nakamura led his pupils into the path of virtue. Professor Nakamura's services to his country, we read, are not confined to education; that he did much towards introducing sound ideas of constitutional government is amply proved by his writings. The author substantiates this assertion by quoting passages from essays written in the first year of Meiji, just after Professor Nakamura's return from England. While in England he became deeply impressed with the idea that the only true basis of good government lies in the spirit of self-help possessed by individual members of a community. Therefore, on his return, he translated Smiles' "Self Help" simultaneously with Mill's essay on Liberty. Mr. Kurihara thus regards his late master as in a manner one of the originators of the liberal movement of which he himself is now an active and promising representative.

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A PLEA FOR JAPAN'S TREASURES.

SO much has already been written in this journal with reference to the subject of Mr. RALPH CURTIS' letter—published in our correspondence columns—that we almost hesitate to approach the question again. Yet it would seem from what Mr. CURTIS says that despite frequent discussion and representation in the past, no effective steps have yet been taken to preserve from decay the art treasures that still happily remain to Japan, though in sadly diminished numbers. Countless objects of the greatest beauty and inestimable value have passed into the hands of foreign virtuosi, and are destined henceforth to lie comparatively hidden in private museums, or to repose in cabinets side by side with curiosities from the huts of African savages and Polynesian cannibals. But Japan still retains enough to amply illustrate the genius of her old time artists and art artizans, and it is pitiable to think that she does not yet appreciate the imperative duty of carefully conserving the precious residuum. Western collectors, whose keen desire to obtain possession of a beautiful and rare object, impels them to offer prices that seem a small fortune to less enthusiastic persons, could not fail to carry off much that Japan did not understand the advantage of keeping. Money, after all, is the arbiter of the situation. It cannot be supposed that, from a purely artistic point of view, Americans see greater beauties in the porcelains of China and the lacquers of Japan than do French or English virtuosi; yet owing simply to the fact that longer purses are to be found in New York for this particular purpose than in Paris or London, the treasures of Japan and China take their way across the Pacific rather than across the Atlantic. Yet in one field the foreign dollar has not proved omnipotent. Many people imagine that the prices ruling in Western curio markets have no parallel in Japan. That is a mistake. For certain objects, as special varieties of ancient Chinese *céladon* or *Chien-yao*, genuine examples of old Korean or Japanese pottery and faience, and other things hallowed by the worship of the Tea Clubs, sums used formerly to be paid, and are still paid, that will bear comparison with almost any Western figures. But unfortunately these so highly esteemed specimens owe their value chiefly to associations quite unconnected with art, or to eccentric canons not recognised anywhere outside Japan. Objects which command universal admiration abroad used generally to be regarded here as ordinary chattels or household utensils, and were consequently easily obtainable by foreigners in whose eyes their novel beauties possessed a pecuniary value hitherto unimagined by the Japanese. It is a singular but well authenticated fact that a traveller coming to Japan now cannot hope to see any such collections of Japanese art treasures as may be witnessed at all times in London, Paris, or New York. To such an extent has the country been depleted. Yet, as we have said above, an invaluable residuum still exists in the temples, and the authorities are understood to be revolving measures for bringing these exquisite heirlooms together, and placing them in museums where they can be safely preserved, to sustain Japan's reputation and to educate her people. In the meanwhile, however, "moth and rust" carry on their work of corruption, and if thieves do not break in and steal, their manners have greatly improved of late years. How, we wonder, does it impress the Japanese to learn that to foreign generosity and love of art is due apparently the only effort hitherto made to mount and preserve the beautiful pictures of which Mr. CURTIS speaks. One imagines that among wealthy Japanese, whether noblemen or ordinary gentlemen, there should be some whose patriotism, to say nothing of their artistic instincts, ought to move them to contribute handsomely for the preservation of objects which can never be replaced, and which, when brought together and properly displayed, will exercise a sensible effect on Occidental esteem for Japan. But the truth is, we strongly suspect, that the Japanese themselves pay less attention to these exquisite heir-looms and perhaps find less easy access to them, than do foreign tourists. The Government, however, cannot do everything. The officials of the Imperial Museum, under the intelligent and energetic direction of Mr. KUKI, have accomplished much, and are working steadily though slowly towards the end indicated above. But private persons do not come forward to assist them. A foreigner like Dr. BIGELOW, observing how the treasures kept in the temples are suffering from the inevitable neglect of their custodians, who are wholly without means, even supposing they have the will, to undertake any effective work of repair or preservation, does not hesitate to lay the art world under an obligation by paying for the backing and re-mounting of a few special master-pieces. Surely it should humiliate the Japanese to reflect not only that a stranger has set them this example, but also that they have failed to profit by it. Curiously enough, the criticism of Mr. CURTIS follows close on the heels of a similar recommendation by Dr. ERNEST HART, the well known English amateur of Oriental Art, who in an interview published last month in these columns, called attention strongly to the irreparable injuries which countless objects of beauty in Japan are suffering from the want of a little organized care and liberality. We do not hesitate to speak strongly on this subject, for the Japanese will recognise that our remarks are not dictated by any spirit of faultfinding, but by a sincere desire to preserve for the national benefit and reputation heirlooms which any Western country fortunate enough to possess them, would deem it a sacrilege to treat as Japan treats them.

THE CHICAGO EXHIBITION.

IT will be seen from the Ordinance published elsewhere that Japan has now definitely set about organizing preparations for the Great World's Fair. When both Houses of the Diet made a representation to the Government urging the advisability of a special appropriation, and when it was rumoured that the sum contemplated was at least half a million *yen*, many people entertained grave doubts whether the outcome of the scheme would justify this expenditure. Reduced to mere arithmetic, the prospect is certainly not encouraging. To realize a profit of five hundred thousand *yen*, goods to the extent of at least three million *yen* must be sold; and if to the sum appropriated by the Government, we add the cost of transport and travel, it becomes evident that unless the sales in the Japanese section are on a very large scale —a scale without any precedent in the case of previous Exhibitions—the immediate loss to the country must be considerable. But the question is not one simply of direct loss or gain. The Diet and the Administration, in making this appropriation—which, we may note, remains still to be actually made—are doubtless influenced by solicitude for the development of the empire's art industries and the extension of their field of popularity abroad. With such objects in view, the expenditure of even a large sum of public money would not be unwise or extravagant, and we should consequently be dealing with a partial issue did we confine ourselves to figures connected with the direct results of the Exhibition. Assuming, then, that the primary purpose of the Authorities is to permanently extend the market for Japanese productions, and their secondary object to exercise such wise direction as shall secure this end for a minimum outlay, it becomes evident that the vitally important point to be taken into consideration is the nature of the exhibits forwarded to Chicago. We can scarcely write too strongly about this matter. In no single instance, whether of a domestic or a foreign exhibition, has Japanese art industry been exercised so as to attain the dual propose of winning Occidental favour and securing ready sales. The experience of last year's Industrial Exhibition is fresh in the memory of all. A very large majority of the articles in the Fine Arts Section were utterly unsuited to the needs, and unlikely to captivate the fancy, of foreign visitors. It is true that the Exhibition was not intended solely or even chiefly for foreigners. Japanese custom was of more importance to the exhibitors. But every student of this subject knows that even when he seeks foreign patronage the Japanese art artizan cannot do better than follow the canons of his own country. To manufacture articles expressly for domestic use and offer them

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in foreign markets, would, of course, be plainly unwise. But that is a question apart from artistic standards, and these, we repeat, the Japanese is nearly always safe in accepting as they have been handed down to him in the traditions of his own great schools. Where he goes wrong, too often hopelessly wrong, is in attempting to give practical expression to his conception of Occidental taste. The result is that he produces a multitude of articles which are neither true to Japanese canons nor suited to foreign requirements and fancies. For these he finds no market, and the loss thus incurred utterly swamps the profit accruing from the comparatively small minority of specimens that find ready and liberal purchasers. It is really surprising to observe how exceedingly ill-directed much of Japan's modern art effort is. Even in the case of exceedingly costly productions like the cloisonless enamels of Tokyo and Nagoya, the embrodieries of Kyoto, the richly decorated porcelain and faience of Kaga, Owari, and Arita, and so forth, nothing like adequate care is exercised to provide that the expenditure of so much labour and material shall not be rendered entirely fruitless by want of intelligent, or perhaps we should rather say experienced, direction. This it is that paralyses Japanese art industry. Year in and year out there remain in the hands of enterprising but uninstructed artizans or capitalists quantities of objects that can be disposed of only at a heavy sacrifice. To provide against such a contingency will be the first care of the Bureau now organized. If the Japanese Court at Chicago is furnished with exhibits of the character displayed in Paris three years ago or in Uyeno Park last year, not alone will Japan's reputation suffer, but the loss entailed will be of a crippling character. Very fortunately for the country the official gazetted to the control of the Bureau is a man of the highest intelligence, thoroughly competent to grasp the business phases as well as the national aspects of the problem. Mr. Mutsu, doubtless, needs no reminder of the paramount importance of helping the artizans with hints and suggestions at the earliest possible moment, and of subjecting their work throughout to such direction and inspection as may secure it against becoming a source of loss to themselves and discredit to their country. A delicate point of management may be involved in controlling the efforts of artists and artizans without incurring any direct responsibility towards them. But that is a matter of detail. What the Bureau has to remember is that every attempt hitherto made to direct effort into sound and sucessful channels, and to divert it from routes leading only to fiascos, has been lamentably insufficient. If the men who intend to send exhibits to Chicago—assuredly a large number of persons since the Diet and the Administration exhibit such vigorous interest in pushing the affair—if these men are abandoned to their own devices, and if they receive no assistance more intelligent and energetic than has been the case in the past, Japan will have to suffer heavy loss in the present, and at the same time will forfeit the opportunity offered by the Columbian World's Fair to extend her markets and her reputation.

CHOLERA INSPECTION.

THE Government has issued a Notification that Bangkok and Malacca shall be regarded as places infected with cholera, and that all ships coming thence, directly or indirectly, shall be subjected to medical inspection on arrival in Japan. The appearance of a Notification of this nature—and unfortunately there have been only too many instances—always suggests a speculation as to the degree of security afforded by such measures. It is, of course, necessary that precautions should be taken in respect of places where the plague has actually established a footing, but every one conversant with the story of cholera epidemics in Japan has learned to suspect that China is the great source of danger. At Hongkong alone among all the Chinese ports does there exist a system enabling the public to acquire certain knowledge of the sanitary condition of the place. Elsewhere cholera may be raging among the native population without any intelligence of the fact reaching the ears of the outer world, and while Japan has hitherto closed her doors against the uninspected ingress of vessels coming from places the condition of which, owing to their civilized administration, is known, she has left them open to vessels coming from Shanghai, and perhaps bringing with them the germs of the terrible disease. Scarcely a year passes we believe, without an outbreak of cholera, more or less severe, among the native population of Shanghai, but except in the very improbable event of that place being declared an infected port, no precautions have been taken up to the present against ships arriving from it. Exclusive of vessels flying the Japanese flag, the tonnage of steamers entering Nagasaki last year was 326,415. None of these ships are required to show a clean bill of health before coming into port and opening communication with the shore. In all other countries such a precaution is deemed necessary, and rigorous measures of exercising it are in force. But Japan has always been a notable exception. It is not to be presumed that she considers herself blessed by providence with some special immunity from disease, or that she relies implicitly on the perfection of her big neighbour's sanitary systems. The explanation is that, being deprived of autonomy under the present Treaties, she has to negotiate, instead of enacting, any laws affecting foreigners within her territories, and her Government has probably hesitated to repeat the experience already garnered in the matter of negotiation. We know how it fared with the question of harbour control at Yokohama—how, although regulations were carefully drawn up and submitted to the Foreign Representatives more than ten years ago, they still await endorsement, and the harbour is still treated as a place where ship-masters may do just as they please. We know, too, that when there was question of a municipal government for Yokohama, Sir HARRY PARKES gave it as his opinion that a period of ten years at least would be required to secure the effective cöoperation of the various foreign Powers, however desirous he himself might be of promoting the project. From steps involving such an expenditure of time and not necessarily successful labour any Administration might well shrink. But this is ancient history when considered by the light of the incomparably more liberal and courteous treatment accorded to Japan to-day by Western States. Among the Representatives of the Great Powers now in Tokyo it may confidently be stated that there is not one who would think of placing obstacles in the path of sanitary precautions, or hesitate to cöoperate as heartily as possible in organizing any preventive measures Japan might deem necessary. Still the fact remains that she is not competent to take these steps independently. The good will of the Foreign Ministers makes the practical situation much easier than it might be, but cannot alter the reality. An interesting crisis would be created should the Diet, awaking to the danger that Japan incurs by exposing herself to the free ingress of epidemics from the huge, uncleanly, over-populated, and disease-stricken empire by her side, enact laws requiring that every ship entering Japanese ports from a foreign country should submit her bill of health for inspection by the port officials, as ships are required to do in every Western State. The Japanese Administration would then find itself in the curious predicament of having to negotiate with Foreign Powers before putting into operation a law enacted by the Japanese Diet for the purpose of protecting the Japanese nation against plague and pestilence. It has been well said that constitutional institutions are quite incompatible with the preservation of the extraterritorial system. The conflict between the two is sure to come sooner or later.

TEMPERATURE AND CRIME.

IT is reported that the Chaplain of Wandsworth Prison has made out a connection between temperature and crime. As the thermometer rises the prisons fill; as it falls the prisons empty. This being so, it is a natural inference that heat favours vice, while cold fortifies virtue. The idea is suggestive, and fits in very well with some of our most ordinary phrases. "Hot" is a synonym for "angry;" and the hot-

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blooded races belong to southern climes. Children get fretful when the weather gets warm; and grown-ups, too, pretty frequently become unhinged when a sudden rise of temperature occurs. Statistics tend to show that there are more murders per head in tropical than in temperate countries. The very word temperate itself corroborates the Chaplain's theory. We have seen very instructive charts showing at a glance how particular diseases march with the seasons. Some reach an epidemic maximum in spring, others in summer, others again in winter. Earthquakes, too, we have long known to have their own seasonal law of frequency. Ultimately it is all the sun's doing; and to the list of physical, physiological, pathological, and all other recognised effects of solar heat we now add the psychological, as shown by the annual see-saw of vice and virtue. Step by step, science seems to be doing her best to eliminate individual responsibility from the ethical creeds of man. First insanity is found to cover a multitude of sins; then temporary insanity is discovered as a convenient counterpoise in the balance of justice. Next a morbid sentimentality urges drunkenness as a sufficient excuse for wife kicking. And if a criminal cannot be proved to have been temporarily insane or drunk, some busybody unearths a near relative who was once believed to be a little crazy. Then heredity steps in to explain why a man cannot possibly help being wicked. Even if heredity should fail, there is no difficulty in making out that the influences which moulded the youthful character of the man were very bad, but were not of his seeking. He was not to blame, poor fellow! And now we fear the good Chaplain of Wandsworth has given a new weapon into the hands of those sentimental paradoxers who, if logical, would have us believe that a man, be he good or bad or indifferently neither, is always what he cannot help being. It may be that, in the next century, the penalty for a crime will depend upon the temperature at the place and at the time of commission. The meteorologist will become as indispensable a witness in all criminal trials as the chemist now is in a poisoning case, or the expert in a forgery case. The burglar will study his thermometer carefully ere he issues forth on his deeds of darkness, knowing that, if the deed should fail, a difference of half a degree may change a life sentence into a seven years' servitude. ADAM very early discovered how natural it was to try and shift the blame to other shoulders. It was very mean, of course; but meaner far it seems to us is the modern tendency to blame our ancestors, or our environments, or the very temperature of the air we breathe. For to none of these can right of reply be granted.

AN INTERESTING SUIT.

A LAWSUIT involving an interesting issue was recently brought by the people of Nagano Prefecture against Mr. UTSUMI TADAKATSU, then Governor of that district. The plaintiffs alleged that the Governor had taken possession of certain forest land over which they claimed to have rights such as would be cognizable by an ordinary Court of Law, and they accordingly brought their suit in such a Court. The Governor, however, pleaded that as the act complained of had been done in his official capacity, it could not be adjudicated by an ordinary tribunal, and the jurisdiction of the Court thus became the first question to be decided. Now the 60th Article of the Constitution provides that "All matters falling within the competency of a special court shall be specially provided for by law;" and the 61st Article says, "No suit at law which relates to rights alleged to have been infringed by illegal measures of the Administrative Authorities, and which shall come within the competency of the Court of Administrative Litigation specially established by law, shall be taken cognizance of by a Court of Law." From these provisions it is clear that matters cognizable by the Administrative Court must be specially defined by law, and they are accordingly so defined by Law No. 106 of 1890. Alleged illegalities committed by administrative officials, other than acts thus specially brought within the purview of the Administrative Court, ought to be cognizable by a Court of Law, and no reason is apparent why a Governor, in his official capacity, may not be sued in such a Court with reference to matters affecting private rights, for if the enabling legislation of the Administrative Court does not extend to such cases, while at the same time they lie outside the jurisdiction of an Ordinary Court on account of their official character, then obviously there is room for grave denials of justice. Counsel for the plaintiffs argued in this sense, and the Court admitted the soundness of the plea. But the defendant carried the question to the Supreme Court, and the decision of the latter was awaited with much interest. The Supreme Court, in considering the matter, referred to the 24th Article of the Constitution, which declares that "No Japanese subject shall be deprived of the right of being tried by the judges determined by law." Looking at the spirit of this article, the Court concluded that every question affecting the rights of a Japanese subject, must be cognizable by some legal tribunal, and that, consequently, if the Administrative Court could not exercise jurisdiction, then the matter must necessarily fall within the competence of an ordinary tribunal. The fact that the act constituting the subject of dispute was performed by an official in the exercise of his administrative functions, did not, in the opinion of the Supreme Court, exclude it from the purview of an ordinary Court of Law. Our readers will doubtless agree that the judgment of the Supreme Court in this instance has been only natural, and such as might have been expected. But the decision is worth recording as an important step in the progress of the Japanese Judiciary. In England a Court of Administrative Litigation does not exist. Courts of Law there take cognizance of all matters not specially reserved by considerations of public policy. From the point of view of general judicial principles, the jurisdiction of an Administrative Court is special: no presumption exists of extensive jurisdiction in its favour unless the law explicitly confers such jurisdiction. Ordinary tribunals should take cognizance of all matters falling within the scope of ordinary law. To uphold the dignity of the Law Courts and to extend their jurisdiction as far as possible, should be the aim of the Judicature in all countries. The degree of development attained in these respects indicates the progress of the judicial system of a nation. In Japan the Courts of Law are making a steady and satisfactory advance, though to us, accustomed to the reverence, nay almost worship, given to Judges in Great Britain, the condition of the Japanese Judiciary seems to lag far behind the development of the State in other directions. The decision above referred to appreciably enhances the importance and dignity of the Law Courts, and affords matter for congratulation to the nation at large. The independence and irresponsibility attaching to officialdom in feudal times, have not entirely disappeared under the new regimen, and it is distinctly satisfactory to find that the highest legal tribunal in the land declines to invest the acts of officials with any sanctity excluding them from the jurisdiction of the ordinary Courts of Law.

THE PET OF THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY.

MANY a time as we read the discussions in one newspaper after another on the subject of extraterritoriality in Japan, we are reminded of the old experience that familiarity, instead of discharging its usual function and breeding contempt, sometimes works in the opposite direction and begets a marvel:—

"As when we dwell upon a word we know
"Repeating, till the word we know so well
"Becomes a wonder and we know not why."

Extraterritoriality, one of the few nine-syllable words in the English language, has in truth grown to be a nine-days wonder in respect of the extraordinary significance and power attached to it. By the generality of foreigners it seem to be regarded as a species of talisman, capable of protecting them against any and every contingency incidental to life in the Orient. Do small boys throw stones at foreigners

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in the streets of Tokyo, their unruliness is immediately instanced as a *raison d'être* of extraterritoriality. Does a *Soshi* interest himself importunately in the demeanour of a reverend gentleman towards the Sovereign of the country, forthwith the continuance of the extraterritorial system is held to be justified. Does a fanatic slash the head of a princely tourist, at once we are told that but for extraterritoriality we should all be exposed to terrible dangers. There is no limit to the range of this noble word's capacities, and by dwelling upon its imaginary benefits men have come to love it as much as such an ugly polysyllable can possibly be loved. The latest example of this sentimental affection is furnished by our esteemed contemporary the *North China Herald*. Writing of the Otsu incident, the Shanghai journal observes—and of course its observations are carefully reproduced by local English newspapers in Japan—that "the feeling of hatred of foreigners is not entirely dead, and that it is not safe yet to withdraw the protection of extraterritoriality." It is true that the *North China Herald* does not claim to be the original discoverer of this striking argument. It attributes it to "the opponents of unconditional Treaty Revision," on whose side it ranges itself. Thus happily there is no dispute about the credit of the invention, and we are able to consider its merits dispassionately. "The protection of extraterritoriality!" The phrase has a pleasant, comfortable sound, but what of its significance? Where does the protection of extraterritoriality commence, and how is it exercised? The extraterritorial system, as it exists now in Japan, does one thing and one thing only: it exempts foreign law-breakers from the jurisdiction of Japanese tribunals. Reduced to hard facts, that is the whole measure of its splendid powers. It does not beget constables and soldiers to guard foreign residents against chance ebullitions of the old *Joi* spirit, neither does it hedge them round with a halo that deters outrage and violence. The protection it affords is a wonderful myth, incapable of surviving the briefest exposure to truth and reason. Hardly could inconsequence be more magnificently illustrated than by the proposition that a system, the sole and only purpose of which is to regulate the mode of punishing a man for his own misdeeds, protects him at the same time against the misdeeds of others. The logic of the theory is really striking: extraterritoriality provides that a foreign law-breaker within Japanese territory shall be punished by foreign courts; therefore extraterritoriality safeguards the persons of foreigners against Japanese law-breakers. This is not a case of logic, however, but of love. Fondness has invested its object with virtues as imaginary as they are laughable. Had it not been for that respectable and dearly beloved institution, HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S Court at Kanagawa, and the heroic but solitary constable who represents and wields the strong arm of the law at the bidding of incorruptible officials, we might all have fallen victims to the bomb of a KURUSHIMA or the sword of a TSUDA. Let us be thankful.

THE "KEIZAI ZASSHI" AND THE COAST TRADE.

THE arguments employed by the *Keizai Zasshi* in its crusade against the *Nippon Yusen Kaisha* do not appeal to us as being on a level with the usual writing of that excellent periodical. In speaking of the facilities for marine transport furnished by the big shipping company to the inhabitants of Hokkaido, the *Keizai* charges the Directors with taking railway rates as a basis of calculation, and thereby subjecting shippers to heavy expenses. But surely the *Keizai* must know that whenever railways and ships come into competition in Western countries, the railway wins the day. England is a conspicuous example. There, in former years, huge quantities of coal and ore used to be carried by coasting vessels, but these commodities now travel almost entirely by train. If the Japan Mail Steamship Company takes railway rates as a basis for calculating its own charges, Japanese shippers certainly can have nothing to complain of. Possibly our contemporary's allusion is to the rates prevailing on Japanese lines, rates which in some instances are said to be unduly high. We do not know how this may be as a general rule, but assuredly in the case of the Kobe-Tokyo line the advantage of cheapness is so greatly on the side of the shipping company that the water route is chosen entirely for goods. In Hokkaido, as we have always understood, the obstacle in the path of cheap shipping facilities is, not a disposition on the part of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha to levy heavy rates, but a state of affairs which, so long as it remains unremedied, renders cheap carriage an impossibility. The major part of the expense is incurred in collecting the goods and carrying them to the port of shipment. If Hokkaido possessed good harbours so that steamers could get within easy reach of the producing districts, the cost of transport would be very different. But with things as they are now, to lay the blame on the shoulders of a Shipping Company is to put the saddle on the wrong horse. The development of the northern island's resources must always proceed slowly until it is brought into touch with the markets of the mainland by the construction of good harbours, and by providing means of internal communication. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha cannot deal with this part of the problem. Its ships can only use the harbours as they find them. If the danger and difficulty of collecting and moving cargo greatly augment the expense, the increased cost must be attributed to physical obstacles, and not to any arbitrary exactions on the part of the shipping company. Has the *Keizai Zasshi* paid attention to these points? We are inclined to doubt it. There is a ring of somewhat prejudiced onset about our contemporary's article, where it asserts that the Government subsidy of 880,000 *yen* annually has the effect of checking the development of Hokkaido, since it enables the big steamship company to monopolise the carrying trade and to charge rates of freight that deter shippers. Such an argument cannot have been penned by a writer in calm and unbiassed possession of his reasoning faculties. It is a novel theory to assert that the enjoyment of a subsidy promotes or suggests high charges on the part of the company enjoying it. The subsidy paid to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is for work actually done in carrying mail matter and so forth, but even if we assume, as the *Keizai Zasshi's* article suggests, that the amount is excessive, does it not result that the company is correspondingly competent to give its services to the public at cheap rates? Every one is familiar with the contention that Government support deters opposition, but it has yet to be gravely argued that by withdrawing Government support shipping facilities would be increased in a region where without public aid they could scarcely exist at all. The northern line of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is not by any means a lucrative branch of its business, as we understand, and were the company freed from the obligation of carrying the mails thither, it would probably abandon the service with all the pleasure imaginable. We are accustomed to find the *Keizai Zasshi's* articles so accurate as to facts and so well considered, that this crusade against the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, especially in connection with Hokkaido, causes us much surprise.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ÆSTHETIC CHARITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—May I beg you to use your influence to call the attention of the Government to the very urgent necessity of prompt measures being taken to preserve from utter destruction some works of incalculable artistic, historic, and religious value.

At Horiuji, and at the monasteries and temples in the suburbs of Nara, I saw last week among their countless art treasures, about fifty kakemono of great age, interest, and beauty which are crumbling positively to pieces from cruel neglect. They are in many instances quite equal to the exquisite illuminated missals and primitive masterpieces of Italy, France, Germany, and Belgium, which are so preciously preserved in glass cases of the great national museums and are famous all over the world.

Surely the Government of this, by far the most artistic of modern peoples, should not hesitate a day in voting the very trifling outlay necessary to reback them with at least stout cardboard, and preserve them, *pressed flat*, in some fire-proof building until the projected Museum at Nara is completed. May I be excused for adding how proud I was to notice on several scraps of paper the autographic gratitude from the pen of a

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sympathetic priest, stating that the very handsome mounting of several *chef-d'œuvres* was due to the enlightened generosity of my friend and fellow-citizen Dr. W. S. Bigelow, of Boston. It is now some years ago that he set this good example of rescuing from annihilation works of art of incalculable value. Since then no one, thus far, has continued this Æsthetic Charity.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

RALPH CURTIS.

Tokyo, June 4th, 1891.

THE HAIL STORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In one direction at least, the hail storm of Saturday was very local indeed. It did not extend to Kanagawa Bluff.

Yours truly, S. T.

June 8th, 1891.

PROFESSOR HOWARD'S "SCIENTIFIC METHOD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—When the history of Christian apologetics in the nineteenth century comes to be investigated an examination into the connection between want of "lucidity" and religious orthodoxy will doubtless prove an interesting branch of the inquiry; for it is impossible not to be struck with the steady deterioration not only in the arguments advanced, but in the mental calibre of some recent defenders of Christianity. A few days ago Professor B. Howard, M.D., F.R.C.S., exemplified, in his lecture to students of the Imperial University, printed in your columns, the class of mind to which in these days the defence of Christianity has fallen, and it would be interesting to know what impression the university students obtained of Professor Howard's "Scientific method" of judging Christ when trying to extract some meaning from such a sentence as this:—"In the time of the Christ, however, Jerusalem, then the capital of the then Jewish nation, in it, their temple unequalled, these books were to the Jews the core of all that was organic morally, socially, and politically in their nation"? This, as a friend of mine used to say, must have been a "clear as mud," but the succeeding sentence had doubtless a still more clarifying effect on the minds of the Professor's hearers:—"Here in Jerusalem amongst the teachers of these books, in the temple, would this Christ, a gentle unknown man, as the custom allowed, unrolling the scroll to the earliest prophecy, and rolling it up again to the latest prediction which contained their hope," &c., &c., &c. A "Custom" which would permit a "gentle unknown man" to be a "gentle unknown man" requires a Professor to do it full justice.

But if Professor Howard's literary flights are somewhat diverting, his "scientific method" of proving Christ is open to sterner criticism, for throughout his lecture he seems to be endeavouring not to instruct, but to throw dust in the eyes of his hearers. For instance, in the introductory portion of his remarks, he quotes from Mr. Spencer the sentence "True science is essentially religious," and from Professor Huxley, "True science and true religion are twin sisters," the implication apparently being that Professor Huxley, Mr. Spencer, and Professor Howard are agreed in the meaning attached by each to the term "religion." At any rate, Professor Howard, apart from his prefatory fling at the two scientific teachers he quotes, does not attempt to explain to the students he is addressing that the word "religion" would be defined very differently by his two authorities and by himself. The use made by expounders of "Christian evidences" of isolated passages in the works of scientific men ought to make scientists extremely careful in the phrases they employ.

Again, Professor Howard's treatment of what he calls the "historical" portion of his subject shows his method to be a not over-scrupulous one. He quotes from Josephus the famous passage about the Christians without one word of caution to his hearers that the passage is held by many, if not most, competent scholars to be a late interpolation; he gives a list of "profane" historians who mention Christ or Christians without hinting that the passages relied on are denounced on very good evidence as forgeries; nay, he goes even further than the ordinary Christian evidencer in stating, in one of his peculiarly constructed sentences, that "concerning all the so-called sacred writers, however, it may be here stated that with them, you will find all these so called profane writers, are as to the facts, in all cases in full accord."

Surely Professor Howard must know that critics who assert untrustworthiness of the references to Christ and Christianity in the "profane" historians have very good reasons in support of their position. For in truth the wholesale forgery which went on when the Church had all the literature of the civilised world in its possession somewhat overreached itself, in that it made the pagan writers of the first century apparently familiar with ideas and persons which do not appear in Christian literature until the end of the second and beginning of the third century. For example, Tatian, Athenagoras, and Theophilus are Christian writers who are generally considered to have lived about the beginning of the second century; and while each wrote apologies for Christianity (Theophilus saying we are called Christians . . . because we are anointed with the oil of God") none of them mention either Jesus Christ or the New Testament, and all, as a writer on this subject has pointed out, "attribute sayings (sometimes resembling, but for the principal part differing from, sayings put by the writers of our New Testament into the mouth of Jesus Christ) to the 'Logos' as an entirely spiritual being or influence."

"But," says the author of "Primitive Church History," "not only are Tatian, Athenagoras, and Theophilus silent regarding Jesus Christ, but all the pagan writers who flourished during our second century are silent, not only regarding him, but regarding the Christians. Now, is it probable that Josephus, Suetonius, Pliny (junior), and Tacitus really knew more about Jesus Christ than those early apologists for the Christians who never name him? Or is it probable that if 'great multitudes of Christians' during our first century attracted the attention of one Jewish and three pagan writers, who flourished towards the end of that period, not even one pagan writer would have taken notice of so remarkable a sect during the whole of our second century? These improbabilities amount to almost an impossibility. And the facts (1) that there is not any pagan writer of our second century who mentions the Christians, and (2) that those early apologists never mention Jesus or Christ, amount almost to positive proof that the passages regarding the Christians now found in Josephus, Suetonius, Pliny (junior), and Tacitus, *are forgeries.*"

In one portion of his lecture Professor Howard finds himself "obliged . . . to assume that we agree as to the authenticity of the New Testament" (this is his "scientific method," be it noted), and proceeds to "interpolate for what it is worth" a statement "that not long since 617 scientific members of the British Association passed a resolution to this effect:—'It is a perversion of Science to cast doubt upon the Scriptures.'" Now Professor Howard has so curious a method of dealing with evidence that I for one would be glad to be referred to the authority for this statement, and the year this remarkable resolution was passed, not that perhaps the resolution is of so much importance in itself as that it would be interesting to know the circumstances preceding the carrying of such a motion.

With respect, however, to the Gospels, upon the authenticity of which Professor Howard assumes our agreement, it may be interesting to have the opinion of a well known authority. Says the author of *Supernatural Religion* (vol. ii. 248-250):—"After having exhausted the literature and the testimony bearing on the point, we have not found a single distinct trace of any one of those [synoptic] Gospels during the first century and a half after the death of Jesus. Only once during the whole of that period do we find any tradition even that any one of our evangelists composed a Gospel at all, and that tradition, so far from favouring our synoptics, is fatal to the claims of the first and second. About the middle of the second century, Papias, on the occasion to which we refer, records that Matthew composed the Discourses of the Lord in the Hebrew tongue: a statement which totally excludes the claim of our Greek Gospel to apostolic origin. Mark, he said, wrote down from the casual preaching of Peter the sayings and doings of Jesus, but without orderly arrangement, as he was not himself a follower of the Master, and merely recorded what fell from the apostle. This description, likewise, shows that our actual second Gospel could not, in its present form, have been the work of Mark. There is no other reference during the period to any writing of Mathew or Mark, and no mention at all of any work ascribed to Luke. If it be considered that there is any connection between Marcion's Gospel and our third synoptic, any evidence so derived is of an unfavourable character for that Gospel, as it involves a charge against it of being interpolated and debased by Jewish elements. Any argument for the mere existence of our synoptics based upon their supposed rejection by heretical leaders and sects has the inevitable disadvantage that the very testimony which would show their existence would oppose their authenticity. There is no evidence of their use by heretical leaders, however, and no direct reference to them by any writer, heretical or orthodox, whom we have examined. We need scarcely add that no reason whatever has been shown for accepting the testimony of these Gospels as sufficient to establish the reality of miracles and of a direct Divine revelation. It is not pretended that more than one of the synoptic Gospels was written by an eye witness of the miraculous occurrences reported, and while no evidence has been, or can be, produced even of the historical accuracy of the narratives, no testimony as to the correctness of the inferences from the external phenomena exists, or is now even conceivable. The discrepancy between the amount of evidence required, and that which is forthcoming, however, is greater than, under the circumstances, could have been thought possible." And (vol. ii. 387) regarding the fourth Gospel he says:—"For some century and a half after the events recorded in the work, there is not only no testimony whatever connecting the fourth Gospel with the Apostle John, but no certain trace even of the existence of the Gospel. There has not been the slightest evidence in any of the writings of the Fathers which we have examined, even of a tradition that the Apostle John had composed any evangelical work at all; and the claim advanced in favour of the Christian miracles of contemporaneous evidence, of extraordinary force and veracity, by undoubted eye-witnesses, completely falls to the ground."

Not a word of mention of any of these criticisms does Professor Howard make when conducting his "scientific" investigations into the story of "The Christ;" he might, for all he says to the contrary, be blissfully ignorant that any such criticisms exist. However, not to make this letter too long, the quotations I have made are doubtless sufficient to show the students of the Imperial University, if any of them are readers of the *Japan Mail*, that Professor Howard's method, so far from being scientific, is the very antithesis of what is rightfully called by that name, unless suppression of facts and suggestions of the thing that is not should be held rightfully so denominated. What must those members of the Imperial University who have studied the questions treated by Professor Howard think of a religion which has to be defended by such questionable means as those employed by him? Truly Christian apologetics seem to exercise a very evil influence on the character of those addicted to these intellectual gymnastics.

Yours truly, SECULARIAN.

Kobe, June 3rd, 1891.

THE WORD "NATIVES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—It is probably well known that there is a strong prejudice on the part of many Japanese against our use of the word *natives*. They assert that it implies a marked inferiority, and is disrespectful. They furthermore claim that we would'nt like it, were they to apply the word to us, and that therefore we should respect our Golden Rule and drop the objectionable term.

Some foreigners on hearing this complaint have felt that the Japanese were right, and have conscientiously laid the word in the shelf. Others, while not allowing that the Japanese are correct in their conclusion, have yet felt that their prejudice is so strong that it is better not to say *Natives*.

It seems to me that a frank consideration of this little subject may tend to a better mutual understanding, especially if it can be shown that our Japanese friends are liable to do us quite as great an injustice by their way of regarding this word, as we are supposed to be doing them.

Ask any ordinary Japanese who understands English how he translates *natives*, and his prompt reply will generally be *dojin* 土人. And if you ask to what kind of people this *dojin* is applicable, you will be told that it covers Ainos, North American Indians, and Africans. No wonder then that the Japanese are sensitive on this use of a word that classes them with uncivilized and barbarous races. How it is with other dictionaries, I cannot tell, but in Messrs. Shibata and Koyasu's large English and Japanese Dictionary—the only one I have at hand—the word *native* has but one translation, *dojin*. If other dictionaries give this same rendering, it will be seen why it is that the English word *native*, closely associated as it is in the Japanese mind with *dojin*, instantly produces a disagreeable feeling. *Dojin* has but one meaning—*aborigines in their barbarous condition*. But *natives* has two branches, one equivalent to the *dojin*, while the other is a perfectly proper word in any society, being generally the natural opposite to *foreigners*. "Foreigners and natives," or "Natives and foreigners" are words on a perfect equality, and are used by gentlemen and scholars without a thought of one being disrespectful and the other not so.

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And since the word *dojin* is out of place in rendering this better meaning, some other words like *honkoku jin*, or *jihoku no hito*, should be used.

I was very much surprised and somewhat annoyed recently by a translation in the *Fiji Shimpo* of one of my articles from a foreign magazine, in which I had used the word "natives" three or four times. Twice it was very properly translated by the *Nippon-jin*, but in a sentence describing the work of foreign physicians as being to teach the principles of medical science, these words were added:—"The foreign physician has then fulfilled his mission and can safely turn over farther development of his art to the natives." The translation was:—*Guwai kokujin wa jibun no jigyo wo shitogetaru ga yue ni sono yo wo dojin ni makasu beki nomi.* This translation gave offence to some of my friends, as it did also to me. It made me say that a foreign physician could teach medical science to ignorant aborigines and safely leave the application of the knowledge to them.

Hoping that the *Fiji Shimpo* will translate this for the benefit of its wide circle of readers, I will add that the word *native* is applied impartially to any and all peoples, and it has taken its place in imperishable literature as a perfectly proper word. One example will be ample to show this:—

Ex-Secretary of State J. F. Bayard, in the May *Forum*, in his article on "State Rights and Foreign Relations" again and again uses the word *natives* in the sense of *citizens of the United States*. "A score or more instances can be found, in existing treaties between the United States and foreign nations, of stipulations for securing to citizens of each nation, residing within the territory of the other, the enjoyment of all the privileges of the most favoured nation and perfect equality with the natives."

Translate this by *dojin*, and it makes the United States offer to all foreigners perfect equality with the North American Indians!

But this statesman goes on to quote the exact language of our treaty with Italy, saying that Italians shall receive protection "upon the same terms as the natives of the country." By this it will be seen that Secretary Bayard, the President of the United States, and all citizens whatsoever are *natives*.

There are no documents of higher authority concerning the international meaning of words than treaties between the various Powers of the earth. If in these, *natives* means *citizens* as contrasted with persons of foreign birth, there is a use of the word that is high and honourable. And when foreigners who are known as the friends of Japan use this term, the only possible and correct thought a well-informed Japanese should have is that the use is proper and gentlemanly.

J. H. DE FOREST.

Sendai, June 1861.

"ANTI-HUMBUG."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In reading your quotation from "Anti-Humbug," concerning missionaries, I was reminded of a conversation I had with the cashier of a bank in San Francisco. He visited Yokohama several years ago, became well acquainted with the clubs, and told me he found the people rather coarse; he thought they had been stable-boys before they came out. "Anti-Humbug" probably belongs to this class. He evidently thinks that money is the one thing that all men are striving for, and missionaries must be doing so also. The tastes and delights of an educated and polished gentleman whose nature is far above that of one who lives for sordid gain are so far beyond the range of "Anti Humbug's" comprehension that it would be impossible to bring him to appreciate them. They belong to the higher qualities of human nature. If I were to tell him that the missionaries did not come to Japan to give the Japanese new morals merely, but a new life, it would be a new idea utterly incomprehensible to him. He has probably not yet reached the Ten Commandments.

Thanking you for your incisive and complete answer to such ignorant and spiteful faultfinding,

I remain, yours, &c.,

G. T. S.

Tokyo, June 8th, 1891.

SECULARIAN'S "SCIENTIFIC METHOD."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—"Secularian," in his criticism in your issue of to-day of Professor Howard's "Scientific Method," exhibits a "Scientific Method" of his own, to two or three specimens of which I will, with your kind permission, very briefly call attention. He says of Tatian, Athenagoras, and Theophilus, that "none of them mention either Jesus Christ or the New Testament," and quotes the author of "Primitive Church History" to the same effect. Let us see how true this assertion is. Tatian is the author of the "Diatessaron," which was long supposed to be lost, but has been recently discovered in an Arabic translation, and was published in Rome by Ciasca, in 1888. It is a life of Christ formed by weaving together into one narrative the four Gospels, beginning with the opening part of the Gospel of St. John. But perhaps "Secularian" has not yet heard of this discovery. For Theophilus, let me quote from Bishop Lightfoot (Essays on "Supernatural Religion," p. 44). In his work addressed to Autolycus, "Theophilus introduces the unmistakable language of Romans, 1, 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Timothy, Titus, not to mention points of resemblance with other Apostolic Epistles which can hardly have been accidental. He has one or two coincidences with the Synoptic Gospels, and, what is more important, he quotes the beginning of the Fourth Gospel by name as follows 'Whence the Holy Scriptures, and all the inspired men teach us, one of whom, John, says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God" showing that at the first God was alone, and the Word in Him. Then he says, 'And the Word was God; all things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made.'" (Compare also the Ante-Nicene Fathers, American edition, vol. 2, p. 103.) Theophilus addressed his work, which still remains, to Autolycus, a heathen, so that it would not be at all surprising if he had failed to quote the New Testament, nor would such failure be reason for doubting the authenticity of any New Testament book. The case is the same with Athenagoras. One of his extant works is a defence of the Christians, addressed to the Emperors Marcus Aurelius and Commodus, and dealing with three specific charges made against believers in Christ, 'atheism, Thyestean feasts, Oedipodean intercourse.' The other is a defence on philosophical grounds of belief in the resurrection of the dead. Nevertheless, in the former work, are quoted, usually, with the formula, "He says," the words of our Lord (in Luke vi. 27,28 and Matt. v. 44,45) beginning "I say unto you; Love your enemies," and ending "sends rain on the just and the unjust" (in Matt. v. 28), "For he that looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery already in his heart" (in Matt. xix. 9). "For whosoever puts away his wife, and marries another, commits adultery," and (in Luke vi. 32, 34, Matt. v. 46, though less exactly,) "for if ye love them that love you, and lend to them that lend to you, what reward will ye have?" In the latter work are found the words "in the language of the apostle 'this corruptible (and dissoluble) must put on incorruption.'"

So much for "Secularian's" assertion that these three fathers do not mention the New Testament. His assertion that they do not mention Jesus Christ has already been disposed of as regards Tatian. The others in their extant works do not indeed mention Him by that name. But Theophilus speaks of Him as the Logos, or Word, and Athenagoras speaks of Him frequently both under this name and that of Son and God, besides quoting His Words, and entitling his own book, "A Plea for the Christians." But if "Secularian's" assertion were true, what bearing would it have on his criticism of Professor Howard? Would he have us understand that he thinks there were Christians in the latter half of the second century who had never heard of Jesus Christ?

"Secularian" quotes the author of "Supernatural Religion as a "well known authority." Since Bishop Lightfoot's criticism of him, he may indeed to be said to be "well known," but hardly as an "authority." The New York *Nation*, which certainly has no "apologetical" bias, but rather the reverse, said of Bishop Lightfoot's Essays on "Supernatural Religion," republished in 1889 from the *Contemporary Review*, that the Bishop has conclusively shown (I quote from memory), that the author of Supernatural Religion had misunderstood the authorities which he used, "not because their meaning was obscure, but because they were written in Latin and Greek." If "Secularian" pins his faith on such authorities as this, his own errors are quite naturally accounted for, and should be treated leniently.

T. S. TYNG.

Tokyo, June 9th, 1891.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A general meeting of this society was held in its rooms on Wednesday, 10th instant, at 4 p.m., the President, N. J. Hannen, Esq., occupying the chair. There was a good attendance. The election as resident members of Rev. J. McKim of Osaka, Mr. J. F. Lowder of Yokohama, and Rev. G. T. Smith of Tokyo, was announced. Thereafter Mr. Chamberlain was called upon to read a short note by Mr. Aston, in reply to strictures offered by Mr. Parker in a recent paper on Korea, the strictures being, in Mr. Aston's opinion, based on a misconception. The next paper was a short survey of the Habits of the Blind in Japan, by Professor J. M. Dixon, of which the following is a pretty complete report:—

Until about 1,000 years ago the condition of blind folk in Japan seems to have been pitiable. A burden to relations, shut out from any calling or social rank, and looked upon as unlucky and uncanny, those who became blind entered into a state of almost unqualified misery. Providence, in the shape of a blind prince, stepped in to aid them. The Emperor Kokan Tenno, who succeeded his father Ninmei in 885 A.D., had a son named Amago-no-mikoto who was born blind. Finding that the ordinary courtiers could not amuse the lad, he summoned to his palace eight hundred blind men of learning and fame, some of whose names—Miokan, Miomon, Shido, Sakurai—have come down to us. The young prince having shaved his head, all these men followed his example; and a shaven head is to this day a distinctive mark of a blind man.

At the age of thirty, Amago-no-mikoto having been appointed governor of the three provinces of Hiuga, Osumi, and Satsumi, was accompanied thither by a retinue of blind courtiers who carried out his wishes and helped him in the duties of government. When growing old, he retired to Kyōto, and entrusted these men with the duties of the governorship—a practice which was repeated until it grew into a precedent. Blind men ruled these three provinces until the reign of Go-shira-kawa-tennō—a period that is reckoned the happiest in the annals of Japanese blind-folk.

About 1180 A.D. civil war broke out in the empire and, in the fierce contest for supreme power waged between the rival houses of Taira and Minamoto, the weak had everywhere to give way before the strong. The peaceful and happy state of affairs that had allowed blind governors to rule a province ceased for ever, giving place to war and bloodshed. At the close of the 13th century the poor blind officials were everywhere dispossessed and reduced to a state of poverty and destitution. The attention of the government having been called to their condition, it gave orders to the governor of each province to succour them, but after the reign of Go-tsuchi-mikado, 1467 A.D., even this small boon was taken away. When the Tokugawa family came into power, a complaint was made regarding the wretched state of the blind throughout the realm, and permission was granted them to travel from province to province, their pocket-money to be provided by the head of each township. Thus matters continued until the great Revolution twenty-three years ago. This event again proved disastrous to most of the blind people and efforts have since been made to relieve them by establishing asylums where they learn amongst other accomplishments to read from raised characters. Several foreign missionaries have been and are bestowing labour on the advancement of education for the blind, and Japanese beneficence built a school, to be the nucleus of a larger building near the great Tsukiji Temple of Tōkyō. This school has been recently removed to Koishikawa, and joined to the Deaf and Dumb Institute. At Kyōto there is another of these institutions.

The members of the blind guild followed two occupations—music or chanting, and shampooing or massage. The songs they used to sing mostly celebrated the glory of the house of Taira, and were composed by a poetess of note, Murasaki Shikibu. Their favourite instruments for accompaniment were the *biwa*, the *samisen*, and the *kōtō*. Those lower grade were shampooers *(amma)*, or needle doctors, who cured by the counter-irritant system *(shinjutsu)*. To this day these blind shampooers fill the streets with their cry; *amma kami shimo go hiakumo* (5 *sen* for shampooing the body from head to foot).

The musicians who played on the *biwa* were called *biwa hoshi*, and were highly thought of by all the people. Occasionally they had the honour of receiving invitations to perform from emperors and *shōguns*. Others who had become blind, unable to compete with the blind musicians—for the most part skilful musicians were those born blind—took to story-telling as a profession, or made poems in Japanese and Chinese. Seminaru, a blind prince, was one of the most ac-

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complished of Japanese poets. A shrine, occupying the site of his summer house, is still pointed out in the vicinity of Ozakayama tunnel, at Otsu near Kyōto. Others again practised the art of divining.

The higher official grades open to blind men came in time to be eagerly sought after and were often purchased with a large sum of money, even as much as 500 *ryō* being paid for the coveted distinctions. In consideration of this fee the ministers at the Emperor's Court let those who paid go free from examination. The holders of official rank had many privileges, some of them monetary, which enabled those who paid a fee to reimburse themselves later on. They were allowed to use a special *kago* reserved for men of high rank only, and on entering the inner gate of a castle they were not compelled, like common people, to leave their *kago* and make the required obeisance. The sign of their dignity was a staff, of red lacquer in the case of a first-class official, of black in that of the second-class. The privilege was also granted them of conferring the petty ranks on inferior members of the brotherhood—a considerable source of revenue.

These blind officials were frequently put to questionable uses in the stormy period between 1400 and 1600 A.D. Generals and barons took blind musicians into their pay and employed them as spies, and many a castle was taken and many an army ruined by this device.

It takes nine years for an *amma* to learn his calling. During his first three years of apprenticeship he practises on the limbs and body of his master. Then for the next three years he is taught the art of acupuncture (*shinjutsu*). For the three years that still remain he is, so to speak, on trial and receives only half the usual fee (6 *sen*), and even this moiety goes to his master. Even after the nine years apprenticeship he is expected to make some presents to his master before he becomes free to practice for himself. Those who set up for any reputation as shampooers practice the art at home; the others wander through the streets offering their services at a cheap rate or crying *amma karai*—shampooing and acupuncture!

Some blind men have distinguished themselves outside of the usual professions. It was not uncommon for blind men to be skilful players at *go*, and one blind *go* player is said to have gained a victory over a prince. The prince, in a fit of jealous anger, killed him, an act for which he afterwards suffered death. This event is said to have happened about 250 years ago; but for the truth of the story we cannot vouch.

The famous author Hanawa (1762-1786 A.D.) was blind. His work, Gunshio-rui-shiu, a valuable repertory of information consisting of 635 volumes, containing 1,273 parts, is still referred to as an authority; it is a unique and excellent performance."

Mr. Chamberlain pointed out an omission in the paper, which had neglected to mention the fact that the practice of usury was common among blind men, and brought them considerable unpopularity from the strict way in which they treated their debtors.

Dr. KNOTT was then called upon to read his paper on "The Summer Climate of Karuizawa." He commenced by remarking that this place, now a popular summer resort, is but of recent date in this capacity having been "discovered" so to speak, in 1886 by Ven. Archdeacon Shaw and Professor Dixon, who were attracted by its peculiar merits.

Since then, said he, it has rapidly grown in favour. House after house has been built; and the neighbouring village has entered upon what is practically a new lease of life. The decay of feudalism after the restoration and the construction of the new road over the lower *toge* diminished the importance of the little hamlet, which gradually sank to insignificance and poverty. Now, however, thanks mainly to foreigners seeking pure air, Karuizawa has recovered much, if not all, of its former prosperity. Its vicinity to the railway terminus has also no doubt had good effect in sustaining its reawakened energetics. It may not be amiss then to put on record the results obtained from a regular and systematic series of Meteorogical Observations carried out during the summer months of 1889.

Karuizawa lies ensconced in a pretty nook of wooded and grassy hills. Southwards it looks across an undulating plain, through which flow numerous rivulets that finally find their way westwards and northwards to the Japan Sea. The ridges that bound this plain on the east form the watershed between the easterly and westerly river systems of Japan. On the eastward side the ridges drop abruptly by steep escarpments and deep cut valleys. Dense foliage and fantastically weathered rocks combine in shaping some of the most wonderful scenery of Japan. On the westward side, however, the contour of the country is much smoother. The land gently dips to the westward; and so long as Karuizawa is in sight it is difficult to realise that the region is fully 3,000 feet above the sea level.

To its position on the "great divide" many of the climatic peculiarities of Karuizawa can readily be referred. Let us suppose ourselves standing, some clear summer afternoon, on the summit of the hill close to the old Pass, that is, some 700 feet above and half a mile to the east of the village. We have an uninterrupted view to the southeast far away to the plain of Musashi. The sky is clear; but the cool of the day is coming on. A thin streak of cloud suddenly appears across the sky blue or the earth green. It seems to grow and draw near; and before we are well aware of it, we are enveloped in a sea of fog, and the exquisite scene is hid from view. The fog cloud drifts over the ridges, and through the passes, and tumbles over upon the Karuizawa plain. Where a cold marshy spot lurks between the hamlet and the new road, it pushes out spectral vanguards; so that even though Karuizawa itself may be pretty clear this mist threatens it on all sides. Only a steady westerly breeze blowing up the great valley that skirts the southern slope of Asama-yama can withstand this inroad of drifting cloud. Once it has established itself on the surrounding crests late of an afternoon, there it will remain till the returning heat of day dissolves it into transparency. Such a constant visitant is apt at times to be disagreeable; but it certainly is not unhealthy.

Thus not only is Karuizawa exposed to all the cloudiness that may characterise such lofty regions, but it is so situated that it cannot escape the condensation that is a natural result of the cooling off of the currents of warm moist air as they blow up the steep escarpments of the Usui basin.

It was out on the plain already spoken of that I put up a rough shed to serve as a Meteorological Observatory. The site was chosen by Professor Dixon; and was in every respect suitable. The grove to the north of it was too far away to have any appreciable influence upon the indications of the instruments. So also the nearest ridge to the east was too distant to afford any real shelter. The shed was simply a roof set on six upright posts. The eaves dipped low all round so that it was impossible for any direct skylight to shine upon the thermometer bulbs. The thermometers, four in all, were attached to a board in the centre of the shed.

Since what is wanted is a general comparison of Karuizawa weather with, for example, Tokyo weather, a complete reproduction of all the individual observations made is uncalled for. I propose to epitomise the results in a form convenient for the general reader. All the quantities will be given according to the metric and centigrade system, which is the authorised system in Japan. The more important quantities will, however, also be given in terms of the usual English units, to which English speaking peoples all over the globe are accustomed. To particularise, the barometric pressure is measured in millimetres of mercury, the temperature in degrees Centigrade, the vapour pressure in millimetres of mercury, the rainfall in millimetres of water. The principal means and totals are also given in inches, in degrees Fahrenheit, and in inches respectively. The humidity is in per centages. The barometer readings are all reduced to the freezing point of water.

In the table at the end will be found a direct comparison of Five Day means or totals for Tokyo and for Karuizawa, beginningwith July 15th and ending with September 2nd, 1889. The Tokyo numbers are taken from the Annual Report of the Meteorological Office. A study of this Table will show that the difference between the barometer readings is very steady; but that there is considerable fluctuation in the differences of temperature. With the distinctly lower temperature the vapour pressure is less at Karuizawa than at Tokyo. The humidity, however, tends to be greater; while the rainfall is much more excessive at the high level station.

To bring out the daily variation in the meteorological conditions at the two stations, means and totals for the month of August are arranged in the subjoined table, each column of numbers containing the means or totals corresponding to the hours marked at the head. The letter T is prefixed to the rows of numbers referring to Tokyo, and K to the rows of numbers referring to Karuizawa.

GENERAL COMPARISON OF THE METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AT TOKYO AND KARUIZAWA DURING AUGUST, 1889.

		2 a.m.	6 a.m.	10 a.m.	2 p.m.	6 p.m.	▬ p.m.	Mean.
Barometer	T	756.5	755.8	757.0	755.9	755.8	756.9	756.5
	K		679.5	679.2	678.7	678.8	679.5	679.1
Temperature	T	23°.4	23°.1	27°.7	29°.1	26°.5	24°.6	25°.7
	K		18°.3	23°.3	24° 5	21°.2	19°.2	21°.3
Vapour Pressure	T	20.1	19.9	20.3	20.3	20.5	20.2	20.2
	K		14.8	16.1	17.0	16.4	15.8	16.0
Humidity	T	93	94	74	68	79	87	83
	K		94	77	77	88	94	86
Rainfall	T		47.2	13.6	9.1	21.2	15.1	96.2
	K		51.7	24.8	25.9	66.4	43.2	212.0

2.—THERMOMETER READINGS IN AUGUST.

Highest in Tokyo=30°.3 (91°.9 F.) on 2nd and 3rd.

Highest in Karuizawa=31°.3 (88°.3 F.) on 3rd.

Lowest in Tokyo=16°.3 (61.°3 F.) on 28-29th.

Lowest in Karuizawa=13.°1 (55.°6 F.) on 28-29th.

Highest daily range in Tokyo=10°.4 (18°.5 F.) on 16th.

Highest daily range in Karuizawa=18°.1 (32°.6 F.) on 5th.

Lowest daily range in Tokyo=3°.0 (5°.4 F.) on 20th.

Lowest daily range in Karuizawa=2°.3 (4°.1 F.) on 29th.

Mean daily range in Tokyo=7°.7 (13°.9 F.)

Mean daily range in Karuizawa=11°.1 (20°.0 F.)

3.—VAPOUR PRESSURE IN AUGUST.

Highest in Tokyo=24.9 (.980 in.) on 25th at 2 p.m.

Highest in Karuizawa=25.3 (.996 in.) on 9th at 2 p.m.

Lowest in Tokyo=12.4 (.488 in.) on 31st at 10 a.m.

Lowest in Karuizawa=9.2 (.362 in.) on 31st at 6 a.m.

4.—RAINFALL IN AUGUST.

Heaviest 4 hrs'. in Tokyo=11.2 (0.45 in.) on 19th at 6 a.m.

Heaviest 8 hrs'. in Tokyo=15.6 (0.61 in.) on 19th at 6 a.m.

Heaviest 8 hrs'. in Karuizawa=21.2 (0.83 in.) on 19th at 6 a.m.

Heaviest day's in Tokyo=35.2 (1.39 in.) on 28th.

Heaviest day's in Karuizawa=61.5 (2.42 in.) on 19th.

2nd heaviest day's in Karuizawa=42.5 (1.67 in.) on 28th.

2nd heaviest day's in Tokyo=18.1 (0.71 in.) on 19th.

In the following Table a more general comparison is made between Karuizawa and four of the regular meteorological stations, chosen so as to enclose Karuizawa as an approximately mean point. These stations are Tokyo, Niigata, Fushiki and Gifu. The latitudes and longitudes and heights above the sea-level are as follows:—

	N. Lat.	E. Long.	Level.
Tokyo	35°41′	139°45′	20.1m. (66.0 ft.)
Niigata	37°55′	139° 3′	9.8m. (32.2 ft.)
Fushiki	36°47′	137° 3′	4.3m. (14.1 ft.)
Gifu	35°27′	136°46′	15.0m. (49.2 ft.)
Karuizawa	36°21′	138°38′	962.0m. (3156.2 ft.)

Thus Tokyo and Niigata lie to the east of Karuizawa; Fushiki and Gifu to the west. Also Niigata and Fushiki lie to the north of Karuizawa, and Tokyo and Gifu to the south. All except Karuizawa lie near the coast.

The mean August temperature is 70.°3 F., or almost exactly 8° F. lower than the mean August temperature for Tokyo. This difference of 8° F. is one of the chief factors that make Karuizawa such a pleasant summer resort. Conjoined to this, however, there is the greater relative coolness of the nights. There is a mean oscillation of 20° F. in the daily temperature, as compared with 14° F. at Tokyo. The greatest daily oscillation observed was 32.°6 F. at Karuizawa; while at Tokyo the greatest oscillation was only 18.°5 F.

The humidity is practically the same at both places. The lower temperature at the hill station robs this humidity of most of its relaxing tendency.

The rainfall at Karuizawa was 8.35 inches during the month of August; while at Tokyo it was only 3.8. This excess is due to the heavier character of the showers at the high level station, a necessary consequence of the presence of hills around a region exposed to moisture laden winds. It will be noticed that Gifu, likewise situated in the vicinity of hills, has also a relatively large rainfall. At Niigata and Fushiki, both situated on the west coast, the precipitation is not much more than half that for Tokyo. That it is the heaviness of the showers that makes the difference is seen at once by comparing the number of rainy days at the various stations. Fushiki is characterised by the greatest humidity and smallest number of rainy days; while Gifu with the lowest humidity is second only to Karuizawa in the number of its rainy days. This is a very good illustration of the effect of the configuration of the country upon the rainfall.

It will be seen from the Table at the end that the heaviest rainfall occurred towards the end of August. Between August 18th and August 31st, two storms swept over the country. These were however, in no way remarkable either for high wind or very excessive rain, and could not be compared with the storms that did so much damage in August of 1890.

In addition to the heaver rainfall at Karuizawa there are the morning and evening mists already spoken of. Nevertheless, in spite of this appearance of greater wet there is not the least doubt as to the healthiness of the place in summer. It

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is probable that the improved drainage of the plain that stretches in front of the village has diminished this tendency to fog; and the more completely the drainage is carried out the more thoroughly will the fog clouds be confined to the surrounding peaks and ridges. The porous character of the volcanic soil prevents the surface accumulation of water even after heavy rain, if we except of course the marshy depressions that have not yet been drained. Finally with its comparatively cool summer weather, its cold refreshing nights, its heavy air-clearing showers, its southern aspect, and its position close to some of the most picturesque mountain scenery of Japan, Karuizawa leaves little to be desired as a summer retreat. It is much cooler and I believe, drier than Nikko, although I am not aware that any systematic observations have been made at this most popular of summer resorts. To note the number of rainy days during the season would be a simple matter and would in itself have some significance; but in the lack of even that amount of definite information, we can only judge from general impressions in different seasons. It is, I believe, the general opinion of all who have tried both, that Karuizawa is, all round, the more satisfactory as a summer residence and as a place for rational enjoyment."

In a note to the main paper Dr. Knott used some recent results obtained on the top of Fujiyama for the purpose of comparison. These results taken simultaneously on the top of Fuji and Lake Yamanaka near its base, were carried out by the Meteorological Office during August and a part of September, 1889. The means for August for these stations were :—

	Bar. Range.	Temp. (C.) Range.	Vap. Tens.	Hum.	Rain-fall.	Rainy Days.
Fuji Top	490.7...13.1	7.2 ...11.6	5.5	71.2	888.1	28
Yamanaka	677.5...11.8	20.6 ... 9.6	16.0	88.7	510.4	18
Numazu	757.0...12.7	25.8 ... 7.2	20.5	83.0	187.2	23

The maximum and minimum thermometer readings on the summit of Fuji were 70°.5 F. & 31°.1 respectively. The mean daily range is a little higher than at Karuizawa. The excessive rainfall, 36 in., which was confined mostly to three days, is especially noticeable. These observations, if used for determining the height of the mountain, would give an approximate height of 12,238 feet, somewhat lower than the accepted figure.

The President made a few remarks, dwelling on the great range of daily temperature at Karuizawa which seemed to him likely to be trying on the health. Dr. Knott explained, however, that the rise and fall were not sudden or arbitrary, but marked the difference between cool nights and warm days, the nights being specially cool. Professor Wigmore expressed surprise that one month's observations only had been placed before them; could these results be looked upon as thoroughly representative? Dr. Knott replied that, considering the nature of the results and the normal weather experienced, he was inclined to be satisfied with their essential trustworthiness. Mr. Lowell expressed a wish that the 2 a.m. readings had been taken, as in certain tropical counties he had visited the night colds were simply excessive, and a peculiar danger to health. Dr. Knott, however, pointed out that the minimum readings were given, which seldom registered 1° C below the observation at 6 a.m.

Business was then proceeded with. A new draft of rules were presented by the council for acceptance by the Society. On the motion of Professor Tison, seconded by Dr. Ameiman, these were unanimously adopted as printed in proof copy. The President explained that there was little rashness in this wholesale acceptance, as these rules had passed through a rigid scrutiny in Committee. This closed the business for the day.

LECTURE BY MR. MILN.

The following is Mr. Miln's lecture, delivered on Wednesday evening in the Masonic Hall :—

Two sisters entered the world upon the same day. In childhood they lived lovingly together. No differences separated them, no quarrels marred the happiness of their lives. When the employments of youth displaced the frolicsome idleness of earlier days, their aims and their purposes were still undivided. A single object inspired their minds, a common aspiration united their energies. In a word, their relations were natural and so harmonious. At length, however, an unhappy feud arose. Jealousy took the place of confidence, and the sweetness of love was driven away before the bitterness of hate. To day they stand apart, suspicious and distrustful, expecting from each other naught but ill, and evincing astonishment at any sign of the old love which bound together and ennobled their youthful occupations. You have anticipated, I am sure, the unfolding of this analogy. The Church and the Theatre, twin children of the religious instinct, happily joined in the remote past in the elevation of human life, have drifted into a position of alienation and antagonism, which, if not now so positive and virulent as it has been, is still so distinct and emphatic as to prevent that hearty co-öperation between them which would so surely enhance the effectiveness of both. Sundered by mutual distrust, they waste those energies which should be directed to the education and refinement of society in useless conflicts and worse than useless recrimination. Divided by civil strife, the advances of the common enemies of both—ignorance, licentiousness, crime—too often pass unnoticed and unopposed. I remember to have read somewhere a remark of the late Canon Kingsley, whose name has long been synonymous with all that is earnest and manly, to this effect; speaking of the instructiveness of the dramatic art, he said:—"I have derived more practical Christianity from reading Shakespeare's plays, and seeing them enacted on the stage, than from any sermon I ever heard preached from the pulpit." Now this remark of Charles Kingsley—besides confirming my own view of the ethical value to society of the dramatic art in its nobler expressions—suggests to my mind an inquiry. It is this. If dramatic literature and art could do so much for so thoroughly noble a man as Kingsley, why may it not accomplish as much for society in general? If in his case the play supplemented or, indeed, surpassed the sermon, why should it so frequently become the chief end of the sermon to destroy the play? Why should these sister forces—born of the same mother, and capable of achieving the same ends—sustain a relation of distrust and enmity? And this inquiry led me to ask still further: What caused the separation of the church and theatre, which is so much to be deplored; and why may we not look forward to a time when the pulpit and the stage having passed into nobler condition, shall again stand side by side, hand clasped in hand, as loving sisters, mutually ambitious to promote the true elevation of humanity? To seek and express in an entirely sanguine and friendly spirit an answer to this question, is the congenial task of the present hour. And if my conclusions do not commend themselves to all before me, yet we shall all, I am quite sure, endorse a few lines from an old writer on the same subject, in whose spirit all sincere inquiry should ever be conducted:

> "The stage I choose, a subject fair and free—
> 'Tis yours, 't is mine, 't is common property,
> All common exhibitions open lie
> For praise or censure to the common eye:
> This is a general tax which all must pay,
> From those who scribble down to those who pay.
> To clap or hiss all have an equal claim,
> The cobbler's and his lordship's right the same." *

At first, I wish to insist upon the early relationship between church and theatre, of which I have already made mention. It is knowledge, easily within the reach of all before me, that the dramatic art was begotten of the same impulse as religious worship, and that, among all nations, their earliest forms were simultaneously developed. In the far East, where the drama exists in its crudest forms, in China and in Japan, we see the songs and dances of early religious festivals gradually breaking away from the custody of the priests, to be conducted by a distinct class of actors. But with them as with us the impulse which has led all nations into the institution of religious forms and ceremonies, is also found to be the real source of the dramatic art. In India, the high caste Brahmins attribute the origin of the drama to Bharata, an inspired sage, who received his inspiration, as they allege direct from Brahma himself; and to me it has been exceedingly interesting to find that with this remarkable people the earliest dramatic representations were directly controlled by the priests. The priests of the altar were the first actors; and all their sages conceived of the drama as the helpmeet of religion, and as a powerful factor in the education of the people. "What," inquires an Indian sage of an actor, "are those qualities which the virtuous, the wise, the venerable, the learned, and the Brahmins require in a drama?" Hear the significant reply: "Profound exposition of the various passions, pleasing interchange of mutual affection, loftiness of character, delicate expression of desire, a surprising story, and elegant language." Certainly, in the matter of "a surprising story," the dramatic writers of our time are not often disloyal to this definition. We perceive, then, that even after the Hindoo drama had risen into a distinct existence, its true aim was still held to be to impart instruction through the agency of amusement. And I here make bold to say that if in all nations actors and dramatic authors had been true to this conception, the stage, as a factor in our civilization, would have been more influential than the pulpit, whose aim, in the main, has been to impart instruction without the least amusement in the world! It is in classic Greece, however, that we find the early drama most distinctly and honourably allied with Church and State, as it was in the country of Œschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, that that art attained the summit of its early glory! The origin of the Grecian drama is found in those heterogeneous ceremonies—in which the sacrifice of animals, tumultuous dances, and mystic chants formed the chief features of the worship of Dionysius, Bacchus, and kindred divinities. In Greece, the theatre attained its greatest dignity. Its actors were among the most honoured and let us hope among the most honourable of citizens. The distinctions they obtained were second to none. Supported by state grants, flattered, yes! adored by the populace, and, when victorious, crowned with the laurel wreath—to them more precious than a glittering diadem—they long maintained a position of the greatest dignity as public entertainers and instructors. The theatre in Greece was a truly National Institution. Its performances were often witnessed by as many as 30,000 spectators,—if we could have had just one house a week of that size!—and were conducted with all the pomp and solemnity of a religious ceremonial, and it was undoubtedly the most influential, as it was the most far reaching, institution of national instruction and enjoyment. The Roman drama was at the first imported from Greece, but it never assumed the dignity, either from a literary or dramatic standpoint, which characterized the Attic stage. It was in Rome, too, that the stage first came into conflict with the Christian church! The stage had fallen into a condition of indecency, which justified its condemnation; but we find, strangely enough, a most significant testimony to the effectiveness of the drama, as an educational force, in the fact that the very Christian Fathers who condemned the Roman stage, themselves wrote tragedies and comedies, based upon the picturesque portions of the Old and New Testaments. Indeed, the single link which connects the old Roman drama with that of the middle ages is found in this class of plays in which God, Abraham, Moses, Job, and his majesty, the Devil, were the dramatis personæ. Gregory Nazianzen's "Passion of Christ" still remains as a specimen of this era of the dramatic art. Speaking of the devil, it is worth noting that he was in the main exceedingly popular with the spectators, receiving much applause and frequent recalls; while such saints as Abraham and Job stood sulking in the wings without a single hand! This fact, however, should not be attributed to the moral obliquity of the age so much as to the fact that to the devil were entrusted all the best comedy parts of the play! I have dwelt long enough, however, on this phase of the subject. What I have said will sufficiently illustrate the meaning of the remark that the Church and Theatre are twin children of the Religious Impulse, and that their childhood was spent in loving fellowship. Upon what ground, then, are we to account for the coldness and enmity which has so long divided them? The story is too long for detailed narration. Only a snatch here and there can possibly be given now. But it will help our understanding of the situation if we notice the difference in process by which Church and Theatre have sought to attain the same object. The Church has aimed to reform society by directly attacking its defects, by pointing out its immoralities, and describing the penalties in store for wrongdoers. The Theatre, on the other hand, has endeavoured to make vice loathsome by depicting it as it is, by holding

> "the mirror up to nature,"

that virtue might see her own features, scorn her own image, and

> "The very age and body of the time his form and pressure."

On the one hand preachers of religion have stood as the exponents of unwelcome dogmas, breathing forth prophecies of prospects far from delightful; while actors, on the other, have simply reflected the age to itself, have served as

> "The abstracts and brief chronicles of the time."

The method of one has been positive and aggressive, of the other merely reflective. Now I am not at all sure but the most effective way to convince an ugly woman of her lack of beauty would be to bring her face to face with a truth-speaking mirror; certainly it would cause less anger on her part, especially if the meeting (speaking after the manner of the Celts) could be pre-arranged accidentally, than for one to plainly say, "My dear madam, you are very far from beautiful." The Church has chosen the latter method, the Stage the former; and it is my belief that if the Church has improved the tone of society by its promises and its warnings, quite as certainly

> "Guilty creatures sitting at a play"

have been inspired to nobler life by the actor's art. Do you not see, however, that advocates of the positive method adopted by the Church would be-

* Caricature of Prynne's Histriomatix.

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come suspicious and impatient touching the more negative process employed by the Stage. To an enthusiast, moderation is always the most damnable of sins. Another consideration which aids us in analyzing the enmity between Church and Stage is this: The Stage in every age has, with a very great degree of fidelity, reflected the moral status of that age. Is it not easy to believe that these reflections have not always declared the success of the Church in ennobling and purifying the age concerned? The Church has stood forth as the official monitor of society; the Stage in showing society in its "form and pressure," has practically said to the Church, "here, look upon your work;" and it is needless to say that the picture has been often far from flattering! The most distinct and overt attack upon the Stage since the middle ages, was that which occurred in England in the seventeenth century. And here let me acknowledge that, at that time, the condition of the Stage was far from ideal; that it needed purification. But the error of the Church was in mistaking destruction for government. It set its face as a flint against all plays and players. The latter were vermin to be exterminated, or as Prynne, author of Histriomastix, calls them, the "inveterate gangrened ulcers" of the age; the former, the special devices of the devil for the ruin of unwary souls. All remontrances against the Stage dropped into invective, discrimination gave place to slander, and mutual vilification became the order of the day! As an illustration of this I cannot do better than quote the title of the work by Prynne of which I have just spoken, the publication of which afterward, as I am glad to relate, cost its author a split nose and a pair of ears. This is how it runs: "Histriomastix, the player's scourge; or, Actor's Tragedie:—Divided into two parts, wherein it is largely evidenced, by divers arguments, by the concurring authorities and resolutions of sundry texts of Scripture, of the whole primitive church, both under the law and gospels, of fifty-five synods and councils; of seventy-one fathers and Christain writers, before the year of our Lord 1200; of above one hundred and fifty foreign and domestic Protestant and Popish authors since; forty heathen philosophers, historians, poets, of many heathen, many Christian nations, republics, emperors, princes, magistrates; of sundry apostolical, imperial constitutions; and of our English statutes, magistrates, universities, writers, preachers. That popular stage-plays (the very pomps of the devil, which we renounce in baptism; if we believe the fathers) are sinful, heathenish, lewd, ungodly spectacles, and most pernicious corruptions; condemned in all ages as intolerable mischiefs to churches, to republics, to the manners, minds, and souls of men. And that the profession of play poets, of stage players, together with the penning, acting, and frequenting of stage-plays, are unlawful, infamous, and misbeseeming Christians. All pretences to the contrary are here likewise fully answered and the unlawfulness of acting, of beholding academical interludes, briefly discussed. Besides sundry other particulars, concerning dancing, dicing, health-drinking, etc., of which the table will inform you." Such is the title. You do not care for the "table" in the same day, I imagine! Such was the tone taken up by the church against the stage; such the antagonism between these twin sisters. A couple of years ago, I read an article, published in the *North American Review*, in which a distinguished minister inveighs against the Stage in a spirit scarcely less bitter. And I found that between his condemnation in the nineteenth, and Prynne's in the seventeenth century, this analogy subsisted that neither of them knew very much about the institution which they so bitterly denounced. The writer in the *Review* says, that while he was still a callow youth, he was fascinated by the theatre; and that attendance upon it developed in him a certain priggishness of behaviour, which, judging by his article, he has never entirely thrown off. Prynne also says, that while still an unsophisticated lad, he was beguiled. Deliver me from the young man who is always beguiled into wrong. Give me a man with back-bone enough to stand up under his own transgressions and courage enough to write his signature beneath the record of his sins! Upon several occasions he went to the play-house, and straightway conceived a most "complete abhorrence for all stage-players ever since." Now one disposed to be fair-minded would not attach great significance to the opinions of men formed in that period of life when impulse and prejudice are far more likely to sway the judgment than an inclusive knowledge of facts, a wide experience, and calm reflection! As to Prynne, I can only say, after wading through his book in the British Museum, that he appears to have been as consummate an idiot as ever found a publisher, and as ignorant a bigot as ever condemned an innocent pleasure for the enjoyment of which the acidity and the stupidity of his nature incapacitated him. It was in a spirit quite as bitter that the Long Parliament, in 1747, passed the Act condemnatory of all plays and players. Among other things this bit of amiable legislation set forth, "That all stage-players are hereby declared to be, and are and shall be taken to be rogues!" There is certainly no pleasing ambiguity about that sentence. The magistrates were authorized and instructed to pull down theatres and platforms erected for theatrical purposes, and were directed to apprehend and openly and publicly whip any stage-player found within their jurisdiction two months after the passage of the Act! It is related that in those days the number of debutantes was somewhat limited! The players went into exile, or were sheltered in the dwellings of the nobility, while some, to justify the title conferred upon them, took up in good earnest the pursuits of roguery. Now, what think you was the effect upon these sister forces of this strained and unnatural attitude of affairs? Undoubtedly it laid the foundation of the suspicion and antagonism between them which has existed ever since, and is not entirely dead yet. When one gentleman calls another gentleman an "inveterate gangrened ulcer," sets him down on his statute books as a "rogue," and makes pleasant little arrangements for his public whipping, the emotions of the party of the second part are not likely to be characterized by excessive warmth and tenderness. In brief, the Stage came to regard the Church as its natural and unrelenting foe, and fell into the attitude of the outcast Ishmael; while the Church, infuriated by the taste of blood, persevered in its enmity. This posture I hold was at once unnatural and unnecessary! But of that further on. Let me ask you to observe, that in what I have now said I have not attempted to describe the relations of the Church and the Stage in our time. The position of affairs to-day is this: theoretically the prejudice against the Stage is greatly weakened, practically it is almost extinct. There are still to be found traces of the ignorant bigotry which led Prynne to indiscriminately "abhor all stage-players." But I believe it is passing away. Let me tell a story. Something less than a year ago, I received a letter from a young lady resident in Kalamazoo, Mich.—though not, I have every reason to believe, an inmate of the insane asylum of that beautiful town. It was conceived in something like the following terms: "Sir:"—prudent young ladies invariably commence these little notes with "Sir," "plain Sir," as Bob Acres sets it down in his challenge to Captain Absolute—"I wish to go on the stage, and believing you to be a gentleman, etc., etc., etc., I write to ask for a place in your company. I know the stage is said to be surrounded with temptations, but, sir, I have lived here all my life, and, in my humble judgment, a girl who can meet and pass unscathed through the storms of Kalamazoo need never fear the perils of the dramatic sea." Now I am not personally familiar with the peculiar temptations of Kalamazoo—it has impressed me on my brief visits as a place where a well-behaved girl might blossom into a noble womanhood, unmolested by the withering touch of vice—but my impression of the dramatic profession is that one strong for the battle of life in any other calling will find upon the Stage as little real peril and as much as our young friend—"the good girl of Kalamazoo"—found in the streets of her native town. Rational views touching the Stage and actors are gaining ground. A few eccentric ministers still utter annual tirades against them, but their congregations none the less go to the theatre. Nor is the prejudice against the Stage at all general among ministers themselves. The distinction of continuing the work commenced by Prynne and the Long Parliament is monopolized by a few ignorant bigots. I myself had the honour last autumn to enact the rôle of *Hamlet* to an audience, in which were no fewer than 29 ministers, all of whom had paid for their seats! The beretta which I wear as *Cardinal Richelieu* was taken off the head of a truly Catholic priest and placed in my hand to be used for the purpose; and at a city in the U.S. a generous-minded minister loaned his pulpit chairs to an inadequately-furnished theatre, for the purpose of setting a scene put down for "a room in the palace"! After all, Galileo was right, and the "world does move"! It gives me pleasure to make these statements: 1st, because they indicate the coming of a day when the preacher and the actor shall again work side by side in friendly rivalry; and 2nd, because, during experience on the stage, some of the kindest and warmest expressions which have come to me, were written by ministers. Here I naturally pass to a few words touching the ideal attitude of the Church and the Theatre as friendly forces, seeking a common end. Setting aside all partisan conceptions, I think we shall agree that in the broadest sense the Church is an institution intent upon the improvement of humanity. Whether it always holds this object in view, or whether it chooses the most direct and effective methods to accomplish it, are questions with which I have no present concern. When we say that the Church is an institution whose end is the improvement of humanity, we have uttered a definition sufficiently broad to include the hierarchy presided over by Leo XIII., and that Church of the future, about which some of us have dreamed at no inconsiderable cost to ourselves. The drama, on the other hand, is an institution susceptible of a duplex definition. It aims to amuse, as well as to instruct. Ask nine men out of ten why they go to the theatre, and the answer will be "for amusement"! And yet if you question further, you will find that with amusement they drink in instruction and inspiration, that enthusiasm is awakened and tender sentiment stirred to its depths. Prof. Blackie is credited with saying:—"I have much oftener felt the tear drops of human sympathy and devout pity drawn from my eyes by the vivid impersonation of the Stage, than by the most fervid appeals of eloquence ever delivered from a pulpit." And if men are made better, as their better sympathies are aroused, as pity is awakened for the weak, charity for the fallen, scorn for the wrongdoer, and admiration for the heroic, why should not the stage be counted in as an educative and ennobling agency in our modern life? I do not, by any means, wish to eliminate from the drama its function to amuse. Amusement is as necessary as religion. It is the safety-valve of the nineteenth century. Shut up the theatres, and you must build more mad-houses. I see before me men engaged in the mad pursuit of wealth, which is at once the bane and the blessing of our age. They toil early and late. They carry credit out of all proportion to their capital. The first of the month is to many of them what the Ides of March was to Cæsar. Their brains seethe and whirl from morning till night, too often that sleep

"Which knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,"

refuses its benediction to their fevered thoughts. To such men—and there are many of them—what an infinite blessing is the self-forgetfulness which the lightsome mirth of the mimic stage begets. It satisfies and recuperates them as no sermon could do; it nerves them again for the battle of life as no philosophy, no moralizing could equip them. Who then will deny the title of public benefactor to the pains-taking actor who does indeed "With some sweet oblivious antidote cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous grief which weighs upon the heart?" The claim which I wish to set forth on behalf of the Stage, however, is this, that it is fitted to unite the qualities of the entertainer and instructor. I do not say that it always does this, nor that it always seeks to do it. The stage is as far from ideal conditions as the pulpit. Both, in my judgment, are too much circumscribed by the authority of tradition. The Church no more than the Stage! Awed by the voice of tradition, the preacher dreads to expose his ecclesiastical dogmas and forms to the keen illumination of modern thought. The actor, slavishly yielding to the same influence, treads in the old ruts of other days, and makes no real advance in his art. When now and then a man of original force arises, who infuses the old forms of the past with the glowing impulses of the present, we see him rise far above his fellows, alike in usefulness and prosperity. I speak then of the Stage, not as it is, but as it might be. And I say it is capable of becoming as potent a factor for good in our modern life as any institution that can be named. Compare with it the work of either painter, sculptor, writer, pleader, preacher, and I am not inclined to qualify this remark. Does the painter or the sculptor elevate and refine the æsthetic sensibilities of the beholder by graceful lines, the artistic fusion of colours, the skilful selection of tender and heroic subjects? Surely. But what does the Stage? It gives you pose, colour, romantic and heroic subjects, and, superadded to all these, the human element which crowns and glorifies the whole. Mr. John Gilbert, in his contribution to the symposium which I just now mentioned, says rather complainingly: "The theatre has become a picture gallery. The actor is thrust into the background. The aim of the manager is to please the eye, not to enchant the ear." To my mind this is one of the charms of the Stage. I do not fear that acting of ability will ever be suppressed by spectacular beauty and archæological correctness. The voice of the lark loses no charm to me because its song is trilled above a smiling landscape! Let the Stage be a picture gallery, full of the choicest works of art, and in it let us witness men and women like ourselves enacting those scenes which shall inspire us with admiration for the beautiful and disgust for the evil.

Again: Does the writer wield an influence second to none but that of the orator? Why, then,

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the actor lays writer and orator under tribute to his art. I know that the play-writer often forgets the dignity of his calling; but commencing with Shakespeare—still and easily, the intellectual monarch of the race—and including Johnson, Sheridan, Bulwer, and a host of others, the English Stage has produced a royal literature. But the chief excellence of the Stage is that it gives artistic expression to ennobling sentiments, coupling with harmonious sound and graceful actions, ideas worthy of both. One of the old Greek comedians has beautifully said:—

"Whensoe'er a man observes his fellow
Bear wrongs more grievous than himself has known
More easily he bears his own misfortunes."

To furnish spectacles of heroic endurance, of truth at last victorious over falsehood, of virtue triumphant over vice, of motherly affection persisting in spite of all discouragements, of the true man and good finally outwitting and defeating the scheming villain, is the peculiar province of the Theatre. And I believe that such sights serve to inspire men to strive against odds, to resist temptation, to despise craft and cruelty, and admire truth, honour, manliness. Mr. George Augustus Sala said not long ago: "He had always maintained that the drama should be considered not merely as an amusement or recreation, but as a distinctly educational and moral agency—a view which was supported by the fact that the 'gallery' always applauded every good, honest, and moral maxim that was enunciated on the stage." I am sure you have all noticed the same thing. No long ago I went to an English theatre to witness a performance of the "Silver King." The best actor in the cast was the "heavy villain," a character made by the author thoroughly detestable. At the close of the act, the audience honoured the performers with a recall. As one after another crossed from side to side, the audience applauded each good-naturedly; till the villain appeared, and was greeted with a storm of hisses. He smiled and smiled, and bowed and bowed, but the audience evidently bearing in mind the couplet,

"A man may smile and smile, and be a villain still,"

refused to endorse the villainy which it was his ill fortune to represent. In the same piece a mother illustrates the beauty of maternal endurance and affection, and although her lines were mediocre, and her action not particularly brilliant, she was received by the audience with rapturous applause. But if you recall your own experience in the Theatre, will it not witness to the same truth? Who ever sided with *Shylock* against *Antonio*; with *Iago* against *Othello*; with *Don John* against *Claudio*; or with *Wolsey* against the unfortunate *Catharine*? The representative of truth, of filial love, of righteous anger, secures our applause. It is *Hamlet*, the sadly mysterious and fated prince, struggling against the odds of fate—not the perfidious *Claudius* that wins our sympathy. Oh! who has not wept with *Othello* in the agony of his anguish; or felt his heart touched to the quick by the terrible loneliness of *King Lear*; or looked compassionately upon the struggle of *Macbeth*; or felt his blood leap again as Bulwer's old hero exclaims in answer to the question of *Louis*, "Where will they be next week?"

"There at my feet!"

defeating at a single stroke the perfidious *Baradas* and winning the life of *Julie's Mauprat*? And if you will suffer still another illustration of the potent influence of dramatic action, I would cite Mr. W. G. Wills' play "of Charles I." as a most conclusive proof. It takes the strangest liberty with history. *Cromwell* is pictured as a knave and a hypocrite, *Charles* as next door to a glorified saint. The first, who is popularly supposed to have combined a robust patriotism with unselfish devotion to principle, is set forth as a trickster, a liar, an accidental tyrant. The latter, who—if history speaks truly—never sacrificed a good opportunity to a passion for veracity, nor forgot his own interests in those of his friends, is pictured as a martyr to honour, to personal loyalty, and true kingliness of nature. Thus you observe the dramatist has employed his art to reverse the facts of history. But so skilfully has he done his work, that you leave the Theatre in a painful daze as to the real qualities of *Charles Stuart* and the grim *Protector*. If then the Stage can so successfully disguise error and make it appear as truth, how potent it must be when all its fascinations are linked to the natural charms of truth! To be sure this illustration proves the dangers attendant upon a false use of dramatic art. But the same is true of every other social force. The grossest frauds are those committed under the forms of law. The greatest barbarities are those which bear the signature of religion. How easily fervour runs into bigotry, bigotry into fanaticism, fanaticism into cruelty, till at last in the name of Christ—the gentle one of Nazareth—the Inquisition rears its ghastly head. It is true that a potency for great evil resides in dramatic art; but the aim of all good men should be to guide it into channels of usefulness. And the Church, instead of antagonizing, should again renew its early relationship with the Stage, and by wise counsels direct its literature, elevate its standards, purify its performances, and ennoble its performers. I look forward toward a time—perhaps I am sanguine—when the Church shall have altogether ceased its opposition to the Stage; to a time when the Church shall have given up all defence of its own past follies, and the Stage renounced the idea of defending the black spots in its history; to a time when preacher and actor shall say, when I was a child I spake as a child, I thought as a child, I understood as a child; but when I became a man, I put aside childish things. In that day, the candle upon the altar and the footlight of the Stage shall mingle their friendly light to illuminate the pathways of human experience. Then all true men will join with an ennobled public sentiment and declare:

"Honour and shame from no condition rise;
Act well thy part,—there all the honour lies."

LETTER FROM SHIMANE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Matsue, May 29th.

The departure of Governor Koteda last Sunday for his new post at Niigata was an event such as Matsue rarely witnesses. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole population turned out to bid their much-loved prefect farewell. Immense crowds lined the river banks and the bridge; and all windows and roofs commanding the river side were occupied by spectators. The most noteworthy fact was the silence of the multitude; there was scarcely a sound to be heard until the moment when the steamer began to move, when all the people burst into a cheer, and continued to cheer until the vessel passed out of sight on its way to Mionoseki. A party of gentlemen followed in another steamer to escort the Governor as far as the first day's stage of his long journey.

I paid several visits recently to the settlement of an outcast class, known in Matsue as *Yama-no mono*. This settlement is at the southern end of Matsue, in a tiny valley behind the ring of hills which form a half-circle behind the city almost exactly in the same way as Yokohama is partly surrounded by a demi lune of hills. The sea at Yokohama, completing the city's boundary, has its counter-part here in the sea-like lake called Shinjiko. Few Japanese of the better classes have ever visited such a village—much less numbers of the middle class, in whom caste prejudice is always, in all countries, far stronger than among the aristocracy. The idea of defilement, both moral and physical, attaches too strongly to the mere name of *Yama-no-mono*. Although the settlement is within half an hour's walk from the heart of the city, there are not perhaps half-a-dozen of the thirty-odd thousand citizens of the town who have ever even seen it. There are four outcast classes in the town of Matsue and its environs;—the *Hachiya*, the *Koya-no mono*, the *Yama-no-mono* and the *Eta*, whose principal settlement is at Suguta. There are two settlements of *Hachiya*. These were formerly the public executioners, and served under the police in various capacities. Although by ancient law the lowest class of pariahs, their intelligence was sufficiently cultivated by police service and by contact with superiors, to elevate them in popular opinion above the other outcasts. They are now manufacturers of bamboo cages and baskets. They are said to be descendants of the family and retainers of Taira no-Masakado-Heishino, the only man in Japan who ever seriously conspired to seize the imperial crown by armed force, and who was killed by the famous general Taira-no-Sadamori.

The *Koya-no-Mono* are slaughterers and dealers in hides. They are never allowed to enter any house in Matsue except the shop of a dealer in *geta* and other foot gear. Originally vagrants, they were permanently settled in Matsue by some famous Daimyo, who built for them small houses *Koya*—on the bank of the canal. Hence their name. As for the *Etas* proper, their conditions and calling are too familiar to need any remarks from me.

The *Yama-no Mono* are so called because they live among the hills (*yama*) at the southern end of Matsue. They have a monopoly of the rag-and-waste paper business; and are buyers of all sorts of refuse, from old bottles to broken-down machinery. Some of them are rich. Indeed, the whole class is, compared with other outcast classes, prosperous. Nevertheless, public prejudice is still strong against them, almost as strong perhaps as in the years previous to the abrogation of the special laws concerning them. Under no conceivable circumstances could any of them obtain employment as servants. Their prettiest girls in old times often became *joro*; but at no time could they enter a *joroya* in any neighbouring city, much less in their own, so they were sold to establishments in remote places. A *yama no mono* to-day could not even become a *kurumaya*. He could not obtain employment as a common labourer in any capacity, except by going to some distant city where he could conceal his origin. But if detected under such conditions he would run serious risk of being killed. In ancient times, I am told, such men actually were killed by their comrade-labourers. Under any circumstances it would be difficult for a *yama no-mono* to pass himself off for a *heimin*. Centuries of isolation and prejudice have fixed and moulded the manners of the class in recognizable ways; and even its language has become a special and curious dialect. That strange physiological law—exemplified remarkably in the history of the West Indian half-breeds, and in the history, too, of gipsies and of Jews,—whereby the beauty of the women of a persecuted or oppressed race is developed as a protest of Nature itself against prejudice, is said to hold good in the case of the outcast classes of Japan. Mitford has given us an English version of one tradition of beauty among the *Eta*; and Japanese literature contains many such. As for the *yama-no mono*, I have also heard that remarkable beauty is not uncommon among their young women. Indeed the fact that in former days many of these were sold to *joroya*, would appear to confirm the statement.

I was anxious to see something of a class so singularly situated and specialized; and I had the good fortune to meet a Japanese gentleman who, although belonging to the highest class of Matsue, was kind enough to agree to accompany to their village, where he had never been himself. But on our way thither he told me many curious things about the *yama-no-mono*. In feudal times these people had always been kindly treated by the *samurai*; and they were often allowed or invited to enter the courts of *samurai* dwellings to sing and dance, for which performances they were generously paid. The songs and the dances with which they were able to entertain even those aristocratic families were known to no other people, and were called *Daikoku-mai*. The singing of the *Daikoku-mai* was, in fact, the special hereditary art of the *yama-no-mono*; and represented their highest comprehension of esthetic and emotional matters. In former times they could not obtain admittance to a respectable theatre; and, like the *hachiya*, had theatres of their own. It would be interesting, my friend added, to learn the origin of their songs and their dances. For their songs are not in their own special dialect, but in beautiful quaint Japanese. And that they should be able to preserve this oral literature without deterioration is all the more remarkable for the fact that they are at present unable to benefit by the new educational opportunities afforded to the masses. Prejudice is still too strong to render it possible for their children to be happy in a public school. One might suppose a small special school possible; but there would be no small difficulty in obtaining willing teachers for it.

The *yama-no-mono* village lies in a hollow behind the hill on which the superb Zen temple, called Tokoji, stands, at the southern end of Matsue. Behind the temple is a cemetery, and behind the cemetery the village. It has its little Shinto temple. I was extremely surprised at the aspect of the place; for I had expected to see a good deal of ugliness and filth. On the contrary, I saw a multitude of neat dwellings, with pretty little gardens about them, and pictures on the walls of the rooms. There were many trees; the village was green with shrubs and plants, and picturesque to an extreme degree; for, owing to the irregularity of the ground, the tiny streets climbed up and down hill at all sorts of angles, the loftiest street being fifty or sixty feet about the lowermost. A large public bath house and a public laundry bore evidence that the *yama-no-mono* love clean linen as well as their *heimin* neighbours on the other side of the hill.

A crowd soon gathered to look at the two visitors who had come to their village—a rare event for them. The faces about me seemed much like the faces of the *heimin*, except that I fancied the ugly ones were much uglier, making the pretty ones appear more pretty by contrast. There were one or two sinister faces,—recalling faces of gipsies that I had seen;—while some little girls, on the other hand, had remarkably pleasing soft features. There were no exchanges of civilities as upon meeting *heimin*;—a Japanese of the better class would as soon think taking off his hat to a *yama-no-mono* as a West-Indian planter would think of bowing to a negro. The *yama-no-mono* themselves show by their attitude that they expected no forms, and they pay no greeting. Not the men at least; some of the women, on being addres-

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sed, made a very gracious obeisance, and thanked my companion for certain kindness as nicely as any of the common people could have done. Other women—wearing coarse straw sandals (an inferior quality of *Zori*)—would answer only "yes" or "no" to questions, and seemed to be suspicious of us. My friend also called my attention to the fact that the women dress differently from other Japanese women of the lower classes. For example, even among the very poorest *heimin* there are certain accepted laws of costume; there are certain colours which may or may not be worn according to the age of the person. But even elderly women among these people wear *obi* of bright red or variegated hues, and *kimono* of a showy tint. Those of the women seen in the city streets, selling or buying, are the elders only. The younger stay at home. The elderly women always go into town with large baskets of a peculiar shape, by which the fact that they are *yama-no-mono* is at once known. Numbers of these baskets were visible—principally at the doors of the smaller dwellings. They are usually carried on the back, and are used to contain all that the *yama-no-mono* buy:—old paper, old wearing apparel, bottles, broken glass, and scrap-metal.

A kindly-faced middle-aged woman at last ventured to invite us to her house, to look at some old coloured prints she wished to sell. Thither we went; and were as nicely received as in a *heimin* residence. The pictures—including a number of prints by Hiroshige, proved to be worth buying; and my friend then asked if we could have the pleasure of hearing the *Daikoku-mai*. To my great satisfaction the proposal was joyfully received; and on our agreeing to pay a trifle to each singer, a small band of neat-looking young girls whom we had not seen before, suddenly made their appearance, and prepared to sing while an old woman made ready to dance. Both the old woman and the girls provided themselves with curious instruments for the performance. One or two had instruments shaped like mallets, made of paper and bamboo; these might be intended to represent the hammer of *Daikoku*; they are held in the left hand, a fan being waved in the right. Other girls were provided with a kind of castanets,—two flat pieces of hard dark wood, connected by a string, and sounded by rapid tapping with the fingers. Six formed in a line before the house. The faces of all were both pleasing and characteristic. The old woman took her place facing the girls, holding in her hands two little sticks,—one stick being notched all along its length. By drawing it rapidly across the other stick, a curious rattling noise is made.

The old women rubbed her little sticks together; and, from the throats of the three girls on the right, ranged out a clear sweet burst of soprano song totally different from anything I had ever heard in Japan before; while the three castanets made one measured clattering, keeping exact time to the syllabification of the words, very rapidly uttered. When these three had sung, alone, what I supposed to be the first verse, the voice of the other three women, deeper, but equally sweet, suddenly joined in, producing a delicious harmony; and a kind of burthen was chanted by all in unison. Then the three sopranos began again alone another verse; and the first performance was reiterated. In the meanwhile, the old woman was dancing a very fantastic dance, which elicited hearty laughter from the crowd, and occasionally chanting a few comic words.

The song was not comic, however, itself; but a very pathetic ballad entitled *Yaoya-O-Shichi*. Yaoya O Shichi was a beautiful girl who, many hundred years ago in Kyoto, set fire to her own house in order to obtain another meeting with her lover, residing in a temple where she expected that her family would be obliged to take refuge after the fire. But being detected and convicted of the terrible crime of arson, she was condemned by the severe laws of that age to be burnt alive. The sentence was carried into effect; but the youth and beauty of the victim, and the motive of her offence, evoked a sympathy in the popular heart which found later expression in song and drama.

While singing, none of the performers, except the old woman, lifted their feet from the ground—only slightly swaying their bodies in time to the song. It lasted more than one hour—during which the voices never failed in their sweet fresh quality; and yet so far from being weary of it, and although I could not understand a word uttered, I felt very sorry when it was all over. One could listen to such singing all day. Certainly no singing I ever heard from the *geisha* could compare in charm with this simple ballad-singing of a despised outcast class. And with the pleasure of it, there came to the foreign listener also a strong sense of sympathy for the young singers—victims of a prejudice so ancient that its origin is no longer known—and that pity which is said to be akin to a stronger and better feeling than mere compassion.

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA" SPECIAL.

[From our own Correspondent.]

May 7th.

I closed my letter very suddenly, just as we reached Vancouver, and must now go back a little. When we arrived at Victoria, we were promptly visited by President Van Horne, other officials of the Canadian Pacific, and friends, all of whom had come to meet the *Empress of India*, and welcome her first arrival in American waters. A little later a committee of Victoria gentlemen and ladies, headed by the Mayor, came on board, and presented the vessel with a beautiful punch bowl. We also found that every arrangement had been made to facilitate our departure from Vancouver by rail. Mr. Brown, the courteous ticket agent of Vancouver, was on board from Victoria, and was thus enabled to fill out all the railroad tickets. When, about 3 p.m., we reached Vancouver, we were welcomed by about the entire population, who had assembled, in the drizzling rain, to greet the first *Empress*. Three hours only were consumed in transferring the baggage and silk from the steamer to the special train; so that, at 6 p.m. of Tuesday, April 28th, we were enabled to leave the Vancouver station on the "time-breaker."

The party of 130 saloon passengers had been gradually breaking up. Some left at Victoria, either to see the place, or to go thence into the States; a very large number remained at Vancouver for similar purposes: so that less than 40 availed themselves of the privilege of the "special." This was called the "Empress of India Special," and consisted, besides engine, tender, and baggage car, of two sleepers of tourists, an observation car, and the two cars of President Van Horne and his party.

In the darkness of the first night, we missed the grand and terrible scenery of the Fraser River Canon, through which we sped at such a rate that it actually seemed as if we were still "rocked in the cradle of the deep" by a fierce gale. Indeed, the president's private car at the very end of the train wobbled about so violently, that it looked like breaking, not merely the record, but also a good many necks; and the president finally had to instruct the engineer to slacken the pace!

The following day (April 29), from early morn till late in the evening, we enjoyed the unparalleled magnificent scenery of the Selkirks and the Rockies. During this day we travelled more slowly, in order that we might "take in" the view from all sides. We even stopped at certain special points: and we thoroughly enjoyed the different meals at the charming little hotels nestling in the mountains. That one day, replete with grand and awful views of the beauties of God's creation, will not soon fade away from the memory of those tourists.

When we awoke on Friday morning, April 30th, we found that we had left the mountains behind, and were to have a day's run on the prairie. The 900 miles from Calgary to Winnipeg were covered in 24 hours; and part of the way 50 miles or more were made in one hour. At all the large stations crowds were gathered to cheer the "time-breaker," and to gaze with awe-struck countenances at the people who were girdling the globe. One enterprising newspaper man of Brandon, Manitoba, boarded the train in the morning, interviewed various passengers, and at every stop telegraphed ahead his items of news: so that, when we reached Brandon about 6 p.m., we found news-boys selling the "extra" of the *Brandon Sun*, containing several columns about

THE GLOBE TROTTERS.

THE TIME-BREAKER NOW ON ITS WAY ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

LIST OF THE PASSENGERS.

About 11 o'clock of Friday evening (April 30), we reached Winnipeg. Here six of us alighted, and had great difficulty in *forcing* our way through the crowd on the platform. The "special" kept on at a high rate of speed, and made Montreal in only four days from Vancouver. I have since then lost track of the "time-breaking" record, but I doubt not that you have been duly informed of the date when the silk reached New York. As your correspondent stopped over twice on the way, it is not important to give a time-table of his trip: but his baggage, which came through without a stop, took only 16 days from Yokohama to Beaver Dam, Wis. (near Milwaukee). Moreover, a Chicago young man expected, by schedule time, to reach his home Saturday night (May 2), which, as there was an extra day picked up at the 108th meridian, makes just 16 days. Everybody, like Dominie Sampson, ejaculates "Prodigious!"

* * * * *

Our "homeward-bound" has now become "home again;" while "home as found" given both pleasure and sorrow. We have not been able as yet to "post up" on the drift of current events, of which we somewhat lost track during our journeying. We fear, however, that another "strike epidemic" has set in, and may cause financial distress. In this little manufacturing town of 5,000 inhabitants the cotton and woollen factories are just barely running with only a few hands, and may eventually be compelled to close. Such action would practically kill the place. Here and there throughout the country working men of various occupations are on a strike. There is no doubt that the question of the relations between employer and employed is a vital subject; that employed have manifold grievances; but that employers likewise have important rights, and that "striking" is productive, in general, of much more harm than good to business interests.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Boston, May 13th.

Several threads dropped in the last letter must be taken up in this. Secretary Blaine wrote in his letter to the Marquis Rudini, Prime Minister of Italy, that the claims of the Italians killed in New Orleans would be referred to Congress for consideration if it should appear that they had come to this country without violating the immigration laws, and had lived here in peace of the United States. It is not living in peace to commit perjury and to violate the election laws, and it appears that the slain Italians were guilty of these offences. It is reported that the Italian consul in New Orleans now admits that the victims of the massacre, had registered and voted in Louisiana, but he claims that they were ignorant of the significance of their acts, and did not intend to relinquish their Italian citizenship. The Marquis Rudini finds fault with Secretary Blaine. He writes to the Marquis Imperiali in Washington:—"I have now before me a note addressed to you by Secretary Blaine, April 14th. Its perusal produces a most painful impression upon me. I will not stop to lay stress upon the lack of conformity with diplomatic usages displayed in making use, as Mr. Blaine did, of a part of a telegram of mine communicated to him in strict confidence, in order to get rid of a question clearly defined in our official documents, which alone possess a diplomatic value." Secretary Blaine replies:—"The intimation of the Marquis Rudini that the telegram in question was delivered in strict confidence is a total error. As the telegram expressed the demand of the Italian Government, it was impossible to transmit it in strict confidence. As already stated, it was communicated to me in person by Baron Fava, written in English, in his own handwriting without a suggestion of privacy, and the telegram has not a single mark upon it denoting a confidential character."

M. Roustan, the French Minister, who has represented the French Republic in Washington for several years, has been transferred to a similar post in Madrid. It is reported that before leaving for his new post of duty, the French Minister may marry Miss Patton, daughter of a wealthy miner, who has had large possessions here and elsewhere. Count de Montholm, who is to be transferred from Athens to Washington to succeed M. Roustan, is well known in Washington as a man of marked ability.

General Grant's birthday was on the 25th of April. As the 25th came on Sunday, the corner stone of the Grant monument in Riverside Park, New York City, was laid on the 26th. The Army and the Navy, and the Grand Army of the Republic were represented by large delegations, and many prominent officials. The corner stone is laid, but the funds to build the monument have not yet been secured.

Attention is called to the projected World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 by a little quarrel among the lady managers. A high official has been asked or expected to resign, but she will not, and holds the fort in her office. She has appealed to the authorities at Washington having in charge the government appropriation for the fair. It is quite a picnic all around, and has many humorous features. It advertises the fair the World's Fair and some of Chicago's fair—ones, manifestly unfair here and there. But the World's Fair does not trouble the people much yet. When the time comes they will grapple with it and give it all the attention it requires.

General Blair was appointed minister to China, and was on his way, in Chicago, to the Pacific coast to sail for his post of duty when the Chinese Government informed the United States Government that it would not accept the General, owing, it is supposed to the part (legislative) he

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has taken in excluding the Chinese from this country. A telegram from Secretary Blaine caused General Blair to turn back. It is reported that General Blair will be transferred to the Japanese mission, but definite action will not be taken till the President returns from his western trip. The *Boston Journal* remarks that probably Blair would be acceptable to Japan as China and Japan have "antagonistic interests; what would be disagreeable to China, would be agreeable to Japan. The *Journal* says further that General Grant by his "wise mediation" saved China and Japan from going to war with each other.

The ejectment of General Butler from the United States Court at the order of Judge Carpenter, referred to in the last letter, has elicited indignant protest throughout the country. General Butler's enemies, even, declare in his favour. The General Court of Massachusets has moved in the matter, and General Butler is not idle or slow if he be more than three score and ten. Judge Nelson has already granted Butler a writ of error. An important fact in the case is that Butler's client was sentenced after he (Butler) had been removed, and was thus denied assistance of counsel.

From Boston to Denver, the people are discussing the position of the Widow Barnaby, widow of J. B. Barnaby, the millionaire clothier of Providence, R.I. At Mr. Barnaby's death, Mrs. Barnaby received by will $2,500 a year. Dissatisfied, she broke the will, or sued to break, and by compromise, received about $100,000. Her medical adviser was a Dr. Graves of Providence, R.I., who became Mrs. Barnaby's business agent, and was given power of attorney. Mrs. Barnaby was in Denver at the time of her death. Dr. Graves had been accustomed to send her medicine by mail. One day she received a bottle containing whisky, according to the label, from some one unknown. Mrs. Barnaby and a companion drank, and Mrs. Barnaby died. By analysis the bottle was found to contain an aromatic solution in which was arsenic enough to kill thirty persons. The question is, who sent the bottle. A will in the possession of Graves gave him $25,000. Others were remembered by generous amounts. The details of the case read like those in a novel, a new chapter every day with new characters in the plot. Sensational developments are expected. No criminal case has excited wider interest for a long time.

Since the foregoing in regard to the Italian affair was written, the New Orleans grand jury has made its report. It refers to the "suspicious conduct" of the jury that failed to convict the Italians; to bribery; to the work of hired agents of corruption; to the Mafia; to dishonest sheriffs; to the "shameful combination of detectives, perjurers, black-mailers, suborners, and jury-tamperers," but brings in no indictment—finds no one guilty. The report is not satisfactory to Americans, at least to Americans who are outside of "Vigilance-committee" region, or north of Mason and Dixon's line, and has of course caused much unfavorable comment abroad. The reputable, law-abiding citizen does not recognize the right of any man or men to commit murder, however great the provocation may be.

George Francis Train, "Citizen," is about to start on another trip around the world. If he calls on Japan, do not be alarmed; he is harmless. It is reported that he will stop long enough in Italy to shake the Marquis Rudini out of his boots, and possibly to wipe out the entire Italian monarchy. If he does anything to cause his retention and permanent caging, Italy will confer a favour on the United States by keeping him. Indeed, it is hoped he may venture into Italy and open his mouth.

An inoffensive citizen of Massachusetts, in Florence, has been mobbed because he is an American. A consul of the United States in Italy has reported that travelling in Italy is unsafe owing to the brigands. From which it may appear that if any American wishes to go to Italy to stay, dead or alive, now is the time. May Citizen Train make haste!

In several states there is a movement on foot to put an end to a class of societies, called "insurance," "speculative," "beneficial endowment," etc. Twenty-one have been suppressed in the city of Philadelphia alone. The plan of these societies may all differ, but here is one:—Fifty men "organize," and pay into the treasury two dollars a week for twenty weeks, or forty dollars. Then the first ■ join draws out $100; the next week the second to join draws $100, and thus on. Meanwhile new and old members are paying into the treasury two dollars a week. The early drawers get $100 for $40, but what will the late or last ones get?

A Chilian man-of-war has violated the neutrality laws by entering a Californian port for arms and supplies. She was ordered to be detained by the United States Government. Full particulars will be given probably by your correspondent in San Francisco. It is believed that the civil war in Chili is aided in New York city. Two rival houses, a member of one of which is Ex-Mayor Grace, are said to be "powerful factors in the fight." One or both, probably both of the firms have sent consignments of arms to Chili. A member of the Chilian congress has been in New York, and has bought arms for the congress-party. It is reported that the attempt of Balmaceda to have the foreign consuls and ministers interfere in the affairs of Chili originated in New York.

LETTER FROM MILWAUKEE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Milwaukee, May 15th.

The fears which I expressed in my last letter concerning a "strike epidemic" have fortunately not yet been realized. Strikes are still "on" here and there in many parts of the United States, and are causing more or less damage to business; but they have not yet become general. In some localities the employers have been beaten, and have been unable to resume work without acceding to the demands of the employés. In other places the employers by their firmness have won the day. In one town in Wisconsin girls and young ladies of the best families have gone to work in a woollen mill to tide over the strike. There does not seem to be so much inclination as usual on the part of the strikers to resort to violence to keep others from working in their stead. Intimidation is, however, practised in the manner indicated by the following advertisements:—

ATTENTION—THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the "Illinois Staats Zeitung" is declared a non-union office by the German "Typographia No. 9," branch of American Federation of Labour. By order of TYPOGRAPHIA No. 9.

PLUMBERS—ALL PLUMBERS, STEAM AND GAS FITters should keep away from Dubuque; strike going on.
HUGH McCARTEN, Rec. Sec. of Union.

PLUMBERS—TO STAY AWAY FROM MILWAUKEE ON account of lock-out. E. MUELLER, Secy.

The Lake regions, the Ohio, upper Mississippi and Missouri valleys, and other portions of the country were visited during the night of May 6th and 7th with severe frosts. It was feared that wheat and fruit had been badly damaged; but it has since been reported from various quarters, especially from the "wheat belt," that there is a good outlook for a big crop. According to reports received from the Red River Valley district, the crop of this year will exceed that of 1887, which was fine.

The other day I ran accross an item which may be of interest to sericulturists and silk merchants in Japan. One Elias Khouri, nephew of Mousa Khouri, of Damascus, has lately arrived in New York City. Mousa Khouri, it seems, having "dissected a silk worm and found the stomach to contain the fibres of leaves and twigs of the mulberry tree * * * decided that silk could be produced without the silk worm, and evolved a process for manufacturing directly from the leaves and twigs." A colony is shortly to be started in Georgia, where silk will be made.

Inasmuch as Japan was favoured a short time ago with a visit from Col. Olcott, the great preacher of "Theosophy," or "Esoteric Buddhism," it may not be out of place to mention here Mme. Blavatsky, of whose death, I presume, you were duly advised by telegram. Not being personally acquainted with her doctrines and her work, I am compelled to quote, and accordingly insert here two clippings, which give different views:—

Mme. Blavatsky probably did much good during her active life. She certainly did much to promote the study of oriental religions, parts of which she adopted and adapted into her system of theosophy. The theosophical societies, especially those of London, have by no means confined themselves to theories, but have done much to relieve the poor and to promote right living.

Mme. Blavatsky's system of "theosophy" is a perfect crazy-quilt, made up of patches from Neo-Platonists, Kabbalists, Paracelsus, and J. Boehme, flavoured with all the wonders of the magi, the elixirs of life, the Eleusinian mysteries, and the phenomena of mesmerism, hypnotism, psychometry, psychism, mysticism, and esoteric buddhism. The line of membership in the noble army of seers enrolled by Maedame Blavatsky extends from Adam, the first adept, to Edison, the last.

It might be added, that some say the real Mm. Blavatsky died years ago, while others claim that she is not dead even now. This mysterious doubt concerning death probably has some connection with the theosophic ideas of the "astral self."

Among the graduates of the Garrett Biblical Institute, a theological school of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, at Evanston, Ill., may be found Mr. E. Asada, whose subject at the commencement exercises yesterday was "The New Orient."

Rev. Phillips Brooks, the eloquent Episcopal clergyman of Boston, has been elected to the bishopric of Massachusetts, and has accepted the position. The High Church party strenuously opposed his election; but the Low Church element supported him heartily. Christians of all denominations rejoice in the election of so intelligent, talented, liberal, and eloquent a man, whose influence and reputation have been more than local.

The Y.M.C.A. international convention, which met at Kansas City, voted for the observance of the second Sabbath in November as a day of praise and thanksgiving, and resolved on an appropriation yearly of $75,000 for the international work. After a lengthy discussion the following resolution was adopted: "That the test of active membership in all foreign associations be the same as the Portland test, under which American associations are organized." I must confess my ignorance of what "the famous Portland test" is; but I presume that some Y.M.C.A. worker in Japan will be kind enough to supply your columns with an explanation.

It will be a matter of interest, not merely to Presbyterians, but to many other persons, Christians or not Christians, to know, that Rev. Dr. Briggs, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City, is to be tried for heresy. This proves likely to be one of the most important trials since that of Dr. David Swing, of Chicago.

The dailies of May 13th contained dispatches concerning the attempt made at Otsu, near Kyoto, to assassinate the Czarewitch. It was startling news, of course, and yet not so surprising to those cognizant of the fact, that disreputable attempts had been made in some Japanese journals to arouse suspicion as to the object of the visit of the Czarewitch.

San Francisco, May 10th.—Funeral services over the remains of John F. Swift, United States Minister to Japan, were held at Trinity Church this afternoon. The services were conducted by Rev. J. Sanders Reed and were attended by the army and navy officers, regents of the state university, the governor's staff and the masonic lodges. After the reading of the funeral service of the episcopal church the remains were escorted to the Masonic cemetery by the Second Brigade, N. G. C., where they were turned over to the members of the California lodge, F. and A. M., which conducted the burial services.

It is possible, that the mission to Japan will be given to ex-Sen. Henry W. Blair, of New Hampshire. He was appointed Minister to China; but, on account of some radical views expressed by him concerning the Chinese, he was *persona non grata* in that Empire, and was recalled by President Harrison, after he had started for his post. I can see no reason why he should not be acceptable in Japan.

The census of 1890 has again proven the truth of Bishop Berkely's statement about the direction which "the course of Empire" ■ taking. In 1880 the centre of population in the United States was not far from the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. Since then it has been gradually moving still further "westward" till it is now located at a place called Grimsburg, in Southern Indiana. At this spot the enterprising *Chicago Herald* a two-cent daily, has erected a monument, and this journal intends in the same manner "to make the centre of population regularly hereafter." In the coming centuries "these mile-stones of progress" will likely become interesting relics to the antiquarian.

The University of Pennsylvania has taken the initiative in establishing a professorship of statistics, with Dr. Roland P. Falkner in the chair.

This evening in the Central Music Hall, Chicago, Hon. Ignatius Donnelley, of Minnesota, will affirm, and Prof. John C. Freeman of the University of Wisconsin, will deny, that Bacon wrote Shakespeare's plays.

The imbroglio with Italy is approaching a settlement. Signor P. Corte, the Italian Consul in New Orleans, addressed the grand jury a long letter, in which he asserted that his statements on the Mafia case had been purposely distorted. The grand jury officially replied, that they found the tenor of the communication "not consistent with the official dignity of this body," and returned the document. Consul Corte has also been recalled by the Italian Government; and Cesare Poma, now Consul at Boston, has been appointed in his stead. It was one day reported that Italy was trying to obtain "the moral support" of the triple alliance in her position in this matter; but the next day this report was "denied on official authority" from Rome. Whatever may have been technically right in this affair, the good name of the United States has not escaped unstained. It is decidedly unfortunate and disgraceful that the jury system is becoming unsatisfactory and lynch law so prevalent.

But we are likely now to get into trouble with the Government of Chili. A privateer, named the *Itata*, called at San Diego, to get some rifles and ammunition evidently intended for the Chilean insurgents. Having thus violated the laws of neutrality she was "seized" by a United States Marshal, but very coolly proceeded on her way with that officer on board! The affair was a repetition of the incident of the "prize crew of one" on the Canadian poacher in the Behring Sea; and it reminds one newspaper of the story of the man who caught a Tartar. "Bring your prisoner in," was the command. "I can't, he won't let

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me," was the reply. Theoretically, the Chilean vessel with contraband cargo was "arrested;" practically, it was permitted to escape. Consequently, as we made England pay heavily for the Confederate cruisers which were equipped in her ports, we are likely to have a bill to pay in connection with this little episode.

However, the Chilean vessel may be recaptured; as instructions to that effect have been sent to all men-of-war on the Pacific station. The *Omaha* and the *Charleston* are in chase; and the latter seems at present writing to have a fair chance of catching the privateer. The *Itata* was expecting near Cape San Lucas to meet the Chilean warship *Esmeralda*, and to be conveyed by her to the base of operations. If the *Charleston* does not overtake the *Itata* before the latter has joined the *Esmeralda*, there is a likelihood of a naval battle. The latest papers published "rumours of the sinking of the *Itata* by the cruiser *Charleston*," but give neither time nor place.

At the present writing influenza is raging fiercely in England, and is very prevalent among "prominent people." It is almost paralyzing business, and affects politics. The "grand old man," Gladstone, is among the sufferers, and is making a brave fight for life; numbers are dying.

The preparations for the World's Fair are rapidly being carried forward. A remarkable interest has been displayed by other nations; and the various states of the Union are making appropriations for displays. The only "great power" which has declined to take part is Italy, who, however, was not influenced by the New Orleans affair in this decision. She was actuated by "motives of economy, for which reason she declined to participate in the Paris Exposition. Ex Gov. Waller, of Connecticut, has been appointed a special commissioner to visit the capitals of Europe to "confer with representatives of the foreign Powers and with the leading manufactures." The probabilities are, that the "art palace" will be the finest in the world.

It is not, however, all smooth sailing. Miss Phoebe Couzins, a masculine-female lawyer of St. Louis, had been selected as secretary of the board of lady managers, and was afterwards, for certain reasons, deposed by the president of the board. But she denies the right of the president to depose her without "a vote of the entire board of lady managers," and she is making a contest and appeals in every available quarter. Besides this, the labour organizations are attempting to obtain control of the contract work, so that they may fix the hours of labour, the wages of the labourers, and, in fact, determine what labourers shall be employed.

President Harrison and party, who have been "swinging around the circle" on a long tour, are now on their way east from the Pacific coast. They have almost everywhere been received cordially and enthusiastically. Mr. Harrison seems to be "in the field" for a renomination.

The following is quite like Bastien's *bon mots*:—

The proposal to import Japanese flies into this state to do the work of killing off the gypsy moth is contrary to the fundamental principles of protectionism, and we are surprised to see that some strong protectionist journals favour it.

It is simply putting the pauper labour of the Japanese insect against the well-paid American labour of the men who now travel around the Middlesex Fells with squirt guns and spray the trees with a solution of paris green.

This business of killing gypsy moths promised to be a valuable new industry for Massachusetts. Instead of encouraging it and putting a protective duty on all such competing imports as Japanese flies, the protectionist papers ruthlessly join in trying to crush out this industry and throw the men and squirt guns out of employment.

COURT OF ENQUIRY.

Before Captain YOSHIDA UNE, Superintendent, Marine Office, Osaka, President; and Mr. NAGURA NORIAKI and Captain JOHN JAMES MAHLMANN, Assessors.

This was an enquiry held at Kobe, ordered under Section 23 of the Pilotage Regulations, by the Chief Superintendent of the Mercantile Marine Bureau, Tokyo, into the circumstances attending the stranding of the British steamship *Albany* on Matsusima, Aogi Seto, Inland Sea, on the night of May 15th, 1891, and while in the charge of Mr. William Houghton, a Kii Channel Pilot.

William Houghton, having been cautioned, deponed—I am a coast pilot, holding a license from the Japanese Government for the Idzumi Nada and Kii Channel and from thence to, and including, the Gulf of Tokyo. I lost this license in the *Albany*, and also my master's certificate No. 174. I pilot vessels through the Inland Sea if captains wish or ask me, and when there is no licensed pilot available, as I think that then I have as much right as anybody else to pilot through the Inland Sea. I was engaged to pilot the *Albany* through the Sea just before she left Kobe. The captain of the *Albany* engaged me to pilot the vessel through the Sea. We left Kobe at noon of the 15th of May last, bound through the Inland Sea. I was to leave the vessel at Rokusen. At 1 p.m. we passed Yesaki Lighthouse, and from thence set the course to W. by S. ½ S. correct magnetic. Made Ukado Point about one point on our starboard bow, from whence I steered by marks and the points of land until the time the vessel was wrecked. We entered the northern passage at 9.25 p.m. I think we passed Ategi about 9.00 p.m. From the time of entrance I continued to steer by the land until we got to Konesima, where I shaped a course S.W. by W. ½ W. cor. mag., to pass between the Admiral Bank and Captain Bank, the captain having corrected the cor. mag. course to compass course. The weather was quite clear after passing Konesima, the moon being out. We made the Black Rock the least thing on the port bow, just where it should be made. At this time I could see Boulder Point and Kunosima quite distinct, that is just after passing the Black Rock. From the Black Rock I ported about half a point, to pass mid-channel between Boulder Point and Kunosima. After passing Kunosima the weather became very hazy. I slowed the engines, having gone full speed up to Kunosima. After the engines had been slowed a few minutes, the captain sighted Matsusima on the starboard bow—well on the starboard bow. Then I set the engines full speed ahead, thinking we were well clear of Matsusima. At the same time the captain said to me: "If it gets any thicker we had better anchor." About the same time I ordered the helm to be starboarded a little, and directly thereafter I gave the order "Hard a starboard." At the same instant I saw something ahead which I took to be a a part of Matsusima, I then said "Stop" and "Full speed astern," but she had not lost her way before she struck, the engine having just commenced to go astern before she struck.

By Captain Mahlmann—What precautions did you take before entering the northern passage?—I sent down word to the engine-room for the engineer to be handy, and the anchors were ready for letting go at a moment's notice.

Were the anchors hanging by their stoppers?—I did not go forward to look.

Did you make any other preparations?—I did not make any other preparations.

Did you not double the look-out?—It was not my place.

Was there a look-out man on the forecastle?—I do not know—I did not look.

Was your steering gear in order?—It was up till then; I believe it was right all the way along.

How was the tide when you entered the northern passage?—We had a flood tide, just commenced.

How did you find the time of tide?—I could see by the way junks were riding to the tide.

Where were the junks?—All about, some in the middle of the channel.

I suppose that you could anchor anywhere in the northern passage, if necessary?—It would not be advisable to anchor in from 30 to 40 fathoms of water in a strong tideway.

Are there not anchorages in less water than that about Matsusima?—There are good anchorages on the edges of the Captain and Admiral Banks.

When you shaped your course from abreast of Konesima to S.W. by W. ½ W. you were then steering with the leading marks on namely: Boulder Point and Higashi Peak in line?—I was.

Which means that you were steering straight for Boulder Point?—We were steering straight for Boulder Point until nearing the Black Rock, to within two or three cables.

What course did you steer from the Black Rock?—W.S.W., or I altered the course ½ point.

Did the captain correct this course for deviation?—He did not.

You had been steering a W.S.W. course during the afternoon?—Yes.

Did you find the correction as made by the captain on this course to be correct?—I did.

When you altered your course to W.S.W., at the Black Rock, could you then see Matsusima?—When we were between Boulder Point and Kunosima I could see Matsusima, and also Higashi Peak, quite plain.

When you had altered your course at the Black Rock to W.S.W., how did Matsusima then bear?—About W. by S.½S., or a little on our starboard bow.

How did Boulder Point bear then?—I did not take any bearing, because I could see it quite clearly.

What is the distance from Black Rock to Boulder Point?—About one mile.

And from Black Rock to Matsusima?—About 1¼ mile.

How high and how long is Matsusima?—About ¼ mile long between north and south, and from 250 to 300 ft. high.

Are there any dangers about Matsusima?—Not about Matsusima. The *Albany* was wrecked within 10 or 15 feet of the beach.

How far should a W.S.W. course cor. mag. have taken you clear of the Island of Matsusima?—About ¼ mile.

Did the vessel sheer about much at that place?—She sheered about a little.

How do you account for the ship getting on shore?—The only way I can account for it is that the flood tide caught her on the port bow and set her to the northward.

Was the tide running strong?—About 1½ miles per hour.

Does the flood tide between Boulder Point and Matsusima not set to the N.E. by N., it coming up the Aogi Seto, which would have been about 4 points on your port bow?—I have seen it the other way.

What way?—I have seen it run E.N.E.

Is this not a notorious place for the peculiar set of the tide?—That and the hazy weather is the very reason why I slowed down.

Where did the *Albany* strike the Island?—Near its southernmost point; she wa very nearly clear of the Island.

How did the ship head when she struck?—I could not say. I had starboarded, and I do not think that she went off ½ a point.

Did she alter her position after she struck?—I do not think that she did. As soon as the engines went astern her head went off towards the island.

Supposing you had not backed her engine would she have cleared?—I think she might have done so. I thought then that we were farther from the Island than we actually were.

Did the captain at all interfere with your orders?—He did not.

You said you sighted the island first on your starboard bow; how far?—I had no time to take a bearing, I think about 1½ point.

And where did you see it next?—Right ahead.

Did you see any part of it on your port bow?—The least thing on the port bow. We were then within a few feet of the island.

Did you never think about letting go your anchors?—There was no time, it was all done in an instant. If I had time to get a man forward to the anchors I should have had time to clear the island.

Was that part of the Island you first saw quite clear?—Yes.

Could you see any distance ahead?—I could see Boulder Point, which was on our port quarter, and I saw Higashi Peak a little on our port bow.

Could you see Kodonosima?—I could not pick it up.

Could you see San-umi-sima ahead?—I could not make it out, it being under the high land of Osaki sima.

What do you take to have been the cause of the southern portion of Matsusima being hidden when the northern portion was clear?—It must have been a fog or a cloud.

Was the moon shining all this time?—She was out and shining.

Did you engage as pilot to the *Albany* on the day she left Kobe?—On the night of the 14th about 6 or 7 o'clock.

Did you know there were licensed pilots to be got at Kobe at the time?—I did not. The captain came to me and engaged me, giving me to understand that all the licensed pilots were engaged for the Russian men-of-war.

Do not you think that if you had inquired at my office you could easily have found out whether any licensed pilots were at Kobe or not?—I don't think that it was my place to come to your office.

Why was it not your place?—Because it was past office hours.

But you could have easily found me, could you not?—I don't know where you live.

Do you not remember having received circular No. 2 of the Pilotage Regulations?—I do not recollect having received it. I may have received it, but I do not remember anything about it.

You said you were going to land at Rokusen from the *Albany*, did you not?—I did.

But you could not do that, could you?—I was not going to land at Rokusen.

Where were you going to land?—I was not going to land anywhere, but just get into a boat and go on board of a passing vessel.

Did you never land at Shimonoseki?—Sometimes, for a short time. I never stop there, I am not allowed.

Is your Kii Channel license not a pass?—It is.

Do you never make that use of it?—My master's certificate does as a pass, and allows me to land at unopen ports for a short time. I have used it sometimes for that purpose.

You had a passport?—I had, which allows me to travel for the good of my health, and I lost it also in the *Albany*, together with my license.

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How many vessels did you pilot through the Sea from the 1st October, 1889, to the 30th September, 1890?—From 13 to 15.

Do the licensed Inland Sea pilots never attempt to prevent you from interfering with their business?—I have never been interfered with.

You have been actually in charge as pilot of a ship through the Sea, while at the same time there was a licensed pilot on board as passenger?—Yes, more than once.

And did they not ask you to give up charge?—They did not.

You would always engage yourself as a pilot for the Inland Sea if required by any captain?—If a captain asked me to go I should go.

You have gone from Kobe to meet a vessel at Shimonoseki for the purpose of piloting her through the Sea to Kobe, have you not?—I never did. I went from Karatsu to Shimonoseki and piloted the *Haiphong* from thence to Kobe.

Before engaging yourself as pilot for any vessel through the Sea, do you ever enquire whether any properly licensed pilots are disengaged, or not?—Many times I have done so.

Do you solicit for the Inland Sea?—Never.

William Hogg Hood, late master of the steamer *Albany* was then examined by William Houghton as follows:—

Were there any licensed pilots here when you engaged me?—I called at the principal rendezvous of pilots at Kobe and was told that I should not be able to secure a licensed pilot as they were all engaged for the war-ships.

Was the weather clear enough to proceed through the Sea?—I had no apprehension about the weather at any time.

After we had altered the course to S.W. by W. ½ W. to make the Black Rock, did we make it as it should be?—Exactly so.

After passing Boulder Point did it set in a little bit thick, or hazy, and did we slow the engines?—I had no apprehension at the time of its being thick, but as I considered it hazy, and that the engines had been eased, I remarked to the pilot that if it gets thick we must anchor, and was perfectly satisfied about proceeding again full speed.

Did you see Matsusima long before we struck?—Say two or three minutes, but from its position I judged we had cleared it, as we appeared to be fairly in mid-channel.

By Captain Mahlmann—You are not at all acquainted with that locality, are you?—No, I had never been through there before, and this is my reason for taking some one with local knowledge to assist me.

Then you did not give full charge to the pilot?—No, I never do at any time. I don't know that any master of a ship ever does.

The late 2nd mate of the *Albany* was then called and examined by William Houghton:—

You were at the place of shipwreck for about a fortnight, did you see on any occasion during your stay, the southern end of Matsusima in a fog and the northern end clear?—I have. I have seen the one end of the Island all clear and the other invisible on account of driving mist, or haze, from the centre of the Island.

By Captain Mahlmann—Did this only happen on one occasion, or several times during your stay?—On three or four occasions.

The Court then informed Mr. William Houghton that the decision of the Court would be given after it had been approved by His Excellency the Minister of State for Communications, of which due notice would be given to him.

A BATTLE IN BEHRING'S SEA.

I have been requested by a literary gentleman who writes for the papers, who has visited me several times in hospital, and been very kind to me, to relate what I know about that terrible disaster which made me and several others what we now are, helpless cripples, and sent a thousand men and more into eternity. Ah, sir! my heart bleeds to recollect that awful moment, and when I think how many homes in Old England were made desolate in that one instant. How many parents are now mourning for their sons, children for their fathers, and wives for their husbands. Never shall I forget the dreadful cry which rang through the air that fine summer morning; a cry so full of agony and despair that even now the memory of it chills my blood; a cry sent up by men who went to their death bravely, knowing that no help would come from heaven or earth, but doing their duty, as interpreted by them, even unto death. Doing their duty to their country, although doubting the righteousness of the cause they died for. Was England's prestige on the ocean imperilled by the seizure of a few schooners, mostly owned by foreigners, many of which were no better than highway-robbers? And were they worth fighting for? But pardon me, Sir, I am waxing garrulous, but will keep my feelings under control, or else the story will remain untold.

About the origin of this Behring's Sea trouble I know but little. What I do know is that we were suddenly ordered to Squaremolt (Esquimalt), where four more ships of the Pacific Squadron shortly afterwards joined us. Holding the position I did, that of signal quarter-master to the Admiral, and being, as I may say, constantly at his elbow, I knew more of the goings on than anybody else, and am able to tell you what I know from my own observations and not from hearsay. Well, Sir, we laid in Squaremolt for a couple of weeks, and a great deal of correspondence went on between the Admiral and the big-wigs on shore. That things were not the least satisfactory to the Admiral I could tell by the occasional frown on his brow, and by the snatches of conversation I overheard between the officers. He believed that the Yankees should do their own police work, and that we had no earthly business to interfere, which was also the general opinion on board the ships. It was about midnight on the 2nd when we received orders to proceed immediately to Behring's Strait, and stop all farther seizures by the Yankee revenue cruisers; to liberate all vessels seized by them; if resistance was offered to use force, even if we had to blow the opposing vessels out of the water, were they revenue cruisers or men-of-war. Our squadron consisted of two heavy ironclads and three of the cruiser class, with over one thousand men, hearts of oak I called them, on board. When we steamed out of the harbour with the band playing, and every one thinking that the sight only of this formidable force would scare the Yankees without coming to blows, we little imagined what the end would be.

Only one American man-of-war appeared during our passage up; one of these modern ships of which I hear they have now quite a fleet, but apparently not a very powerful vessel. She joined us when we passed Cape Flattery, where she had evidently been waiting for us, and hovered around us during the whole passage up, closely watching our movements. She had very powerful engines as she could steam right round us without trouble, and we were no slow coaches either. Nothing occurred until we arrived at our destination, except a short north-westerly gale we experienced on the second day out, and which only served to break the monotony of the passage. We made the islands on the 12th day out, and took up our station ten miles away from them, which distance was carefully measured and maintained; the ships keeping within signalling distance of each other in clear weather, and closer together in a fog, of which we had plenty. The Admiral's heart was not in the work, as I heard him muttering to himself as he walked the after bridge, where I also was stationed, but he followed out his instructions to the letter, and ordered a vigilant watch to be kept through the squadron. Several schooners approached us and were boarded, but they reported having had no trouble this season. One schooner had been seized by one of the revenue cutters, and sent down to Sitka, earlier in the year, but this was the only outrage committed before our arrival. The American cruiser kept us well in view, steaming up and down between us and the islands, but making no hostile move whatever. I suppose the schooners got bolder by seeing us there, as they now made frequent incursions within the nine mile limit and fired away at the seals, which here appeared in great numbers. The cruiser appeared to take no notice of the sealing schooners, no matter how far they ventured in, but continued on the course first laid out, forward and back, but still keeping us in view. Every day were we favoured with several hours fog, which obscured everything about us, and only the popping of the sealers' guns could then be heard. It was during one of these foggy spells that we heard several shots fired in succession, apparently from heavier metal that a sealer's gun; and when the fog broke it disclosed to us a small revenue steamer in full chase after a schooner flying the British flag, about half-way between us and the islands. The schooner was making for us with all sail set, but the steamer was almost up to her and with the evident intention of boarding her. The Admiral was watching the chase, and when he saw the schooner boarded by the revenue steamer and the red ensign hauled down, he could no longer restrain himself, and ordered an armed boat away from each vessel to the rescue of the schooner. In half an hour's time the British flag was again flying from the schooner's mainmast-head, while our boats kept between her and the revenue cutter, until she was at a safe distance away to leeward. Our boats now returned and were hoisted in by their respective vessels after their officers had made their reports to the Admiral, who showed no exultation over this bloodless vindication of the power of our flag, but rather the reverse as he gruffly responded to the reports made, and walked the bridge with long strides, scanning the Yankee man-of-war, as she now rapidly neared us. The American approached us to within a mile, when a boat was lowered and pulled towards us. An officer sat in the stern-sheets, and when the boat was brought alongside the starboard gangway ladder he sprang lightly up to the deck, where he was received by the first lieutenant, and by him attended to the Admiral's cabin. Of what transpired there I have no knowlege, but in ten minutes' time we saw the officer attended to the gangway, where he again descended to his boat and pulled back to his ship. After a short interval the Admiral came up on the bridge and told me to hoist signals ordering the commanders of all the ships to come on board to receive instructions. A gloom was on his brow as he received them with his habitual old-fashioned courtesy, and it was not until they had all congregated around him that he addressed them. The meaning and import of what he said seems to be impressed on my brain, as if seared by a red-hot iron, although I cannot remember the precise words he used. "Gentlemen! I have received an official communication from the commander of the United States' steamer yonder, stating that he had observed our unwarrantable interference with the discharge of the duties of his country's revenue steamer, but, as no shots were fired and no blood was spilt, he would overlook—mark me, gentlemen!—overlook it; but as he had received instructions from his Government to the effect that the first shot fired from any ship of any foreign power which would occasion the death of a single American citizen, would be paramount to a declaration of war, he would then with all the power under his command, be justified in defying me, let the consequences be what they may. To prevent any shedding of blood he now wished me to withdraw with the ships under my command, as remaining here would ultimately lead to fatal results. So far, gentlemen, his official communication! I have also received a private note from him, in which he begs me, for humanity's sake to retire, as he has means under his control, but little suspected by us, which, if applied, would prove disastrous to us beyond our utmost thoughts. Now, gentlemen, you have the gist of both communications. If it was left to my discretion I would probably leave; but as my orders are positive, to come here and meet force with force, and uphold the flag at all hazards, and protect whoever claims protection under it, I will stay!" Much more he said, divers were the opinions expressed by the different captains, but the upshot was that nothing was altered, every ship had to keep a vigilant look-out night and day, and to rescue any vessel seized that showed the English ensign. The threatening words used by the American captain were derided as Yankee braggadocio, and no attention was paid to them, except perhaps by the Admiral. This happened on a Thursday, a fine, clear day. In the evening a schooner hove in sight; a message was sent to her by the Admiral to keep outside of the fleet, but as the night set in foggy I don't know if she did or not. Next day we had a thick fog; could not see from one end of the ship to the other, but the following day dawned clear with a light northerly breeze. This was the fatal day that sealed so many men's doom. The first break of day showed us two schooners well up towards the islands, having evidently been taking advantage of the previous day's fog, and been close up to the seal rookeries. Soon the revenue steamer appeared, and then the chase began, the two schooners running towards us and the cutter after them. The distance from the cutter to the schooners was about two miles, and four miles from them to us. The man-of-war also came in sight, keeping well astern of the cutter, steaming slowly. The decisive moment had probably arrived which would prove that England could keep her flag respected even in these distant waters; and our officers, all on deck, were laughing and chatting gaily, while the Admiral walked the bridge with a bowed head and thoughtful mien. Suddenly a puff of white smoke was seen to issue from the cutter's bow, followed by the sharp report of the shot fired. It was no play; and was well aimed too, as it carried away the the foremost schooner's main-topmast, which came tumbling down on deck, bringing down also the English ensign. As an old war-horse is said to sniff the distant battle, so the Admiral, at the sound of the shot and the sight of its work, perceptibly changed. With eyes flashing and head erect he now calmly began to issue orders, and I was kept busy for several minutes with the signals. As another shot was thrown from the cutter to the other schooner and ricochetted on the water until it disappeared not far from one of the ships, orders were given to fire at the cutter but to aim high. The gun was trained and fired, but it did no damage. The cutter was now about

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three miles from us, and she seemingly took no notice of our warning, but continued firing at the schooner; the damaged schooner had lowered her sails, but the other kept right on for us. Another shot was fired at the cutter, who still kept blazing away at the schooner. The Admiral now gave orders to aim low and hit her. This shot went home with terrible effect, and must have struck her abreast of her boilers and penetrated into them, as an immense cloud of steam arose and completely enveloped her; the propeller stopped, and she remained motionless on the water, a wreck. Another sound was now heard and a sharp whistling through our rigging told us that we had now an antagonist to encounter and a more formidable one. The schooners by this time were again under sail and getting well out of the way, after having started the infernal game for us. The American cruiser was steering well to the westward, firing at long range, and our squadron was following him and keeping up a brisk fire with their long range guns. As he could steam so much faster, he could choose his own position, only firing at intervals with an enormous long gun he had on board—a dynamite gun I have been told. Two of our ships were struck, but no great damage was done, I believe. Finally one of our shots hit him on the bow and must have created considerable havoc forward. He instantly showed us his heels and kept away under a full head of steam for some distance. He stopped, as we did not attempt to follow. He was now about four miles from us, and we had the disabled revenue cutter about six miles astern of our furthermost ship. For exactly thirty minutes the cruiser laid without motion with his port side towards us; at the expiration of that time he steamed slowly in our direction to within two miles, where he stopped, with his port side towards us as before. We were intently watching these erratic movements, and I heard the Admiral express his belief that they were laying down torpedoes on which they intended to coax us later; and that belief was further strengthened when the cruiser began to renew the firing with his heavy guns, and steam slowly back, as if inviting us to follow him. We remained where we were, however, but orders were given to fire away, and for a few minutes shot and shell were flying thick and fast around the retreating cruiser, who occasionally let us have one of his enormous shells in return. The time was now just eight o'clock in the morning; the sun was high up in the heavens, and warm and pleasant were its rays. A light northerly breeze was blowing, which sent the smoke and steam down to leeward of us in volumes. Our antagonist seemed to be invulnerable, as not one of our shots appeared to hit him, and the Admiral was just leaning over the bridge giving some advice to the lieutenant in charge of the battery, when—great God! how can I tell it!—a most terrible noise was heard, as if the bottom of the ocean was rent in twain—a noise that almost petrified us, a frightful, undescribable sound!—and the ship on our extreme left was seen lifted bodily up in the air and riven into a thousand pieces, and these were hurled upwards for hundreds of feet. We had barely taken in the full significance of the fearful scene, before the two next ships, one of them a heavy ironclad, shared the same fate. Can I ever forget it! the fearful yells and shrieks as men were torn limb from limb, and human remains mingled with fragments of iron and steel were thrown high up into the air. The carnage was awful to behold! What terrible power was that which could lift these heavy ships and literally tear them asunder and crush them into atoms, as I would crush a nutshell between my fingers? The steam from the exploded boilers, the smoke and fumes from the dynamite and powder, all combined to make the scene a veritable hell suddenly opened before us. No time had we to think, it all came so sudden and unexpected, and it was as suddenly all over; quicker than it takes me to tell it. The Admiral turned to me, the only one beside himself on the bridge, and said, in a voice quivering with emotion, "Our turn next, Tompkins!" I stood helpless and terrified and could not answer him. The words were not well out of his mouth before it came with such an awful crash and dreadful roar, that no tongue can adequately express or describe in words the terrific scene that ensued. Our crew, as brave as any under the sun, and fearing nothing in an open fight, met their doom with blanched cheeks, many of them already struck dead, I believe, before they were thrown up by this fiendish force and their bodies scattered to the winds in innumerable particles; as the shock alone was sufficient to kill them. I felt myself suddenly lifted, I felt myself going upwards, and then I suddenly received a heavy blow from some hard substance, and knew no more. I and ten more men, all more or less crippled, the only survivors of this lately proud and powerful host, were picked up by the boats of the American man-of-war and brought on board of her, where we were treated, I must say, with the utmost kindness and commiseration by all on board. Nineteen men were killed outright, so I was told, on board of the revenue cutter, and many wounded, by our shot penetrating her boiler and exploding it; the real cause of our destruction; a fearful reprisal indeed! Yes, Sir, the American captain gave us fair warning, but even if we had known what was coming, we would have had to stay and do our duty. How was it done, Sir! The Americans used small but powerful submarine vessels, entirely submerged and able to remain so for hours; these vessels were attached to immense torpedoes, each loaded with hundreds of pounds of dynamite and fitted with time fuzes, under our ships' bottoms, and were timed to explode at the same moment, and so accurate were their calculations that they all exploded in less than one minute and a half from the first to the last. Such wholesale destruction of lives and ships has never occurred before since nation went to war against nation. The man-of-war took the disabled revenue cutter in tow and brought her down here, after having diligently searched for several days the scene of the disaster, but nothing more was found there. On her arrival here we were sent to the hospital, where we have been well treated.

CRICKET.

Cricketers were unfortunate on Saturday, a violent storm putting a stop to the play before one side had completed its innings, and as the Club won the toss and elected to go in first, the Navy and Visitors had no show in what otherwise would have been an interesting game. The Club had made 140 when the stumps were drawn, but this score might have been considerably increased had the weather remained fine, and Kenyon been able to keep up his wicket for any length of time, as Crawford had notched 94, and had acquired an amount of confidence that made him difficult to remove. The scoring generally was not heavy. Following are the scores:—

Mr. Dodds, c. Butler, b. Bevan	0	Mr. Walford, b. Plant	1
Mr. Watson, c. Gamble, b. Freemantle	0	Mr. Mollison, b. Bevan	3
Mr. Crawford, not out	94	Mr. Dickenson, b. Bevan	6
Mr. Fenton, b. Freemantle	4	Mr. Adams, c. Bevan, b. Reid	2
Mr. Firth, c. Cooper, b. Leigh	8	Mr. Kenyon, not out	5
Mr. Stewart, c. Freemantle, b. Bevan	12	l.b. 4, w. 2, n.b. 1	7
			140

BASE BALL.

This game, played yesterday, was soon over, ending as shown by the score below, in a victory for Tokyo. Several players were hurt during the game, and the Yokohama catcher stuck to it for two innings after getting a severe crack on his hand, but he had ultimately to turn it up.

TOKYO.

	Pos.	At Bat.	Runs.	1st B.	Total Bases.	P.O.	A.	E.
Mr. Knox	2B	5	2	2	8	7	4	0
Mr. McNair	P	5	3	3	12	1	10	0
Mr. Tison	1B	5	2	3	8	9	1	0
Mr. Shirasu	C	5	2	2	8	8	0	1
Mr. Wigmore	SS	5	1	1	7	2	0	1
Mr. Patton	RF	5	1	2	4	0	0	0
Mr. Tyng	LF	4	1	2	5	0	0	0
Mr. Cole	3B	4	1	0	3	0	1	2
Mr. Gardiner	CF	4	2	2	8	0	0	—
Total		42	15	18	54	27	16	4

YOKOHAMA AND "MONOCACY."

	Pos.	At Bat.	Runs.	1st B.	Total Bases.	P.O.	A.	E.
Mr. Bryan	1B	4	1	4	10	12	1	1
Mr. Page	P	4	0	0	0	3	9	2
Mr. Tilden	3B	4	1	1	4	2	1	2
Mr. Howard	RF	4	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mr. Macondray	LF	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mr. Blanchard	CF	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mr. Stone	SS	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
Mr. Daly	C	3	0	0	0	6	4	0
Mr. Merriman	2B	3	1	1	4	0	0	0
Total		33	4	6	18	24	17	9

INNINGS.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Tokyo	1	1	2	0	1	3	2	5	—	15
Yokohama and "Monocacy"	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	—	4

INQUEST.

An inquest was held on Saturday 6th inst. in the U.S. Consular Court, before W. D. Tillotson, Esq. Consul-General, and Messrs. A. F. Forbes and E. V. Thorne, Associates.

Mr. Thorne asked if, as a member of the press, he was not exempt from serving as an Associate. He was very busy, and it would interfere with his business.

His Honour ruled that he was not exempt, and on Mr. Thorne asking if it would be any use to file a protest, said he could do that afterwards. The Associates were then sworn.

Oshine Yonokichi deponed that he lived at No. 188, Settlement. He knew the deceased by the name of Lee. He first made his acquaintance last year, when he used to go to witness's house two or three times a day. He saw him (deceased) yesterday (Friday) morning at his house. Deceased went into the house and asked for a glass of water, which witness gave him. He sat down and shortly after asked for another glass and after drinking it sat down again. He then rose and asked for a third, but when he went to the filter and lifted the glass to his lips he fell. Witness paid little attention at first, knowing him to be an habitual drinker, but after some time tried to rouse him. As he would not rise, but seemed to be asleep, witness called a policeman, who came at once. As he said it was a serious matter, witness went to the Police Station and requested the inspector there to send a doctor. The inspector came with a doctor. Witness thought the deceased lived about an hour after he fell. Lee had often been in his house and displayed somewhat similar symptoms. He was alive when the policeman came.

A Japanese woman, who gave her name as Muki Koto, deponed that deceased expired at No. 188. She had gone there to clean up the place, and was there when he came in. He wanted a drink of water and got it. He then sat down, but soon after asked for another drink and was given it, but behaved himself in a peculiar manner as if he were ill. She reproached him for drinking liquor, and suggested that he should take a walk and get some food. He said he was a little better, but after a time fell. He died a little after five o'clock she thought.

Dr. Stuart Eldridge deponed—I last saw the deceased yesterday afternoon and performed an autopsy on the body. I found that he came to his death by natural causes. I found nothing to indicate that he had taken poison. I found that death had resulted from a heart clot, caused by very severe and long standing *pleuro pneumonia*.

R. McCance, deputy marshal, deponed that he went down to the place where the death took place. He had known deceased off and on for about ten years. He was attached to one of the U.S. men-of-war; the *Alert* witness thought. He had been in the Consular Jail, and had always been acknowledged to be an American, and to the best of witness' belief was one. He seemed to be helplessly depraved; did not appear to be able to get out of the state of a common drunkard.

A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, June 6th.

The bill introduced in the House of Commons to prohibit seal hunting in the Behring Sea until the month of May, has been read a third time and passed.

London, June 7th.

The report is again revived that the British Government has promised to protect the Italian coasts against the French, but Sir James Fergusson has stated in the House of Commons that the Government has entered into no engagement pledging the employment of either the Army or the Navy.

London, June 8th.

The Portuguese Chambers have passed the African Convention.

Sir John Macdonald, the Premier of the Dominion of Canada, is dead.

London, June 9th.

The French Chambers have resolved to admit fresh cocoons and raw silk free, the import duty on manufactured silks being 300 francs (? per picul).

London, June 9th.

The baccarat case has ended, and a verdict has been entered for the defendants. The London press criticise the connection of the Prince of Wales with the scandal.

(FROM TOKORINO PAPERS.)

Paris, May 23rd.

The Colonial Council, in adopting a report on Colonisation Companies, remarks on the concessions granted by decree.

Pierre Loti has been elected a member of the Academy.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki and Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 19th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 20th.*
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 20th.†
From Hongkong.	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 16th.§
From Europe via Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Saturday, June 20th.
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 21st.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'day, July 1st.

* *City of Peking* left San Francisco on June 2nd. † *Parthia* left Vancouver on June 3rd. § *China* left Hongkong on June 11th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Iphigenia*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 16th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 20th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, June 21st.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, June 21st.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, July 3rd.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Thursday, July 9th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 6th June,—San Francisco 20th May, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Hass, 6th June,—Nagasaki 2nd June, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Batavia, British steamer, 1,661, J. R Hill, 7th June,—Kobe 6th June, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Pao Ling, British steamer, 1,910, Machugh, 7th June,—Kobe 6th June, General.—W. M Strachan & Co.

Euphrates, British steamer, 1,300, Edwards, 8th June,—Kobe 7th June, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Polyphemus, British steamer, 1,813, W. Lee, 8th June,—Kobe 7th June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 8th June,—Hongkong 31st May, Nagasaki 4th, and Kobe 7th June, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Koreets (7), Russian gunboat, Captain F. S. Filissoff, 8th June,—Vladivostock.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, 10th June,—Hongkong 2nd, Nagasaki 7th, and Kobe 9th June, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 12th June,—Shanghai and ports 6th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Calédonien, French steamer, 2,500, Flaudin, 13th June,—Hongkong 4th, Shanghai 8th, and Kobe 12th June, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 13th June,—Hakodate 10th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 7th June,—Hongkong, General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Oxus, French steamer, 2,500, Chabaud, 7th June,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, G. W. Pearne, 9th June,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Triomphante (13), French frigate, Captain P. de Cormelles Lucinière, 9th June,—Kobe.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Hass, 9th June,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 9th June,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Guy C. Goss, American bark, 1,524, Mallett, 9th June,—Tacoma, Tea.—Mouritan, Heimann & Co.

Batavia, British steamer, 1,661, Hill, 10th June,—Portland, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Koreets (7), Russian gunboat, Captain F. S. Filissoff, 10th June,—Shanghai.

J. B. Walker, American ship, 2,178, G. E. Wallace, 12th June,—Vancouver, Tea and General.—Frazar & Co.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 1,910, Machugh, 12th June,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Captain Geo. A. Lee, R.N.R., 12th June,—Vancouver, B.C., General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 12th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 13th June,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Polyphemus, British steamer, 1,813, W. Lee, 13th June,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco:—Mrs. Mary H. Gault, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. M. Hinkle, Mr. J. H. Parsons, Dr. Inuzo Kawamoto, Mr. Y. Murta, Mr. and Mrs. C. Tooley, Messrs. E. Cornehls, G. Suhr, and B. Sakai in cabin. For Hongkong: Messrs. W. R. Door, Koh Seang Tot, and Cheng Sun Kan in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. A. W. Lea, Clark, Morrison, Miss Cander, Miss Bartol, Dr. Bowker, Mr. and Mrs. Coates, Messrs. A. D. Geddes, Marsden, Stemackers, Powers, Colonel and Mrs. Storer, Miss L. Elton, Mr. F. C. Wilkinson, and Mr. R. A. Hopkins in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Wm. Beattie, Mr. Howard Beattie, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Brown, Miss Brown, Mr. J. J. Burns, Mr. Thos. Benskin, Mrs. Benskin and maid, Messrs. Joseph Benskin, Doris Benskin, Eric Benskin, E. H. Hall, John Briscoe, A. J. Trevor Briscoe, Chas. Beattie, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cockerham, Messrs. C. J. Cuylen, A. Cuffe Adams, R. J. D. Colley, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Conant, Miss Chearnley, Messrs. J. H. Chevick, Gilbert Crompton, Thos. Chadwick, Mrs. A. J. Dunlop, Mr. John Dimsdale, Miss Florie Edwards, Mrs. Dimsdale, Mr. W. H. Ellice, Miss Edwards, Rev. W. D. Edwards, Lady Mabel Fitzgerald, Lady Nesta Fitzgerald, Mr. Duke Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gordon Smith, Mr. Chas. W. Good, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Garraid, Mr. G. W. Graham, Miss M. Hale, Messrs. Alfred Higgins, W. W. Hall, H. C. Ring, John Kay, Frank Kay, Mrs. Lord, Messrs. A. Prescott Mosley, John B. Meredith, David McGee, Mr. and Mrs. Heatly Noble, Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Powys, Mr. H. Y. S. Ross, Captain E. T. Ross, Lady Cecilia Rose, Miss Robertson, Messrs. H. Y. Ratcliff, C. A. Rice, Peter Schwantb, J. G. Schenk, Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Scott, Messrs. J. A Thorn, J. C. Tremayne, H. Williamson, S. F. Webb, H. R. Walker, S. F. Woets, Rev. and Mrs. G. R. Davies and 6 children, Messrs. W. W. Clifford, Chas. W. Hay, E. O. Arbuthnot, R. J. Frannock, Mrs. T. J. Allen, Miss Allen, Rev. and Mrs. G. S. Fitch and 3 children, Miss Jewell, Mr. F. W. Galpin, Mr. A. Crawford, Miss Paul and maid, Messrs. Emile Dulong, M. Requedat, Isaac T. Smith, Rev. and Mrs. Ashmore, Messrs. M. Cartwright, Geo. H. Whymark, W. C. Jackson, Captain Marshall, Mr. A. G. Stephen, Mr. and Mrs. Ede, Mr. and Mrs. Allom and 2 children, Mr. Hy. Putman, Mr. Irving Ghewis, and Mrs. Chevis in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Tsuruda and 3 children, Messrs. N. Soma, C. Myhre, and R. Ito in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 37 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Governor Hayashi, Messrs. Tojio, J. D. MacKenzie, E. Dunn, Toriyama, F. Wright, and M. Goldman in cabin; 11 passengers in second class, and 38 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Estello Legrand, Mr. E. Suginohara, Mr. Van der Saugert Canter, Mr. and Mrs. Omilton, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Scherzer, and Mr. Francois in cabin. From Kobe: Messrs. Stucken, Kaufman, Spect, Yock Nam, and Low Ling in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Oxus*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. Chang Pa Lang, Mr. Cudenet, Commdr. Pretel, Misses A. and C. Gomes, Misses G and M. E. Gomes, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gomes, Mr. J. M. Gomes, Mr. G. Haves, Mr. J. H. Pearling, Mr. and Mrs. Mallaivre, Miss Luce Debuy, Messrs. Benard, Mevisto, Herve, R. de Lavison, Miss Uyeda Eogo, Madames C. and L. Mensini, Messrs. B. Argi, J. Leandion, L. Nicolas, Ch. C. Lorit, A. W. Ward, Shibiya, Louis Dubey, Mehemet Mourda Bey, Ali Agha, Yano Tsunetaro, and N. Tanaka in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. H. Heyn and Mr. J. Tamer in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—H.E. Sir William Des Vœux and servant, Lady Des Vœux, Miss Des Vœux, Miss Evans, Sir Francis Boileau, Lady Boileau, Mr. Boileau, Miss Boileau, Mr. Von Herder, Dr. John Murdock, Mr. J. Steffens, Dr. R. Gray, Mr. W. E. Thorne, Rev. M. L. Gordon and son, Mrs. Gaskill, Miss Hickson, Mr. J. T. Macnair, Mrs. B. Mozley, Mr. W. H. Magee, Mr. L. B. Hamilton, Mr. E. L. Hamilton, Sir Cecil Miles, Bart., Mr. W. S. Spark, Mr. A. Bankier, Mr. W. J. Reid, Mr. M. S. Chambers, Mr. J. Stevenson, Hon. Horace Davis, Mr. R. Curtis, Mr. A. R. Lamb, Mr. F. J. Wilson, Mr. R. L. Walker, Mr. M. Kirchberger, Mr. F. Wittenoom, Mr. H. Kent, Mr. H. Vacher, Mrs. Vacher, Dr. T. W. Bagshaw, Miss Block, Miss Fries, Miss C. Adams, Mr. T. W. Merrill, Mr. C. A. Longfellow, Mr. E. E. Hubbard, Mr. H. Pollet, Mr. W. G. Morrison, Count Folster and servant, Captain Lohman, I.R.N., Mr. D. Crowe, Miss Krohnke, Miss Taylor, Mr. A. Schomburg, Mr. D. W. Crawford, Mrs. Carl Bailey, Mrs. S. Milton, Mr. John Macgregor, Mrs. McBride and three children, Mr. O. Johnson, Mr. W. Snell, R.N., Mr. C. M. Price, Mrs. E. Taylor, M. Mirron, Mr. B. J. F. Skeffington, and Mr. W. M. Tool in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. E. Mileur, Mr. and Mrs. Grimble, Mr. Tsang P. Sung, Rev. and Mrs. Spanham, and Miss Ida Tyler in cabin; Messrs. E. Anderson, Nomura, Tsuchiya, Yokota, Miss Yokota, Messrs. Fukuda, Tanaka, Arima, and Hamada in second class, and 84 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. and Mrs. Meinertzhagen, Mr. and Mrs. Page, family, and nurse, Mr. Allport, Mrs. Rose-Robinson, Mr. Awaya, Rev. Mr. Dearing, Mr. Brady, Mr. Cawthra, Lady Alexander, Miss Cargill, Mr. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. McCalmont Hill, Captain Simmonds, Messrs. Sydney, Jacomb, Goodheart, Miss Vancourt, Messrs. Lobbock, Reid, Hewett, Hayes, Hammond, Dr. Whittemore, Mr. and Mrs. Bissett-Snell, Mr. and Mrs. King, Mr. and Mrs. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Walter, Mr. Canon Sustram, Mr. Cobham, and Miss Macintyre in cabin; Mr. Satori Kato and 2 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Oxus*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France 476 bales; Waste Silk for France 54 bales. Treasure for Shanghai $9,500.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	260	—	—	260
Hyogo	36	3,648	2,709	6,393
Yokohama	242	4,183	4,991	9,416
Hongkong	148	—	—	148
Total	686	7,831	7,700	16,217

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	98	—	98
Hongkong	—	45	—	45
Yokohama	—	146	—	146
Total	—	289	—	289

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	—	—	—	2	2
Shanghai	1,401	1,288	3,608	170	6,467
Nagasaki	29	—	—	—	29
Hyogo	2,060	1,089	707	3	3,859
Yokohama	1,792	1,451	121	—	3,364
Total	5,282	3,828	4,436	175	13,721

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	14	—	14
Shanghai	16	—	16
Total	30	—	30

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain Walker, reports:—Left San Francisco the 20th May; had moderate westerly winds and sea throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 6th June at 8.58 a.m. Time, 15 days, 22 hours, and 47 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 6th June at 10.30 a.m. Arrived at Nagasaki the 8th at 5 a.m.; experienced moderate to gentle northerly winds across the China Sea; left Nagasaki the 8th at 5 p.m. Arrived at Kobe the 10th at 6.30 a.m. and left the 11th at noon. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th June at 3.30 p.m.; had fine weather with light variable winds during the voyage from Nagasaki to port.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Hakodate the 10th June at 2 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Ogisohama the 11th at 0.30 p.m. and left the 12th at 4 a.m.; had light breeze and fine weather and smooth sea during the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 13th June at 5.50 a.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There has been another week of steady business in Shirtings and Yarns, with prices generally firm, but only occasionally has any advance been obtained, as holders seem more inclined to reduce their stocks than to restrict business by raising

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quotations. In Mousseline de Laine a fair business has been doing at slightly better prices, and moderate sales of Turkey Reds have been reported. Velvets have improved in value somewhat, and there have been enquiries for Italian Cloth but at prices considerably below what holders are inclined to accept. Sales for the week comprise the following:—1,500 bales English Yarn, viz. 600 bales of ordinary single and 900 bales two folds; also 5 bales Bombay Yarn, 35,000 pieces 9lb. Shirtings, 3,000 pieces 8½lb., 4,000 pieces T.-Cloths, 1,000 pieces Velvet, 2,000 pieces Turkey Reds, 2,000 pieces Victoria Lawns, 5,000 pieces Mousseline de Laine, 900 pieces Italian Cloth, and 3,000 pieces Blankets.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—8½lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50	to	2.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.75	to	2.45
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25	to	1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20	to	1.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40	to	1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07	to	0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	per lb. 1.10	to	1.17½
Turkey Reds—2¼ to 3lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.30	to	1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.75	to	1.97½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	5.25	to	6.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.55	to	0.70
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35	to	2.25
Turkey Reds—1.75 to 2lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches.			

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 30 44 yards, 32 inches	$1.00	to	1.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½	to	28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20	to	24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16	to	20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.12½	to	0.25½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½	to	0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to	0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb., per lb.	0.10	to	0.39

COTTON YARNS.

Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	per picul. $14 00	to	27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27.25	to	28.25
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28 50	to	30 00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	29 50	to	31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to	29.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29.50	to	30.75
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31 00	to	33.00
Nos. 38/32, Medium to Best	35.00	to	36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	33.50	to	34 50
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to	38.00
	per bale.		
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to	78 00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to	77.00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay			—

METALS.

The Metal market continues remarkably quiet, but there are no quotable changes in values.

	per picul.		
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	$2.80	to	2.90
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.85	to	2 90
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.80	to	2.90
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.		
Nailrod, small size	Nom.		
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to	3.05
Sheet Iron	3.10	to	3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to	6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.50	to	4.75
Tin Plates, per box	5.50	to	5.75
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to	1.35

KEROSENE.

A few small sales have been effected at late rates. Clearances have been fair. Stocks are ample.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.60	to	1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to	1.65
Devoe	1.60	to	1.62½
Russian	1.55	to	1.60

SUGAR.

About 15,000 piculs all kinds sold, but mostly Browns, which, with the exception of Takao, are rather lower in value. Stock—all kinds—163,000 piculs.

	per picul.		
Brown Takao	$4.15	to	4 20
Brown Daitong	3.50	to	4.10
Brown Canton	4 80	to	5 70
Brown Java and Penang	5.00	to	5.80
White Refined	4.80	to	7.25

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 5th instant, since which date there has been but very little business done in this market, the total net settlements amounting to 134 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures* 52 piculs, *Re reels* 40 piculs, *Kakeda* 42 piculs. Direct shipments by native Kaisha have been 76 piculs bringing the week's business up to 210 piculs.

The business on record is of a hand-to-mouth character, no general demand, but here and there are order has to be filled and, despite of the difficulty to get the proper quality, it is done, which accounts for the settlements as stated above.

As regards the new crop, nothing but the best of news can be given. Japanese growers so far appear disinclined to know much on the subject; now and then small damage is reported here and there, but, on strict inquiry these rumours cannot be upheld, and the general opinion is that we shall have a much larger crop than during the present season.

A few boxes of new *Filatures* and *Re reels* have arrived, but so far no sales have taken place. Small lots of new Silk are now expected to arrive from day to day, and within a week we may be able to give some reliable reports both as regards quality and quantity of the next season's outturn.

Shipments during the week have been 622 bales, the French mail steamer *Oxus*, on the 7th instant, taking 476 bales to Europe and the O. & O. steamer *Gaelic* on the 9th instant, carrying 146 bales to America. These shipments bring the present export figures to 33,943 piculs, against 35,429 piculs last year and 41,193 piculs in 1889.

Hanks.—Nothing done.

Filatures.—With the exception of two parcels of *Ise Watarase* at $580, the settlements were all of common quality ranging as low as $540.

Re reels.—A few bales of Joshu *Tengusha* were bought at $555; the rest of the settlements consisted of common quality from $520 to $440.

Kakeda.—Severals parcels of *Daruma* at $560 to $567½, and one lot of *Hana-musume* at $540, make up the bulk of the settlements, besides which a few bales of *Red Flag* changed hands at the latter quotation.

It is impossible to make proper quotations, and therefore all prices are withdrawn.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 3	Nom.	—
Hanks—No. 3½	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den...	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den...	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nom.	—
Re-reels—Extra	Nom.	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nom.	—
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 2	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 3	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 4	Nom.	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Soilai—No. 2½	Nom.	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 12th June, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	15,067	14,802	21,260
America	18,229	20,172	19,547
Total { Bales	33,296	34 974	40,807
Total { Piculs	33,943	35,429	41,193
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	34,750	35,500	41 000
Stock, 12th June	1,600	1,900	850
Available supplies to date	36,350	37,400	41,850

WASTE SILK.

Absolute stagnation in this branch, total settlements during the week being but 6 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi* 1 picul, *Kibiso* 5 piculs.

The *Oxus* has taken 200 piculs Waste to Europe and one bale, 3 piculs, was shipped to America per steamer *Gaelic*, which shipments bring present export figures to 31,276 piculs, against 29,281 piculs last year and 31,375 piculs in 1889.

Quotations must be considered mostly nominal; there are a few buyers who take small lots at full prices, but generally there is no inclination to buy.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	Nom.		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	$135	to	$140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120	to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best			—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100	to	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium			—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	130	to	140
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85	to	87½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	77½	to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70	to	75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110	to	120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100	to	105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best			—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	55	to	60
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	50	to	40
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35	to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	45	to	40
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	32½	to	27½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	15	to	8
Mawata—Good to Best	180	to	190

Export Table Waste Silk to 12th June, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	29,989	27,091	28,897
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	31,276	29,281	31,375
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,650	29,200	31,250
Stock, 12th June	3,200	4,900	2,950
Available supplies to date	34,850	34,100	34,200

Exchange closes as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3½; Documents, 3/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 3/3⅜; Documents, 3/3⅜; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $78¼; 4m/s. U.S. $79½; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.13; 6m/s. fcs. 4.16.

Estimated Silk Stock, 12th June, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	190	Cocoons	40
Filatures	540	Noshi-ito	870
Re-reels	620	Kibiso	2,070
Kakeda	85	Mawata	150
Oshu	155	Sundries	70
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	1,600	Total piculs	3,200

TEA.

Although at the close prices are somewhat easy, they have been well maintained generally, and a very large business continues to be done. Supplies come in freely, and first pickings of second crop are already to hand. The cup of grades now on the market is not equal to that of last year. Total settlements to June 10th are 132,323 piculs; and stocks are:—Extra Choicest and Choice 28,996 piculs, Finest and Fine 41,531 piculs, Good Medium and Medium 38,690 piculs, and Good Common and Common 23,106.

	per picul.		
Extra Choicest			—
Choicest	$27	to	30
Choice	25	to	26
Finest	22	to	24
Fine	19	to	21
Good Medium	16	to	18
Medium	14	to	15
Good Common	12	to	13
Common	8	to	11

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has moved up a point or two during the week, and is steady at the close.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/2½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/3
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 3½
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3½
On Paris—Bank sight	4.05
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.15
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	2 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	77½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	79
Silver	44½

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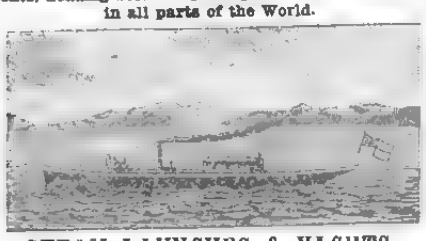

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1891.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

H.I.H. PRINCE ARISUGAWA TAKEHITO returned to the capital on the 14th instant from Yokosuka

MARQUIS KURODA NAGASHIGE has taken his M.A. degree in the University of Cambridge.

THE grand festival of the Hiye Shrine, Kojimachi, Tokyo, will be held on the 15th and 16th instant.

MR. HAYASHI, hitherto Governor of Hyogo, has been appointed Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

THE *Yamato Kan*, Captain Morooka, was despatched on the 14th instant to protect Japanese interests in China.

VISCOUNT KAGAWA, Grand Master of Services to H.I.M. the Empress, is at present confined to his residence by illness.

THE Prince Imperial visited the Tokyo Arsenal on the 14th instant at 9.30 a.m., and returned to the Palace about 2 p.m.

PRINCE KONOYE ATSUMARO has been elected Chairman of the Committee for the revision of the Constitution of the Nobles' Club.

MR. UTSUMI, Prefect of Kanagawa, and Mr. Matsudaira, Prefect of Kumamoto, have been raised to first class *chokunin* rank.

MR. IWASAKI YANOSUKE intends to construct extensive buildings on the old parade ground at Misakicho, Kanda, Tokyo, to be used as an industrial museum.

A SEVERE hail-storm visited the village of Kanazawa in the district of Kita-koma, Yamanashi Prefecture, on the afternoon of the 6th instant. It began to fall about 3 o'clock and lasted for 30 minutes. Much damage was caused to barley, wheat, and mulberry-trees. The village of Sayukuchi in Higashi-Yatsushiro district, of the same Prefecture, was visited by the storm about the same hour.

MR. IZAWA SHUJI, Director of the School of Music in Uyeno Park, and a Councillor of the Educational Department, was placed on the *kishoku* (retired) list on the 13th instant.

THE Russian Crown Prince has presented a sum of money amounting to 2,000 *yen* to a number of constables, who guarded the Prince in various parts of Japan during his visit to the Empire.

THE graduates of the late Mr. Nakamura's institution, who assembled in the capital to attend his funeral, have decided to erect a monument and to establish a library in memory of the deceased gentleman.

Two new railway stations will be opened on the Tokaido line, on the 16th instant, one at Yasuki between the Okazaki and Karukaya Stations and the other at Yashu between the Yawata and Kusatsu stations.

FIRE broke out on the afternoon of the 6th instant, in a house at Nishi-sakurajima-mura, Kita-osumigori, Kagoshima, and before the flames could be subdued 22 buildings were destroyed. One woman was burned to death in the conflagration.

DR. CARGIL G. KNOTT, Professor in the Science College of the Imperial University, left for home to-day in the steamer *China*, the term of his engagement in Japan having terminated. He was admitted to an audience of H.I.M. the Emperor on the 15th instant.

VISCOUNTS SHINAGAWA, Minister of State for Home Affairs, and Tanaka, Minister of State for Justice, have been raised to second class second grade from first class third grade, and Viscount Takashima, Minister of State for War, has been raised to second class second grade from second class third grade.

MR. YAMANOUCHI, a Secretary of the Imperial Household, and Assistant Chief of the Section of External Affairs in the Imperial Household Department, was permitted by the Decorations Board on the 11th instant to accept and wear decorations conferred on him by the King of Siam and the Sultan of Turkey.

A TELEGRAM from Tomioka (Joshu) reports that the Tomioka Filature was offered for sale by public tender on the 15th instant. Only two tenders were handed in, one (*yen* 13,570) by Mr. Katakura Kentaro, and the other (*yen* 13,125) by Mr. Kishi Kasuke, both of whom are residents of Shinano, Nagano Prefecture. No sale took place, the prices offered being below the reserve (*yen* 55,000).

Two *soshi* named Abe Gorokuro, a *heimin* of Shizuoka Prefecture, and Igarashi Hachiro, a *shizoku* of Fukuoka Prefecture, were sentenced on the 15th instant, in the Tokyo Local Court to major confinement for three and two months respectively on a charge of having forced an entrance into the residence of Mr. Seki Naohiko, editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and a member of the Lower House, and behaved themselves in a disorderly manner.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Cabinet was held on Saturday, the 13th instant, and was attended by Counts Matsukata, Goto, and Oki, Viscounts Kabayama, Enomoto, Takashima, and Tanaka, and Mr. Mutsu, by whom the revision of the Regulations as to the reorganization of the Government and the estimates for the 25th fiscal year were discussed. Mr. Shirane, Vice-Minister for Home Affairs, Viscount Okabe, Vice-Minister of the Foreign Department, and Mr. Hayashi, Governor of Hyogo, were also present at the meeting.

MR. SHIMIZU MASATOSHI, a resident of Ichikawamura, Takatagori, Hiroshima Prefecture, has discovered a method of obtaining acetic acid from trees such as the oak, willow, fir, and chestnut. Mr. Shimizu can obtain 25 bottles, each of three *go* (one *go*=$5\frac{1}{10}$ ounces), of the acid from 100 *kwamme* (one *kwamme*=$8\frac{1}{4}$lbs.) of timber, each bottle of the value of about 25 *sen*. By adding a bottle of this acid to one *to* (one *to*=a little over $3\frac{1}{2}$ gal.) of water, a very delicate vinegar suitable for table use is made. The refuse of the trees can be converted into 25 *kwamme* of charcoal through the ordinary process.

DURING March last the Oji Paper Mills, the Yukosha, the Kobe Paper Mills, the Yokkaichi Paper Mills, and the Fuji Paper Mills manufactured 1,308,898.49 *kin*, or about 1,745,198 pounds of paper, the sales during the period amounting to 1,130,532.09 *kin*, or a little over 1,507,376 pounds. Classifying the different varieties, we find that of ordinary printing paper, 1,035,178.49 *kin* were manufactured and 840,298.59 *kin* sold; of superior printing paper, 14,852.10 *kin* were manufactured and 15,598.00 *kin* sold; of coloured paper, 6,139.00 *kin* were manufactured and 6,223.00 *kin* sold; of wrapping paper, 113,508.10 *kin* were manufactured and 112,191.50 *kin* sold; and of miscellaneous kinds, 139,221.00 *kin* were manufactured and 155,821.00 *kin* sold.

AN Osaka telegram dated the 12th instant reports that the members of the Osaka City Council despatched on the 11th instant a telegraphic message to the Home Minister asking that Mr. Nishimura, Governor of Osaka, should not be transferred to any other position, and also to Mr. Nishimura desiring him to remain in his present post. A later telegram states that Mr. Omiwa, President, and several members of the Osaka City Assembly, held a meeting the same day and decided to send a telegram to the Home Minister asking that Mr. Nishimura should not be transferred from Osaka. Mr. Taniguchi, a member of the Osaka City Council, and Mr. Omiwa were to start for the capital on the 13th instant to make a personal application to the Home Minister in the same sense.

TRADE continues in a satisfactory condition generally, and the improved tone of the markets and of prices have been maintained. The low offers made by holders of the productions of Japanese mills have killed the Bombay Yarn trade, and affected English spinnings to some extent. Prices, however, have remained steady and firm for English Yarns, of which sales include a fair quantity, as well as a moderate amount of Shirtings and a variety of other Piecegoods. Metals are still very quiet, and Kerosene is dull, with but little enquiry. There has been a large business in White Sugar, but Browns are hardly looked at, and are lower in value. The principal Export has not yet come forward in quantities sufficient to make a market, but the few transactions that have been put through show new Silk to be about 15 per cent. cheaper at the opening of this season than that of last. The Tea trade has not been quite so active, but prices have been well maintained. Second crop leaf is now in full supply, and total settlements to date are 20,000 piculs more than at same period last year. Exchange has advanced a point or two on the week, and quotations close fairly firm.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE MINISTERS OF HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

IT is the opinion of the *Jiyu* that the Otsu affair and the Otsu affair only must be held responsible for the resignations of Count Saigo and Viscount Aoki. The Radical organ arrives at this conclusion thus:—When the news of the attempt on the life of the Czarevitch reached the Emperor, His Majesty, deeply pained, summoned Count Ito to the Palace, and, after consultation with him, issued the Rescript of the 11th of May, commencing with the words "*Chiu oyobi seifu shimmin wa kokuhin no tairei wo motte*," &c. (While we, our Government and our subjects were preparing to receive our national guest with all ceremony, &c). The words "national guest" occurring in this proclamation imparted to the affair an international signification, and the responsibility for the occurrence at Otsu was thus placed on the shoulders of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs being, of course, equally responsible for the protection of the Imperial guest. Hence nothing remained for Count Saigo and Viscount Aoki but resignation. This strikes us as a subtle attempt to exhibit Count Ito in the light of the Minister-maker and Minister-marrer of the occasion. According to the *Jiyu's* theory, His Majesty, with the advice of the President of the House of Peers, ordered a Rescript to be drafted in such terms that it involved the resignation of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Responsibility is often a shadowy thing, but surely it reached the extreme limits of tenuity when it connected Viscount Aoki with the Otsu incident.

PROFESSOR C. G. KNOTT.

THE Emperor has been pleased to confer on Professor C. G. Knott, of the Imperial University, the Fourth Class Decoration of the Rising Sun. It will be inferred that this distinction marks Professor Knott's departure from Japan, and the inference, we regret to say, is only too correct. After seven years' tenure of the chair of Physics in the Imperial University, Professor Knott's place is to be taken by a Japanese. Such changes are, of course, inevitable. The Japanese are gradually qualifying to dispense altogether with foreign assistance in their schools and colleges. But while from this point of view there may be grounds for congratulation, it is impossible not to regret that a man of Dr. Knott's exceptional ability and attainments should no longer give his services to the cause of education in Japan. The reputation his talents have earned for him in this country is a source of pride to his nationals and of just satisfaction to himself, and his active mind no less than his untiring enthusiasm will be seriously missed by the learned societies which owe so much to his cōoperation. Not alone in the field of scientific research, but also as a writer he possesses rare gifts. His epitomes of the Asiatic Society's proceedings, before that body deprived itself of his services in obedience to a romantic phantasy, used to be models of compendiousness and lucidity. The driest subject became in his hands interesting and attractive. Much, however, as we shall regret and miss his departure for selfish reasons, we cannot pretend to think that he does not act wisely in leaving Japan. There is no future for a foreigner in the Japanese service, and there can be none until the conditions are radically changed. With Dr. Knott's gifts a successful, and, we venture to think, a brilliant career is assured in his own country, where the rewards of merit come in a solid and permanent shape. Dr. Knott will have the honour of being received by the Emperor in farewell audience on Monday, and left Tokyo by the 3.30 train on Friday afternoon, to sail the following day by the *China*.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

MR. HAYASHI TADASU, Governor of Hyogo, has accepted the post of Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Viscount Okabe, the present holder of the latter position, is gazetted a Minister Plenipotentiary. Mr. Hayashi's successor at Hyogo is Mr. Su, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet. Another change, decided by the Cabinet on the 13th inst., is that of Mr. Nishimura, Governor of Osaka, to the Vice-Ministry of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the present holder of which is Mr. Ishida. Mr. Nishimura is succeeded at Osaka by Mr. Yamada, Governor of Fukushima Prefecture. The new Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs is an official of considerable service. In December, 1885, he was transferred from the Department of Public Works to be Chief of the Bureau of Archives in the Cabinet, and in March of the following year he became Chief of the Bureau of Posts in the Department of Communications, from which position he was transferred, in December, 1888, to the Governorship of Kagawa Prefecture, where he served until his appointment to Hyogo Prefecture in December, 1889. Mr. Hayashi speaks English fluently, and has always been a favourite with Japanese and foreigners alike.

BEWARE OF CONDENSED MILK.

LAST Monday, after attending the funeral of Mr. Ballard, in Kobe, the Rev. N. W. Utley and wife, of the Kwan Sei Gakkuin, took tea with Dr. S. H. Wainwright and family at their residence in Palmore Institute. Ice cream was served and partaken of, and no inconvenience was experienced until the following morning about one o'clock, when both families were taken seriously ill. Dr. Wainwright first awoke suffering intensely, and found his wife to be in the same condition. They lay suffering, not being able even to call the servants. At the same hour of the night Mr. Utley and his wife were also taken violently ill. Dr. Kin was summoned and has been constantly with them ever since. Up to this (Wednesday) they are but little better, and some fears have been expressed about their recovery, though the doctors think the chances are in their favour. The ice cream was undoubtedly the cause of the illness, as it has since been learned that a servant made the cream out of a can of condensed milk that was opened several days previously.

FIRE IN GENSAN.

A FIRE of disastrous dimensions occurred at Gensan in Korea on the 14th of last month. It broke out at one o'clock in the afternoon, and the day being calm no fears of the flames spreading were at first entertained. Possibly this feeling of security led to perfunctory action, for by degrees the conflagration gained ground, and 239 houses had been completely destroyed and 54 partially burned before the fire could be extinguished at seven o'clock in the evening. The people thus deprived of their homes and shops were, for the most part, in the humblest circumstances, and the distress is reported to have been terrible. The Japanese settlers came forward at once and contributed 25 *koku* of rice, which was distributed among a thousand people, the occupants of 192 houses. A place for boiling the rice was also made by the Japanese within the devastated area. The gratitude evinced by the Koreans for this timely aid is said to have been profound.

NEW CHURCH AT OSAKA.

THE *Hyogo News* reports the ceremony of consecrating a new church at Osaka, the Sei Kyushu Kyokai. The consecration rites were performed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Bickersteth. "The new church is erected on the site of the one which was burnt down by the disastrous conflagration which occurred in September last, at a cost of about $2,500. Of this sum $2,250 has already been raised, the Japanese contributing freely, while Bishop Bickersteth, to commemorate the year of the synod of the Church in Japan, gave the chancel and chancel furniture in addition to a subscription of $100. The old church was built in 1883, the nucleus of the congregation being formed by 11 adults and 5 children leaving the older and flourishing Trinity Church. Since that time the membership has steadily increased, so that out of 180 communicants on Sunday 150 were Japanese. The total church membership last year was about 180, of whom 118 are regular attendants, 11 non-regular, 18 have left for the interior to engage in Church work, 22 have left Osaka and joined other churches, and 14 have left Osaka for their native villages. The church is not absolutely self-supporting, but is on a fair way to being so. The native Christians defray the expenses of public worship and of keeping the building in order, besides contributing $10 a month to the support of an incumbent, while the Trinity Church congregation contribute $15 a month to support their pastor. This year probably more will be contributed. The accounts of the churches in Osaka are looked after by a Council composed of representatives from each church, the Ven. Archdeacon Warren being president of the Council—he is the only foreigner on it—as representing the C.M.S., which annually contributes to the four churches a sum of $500. The new church, which is a neat little structure, accommodates about 200 people. It consists of a nave and two side aisles, with a chancel, the aisles being separated from the nave by an arcade of circular pillars and five arches, with clerestory windows over. Adjoining the chancel is a good-sized vestry, while at the entrance to the church is a spacious porch. The building is of wood frame with plaster, the arches being formed of wood coated with plaster, and having mouldings of hard white plaster. The roof is an open timber one, with curved pieces under the tie-beams, supported by corbels and small circular columns between the arches of the arcade. The windows are filled in with cusped tracery in wood, the style of the whole being a faint portrayal of that of the late 15th century. Mr. A. N. Hansel, F.R.I.B.A., architect of Kobe and Osaka, drew up the designs and superintended the construction of the edifice gratuitously as his subscription to the work."

THE TROUBLES IN CHINA.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us (*N.-C. Daily News*) from Nanking under date the 4th inst.:—All is quiet here at present, but there are constant rumours of further trouble. The people say: "The Catholics must go." Perhaps to others they say: "The Protestants must go." So long as affairs are unsettled at Wuhu, there will be disquiet here. As to the question touching a desire for rebellion on the part of the Ko-lao Hui, I can only report the opinions of others. This is the view of nearly every Chinaman with whom I have talked, whether of officials or the people. But the Chinese delight in rumours and these lose nothing as they travel. I have been gravely told that there are between 20 and 30 millions of members in this society and that the Governor-General is one of them. Some time before your leader upon this subject appeared I heard several Chinamen advance the theory that the attack on foreigners was a mere pretence, the desire being to involve China in a foreign war and thus make the way easy for the overthrow of the dynasty. Of course the matter is not talked about very openly, but when the question comes up men speak their opinions freely. Two of our number were warned the other day, however, by a company of soldiers that if they didn't stop talking about the Ko-lao Hui they would "eat bitterness." The matter has evidently been brewing for some time. Several months ago a personal teacher employed by one of our number living north of the river gave up his situation because he understood there was an attack soon to be made upon foreigners, and he did not wish to be associated with them. Another teacher not long ago told the missionary employing him that there would be a rebellion soon. All these are mere straws, but they indicate the feeling of the people. One circumstance may lend some colour to the theory of blackmail. The late Viceroy kept a large number of men upon the pay-roll for whom there was no need. It is said by the Chinese that he was paid to do so. It may be they were Ko-lao-Hui men. Liu Kun-yi has turned them out, which might be the cause of a rumpus here. This, however, can hardly explain the attempts to stir up trouble outside the district ruled by the Viceroy. The

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drought which still continues threatens to complicate matters. The Viceroy and other officials have been out several times to pray for rain and yesterday the Viceroy went again *on foot*. A "dragon" that was placed in the temple last week to be worshipped died shortly after the service, which might well alarm a superstitious Chinaman. Still the Governor is a strong man, and seems to have his army well in hand. Rebellion will not be easy and may not be attempted after the recent experiences.

A SINGULAR STORY.

THE following paragraphs, which we take from the columns of the *Hyogo News*, are of too extraordinary a character to be passed over in silence :—

In connection with the visit of the Czarewitch a curious story, for the truth of which our informant vouches, is being circulated. It is said that as a matter of courtesy the Russian Prince wired from China asking permission to take his fleet around Kagoshima. As a matter of fact no such permission was needed, but the request was made through the Russian Minister at Tokyo to avoid giving offence.

Interesting is the sequel. With the arrogance, which recently has had so tremendous a fall, the Japanese refused permission for any but the Prince's own vessel to visit Kagoshima, whereupon the Russian Minister coolly informed them that the other vessels would accompany the *Pamiat Azova*, and that the Japanese would stop them at their peril. Of course the Japanese gave way, but the lesson was a much-needed one. It is reported that the wholesale resignations resulted from this incident.

With what object, other than that of wanton mischief-making, such paragraphs are published, we are at a loss to conceive. The ignorance of a writer who imagines that foreign war-vessels are at liberty to enter Japanese unopened ports without permits from the Japanese Government, is only equalled by his recklessness in attributing to the Russian Representative in Tokyo conduct which would immediately and inexcusably imperil the friendly relations between the two empires. The story, we need scarcely say, is absolutely untrue. At an early date the Japanese Government decided that no permit need be carried by any ships of war accompanying the Czarwitch, so long as they did not visit unopened ports independently of the Imperial Party. Further, it had always been contemplated that a Japanese squadron should escort the Russian squadron in Japanese waters as a matter of courtesy, and to the Admiral commanding the Japanese ships authority was entrusted to issue permits enabling any of the Russian vessels to visit unopened ports independently of the Prince Imperial. All this was made clear by the vernacular press in April, for intelligence was then published that the Minister of State for the Interior had issued instructions to Local Authorities directing that if a Russian ship visited an unopened port with a permit from the Japanese Admiral, her officers and men should be allowed to land, and treated with hospitality and consideration. Thus an affair which, in truth, furnished opportunity only for the display of mutual friendliness and courtesy, is perverted by the informant of the journal quoted above into an example of needless incivility on the one side and rude menace on the other.

JAPAN IN "CHAMBER'S ENCYCLOPÆDIA."

THE ninth volume of "Chamber's Encyclopædia" contains an excellent article on Japan from the pen of Professor J. M. Dixon of the Imperial University. Filling ten of the closely printed pages of this widely known work, the article supplies a mass of well digested and carefully marshalled information. There are twenty-one minor headings, each of which is almost monographic so far as the purposes of such a work are concerned. That Professor Dixon would write accurately and exhaustively was to be expected, but he deserves to be specially complimented for the judicial spirit displayed by him in treating the vexed branches of his subject. His sense of proportion doubtless restrained him from entering into any elaborate discussion of the questions that have occupied so prominent a place in the field of the foreign residents' vision during the past ten years, but he manages to convey a succinct and impartial idea of the situation in the following paragraph: —"In 1887 the negotiations for a revision of the treaties were broken off owing to an outbreak of popular dissatisfaction with the guarantees demanded by the seventeen foreign powers acting in concert. This breakdown was followed by a distinct conservative reaction in the nation, in no way seriously affecting the steady progress of Western institutions, but marking a more cautious attitude and a more critical spirit. In the spring of 1889 the combination of treaty powers was broken through, by the action first of the United States and then of Germany and Russia, who formed treaties on their own account, abolishing extraterritoriality and sanctioning mixed residence under certain mild restrictions. These treaties were to come into force in 1890. Mexico, not a treaty power, had also arranged an independent treaty in November, 1888. Other powers prepared to follow. But a strong opposition having sprung up, the Kuroda Cabinet found itself unable to carry out the scheme, and treaty revision was once more shelved. This is the close of the first epoch in the modern history of Japan, following on the heels of the promulgation of a popular constitution, February 11th, 1889." It is not the business of a writer for an encyclopædia to indulge in speculations, but we cannot help wishing that Mr. Dixon had added the forecast of so impartial an observer as to the circumstances under which the present epoch of Japan's modern history will close. His analysis of Japanese character is as follows :—"The Japanese have many excellent qualities: they are kindly, courteous, law-abiding, cleanly in their habits, frugal, and possessed with a high sense of personal honour which makes sordidness unknown. This is associated, moreover, with an ardent patriotic spirit, quite removed from factiousness. Nowhere are good manners and artistic culture so widespread, reaching even to the lowest. On the other hand, the people are deficient in moral earnestness and courage, which leads to corruption in social life and institutions. It is only when matters have become intolerable that discipline is enforced by the use of Draconian methods. An utter lack of chivalry towards women is an unpleasing feature of the national life. Civic courage has also to be developed."

"THE HAPPY TAOTAI."

THE poets that once graced the columns of the *Chinese Times* have transferred their music to the columns of the *North China Herald*. Here is an example, clever, and in every respect delightful :—

Who is the happy Taotai? Who is he
That every Graduate should wish to be?
He is the court that blindly doth dispense
Justice—in cases which involve no pence.
The cultured conjurer of phrases neat
That melt stern proclamation into sweet
Admonishings; who quotes a classic text,
Lest native men of letters should be vext.
He is the orphan of maturer years,
Who for a sire or dam no longer fears,
Thrust in reluctant private life, to mourn;
Griefs borne in idleness are doubly borne!
Whom neither famine nor the floods annoy,
Nor lawless malice of the K'o Lao Hui;
Who waits expectant for the hour to strike,
That "China's sorrow" brings him leave to dike,
And bath in such a river hanging plann'd
To find Pactolus with its golden sand.
He is the suave, sententious best that cheers
With sanguine nothingness the willing ears
Of wand'ring Royalty, content to be
The guest of none more highly placed than he.
He is the shrewd financier who adjusts
Indemnities with charitable trusts,
And of the misplaced largesse of the world
Compounds for insults by his rabble hurled;
Whom, for his zeal, the higher powers thank
With coral button of the second rank.
This is the happy Taotai, this is he
That every graduate should wish to be.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

THE Emperor of Germany's Cabinet Order to the Minister for War on the occasion of Von Moltke's death, was as follows :—"According to God's unsearchable wisdom, Field-Marshal General Count von Moltke was called away from this life last evening. Deeply moved, I see the aged hero, my true friend and counsellor, torn from my side. I mourn with deepest pain the irreparable loss that, with me, my army and the whole German Fatherland have suffered. All honour be to his memory, which will continue to live ineffaceable on the pages of the history of the world, and will retain alive for future generations the picture of the deep thinker, the great general. Up to his last breath the deceased served my illustrious ancestors and myself with retiring simplicity, unselfish adhesion to duty, and constant loyalty, and reaped untold deserts by his eminent gifts and brilliant deeds both in victorious wars and in the quiet labours of peace, for the sake of the glory of the army and the welfare of the Fatherland, whose gratitude will never die out."

POSTAGE STAMPS.

AN expert in postage stamps is the latest production of Japan, according to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. His name is Sakai Waichiro, and his place of residence, Kiu-hoji-machi, Shinsaibashi, Osaka. He began to collect stamps and learn to judge them four or five years ago, and he is now said to have been employed by a firm in St. Louis as a collector and examiner of the stamps of all nations. The *Yomi-uri* adds that no one has yet succeeded in putting together the postage stamps of the whole world, and that if anyone did suceeed, his collection would be worth many tens of thousands of *yen*.

* * *

We read in another journal, the *Tokyo Shimpo*, that a tradesman, by name Yoshizawa, residing at No. 5, Konyacho in the Kanda district of Tokyo, is busily engaged collecting old post-cards, envelopes, and so forth. For a hundred perfect specimens of the brick-red double post-cards with vermilion borders, issued in 1873, he pays a hundred and fifty *yen*. All other postage stamps and covers of the *Meiji* era are readily purchased for purposes of export. Among all the crazes that have graced or disgraced this nineteenth century none is more perplexing to the uninitiated than the collecting of postage stamps. Probably the occupation has some charms if one could only divine them, but from a rational point of view rabbits, roses, or even pigs seem preferable objects of dilettantism.

A COMPOSITION.

HERE is an essay written by a little Japanese lad in a certain country school. We give it verbatim, not for the sake of its halting English, but for reasons which need not be explained to those capable of appreciating them :—

Spring, June 8th, 1891.

I have been lately in a boat under a hill for my study. On the last of those days, I jumped up and looked, once on the hill; the heaven, is pure, blue, and clear, in which the warm and delicate golden sun is sending down his light unto his child [meaning the Earth evidently]. As I gazed down the Face of the child whose face, which inclines to cold on account of giving up gradually his own heat that, when he was born between his father and mother he was bestowed by them, which, I supposed will be yellow and wrinkled, I surprised for the preceeding supposition was converse and opposite: the hair is green, the lake is clear and cheerful, a fishing tongue is wandering about the lake, the lips are singing their songs, and the beautiful cheeks are dotted with pink or red colours the nice face.

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE NEW MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

HIS EXCELLENCY VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA, the new Minister of State for Home Affairs, addressed the following instructions to Local Officials and Police throughout the empire on the 15th instant :—"Although my want of ability and the weak state of my health disqualify me for the proper discharge of the duties of Minister of State for Home Affairs, I have resolved, in deference to the gracious mandate of our Imperial Sovereign, to assume the functions of that important post. By earnest attention I hope to establish touch with all classes, and to show my gratitude for His Majesty's favour. The Local Government system is the pivot of the domestic polity. Local autonomy is the basis of national organization. To make this basis firm, attention must be paid to the development of genuine strength rather than to the elaboration of externals. The system of Local Government has hardly reached the stage of practical inception and has by no means attained completion. Steps must be taken to foster the spirit of autonomy, and to extend the actuality of the system. To preserve social order and public tranquillity is the function of the police. A constable's prime duty in the presence of an emergency or at a moment

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of crisis is to choose wisely between leniency and severity; to count himself before everything as a guard; to avoid the habit of employing his authority oppressively; to treat all persons fairly and benevolently, taking these two principles as guides in his every-day practice. Constitutional institutions have been inaugurated. Administration by law has become an accomplished fact. The provisions of law have at length been brought to fullness. Administrative expenses have increased, but that is inevitable. Nevertheless, administrative progress must keep pace with the development of material resources. Strict economy has to be made a prime object; external adornment avoided, and the growth of the national strength fostered. The aim of the executive is to advance the public interests. The achievement of that aim depends upon the conduct of officials, and it is essential that they should recognise the fact. Such are the general objects of domestic administration. Its details will be shown according to circumstances and occasion. The Home Department stands to the localities in the position of a head to a body. Unless the channels of moral communication between the two be uninterrupted, administration cannot be successful. Therefore I offer this explanation, trusting that it will be clearly understood."

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE Equitable Life Assurance Society, the originator of the Tontine system of life assurance, has sent to Japan a representative, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, to bring its advantages under the notice of the public. Such a step is only in keeping with the enterprise of the Society, and with the wonderful position it has taken among the insurance corporations of the world. The Equitable, we find, carries £36,513,354 of new assurance; £131,461,805 of assurance in force; has a premium income of £5,319,221, and a surplus of £4,733,557, the percentage of assets to liabilities being £127. The American company which came next to the Equitable at the end of 1889, had £31,583,851 of new assurance; £117,883,206 of assurance in force; a premium income of £4,943,304, and a surplus of £2,011,927, its percentage of assets to liabilities being £108. To quote from a *brochure* issued by the society, we find that taking the latest returns of the forty British companies reporting the largest amount of new business written, and adding the new business of all these forty companies together, we reach a total of £28,864,938. The excess of the business of the Equitable, for a single year, over the total new business of these forty companies is, therefore, nearly eight million pounds sterling. * * * "Among the improvements in American life assurance, none have done more to revolutionise the practise or stimulate the business than the adaptation by the Equitable Society, nearly twenty years ago, of the Tontine principle to the accumulation and distribution of bonuses. The improvement was designed to meet three criticisms which had previously been made against life assurance:

First—That large profits were realized by the representatives of those policy-holders who died early, but who had paid comparatively little, while those who lived longer paid more and received less in proportion to their contributions.

Second—That an assurance policy on the life plan, the cheapest and, therefore, the only available form of assurance to a large number, *could never be terminated without a sacrifice* except upon the death of the assured.

Third—That notwithstanding the incidental loss, many persons, for trifling causes, allowed their policies to lapse, where, if additional inducements or special rewards were offered to those who continued, the widows or estates of many assurers would secure benefits which would otherwise be often lost to them.

The system was attacked by nearly every company then in active business, but has since been adopted by *every leading company in the United States and Canada*, and by companies in Great Britain and Australasia; and to-day, this system is popular throughout the civilised world. Thousands of the Society's Tontine policies have matured during recent years, and have returned larger profits than can be shown under any other form of Life Assurance; and the publication of the results has greatly increased the business of the Society. * * * Under the Free Tontine policy the assured has absolute freedom as to travel, residence, and occupation after one year from the time of assurance. The Society will not accept those already engaged in dangerous occupations or already residing in tropical regions at the ordinary rates. They will be charged extra rates, and those contemplating dangerous travel or occupation will be prevented by the one year of probation from insuring under this form, except at extra rates. Those, however, who happen casually to undertake such dangerous travel or occupation, after having been assured, will enjoy absolute freedom and protection without the payment of any extra premium, but an extra charge is, of course, made for military and naval service in time of war. Every free Tontine Policy may be surrendered at any time after being three years in force, and a paid-up policy issued in lieu thereof for a liberal amount, duly fixed by the rule laid down in the statutes of the State of New York. In the case of Limited Premium Life policies and Endowment Policies, after premiums for three years have been paid, Paid-up Assurance is granted for as many parts (fifths, tenths, fifteenths, twentieths, &c., as the case may be) of the original amount assured as there shall have been complete annual premiums received by the Society. For example, a 10-years Endowment Policy for £10,000 may be surrendered after three years for a paid-up policy for three-tenths, or £3,000; after four years, for four-tenths, or £4,000; and so on. * * * * Of 1,669 death claims paid in 1889, more than *one-half* (1,018) were paid *the very day* proofs of death were received; while more than *four-fifths* of the whole were paid within ten days, and if some of the payments had not been delayed by the failure of the beneficiaries to prove their title or to submit their proofs in proper form, the Society would have been able to report the immediate payment of every claim." The Tontine system of assurance, plainly then, if these statements mean anything, is the system of the future. Already, we are told, 90 per cent. of the assurances effected in the United States are on this plan, and its popularity is on the increase.

GOLD AND SILVER RATIOS.

THE *Official Gazette* gives the following table of comparative values of gold and silver coins and of the pound sterling for the week ended the 13th inst., as derived from the returns of the Bank of Japan and the Yokohama Special Bank:—

Day	Gold Coin, (Per *yen* 100) Silver Yen.		Pound Sterling (Per £1) Silver Yen.
8th	126.200	A.M. P.M.	6.2337
9th	126.200	A.M. P.M.	6.2337
10th	126.200	A.M. P.M.	6 2540
11th	127.200	A.M. P.M.	6.2540
12th	127.000	A.M. P.M.	6.2540
13th	127.000	A.M. P.M.	6.2540
Averages	126.633		6.2472

The above averages show for gold coin a decrease in value of *yen* 0.934 per cent., and for the pound sterling a decrease in value of *yen* 0.0273 as compared with the previous week.

COUNT ITO AND THE RADICAL ORGAN.

THE *Jiyu*, principal organ of the Radicals, is resolved, if possible, to arouse hostility to Count Ito among the members of its party. It relates a conversation said to have taken place between the Count and a certain friend, in which the former, adopting the boastful tone which the *Jiyu* is pleased to attribute to him, but of which those that know him well find difficulty in recalling any instances, is reported to have declared that, numerous as the Radicals are, their ranks include but two men of any real promise, namely, Messrs. Kono and Matsuda. These two, the Count is made to say, if they had two or three years' training as local officials, might perhaps qualify for good positions in the Central Government. The *Jiyu*, crediting this story, is naturally very irate at the superciliousness shown by the President of the Privy Council, but we venture to doubt whether Count Ito ever made use of such language. The story is altogether incredible, and reflects as little credit on its inventor as on its publisher.

SANITARY PRECAUTIONS.

IT is very satisfactory to observe that Her Britannic Majesty's Minister has readily lent his assistance to protect Japan against the ingress of cholera. The Notification just issued over his signature requires all British vessels, whatever their ports of departure or call, to receive a visit from the Health Officers on arriving in Japan, in order that it may be ascertained whether any cholera has occurred on board during the voyage. The vessels will not be called upon to show their bills of health. A simple declaration as to the occurrence or non-occurrence of cholera will suffice, we believe. Should it be found that a case has occurred, the ship will be treated as though she had sailed from or touched at a port declared to be infected. This procedure will not subject ships to any detention or inconvenience, but will decidedly strengthen the system of cholera prevention.

MR. VARLEY'S PICTURES IN LONDON.

MR. JOHN VARLEY, a portion of whose paintings of Japanese scenery were exhibited last month in Tokyo and Yokohama, to the great pleasure of all lovers of art, has made a marked success in London. We learn privately that his paintings were eagerly purchased at prices which showed the public's appreciation of their merits. The press notices have been highly favourable. Painting contemporaneously with Mr. Varley during a portion of the latter's sojourn in Japan, was Mr. C. S. Fripp, of whose pictures we had not the pleasure of seeing any examples. The tastes of the two artists lay in different directions, for while Mr. Varley preferred landscapes, Mr. Fripp chose figure subjects. Their combined work must have made a delightful show when exhibited in Mr. Larkin's gallery, No. 28, New Bond street. The *Pall Mall Budget* says:—"Mr. Varley has been everywhere and seen everything. He takes you along the shores of Tokyo Bay, into the rice-fields where harvesting is going on, to the tombs at Nikko, by the lake at Yumoto; lands you outside one of the big hotels, or puts you on board among the fishing craft. The sea he also delights in, and the old temples, the pagodas, and the tea-houses are often his land-marks, and whether he paints sunshine or rain, he is equally happy in the portrayal."

COLLECTORS OF JAPANESE ART OBJECTS.

THE last number of the *Art Journal* contains the following:—

Collectors of works of Art probably always indulge in the hope that besides the profit derived from the enjoyment of their possessions they may also obtain a good return whenever they way wish to realise them. There are few who regard them in the same light as Mr. Ruskin, who would no more have us expect them to increase in value than he would a horse out of which he had for years derived enjoyment and his money's worth of use. Some collectors, and they are not a few, are so exigeant that they look to reap far higher returns from this class of investment than they would readily rest satisfied with in the matter of stocks and shares. They demand an increase all along the line, and feel themselves aggrieved unless the rises in value far more than counterbalance the declines; these take no note of the return to them of interest in the shape of pleasure, and total it up against their possessions at a usurer's rate Some again there are who look for the same enchancement, although they have bought with a tithe only of the circumspection they would exercise over the purchase even of a brewery share, perhaps without any more knowledge than that imparted to them by an interested vendor. An investment in Art, if it is to be made from the point of view of a good one, must be approached with as much care as one in a South-African gold-mine, or an American cattle-ranche.

Our attention has been directed to this subject by a notable instance of the profits which have just resulted from placing money in the Fine Arts. Few collectors of late years have been so confident of the prospective value of what they amass as those who have turned their attention to Japanese Art of the past. They have continued hopeful on the subject, in the face of many detractors who have failed to appreciate its qualities, and in spite of the moderate prices which have ftentimes been accorded to it when put to the test of ublic auction. As regards this latter, collectors have

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afforded to disregard it, for so long as the classification of objects is left by the auctioneers to clerks who know no better than to string together and sell by the dozen precious little *bibelots* which have never been used to such savage treatment, their merits are naturally overlooked by the crowd, and the *cognoscenti* can acquire them at less than the price of a song. But when they are treated with the respect they deserve they always command their value in the auction room.

Remarkable evidence of this, and of what a good investment Art may be, has occurred at the sale which has just taken place of the Art objects of Mr. Burty. That gentleman was one of the large group of believers in Japanese Art which inhabits Paris. Possessed of much more taste than money, he could only manage, by living in a tiny flat in the unfashionable quarter of the Battignoles, and spending the least possible amount upon himself, to satisfy his passion for acquiring Japanese Art. He did not collect as an investment, but he was always ready to stand in the gate against unbelievers, and declare, "Well, you will see, the time will come when what I buy for francs will be worth louis." That time has arrived far sooner than he expected. His sudden death, a short while ago, caused his well-beloved treasures to be brought under the hammer. Admirably catalogued by M. Bing, the sale attracted buyers even from America and England. Many of the Parisians too, accustomed to the ordinary objects sold in the shops of the Boulevards at high prices, were amazed at the delicate beauty and refinement which characterized Mr. Burty's objects. The result was that in every department prices were reached which exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine; £550 for a small picnic set, £65 for a sword-guard, £80 for a tiny medicine case, were amongst the sums paid, and which in every case exceeded by many times what they had cost the owner. These turned his investment of fifty or sixty thousand francs into at least six times that amount.

The growing appreciation of the Art, added to the increasing difficulty of meeting the demand through the cessation of the exports of Art objects from Japan, warrants the belief that no more profitable investment is to be met with at the present time than careful purchases of genuine old Japanese wares.

The editor of the *Art Journal*, himself a connoisseur of no mean order in the Oriental field, is doubtless quite right when he describes as a good investment "careful purchases of genuine old Japanese wares," but he would have done well to add something of what is involved in following this advice. It amounts almost to a marvel to observe how folks otherwise sensible and square-headed, allow themselves to be carried away by the notion that any one, however deficient in training or experience, can become at once a successful purchaser of Japanese objects of *virtu*. We should say that, on a moderate calculation, an amateur seeking to become a fairly competent expert, must be prepared to pay about ten thousand dollars for his preliminary instruction. Reading books, studying catalogues, and inspecting collections are all valuable aids in their way, but until experience is actually bought by repeated and costly failures no solid position of discriminating knowledge can be reached. Without natural taste, too, it is probable that success can never be achieved, but as most persons who collect are impelled to do so by the urgency of this faculty, we need not insist on its possession. The main point is that whereas a man would not dream of purchasing silk, tea, or other every-day staples of commerce until he had duly qualified to discern the good from the bad, he will plunge cheerfully into curio buying where not only very wide knowledge and experience are essential, but where also hundreds of crafty dealers are on the watch to take advantage of this very recklessness. However, the public has always been *entêté* about such things. Probably there is question of some providential dispensation not appreciable by common mortals.

ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE *Choya Shimbun* offers some very sound advice to the Government. It urges the importance of two points; first, that the composition of the Cabinet should be as homogeneous as possible, and secondly that the Ministers of State should not allow themselves to be influenced by every wind of political doctrine, but should remain at their posts so long as ever they retain the confidence of their Sovereign. The *Choya* suggests that Ministers have become impatient, and have ceased to be tenacious of office since they acquired independent fortunes. In former years they found themselves obliged to rely on the emoluments attached to their position, and were consequently reluctant to resign, but they are now men of private means, and consciousness of the fact renders them indifferent to the solid inducements of official life. Such a state of affairs has its advantages, no doubt, but if the pecuniary need of remaining in office does not supply a bond of cohesion, other considerations ought to deter Ministers from abandoning their posts too easily. As to homogeneity, the *Choya* condemns all attempts to obey picturesque or romantic principles in organizing a Cabinet. Never was there a more divided Cabinet than the celebrated combination of all the talents brought together by Count Kuroda in 1889, and the *Choya* is evidently disposed to think that the idea of forming a Cabinet without any preponderance of the great clans, may now have resulted in a similarly loosely knit and inefficient body. There seems to us to be much wisdom in these remarks.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

THE following appointments are said to have been made on Monday:—

Name.	Appointment.	Previous Position.
Mr. Hayashi Kaoru	Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Governor of Hyogo.
Mr. Su Kohei	Governor of Hyogo	Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.
Mr. Nishimura Sutezo	Vice-Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce	Governor of Osaka.
Mr. Yamada Nobumichi	Governor of Osaka	Governor of Fukushima.
Baron Watanabe Kyoshi	Governor of Fukushima.	
Mr. Okeshi Tōru	Governor of Shiga	Secretary of Nagasaki Prefecture.
Mr. Watanabe Chiaki	Chief of the Hokkaido Administration	Governor of Shiga.
Viscount Okabe	Minister Plenipotentiary	Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Mr. Nishimura Sutezo, who becomes Vice-Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, *vice* Mr. Ishida, whose troubles with the House of Representatives are doubtless fresh in our readers' minds, served from May, 1887, to March, 1890, as Chief of the Engineering Bureau in the Department of Home Affairs. It will be a source of general regret that the name of Mr. Oki Morikata does not appear in the above list, for the hope was widely entertained that the hardship of his removal from the Governorship of Shiga would be speedily compensated by another appointment.

FOREIGN PATENTS IN JAPAN.

ERRORS die hard. Speaking of the suit which has just been instituted in the Japanese Courts on behalf of a foreigner who seeks to obtain registration of a patent in Japan, a local contemporary denounces the injustice of the Japanese Government for refusing to extend this privilege to foreigners, and even goes so far as to declare that the refusal confirms the suspicion of a deliberate plan to benefit by foreign patents at the expense of their owners. No one who has taken the least trouble to inform himself should be in any doubt about the facts of this case. Nearly all the civilized States in the world have entered into a union having for its object the mutual protection of patents and trade-marks. Japan would willingly enter this union, but the existence of the extra-territorial system presents a fatal difficulty. To explain the meaning of the difficulty, let us take an object lesson. Suppose that Great Britain and Japan agreed to afford mutual protection to the trade-marks and patents of their respective subjects. Then British patents would be secured against violation by British subjects within British territory. But how would it fare with British subjects within the limits of the foreign settlements? Plainly the provisions of the English law of patents and trade-marks would not extend to British subjects in Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki, and so forth. In short Japanese patents, while enjoying protection in the United Kingdom and its colonies, might be violated with impunity by British subjects at the open ports. Special legislation on the part of all the Powers would be necessary to provide for this. To procure such legislation would be a task probably of years, and it can scarcely be expected that Japan should open negotiations for the purpose. The *impasse* is thus due not to any blameworthy reluctance on her part, but to the conditions created by the Treaties. As for the Englishman who is spending money on an attempt to establish a legal claim to patent his invention in Japan under the provisions of Japanese law, he must be a particularly sanguine person. It is true that the letter of the Japanese Law of Patents does not explicitly exclude foreigners from participating in the protection it affords. But it has always been held that the provisions of Japanese law apply to Japanese subjects only, and there does not appear to be the smallest probability that the Courts will take the extraordinary course of declaring that a foreigner is entitled to enjoy the privileges conferred by Japanese law without being subject to its penalties. The language of Her Majesty's Minister in Japan in a recent despatch to Lord Salisbury is sufficiently distinct:—"There are no remedies open to British subjects whose trade marks are infringed in Japan by Japanese subjects. Until a few years ago the Japanese Government did not hesitate, when cases of such infringement were brought to its notice by the diplomatic representatives of the country concerned, to lend its assistance in putting a stop to the practices complained of. Of late years, however, it has declined to interfere, on the ground that so long as extra-territoriality exists, and its own laws are not binding on foreigners in Japan, it cannot, in accordance with any express provision of law, compel its subjects to respect foreign trade marks."

SAILING RACE.

ONE of the best sailing races ever witnessed in the bay took place on Saturday, the boats competing being *Isabel*, *Petrel*, *Jessie*, *Sayonara*, and *Ajidaumo*, all of the B division of the Sailing Club's fleet. The start was made at 2.30 by Mr. Beart from *Daimyo*, and the two canoes, *Sayonara* and *Ajidaumo* were first across the line followed, within a few seconds, by *Petrel* and *Isabel*. *Jessie* by an inadvertence went on the wrong side of the flag-boat, and had to return and recross, a process not at all facilitated or expedited by the circumstance that she had to take in her spinnaker and luff up to do so. Over a minute and a half of most valuable time was lost by this. Once across, however, *Jessie* was kept going, and soon got up on the canoes, rounding the flag-boat at the end of the breakwater only a minute astern of *Isabel* and *Petrel*. The reach down to the mark at Kanagawa was a warm one for all, a fresh southerly breeze sending them along in fine order. Half way to the mark *Jessie* was up to *Petrel*, and despite some little luffing manœuvres she edged ahead and getting up to windward of *Isabel*, took the lead from her. She was first at the Kanagawa mark, *Isabel* next, *Petrel* third, and *Sayonara* fourth, *Ajidaumo* over a couple of minutes astern of the last mentioned. It hardly seemed when the leaders came about and laid for home, as if they could fetch, but in a few minutes the wind, which had dropped a little, freshened up again, and it became apparent that if *Daimyo* intended to place the officer of the day where he could time the finish she must bustle along. For *Jessie* was walking up at a great pace and off the Harbour works pier near the Railway Station *Daimyo* had to put her helm up and get out of the way. But by setting her gaff topsail the big cutter got the most that she could out of the little puffs that came out from the land, and was just able to drop her anchor outside the bathing barge when *Jessie* was not more than fifty yards from the line. *Jessie* got her gun just one minute before *Isabel* should have received hers had not the Club's musket, contrarily disposed, refused to go off. *Petrel* arrived twenty seconds after *Isabel*, and the question now was, could *Sayonara* save her time? She proved unable to do so, being twenty-three seconds to the bad on her allowance as a 13-rater. Mr. Campbell, however, pointed out after his arrival that he had reduced his canvas to rate only 12½, and had so notified the honorary secretary. On this rating his allowance would be 5m. 12s., being 43 seconds better than before, and he, therefore, should have first place, *Ajidaumo* coming in too late to affect the result. But attention having now been direct-

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ed to *Sayonara*, it was seen that her mainsail did not reach within a foot of the lacing hole in the boom, and on the assumption that the spar was the same as before, the mere cutting down of the sail was not enough, as the measurement must under the rules be taken from the lacing hole. As the sail area had not been measured, by the official measurer, Mr. Beart, and as the rating was now disputed, it appeared necessary that the sails should be officially measured but we are unable to state what decision has been reached by the Committee. We append the official times :—

	Breakwater.	Kanagawa.	Finish.	Allowance. m.s.	Corrected Time
Isabel	27	3.39.55	3.01.50	3.24.35	—	3.24.35
Petrel	16	2.39.56	3.02.15	3.24.55	0.57	3.23.58
Jessie	16	2.40.40	3.01.30	3.23.35	0.57	3.22.38
Sayonara	13	2.41.10	3.04.10	3.27.30	4.29	3.23.01
Ayedaima	13	2.41.10	3.06.35	3.31.40	5.57	3.25.43

EXPORT DUTIES.

THE crusade against export duties is carried on vigorously by the *Keishin* Club and the vernacular press. The *Mainichi Shimbun* takes up the subject, and recapitulates the stock arguments, namely, that by reducing duties the conditions under which Japanese goods can be placed in foreign markets will be improved, the convenience of exporters will be materially consulted, and so forth. But the *Mainichi* adds a rider to the effect that, since foreigners will also benefit by the abolition of duties, some *quid pro quo* should be sought from them. We are surprised to observe that another and very important phase of the project is not touched at all by the Japanese papers, namely, the fact that the duty levied upon the bulk of Japanese exports does not affect their sale to any appreciable extent in foreign countries. During last year the total value of the exports upon which duties were levied was 35,986,240 *yen*, and the duties aggregated 1,433,672 *yen*. But of the former total, tea and silk—exclusive of silk manufacturers—figured for a sum of 23,064,101 *yen*, and the duties paid by these two staples amounted to 930,510 *yen*. Now Japanese tea and Japanese silk do not come into competition with similar articles in the West. Both are alone in their classes, and it would make no appreciable difference in the demand whether the tax of 560,014 *yen*—the amount paid last year by silk—were taken off or still levied on a trade of some seventeen millions; or whether the 6¼ millions of exported tea were cheapened to the extent of 370,496 *yen*. Reductions of 3½ per cent. in the price of Japanese silk and 5½ per cent. in the price of Japanese tea, are not going to influence the markets of Europe and America in respect of these two commodities. The members of the *Keishin* Club, being shrewd business men, doubtless understand all this very clearly, but the press has hitherto taken no note of it. If we rule out the items of tea and silk, the total value of duty-paying exports last year becomes 12,422,139 *yen*, and the total duties paid stand at 503,162 *yen*. Exclusive, therefore, of the two great staples, there is not much to deal with, and the object of the *Keishin* Club's crusade looks insignificant. We are entirely at one with the general purpose of the Club, but we cannot help thinking that discrimination may be exercised with advantage.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

WE are informed by the agents, Messrs. Fraser Farley and Varnum, that the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Standard Life Assurance Company was held at Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 28th of April, 1891, to declare the results of the business for the past year, and to receive the report on the investigation of the company's affairs and division of surplus funds for the five years ended 15th November, 1890. The following results for the year ended 15th November, 1890, were reported :—3,390 new proposals for life assurance were received during the year for £1,802,209; 3,030 policies were issued, assuring £1,572,248; the total existing assurances in force at 15th November, 1890, amounted to £21,545,649; inclusive of sums re-assured with other offices; the claims during the year amounted, including bonus additions, to £627,125; the annual revenue for the year ended 15th November, 1890, amounted to £991,957; the accumulated funds at same date amounted to £7,488,625, being an increase during the year of £144,668. The total surplus of the five years was found to be £663,771, from which, after providing for the intermediate bonus already paid between 1885-90, and setting aside a further sum of £40,000 towards the reserve fund, which would now amount to £80,000, a bonus was declared, giving reversionary additions to the aggregate amount of £1,014,000. The rate of bonus to the colonial scheme is at the rate of 28s. per cent. per annum, being the same as on the occasion of last division in 1885, with an intermediate bonus at the rate of 20s. per cent. perannum for policies becoming claims between 15th November, 1891, and 15th November, 1895. It was also intimated that after this date the claims under all the Company's policies would be payable immediately on proof of death and title to the satisfaction of the Directors at the Head Office.

THE RADICALS.

THE indefatigable Radicals, undismayed by their recent mishaps, held another meeting at the Koseikan on the 14th instant, an audience of some two thousand people assembling, partly doubtless to hear the speeches, but partly also to see the sport. Mr. Tatsuno Shuichiro was in the chair, and according to the *Jiyu's* report, he opened the meeting thus :—"You are aware, gentlemen, that when we held a meeting the other day, we had the misfortune to be ordered to disperse, and that, re-assembling on the 2nd instant, we met with the same fate even before the object of the meeting had been declared. Such a circumstance is unprecedented. For what reason the Government thus interferes with freedom of speech, I cannot tell. The newspapers on the Government's side with poisoned pen abuse our party. Some of them even go so far as to say that we have made a failure. Perhaps we have, but for my own part I confess that I have never before heard of a blind man criticising the correctness of other people's vision, or a deaf man the clearness of their hearing, or a dumb man their manner of talking, or a lame man their fashion of walking." The speaker then entered into a detailed criticism of the recklessness of "official newspapers," and was proceeding to assail the "Camera Cabinet," when the police warned him to be careful. Thereupon, changing the burden of his speech, he said that in days of unlimited monarchies in Europe there had been news agencies which became official instruments and supplied to all the journals in the country news favourable to the Government. They were not worth supporting, but, strange to say, they had been maintained, and the cost of their maintenance was taken from the proceeds of "the people's blood and toil," namely, that portion of the taxes known as the secret service fund. It was not to be supposed that such things could exist in a constitutionally governed country like Japan, but if they did exist, a medicine to heal the disease must be obtained from abroad. That medicine could not be found in European countries, according to the speaker, but where it might be found and what it was, he had no opportunity of explaining, for the police ordered him to desist, and amid many demonstrations of impatience from the audience, he vacated the rostrum. The next speaker was Mr. Uneshita Kumano. He attacked the Government with reference to the Budget, pointing out that whereas they had originally declared the impossibility of reducing the Estimates so much as a *sen*, without impairing the efficiency of the Executive, they had ultimately, after consultation with the Committee, agreed to a reduction of 6½ millions. He asked whether an administration whose practice and professions differed so widely, could be trusted, and he then proceeded to criticise as weak the action of the Government in respect of the Otsu incident, promising in conclusion that if the Radicals were in power, they would show a different record. Mr. Fukui Koji then spoke. His theme was the falling of blossoms and the rusting of blades. Cherry flowers disappear, while men's hearts are still filled with their beauty, but rust creeps on slowly, disfiguring to the point of contempt what was once bright and keen. The Radicals, he explained, had urged the Cabinet's resignation, believing that it would best consult its own reputation by retiring before rust and decay made themselves visible. He, too, had much to say about the journals that had attacked the Radicals' procedure. With characteristic discrimination he classed them all as official organs. Then came Mr. Mizuguchi Ichijiro, his theme being "words and deeds." The spirit of the Restoration, he said, had been government in accordance with public opinion; constitutional government, in short, though the name did not then exist. But to-day the name only existed, and the fact was the old despotic government. Cabinet responsibility was the pivot of constitutional government, but the present Cabinet was responsible to the Emperor only, not to the people. Ministers did not care though they ran counter to public opinion and forfeited the confidence of the nation. They oppressed their opponents, and muzzled free speech. "Did they not remember the fate of the Third Napoleon?"—which question the police answered by requesting the speaker to resume his seat. Mr. Kurihara Ryoichi expatiated on the same theme, distinguishing between personal responsibility and collective responsibility. If a Minister's views differed from those of his colleagues, it was very well that he alone should retire; but when there was question of a national blunder, the whole Cabinet must go out of office. He adduced from English and French history instances in support of his theory. The next speaker, was Mr. Takahashi Shonosuke, whose remarks about international relations provoked police interference, and immediately afterwards the meeting was ordered to disperse.

A VOTE.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* has been inviting public opinion as to the person who, of the whole Japanese nation, is most worthy to be depicted in heliotype and issued in the form of a supplement to "the pink paper.' Votes were called for, the lists to be closed on the 15th instant. Twelve hundred and thirty-nine people responded to the invitation—a remarkably small number—and the following was the result :—

	Votes.
Mr. Fukuzawa	970
Mr. Miura Goro	129
Count Ito	42
Count Okuma	18
Count Katsu	15
Mr. Shibusawa Yeiichi	15
Viscount Yenomoto	12

The list does not include the names of men who obtained less than ten votes. Indeed, under the circumstances, it might have been omitted altogether, we venture to think.

ANTI-FOREIGN.

THE *Foi* spirit may be exhibited in two ways, says the *Choya Shimbun*: it may be a wholesale anti-foreign sentiment, or it may be simply a tendency to self-assertion and independence. The latter inclination should be planted in the bosoms of Japanese, in order to preserve their national rights, interests, and honour; but that the former should exist even in appearance among educated and highly placed persons, seems to the *Choya*, very extraordinary. It roundly condemns the use, by leading journals or publications said to be the organs of political bodies, of such epithets as *Foi* (洋夷), Western barbarians, *Ryokugan-ji* (綠眼兒), blue-eyed urchins, and *Sekizen-do* (赤髯奴), red-bearded fellows. What impression will the employment of such terms produce upon foreigners who understand them, asks the *Choya*. Then again, some are so hot-headed as to preach a crusade against the employment of foreign ship-masters; others denounce the missionary schools, and some even go so far as to find fault with the charities of Christian missionaries. Yet, strange to say, the writers who formerly gained notoriety by a display of this form of the *Foi* spirit are the very men to

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clamour most loudly against Tsuda Sanzo, to urge the despatch of an ambassador to Russia even after the Czar has deprecated such a step, and to cry out for the resignation of the Cabinet on account of the Otsu incident. Careless how much insult they lavish upon foreigners in times of tranquillity, content to let their organs treat Westerns with contempt and disrespect in quiet seasons, they fall into a state of trepidation and nervous anxiety on behalf of the empire's foreign relations when anything unusual happens.

* * *

We understand this outspoken article. It is directed primarily against the *Nippon*, a journal which has done much to foster an antiforeign feeling, and which showed itself for a time conspicuously busy in attempting to extinguish the fire it had kindled. We do not think of charging the *Nippon* with any deliberate attempt to revive the *Joi* spirit, or even to promote dislike of foreigners. Its object has simply been to start a reaction against the wholesale adoption of foreign institutions and against the national self-effacement incidental to such a mood. Neither do we think that any anti-foreign feeling, in the old sense of the term, has been excited. The outcome of the writings and sayings of the Nationalist Party (the *Kokusui-hozon-to*), speaking generally, is limited to a self-assertive disposition. Different persons, however, have different methods of asserting themselves, and sometimes the methods adopted may bear a dangerously close resemblance to those of pre-Restoration days. Tsuda Sanzo, however, was not a case in point. His attempt upon the life of the Czarevitch was prompted by special considerations which might have influenced him whatever was the nature of his feeling towards foreigners as a body. His crime has been spoken of as an anti-foreign ebullition, but such a description merely illustrates the carelessness so often displayed by foreign writers in discussing Japanese affairs. The difficulty confronting the leaders of the nationalistic movement is that the zeal of their propagandism imparts itself to their followers without the restraints that accompany it in their own case. Nobody supposes that when the *Chiusei Nippo* indites scathing editorials against the victims of "foreign intoxication," Viscount Torio, whom the paper represents, is to be suspected of seriously seeking to sweep away Occidental civilization and everybody or everything connected with it. And when periodicals like the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* and the *Kassekai* follow the lead of the two Viscounts (Torio and Tani) people of discernment understand that there is question only of preserving what Japanese conservatives deem good, and that no notion, however remote, is entertained of resuming an attitude of national isolation. But the movement is undoubtedly carried to dangerous lengths, and journals like the *Choya* do a public service when they counsel the expediency of caution.

THE "KOLAO HUI."

RECENT events in China have brought the *Kolao Hui* into such prominence that few of our readers are are ignorant of the fact that it is a secret society, suspected on the strongest grounds of being at the bottom of the anti-Christian riots. A proclamation issued on the 5th inst. by the Viceroy of Nanking shows us something more of the society than we have hitherto known.—"The members of the *Kolao Hui*" says the Viceroy, "appoint their own leaders, secretly engrave false seals, distribute pieces of cloth (as proof of membership), make recruits, and commit crimes contrary to the established laws. Their guilt cannot be expiated even by death punishment. I have taken steps to discover and arrest them in every direction. Once captured and convicted the members shall suffer instant death in accordance with the special laws which have been framed to punish secret societies without mercy being shown. Still in the Kolao Society there are plenty who are willing members, but at the same time there are also many ignorant people who have been duped and misled. These joined with the expectation of being assisted with money and food and clothing, and of being backed up in cases of disputes. They trusted blindly to the society's promises, and bought the cloth ticket. It is true that to enter the society is itself a crime punishable by the laws, but taking into consideration that their original intention was excusable and that they have only stepped into a trap prepared for their destruction, I am unwilling that the jade and stone should be indiscriminately consigned to the fire (the actually and apparently guilty should be equally punished) just at this juncture of making arrests. Therefore by this proclamation I notify you, people of all classes, to take warning. Those who have bought the cloth ticket to become Kolao members, should take the earliest opportunity to retreat, burn the cloth ticket, repent, turn over a new leaf, enter into some other occupation, and become good subjects, so as to save their lives, or hand the cloth ticket to the authorities, who will do the burning. Any one secretly informing the officials as to who the Kolao leaders are, when these are convicted, not only will be exempted from punishment, but will be heavily rewarded. Even if the leaders should themselves truly repent and come forth, their past conduct will not be inquired into."

KOREAN LEGENDS.

THE TANGUN.

FIVE thousand years ago while the peninsula of Korea was as yet inhabited by only savage beasts, and still more savage men, a wonder appeared in Heaven. The son of the great Buddha, afflicted with Divine ennui, stood before his father's throne, and asked permission to take upon himself an earthly form and rule over an earthly kingdom. Permission was granted, and the fiat went forth. Meanwhile, another wonder was seen, but not in Heaven. In the heart of the primeval forest of northern Korea, in a gloomy cave on the side of the Pak Tou (white head) mountain, a bear and a tiger met and held a colloquy. "Would that we might become men" they said, and even as they spoke they heard the voice of the Great Buddha saying, "Here are twenty bunches of garlic for each of you. Eat them and keep yourselves hidden from the light of the sun for twenty-one days and you shall become men." They ate and went far back into the inner recesses of the cave to stay in total darkness for the allotted time, but the tiger by reason of the fierceness and impatience of his nature could not enduce the long restraint, and wandered forth with his beastly nature intensified so that he is the greatest enemy to man.* But the bear with greater faith and patience remained the allotted time and then stepped forth into the sunlight a perfect woman. As she sat beneath the shade of an ancient cedar by the stream the only thought in her heart was that of maternity, and the only words her lips framed were "Would that I had a son." As she sat thus lovely but melancholy there passed her on the wind the spirit of Buddha's son seeking earthly form. It beheld her there alone, sitting by the stream and stopped in mid-career. It circled round her, breathed upon her, won her; and her cry was answered. She cradled her babe in moss beneath that same ancient cedar by the stream, and there, in after years, when he had grown to manhood, a band of savage natives found him sitting in deep and holy contemplation. They made him their king. Such is the story of the Tangun, the man, half beast, half divine. He reigned two thousand years, a divine day, and there went back to his father.

THE FOUNDING OF SILLA.

Two thousand one hundred years ago the peninsula of Korea did not consist of one consolidated kingdom, but was split up into a large number of petty states. In the north was one comparatively large kingdom which extended far beyond the present limits of the country, but in the south there were over seventy little states each consisting of one or two hundred square miles. In those days an army of thirty men was considered well-nigh invincible. Six of the most powerful of these little kings met in the south eastern part of the land and consulted in regard to a consolidation of forces. They decided to unite and form one powerful kingdom but they could not make up their minds as to who should be king. At last they agreed upon a youth named Hyok Kaw Say. And who was Hyok Kaw Say? Some years before his appointment as King a remarkable event occurred. A party of people were strolling in the forest on a mountain side in Southern Korea when they were terrified by seeing before them a powerful white horse that appeared to be sitting upon a large oval luminous body. When the horse saw the men it uttered a great cry, and rose straight in the air and disappeared in the clouds, leaving the luminous egg-shaped body on the ground. For a long time they were afraid to go near it, but finally their curiosity got the better of their fears and, approaching it, they found it was in reality a great egg. They carried it home and at last, finding that nothing came of it, they proceeded to break it with an axe. At the instant the blow was struck there came a terrific clap of thunder and the whole heavens seemed ablaze with lightning. The shell parted and out stepped the most beautiful child that had ever been seen. A few days later another marvellous event occurred. As someone was drawing water from the well of O Yong* he looked up and saw a hen lift its wing and out from its side came a beautiful little girl. There was only one defect in her beauty. She had a hen's bill instead of a mouth, but when they bathed her by the spring the bill fell off and she had a human mouth. So that spring is called to this day the Palchun spring, or "the spring where the bill fell off." The peculiar origin of the boy and the girl seemed to point them out as being fitted for each other, and so when they had attained a suitable age they were married. They were celebrated for their remarkable intelligence and goodness, and this together with their strange origin caused them to be selected as the King and Queen of the new Kingdom of Silla. Such was the foundation of the Kingdom of Silla, which lasted nine hundred and ninety-two years, during the last two hundred and seventy of which it controlled the whole peninsula.

* The Korean tiger is very destructive, often entering large villages and breaking into houses to satisfy his thirst for blood.

NEWS FROM CHINA AND THE SOUTH.

IN consequence of the trouble that has arisen between the civil and military authorities in the Straits Settlements (chiefly caused, it is alleged, by the arbitrary acts of Sir Chas. Warren) the celebration of the Queen's Birthday at Singapore was shorn of much of its splendour, no regular troops being allowed to attend the review on the Esplanade. The Volunteers, however, turned out and were reviewed by the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, who afterwards presented to them the battery of four Maxim guns with full equipment which, by the liberality of the Sultan of Johore and leading residents, had been procured for them. A ball in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday was given at Government House. * * * Sir Charles Warren's unpopularity in Singapore has received poetical expression in a piece entitled "Give Charles another Job." * * * The Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank have appointed Mr. F. de Bovis Chief Manager. * * * The *Straits Independent* fears the advent of a serious commercial crisis at Penang owing to overtrading and reckless speculation among Chitties and Chinese traders there, and partly blames the bank for not checking them in time. * * * The new steamer *Esmeralda*, for the China and Manila Steamship Company, arrived at Hongkong from Glasgow on June 6th under the command of Captain Thom, well known on the China coast. Mr. Andrew Johnston, who superintended the engineering construction, came out with the vessel. The *Lightning*, a fine new steamer of 2,000 tons, for the Hongkong-Calcutta line of Messrs. Apcar & Co., and the *Tatung*, the first of five steamers to be built for the Northern trade of the China Navigation Co. have also arrived at Hongkong. * * *

* Chinese equivalents for the native names. When the Chinese brought their language and literature to Silla many names were changed and Chinese substituted.

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The members of the Hongkong Cricket Club have decided to enlarge their pavilion at a cost of $1,400. * * * The Kaiping Mining Company are said to be doing well and extending their business. The latest concession to the Company is from the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, who sent a despatch to the Governor of Canton asking him to allow the Company to have a coal depôt at Canton, which has been granted, and a piece of Government land has been placed at their disposal, where suitable sheds are to be erected to store coal to supply the ships of the Southern Squadron. * * * China papers report that in making some excavations in Hangchow a large coffin was unearthed. The coffin contained a dead body, which was in no way decomposed, clothed in a yellow satin robe embroidered with dragons, with a gold shoe of sycee in each hand. The crown and boots were thickly covered with good-sized pearls. Many white jade ornaments of the Han dynasty adorned several parts of the body. The oldest inhabitants recognized the body as that of a prince of the Taipings. The workmen were quick in making away with the spoils of the dead. A military official seized upon the coffin, which bears no sign of having been underground for a generation. By the time the owner of the ground appeared he had only the pleasure and satisfaction of burying the now nude and fast putrifying corpse of a once terrible leader of the Taipings. * * * In reference to a rumour to the effect that the National Bank of China had suffered and was about to liquidate, the *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—We are assured that the affairs of this Bank have not suffered in any way and are progressing satisfactorily. Mr. Playfair, late of the Oriental Bank, has been appointed manager in Hongkong. The Bank's new premises are progressing with all speed, and it is expected that they will be finished in about two months, and that the regular business will then commence.

THE MURDER OF FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

WRITING editorially on the riots at Wusueh and Kiukiang the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 9th said:—As the *Tehhsing* was on her way up the river on Saturday morning early, having just passed Wusueh, the compradore came to the captain, Mr. Cain, and handed him a piece of brown paper which had been given to the compradore at Wusueh, where there is a passenger station. There was written on the paper a despairing appeal to any steamer captain into whose hands it might fall to rescue some women and children who were in peril of their lives. Captain Cain turned back at once, and took on board three ladies and four children who had escaped, in little more than their night-dresses, from a riot the previous night, in which their houses had been burnt down and the only two foreign men who were at Wusueh had been barbarously killed. Captain Cain made a futile attempt to recover the bodies, and Captain Davis of the *Fuhwo*, to whom Captain Cain communicated the news, tried to land at Wusueh for the same purpose, but was not allowed. Surely this pathetic story will rouse our Governments at last. As long as only property was burnt and destroyed, and the men and women were merely frightened and driven away from their homes, the Ministers might be content with sending in a collective note to the Tsung-li Yamên—if they have even got as far as that—with vague threats of something terrible if China did not properly protect foreigners. But when it comes to the atrocious murder of perfectly innocent people, and putting harmless ladies and children into a state of terror which will probably leave its effect on them all their lives, something more than a collective note is wanted.

* * *

The story of the murder of the two Englishmen at Wusueh is thus told by the *Shanghai Mercury*:—

The terrible events at Wusueh on Friday last originated by a Chinaman going home from Kwang-chi with four native children and saying that they were sent to Kiukiang to be cut up and used for medical purposes. This cry being taken up by a huge mob, which had congregated outside, the riot at once began. Mr. Argent was the only gentleman belonging to the mission then in the place, the other men being all away on their duties in outlying stations. He was surrounded by thousands of infuriated fanatics, bent on mischief, and one man in such a struggle could not last long. Mr. Green, the only Foreign Customs Officer in the place, hearing of the riot, bravely went to the missionary's assistance, but even two men could not do much against such overwhelming odds. The details of this desperate attack and, still worse, hopeless defence will probably never be known, as the only two men who could be relied upon to give a correct or truthful narrative perished. The crowd, armed with all sorts of improvised weapons, pikes, swords, sticks and stones made short work of them. Mr. Argent, who fell first, was murdered at the entrance to the little chapel, wherein his labours had lain, while Mr. Green, probably after the other's death, and seeing the hopelessness of the situation, gallantly endeavoured to fight his way back through the seething mob of villains yelling for his blood. That he made a desperate effort to reach the Customs Station is evident from the marks of the struggle upon his hands—he had only his bare fists to depend upon—and the number of wounds he received before he fell beaten and helpless amongst his barbarous and brutal enemies, four or five hundred yards from where Mr. Argent already lay wreaking in his blood. Meanwhile the head Chinese official at the Custom House had gone to the missionary dwelling-houses and there found Mrs. Bowden, Mrs. Warren, and Mrs. Prothero, with four little children, expecting in terror every moment to be murdered. But this official, who deserves great credit, managed after great difficulty and danger to get them to his yamên, where they remained in comparative safety, but in the most awful state of distress and suspense, till the next morning, when the welcome sight of the *Tehsing* raised their hopes, and they were conveyed on board by devious ways and through back streets for fear of another attack, the official escorting them to the jetty. The chapel was completely looted, while Mr. Bowden's home is entirely burnt and Mr. Prothero's also partially destroyed.

The *Palos*, which left here for Wusueh, immediately on her arrival from Shanghai, has now returned and reports the result of the inquest upon the bodies of the two English victims of the Chinese rebels to have been "murdered by a riotous mob," seven of whom are now under arrest in chains at Wusueh, along with the miscreant who brought the children into the place and so caused the outbreak. The officials are in a state of great excitement and abject terror over the affair. Mr. Argent was evidently killed by a blow on the back of the head, about five inches long evidently inflicted with a block of wood or stone. The jaw was broken and the face terribly cut and hacked, he also had received a serious wound on the foot. Mr. Green, who had evidently died hard, was shockingly mutilated having been literally hacked to pieces. It was an awful piece of butchery. His body bore at least a hundred wounds, having been stabbed all over, and I am informed that fully one half of these wounds were probably sufficient to have ended fatally, each by itself. His face was hacked in every direction, his nose and jaws smashed in, and the back of his head mashed to pulp. He had four huge stabs in the abdomen, while the flesh of both hands over his knuckles was completely stripped off and the bones laid bare, showing that he defended himself with his hands alone. Let us hope that a good many felt the weight of them before the cowardly butchers overcame him. It was a shocking sight to see his mutilated corpse stretched in the roadway where he had fallen amidst the inhuman monsters of whose Government he was the good and trusted servant. He was a young man, about 28 years of ago, and was the sole support, I believe, of an old mother. When the *Palos* left every shop in the place was closed, Mr. Green's house was not touched. After the Chinese official had safely lodged the women and children in his yamên he went back to Mr. Green's assistance, but was badly handled and was dragged by the crowd along the streets to his yamên where the mob demanded the foreign women to be given up to them. But I am happy to say he manfully refused to do anything of the kind, and was in consequence again treated to a little personal violence, and also the mortification of seeing the rabble smashing up his furniture and house.

ROAD MAKING ENTERPRISE IN CHINA.

A NOTABLE work in North China has just been brought within sight of completion—the rendering passable of one of the gorges leading to the Great Wall. In a memorial to the throne the Viceroy Li stated that "the Pass leading from Nank'on through Chûyung Kuan up to the Great Wall is one of the great thoroughfares connecting Peking with Mongolia and the northern parts of the Empire. The mountainous region in this vicinity was regarded by former dynasties as a barrier against invasion, but under the enlightened influence of the present reigning family, a closer connection has been maintained with the vast extent of country lying beyond the Wall. As a consequence, the Pass is largely frequented by Mongolian Princes and tribute missions visiting Peking, while it is also the main route for the conveyance of mails and Government supplies to the border country on the North and North-west part of the Empire. For more than two hundread years it has never received any repairs on a large scale. Running for a distance of 45 *li* through an overhanging mass of high hills and precipitous cliffs, it became in summer and autumn a raging torrent, and in winter was a succession of frozen sheets of water which often proved fatal to man and beast. The pass came to be regarded with such dread by all travellers that some improvement in its condition was viewed as an absolute necessity. The great difficulty was the question of expense. Chihli being a province whose exchequer shows an annual deficit, no assistance was to be expected from public funds. Four years ago a conference of the district officers was held and among those present were the Prefect of Hsüanhua, the Sub-Prefect of Yênch'ing and the Magistrate of Huailai. Extensive inquiries were made amongst the elders and gentry of the neighbourhood, with the result that public opinion was clearly shown to be in favour of levying a contribution on passing animals for the repair of the Pass. Offices were accordingly established, and a toll of from two to ten *cash* was collected upon all camels, mules, oxen, horses, donkeys, and other animals passing up and down. Exception was, however, made in favour of horses on government service returning without a load as also of all beasts of burden carrying firewood or agricultural implements. The length of the pass was measured, and found to be 6,730 *chang* from Tungpotzu to Langwo. Having regard to the large quantity of stone and other materials required for such a vast work it was soon found that the proceeds of the contributions from baggage animals were not large enough to warrant its being all undertaken at once, and it was therefore thought advisable to carry it on gradually in sections." A commencement was made and it was not very long before the Pass was reduced to a fairly level condition suitable for cart traffic, and then the contributions were considerably increased by imposing a levy upon vehicles. The work that remained to be done was still enormous. "Hollows had to be filled up, heights had to be levelled down, and in some places a long détour had to be made and an entirely new road constructed. From the 24th July, 1887, to the 9th of March, 1891, the tax stations raised 29,160 strings of cash, and a further sum of Tls. 600 was subscribed by the gentry and merchants of the neighbourhood. After deducting all expenses, there remains a balance of 3,500 strings of cash and Tls. 600. This would be quite inadequate to defray the cost of keeping the Pass in proper repair; and to meet this outlay, it is proposed to continue the levy upon animals for several years until the proceeds reach the sum of Tls. 10,000, when it will be discontinued. Similarly, the tax upon vehicles will be continued until Tls. 5,000 have been collected. Both of these sums will be placed out at interest and applied to keeping the road in good repair."

THE PETITION PRESENTED BY THE RADICALS.

WE have already related that in addition to attempting to bring influence to bear directly on Ministers of State with the object of inducing them to resign, the Radical party, or, to speak more accurately, certain members of the party having seats in the House of Representatives, addressed a petition to the Emperor on the same subject. The petition, according to the statements of several vernacular journals, was returned to its signatories, but this account of its fate is now proved to be incorrect. What really happened was that His Majesty returned the following answer through Mr. Inouye Ki, Chief of the Bureau of Imperial Private Records:—"The appointment of the Ministers of State being a part of the Imperial Prerogatives defined by the Constitution, the purport of the Petition cannot be adopted." Concerning this answer, forwarded to the petitioners on the 16th instant, a curious misconception gained credence, namely, that matters bearing on the Imperial Prerogatives could not be made the subject of petitions. The *Tokyo Shimpo* exposes the error of this notion. It explains that peti-

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tions relating to matters that do not fall within the Imperial Prerogatives would be obviously absurd, since the Emperor cannot deal with such affairs. It is precisely in respect of affairs over which, as being concerned with the Prerogatives of the Crown, the Constitution gives control to the Sovereign, that His Majesty may properly be petitioned. To grant pardons or revoke powers conferred by him is essentially the Emperor's right, and petitions praying His Majesty to take steps of this nature, are natural and logical. The real import of the Imperial reply is that His Majesty cannot consent to take a petition from a small section of his subjects as a sufficient reason for removing from office Ministers of State who hold their commissions directly from the Crown. In other words, the Emperor informs his Radical petitioners that, even as he chooses and appoints his own Ministers, so he reserves entirely to himself the right of deciding upon their removal or replacement. To bid the Cabinet resign simply because a few Radical members of the House of Representatives, without consulting the House itself, recommend that course, would be a principle of government wholly opposed to the Constitution. Thus considered, the Emperor's answer will be found satisfactory from the point of view of the Ministers. It identifies them with the Throne in a manner and to a degree never before officially announced, however well understood by students of the Constitution. The *Tokyo Shimpo* further alleges that the petitioners have reason to be grateful for the language in which the Imperial reply is couched. It has not hitherto been the custom to assign any reason for the rejection of petitions addressed to the Government or the Throne. The rule has been to return the document with a simple announcement of refusal. But, on the present occasion, the Emperor has been graciously pleased to assign reasons for his inability to adopt the suggestion offered, thus establishing a precedent plainly intended as a mark of consideration for the petitioners in their capacity of members of Parliament.

PRINCE GEORGE OF GREECE.

THE so-called official account of the Otsu affair published in St. Petersburg, repeats the error originally circulated here to the effect that when Tsuda Sanzo raised his sword a second time to strike the Czarevitch he was felled to the ground by Prince George of Greece before he could accomplish his murderous purpose. The sensation produced in Russia by this intelligence seems to have been great. Reuter, telegraphing to *The Times* from St. Petersburg, under date May 13th, says:—

> All the Russian newspapers are loud in their praises of the gallant act of Prince George of Greece in attacking the assailant of the Czarevitch with his stick and knocking him down, thus probably saving the life of the heir to the Imperial throne. The Russian people, it is declared, will never forget this of the Prince.
>
> The news of the attempt on the life of the Czarevitch, which only became known in St. Petersburg at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, created intense excitement, which gave way to a feeling of profound rejoicing when it transpired that the life of the Prince had been preserved.

It will seem very strange to many persons that whereas Prince George had nothing whatever to do with the disabling and arrest of Tsuda Sanzo, such action as the above should have been official attributed to him, but the fact is that the Russian officially telegram agency evidently received no information from the Government, and was obliged to pick up intelligence from outside sources as best it might. Writing as late as May 17th, that is to say six days after the incident, the St. Petersburg correspondent of *The Times* sent the following:—

> Russians have had to gather the news of how the Heir Apparent to the throne was attacked in Japan chiefly from foreign newspapers and telegraph agencies. The first news of the accident to the Cesarevitch reached the authorities here on Monday night through the Japanese Legation, but not a word of it was disclosed until late on Tuesday night, when telegrams from Reuter's Agency, with more details than were published here by the official *Gazette* only on Wednesday morning, were already lying in St. Petersburg under the ban of the censor. The Russian official telegram agency was actually obliged to telegraph to London more than once to ask for particulars, which neither the Court nor the Japanese Legation would communicate, and which could only be received here at the risk of being considered unfit for publication by the eccentric censor of the telegraph department and suppressed accordingly.
>
> The few lines published in the official *Gazette* satisfied nobody, and the Japanese representatives were afraid of communicating anything more to the Russian Press. Unlike their colleagues in other European capitals, they judged it proper to assume the same air of mystery and ignorance as that affected by the Russian authorities to whom they are accredited. The consequence was that the Russians formed their own suppositions of the occurrence, mostly based upon the suspicion that the assailant of the Cesarevitch must be an escaped Nihilist from Saghalien or Siberia disguised as a Japanese, or a Japanese in the pay of the Russian revolutionists. Not a word on the subject could be sent from here except the meagre official *communiqué*, and then only when this had been semi-officially telegraphed abroad. The repressive machinery of the Russian Telegraph Department has now reached such a pitch that not only incoming but also outgoing Press telegrams are detained for days together without the least cause, reason, or explanation, and words are struck out for which no offer is made of returning the money. Absolutely no redress can be obtained, and the worried newspaper correspondent is simply told that it is utterly useless for him to complain, as he will only receive misleading or completely mendacious explanations from the conflicting officials. This is at least frank enough it must be confessed, but it is also disgraceful.

* * *

Perhaps the most curiously ignorant account was published in Paris. "French official telegrams," we read, "received from Tokyo concerning the attempt upon the life of the Czarevitch state that his Imperial Highness had crossed Lake Biva in a boat called the Juirinska, which landed him at Otsu, whence he proposed journeying to Kioto. Shortly after landing, however, the Czarewitch was attacked by a police officer, who gave him a sabre cut on the head. The man committed the act in an excess of fanaticism, and is believed to belong to the Samurai sect, who are very hostile to foreigners." The conversion of a *jinrikisha*—or a Juirinska as the account has it—into a boat, and the reference to the Samurai as "a sect" who are "very hostile to foreigners," are unique blunders in their own way. It is plain that telegrams containing such absurdities cannot have had an official origin, although they are so described. We are almost inclined to think that they must have emanated from the office of the local newspaper called *Le Japon*, which has earned quite a circus reputation in connection with the Otsu incident.

* * *

The painful anxiety shown by the Japanese nation about the probable effect of the Otsu outrage upon foreign public opinion, ought to be considerably allayed by the tone of the newspapers now received. *The Times*, in a leading article published on the 16th of May, says:—

> The attack upon the Cesarevitch in Japan has hitherto presented itself as a somewhat obscure and inexplicable incident. The Japanese are a polite and mild-mannered people, who since they became familiar with the aspect of Europeans, and still more since they took to copying European dress and habits, have shown scarcely a trace of the intolerance that is still rampant in China. It was therefore very difficult to understand the wounding of so distinguished a visitor as the Cesarewitch, travelling with the fullest public recognition of his rank; and the difficulty was increased by the meagre and contradictory character of the reports that reached Europe. Most people in this country gave up the riddle as insoluble, and fell back upon a feeling of thankfulness that the Cesarewitch accomplished his journey through India without any incident of so unpleasant a nature. Among the heterogeneous population of the great towns of India are to be found occasional fanatics whose movements it is equally impossible to foresee and to control. Lord Mayo's lamented death by the hand of an assassin is evidence that an exalted position and a numerous retinue do not always confer immunity from attack, yet had anything resembling this Japanese incident occurred in India it might have been difficult to convince the Czar that the Government was blameless in the matter. There is not even yet any authentic statement of the circumstances in which the Cesarevitch came by his wound, although it is now happily clear that the wound is not dangerous or even severe. Prince Bariatinsky has not made his official report, or if he has made it the world is none the wiser. One story has it that the Cesarevitch and his suite entered a Buddhist temple without removing their boots, and that the indignation of the Bonze caused a too impulsive guard to take upon himself the office of defender of the faith. But a Buddhist temple is one of the sights which the distinguished traveller would certainly be shown with all due ceremony and formality. We can hardly imagine him dropping in casually and encountering the astonished guardian inside. Another story current in St. Petersburg society is to the effect that the Cesarevitch and his attendants were in some place of public amusement, having apparently laid aside their official character in order the better to enjoy the fun. There they offended in some way against Japanese customs, and the policeman on duty, who seems to be an exemplary official of eight years' experience, interfered with what to us may appear an excess of vigour. To the student of human nature there is a verisimilitude about this version of the affair which is wanting in the others. Official receptions and ceremonious sightseeing undoubtedly become a weariness to the flesh. Nothing is more natural than that the Cesarevitch should endeavour to escape from the trammels and try to see the Japanese as they are in their happier hours. One can readily imagine the Cesarevitch in a character compounded of Midshipman Easy and the good Haroun Alraschid. There are two other reports entirely congruous with this view. One is that the Cesarevitch wishes his assailant to be dealt with by Japanese law, under which he will probably be acquitted: the other is that the Czar has telegraphed a severe reprimand to all concerned in the escapade. The young man is too generous to wish the poor policeman punished for doing his duty according to his lights, especially as he seems to have been rather badly mauled. The Czar is bound to reprove indiscretion, though he has probably made the private reflection that boys will be boys.

The account sent to the *Standard* by its Shanghai correspondent ought to re-assure the Japanese still more, since it is not disfigured by any of the inaccuracies of other reports. The correspondent says:—

> The Czarevitch had gone to enjoy the picturesque delights of Otsu, a famous pleasure resort situated on the Biwa Umi Lake, about six miles from Kioto. The assailant was a native Japanese policeman, named Tsuda Sanzo, and he was able to strike at the head of the Prince with a sword. There is no room for doubt as to the murderous intent with which the blow was delivered; but, thanks no doubt to the toughness and thickness of the sun helmet which the Czarevitch was wearing, the wound inflicted was, happily, comparatively trivial. It is described as a "sword-cut on the side of the forehead, not serious." It is needless to say (the correspondent adds) that the Emperor of Japan and his Ministers feel most acutely this outrage on a welcome and honoured guest. The occurrence was, of course, as far as the sentiment of the country goes, a deplorable accident. It is believed that the man guilty of the deed is insane. Probably, brooding over some fancied wrongs, he was tempted into action by the casual presence of so illustrious a guest. Both the Emperor and his Ministers have hurried to Kioto to express their concern and sympathy, and it may be predicted that the Czarewitch will not carry away to Siberian soil a less pleasant impression of Japanese kindliness and grace by reason of the painful incident which marred the closing stage of his long tour.

THE CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HOUSE.

THE Conservative members of the Upper House who have been moving in company with the Radicals in the matter of the Otsu incident, find themselves the object of a somewhat embarrassing criticism. These noblemen—who go by the name of the *Horobasha-gumi*, or covered-carriage company, in allusion to the sumptuous circumstances of their lives—are said to have been very strongly opposed at the outset to the effusive welcome given by the nation at the Government's instigation to the Czarevitch. They saw no reason why the country should stand hat in hand before him, and why his travels through the land should assume the aspect of an imperial progress. But when the Otsu

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outrage occurred, these same Conservatives took "a sharp turn" and began to cry out that the Government had been wanting in its measures of precaution and that nothing short of the resignation of the Cabinet *en masse* could atone for the outrage to the nation's honoured guest. This is what the Japanese call deploying one's forces after seeing the colour of the enemy's pennant. A certain Tsutsui Junkei of mediæval days acquired quite a reputation of skill in thus adapting his views to the convenience of the moment, and a witty Japanese has hit upon the term *Junkei-shugi* to describe the policy of the covered-carriage peers on the present occasion, thus adding to the language a capital equivalent for "opportunism."

FATAL FIRE IN SHANGHAI.

On the morning of the 8th inst. fire broke out in a Chinese store at Hongkew, Shanghai, and in the effort to subdue the flames a foreign and a Chinese fireman were killed. An account of the affair says:—The flames having taken a firm hold of the building, the firemen were directed to play upon the walls. Lucien Descole, a member of the French Brigade, was directing a stream from a hose upon a wall, and was standing directly in front of it when the wall collapsed, burying the unfortunate Frenchman and a Chinese fireman who was assisting him. When extricated, he was dead. The corpse of the Chinaman was found afterwards. The deceased had never previously attended at a fire. Several other people, among them Mr. L. Moore and Mr. E. C. Pearce, had narrow escapes from falling *débris*. Mr. Moore was standing beside the unfortunate man who was killed when some one rushed him violently down the alley way from behind and so saved him. He then gave orders to ascertain if any one had been hurt, and was told that four Chinese had been buried in the ruins of the wall. The bricks were too hot to handle, so the hose was played on them, and cooled them sufficiently to allow them to be touched. On removing some of the bricks the helmet of a French firemen was found, and soon afterwards the body of M. Descole. Doctors were immediately telephoned for and the unfortunate man got out, a period of about fifteen minutes having elapsed since the falling of the wall. Dr. Reid, who was soon on the spot, pronounced that the French fireman was dead, he having been suffocated.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS FROM CHINA AND THE SOUTH.

Hongkong papers of the 12th report that the Mutual steamer *Moyune*, with the first teas, passed through Singapore on the 4th instant, after having taken in 800 tons of coals. She left Woosung at noon on the 28th May. * * * The death is reported from Java of Miss Amelia Santley, of the Stanley Opera Co. The cause of death is stated as being cholera. * * * Citizen George Francis Train arrived at Singapore in the *Frigga* on the 4th June, in time to catch the Mutual steamer *Moyune*, which passed through the same day. He was then twenty-five days out from the States. He was to leave the *Moyune* at Suez. * * * The *Straits Times* understands that the opinion of the Home Government is that fresh legislation is needed on the subject of the legalisation of marriages in the Straits. The points, of course, are those which have already been discussed at some length, and which are associated with the question of whether Bishop Hose is "the Anglican Bishop of the diocese" within the meaning of the Indian Marriage Act, 1865. The Home Government are not sure whether he is, and they have instructed the Straits Government to prepare and pass in the Legislative Council an Ordinance which will declare that Bishop Hose is to be deemed "the Anglican Bishop of the diocese" within the meaning of the Indian Marriage Act, and that people who have been married under his authority are to be deemed to be married, as if he had held a proper authority. * * * A three-cornered rifle match between Hongkong, Singapore, and Shanghai has fallen through owing to tardiness in making arrangements. * * * A letter has been received in Singapore from Lord Henry Bruce saying that he intended again to raise the question of the Straits Military Contribution on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, which comes on at the end of the session. * * * H.M.S. *Pigmy* ran aground on Sulphur Point, Whampoa, during her passage up to Canton on Tuesday afternoon (9th). It appears that as the vessel was approaching the bend a junk got right in her way, and the only alternatives were to run down the junk, with a probable loss of life, or let the *Pigmy* take the ground on the soft mud. The pilot in charge, Mr. Speechly, adopted the latter course, and the ship was at once stuck fast. Efforts were made without delay to get her off the bank, and the *Pigmy*, favoured by the rising tide eventually got off and steamed on to Canton, reaching the anchorage off Shameen without further mishap. It is stated that she sustained no damage whatever.

NAVIGATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

The *Keizai Zasshi* recommends Japanese capitalists to form a company for direct navigation between this country and Australia. It regards such an undertaking as of great importance for the development of commerce between the two countries, commerce which has now attained dimensions warranting the establishment of a direct line of steamships. From the table which our contemporary publishes, it appears that the total value of trade between Australia and Japan according to the latest statistics, is over a million *yen*, the principal staples of export from Japan being rice (523,600 *yen*), bamboo wares (28,239 *yen*), silk handkerchiefs (24,742 *yen*), mats (20,834 *yen*), silk cloth (17,666 *yen*), lacquer wares (10,898 *yen*), porcelain, coals, sulphur, etc.; while the principal articles sent over from Australia are wool (299,232 *yen*), hemp and flax, lumber, hides, etc. The quantity of exports from Japan during 1890 was 795,043 *yen*, and that of imports 334,238 *yen*; there being thus an excess of exports over imports to the extent of 460,805 *yen*. At present Japanese goods are carried to Australia by way of Hongkong and Singapore, and are thus obliged to make a circuitous route. By opening direct communication a great saving could be effected both of time and of expense, the ratio of distance between the present and the proposed lines being as 3 to 2. It is also predicted that the establishment of a direct line will lead to a development of trade with the various important islands on the Pacific, as New Canada, New Hebrides, Solomon, Samoa, New Britain, New Ireland, etc. In addition to an increase of tradal connections with these islands, there would probably be a tide of Japanese emigration thither, which is a great desideratum in the eyes of the *Keizai Zasshi*. Lastly the Government is asked to give the new line, should it be started, a reasonable amount of subsidy for carrying mails between the two countries.

THE "KAISHIN-TO."

The *Kaishin-to's* meeting had the honour of provoking police interference to about the same extent as the recent gatherings of the Radicals, but the reports published by the press are so meagre that it is impossible to form any clear idea of the arguments advanced. One of the speakers, whose name is not given, made an attack upon Count Goto, but the audience declined to listen, and he had to abandon the rostrum. Mr. Yasuzumi Sataro took "suspension" as his theme, and proceeded to divide it into heads after the most orthodox fashion; namely, first, suspension of the Government's policy by popular intervention; secondly, suspension of a lecture by interruption of the audience, and thirdly, suspension of a speech by police interference. This last, of course, constituted the real gist of his address. He condemned the practice of suspending a speech before its conclusion—a pretty hibernicism—and illustrated his contention by citing the case of Matsubayashi Hakuyen. That person is now one of the most renowned *Koshakushi* in Japan. Recently, during a series of night entertainments at a theatre in Tokyo, he took for his subject the story of Nezumi Kozo, a celebrated robber. Among Hakuyen's hearers was a man who attended every night for fifteen days in succession, during which time his imagination became so influenced by the account of Nezumi Kozo's daring exploits and successes, that he himself embraced the profession of a thief and soon found himself in the hands of the police. Questioned by a magistrate, he avowed that Hakuyen's stories had overcome his moral equilibrium and driven him into the evil route of burglary. Hakuyen was accordingly summoned, but he said that he had never seen the man. On being informed, however, of the fifteen evenings' attendance, he exclaimed:—"How unfortunate! You came for fifteen evenings only, and the consequence was that you heard of nothing except Nezumi Kozo's good fortune. But if you had attended for fifteen evenings longer, you would have learned that in the end he had to expiate his crimes on the block, and the knowledge would have restored your moral equilibrium." This parallel was loudly applauded, and the constables on duty at the time doubtless profited by it.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE FIXING ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ASSEMBLIES.

The following Imperial Ordinance has been issued:—

We hereby authorise the enactment of regulations fixing the establishment of City and Prefectural Assemblies, and order the same to be promulgated.

(Imperial Sign manual.)
(Great Seal).

(Countersigned) Viscount Shinagawa,
Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Dated June 9th, 1891.

Ordinance No. 9.

Regulations fixing the establishment of City and Prefectural Assemblies.

Art. 1.—In accordance with the Second Article of the Organization of City and Prefectural Assemblies, the establishment of such Assemblies is fixed as follows:—For districts of which the population does not exceed seven hundred thousand, the fixed number of members shall be thirty. For districts of which the population exceeds seven hundred thousand but does not exceed a million, the number of members should be increased by one for each additional fifty thousand inhabitants up to a million. When the population exceeds one million, a member shall be added for every addition of seventy thousand inhabitants.

Art. 2.—The number of members fixed by the preceeding Article should be divided between districts (*gun*) and towns (*ichi*) in proportion to the number of inhabitants.

Art. 3.—In the event of changes occurring in the fixed establishment of members or in the allotment among districts and towns, owing to increases or diminutions in the population, the regular time of election shall be awaited before making such changes.

WHY?

The *Kokkai* asks why we recently published a verbatim reproduction of an English essay written by a little Japanese lad in a country school. We may be permitted on our side to inquire why the *Kokkai* asks such a question. Our contemporary intimates a suspicion that we intended to ridicule the boy's effort. If the *Kokkai*, judging by its own experience and tendencies, finds that a newspaper has leisure or inclination for such pettinesses, we cannot congratulate it. It is not our habit to devote our columns to holding up little Japanese school-boys to derision. In reproducing the essay we said that we did so "not for the sake of its halting English, but for reasons which need not be explained to those capable of appreciating them." The *Kokkai* apparently is not to be included in this category. Very well then; it remains only to tell the *Kokkai* that, despite its halting orthography, the school-boy's essay seemed to us to be full of grace and poetic feeling. The *Kokkai's* question is another example of the curiously, nay morbidly, sensitive mood by which some Japanese are possessed at present. They detect insults where none are intended or even dreamed of, and imagine that the masterful foreigner is sneering at or slighting them, where in reality

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he may be sympathising and admiring. It is not well to be thin-skinned. True dignity is never aggressively self-assertive.

THE DISTURBANCE AT A POLITICAL LECTURE IN YOKOHAMA.

THE speech delivered by Mr. Oi Kentaro on the 16th instant at the Tsuta-za in Yokohama, which led to the dispersal of the meeting by the police and to subsequent disturbance, was on the subject of Oriental Policy. The speaker maintained that the tranquillity of Japan was closely connected with the tranquillity of the Orient, and that the question of Eastern affairs pressed for immediate consideration. He explained that, speaking briefly, the Eastern question was comprised in the two words, peace or war, and he was going on to condemn the policy of hesitation hitherto followed by Japan, when the police interferred and the meeting was dispersed. We cannot but regret that the authorities feel constrained, in the cause of national interests, to make martyrs of these Radical demagogues. Every interference by the police rouses public sympathy with the agitators, and confirms the impression that unless a great deal of tinder were supposed to be lying about, the feeble sparks struck by such persons as Mr. Oi Kentaro could not be really dangerous.

FIRE.

THIS morning about twenty minutes to one o'clock fire broke out at No. 52, Main Street, in the premises of the British and American Tailoring Co., the upper flat of which was occupied as a residence by Mr. J. F. Dabbs. The fire seems to have been smouldering for some time, for it suddenly burst into a blaze, and in a very short time the whole of the interior of the building was a mass of flame. Mr. Dabbs was asleep at the time of the outbreak and was awakened by his wife, who smelt the fire. He managed to get her and his child out of the building safely, and himself returned to try and secure some papers, but the smoke was too dense, and he had to make his escape from a window at the back of the house. The "Relief" steamer was early on the spot and had a powerful stream of water playing on the fire, and soon six standpipes were in action, but even with this amount of water the building continued to burn for a long time, and though all chances of its spreading were overcome by half-past one o'clock, it was not till past two o'clock that the "Relief" and the fire station standpipes were able to leave the scene. The building was of a very frail nature, the walls being so thin that until the fire was fairly well got under no fireman could enter the house parts of which could constantly be heard falling in. It belonged to a Chinaman, was leased by Mr. L. Davis, from whom Mr. Dabbs rented it. The cause of the conflagation is not known, but it is supposed to have been a spark dropped from the pipe of one of the workmen. The stock and furniture were insured with the Straits Insurance Co. for $1,500.

THE NEW MEMBER FOR YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE.

THE vacancy in the representation of the second electoral district of Yamaguchi Prefecture, caused by the elevation of Mr. Inouye Shoichi to the Bench, has been filled by Mr. Furuya Shinsaku, who was elected by 476 votes against 69 obtained by his opponent, Mr. Isobe Koichi. Mr. Furuya was an unsuccessful candidate for a different district of the same Prefecture at the last elections, when he stood in opposition to Mr. Suyematsu Saburo and Mr. Yoshitani Kan-ichi.

"KIRIN" BEER CUP FOR THE SAILING CLUB.

WE are glad to learn that the directors of the Japan Brewery Co. have recognised the importance of that branch of sport which is locally identified with the Yokohama Sailing Club, and have decided to present a cup to be sailed for by members of the Club. Boat-sailing in the Gulf of Tokyo was carried on in a very spasmodic way until the formation of the Club, and undoubtedly the "Kirin Beer" directors have shown both public spirit and a laudable desire to foster sport in now subscribing for the encouragement of what is perhaps the most enjoyable of all out-of-doors recreations. The cup, a solid silver trophy, is a piece of very tasteful though plain work, the ornamentation being almost wholly confined to the "Kirin" which supports the bowl of the trophy. It bears the inscription

YOKOHAMA SAILING CLUB.
1891
The "Kirin" Beer Handicap Cup.
Presented
By the Directors and Officers of the Company.
Won by ———.

The cup, which is valued at $50, will be competed for in one race, to take place on the 4th of July, and we hope the contest will be worthy of the prize. Among the ships of the fleet the 4th of July consumption of "Kirin" Beer ought to attain respectable figures. The cup is now on view at Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.'s.

COUNT GOTO AND THE PRESS.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun* has a delightful paragraph about Count Goto and the press. "Of late," says our contemporary, "several newspapers in the capital have been attacking Count Goto, but the impression produced upon the Count by journalistic assaults is as though one should touch him with a hair. He is absolutely indifferent. 'Crows will always caw,' he says, 'sparrows twitter and newspapers prattle.' There is not the slightest use in going for such a person. His assailants have only their trouble for their pains. If they must attack a member of the Cabinet, they will find it much more entertaining to choose some one who pays a little attention to them."

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS AGENCY.

AT No. 15 Yazayemoncho, in the Kyobashi district of Tokyo, there has been established a Newspaper Cuttings Agency (*Shimbun-Kirinuki Tsushinsha*) after the model of similar institutions in Europe and America. The Agency undertakes to collect and supply all comments that have appeared in the Japanese journals on any indicated subject. The plan has been found most useful in the West, and we have no doubt that the new Agency will prove of much service to all persons interested in journalistic comments or information.

JAPANESE SHIPS FOR CHINA.

THE *Jiyu* affirms that, in connection with the recent riots in China, it was finally determined to send Japanese men-of-war for the protection of Japanese property in Shanghai, and that, acting on this resolve, the *Yamato Kan*, under the command of Captain Morooka, was despatched on the 14th instant. It is expected that she will be followed by two or three other vessels.

THE STEAMER "LYDIA" IN COLLISION.

MESSRS. SIMON, EVERS & Co. inform us that the D.D.R. steamer *Lydia*, of the Kingsin Line, has been in collision and is badly damaged. She put in at Singapore for repairs, and discharged part of her cargo, all of which is in good condition. The estimated detention will be about a fortnight, after which the *Lydia* will continue her voyage to China and Japan.

THE P. AND O. COMPANY.

A REUTER'S telegram dated May 16th quoted in Hongkong papers states:—The Peninsular and Oriental Company pays a dividend of five per cent. on preferred and seven on deferred shares for the past half-year.

THE "OFFICIAL GAZETTE."

LIEUT.-GENERAL VISCOUNT SOGA SUKENORI is gazetted a Court Councillor, and Colonel Oshima Yoshimasa, of the Infantry, becomes a Major-General.

THE *Miike Maru*, Captain Macmillan, arrived on Thursday from Honolulu, which port she left on the 3rd inst. On that day the kerosene godowns took fire and were burning fiercely when the vessel left, with every probability of total destruction, together with their contents, 36,000 cases of oil.

AT the Queen's Drawing Room on the 6th May at Buckingham Palace, Mrs. W. A. Wooley, late of Bedford, presented her only daughter, Miss Maria Kathleen Wooley, and also Miss Evelyn Isabel Hampton.

AMONGST the passengers who arrived here on Tuesday by the *China* were His Excellency the Chevalier Martino, Italian Minister, and Sir James Russell, Chief Justice of Hongkong, who has come to Japan for the benefit of his health.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

During the present week, no single question has monopolized the columns of the vernacular press, its attention being divided between various topics of more or less importance. Upon the whole, things are quiet in the political world. The Cabinet, owing to the recent changes in its members, is now believed to have recovered stability, although some people do not hesitate to express dissatisfaction with its present *personnel*. The *Jiji Shimpo*, for example, insists upon the formation of a Ministry which shall include, among other statesmen, Counts Ito, Kuroda, Okuma, and Goto. It calls upon Count Ito to carry out this plan, as it believes him to be best qualified to arrange such matters. He is further told that the present is a rare opportunity for him to assume power. The Tokyo journal omits the names of Counts Inouye and Saigo from the list of the members of the contemplated Cabinet, because these two statesmen are universally believed to have retired from political life, the latter altogether and the former for some years. Count Ito and other statesmen of the elder generation are not young, and they are advised to accomplish something worthy of their names before they enter their dotage.

* * *

The instruction issued to Local Officials and Police by the new Minister of Home Affairs on the 15th instant, is upon the whole well received by the vernacular press. All the papers are glad that Viscount Shinagawa has taken so early an opportunity of declaring his policy in the conduct of home affairs, for they think that the instruction, though nominally addressed to Local Authorities, is really meant for the public in general. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* finds nothing to criticise in the document. After expanding the meaning of its principal points, our contemporary remarks that there is much less difficulty in drawing up a programme than in putting one into practice; and that in order to carry out the present instruction, the first requisite is that local officials should be men of sufficient capacity and intelligence. Should there be any not up to the standard, the Minister for Home Affairs is recommended to have no hesitation in replacing them by men of better qualifications.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* is quite satisfied with the document itself, but deplores the existence of circumstances necessitating the issue of such a paper. For our contemporary believes that, when read between the lines, the instruction reveals the fact that local officials are too prone to regard the system of local self-government in a bureaucratic light; that they give undue value to forms and routine; that they are not free from the charge of interfering with the affairs of private individuals; and that police authorities do not always show impartiality and kindness in the discharge of their duties. The Tokyo journal observes that not only local officials but the Minister of Home Affairs himself are responsible for the successful carrying out of the excellent programme now enunciated.

* * *

The Radical organ, the *Jiyu*, though not particularly dissatisfied with the instruction, avails itself of the opportunity to criticise the fundamental policy of the Government with respect to local self government and police.

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The system of local self-government at present in force, is regarded by our contemporary as tending to give too much power and prestige to the wealthy. The system which the Radicals desire to introduce is more democratic in character and more favourable to the poor. The *Jiyu* professes to detect in the document the hand of Count Ito, and regrets that the President of the Privy Council does not come out from behind the curtain and openly fight with the Radicals, who entertain political opinions quite opposite to his. As to the police, our contemporary complains of the arbitrary conduct of police constables in matters relating to politics and political parties.

* * *

With regard to the question of Treaty Revision, the public is in entire darkness as to the policy of the Government. Most people seem to believe that, with the resignation of Viscount Aoki, the matter has been shelved for the present at least. The *Nippon*, however, is now busily seeking to persuade its readers that the new Minister of Foreign Affairs is firmly resolved to devote his whole energy to the conduct of negotiations for the revision of the Treaties. But the writings of other papers on this subject show that they are far from crediting such a resolve on the part of Viscount Enomoto. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that whoever undertakes the task of Treaty Revision exposes himself to difficulties of an unusual character. But considering the injuries and disgrace to which the present Treaties subject Japan, our contemporary thinks that the work of revision must be pushed on with all possible despatch. The plain course of policy for the Government under the circumstances, we are told, is to conduct negotiations on a basis approved by the people. The Tokyo journal finds it difficult to comprehend the reason why the present Cabinet and Viscount Enomoto hesitate to indicate their policy in respect to this important question.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun*, discussing the same subject, dwells upon the fatal consequences of a fresh retreat on the part of the Japanese Government from the negotiations for revision of the Treaties. Should such a disastrous step be taken at the present juncture, Japan would be doomed to the humiliation of remaining under the existing state of things for many years to come. The present Premier, Count Matsukata, must have been consulted about the treaty programme of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs; and if so, his Cabinet must be held responsible for the carrying out of that programme. At all events, the new Ministry is bound, says the *Mainichi*, to make known the line of action it proposes to take in connection with this matter.

* * *

The Radicals have made another mistake in presenting a petition to the Emperor urging a change of Ministry, to which an unfavourable reply was returned through Mr. Inouye Ki, Chief of the Imperial Confidential Secretariat. This last move of the *Jiyu-to* is regarded by the public with no favour; even the Radicals' well-wishers shrug their shoulders when the affair is mentioned. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* does not hesitate to call the proceeding an abuse of the sacred right of petition granted by the Constitution. The Emperor, says our contemporary, is to be petitioned only in extreme cases, when all ordinary means of redress have been tried in vain. "We cannot believe that this right to petition the Sovereign ought to be prostituted to the purpose of attacking political adversaries. These latter should be attacked openly and boldly through newspaper columns, by public speeches, and on the floor of the Diet." In order to show the importance of using discretion in exercising the privilege of petition, the *Nichi Nichi* quotes in full what Count Ito says on the subject in his Commentaries.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, generally friendly to the Radicals, is constrained to question the wisdom of the course just taken by them on this occasion. It "admires their enthusiasm" but cannot approve the idea of approaching the Emperor about the removal of His Majesty's Ministers. If the Ministers are unworthy of the nation's confidence, then the Diet should take cognizance of the fact.

* * *

The Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company has obtained uneviable notoriety on account of an issue of forged shares. The *Kokkai* is now publishing astounding "revelations" relating to the connections between the company and the officials of the Hokkaido Administration Board, particularly between Mr. Asaba, formerly an influential functionary of the above mentioned office and now director of the Sugar Company, and Mr. Ito, former Director of the company, the person accused of having issued the forged shares. According to the *Kokkai's* information, General Nagayama, former Chief of the Hokkaido Administration Board, is not free from the charge of negligence in his supervision of the affairs of the company. Mr. Asaba seems likely to come out of the trouble almost as badly as the former Director of the company; but, since everything will be made clear before long, we refrain from alluding to the accusation cast upon him. The *Kokkai* observes that its object in publishing the evil news, is simply to serve public interests. It makes the revelations with all the more readiness inasmuch as the company is no ordinary one, being under the special protection of the Government, which has the power of appointing the Director.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* also writes on the same subject, and expresses profound regret that a company enjoying an extraordinary amount of Government patronage should have shown itself so unworthy of public confidence. On calmer consideration, however, our contemporary thinks that neither the company nor the officials concerned in its supervision can be held entirely accountable for the trouble. The whole atmosphere of the business world is in the Tokyo paper's opinion, permeated by the poisonous element of dependence on luck, an element originated and developed by the so-called "gentlemen merchants" of the present day, who owe everything they possess to the flattery and deceit that have enabled them to enrich themselves out of the people's taxes. Thus the whole tribe of these "gentlemen merchants" and their patrons in office are to be condemned, simultaneously and equally with the business men and officials concerned in the criminal proceedings of the Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* thinks that the most efficient method of clearing Hokkaido of its present evils and corruption, is to establish a local assembly and let it exercise supervision over the doings of the official class in the island. Our contemporary hopes that the Diet will consider this question at its next session.

* * *

The *Choya Shimbun* is engaged in a crusade against what it calls the revival of the *jo-i* spirit. The opening article of the series on this subject has been already reproduced in our columns. In subsequent articles the Tokyo paper exposes the erroneous notions entertained by the conservatives in respect of the introduction of foreign civilization, foreign morality, and foreign religions. It also dwells at much length upon the evils of fostering national prejudices. There is no fear, says the *Choya*, that Japan will lose her national individuality on account of the introduction of foreign civilization and religions, for she is capable of assimilating them, just as she did the civilization and religion in troduced from the Asiatic continent in times long past.

* * *

The *Choya's* articles have called forth a vehement answer from the Conservative organ, the *Chiusei Nippo*. That paper strongly protests against the injustice of identifying fanatics like Nishino, Kurushima, and Tsuda with Conservative influence, and explains that the primary object of the reactionary movement is to check the indiscriminate imitation of Western institutions, Western customs, and Western manners. There is no lack of excellent arguments in defence of the Conservative movement, but the vehemence and even rancour with which the *Chiusei* rebuts the *Choya's* attack will by no means conduce to the interests of the cause it undertakes to champion.

* * *

The *Nippon* has also the *Choya's* articles in its mind when it asks, in a protesting manner, if there be such a thing as revival of the *jo-i* spirit. It ridicules the charge usually preferred against it, that its writings have the tendency of fostering the *jo-i* spirit. "The United States of America," it says, "have rigorous laws against the introduction of Chinese, while Russia is engaged in the expulsion of Jews. These actions manifest a kind of *jo-i* spirit. Far from recommending such steps, we have actually condemned them as irrational. If it is to be regarded as a manifestation of the *jo-i* spirit, to speak of foreign countries in a suspicious and contemptuous manner, then surely," says our contemporary, "foreigners themselves are actuated by a *jo-i* spirit against the Japanese, "for how often are our Imperial family, as well as our countrymen, reviled and abused by foreign newspapers.

* * *

The President and Councillors of the Imperial University and the Directors of the Higher Middle Schools are holding a series of conferences at the Department of Education. The subject of discussion is how to bridge over the gulf that now separates the Higher Middle Schools from the Ordinary Middle Schools. At present a graduate of an Ordinary Middle School must continue his studies for two or three years before he can pass the entrance examination of a Higher Middle School. The proposal reported to have the best prospect of obtaining the approval of the conference, consists in raising the standard of education in the Ordinary Middle Schools, and at the same time adding a few inferior classes to the Higher Middle Schools. Graduates of the former would then have the privilege of entering the latter without examination. These conferences engage the serious attention of private educationalists in the capital; for should the above proposition be adopted, the big private schools which prepare students for the Higher Middle Schools will suffer severely. The *Hochi Shimbun*, writing on this subject, observes that, so far as provincial localities are concerned, the proposition is suitable, but that it would be productive of injurious results in Tokyo. The immediate result of such a measure would be to discourage the development of private education. Schools like the Kinjo Gakko, the Tokyo English Language School, and the Kyoritsu Gakko, which contain from a thousand to two thousand students each, would be deserted and compelled to close their doors. Our contemporary, therefore, recommends that special arrangements be made in the case of Tokyo, so that these excellent private institutions may prosper side by side with the Government schools.

* * *

Tokyo papers publish a report from Korea that the Chinese are buying large tracts of land in the peninsular Kingdom and that other foreigners, including Japanese, are also following the example of the Celestials. The *Mainichi Shimbun* regards this as a serious thing for Korea. In her present condition, the possession of land by foreigners is fraught with serious dangers. Our contemporary thinks that, in order to maintain the independence of Korea and make her a part of Japan's defences against China and Russia, it is necessary to stop the purchase of land by foreigners. The Tokyo paper recommends the authorities to ascertain the truth of the report, and take prompt measures in case the story turns out to be well founded. But like too many irresponsible advisers, the *Mainichi* does not take the trouble to define these measures.

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THE CASE OF TSUDA SANZO.

WE publish elsewhere a translation of the opinion officially delivered by the eminent jurist M. BOISSONADE DE FONTARABIE in regard to the trial of TSUDA SANZO. There has been much talk about this affair. Several critics have contended that since, according to their rendering of the law, an attempt upon the life of a Russian Prince could not be brought within the purview of the special clauses of the Japanese Penal Code relating to attempts upon the lives of members of the Japanese Imperial Family; and since, unless these special clauses could be invoked, no reason existed for departing from the ordinary course of justice, therefore the action of the Supreme Court in assuming jurisdiction in first and last instance was illegal. Further, inasmuch as the abstract question of legality or illegality possesses little interest for the general public, these critics undertook to show that the ends of justice had been defeated, inasmuch as TSUDA SANZO was deprived of the privilege of appeal which he would have enjoyed had his case followed the ordinary channels of procedure. This latter contention, M. BOISSONADE declares to be based on a misconception of the spirit of the law. He points out that no guarantee whatever is furnished to an accused person by being cited before tribunals of inferior degree. The guarantee consists uniquely in having access to a Superior Court, and above all to the Supreme Court. To pretend, therefore, that by coming before the Supreme Court from the outset, TSUDA SANZO was deprived of the guarantees furnished by law, is as though one should assert that by setting a man at once in a life-boat during a storm, instead of placing him at first in a craft of a frailer order, his chances of safety would be diminished. TSUDA SANZO was arraigned before the highest, the most competent, and the most independent tribunal in the land, the very tribunal to which his final appeal would have been carried had there been cause to question the nature of the law administered by the inferior courts. This part of the discus- does not call for lengthy consideration. Justice was in no sense impaired by the process adopted, and for practical folks that fact is sufficient. But there remains the question, was the Supreme Court competent to assume jurisdiction in the first place; and having assumed jurisdiction, was it competent, in the second place, to pronounce sentence under the provisions of the Common Law? M. BOISSONADE answers both questions affirmatively. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is exercisable with respect to points of law only, with the exception of certain special crimes for the trial of which it is competent to assume the functions of a Court of both first and last instance. In TSUDA SANZO'S case a point of law was raised at once. The Chief Public Procurator argued that the crime belonged to the Code's special category of attempts against the life of an Imperial personage, and the District Court at Otsu, after hearing the pleadings, declared itself incompetent to decide this point of law. A decision could, in truth, have been of little value, for the Public Procurator, in the one event, and the prisoner's counsel in the other, would inevitably have appealed against the inferior tribunal's ruling, and thus the question must have come finally to the Supreme Court. Ignoring this latter consideration, however, we have the plain fact that the Otsu tribunal having declined to decide the point of law, the duty of doing so devolved, *de facto*, on the Supreme Court. In writing about the affair, some journalists appear to labour under the hallucination that the Supreme Court, without hearing any arguments or holding any regular session, might have over-ruled the inferior tribunal's declaration of incompetence, and directed it to try TSUDA under the provisions of the Common Law. The error of such a supposition is plain. A case coming before the Supreme Court has to be duly heard. Under ordinary circumstances the hearing takes place at the Court's regular session in Tokyo, but in this instance the point of law to be adjudicated had reference to the category of exceptional crimes enumerated in the First Chapter of the Second Book of the Penal Code. It consequently became competent for the Court to open a special session in the District tribunal at Otsu, as provided in the Law of Organization, and it adopted that course as the most simple and expeditious. Thus the procedure followed up to the moment of opening the Supreme Court's session at Otsu is perfectly clear and regular, and the only question remaining to be considered is whether the Court, after hearing the pleading of the Chief Public Procurator, and deciding that the crime must be regarded as a common assault, ought not to have remitted the case to the inferior tribunal within whose venue it had originally lain. M. BOISSONADE, in discussing this phase, asserts that, had the Court of Appeal, for instance, adjudging TSUDA'S crime to belong to the special category of attempts against Imperial personages, pronounced a capital sentence, the Supreme Court, in reversing that judgment, would have altered the sentence into one of penal servitude. In short, according to M. BOISSONADE'S contention the superior tribunal, having once assumed jurisdiction, exercises it to the end, even though the exercise does not extend to any sentence lying beyond the range of an inferior court's competence. We cannot pretend to be ourselves entirely convinced by this line of reasoning, though we fully admit the weight of M. BOISSONADE'S authority. In England the practice with regard to criminal cases is to be guided by the strict letter of the law, and according to the strict letter of the law, as we read it in Japan, the general jurisdiction belonging to an inferior tribunal cannot be assumed by the Supreme Court except in regard to certain special and clearly defined crimes. It will seem to Englishmen that, having been called upon to determine the point of law whether TSUDA SANZO'S offence belonged to the special category of crimes judiciable in first and last instance by the Supreme Court and having decided in the negative, the Judges of that Court should have stood aside and suffered justice to follow its ordinary channels. The extraordinary course adopted was warrantable only under extraordinary circumstances, which the Court itself declared to be non-existent in TSUDA'S case. That justice suffered, or could have suffered, by the method pursued, is evidently out of the question. Some persons may indeed claim that the greater the number of tribunals accessible to a prisoner, the greater his chances of escape; but with such a pretext we cannot sympathise. Substantial justice was doubtless secured, and in point of celerity the advantage was plainly on the side of the method pursued. When we come, however, to discuss the actual legality of the procedure, we find it impossible to reconcile it with English notions. The precedent established by this action of the Supreme Court is that when a superior tribunal is called upon to determine whether the nature of a case is such as to warrant its exception from the general jurisdiction of inferior courts, then the superior tribunal becomes *de facto* competent to deal with the case in first and last instance, even though it should already have decided, as a point of law, that the alleged crime does not constitute one of the exceptional offences over which it possesses such special jurisdiction. Surely that is not logic, though M. BOISSONADE'S dictum compels us to admit that it is law in Japan.

BRITISH OFFICERS IN THE CHINESE NAVY.

A LONG correspondence, for the most part semi-official, between certain British and Chinese authorities, has just terminated in a rupture. It has reference to the employment by the Chinese of English naval officers, and arose out of the well-known incident connected with the resignation of Admiral LANG last year. We need not recapitulate the circumstances under which that distinguished officer felt himself bound, in defence of his own dignity and that of the British naval service, to quit Chinese employment. The course which he took from the moment his flag was hauled down by a Chinese officer in Hongkong Harbour, to the moment when he shook the dust of the Chinese service off his feet, received the full approval of the British Admiralty, which did not hesitate to say that his con-

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duct throughout had been characterised by prudence and propriety. Following on this event in due time came a semi-official demand for explanations. One can easily understand that the British Naval Authorities strongly resented this treatment of a distinguished naval officer, whose services were lent as a matter of compliment to the Chinese. His treatment was not only an indignity to himself, but to the British Admiralty, and the latter so regarded it and took measures accordingly. On the other hand, it is more puzzling for us to put ourselves in the position of the Viceroy Li. What the forces may be which guided his course in the matter, are very difficulty for outsiders to understand and appreciate; but it is perfectly certain that the explanation she gave were not satisfactory, and that his excuses were not accepted. The correspondence was conducted mainly in London between the Chinese Legation on one side and the British Foreign Office and the Admiralty on the other. The Legation was naturally all apologies and explanations, for the Chinese Minister in London at least can be under no delusion as to the consequences of Admiral LANG'S resignation. The Admiralty was implacable, and the Foreign Office acted as peace-maker. But on the matter of the dignity of the naval service the Admiralty refused to be guided by the Foreign Office. As soon as the circumstances under which the resignation of Admiral LANG took place became known at home, the Admiralty at once resolved that no British officer should for the present be allowed to enter the Chinese Service, and a little later those officers who were in that service received notice that at the expiration of their present terms of employment they would be required to rejoin the Navy and would not be permitted to renew their engagements with the Chinese Government. All attempts hitherto to procure the withdrawal of this order have been vain, and the general opinion among those acquainted with the facts is strongly in favour of the Admiralty. Whether the pay of a particular officer or officers is increased by entering the Chinese Service, is of course a matter of absolute indifference to the British Authorities; it may be, and usually is, of the greatest importance to the officer himself; but to the British Navy it is of no moment whatever. The Admiralty Authorities say that at great inconvenience to the Navy, and at considerable pecuniary loss to the public service, British officers are permitted to enter the Chinese Naval Service. As a rule they are picked men, who would not be likely to languish at home for want of employment. In most cases they are permitted by the Admiralty to pass from the active to the retired list for the purpose of coming to the East. During the term of their Chinese employment they are to all intents and purposes lost to the British service, yet throughout the whole time their service in China counts towards promotion and pension, just as if they were on board British vessels, or as if they were ready in Plymouth or Portsmouth at a moment's notice to take up new appointments. The Admiralty, therefore, loses much and strains several points in order to oblige the Chinese Government by placing at its disposal the services of British officers trained at British expense, and for the terms of their engagement lost to the British service. The Chinese Authorities appear to be under the impression that because they pay salaries which the officers are willing to accept, there the obligation ceases; they do not observe or will not admit that it is owing to the indulgence and friendliness of the British Admiralty that they are able to have British officers at all. Indeed, the views of the Chinese Government on the matter are of that squint-eyed and superficial nature which is somewhat characteristic of them. As the matter stands at present a British officer cannot enter the Chinese Navy until he has severed for ever his connection with his own service. No British subject of intelligence needs to be told how seriously this will militate against the Chinese getting efficient English naval officers, and the Chinese have only themselves to blame for the result.

The case of Mr. HEARSON, which was settled in February last by the courts in London, is instructive in more ways than one, and illustrates what we have stated above. On March 28th, 1890, he, being an engineer in the British Navy, was appointed to the *Pembroke* as an "additional" for the *Mersey*, and on July 22nd he was appointed to the latter ship for service during the autumn manœuvres in August. While here he was offered the post of instructor in the Naval College of Nangkin, on similar terms to those already accepted with the consent of the Admiralty by his brother. On September 4th the *Mersey* was paid off, and he reported himself to the Captain of the *Pembroke* in accordance with the Admiralty Instructions. He immediately asked leave to go on half-pay for three years in order to accept this appointment, but was informed by the Admiralty that this request would not be granted. Meantime, his name was not entered in the books of the *Pembroke*, and if it remained on the books it was merely because there had been an omission to remove it when he was appointed to the *Mersey* in the previous July. On receiving the notification of the refusal of the Admiralty to grant him leave on half-pay, he wrote tendering the resignation of his commission, and, as such applications usually are accepted forthwith, he appears to have been under the impression that it was merely a formal matter involving a few days' delay. He stated subsequently in an affidavit that he believed were it not for the difficulty which had arisen between the Admiralty and the Chinese Government the former would willingly have concurred in his appointment. On October 10th he received leave of absence for a week, and on the 15th, having received no notification of the refusal to permit his resignation, he accepted the post tendered to him, got another week's leave and started for China under the impression that there would be no difficulty about his resignation, and that even if there was he had a legal right to resign. On his arrival at Singapore, as is well known, he was arrested and taken back to England. Now, in this state of the facts the whole question was whether Mr. HEARSON, under the circumstances, came under the Naval Discipline Act. If so, he was liable to be charged with desertion; if not, he was entitled to be set free, and this question in fact, owing to the language of the Act, resolved itself into the further question "was he borne on the books of one of HER MAJESTY'S ships in commission?" If so he could not resign without the consent of the Admiralty, and was a deserter from that ship. This question was really of very little importance to anyone but to Mr. HEARSON himself, because it was admitted to be a high and dry technicality arising under a peculiar state of circumstances which could scarcely exist in case of any other officer; for he was first on board the *Pembroke*, but appointed to the *Mersey* for the Autumn manœuvres; then he was discharged from this ship, and whether what took place on his discharge amounted to putting him on the books of the *Pembroke* or not was the point to be decided. The Court found that the result of this curious shuffling, these transfers and re-transfers, was that in the end he was not on the books of any ship, and that therefore he was not under the Naval Discipline Act, and was not liable to the charge of desertion. In this aspect therefore, as we have said, the case is really of no importance to anybody, but incidentally a very important question respecting naval officers came under discussion. This was whether a commissioned officer in the Navy on the books of one of HER MAJESTY'S ships—that is, in other words, on active service—can resign his commission and leave his ship without the consent of the Admiralty. This is a matter of immense importance to naval officers, and to the naval service generally, and although discussed in Mr. HEARSON'S case, the Court held itself bound by a previous decision on the matter by another court of co-ordinate jurisdiction. It is still open for discussion in the Court of Appeal and in the House of Lords, but so far as a court composed of four judges can settle the matter it is completely settled by a decision in the case of Lieutenant HALL in 1887. Lieutenant HALL, in 1886, applied for an appointment in the London Salvage Corps, and was successful, he being at that time on board the *Orontes* at Sea. In October he wrote to

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the Admiralty resigning his commission, but the resignation was refused. In February, 1887, the *Orontes* being then in Simon's Bay, in South Africa, he obtained leave from the captain to go to Cape Town till the following afternoon, and from that place took passage home in a mail steamer, writing to his captain and returning his commission. On the arrival of the mail steamer at Plymouth, Lieutenant HALL was arrested and the matter came before the High Court of Justice on an application for a writ of HABEAS CORPUS It was contended for the Admiralty that an officer's commission bound him to serve in the Navy so long as he is fit to perform his duty, and so long as the State required his services. For Lieutenant HALL it was argued that the commission might be resigned at any time, and that the QUEEN had no right in time of peace to insist on the performance of duties from which the officer desired to escape. The Court refused to agree with either argument. The judges were of opinion, however, that where a commissioned officer accepts an appointment to serve in one of HER MAJESTY'S ships in commission and enters upon the performance of his duties, he subjects himself to the provisions of the Naval Discipline Act, and at his own will and pleasure cannot resign his appointment, and may be tried by Court Martial for any of the offences specified in the statute. Any other interpretation would leave the QUEEN'S ships in commission open to the peril of being without officers at their own will and pleasure; but whether the officer who, not being on the books of any ship, declines to undertake a particular service can be court-martialled for his refusal, is a point which the Court declined formally to decide, although some of the judges expressed the opinion that he was not liable to punishment. The position of naval officers is, however, sufficiently clear. If they accept an appointment which puts them on the books of a ship of the Royal Navy, they cannot resign that position at their own will and pleasure; but it appears that when they are not on the books of a ship they may refuse to accept the employment which would place them there, and then they can resign the naval service. This seems to give officers abundant liberty, while at the same time properly protecting the public interests. China will therefore be still able, in spite of the Admiralty, to get officers of the British Navy, but they must be officers who find it to their interest to resign the latter before entering the Chinese service. Whether this is a state of things entirely satisfactory either to the Chinese or to the officers concerned, is a matter which they must be left to decide for themselves.

THE JEWS.

IT is becoming a mystery of much interest to divine the name of the country where Baron HIRSCH contemplates founding the new Kingdom of the Jews. The Baron is a man of enormous wealth, which he has no means of spending satisfactorily. His only son is dead, and he is too old to be ambitious after the usual manner of men. On the other hand, the vista of his past life is not free from defects, which he may well desire to obliterate before he dies. Not always remarkable for the scrupulous character of his transactions, and finding himself lonely and unconsidered despite his vast wealth, the Baron perhaps sees in the misfortunes of his fellow-countrymen a providential opportunity to re-build his reputation and utilize his gold. He has put up three millions sterling of his fortune —how many millions are left, we wonder— wherewith to purchase a great tract of land in some unoccupied region for colonization by Jews expelled from Russia, Poland, and other countries. It is a splendid beginning, and people talk of the ROTHSCHILDS contributing at least an equal sum, so that, with subscriptions by other wealthy Israelites, a capital fund of ten millions sterling will be at once obtained. But the projectors observe strict silence as to the site of the new colony. At first there was talk of Palestine, but this idea has been discredited, and conjecture is for the moment entirely at fault. To us the weak point of the scheme is that it assumes the willingness of the Jews to settle down in an out-of-the-way region. Agriculture has not usually possessed attractions for them, and their history seems to indicate tendencies not adapted for purposes of colonization. However, Baron HIRSCH and his advisers must be assumed to understand their own people.

The story of the Jewish race is a terrible record. Their expulsion from England in the thirteenth century, after cruel spoliation and persecutions, was followed in the fourteenth century by the series of awful episodes in central France, when every Jew in whole provinces was burned, and at Chinon 160 of both sexes perished in the same furnace. In Germany, before the Crusades, a raid against the Jews was a favourite pastime of bankrupt nobles, and during and after the Crusades one had only to raise the cry "Hep" in any city of the empire to provoke a paroxysm of murderous rage against the Jews. Massacred and burned by thousands, they nevertheless made themselves so indispensable that their complete expulsion could not be effected. In Spain, after a period of tolerant, nay even humane, treatment, they were subjected to terrible persecutions by the Gothic princes in the 6th and 7th centuries, the result being that they sided with the Moorish invaders, and enjoyed under the latter a long interval of peace and prosperity. But this calm was succeeded by a fierce storm. "The estates of the nobles," says history, "were in many cases mortgaged to the Jews; hence it was not difficult for 'conscience' to get up a persecution. Gradually the Jews were deprived of the privilege of living where they pleased; their rights were diminished and their taxes augmented. * * * Immense numbers were murdered, and wholesale theft was perpetrated by the religious rabble. Escape was possible only by flight to Africa, or by accepting baptism at the point of the sword. The number of these enforced converts to Christianity is reckoned at 200,000. The fate of the Jews in Spain during the 15th century, however, beggars description. We read of nothing but persecution, violent conversion, massacre, the tortures of the inquisition. Thousands were burned alive; and in one year 250 were burned in Seville alone. Sometimes the popes, and even the nobles, shuddered at the fiendish zeal of the inquisition, and tried to mitigate it, but in vain. At length the hour of final horror came. In 1492 FERDINAND and ISABELLE issued an edict for the expulsion within four months of all who refused to become Christians, with the strict prohibition to take neither gold nor silver out of the country." Thus, after seven centuries of residence, the Jews, to the number of 300,000, were driven out of Spain. Some of them ventured into France, where their countrymen had already suffered so much. Others made their way to Italy, Turkey, and Morocco. About 80,000 obtained entrance into Portugal by paying eight gold pennies per head for a respite of as many months. Lingering after this stipulated period, they experienced appalling cruelties. EMMANUEL, in 1495, ordered their expulsion, but at the same time gave directions that all Jewish children under 14 years of age should be torn from their mothers, detained in Portugal and brought up as Christians. It is related that numbers of Jewish mothers, losing their reason in these terrible circumstances, destroyed their children with their own hands, and threw them into wells and rivers to prevent them from falling into the power of their persecutors. Thenceforth they found some clemency in Italy and Turkey, but in Germany they continued to suffer as before, being driven out of Bavaria and Brandenburg in the second half of the sixteenth century, and exposed, during the seventeenth and first part of the eighteenth century, to hardships of the most cruel character. Even in England, although from the time of CHARLES II. the Jews were allowed to return and live unmolested, it was not until the reign of QUEEN VICTORIA that their disabilities were finally removed, one by one, so that they now enjoy, with insignificant exceptions, precisely the same privileges as free-born British subjects. Yet, strange to say, out of 6¾ millions of their race in Europe, only 100,000 are to be found in

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Great Britain. The distribution of the Jews throughout the world, according to the latest estimate, is as follows :—

Russia	3,500,000
Austro-Hungary	1,800,000
Germany	600,000
Roumania	350,000
Turkey in Europe	160,000
Holland	90,000
Belgium	6,000
France	75,000
Great Britain	100,000
Italy	40,000
Switzerland	8,000
Scandanavia	8,000
Iberian Peninsula	2,000
Asia	500,000
Africa	350,000
America	500,000
Australasia	20,000

It will thus be seen that the action of the Russian Government is of immense significance to the Jewish race, since it involves nearly one half of their total number in a fate that recalls mediæval times. Their treatment during the whole of the Christian era is a foul disgrace to Europe.

POLITICAL PARTIES.

AFTER the defeat of the Radical and Progressionist combination in the House of Representatives last session, the latter party found that it had made a distinct advance in popular favour owing to its determined and unflinching attitude in the Diet, whereas the Radicals, a secession from whose ranks had snatched victory from the very lips of the union, and who had proved themselves by no means such stalwart opponents of the Government as the Progressionists, forfeited a certain amount of prestige. On the closing of the Diet both parties went busily to work, the one to repair its losses, the other to profit by its advantage, while their opponents, the Government party, flushed with victory, formed the *Kyodo* (Union) Club and set about stumping the provinces. So far as the Radicals are concerned, however, it appears to be out of their power to attain a condition of real consolidation. Divisions and dissensions mark their career, and it is extremely difficult to say, at present, how many actually follow Count ITAGAKI'S banner and how many occupy a different camp. The *Choya Shimbun* gives the following estimate of the present division of the various parties in the House :—

Jiyu-to (Radicals)	80
Jiyu Club (A seceding section of the Radicals)	33
Kaishin-to (Progressionists)	42
Kyodo Club (Unionists)	75
Taiseikai (Independents)	35
Not attached to any Party	33
Kokumin Jiyu-to (National Radicals)	2

The latest rumour is that an amalgamation of the Radicals and Progressionists has been virtually accomplished, so far as the leaders of the two parties are concerned, but that Messrs. HOSHI TORU and OI KENTARO, among the Radicals, have declined to fall in with the project, and declared their intention of seceding. They would take with them about forty members, so that the result of the combination would be a compact body of some eighty odd members under the leadership of Counts OKUMA and ITAGAKI. It is alleged that Count OKUMA has asked Count ITAGAKI to be the chief of the united party. A union of this kind is what we have always hoped for and predicted. The *Jiyu-to*, as hitherto constituted, contains elements with which the sober, moderate politicians on the *Kaishin* side could not possibly amalgamate permanently, and which are not calculated to impart credit or solidity to any political movement. If the act of combining with the *Kaishin-to* has the effect of extruding these elements from the ranks of the *Jiyu-to*, that in itself would be gain, apart from the fact that the united parties would represent a really sound and responsible association. The action attributed to Count OKUMA is just what we should have expected from a man of his political insight. He understands perfectly well that the *Kaishin-to* can afford to be magnanimous, and that being comparatively free from jealousy, such sacrifices will cost them little. No happier event could occur in the field of Japanese politics than union of this nature. It would at last give to the country a political party worthy of the name. We should then have in the Lower House two great parties, namely, the *Kyodo* Club which, with additions from the *Taiseikai* would probably command about a hundred votes in any division, and the combined *Kaishin* and *Jiyu* parties commanding from eighty to ninety votes. Little by little the remaining members could not fail to range themselves on the side of one or other of these coalitions, although it must be confessed that among this unclassed residuum there are not a few men whose cöoperation would embarrass rather than strengthen the party of their choice. It will, of course, be understood that the proposed amalgamation of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* is not absolutely certain. But events have long pointed to it with increasing clearness. It would have to be preceded by the dissolution of one of the two parties, probably of both. For the law forbids their combination until they have ceased to be registered independently, and it is not easy to suppose that the *Kaishin-to* would carry self-abnegation so far as to dissolve for the purpose of being absorbed into the ranks of the *Jiyu-to*. Besides, the name of the coalition could not well be either *Jiyu* or *Kaishin*. Thus the simplest course would be the dissolution of both, and the formation of a new party out of their elements. Possibly an agreement has already been come to in respect of this, but nothing is yet known publicly. Should the re-organization be effected as foretold, the next point of interest will be the ultimate affinities of what may be called the "drift;" namely, the 33 members who seceded from Count ITAGAKI on the occasion of the complications about the Budget, and who now form the *Jiyu* Club; the 40 members who, under the leadership of Messrs. HOSHI and OI, are expected to secede in consequence of the amalgamation of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to*; and the non-attached members. These factions cannot exist independently, and the side to which the majority of them gravitate will obtain the ascendancy. The members of the *Jiyu* Club, though separated for the moment from Count ITAGAKI, are so much attached to him personally that their return to his leadership can only be a question of time. But with regard to the other sections, it is difficult to predict anything.

HARVARD COLLEGE EXAMINATIONS IN JAPAN.

WE learn from the *Fiji Shimpo* that examinations for admission to Harvard College (Cambridge, Mass.) are soon to be held for the first time in Japan. The matter has been under consideration for some time, the chief motive being the number of Japanese students now studying in that institution, and the risk and uncertainty to which they are subject in crossing to America with the hope of passing the examinations. For some years examinations have been held in all the chief cities of the United States and, when necessary, in London, Paris, and Berlin. The roster of students already includes many from such distant points as Germany, South Africa, and the Sandwich Islands.

Several scholarships have recently been established for the sole benefit of Japanese students, and this will doubtless make it possible for many to study in Cambridge who have hitherto been deterred by the expensiveness of study abroad as compared with study in Japan.

One of the difficulties in carrying out such a project as this is the necessity of making an allowance for the different training of Japanese youths, and of establishing a principle by which to secure in Japanese students a mental maturity equal in degree to that usually required though differing in previous training. The requirements for admission to Harvard have been hitherto substantially the same for all candidates (not coming from other colleges), but the system is sufficiently flexible to suit the varying tastes and aptitudes of students. It is clear, however, that something must be stretched for the sake of Japanese students. Latin and Greek, for example, one can hardly expect of them. At the other extreme—natural science—we cannot look for a training in laboratary work such as is required of those who do not offer the Western classics. Mr. IKEDA, who entered last year, was allowed to substitute Japanese and Chinese Literature for Latin and Greek, and the same privilege will probably be given to other Japanese candidates.

The authorities of the Educational Department and of the various private schools have cöoperated in the preparations necessary for the undertaking, and the Educa-

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tional Department has generously placed a room at the disposal of Harvard College for this purpose. The examinations are everywhere held on the same days and hours, and, as has been said, the same papers are set for all. The Tokyo examinations will take place in a room of the First Higher Middle School at Hongo, on June 23rd, 25th, 26th, and 27th. A schedule is given below. Those who take the subjects of the first day are required to give previous notice. No one can be finally admitted without testimonials of character.

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD.—Beginning at 8 30 a.m.—Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Physics, Advanced Algebra.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH.—Beginning at 8 a.m.—Elementary Latin (or Japanese Composition), Elementary Greek (or Chinese Literature), Analytical Geometry, Latin Composition, Advanced Latin.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH.—Beginning at 8 a.m.—Elementary Physics, Plane Geometry, Algebra, History, English, Greek Composition, Advanced Greek.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH.—Beginning at 8 a.m.—Advanced French, Logarithms and Trigonometry, Solid Geometry, Elementary French, Elementary German, Advanced German.

It may be explained that the above subjects are not all necessary for admission. The system is as follows:—The required subjects of knowledge are classed in eight groups, viz., Latin, Greek, English, French, German, History, Mathematics, and Physical Science. Each of these (except English and History) is again divided into "elementary" and "advanced." Two large groups are thus formed, one of "elementary" studies, eight in number, the other of "advanced" studies, nine in number. In Mathematics, for example, Plane Geometry and Quadratic Equations mark the limits of the "elementary," and Trigonometry, Analytic Geometry, Theory of Permutations, &c. are reckoned as "advanced." Each candidate is required to pass in *all* of the elementary studies and at least two of the advanced. But he may omit one or two of the languages (except English) in the elementary group, provided he supplies the place with an additional one or more of the advanced studies. In this way an effort is made to allow for varying aptitudes while securing equivalent mental attainments. Thus, out of the twenty-one subjects of the schedule, no more than ten would ordinarily be taken by a candidate.

As a specimen of the preparation demanded, requirements in English may here be mentioned. The candidate is to write "a short English composition, correct in spelling, punctuation, grammar, division by paragraphs, and expression, upon one of several subjects announced at the time of examination. In 1891 the subjects will be drawn from one or more of the following works: SHAKSPEARE'S "Julius Cæsar" and "Merchant of Venice," COLERIDGE'S "Ancient Mariner," LONGFELLOW'S "Evangeline," MACAULAY'S "Lord Clive," WEBSTER'S first Bunker Hill oration, IRVING'S "Alhambra," SCOTT'S "Old Mortality," GEORGE ELIOT'S "Silas Marner," HAWTHORNE'S "House of the Seven Gables." This list is always announced four years beforehand, and is the one adopted generally by New England colleges for the purpose. Several of the works named are probably seldom read by the Japanese student, and some equivalent will doubtless be allowed.

As regards the number of candidates for admission, it is impossible to know beforehand. The standard of the examinations and the expense of a course at Harvard (compared to Michigan University, for example) are likely to keep the numbers down. But Harvard has never shown herself willing to attract a larger membership by lowering the standard of attainments required. The examinations are intended merely to obviate certain inconveniences for those (whether few or many) who are able and desirous to enter. The scholarships now available will of course do something to open the way to many who could not have aspired to a training in foreign universities. It is an axiom with the Japanese student that the world owes him an education, and were the scholarships alone to be considered, there would be no lack of candidates willing to own Howard as their *go-sen*. But the ordeal of the examinations stands in the way, and we do not know how many will be found equal to it.

REGULATIONS FOR EXAMINATION OF COURT CLERKS.

Regulations for the examination, prior to appointment, of Court Clerks have been decided as follow.

Count YAMADA AKIYOSHI,
Minister of State for Justice.

Dated May 15th, 1891.

NOTIFICATION No. 4.

CHAPTER I.—EXAMINATIONS.

Article. 1.—Examinations for the appointment of Court Clerks shall be in accordance with the present regulations, except so far as provided for by Imperial Ordinances relating to the examination of Civil Officials.

Article 2.—The examinations shall be conducted in Appeal Courts.

Article 3.—The Examination Committee shall be appointed by the Minister of State for Justice from among judges and Public Procurators, and chief clerks of Appeal Courts, or judges and public procurators of district courts within the jurisdiction of each appeal court.

The Chairman of Committee shall be that member of Committee who holds the highest rank.

Article 4.—Each examination shall have as subjects one or other of the Civil, Commercial and Criminal Codes, and the Codes of Criminal and Civil Procedure, besides composition, copying, dictation, arithmetic and book-keeping.

Article 5.—The Chairman of Committee may, where a candidate so requires, permit attendance at a written examination in a district court. In this case the replies to the questions of the examination shall be given under the superintendence of the officials of the court.

Article 6.—If the Examination Committee consider a candidate qualified to attend the oral examination, after examining his replies to the written examination, they shall subject him to such oral examination.

Article 7.—Where a candidate has not attended an oral examination, his examination shall be held void.

Article 8.—A certificate shall be given to such as have passed examination, bearing the signatures of the Chairman and members of the Examination Committee.

Article 9.—The Chairman of the Examination Committee shall report the names of those who have passed, and the result of the examination to the Minister of State for Justice.

CHAPTER 2.—PRACTICAL TRAINING.

Article 10.—Candidates who have passed examination may be appointed probationary clerks of courts.

Probationary court clerks shall undergo practical training in local and district courts as well as in public procurators' offices.

Article 11.—The nature of the practical training to be undergone shall be decided by a conference of the President of Appeal Court and the Chief Public Procurator.

Article 12.—Control and superintendence of the practical training of a candidate shall be vested in the president of the District Court or the head public procurator, or the presiding judge, or a judge of the local court or the public procurator of the latter court. Such superintending official shall name an official who shall take direct charge of the practical training.

Article 13.—Should a probationary court clerk neglect his official duty or conduct himself improperly either inside or outside his office, he shall be warned by the official in charge of his training.

Article 14.—Should the official or non-official conduct of any probationary court clerk be deemed improper, or his progress in practical training be imperfect, his superintendent shall report the fact to the President of the Appeal Court and to the Chief Public Procurator.

Article 15.—The superintendent shall, when a probationary court clerk has finished his practical training under his charge, prepare a certificate relating to such training, wherein he shall state the result of the training and conduct of the candidate both inside and outside his office, and transmit the same to the President of the Court of Appeal and the Chief Public Procurator.

Should any warning have been given as to the conduct of the candidate, such fact shall be stated on the certificate.

The President of the Appeal Court and the Chief Public Procurator shall add their opinion to the certificate, and transmit the same to the Minister of State for Justice.

Article 16.—The regulations of this chapter shall be applied to the practical training of those who become court clerks without being required to pass the examinations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROFFESSOR HOWARD AND "SECULARIAN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In the judgment of many, if not all of your readers, except "Secularian," the lecture recently printed in your columns by Prof. Howard is a model of truth and facts combined, and all that was claimed for it by it author. It did not solicit a quarrel, but it seems that "the great watch" who is set for looking after the faith of others, did not let it pass—and as in numerous cases "flung his ink" at the paper, and *tried* to say something about it. "Secularian," I suppose, is a so-called "infidel," who believes nothing but what he sees, and don't like to have anybody else believe in anything, but "beans and potatoes." He accused Mr. Howard of *taking for granted* that Josephus and other writers, and the Bible were genuine, and says all of these are "questioned."—"That is argument in a hurry," to say that *every* history is "questioned," except some remote author who happen to be silent on the question. That is about the way such writers get out of a thing that is true: just say, "it is questioned." They question everything but Tom Paine, but in his works they lurk, and "spout out" against God and man. I do not know Mr. Howard, nor "Secularian," but suppose that an ordinary fair test of the sincerety and genuineness of their faiths could be evinced by the lives of their followers. Is the doctrine of Christ so offensive? And why? Has it not literally *made* its millions of true men, and nations beside? What has "Secularian's" scepticism accomplished? And what does he now seek to accomplish? Is it to do good, or to "air himself." It cannot do good, and it seems to be worthless to spend so much "wind," "airing" truths that have stood for ages and flourished amid worse storms than "Secularian" can raise. He says "Christian apologetics is steadily deteriorating." Talk about facts! A boy twelve years old, that has ever read the first book of history, and a monthly magazine knows better than that! Tom Paine talked like that, and said only another half century would witness the overthrow of Christianity. Let "Secularian" compare statistics and see how wonderfully Christianity has thriven on that! Tom Paine's printing house is now used for printing Bibles. But I am not writing a review of the articles in question, but simply took up my pen to express my appreciation of

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Prof. Howard's lecture. I heard an old reader of the *Mail* say to-day that "Prof. Howard's lecture is the best thing I ever saw in the *Mail*—and he likes your paper too. He has spent thirty years in the East and his criticism has weight. Your Kobe readers have appreciated the rare treat in "The Christ: Judged from a Scientific Standpoint." I hope Prof. Howard will "be drawn out" and thereby give your readers some more of his able writing.

A. AMOR VERITAS.

Kobe, June 10th, 1891.

THE STAGE AND WE: OR, JOHNEY'S REFLECTIONS WHILE READING MR. MILN'S LECTURE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have read Mr. Miln's Lecture—"The Church and the Stage." At first his twin sisters reminded me of two old negroes, Aley and Rachel, sisters, whom I knew in C. The elder, being poor and in ill-health, was obliged to apply to a warden of the poor for assistance. She supposed that funds for her immediate relief were in the officer's hands, and that it was only necessary for her to state her case; but found when she made her application that certain formalities had to be observed. Not receiving any money the very day she made application, and not appreciating the formalities of the law by which she was required to wait, she came away somewhat discouraged, and on the way home met a friend to whom she gave an account of her troubles and sufferings. While Aley was making her speech, Rachel, who had accompanied her, stood by, and exclaimed with every breath, in subdued and solemn tones, "Poar Aley! Poar Aley! Poar Aley!" I thought, "Poar Kingsley! Poar Church! Poar Preachers! Poar England to have produced such preachers!

I read farther, and it appeared that a long while ago the little sister got stuck in the mud, and the big sister ran off and left the little sister "stuck in thar." And I said, "Poar Theatre! Poar Theatre! Poar Theatre!" I dried my eyes and read some more, and it appeared that that Big Sis was all wrong, but that she has discovered her mistake and has already set about a reconciliation with a will (and a whole set of pulpit chairs)! "Gracious," thought I, "but ain't thar a good time a comin!"

Just as I imagined I could almost see Little Sis "a clappin' of her hands and a-shoutin' (orthodox now)" this troublesome old memory of mine recalled the following article in one of the last home papers, under the heading:

MISS MARY ANDERSON RETIRES FROM THE STAGE.

"Miss Mary Anderson, who is a Louisville lady, has ever been regarded as one of the few pure women on the stage. She has been used as an argument against the preachers and others who condemn the theatre as evil in its influence and tendencies. It has been said, "If the theatre were so bad, would such a woman as Mary Anderson remain on the stage?" Of course the theatre as an institution might be very bad indeed, and yet there might be a few persons on the stage who were not corrupt. But now Miss Mary Anderson has permanently retired from the stage because she is convinced it is evil, and she declares that she will never attend a theatre again.

"This is no instance of disappointed ambition, for Miss Anderson had attained the highest distinction of any woman who has acted in the theatre of this generation. Sometimes people find out a thing is wrong when they try to do it and fail. Not so in this case.

"Neither is it a case of decayed popularity. After men have worn themselves out, even though they have attained success along certain lines, they sometimes have conscientious scruples which never bothered them during their times of success. But Miss Anderson's popularity has suffered no diminution. Indeed, the declaration of her conviction that the theatre was wrong was called forth by an attempt on the part of a manager to engage her for $5,000 a week.

"Here then is a pure woman who thought she could have an honourable career on the stage, maintaining her uprightness and avoiding all wrong. She was influenced by no Puritanical ideas. She regarded the stage as a proper and an honourable profession, and she achieved the highest success in it, yet she finds after a thorough trial that it is all wrong, and she declares she will never act again, now will she countenance acting by her presence. If this does not convince those church members who have been inclined to apologise for the theatre, we do not know what sort of evidence would convince them.—*Western Recorder*."

Nothing would be to the church and the faithful ministry of to-day a greater source of rejoicing than such a transformation of society as would render this great "social force," the theatre, a power for the uplifting of the people into broader and more real conceptions of the human and the divine. But before we can assume that such a degree of perfection has already been attained Miss Anderson's testimony must be set aside.

It is natural for Mr. Miln to be in love with his profession, and every one should wish him God-speed in his efforts to elevate its moral standards and to maintain its dignity. But before we can conclude that the fame and the admiration justly accorded Mr. Miln for his mastery of the great characters of the greatest English mind, by lovers of the beautiful and the sublime in nature and in art, mean approval of the modern stage, not only will Miss Anderson's testimony have to be ruled out of court, but also that of a number of preachers not yet heard from. Thus endeth Johney's reflection.

Very respectfully, JOHNEY.

Yokohama, June 13th, 1891.

THE EX-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—One of the most remarkable examples of comparative neglect or oversight, is the Government's relinquishment of the public services of Viscount Aoki. That gentleman seems to have especially deserved esteem and honorary recognition for his efforts in elevating the country's foreign relations, which would soon have further developed into the much desired consummation of Treaty Revision. That a statesment of the Viscount's ability and character should have been subjected to the necessity of resigning his official portfolio because of an untoward incident, for which he was in no wise accountable, is an unexampled instance of national humiliation and self-depreciation. The advanced stage of his diplomatic intercourse with other nationalities may be considered as having been highly probable to produce most satisfactory results; he certainly had the ingenious statesmanship that could cleverly adduce good reasons for reticence, and yet keep the political thinkers hopeful as to the full maturity of his efforts.

The manner in which the Viscount has been separated from his important duties, and the fact that no other post has as yet been offered him, stand out as a separate and distinct combination of seeming unappreciativeness and injustice. Unpleasant as his resignation of office was to those whose confidence and respect he had won, the fate of other innocent official contemporaries resembled his, but compared with after results and the selection of each *confrère* for some other special service to the State, the omission of the Ex-minister of Foreign Affairs, as though his claims to the nation's respect and esteem were forgotten, produces an unpleasant impression.

It is still to be hoped, however, that some tempting opportunity is held in reserve; and it would be essentially appropriate if, in the innumerable changes, the Viscount should be sent to the Court of St. James's, where by virtue of his accomplishments and qualifications as a statesman his continuous influence might be operative. Eminent noblemen who are, at the same time, eminent statesmen, are not so plentiful as to be laid aside for trifles.

Yours, &c., COMPENSATION.

Tokyo, June 14th, 1891.

[We imagine that Viscount Aoki's present position is of his own choosing.—Ed. *J. M.*]

DOCTOR HOWARD'S REPLY TO A RECENT CRITICISM ON HIS LECTURE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your always welcome paper I find there appeared a letter on the 9th inst. under the heading "Professor Howard's Scientific Method," in which the author, under the pseudonym of "Secularian," asks in a tone which is not defiant, for me to inform him what was the year in which, as I stated in a recent lecture, 617 members of the British Scientific Association signed a declaration to the effect that "It is a perversion of science to cast doubt upon the Scriptures?"

In making this quotation, I said I would "simply interpolate it for what it was worth." This direct question, however, enables me to show that it is possibly worth more than I made it appear. This manifesto I am able to state is now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. It was signed in 1865. In it there is not only the statement already quoted, but a further declaration of belief in the authenticity of the Scriptures and of the harmony of the Scriptures with natural science. Amongst the signators are Sir David Brewster, Sir Thomas Bell, and Lord Alfred Churchill. My first short and moderate mention of this manifesto your correspondent refers to as my "curious method of dealing with evidence." Having answered your correspondent's only question, I would prefer now to thank him for this opportunity of serving him, and close by signing my own proper name to this epistle. In the interest of Christian apologists, however, your correspondent has made it incumbent I should make a public correction. He has been kind enough to speak of me as an exemplar and representative of the Christian apologists of the 19th century. This statement is an injustice to that entire body, and might rightly, I think, be resented by every one of them. Being merely an ordinary but leisured Layman, I represent simply myself, and whatever I may have said has no value or significance except for what truth there may be in it.

In some introductory remarks on the various religions of different nations and the relation of religion to science, I quoted from Mr. Spencer "True Science is essentially Religious," and then a number of paragraphs from Prof. Huxley beginning "True science and true religion are twin Sisters." Your unduly generous correspondent insists that I knew and ought to have stated what was in the minds of these gentlemen respectively, other than what they said, and this in spite of the fact that Mr. Huxley follows up the word Religion with synonymus in which all English dictionaries I know of agree. He informs me of what I was before ignorant, that he knows that in my own mind I meant by the same word something totally different. I would not be discourteous enough to contradict, but in the connection in which I used the word Religion at that time, I was unaware and am still unaware of any ground for this allegation. The "sterner criticism" with which in chosen words your correspondent follows up his allegations on this point, might accordingly have been reserved. As I have instigated not a little of the more recent work done in the laboratory of Professor Huxley, I think I am speaking not wholly without knowledge.

Certain other chosen phrases implying a long and intimate acquaintance with the mind and the character of all the Christian Apologists of the 19th century, your correspondent has been incited to employ because, in the commencement of a distinct section of my lecture, I saw fit frankly to state that in what I had to say on that particular point, I must for convenience assume that we agreed as to the authenticity of the New Testament. Precisely the same course every teacher in every science is obliged to adopt. An hour's lecture or even a 24 hours' lecture would be impossible on any topic of any one of the sciences if on each occasion the lecturer had to begin at the first principles of the respective science and repeat the proof of them.

It should have been noted by your correspondent that the subject of the lecture in question was not the Authenticity of the Scriptures; it was not Religion; it was not Christianity; it was not any one of the incidental points to which his letter of generous criticism has been exclusively devoted. Notwithstanding the intimations of unscrupulousness in the methods employed by me in this lecture, I have not called attention to the manner in which one half of a sentence as I wrote it has been detached from the latter half, its place being taken by words which were not mine, and how the unmeaning nonsense resulting has been held up as a specimen of the lecturer's style. I prefer to call the attention of your correspondent to the fact that the subject of the lecture was "The Christ."

If he should see fit to read the lecture he will find in it several questions which might have some interest for him. On the main question, viz., "The Christ," I cordially invite him to answer at least two of these questions. Who was the Christ? 2. What was the Christ?

As his studies seem to have been specially in the direction of the Gospels, I would further suggest he might render a public service if, having tried as he has, to show who did not write them, he will now give a positive and incontrovertible answer to the following questions: 1. Who wrote Matthew? 2. Who wrote Mark? 3. Who wrote Luke? 4. Who wrote John? and what was the date at which they were respectively written? In the evidence he may bring forward I would respectfully suggest that anonymous authors (the only kind adduced in his letter) be not selected as authorities. An anonymous author quoting other anonymous authors is not considered by everybody as deserving the attention which perhaps he ought to get.

I am, yours truly, B. HOWARD.

Ikao, June 14th, 1891.

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M. BOISSONADE AND THE COURT OF CASSATION.

The following is the opinion of Monsieur Boissonade de Fontarabie on the competence of the Court of Cassation in the affair of Tsuda Sanzo:—

The decision of the Court of Cassation in the affair of Tsuda Sanzo has encountered some criticisms which must not be suffered to obtain credence.

The judgment itself has not been criticised. It is in strict conformity with the Penal Code, the second article of which is opposed to every assimilation of a crime not provided for, to a crime provided for, whatever semblance of analogy may be discernible. In this respect the constitution is even more formal when it provides in Article 23, that "No Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried or punished unless according to law."

The competence of the Court of Cassation has, however, been contested. Further, surprise has been expressed that the trial was conducted *in camerâ*.

With regard to the latter point, the right of the Court was formally provided in the 105th Article of the Law of Organization of the Courts of Justice, and in the 59th Article of the Constitution, which sanctions the exclusion of the public when "publicity might be prejudicial to tranquillity, good order, or morality." In this case there was reason to apprehend demonstrations contrary to good order and tranquillity.

The criticism as to competence is more specious and demands precise refutation.

It has been contended that, so soon as the crime did not appear to the Court to be included in the provisions of the 1st and 2nd chapters of the Second Book of the Penal Code, the common law became applicable, alike in respect to the competence of the tribunal and the nature of the penalty; that the Court should then have declared itself incompetent and should have sent back the case to the ordinary tribunals of First Instance and of Appeal.

It is pretended that by not adopting this course, the Court prejudiced the cause of the accused in a dual manner, since, first, it deprived him of the guarantee of the two first degrees of jurisdiction; and, secondly, it deprived him of his natural judges, this latter action being in contravention of the 24th Article of the Constitution which provides that "No Japanese subject shall be deprived of his right of being tried by the Judges determined by law."

I am persuaded that these contentions involve a double misconception of the true principles of competence.

First, the inferior degrees of jurisdiction are not a guarantee. The guarantee exists only in recourse to higher jurisdictions.

Secondly, the Court of Cassation was the natural and lawful judge of the accused.

I proceed to examine these two propositions:—

First: When the Law of the Organization of the Courts gave competence in first instance to District tribunals, and in second instance to Courts of Appeal, it did not pretend that judgments in first instance would serve to enlighten the Courts of Appeal, any more than it pretended that judgments in appeal would enlighten the Court of Cassation. To make the light come from below would be unreasonable. When a superior tribunal is required to adjudicate upon an appeal from a judgment, it has to consider the judgment as non-existing in respect of all the chief objects of appeal. If matters have to be submitted, as a general rule, to jurisdiction of the first degree by an inferior tribunal, it is because of the practical impossibility of having all cases judged by Courts of Appeal, these being few and far removed, perhaps, from the venue (there are but seven such Courts in Japan). In providing that crimes and delicts shall be first tried by District and Local Courts, the law hopes that many cases will end there, whether the finding be conviction or whether it be acquittal, because the condemned person or the Minister of Justice will not always desire another decision on appeal. Nevertheless, the right of appeal from these judgments of inferior tribunals exists, and it is consequently by the second degree of jurisdiction that a guarantee is provided. The same argument holds in respect of Courts of Appeal to which recourse must be had before going to the Court of Cassation. Many cases will end in the Appeal Courts, recourse to the Court of Cassation thus becoming a last resort, of which it is to be hoped that advantage will not always be taken. So little does it enter into the spirit of the law to regard jurisdiction in first instance as a guarantee to the accused, that in many countries (notably France) the misdemeanours of certain high functionaries are carried at once before Courts of Appeal (*vide Code Instruction Criminelle, Art. 479* and *Loi du 20 Avril 1810, Art. 10*); and undoubtedly the object has been thus to afford stronger guarantees to the accused and to society. In all countries, when a crime becomes cognizable by a criminal tribunal, if the charge does not extend beyond a misdemeanour, the tribunal does not send the crime to be judged by a Court of First Instance, but of its own competence inflicts the penalty for a misdemeanour. Similarly, if the progress of the case reveals crimes or misdemeanours connected with the original charge, the tribunal may examine and judge them itself. It has never been claimed that in such cases the accused is deprived of the guarantee of First Instance. Finally, the Japanese Law of Organization of the Courts of Justice, when it invested the Court of Cassation with competence to take cognizance of crimes committed against members of the Imperial Family, or of crimes imputed to the latter, certainly did not contemplate diminishing, in any respect, but on the contrary sought to augment, in the former case the guarantees offered to society, and in the latter the guarantees of the accused. In fact it reserves these affairs for trial by the judges who are accounted the most enlightened, the most experienced, and the most independent, and who, at the same time, sit in a greater number.

Second: In the case of the affair of Tsuda Sanzo, the District Court of Otsu in the first place declared itself incompetent, and it was then that the Court of Cassation was invoked at the instance of the Minister of Justice, who claimed, doubtless, that a crime against the heir to a foreign throne could be punished in the same manner as a crime against the Japanese Prince Imperial. But whatever have been the views of the Minister of Justice, concerning which I am not informed, the Court of Cassation became seized.

The question of competence could not be pleaded separately from the case itself. It is clear that the Court could not declare itself competent or incompetent because obtaining cognizance of the true character of the crime committed by Tsuda.

The discussion turned solely on the question *of law*, for the fact of the attempt to murder and the quality of the victim were not disputable. The Court of Cassation, then, was necessarily called on to say *the last word* on the question of law.

Suppose that the affair had passed the two inferior degrees of tribunal and that the Court of Appeal had decided to place the crime against the Czarevitch in the same category as a similar crime against the Kotaishi (Japanese Prince Imperial). Then the Court of Cassation would have overruled that decision, and would have itself pronounced sentence of penal servitude for life, in conformity with the provisions of the Common Law relating to murderous assaults.

Was it not, therefore, more natural, more simple, and quite as just, that the Court of Cassation, having arrived at the conclusion, after the pleading, that the crime did not involve any other penalty than that prescribed by the Common Law, should retain competence and inflict the penalty itself?

Suppose, even, that the Supreme Court had sent the case back to be heard in first instance by the ordinary Judges, declaring itself incompetent (which would have amounted to a decision that the crime was a common assault); that the case had afterwards been adjudicated in the same sense by the Appeal Court of Osaka, and that it had then been carried to the Court of Cassation by the Procurator-General, the accused would not have failed to plead, with some appearance of reason, that the Court had already pronounced in his favour on the point of law, and that it was consequently prevented from pronouncing in the sense claimed by the Procurator-General. Therefore it was necessary that the Court should not be bound by a decision which had not been preceded by a full hearing.

These conclusions, then, must be accepted:—

First, that Tsuda Sanzo was not deprived of any guarantee by being judged altogether by the Supreme Court.

Secondly, that he was not deprived of his natural judges.

In a recent lecture at the Royal Institution, London, Lord Justice Fry, F.R.S., said that to the peculiar structure of the turf moss great results in the history of the world were to be attributed. This is as true of Great Britain as of any other country. But for the moss the forests that once covered the land might still be standing; but for it large tracts of country would still be lake or sea; but for it every freshet in a highland river would be a flood.

DR. FAUSTUS, JUNIOR, PH. D.

Away back some six years ago Frank Webster was about one of the smartest pressmen in Japan. He is dead now, and gone to —— Well, I shouldn't like ■ be over-dogmatic regarding his destination. He had his faults like other folks, but he had his good points too, and among them a rough and ready way of helping a lame dog over a stile was by no means the most insignificant. And he was not at all particular as to the sex or the colour of the clandicant canine either. He was withal a very tough subject indeed, generally in hot water, and thoroughly in his element when up to the armpits in mischief.

One day I chanced to be lounging on the verandah of the Hiogo Hotel watching the departure of the launch with the passengers for the out-going French mail, when I caught sight of Webster handing a lady on board with the air and style of a Louis Quatorze courtier. She was a fine creature, too; any one could see as much at a glance. I was considerably taken aback at the spectacle, inasmuch as I knew Mr. Frankie's circle of female acquaintances in the Treaty Port to be of a very circumscribed circumference indeed. I began to wonder what mischief could be in the wind now, and went on to cast up the *pros* and *cons* of the probability of an elopement. After cogitating for the best part of an hour, and deciding that it was just possible that the community was to be treated to the luxury of a first-class scandal, I had my castle of cards all knocked into fragments by a forcible smack on the shoulders, and an invitation to come round to the office of the *Hiogo Intelligencer*. I went; there used to be some splendid stuff in the cup-board in the upstairs room.

"Now," began Frankie, "I know you're just dying to know all about it, and I'll tell you without any pumping. I've got a few minutes before the final revise comes up, so here goes. Light up!"

He pushed his cigar-box over after picking out a cheroot for himself. He then struck a match, and putting his feet on to the desk in front of him, tilted his chair back, till the centre of gravity was on the imminent brink of danger, and proceeded:—

"Perhaps it was his abominable self-sufficiency that first set me against the little man. And besides he had the intellectual hall-mark of the Potsdam drill-sergeant stamped from top to basement all over him, and the aggressiveness of the Potsdam drill-sergeant is at once overwhelming and beastly. Also withal he was childish, and ——but it really serves no earthly purpose to trot out all his drawbacks at the beginning of the yarn.

"It was on the trip from Hongkong to Yokohama that I first ran across him. When I got on board the boat at Kowloon I felt seedy; by the time we had got into the Formosa Strait I was filthily ill. Mal-de-mer? Nothing of the sort! Malaria, and regular stiff dose of it, at that. I caught it from sleeping a few nights in Tanjong Pagar Docks, where there is slime and garbage and evil smells galore, and amply sufficient to furnish the *materiel* of a brand new Oriental Inferno. However they—that is the passengers and the officers—all said it was sea-sickness. They were horribly unsympathetic, and this little beast was the most vicious in the whole crowd. They tried to poke fun at me and my shakes, and his clumsy maladroit witticisms in execrable English and in still more execrable taste would have rasped the coarsest moral and mental fibre of the most pachydermatous Irish navvy that ever did the government stroke on a state railway-line. It was no use thinking of knocking him down, for I was as weak as female cat newly delivered of nine sightless kittens. And besides even in that pithless and spineless condition I was really afraid of hurting him. For he looked fragile, fearfully and wonderfully fragile, reminding you for all the world of one of those gim-crack spindle-shanked chairs that cause you such qualms and trepidation when you pay your duty call on certain old maids cursed with æsthetic moral twist. Not that he was lean and hungry-looking, or that he at all gave you the impression of being under-fed. It wasn't anything of the sort that led you to bunch his *tout ensemble* with ricketty and rococo furniture. For he was plump and rotund and sleek,—if you were at all inclined to be malicious and uncharitable you might even say greasy. To state in so many words what was at the bottom of this seemingly far-fetched association of ideas would not be at all easy, yet the association in question was there undoubtedly—strong, unmistakeable, and permanent. Possibly enough it was his dumpy little feet and the slender understandings on which his squat and protuberant corporation found its support that were accountable for the mischief.

"But anyhow he was a nuisance. Yet on shipboard it does not do to be too captious; if the attempt at finding a soul of good in things evil has nothing else to recommend it, it occasionally

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serves to occupy you and to while away the time when you have used up all the other limited devices at getting through the heavy intervals between eating and sleeping on board an ocean-tramp. And on nearer acquaintance I found a lot of good in him. He was so amusing that between the round of shivers that made my poor existence a curse I laid myself out to study him and to get at a workable chart of the cranklings and depths and shallows of his psychology.

"This undertaking was not a task of superhuman difficulty. It was as natural for the little man to make display of his mental garnishings and of his peculiarly strong points as it is for a peacock to spread out his tail on a sunshiny day when the eyes of the admiring females are wide-open to mark the gorgeousness of his beauty spots. Strong points I think I remarked; I ought to have said weak ones also and more especially.

"Schmoller-Schmidt he called himself, and Ephraim was his Christian name. At least Ephraim stood before the double-barreled surname on his pasteboard, but as to its being really and truly a baptismal title I have my doubts. It has an Old-Testamenty Hebraic ring about it, and Mr. Schmidt sported the orthodox and conventional emblem of unmistakeable Hebraic descent. The Mount Athos of a nose, which supported the gold-rimmed spectacles through which his colourless eyes blinked and scintillated, was eloquently Semitic. Not that I regard that as anything to be ashamed of. There is usually a good deal more than the normal 48 oz. of brains in the skull which lies to the rear of a protuberance of this peculiar cut, and the convolutions thereof are usually also of a complex and superior order. As a rule an olfactory organ like that of Mr. Schmoller-Schmidt is the property of a man of a good deal more than moderate ability. And to give him his due, Mr. Schmidt along his own peculiar lines was no sawney.

"These lines generally speaking were Oriental Literature, from Sanskrit and Pali down to Urdu and Hindostanee. But his peculiar weakness seemed to be 'Chops.' It was his constant boast that he knew 40,000 of them, and his tallest brag that he had invented several original ideographs of his own; ideographs, too, that were twisters to make out. For as Mr. S. condescended pityingly to explain, the especial merit of a "chop" is its complexity and reconditeness. The supreme aim of a Chinese scholar, according to him, is to write something that nobody else is learned enough to read.

"But although flapping his wings and crowing most lustily on the ideographic dunghill he had made peculiarly his own by a nine years' consumption of the midnight oil, he was not by any means given to hiding his light under a bushel when other topics came up for discussion. When people got sick of him and his sinology and felt a perverse but excusable desire to fall upon him and chivey him from the smoking-room with cushions, he would at once climb down from the back of his hobby-horse and valiantly meet you on your own ground. No matter what it was you chose to talk about, you might safely count upon finding the Doctor —— he was a full-blown Ph. D. of Göttingen no less—in the objective case. Painting, sculpture, architecture, finance, politics, sociology, and the proper way of making sauerkraut—on each and all and on everything else besides he seemed to have "ideas." And he was not at all *ketchimbo* with them either, he "parted" with them to all and sundry as a prodigal makes away with the hoardings of a millionaire defunct parental relative.

"He seemed to be as musical as the whiz of a musket-bullet, or the caterwauling of an amorous feline, yet that did not prevent him from having "notions" about Bach, and Handel and Donizetti and Wagner. He sadly shocked Miss Tomkins, our sole and only first-class lady passenger, by declaring emphatically with a thump on the table that the tune of "God shave de Queen" was fit only for the nursery. He was not even put to the rout when she suggested that it might also be appropriate in a barber's shop. That evening she confided to me later on that Mr. Schmidt was like a veritable barbed wire fence or a well-greased football. Although I was very down in the mouth at the time with the shakes, I couldn't but laugh when she told me where the resemblance in question lay.

"'You see, you can't sit upon him, and it's no use trying to,' she said, after hesitating a little, her words coming like the rush of a mob of stampeding cattle, as she caught up her skirts and fled. Miss Tomkins in short had but little love for him, and the ladies in the second-cabin did not seem to have much more. But this did not appear to occasion the Doctor any great trouble. He always found ways and means to thaw the frigidity they occasionally endeavoured to assume for his benefit. He would attack them and their remarks at table in a way that inevitably set their blood on the boil and their indignation in a flame. It was useless for them to attempt to retaliate. Their *bête noir* was absolutely impervious to their feeble efforts at ridicule. As far as keeping the females of the second saloon in order, a model barn-door rooster could not possibly have done better in his feathered harem. Only one of the whole community contrived to give him any trouble, and that was a squaky, tight-lacing sort of second cousin of his who was travelling under his care, consigned to a petty Japanese official who had promised to endow her at the altar of Hymen with a legal and regular title to sew on the buttons that got adrift from his European continuations. But even her squakiness and fireworks exhibitions of hysteria did not occasion her escort any very considerable amount of trouble and anxiety. When she did think fit to blow off steam, he looked angry enough and muttered raspy impolite things in Hoch Deutsch and half a dozen other tongues, but he always nevertheless contrived to shunt the burden of her nervous disturbances on to the other ladies in the cabin and above all on to the doctor. For what was the use of paying for an *Arzt* he argued, unless you got something out of him for your money? And as he himself was always so beastly well, in spite of his glass-this-side-up-with-care appearance, he was not at all sorry that some one connected with him should find occupation to keep sawbones off talking philology, about which his ignorance was worse than crass.

"For the Doctor of philosophy and the Doctor of Medicine had several times joined issue on the Origin of Language and the connection of the Indo-European with the Mongolian tongues. To a man who knew even but the outlines of the question the encounter was amusing. The combatants wanted badly to hit each other, but although they drove out hastily enough, their blows were all spent in thrashing the air. They seemed never to get into grip with each other at all. The Doctor of Physic was a heavy, ponderous, slow-witted giant, his putty like expressionless face all seamed with the scars of schläger-cuts. Yet this philological war was not exactly a case of Goliath and David. It was rather a diverting exhibition of an inebriated elephant in a china-shop bent upon charging about promiscuously and at the same time smashing none of the crockery, and of an intelligent flea out for exercise hopping and skipping about with an idea of putting a keenish edge on its appetite. Both performers were on the boards simultaneously, but the elephant did not tread upon the flea, nor did the flea think it worth while to operate on the hide of the elephant.

"'But,' sawbones would ponderously declare, "Max Müller says ——."

"Ah, Max Müller! He is a dear friend of mine. I have got such a nice letter from him! And one from Weber too. I ——."

"Max Müller says," went on the Painkiller still more decisively without heeding the interruption, and laboriously sawing the atmosphere in front of him with his dexter fist to give point to his argument. "Max Müller says that the Chinese language ——."

"Chinese language! Well I think I know something about that; I know 40,000 characters, and I have invented several new ideographs of my own for electricity and other modern scientific terms" (the flea, it should be remarked talked 199 to the elephant's dozen).

"That the Chinese language belongs to the Turanian family and that"—the elephant proceeded.

"'I tell you I know all about Chinese! I knew 40,000 characters and ——." "Any knowledge of Sanskrit can therefore be of no service to you for the acquisition of Chinese, belonging as it does to an ——."

"'But I don't care for Max Müller. Professor Roth gave me a beautiful copy of the Mahabharata. It cost 300 hundred mark—three-hundred-mark, Mein Herr; just think of that sum for a minute and realize what it means. I was his favourite pupil."

"'—— Entirely different stem. Therefore the man who knows Sanskirt well is likely enough ——."

"'Sanskrit! Of course I know Sanskrit! Didn't Professor Roth give a three hundred mark—a *three-hundred mark* copy of the Mahabharata. I was his favourite pupil ——."

"'—— To be entirely ignorant of Chinese."

"Here the Doctor of Philosophy would start up in wrath and dudgeon and hurl contemptuous and semi-abusive epithets at the head of the *Doctor Medicinae*. Then he would rush off in a rage to the second cabin, where things would be uncomfortably sultry for the next half hour. Meanwhile Sawbones would turn round and confide to the me the fact that Dr. Schmidt was a conceited puppy. A quarter of an hour later Schmidt would meet me and take me aside to impart to me the secret that the man of physic was utterly guiltless of any knowledge of comparative philology. I was and still am inclined to believe that both were equally veracious.

"Of course there is a slight touch of caricature in the dialogue given above. But only really a very slight touch. The exaggeration is after all infinitesimal. When Dr. Schmoller-Schmidt's conceit did get a show, it spouted like a veritable artesian well.

"He one evening came aft and informed the first-class passengers in a body that in one respect he was the most valuable man in the East. When we expressed our scepticism by a mild elevation of the eyebrows, and looked inquiringly for further particulars, he went on to inform us that a translation of the works of certain Chinese sages would be simply a boon beyond price for the West, and that only a man with a peculiar combination of very rare qualifications could undertake the task. These qualifications were in the first place a knowledge of Antediluvian Kanji, and in the second, the inspiration of the Pierian maidens.

"'Now," he went on, "I know old Chinese; no one can deny *that*. And I am also a poet!"

"Stood him? Of course I did! He was so infinitely amusing. Miss Tomkins *did* go and look over the taffrail, when, with his thumbs in the armpits of his waistcoat and what a respected Hibernian friend of mine would call the 'shtrut av an am'rous paycock,' he publicly proclaimed himself the child of the Muses. But then Miss Tomkins had a fine and delicate nervous organisation, being highly sensitive to smells of all sorts.

"Just about this time he thought fit and proper to honour my insignificance with his attention. I fancied it was firstly because I submitted to his teasing me about sea-sickness, secondly because I listened to him, and, thirdly because other people had got tired of him and wouldn't. Anyhow inflict himself upon me he did. On closer acquaintance I found him to have a lot of good points. If he was communicative to a fault, he was not at all inquisitive. He sketched out his future career in the Empire of Dai-Nippon for my especial benefit. He meant to attach himself to the Legation in the capital; his knowledge of Chinese would be found simply invaluable by the Minister. In that line he was sure he had no rival in the country, and from Secretary of Legation to Minister was not after all such a far cry. And of course it was in accordance with the traditions of the nation to have scholars and savants as its representatives at Foreign Courts. Was not Niebuhr once Prussian Minister at Rome, and was not Bunsen Ambassador to St. James's?

"And," he would wind up, "I know more Sanskrit than Bunsen did, and neither Niebuhr nor Bunsen knew Chinese at all, and I have got a thorough grip upon it. I know 40,000 characters, and besides I have invented some new ideographs of my own. Yes, my chances are brilliant, very brilliant. And besides you know German influence is now becoming paramount in the East, and you may be sure it will not suffer in my hands."

"During all this time, to do him justice, he never pestered me with impertinent questions. He took me entirely on trust, a thing for which I was duly grateful, inasmuch as I do heartily detest being bailed up with, "Who"? "Whence"? "Whither"? and "How old"? No! In that respect at least, he was a gentleman right to the tips of his finger nails. If you knew how to manage him he was a delightful companion. Only remove the spigot from his brewer's vat of self-conceit and stand clear, and you had an entertainment fit for the gods. The flood then flowed out and on and on in a full and clear and refreshing stream. It is true that its odour was occasionally a trifle pungent, but that did not matter much to a citizen of the world.

"I don't know how it was, or what suggested it—perhaps it was his thin-cut flexible mobile lips with their covering of down just struggling into sunlight—I don't know what it was, but one day I found my head ringing with Mephistopheles' *Du übersinnlicher sinnlicher Freier*, as I sat looking at him. I couldn't help laughing at the idea after a minute's reflection. No! No! his weakness could not possibly lie in that direction. In spite of the fits of poetic phrenzy to which he professed to be addicted, he was altogether too dry and passionless to ever err after the fashion of King David or of Solomon or of Faust. Besides he was too much wrapped up in his own sublime personality. I put away the notion as utterly ridiculous and idiotic. And yet, but for that notion it is extremely unlikely that Dr. Ephraim Schmoller Schmidt would ever have figured as the hero of this most veracious recital. The notion in question was one of those quick intuitive glances into the raw of character that come goodness only knows whence. It is only years afterwards that I realize the truth of it.

"During the last two days of the voyage, I was utterly downed by my enemy. I had to keep

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below and consequently saw nothing of my fellow-passengers till I staggered up on deck with the idea of getting ashore. And even then it was only a sort of misty dissolving view that I got of Dr. Schmidt. He was sitting on a thwart of a rocking sampan with his back towards me, and as he disappeared in the raw and rolling fog of the morning I found myself thinking of the Lord passing before Moses in the Clefts of Sinai.

"When I got on land I felt as if I had fallen into the lowest depths of Purgatory, with the chances all in favour of the bottom giving way and dropping me into real live raging hell-fire. I fled for refuge to the nearest hospital, where I spent the best part of a fortnight spread out on the flat of my back. But of course that has nothing to do with the story.

"Thus it came to pass that I saw nothing of Dr. Ephraim for the best part of a month. One day I was returning from Kyoto—I had gone up there after I had fled Lot-like from the hospital—when who should flop himself down beside me in the *chuto* railway-carriage I was in but Dr. Schmoller Schmidt? He at once opened fire. To begin with, all unrequested, he discharged a broadside of autobiography. The rapidity of incident was staggering. The number of literary suns and planets native and foreign, male and female, that had taken to revolving round Dr. Schmidt within the space of one short moon was bewildering and overpowering. One could surely be forgiven for cherishing an uneasy suspicion that his system was essentially Ptolemaic. Also for believing in the possibility of the appearance of some brute of a Copernicus unfeeling enough to demonstrate that the Earth—*i.e.* Dr. Ephraim Schmoller Schmidt—was not the main-spring of the local social system after all. For as you know, almost every community is cursed with the existence of at least one of those awful individuals whose fad is a perpetual quest after "Teruth"—the naked "Teruth," and of course spelled with a capital T. They are bitter, bitter *kusuri* for self-complacency,—bitter as quinine. But they are useful in helping to wrestle with the malaria of over-weening self-sufficiency and conceit, and so far as effective in this direction they must be regarded in the light of public benefactors.

"When I asked him about his appointment at the Legation, however, he deftly changed the subject. This I took to be an indication of the discovery on his part of what I was aware of all along; I mean the fact that there is never any lack of men of first-class sterling ability in the German Embassies. Bismarck knows better than to send mere fools and figureheads abroad to make the Eagle a laughing-stock. And as at present, so away back in the early "eighties," the *personnel* of the Kaiserliche Deutsche Gesandtschaft in Japan was full chock-a block with linguistic talent of all kinds. It struck me that it had begun to dawn on Dr. Ephraim that he did not by any means hold a monopoly of "Chops."

"At the same time, though, he thought fit to wither me with a glance of contemptuous pity when his eye lighted on the leaflet of "Japanese words and phrases" I was then valiantly but hopelessly wrestling with.

'"Lend me that thing for a moment, willyou?" he said brusquely; "I want to see when the train returns."

"I ought to mention—but perhaps you know—that friend Willoughby's "Vocabulary" is adorned rearwards with a Railway Time-table. He looked at it for the best part of two minutes perhaps, with his occipital muscles puckered into a judicial frown, and then returned it with a scornful "So."

'"I don't want to see the time-table any more," he remarked airily. "It is quite easy. I see the plan, and I memorise the whole thing in a few seconds. A wissenschaftliches methode of doing work and a good memory save much troubles."

"His eyes blinkingly challenged my wonder and admiration through his spectacles; and I did look at him with wonder, and I was going to say admiration, but that would be a lie. He then went on to tell me what the mission of the Great German Empire was. In the first place it was to be *selbstständig*, utterly independent of any Dreibund whatsoever. It was to crush France; it was to humiliate Russia, and it was to keep Austria, Italy, and His Holiness the Pope in leading strings. This was amusing enough, but when he went on to say that England and English influence were everywhere to be wiped from the political and industrial chess-board, I got a bit irritated.

'"Here in Japan the English einfluss is becoming gar nichts. The Japanese do not love you Engländer. Their army is on the German model, their commerce will be on the German model, and everytink else also will be German. Everytink, everytink, I tell you will fall into the hands of the Germans."

"I asked where the cars we were riding in were made.

'"Why in Germany of course, and the engines too."

"That was a lie, but I didn't say so.

"The Japanese were at the beginning of that virulent attack of "German measles" they suffered so badly from some two or three years ago, but they were not quite so far gone in their madness as to import all their railway rolling-stock from Deutschland.

"A few minutes after this we reached Kobe Railway Station and the multitudinous patter of hundreds of pairs of clattering *geta* sounded a relief to the drums of my ears. The Doctor said a brusque good bye and summarily elbowed a way for his shabby brown-overcoat through the crowd to the turn stile. I caught sight of his little round hat angrily battling onwards amidst a jabbling sea of bobbing shoulders, and from that day to this I have never once set eyes upon his phiz.

"What has all this to do with the yarn about that girl? Just hold your whisht and we'll come to that in good time enough. You're so darned impetuous,—just like a bloomin' globe trotter trying to outfly the swallows, or to break the telegraph-record, or to do six mountains, twenty-four waterfalls, thirty-six temples, and a hotel all in one day. You've not the ghost of an idea of artistic development. Telling a story, man, is like courting a woman; you must lead up to the critical point by degrees. *In medias res* you say. Bosh! Into a muddling mess, you mean! No! no! Take the straight modern tip and begin at the beginning and advance *go yururi to*, and you'll get there all right and easy.

"But where was I? Oh, yes! Well I did Japan, and then I had to walk off as "special" to an expedition that meant to cross New Guinea. Got over? No! I got wounded, and pretty nearly qualified as the last scion of an ancient and an honourable house. A brute of a nigger sent a poisoned arrow whizzing through between my legs about ten inches above the knee. Yes. I *have* long thigh bones, and it's deucedly lucky. After that I was sent to write up sugar and cotton in the Southern States, and then I struck these lovely and enchanting shores for a second time, where among other things I have to run the *Hiogo Intelligencer*. Tired of it, do you ask? In the words of my Hibernian boss, "It's mesilf that's outrajisly sick of it." But it has its good points, but that's neither here nor there.

"You know my mate, Rossignol don't you? Of course you do. Let me tell you, then, that you know a real, live man, and not a creeping crawly slimy thing that has succeeded in getting upon its hind-legs and obtaining tick at the tailors. He got me out of a tight fix when I was "special" for the New York *Sun* in Tunis in 1880, I think it was, or perhaps 1881. It was at Kairwan—but that's not exactly to the purpose at present.

"Well, a few weeks ago, he hinted to me he had something on, and asked if I would help to see him through with it. He told me the argument of the piece as we bowled along to Osaka like a snail out for a holiday at his mother-in-law's funeral.

'"You see I'm a married man now and it won't do for me to go vexing the wife. So you've got to to do duenna for me. And mind above all things you're not to contradict me when I say you don't speak French."

"I remarked that it would need a bigger lie than that to make me call out that he was an unblushing perverter of veracity—especially in ladies' company. For by that same token the French I do patter is a sort of cross between Joseph's coat and the structure of the Psalmist's body—it is a patchwork of many colours fearfully and wonderfully put together.

"We got out at Osaka railway station, and after half an hour's navigation in *bashas* and *kurumas* we found ourselves in the outskirts of the Vanity Fair of the Venice of the Orient. We plunged into it, and after threading the mazes and alley-ways of its back slums we at last fetched up with the casino like Theatres of the Dotombori looming in front of us as a land mark. The neighbourhood was poor; the houses were low and flimsy, and we expected a general epidemic of dinginess and dirt and squalor, but, we didn't stumble across it. An aggressive and irritating odour of respectability pervaded the locality generally speaking; and the narrow alley-way into which we were finally directed especially so.

"We went hunting around inspecting the miniature perpendicular "name" cards, over the *genka*; like a pair of sleuth-hounds on the scent for a breakfast.

'"Hallo! Here we are!" I said as my eye caught one particular tablet adorned with a scrabble of European pot hooks in lieu of the undecipherable contortions of Japanese hieroglyphics; '"*Mademoiselle Louise Balbi.*" Now then let us fix our neck-ties and prepare for the enemy. You, first please!"

"We were disappointed; not at home! At least that was the sum and substance of the information we contrived to rescue from the weltering flood of honorifics that poured from the black-toothed ball of humble politeness vigorously polishing the tatami with her forehead in our honour.

'"But if any honorable foreign visitors should arrive in the honorable absence of Louise Sama, would the honorable visitors condescend to honorably wait in this poor and unworthy dwelling till she returned? Before five o'clock her honorable return certainly and positively would be."

"We held a hurried council of war and decided to consume half an hour in exploring the neighbouring Alsatia.

'"Funny," remarked Rossignol, who had got a peep through the *shoji*, "She can't be so far on her beam-ends as I fancied. She told me in the train that she had nothing to eat, and that she was living in a den. Humph! the den seems to be rather a sumptuous retreat. Carpets, chairs, tables, books, and I don't know what not. It seems it doesn't do to take things too literally when it's a young and pretty woman that's your informant."

"We set out and fetched a compass round the shows and sights of the locality. When we got back, we found that Mademoiselle Louise had become infected with Japanese notions of punctuality. Five o'clock had come, but the object of our pilgrimage hadn't. So we accepted the invitation of the painfully humble doorkeeper to step in and and "do a hanging of our honourable loins."

"We had expected to enter a hovel; we found ourselves in a fairy drawing-room. The room was an ordinary six-mat Japanese *sashiki*—only something had been done to it that eliminated its "Japaneseyness" almost entirely. A plain carpet and a rug or two upon the floor, a table sizeable enough for the first-cabin of Noah's Ark, half-a-dozen or so old high backed chairs ribbed with fret-work—they might have come out of a mediæval Norman chateau—were something to begin with. But they were responsible for only part and the least part too of the effect. It was the trinkets on the table, the photographs and prints round the walls, and above all the fine array of volumes in an alcove that gave one the notion of a Parisian boudoir in which artistically painted Japanese *shojis* counted for one feature among the freaks that go to make up the furnishings of a female æsthete's withdrawing chamber.

"What the deuce!" muttered Rossignol, starting up and passing across the room at two seven-leagued strides. "What the deuce is the meaning of this gun? That fishing-rod I can understand; it may have been a present from a Japanese, or she may have bought it for to *sen*,—but this gun! Let me see!" he went on taking it down from the peg on which the weapon was strapped. "By the living Jehosaphat! It is no toy as I fancied it might be, but a real live death-dealing Chassepot!"

"He stood with the thing balanced in his hands in helpless perplexity. Then he thrust it back into its canvas case, with his forehead puckered into furrowy wrinkles.

'"These riding-whips too"—he proceeded to himself shaking his head sapiently. "And this photo.'

'"Well, I do declare! If it isn't the hussy herself! Whew-ew-ew" he exclaimed holding out the cabinet-size to me and looking just as if some one had tilted him on to his wrong end by mistake. The group was an interesting one. *Imprimis* a horse and a dog; the dog crouching on the ground and curled up blinking in the acme of comfort, while a fine high-stepper of a steed had the graceful lines of his curving neck beautifully brought out by the position he had been forced to assume. His head came over the shoulder of a young cavalier in close-fitting double-breasted jacket, tight-riding breeches and Hessians coming up almost to the knee, with enormous spurs on the heels. The left arm was thrown caressingly over the moke's glossy sheeny neck, and the uncovered close-cropped head was thrown back upon the animal's near-shoulder. The most prominent feature in the landscape however was a moustache that curled with all the bristliness and ardour of a grenadier in the lists of war or of love and meaning business. "Well, if that is not a man, it is a wonderfully good imitation of one," said I.

'"An imitation it is, my son" returned Rossignol, "The woman that marries that man will wed neither a bachelor nor a widower, nor will she be the means of driving a benedict into bigamy. That's Mademoiselle Louise Balbi herself in the very flesh—and a pair of riding breeches."

"It struck me that we were in for an adventure; only the protagonist in the piece was deucedly slow in coming on. To while away the wait I took to overhauling the books in the alcove by way of a substitute for an overture from the orchestra.

"They were a fine lot tastefully bound in black, almost as enticing in their way as a widow of four and twenty in her weeds. De Musset, Beranger,

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La Fontaine jostled with Voltaire and the Contrat Social, while La Sainte Bible lay cheek by jowl with that most scandalous and unholy production "Les Contes de Boccace." Atop of the neatly packed and labelled array lay bundles of files of old *Figaros*; so trimly and tidly folded and arranged that no creature with a real indefeasable title to the use of male inexpressibles could ever have been guilty of putting them there. Let Mademoiselle Louise ride like a trooper as much as ever she chose to, she had evidently not unsexed herself in the matter of that delightful female sense of order and tidiness, which like a low voice is such an excellent thing in woman.

However, time went on, and we were getting to the end of our patience and our resources. It was now well on towards six and we had got up to go when the landlord and his sponse appeared and flopping down on their heels, began to polish the tatami with their foreheads, *Gomen-nas-ai-ing* and requesting the honorable guests to do an honorable waiting for still a little longer.

'"Now, just watch the performance of these d——d fools;" blurted out Rossignol with impatience. "Let's listen to the duet; perhaps they'll tell the truth by accident."

"In the confusion of the pelting hail storm of honorifics that rained upon us we had a lot of difficulty in pulling the narrative straight or in fact in getting any glimmering of sense to emerge at all. So we requested one of the parties to shut-up, and asked the other to proceed without an accompaniment. The male marionette, blear-eyed and close-cropped, then continued his parable, —he kept on picking fibres from the matting all the time, and looking at them for inspiration— and told us that Louise Sama went out every Sunday afternoon to put flowers on the tomb-stone of a little girl that had died some time ago, and that ordinarily she got back by five o'clock. "To-day, because I am sick with sore eyes I did not draw her kuruma and therefore she took another kuruma-ya, and therefore she will be a little late perhaps," etc., etc., etc.

'"Humph," said Rossignol, "I see how the land lies. She's in debt and these cattle scent money in our visit, and the smell of hard cash is very sweet to their nostrils at this New Year's time."

"We could wait no longer, and so we fared forth into the shades of night and the smells of the street, accompanied by him of the blear-eyes who kept running and peering about into the darkness like a hound on the scent. He was in a great state lest we should escape.

"We had got about three hundred yards on our way when there was a thundering clatter of *geta* and flying pebbles, and a whirlwind of streaming Japanese garments fell upon our rear with a volley of "*kimashita, kimashita, kimashita!*"

"We turned round and had almost reached the house again, when a patch of white bounded out of the darkness with a joyous exclamation.

'"Ah, Vous êtes venu!"

'"Oui, Comment va-t-il? Etes-vous gentil?"

'"Ah! oui, et vous?"

"And so on and so on, till Rossignol was forcibly whisked into the boudoir. I stood outside in the cold with my nose all out of joint till philosophy came to my aid with a reminder that in this affair I was to be merely a *kōphon prosōpon*, and not even a second fiddle.

"At last Rossy thought fit to shout to me to come in. I was introduced as being utterly guiltless of understanding *Parlez-vous*, which was a lie, and as *mon ami inseparable*, which is true enough when there is a row on, or as long as there is any liquor about.

"I looked at the photograph on the wall and then squinted at the original. Barring the moustaches, the inexpressibles and the top-boots the likeness was a good one. The jacket was the same in both instances; now somewhat old, and worn, and frayed, yet neat and tidy withal. It was open below the throat, where a huge white starched breast-plate with a single stud in it harmonized perfectly with the pallor of the face above it. It was a young face, possibly 23 or 24 years of age at the outside—but experience if not time had begun to scrabble a history upon its lineaments. The brow was low and broad, the large watery eyes were set widly apart, the mouth was big and prominent with thin lips that occasionally shut with a snap of determination over two gleaming rows of teeth that had evidently never called for the kind offices of the dentist. The ears were small and tiny, and sat like a pair of pearl-shells well back from the cheek-bones. In ordinary circumstances it would have been a witching face—it would be a powerful one under any conditions—but now it was pinched and haggard and when certain reminiscences were called up, wolfish. But when she smiled—and Rossy can hold up his end of the log with any man in tickling a woman's phiz into ripples—the creases disappeared and the wrinkles vanished as if by magic, and the conviction forced itself upon you that despite its sizeableness, nature had meant that mouth for kissing. When a woman has come down to the business of keeping her immortal soul in touch with her body on Japanese food and less than nothing a month, you can readily fancy that her physical charms are apt to take flight with the rest of her impedimenta.

"By the time I had made this exhaustive diagnosis Rossy had got her to talk—mostly for my benefit, he said. At first it was a mere recital of what I knew already. She had been young and foolish once on a time like more of us, and her especial foolishness had consisted in coming a cropper and bolting with a Japanese merchant, on the understanding that he was to marry her when they got to Dai-Nippon. However on landing *akindo san* owned up to being already more than sufficiently "wived;" he had already one lawfully wedded spouse, besides a female subaltern or two to aid her in "manning" or rather in "womanning" the ménage. There was a quandary!

'"What was a poor girl to do?" asked Mademoiselle Louise plaintively and piteously. "One must live somehow."

Of course in a way she was right. Lucretias are all very well in Roman History and story-books but they are not so very plentiful in real life. They are grand women,—fit to be the mothers of heroes, but we don't raise many of them now a days, more's the pity.

"However, Mademoiselle did not knuckle down with any considerable amount of grace to a junior command in the household of Okura Sama. She didn't like raw fish, she didn't like daikon, she didn't like having to put her head on the tatami in honour of her lord and master, and she hated to play something even lower than second fiddle, so one day she arose in her wrath, and addressed Okura San in forcible language and with the back-edge of a Japanese sword. Okura Sama appeared to understand the hint and henceforth left her severely alone. In a few weeks he even went so far as to beseech her in the name of the 8,000,000 Gods of Dai-Nippon, to honorably withdraw herself from his humble dwelling and to restore peace to his insignificant household. Acting on the advice of an old and fatherly compatriot of her own, she complied with his request for a consideration. Then pater-familias tried to work a little scheme of his own at her expense, and succeeded. When he had got what he wanted he advised her to go into a convent. Then when she remonstrated against this proposal in dignified but forcible language, by a piece of brilliant diplomacy he shunted her on to some one else—a high and mighty but under paid official in the consular service of a certain mighty nation. But I'm going to skip all this and the next few scenes in the drama.

Let it suffice to say that the girl tried and tried again to get out of it and back to Paris, but do all she could, as our Japanese friends put it classically, it "was no go." You see it was for the supposed interest of certain parties that she should stay. And the sum of the whole matter was that at the moment of our appearing on the scene, she was badly in debt, with her credit all gone, the New Year approaching and a yelping rabble of petty merchants now bowing and scraping, now snarling and growling for the money which she had not.

"In three more days they will turn me into the street," she said, "and from here to the Yoshiwara over yonder is a very easy passage. How much do you fancy I should fetch? A foreign woman will be a variety, quite a *mezurashii-mono*. The Japanese I'm told have paid as much as $1,000 for a rabbit; surely I am worth as much as bunny!"

Marah itself would have been sweetness compared to the intonation of this deliverance.

'"I have been *trompé, trompé*, by everybody. There was Dr. Schmoller Schmidt, a Professor in the Foreign Language School; surely you would expect a Professor to be *un homme honorable*: he has deceived me worse than any."

"At this I pricked up my ears! I thought of that voyage from Hongkong, and of Mephistopheles' *übersinnlicher sinnlicher Freier*, once again. Could there be anything in it after all? I listened to this chapter of her story, and I found there was a lot.

The acquaintance began in the Kōenchi, or public garden. A friend of Mademoiselle Louise had become infected with a craze for the study of green stuff, and Louise had gone out with her to help in prospecting for specimens thereof. Among them they ran across Dr. Ephraim Schmoller Schmidt, although he turned out to be less verdant than he seemed at first blush. For he really could blush like a mawkish school-girl in the shivers of her first love affair, when it suited his book to do so. And it happened to be handy for him to indulge in the performance at that moment, and accordingly he blushed all over, a ruddy ruby red. It became him very well, Mademoiselle assured us,—he looked for all the world like a little cherub caught in *dishabille* without his wings, and very much put out because he had forgot them. On that occasion he had proved punctiliously polite, and *devoué*, very much *devoué*, indeed. His gallantry was apiece with that of Raleigh dabbing his best go-to-meeting cloak in the mud for the honour and glory and comfort and good-will of Queen Bess, or eke of old Dizzy putting a Cashmere wrap round the Imperial albeit sizeable shoulders of Her Gracious, and murmuring wheedling nothings in her ears all the time. Dr. Schmidt could be sentimental and overpoweringly complimentary to females in seven or eight different languages, without counting in any of his 40,000 chops.

"So Louise was mildly pleased—not carried off her feet though by any means—by his style to begin with. She was very careful to make the above distinction. "Fall in love? No! Certainly not; that nonsense did not pay. Even then she had been over-much fooled by men. But that she liked him—Mais! Oui; certainement. And as for warmer feelings afterwards? C'était possible."

"As she said this she shrugged her shoulders the tiniest little bit, and stared dreamily into vacancy, or the bottom of Rossy's hat which lay tilted on its side on the far-end of the table.

"Dr. Schmidt had found out her address and had called. She had found her reading Alfred De Muset and he at once rushed upon her and metaphorically speaking embraced her as a sympathetic soul. For he also was a poet. "Moi aussi mademoiselle. Je vous l'assure, je suis poète!"

"I thought the declaration sounded even better in French than it did in gutteral German. On board the ocean-tramp it had been "Ich bin dichter." But somehow—possibly because it was messed up with Chinese chops on that occasion—the romance of the previous assertion of Pierian inspiration was very much *manqué* compared with the glamour of the episode as related by Mademoiselle Louise. But Chinese "chops," and De Musset! and the vast gulf fixed there between! And then—well he could have had no ulterior designs to work upon me—an old tough leather-skinned case-hardened lump of male journalistic iniquity, and as the sequel showed in the case of Louise, he meant the metaphorical embrace to become something more substantial and satisfying than a more empty and stilted *façon de parler*. Kindred souls and Platonic affection are no doubt very fine as garnishings, but after all they only serve for dessert. Man cannot live by them alone, any more than he can depend upon the baker exclusively for his support. They are just like the *saké* that preludes a Japanese *gochisō*, or the cocktail you take at the bar to put an edge on before you enter the dining-room at the Club.

"And that was just how Dr. Ephraim Schmoller Schmidt meant to engineer the business, and just the way he succeeded in running it. He said he was very lonely living the bachelor life he did. Mademoiselle Louise said she was very sorry to hear it, and the Doctor then invited her up to lunch with him. She accepted the invitation and although by this time she had learned from his servants—what is there you cannot learn about a man from his servants in this country?—that he was far and away the most *ketchimbo* foreign danna-san in Osaka, she found the luncheon a gorgeous affair. She confessed to doing justice to it while the Doctor also tendered it all due respect. It had a most expansive effect upon him. He began to talk in verse—in verse with a measure that was erratic and a flavour that was most pronouncedly erotic. It was a trifle embarrassing—especially so when he went on to inform his guest in a hexameter line with a halting caudal appendage that she was the very image of the girl to whom he had been engaged! Now although the bloom may have been all rubbed of the peach ages ago, no woman likes to be addressed in this style. A mere reflected passion is hardly a complimentary thing, even allowing that the original was not a cheap Brummagen concern with maudlin mawkishness as the only conspicuous feature about it. And to be honoured with a declaration that one is the cause of a dead-and-alive stirring among the drossy cinders of the calcined brass of an extinct hysterical calf-love,—well, it makes a woman's cheeks flush with the sense of Power!

"Here she broke into a little scornful laugh, and then trilled out a chanzonette quivering with sarcasm for our benefit. I wished Dr. S. had been listening.

"One can imagine what a fine theme this would have been for Euripides! The vengeance of Aphrodite far transcending Juno's pale and spiteful pin-pricks on account of *spretae injuria formae* would have been a tragedy out-tragedying the peripeteia of the *Bacchae!* But when Aphrodite is going around with an empty stomach, as she occasionally has to in these days of a glutted labour market, she must think of other

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considerations before mounting the broom-stick of a witch's whirlwind of fury and revenge. She has perforce to bite her lips and knuckle down to tackling the puggly mundane and low-thoughted problem of making ends meet,—not an easy one by any means when the *res augustae domi* have shrunk so badly and lost so much of their elasticity as they had with Louise. So although she didn't like the compliment, she laughed with the wrong side of her face and pocketed the slight on the off-chance that she would be able to fill the vacuum with something more tangible and substantial by and by.

"Possibly it was only his own patent poetic way of conducting operations; yet Mademoiselle confessed to finding herself in a state of hot and deadly siege before she could very well say how it was done. The Doctor had used the old love simply as a cover to his approaches. When he fancied he had finished his trenches and got all his batteries in position, he threw off the mask and opened fire with vigour. He began by saying some things about the old flame that were not over-complimentary, and some things about the new one that were. He addressed the latter in language that bore a close family resemblance to the warmest tinted portions of the song of Solomon. He went on his knees *et fit un declaration d'amour*. It was slightly embarrassing, Mademoiselle admitted, because in the first place his inexpressibles were so tight about the knees that the position looked uncomfortable, and perhaps a trifle ridiculous, and in the second place because she was almost beginning to believe in his sincerity. In Japanese phrase she was "puzzled."

"Eh, Bien! Puis alors!"——

"There she shrugged her shoulders again, and threw out her left-hand sideways, palm upwards with her cigarette between the fore and middle fingers, and raised her eyebrows in a way that conveyed as much as an ordinary half-dozen chapters in the regulation three-volume novel.

"Of course, when a woman hesitates, she is lost. Only Louise asked for something definite and tangible. The Doctor delicately insinuated that he was poor but honest, and went on to say that he had expectations. In that he was not at all singular; most folks have, the victims of the Manila gamble abomination inclusive. The Doctor's though had so many probabilities in their favour that they were in his own sanguine opinion within an arm's length of certainty. One of his compatriots was on the point of returning to Vaterland, and the plot was to jockey Mr. Schmidt into his vacant 300 *yen per mensen* billet. "And then ——."

"There the Doctor stopped with a rising intonation, gazed ceiling-wards with the seraphic look of a fuddled cherub, opened his arms to the fullest extent and embraced—the sofa. Mademoiselle apologetically represented that his impetuousity was a trifle disconcerting, and coyly asked time to consider the matter. To induce her to take that particular branch of the forked roads at whose parting she now stood which led to his bungalow, he redoubled his protestations, and raised the bidding considerably.

"Well—que voulez-vous? I saw him several times but I passed only one night in his house." Then it would seem the sweeping molten stream of his lava-like passion began to flag in its career, and to cool, and in a few days it was as cold and petrified as a combination of reason and Chinese "chops" could make it. Meanwhile, Mademoiselle was faring sumptuously on *daikon* and *sashimi* and the elements of starvation, with a gnawing hunger by way of a cheap and unfailing relish. When she allowed this fact to filter through the P.S. of four pages of a billet-doux copied from the Universal Letter-writer, the amorous savant mounted the high-stepping steed of sentimentality and executed a series of high-falutin' curvets for her especial benefit and edification.

"'In such matters pecuniary considerations were not to be mentioned. Only one kind of women took money for matters of this kind, and he wouldn't insult her ears by mentioning the epithet by which they were designated. Therefore he had not outraged her by offering her anything of the sort, nor would he ever think for a moment of doing so."

"He furthermore contrived to clench the matter by adding the information that since he had come to Japan he had been very much embarrassed by the gifts ladies *would* persist in thrusting upon him. A certain Japanese Countess with whom he had been indiscreet had presented him with the gold studs and sleeve links he was wearing at the moment.

"'He actually shot out his cuffs and asked me it I did not consider them really *très chic*," she said slowly with withering scorn.

"Then he had also had an affair with a German lady, and had been in terror lest the *mari* should discover it and challenge him to mortal combat. *She* also had persisted in making donations.

"At this point Mademoiselle got up and gave him something too. It was a piece of her mind and his *congé* coupled with a not unforcible hint that she did not want to see anything more of him or of his gold sleeve-links either. Also that if he did come to her house again, he would get a taste of her riding-whip.

"However, this little breeze had the effect of fanning the infinitesimal sparks of his moribund passion into a vehement spasmodic crackling thorn sort of lambent flame. He vowed and protested and poured forth his devotion in French worthy of Corneille, and in hysterical sputters and blotches of Tsuzi's so-called "Superior Writing-Ink."

"'If you don't believe here are his letters," she said, handing Rossy a packet of gilt-edged envelopes.

"'See for yourself! Je vous les donné."

"They were a little bit comical, but of course to all cold blooded outsiders and onlookers love epistles are apt to sound ridiculous. But they had a distinguishing feature that you don't usually find in the ordinary correspondence of folks bent on making asses of themselves in this particular fashion. I don't know whether you would call them juvenile, or senile, or anile, they had ends of all three qualities sticking out of them. But in the midst of the streaky torrent of amorous Brummagen rodomontade, you could always discern the almighty main chance bobbing up to the surface. There were reasons innumerable for not "coming down with the dust," and also innumerable promises that it would be forthcoming unfailingly. But the difficulties of the present situation were as lions in the path. In the first place he found his salary was scarcely sufficient for one, let alone two. In the next place, he had left Germany without doing his military service, and that was a debt that had to be reckoned with some day—very soon perhaps. Altogether it was not his fault that he did not take steps to put her in a better position. But he loved her, loved her, loved her!

"'La nuit dernière était comme ses sœurs—presque sans sommeil. Ton image flottait continuellement devant mes yeux et tes baisers brûlaient encore sur mes lèvres. Surtout le dernier baiser—diable, il a glacé tout mon sang pour un instant, pour me jéter alors au feu infernel! Mais, patience, tu me payeras pour cela ou je me fais trappiste! Chacun mangera la soupe qu'il a préparée.

Ton tout dévoué,

EPHRAIM S. S.

The letters, in their own peculiar way, were quite as amusing as anything Prosper Mérimée ever wrote. But the effect was produced in a different way. But of course that's neither here nor there.

All this time Louise was sinking deeper and deeper in the slough of despond and pecuniary difficulties. She had, by her showing, no one to befriend her —, not a soul. She became sick in body and sicker still in mind. So one day after perusing another flowery composition in which much was said about devotion but nothing whatsoever about dollars, she took advantage of the wind-up of the production and replied. Dr. S. had concluded, "Si tu trouves le temps de penser à moi quelques instants ou même de m' ecrire peu de mots, tu me rendras bien heureux."

Ton tout dévoué,

EPHRAIM S. S.

She did write a few words explaining her position, and so far from rendering the Doctor happy she succeeded in making him very miserable. At least one would suppose so to go by the tenor of his reply. Here it is.

June 24th, 1885.

Ma chère amie,

Je viens de lire ton lettre et te remercie beaucoup. Je me trouve assez bien, malgré cet horrible temps. Encore deux semaines et nos cours sont finis. Mais il est possible que mon séjour en Japon soit aussi bientôt fini; j'ai été a Kobe à causes de mes affaires militaires, et on n'a pas encore definitivement fixe' si je dois partir au commencement d'aout ou si je peux rester. J'espère qu'on me donne mon congé.

Quant à ta demande financielle je regrette que je n'ai pas reçu mon salaire. Je pense que lundi prochain j'aurai mon argent, aussitôt que je l'ai je ferai mon compte. Un monsieur que tu connais m'a aussi demandé une somme, et il sera difficile de la lui refuser, comme autrefois il a été très-aimable ■ généreux. En cas que je suis contreint de partir j'aurais besoin de chaque sen que je possede. J'avais beaucoup à faire les derniers jours, mais la semaine prochaine je viendrai te voir.

Il m'est un plaisir de l'envoyer, par ton Kuruma-maya une demi-douzaine de biere. Bon appetit!

Mille choses agréables, ton dévoué.

EPHRAIM S. S.

"And such was the lame and impotent conclusion of this precious piece of transcendental gallantry! Faust contrives to shake off Marguerite with the gift of half-a-dozen of beer, on which he does not even pay the carriage!

"'So this was the end of it?" asked Rossignol.

"'Yes, he mistook me for a beer-swilling Berliner;" she replied with all the bitterness inherited from '70 vibrating in the words.

"'Why didn't you send this precious present back?" inquired Rossy with a humorous twinkle flickering in his eyes.

"'Send it back!" she said in rising tones. "No, Certainly not! It is the only thing I have got out of him! But," she went on quickly and caustically, "I did write asking if he wished me to return the empty bottles."

* * * * * *

"But Faust found to his cost that there was an epilogue to the comedy. Rossy, true to his plighted word, turned up on the 1st of January with a handful of dollar notes and kicked out the cringing creditors neck and crop when they came meaning mischief. He talks Japanese beautifully under any circumstances, but it was a treat to hear him orating in Nihongo on that occasion.

"Then he started a subscription list to get Mademoiselle out of the country. Most of the boys noted up their four or five dollars, and in a few days there was enough put together to get her a ticket to Marseilles, with something over besides to give her a fresh start when she got there. "See there, what do you think of that?" he asked handing over a subscription sheet.

"Three hundred and seventy-seven *yen*," I remarked, "that is really very decent. I notice though that one good Samaritan is responsible for a biggish part of it. Who is this that signs himself 'A friend—150 *yen*?'"

Webster did not answer at once. He stroked his chin and cocking one eye significantly, he looked at me in a provokingly quizzical manner.

"Yes," he said after a pause during which light began to dawn upon me. "I see you've got it. It was the German Consul that worked the oracle for us there, and he worked it to some purpose. Dr. Ephraim Schmoller Schmidt *has* got his 300 dollar billet in the *Zohei-kyoku*, but he pocketed no more than the half of his first month's screw. "And the girl? I queried as I got up to catch my train.

"The girl? answered Webster sweeping his long legs off the table and starting to his feet. "Well, I guess by this time she is taking in the beauties of the seascape and landscape of the Inland Sea, somewhere on the other side of Akashi Strait. But must you really be off? Well, well, by-bye, till next time, old man. Here comes that last revise."

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR SAIGON FOR 1890.

Consul TREMLETT to the Marquis of SALISBURY.

Saigon, February 10th, 1891.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to enclose my Report upon the Trade, Commerce, and Navigation of Saigon for the year 1890.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. F. TREMLETT.

REPORT BY CONSUL TREMLETT ON THE TRADE, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION OF SAIGON AND INDO CHINA FOR 1890.

TONKIN.

This province has not been prominently brought before the public. The Governor-General has spent the greater part of his time there. Affairs are still somewhat unsettled, but accounts are conflicting, and it may be well to await further development before reporting.

ANNAM.

There is nothing particular to remark.

CAMBODIA.

This country has remained without any noticeable disturbance.

COCHIN-CHINA.

The following table shows that the export of rice amounted to 8,517,000 piculs (equal to about 506,900 tons), being 226,900 tons in excess of the export of the previous year. The average price, first cost, in gunnies for 20 per cent. "cargo," may be stated as equal to 4*s.* 8*d.* per cwt.

Total values are as under:—

Rice.	Piculs.	Per Cwt. s. d.	£.
Cargo	5,312,000	4 8	1,036,000
White	1,471,000	6 0	368,900
Paddy	1,734,000	4 4	314,000
Total ...	8,517,000		1,718,900

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STATEMENT OF RICE EXPORTS FOR 1890.

Countries.	Ports.	Piculs.		Total.
China	Hongkong	5,379,300	...	—
	Swatow	97,900	...	—
	Amoy	20,500	...	5,497,700
Japan	Hyogo / Yokohama	—	...	796,100
Tonkin	Haiphong	—	...	64,000
Philippines	Manila	688,100	...	—
	Iloilo	402,000	...	—
	Cebu	62,800	...	1,152,900
Straits	Singapore	—	...	424,500
Europe	F. O.	—	...	581,800
Grand total		—	...	8,517,000

The crop, as will have been seen, was a full average one, and prices ruled high for the greater part of the year. For the first time for many seasons trade was resumed with Japan, where as is well known, crops were short. Shipments to Europe, too, were not insignificant.

The crop now harvesting has all along been well spoken of, in spite of the fact that October and November passed entirely without rain; but now the admission must be made that this drought caused considerable damage, and moderate estimates put the crop of 1891 at 25 per cent. under that of last year.

OTHER EXPORTS.

Description.		Quantity.
Fish	Piculs	116,912
Isinglass	Piculs	1,143
Hides	Piculs	6,421
Copra	Piculs	5,207
Cotton	Piculs	18,973
Paper	Piculs	5,379
Silk	Piculs	2,088
Salt	Piculs	90,740
Wood	Piculs	13,423
Horns	Piculs	1,922
Beans	Piculs	10,194
Gamboge	Piculs	5,971
Pigs	Head	7,488

Exchange Rates have ranged as under:—

London demand, bank bills, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*; London credit, 3 m., 3*s* 2¾*d.* to 3*s.* 10¼*d.* Singapore demand, bank bills, 1¼ per cent. discount to ½ per cent. premium; Singapore documents, 30 d., 1¼ per cent. discount to 2½ per cent. discount. Hongkong demand, bank bills, 1 per cent. discount to ½ per cent. premium; Hongkong documents, 15 d., 2 per cent cent. discount to 3⅜ per cent. discount. Manila, 30 d., 2 per cent. premium to 4⅛ per cent. premium. Java, 30 d., 200 fl. to 223 fl. Japan, 30 d., 4¼ per cent. discount to 2 per cent. discount.

Shipping clearances were 357, aggregating 375,243 tons, of which 155 were British vessels of 187,367 tons, about one-half.

STATEMENT OF BRITISH SHIPPING ENTERED.

Clas.	Number.	Tonnage.	Crews.
Steam	150	180,541	5,982
Sail	4	6,523	106
Total	154	187,064	6,088

Flag.	Number.	Steam.	Number.	Sail.	Number.	Tons.
American	—	—	5	4,143	3	4,143
British	148	178,186	4	6,353	152	184,709
Danish	1	355	1	364	2	719
French	3	1,849	4	3,497	7	5,346
German	161	150,430	3	4,285	164	154,715
Japanese	7	12,508	—	—	7	12,508
Norwegian	1	1,646	—	—	1	1,646
Peruvian	—	—	1	245	1	245
Spanish	90	11,393	—	—	20	11,393
Total	341	356,367	16	19,057	357	375,324
M.M.	130	173,600	—	—	130	173,600
Cie Nantaise	30	11,566	—	—	30	11,566
Total	491	540,433	16	19,057	507	559,490

RATES OF FREIGHT.

Hong-Kong	from 12 c.	to 16 c.	per picul.
Singapore	8	14	per picul.
Japan	30	32	per picul.
Phillippines	22	29	per picul.

There is nothing to be said under this head. Statistics will not appear for some months. The tariff continues in force.

GENERAL.

Tonnage dues are 15 c. per net register ton upon loaded ships inward and outward.

LICENSES TO TRADE.

Dollars.		Dollars.	
Hors Classe	400	5	15
1	150	6	5
2	100	7	2
3	60	8	1
4	30		

Besides the above, foreign Asiatics have to pay:

Class.	Dollars.
1	80
2	30
3	7

Duty upon foreign alcohol 25. c per litre.

Export duty on rice and paddy is 15 c. per picul; to France, or French colonies, 10 c.; while to the Philippines the duty on white rice has been reduced to 12 c.

Export duty on cattle, 25 c. per head; export duty on pigs, 75 c. per head.

POPULATION OF SAIGON.

French	1,758	Russians (?)	16
English (?)	35	Indians	665
German	20	Chinese	7,351
Austrians	5	Annamites	5,990
Spaniards (?)	3	Cambodies	13
Swiss (?)	2	Japanese	22
Portuguese (?)	3	Taguls	37
Italians	9	Malays (?)	282
Greeks	2		
		Total	16,213

But I question very much the accuracy of these published statistics. There are but four English residents—European, at any rate.

Hospital charges are now, for foreign officers, 16 fr. 89 c.; for foreign seamen, 8 fr. 39 c.

The efforts to suppress smuggling, however praiseworthy the intention may be, are more unnecessarily vexatious than ever, and in some cases, or rather in the cases of some steamers, are based upon less than frivolous pretexts as regards searching for opium.

The matter of a loan is still in abeyance.

THE RIOTS IN CHINA.

We extract from the *N. C. Daily News* of the 12th inst. accounts of the attacks on foreigners at Kiukiang and Wusueh of which, by Admiral Belknap's kindness, we were enabled to publish telegraphic intelligence. The descriptions are in the form of letters from Correspondents, both dated 8th inst:—

KIUKIANG.

On Sunday evening the long-expected attempt came off. As usual they made the "children" the occasion of the outbreak. The Romanist orphanage within the city was the scene of the first trouble. A great crowd collected around the number of children who were being sent into the country and to the Hospital in the Concession. The crowd increased and became noisy and did a little damage by tearing up shrubbery and breaking windows, but in five minutes, and before time was allowed for them to get really started, troops came in hot haste from three camps and immediately took possession. Guards were also thrown in and around the Mission property of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Soon after a great mob collected in the Concession. The ladies and children were quietly and quickly removed to the Consulate and Custom House, and arms handed out to the residents, some 30 in number. In the meantime word was sent to the gunboats, three being fortunately in harbour, and armed boatloads of men were sent to the jetties ready to be landed at a second's notice. The mob was kept quiet by the presence of the foreigners in the back streets and on the Bund. On the back street the mob was the thickest. There one of the students harangued the crowd and urged them to go on and kill foreigners; said he, "What are we afraid of? We are many, the foreigners only few, and we can overpower them." With this they made a rush at the three foreigners stationed here, but Mr. Millar, chief of the Police, knocked the student down and when he rose to renew the conflict Mr. Millar's revolver was pointed at his head and death threatened if they came on again. They prudently declined. But the mob increased; soon eight or ten residents formed line and charged with the bayonet and drove thousands before them and out of the settlement. In the mean time the Taotai with a great following of troops poured in, and every chance of the mob destroying property or taking life was gone. The Chinese soldiers were requested to clear the Concession and close the barrier; they made some ineffectual attempts, so the residents took the work in hand and drove the crowd from all the streets at the point of the bayonet, and closed the barrier. Pickets of Chinese soldiers were posted everywhere and residents were under arms all night. To-day the Concession was crowded and Chinese roamed all about but dared not break out, armed foreigners being everywhere. As an instance of the value of the native soldiers in a conflict with the people, one of the "braves" started to move on a crowd, but they would not be moved and finally the soldier pushed one of them who turned round and cursed him, whereat the soldier made a polite bow. Other braves ran up but did not seem to do much, and it was not till the residents appeared with fixed bayonets that there was any stampede. All through the day matters have been thus. Troops have erected tents everywhere and are camping. To-night again at 7 o'clock the foreigners have had to clear the Concession at the point of the bayonet and guards are stationed with ball ammunition. Nothing can take place to-night. All foreigners from the city were removed into the Concession this afternoon, and are in safety. People are getting a little wearied out with this much watching and patrolling; it will have to stop some way soon. There is no danger here, we are strong, well armed, and prepared; the residents with the help of the sailors can drive off ten thousand. The excitement will doubtless last some time yet, but everything is well in hand. The great popular festival of the Dragon Lanterns begins on Thursday; there may be a little trouble then, and again during the military examinations which begin in a few days, but the officials are all alarmed and are doing their very best. Of course the Chinese are talking a good deal, but they can't do anything. They had better try, and they will learn a sharp lesson. Sailors and foreigners mean business. The *Inconstant* is drawn up between the hulks close in shore and can rake the Bund; armed crews are ready to land two or three minutes after the signal from shore has been given. Everything is perfectly quiet at this time of writing.

WUSUEH.

The wave of riot has rolled along the Yangtze until it has reached our province. Thirty miles above Kiukiang is an important trading town called Wusueh, at which the steamers stop in midstream for passengers. Here the Wesleyan Mission has been peaceably established for nearly twenty years, so peaceably that one is never called "Foreign devil" on the streets, ladies go out without foreign escort, often even for thirty miles inland to Kuangchi Hsien, where also a married missionary lives. The hills immediately opposite Wusueh have been selected for the mission sanatorium. In Wusueh itself, there are two mission houses in the same compound. On Friday evening last, June 5th, ladies only occupied the premises, both ill, together with their children and another lady, a visitor, the husbands being away at different stations. An invalid was occupying the Bungalow, and Mr. Argent, who arrived from England six months ago and had been taking care of the convalescent, came down to Wusueh to catch a steamer for Hankow. As he was obliged to wait for a day or two, the steamers being delayed, he spent the time at the rooms of Mr. Green, the resident officer of the Imperial Customs. Late in the afternoon four men took another to the *yamén*, declaring that they had found him coming into Wusueh with two baskets containing four young babies. These he professed to have collected around Kuangchi for the Roman Catholic Foundling Home at Kiukiang, and he asserted that eight other men were similarly occupied in the Hsien. The mandarin insisted on these four men affirming their names to the information,—which they declined, and the case was dismissed. Babies carried in baskets away from their mothers for many miles all through a boiling hot day would naturally be little likely to survive a farther steamer journey. One cannot but guess that the whole was a plot for the express purpose of rousing the mob. At any rate, plot or no, the plan succeeded. The crowd set on the man and in the scuffle smothered one of the bodies. Instantly the cry was raised, "They will take the baby to the Wesleyan Mission to make medicine of."

A rush was made for the Mission compound. The ladies hearing the scurry thought first of a fire, then of a theft, but almost instantly stones began to crash in their windows and on their attempting to find a safer place it was discovered that the house was on fire—probably through the upsetting of lamps by the shower of stones. They collected the children and had just taken shelter in a latticed toolhouse in the garden when all the doors were burst in and the rabble instead of going to the house, catching sight of their white dresses, rushed at them with stones and bamboos. The ladies driven out rushed down a passage and out at a back door, where the natives did not attempt to stop them. Probably the sight of the flaming house induced their pursuers to return after loot. Reaching the Mission chapel they took refuge there for a short while but a howling mob was on them striking, kicking, stoning. All got separated, one baby in the arms of a catechist was the butt for blows which he fended off as long as possible; its life was then saved by his tossing it to a native woman, after which it was lost for an hour until its amah claimed it from the strange motherly arms. The other children were saved in the houses of native Christians. One lady had a heavy blow which broke her head open, and she fell for an instant bruising her eye, but instantly recovered herself and rushed on; the others were also badly bruised, kicked, and struck. First two of them and then another by herself attempted to get refuge in the *yamén* of the Ma Ko Sze, but on each occasion the doors were shut in their faces, and they were driven back into the crowd. In pleasant contrast to this was the action of the Lung Ping Sze who urged the crowd to stop their work, offering his own person and *yamén* for vicarious violence. The crowd accepted the challenge, burnt his *yamén* and beat him heavily, but con-

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tinued their hunt for the foreigners. Finally two ladies and one child found their way down a quiet lane to a mat hut, whose occupants on the promise of reward hid them in the back of the hut, calmly continuing smoking and chatting at the doors. Messengers were sent to the Christians of their whereabouts, and first the third lady was brought to join them; presently runners were sent who conducted them to the *yamén* of the deputy-prefect. This man had taken no notice of three distinct appeals for assistance at the beginning of the riot, but now did his best to make the refugees comfortable. They surely needed it, for some were in mere night clothes; but the speedy restoration of the equally thinly clad children removed the worst horror from the mothers' minds. Meanwhile Messrs. Argent and Green saw the glare and, fearing the fire was near the mission, came running at full speed to help. They were met by the servants who told them that the ladies were gone, but couldn't make them understand that there was a riot and that it would be dangerous to go on. Mr. Argent was at once set on by a number of men; he took refuge in a leather shop close to the chapel where his assailants continued to attack. The shopman bade them not to kill him there, but take him outside; they instantly dragged him out and a blow from a coolie's bamboo split his head open, the blood spurting on to his servant who vainly tried to save him. They were mad with rage, set on him, pounded the head on the stones and mauled the body badly. Happily, we may feel sure he felt none of it all. Mr. Green ran away and took refuge in the midst of a pond where he kept them at bay for an hour or more. Then he got to land and was killed near the *yamén* whither he was running for refuge. In their rage they treated his body worse even than Mr. Argent's the face being unrecognisable.

Next morning early the *Tehhsing* came up river and Captain Cain received the refugees; with the greatest kindness he anchored for some hours until a message could be sent up to the bungalow and Mr. Fortune, who was ill there, could return. Naturally great anxiety was felt about the safety of the missionaries inland, especially of those in Kuangchi itself whence the rumour was supposed to have come. Happily, as we now know, the Kuangchi family are safe guarded in their own house to be escorted to the foreign gunboat on its arrival, and the missionaries from Kiehow and Huangsekang have also reached Hankow in safety. The only one yet not heard of is the Rev. F. Boden of Wusueh, but his country journey is not likely to have led him into serious risk. Captain Cain met the downcoming *Fuhwo* and sent messages to Kiukiang; the U.S.S. gunboat *Palos* was at once sent up to Wusueh and telegrams sent to Hankow. H.B.M. Consul, Mr. Gardner, at once communicated with the authorities. There is no doubt of the determination of the Viceroy, for immediately rapid couriers were sent to the other places within a radius of a hundred and fifty miles where foreigners are settled, to warn the local officials and to insist on prompt repressive measures. Of course Hankow and Wuchang were full of the usual style of rumours, but stringent orders were instantly sent to the commanders of police and troops on both banks of the river, and the claim of security already confidently advanced on behalf of the capital of Hupeh may be cheerily maintained.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the authorities will press the punishment of this causeless and brutal riot rapidly. The mob were evidently utterly mad and beyond control. It is happy that the two missionaries were not at home. When one of the ladies was in the clutches of the mob, some interfered and said, "Don't kill her, only beat her and make her tell where her husband is, we'll kill the men." There's no doubt that the crowd believe the story of the children—as nine-tenths of the Chinese in these three cities do to day. But the sternest punishment will not be too much for the wicked men who took advantage of the folly of the ignorant, nor for the officials who refused help and shut doors in the face of defenceless women. If ever there was a call for stern, unbending justice it is here, when the brutal beating of ladies and children, and the killing of two young Englishmen in a town hitherto entirely and continuously friendly, call aloud for the strongest, sharpest lessons.

When the *Palos* arrived at Kinkiang on the 6th, Captain Marthon was informed of the Wusueh massacre, and proceeded at once, arriving at 6 p.m. All was quiet then. Captain Marthon went ashore with an escort of Chinese men-of-war sailors, and proceeded a mile and a half into the city. He came across the body of Mr. Argent where it had fallen. It was lying on its back in the court-yard of the mission, dressed and covered over with old mats. He found the church and school gutted, and all the furniture either gone or destroyed. On proceeding to the dwelling-house he found the body of Mr. Green lying in the middle of the street and covered with mats and lumber. One dwelling house was completely destroyed by fire and another in the rear entirely gutted of moveables and fixtures. On Monday morning Captain Marthon and some of his officers, at the request of the mandarin, attended the inquest on the bodies, and afterwards saw them washed, dressed, and placed in Chinese coffins to be sent to Hankow by the first steamer.

WUSIEH.

Telegrams were received here (Shanghai) on Monday night and yesterday morning (10th) to the effect that a mob had attacked and destroyed the Jesuit Mission at Wusieh near the Tahu. No lives were lost. The rioters were probably the same people who attacked the R. C. Mission at Tanyang on the 2nd instant. Tanyang is between Chinkiang and Wusieh. The latter is an important town on the Grand Canal, and is the principal scene of the operations for the purchase of cocoons for the silk filatures in Shanghai. A Shanghai resident, who was at Wusieh a fortnight ago, had a conversation with two of the Fathers and visited the school, in which about forty boys were at work. The Fathers were told of the outbreak at Nanking, but expressed no fears on their own account, Wusieh being then perfectly quiet. The church is a very handsome one for China, and there are some 4,000 converts in the city and neighbourhood.

A telegram received last evening mentioned that all was quiet at Wusieh, and there does not appear to be any ground for the rumour that a large part of the town has been burnt.

We have received the following letter on this painful subject:—

To the Editor of the "North-China Daily News."

Sir,—We have received telegrams informing us of a new outbreak at Wusieh. As far as can be understood from these telegrams, on the afternoon of June 8th a band of miscreants reduced the church, dwelling house, and schools to ashes, but without killing anyone.

Wusieh is on the Grand Canal, at an equal distance from Soochow and Changchow. It is the centre of a section of our Mission which is attended to by six Fathers, and which has over 10,000 Christians and 60 chapels. We had there our largest church, with a boy's school which counted often 100 pupils, and a girls' school still more numerously attended.

One of the telegrams says that of all this nothing remains standing.

It seems very much as if these deeds were committed by men obeying a word of command in an organised scheme—by a band which has travelled from Chinkiang to Tanyang along the Grand Canal, and next to Wusieh by the same channel. These evil-doers have evidently orders to do what they have done—destroy so many schools without taking lives.

What can be their object? Where will they appear next?

You are at liberty to publish this sad news in your columns. We shall soon, no doubt, have full particulars.

I am, etc.,
9th June.

Aug. M. Colombel, S.J.

CRICKET.

Y.C. AND A.C. V. VISITORS AND FLEET.

This match came off on Saturday, and resulted in favour of the Club by 88 runs. The Visitors went in first, and runs were put on pretty freely by the first half of the team, but there was a great falling off towards the end, the last five men scoring nothing. Walford, the two Edwards, and Frith bowled, the latter being credited with four wickets. The Club played against the bowling of nearly the whole of the other side, and had their score assisted by 20 extras. Frith was in great form, piling up nearly half the score and carrying out his bat, Walford adding 34, and Dickenson 27, and Bevan took 5 wickets and bowled 6 maiden overs. Following are the scores:—

Visitors and Fleet.		Y.C. and A.C.	
Mr. Eyre, b. W. Edwards	7	Mr. Crawford, c. Eyre, b. Elliott	18
Mr. Bevan, c. Crawford, b. Walford	30	Mr. W. Edwards, c. Bevan, b. Crompton	3
Lieut. Clinton-Baker, b. E. Edwards	22	Mr. Frith, not out	89
Mr. Herbert, c. Crawford, b. Frith	25	Mr. Watson, b. Bevan	5
Mr. Leigh, run out	8	Mr. Duff, b. Bevan	0
Captain Gamble, not out	15	Mr. E. Edwards, c. and b. Bevan	1
Mr. Crompton, b. Edwards	0	Mr. Fenton, c. Eyre, b. Bevan	0
Mr. Chown, run out	0	Mr. Walford, c. Gamble, b. Clinton-Baker	34
Mr. Cooper, l.b.w., b. Frith	0	Mr. Stewart, c. Eyre, b. Leigh	4
Mr. Brown, b. Frith	0	Mr. Dickenson, c. Leigh, b. Brown	27
Mr. Elliott, b. Frith	0	Mr. Kenyon, b. Brown	0
b. 3, l.b. 2, w. 1	6	b. 12, l.b. 1, w. 6, n.b. 1	20
	113		201

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, June 12th.

The African convention largely extends the British sphere in Manicaland, and also on the right bank of the Shiré river.

London, June 13th.

The name of Sir W. G. Gordon-Cumming has been removed from the Army List.

The China Squadron of the French Navy has been ordered to rendezvous at the mouth of the Yangtze River.

London, June 15th.

The prosecution of M. de Lesseps for the illegal issue of Panama stock has commenced.

London, June 16th.

An Imperial Decree has been issued by the Emperor of China, ordering officials to protect all foreigners and foreign missions and to punish rioters.

Later.

England and the United States have ratified the agreement to close the season for sealing in the Behring Sea until the month of May.

London, June 18th.

In the House of Commons, the First Lord of the Admiralty announced that the Government had decided to increase the Navy by 12,500 men to man the new ships recently built and now building, and that cruisers would be commissioned to replace three of the gunboats on the China Station.

(From the "Singapore Free Press.")

London, June 2nd.

The action for libel brought by Colonel Gordon-Cumming is now being tried by Lord Chief Justice Coleridge: the plaintiff in testifying solemnly denied that there was any attempt at cheating on his part.

London, June 4th.

In his evidence in the suit for libel now being tried, Colonel Gordon-Cumming admitted that he did nothing to clear himself until the scandal was made public. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales testified to the friendship existing between himself and Colonel Gordon-Cumming, and stated that he saw nothing of the cheating referred to, but was obliged to believe the unanimous statement of others that the plaintiff had been detected cheating.

(From the Manila "Comercio.")

Madrid, May 22nd.

In the Chambers the commercial interest has opposed the idea of prolonging the privileges of the Bank of Spain, also the unlimited issue of paper money.

At a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Madrid it was unanimously resolved to petition for the suppression of the duties payable in the ports of Spain on Colonial products. It was also proposed that the Customs regulations in the Philippines should be reformed on the basis recommended by the Manila Chamber of Commerce.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki and Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 26th.
From Hongkong.	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 21st.†
From America ...	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, July 4th.‡
From Europe viâ Hongkong.....	per M. M. Co.	Friday, June 26th.§

† *Verona* left Nagasaki on June 17th. ‡ *Oceanic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on June 13th. § *Natal* (with French mail) left Hongkong on June 17th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Hongkong.....	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, June 21st.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, June 21st.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ...	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 23rd.
For Hongkong...	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 27th.
For America.....	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, July 3rd.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Thursday, July 9th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Saint Oswald, British steamer, 1,781, Wm. Attee, 15th June,—Kobe 13th June, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Iphigenia, German steamer, 1,058, Magleby, 16th June,—Hongkong 8th June, Mails and General. —Simon, Evers & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 16th June,—Hongkong 11th June, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, John Wynn, 16th June,—Kobe 15th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,082, Macmillan, 17th June,—Honolulu 3rd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, R.N.R., 17th June,—Vancouver, B.C., 3rd June, Mails and General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Pemptos, German steamer, 1,541, Johansen, 18th June,—Victoria 27th May, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Blanke, 18th June,—Hongkong 12th June, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Hass, 18th June, —Nagasaki 14th June, Coal.—Mitsui Bishi Sha.

Moray, British steamer, 1,411, Duncan, 19th June, —Kobe 17th June, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Exe, British steamer, 1,368, Watson, 19th June,—Hongkong 11th June, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 19th June,—Shanghai and ports 13th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 19th June,—San Francisco 2nd June, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Benvenue, British steamer, 1,467, Thompson, 16th June,—New York viâ ports, General.—Comes & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 16th June,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Oswald, British steamer, 1,781, Wm. Attre, 17th June,—Kobe, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, John Wynn, 18th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Parthia, British steamer, 2,035, J. Panton, R.N.R., 18th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—C. P. M. S.S. Co.

Pemptos, German steamer, 1,541, Johansen, 19th June,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, W. B. Seabury, 20th June,—San Francisco, Mails and General. —P. M. S.S. Co.

Moray, British steamer, 1,411, Duncan, 20th June, —Hakodate, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *China*, from Hongkong:—H.E. Martino (Italian Minister), Sir James Russell (Chief Justice), Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. Moosa, Mr. and Mrs. Kwong Man Tai and child, and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thee Yeow, family, and 7 servant in cabin; 1 European and 2 natives in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. H. Dickson, Messrs. King Stundee, H. E. Pollock, Wong Wai, Pak Ling, Tam Kum Wo, and Lieut. Farrant, R.A., in cabin; 2 Europeans and 198 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Carroll and Mr. E. S. Bell in cabin; Mr. Sutton, Mr. K. Matsuda, and Mrs. N. Tamaoki and 3 children in second class, and 41 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Parthia*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Lieut. H. C. Metcalfe, Major Bennett, Mr. E. Ortiz, Mr. Hutchison, Mr. and Mrs. Egleston, Mr. J. T. Griffin, Rev. John and Mrs. Batchelor, Mr. G. A. Agassiz, Mr. Tate, and Mr. White in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 35 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *Pemptos*, from Victoria:—Mr. and Mrs. Foster and Mr. Strachan in cabin; Mr. D. Higgins in steerage.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Chas. Wilkens, Mr. B. Daniel, Mr. T. Banett, Mr. and Mrs. E. Voigt, Dr. M. Segawa, Mr. Ah Kee, and Mr. Le La Sang in cabin; 56 Chinese and 6 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Dr. Sloan, Messrs. Howie, Gladys, and Rehentisch in cabin; 44 passengers in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Bumeth and child, Mr. Hopsch, and Rev. Mr. Bonnell in cabin; 6 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—Mrs. J. Crabbe and daughter, Mr. G. B. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Mayers, Mr. S. Fujii and servant, Miss Abbie Kent, Mr. W. C. Gray, Mr. W. B. Post, Bishop Anzer, Miss Antain and infant, Mr. John De Forrest, and Mr. W. G. Norris in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Aucona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Brown Potter, Messrs. Kyrle Bellew, Twinning, Beesley, C. de Mornay, F. Powell, Tsunukichi Matazawa, Deagon, Blanc, Miss Richardson, Mrs. Mitchel-Innes, Lieut. R. F. Boileau, Commander T. Roberson, Messrs. Scheit, C. Roosing, and J. Williams and servant in cabin; 1 seaman, and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. C. C. Marsh, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Elton, Mr. and Mrs. Hinckle, Mrs. Ogasawara, Messrs. Goldman, J. de Byke, Gibbons, Bevan, Wilkinson, G. Matsuda, F. Dallas, and Tsang P. Sung in cabin; Miss Kane, Mrs. Nagai and Yoshio, Mrs. Toyama, Messrs. Nagai, Miyabara, Soon Chu, and Mrs. Soon Tim in second class, and 69 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—Earl of Galloway and servant, Lady Isabel Stewart, Sir William and Lady Fiolkes, Miss Fiolkes, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Baxter, Miss Baxter, Miss E. Tarry, Mrs. F. A. Clark, Misses Clark (3), Mrs. Cawthra, Miss Cawthra, Mr. Schnitzler, Mr. R. Teape, Mr. W. West-Erskine, Mr. K. C. Maciver, Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Francis, Mr. C. W. Collier, Mr. B. F. Kahn, Mr. M. Thiel, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Sage, Mr. R. B. Lawrence, Mr. Fernand Vandenkerckhove, Lieut. General Walker, V.C., C.B., Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Watson, Mr. Cavagleon, Mr. A. R. Markham, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hotaling, Mr. F. Horaling, Judge Israel Lawton, Miss Waddell, Mr. J. van den Pauvert Canter Visscher, Mr. R. K. Pettit, Mr. Jas. Mackey, Mr. W. Bradshaw, Miss Bradshaw and maid, Mr. J. D. McKenzie, Mr. B. Otsubo, Mr. C. J. Strome, Professor and Mrs. C. G. Knott and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. Cotes, Dr. Renton, Mr. and Mrs. M. Ginsburg, Mr. R. A. Hopkins, Mr. C. E. Grant, Mr. N. P. Brown, Col. Gladky, Mr. H. Robentisch, Mr. V. D'O. Wintle, Mr. J. H. Omerod, Mr. Kopsch, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bennett and child, Rev. W. B. Bonnell, Lieut. Farrant, R. A., Mr. King Stundee, Mr. H. F. Pollock, Mr. Pak Ling, Mr. Wong Wai, and Mr. Yam Fuen Wo in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Aucona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk for France 94 bales; Waste Silk for France 195 bales.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	400	—	—	400
Hyogo	25	2,591	4,388	7,004
Yokohama	2,146	1,695	4,253	8,094
Hongkong	28	1,362	619	2,009
Total	2,599	5,648	9,260	17,507

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	54	—	54
Hongkong	—	155	—	155
Yokohama	—	114	—	114
Total	—	323	—	323

REPORTS.

The British steamer *China*, Captain Seabury, reports:—Left Hongkong the 11th June; had strong N.E. winds and rough sea through Formosa Channel; fresh E.S.E. winds across Eastern Sea; from Yokohama to Oshima, heavy gale with thick rainy weather; Oshima to Rock Island, fresh easterly winds and fogs; Rock Island to port, rain and thick weather. Passage, 5 days, 3 hours, and 55 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Miike Maru*, Captain MacMillan, reports:—Left Honolulu the 3rd June at 0.30 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather; crossed the meridian on the 7th in lat. 25° N.; 13th and 14th had fresh S.W. gale with high sea and fierce squalls; thence to port moderate to fresh N.E. winds and rainy weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 17th June at 2 p.m.

The British steamer *Parthia*, Captain Panton, reports:—Left Vancouver the 3rd June at 3.40 p.m. Arrived at Victoria at 9.15 p.m. and left at 10 p.m.; had moderate N.E. winds and fine; 4th and 5th fresh S.W. winds and heavy head sea; 6th and 7th moderate S.E. winds and fine; 8th and 9th light winds and foggy; 10th moderate N.N.E. winds and fine; 12th crossed meridian in latitude 49° N., fresh N.N.W. winds with passing fog banks; 13th and 14th light S. and S.W. winds and foggy; 15th light northerly winds and fine weather; 16th Kinkasan abeam at 7.35 p.m., strong S.E. winds and heavy rain to Inuboye-saki, abeam at 8 a.m. on the 17th; thence to Iwa Wada Point strong N.E. winds and foggy; from Iwa Wada to port strong northerly winds and fine. Time on voyage 13 days.

The German steamer *Pemptos*, Captain Johansen, reports:—Left Portland the 26th May and Victoria the 27th; had first part of the passage pleasant weather; middle part heavy weather and high sea; latter part moderate to fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 17th June about midnight.

The German steamer *General Werder*, Captain Blanke, reports:—Left Hongkong the 12th June at 1.45 p.m.; had through Formosa Channel fair weather with moderate E.N.E. winds; thence to port changeable and hazy weather with passing showers of rain, and afterwards fair weather with light winds. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th June at 10.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 12th June at 2 p.m.; had weather dull and hazy with fresh S.E. winds and moderate head sea throughout the passage. Arrived at Nagasaki the 14th at 5.45 p.m. and left the 15th at 5 p.m.; had overcast cloudy weather with rain at times and moderate to light variable winds throughout the passage. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 16th at 5.15 a.m. and left at 10 a.m.; had fine clear weather with moderate N.E. winds. Arrived at Kobe the 17th at 5.20 a.m. and left the 18th at noon; had fine weather with light variable winds and smooth sea with hazy horizon; passed Oshima lighthouse at 7.43 p.m. on the 19th at 3.30 a.m., came on dense fog; at 4.30 a.m. fog cleared; passed Rock Island at 9.14 a.m., had light variable winds and smooth sea throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama at 3.15 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain Searle, reports:—Left San Francisco the 2nd June at p.m.; crossed meridian 47° N. cold dark and gloomy weather with moderate westerly winds. Time, 16 days, 6 hours, and 26 minutes.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The tone of the market has been good, and in addition to the continuance of a satisfactory amount of business in Yarns and Shirtings, other articles seem to be coming into demand gradually, which may be taken as indicating some improvement in the general condition of trade, especially at this season when country folks are usually taken up with harvesting and rice planting. Prices have mostly remained very steady, and as regards Yarns, seem likely to be prevented from advancing by reason of the competition of the Japanese Mills, which has already killed the trade in Bombays and reduced by more than half the consumption of English Spinnings. Sales for the week consist of about 1,000 bales English Yarn, 15,000 pieces 9lb. Shirtings, 1,000 pieces 8¼lb., 1,000 pieces T.-Cloths, 3,000 pieces Silesians, 1,500 pieces Prints, 1,300 pieces Turkey Reds, 450 pieces Velvet, 1,500 pieces Italian Cloth, and 4,200 pieces Mousseline de Laine.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$ 2.50 to 3.20
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	1.75 to 2.45
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.25 to 1.47½
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20 to 1.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.07 to 0.15
Turkey Reds—1¾ to 2¼lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	PER PIECE. 1.10 to 1.37½
Turkey Reds—2¾ to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.30 to 1.47½
Turkey Reds—3¼ to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 1.97½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	5.25 to 6.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.55 to 0.70
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 44 inches	1.15 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 30 42 yards, 32 inches	$ 4.00 to 5.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½ to 28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20 to 24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16 to 20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.13½ to 0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30 to 0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.47½ to 0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30 to 0.60
Cloths—Scotch and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per ½	0.30 to 0.39

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COTTON YARNS.

Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$24.00	to 27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27 25	to 28 25
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28 50	to 30.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	29 50	to 31.50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	28.00	to 29.00
Nos. 28 32, Medium	29 50	to 30 75
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	31.00	to 33 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35.00	to 36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	33 50	to 34 50
No. 42s, Two-fold	35.00	to 38 00
	PER PICUL.	
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00	to 78 00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00	to 77 00
Nos. 10/14, Bombay		—

METALS.

Very quiet and there is practically nothing doing. Quotations are nominally unchanged. Holders try to get some advance, but so far without much chance of success.

	PER PICUL.	
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	$2.80	to 2.90
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.85	to 2.90
Round and square up to ¾ inch	2.80	to 2.90
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.	
Nailrod, small size	Nom.	
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90	to 3.05
Sheet Iron	3.10	to 3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20	to 6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.50	to 4.75
Tin Plates, per box	5 50	to 5.75
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30	to 1.35

KEROSENE.

Market dull, no business doing. Prices are nominally unchanged, but there is no trade to test them. Deliveries good, arrivals small, being only 5,000 cases Comet per steamer *Oswald* from New York. There are about 500,000 cases American Oil in stock; but Russian is in small supply, the stock being reduced to less than 70,000 cases.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.65	to 1.67½
Comet	1.62½	to 1.65
Devoe	1 60	to 1.62½
Russian	1.55	to 1.60

SUGAR.

All Browns are lower, with small demand. In Refined there is a large business, as is usual at the approach of summer. Stock appears ample for all requirements at present, viz.,—Browns 190,000 piculs, and Refined 55,000 piculs.

	PER PICUL.	
Brown Takao	$4.10	to 4 20
Brown Daitong	3.10	to 3.15
Brown Canton		—
Brown Java and Penang	3 40	to 4.10
White Refined	4.80	to 7.25

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 12th instant since which date settlements on this market are 133 piculs (being about three-fourths old silk and one-fourth new) divided thus:—*Hanks* 61 piculs, *Re-reels* 23 piculs, *Kakeda* 7 piculs, *Hamatsuki* 42 piculs. There have been no direct shipments during the week.

The old silk settled was chiefly for Europe and the few parcels new silk are mostly destined for the United States. Stock on hand is 1,500 piculs nearly all old staple.

The market really opened yesterday, the 18th instant, although one or two fragments were purchased the previous day. Business was done in good *Koshu Filatures* 14/16 deniers at $580, Good *Joshu Re reels* bringing $560 and $555. The fragments named above consisted of *Filatures* No. 2 at $542½ and No. 3 at $525 both for Europe. Exchange on London 6 m/s Bankers' Credits being quoted at 3/3⅜.

The weather has been eminently favourable for the new crop and the *récolte* is finished in Koshu, Joshu, and Bushu provinces. In Shinshu and Oshu all goes well so far, and present indications are for a crop of 40,000 to 45,000 piculs. The amount available for export will vary with the demand for home use which will undoubtedly be large should prices for export be very low.

Compared with last year, the prices paid for New silk show a marked difference. In 1890, $655 and $600 with exchange at 3/5¾.—this year $580 and $560 with exchange 3/3⅜, or say a reduction of 15 per cent. on the opening price for Koshu filatures.

So far no silk from the Shinshu factories has come to hand; but it is understood that they are as usual using their machinery on *Koshu* cocoons until such time as their own cocoons are ready for reeling.

Present arrivals show good colour and quality. They wind well, but exhibit some irregularities in the make of the thread as though the reelers had been unduly hasty in rushing the staple forward to market. Next receipts will undoubtedly show an improvement in this respect.

There has been only one shipping opportunity during the week the English mail taking 94 bales. The present total to date is 34,034 piculs, against 35,455 last year and 41,390 at same date in 1889.

Hanks.—No business for export has been done, but a couple bales *Hachoji* have been taken for native use at a price equal to about $427 here.

Filatures.—Nothing but low grades have been bought for Europe—mostly old silk in mixed parcels at $525. In new staple for the same destination a few boxes *Koshu* were settled at $542½ and some *Tsuruga* at $525.

In new silk for the States a parcel of good 1½ *Koshu* Filature *Yojima*—was done at $580, and a lot of similar silk *Kusanagisha* will probably be shipped per Bearer at or about the same figure. Dealers are trying to maintain prices, but find it difficult to get a rise out of the foreign buyers.

Reereels.—Two parcels of New Joshu have been fixed for the outgoing steamer, prices paid being as under: Tortoise $560, *Shorusha* $555. Further arrivals will be here in a few days.

Kakeda.—No new silk expected for about a fortnight; in the meantime there is a retail business in old staple. *Red flag* $540, *Green-flag* $520, *Yellow flag* $500.

Oshu.—A parcel of Old *Hamatsuki* found a buyer at $480. This has been the solitary transaction in this class.

QUOTATIONS.—(NEW SILK.)

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	$575 to $580
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	540 to 550
Filatures—No. 2, 14 18 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	555 to 560
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	—
Kakedas—No. 1½	—
Kakedas—No. 2	—
Kakedas—No. 2½	—
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	—
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 19th June, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	15,161	14,825	21,293
America	18,229	20,172	19,698
Total { Bales	33,390	34 997	40,991
Total { Piculs	34,034	35.455	41,390
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	34,900	35,650	41 200
Stock, 19th June	1,500	2,000	700
Available supplies to date	36,400	37,650	41.900

WASTE SILK.

A feeble business of 44 piculs divided thus:—*Noshi* 11 piculs, *Kibiso* 18 piculs, *Neri* 15 piculs. All this was old fibre.

The season draws to a close, and we may look for a slight interregnum before the new one opens. There are rumours of a parcel *Joshu Noshi* having arrived which contains old and new fibre mixed in the same skeins.

The export to date, including departures during the past week, amounts to 31,862 piculs against 29,740 at same date last year and 31,649 on the 19th June, 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—No sign of any new produce as yet, and nothing worth attention in the stock of old crop.

Noshi.—A dab of Filature done at $135, and some fine *Hachoji* at $137½. No business in new fibre at present.

Kibiso—A little lot of Filature at $110 is all the business in this department.

Sundries—One lot of Joshiu *Neri* has been taken into godown on trial, but no actual business has transpired.

We withdraw all quotations pending the arrival of new fibre.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best.....Nom.	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	—
Noshi-ito—Oshiu, Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	—
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	—
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	—
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	—
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	—
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 19th June, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	30,575	27,550	29,171
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,478
	31,862	29,740	31,649
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,700	29,200	31,300
Stock, 19th June	3,200	4,900	3,000
Available supplies to date	34,900	34,100	34,300

Exchange has improved a fraction on the week, and now stands as follows:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/3¼; Documents, 3/3⅜; 6m/s. Credits, 3 3⅛; Documents, 3/3⅜; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $79; 4m/s. U.S. $79¼; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4.14; 6m/s. fcs. 4.16.

Estimated Silk Stock, 19th June, 1891:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	150	Cocoons	40
Filatures	540	Noshi-ito	880
Re-reels	590	Kibiso	2,070
Kakeda	70	Mawata	156
Oshu	110	Sundries	54
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	1,500	Total piculs	3,200

TEA.

Market has been a little less active, but prices are unchanged, although settlements have fallen off in volume. Second crop is now in full supply, and the quality is considered somewhat inferior to that of last year. Settlements for the season are 145,000 piculs against 125,000 to same date last year. Export goes on at a lively gait, Overland, Suez, sail and rail, all getting a good share of the trade. Present figures are about 11 million pounds against 8 millions to same date in 1890.

	PER PICUL.
Extra Choicest	—
Choicest	$27 up.
Choice	25 to 26
Finest	22 to 24
Fine	19 to 21
Good Medium	17 to 18
Medium	15 to 16
Good Common	13 to 14
Common	10 to 12

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has advanced slightly on the week, and is steady at quotations.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/3⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/3⅞
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 3⅞
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/3⅞
On Paris—Bank sight	4.08
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.20
On Hongkong—Bank sight	¼ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	¼ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	78½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	79¼
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	78½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	79¼
Silver	45

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1891.

BIRTHS.

On the 24th inst., at 76 B, Bluff, Mrs. A. LE PRÉVOST, of a Son.

On the 25th inst., at 141, Bluff, the wife of F. W. HILL, of a Daughter.

DEATH.

On the 22nd inst., at Bushey, Herts, W. S. MITCHELL, aged 81. (By telegram.)

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE *Yamato Kan* started from Nagasaki on the 20th instant for Shanghai.

A SLIGHT shock of earthquake was felt in the capital on the 22nd instant at 9h. 43m. 42s. a.m.

IT is said thatMr. Oki Morikata, the late Governor of Shiga, who has been officially pardoned, will shortly be appointed to office.

A SERIES of meetings of Directors of various Meteorological Observatories throughout the Empire was commenced in Tokyo on the 20th instant.

IN consequence of the recent heavy rain the Tama river in the Tama district of Kanagawa Prefecture overflowed, and the Hinohashi bridge was swept away.

A MEETING of members of the Yokohama City Assembly has been announced to take place on the 23rd instant, to discuss the sale of the Yokohama Gas Works.

A TELEGRAM from Kagoshima reports that the buildings of the 152nd National Bank in that city were burnt to the ground on the morning of the 19th instant.

DURING the period from the 4th instant, up to the 18th, seven males and six females were attacked by a disease resembling cholera in Osaka, of whom seven succumbed to the malady and one recovered, the remainder being still under medical treatment.

MR. WATANABE, Prefect of Shiga, who was appointed recently Director of the Hokkaido Administration Board, left Otsu on the 19th instant for the capital.

H.I.M. THE EMPRESS, who has been slightly indisposed for some time, will remove in a day or two to the Shiba Detached Palace, to stay there for about three weeks.

IN consequence of the recent heavy rains various rivers in the province of Kozuke, Gumma Prefecture, have overflowed, and several bridges have been destroyed or damaged.

MR. TAGUCHI UKICHI has been successful in the election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Hatakeyama, a member of the Tokyo City Assembly for Hongo district.

ON the 19th instant about half-past four in the afternoon, the district of Koga in Shiga Prefecture was visited by a severe hail-storm and much damage was caused to the tobacco crop.

THE section of railway between Morioka (Iwate Prefecture) and Aomori (Aomori Prefecture), which is now in course of construction, is expected to be completed before the end of October next.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received by the Government to the effect that the *Yamato Kan*, which left Yokosuka on the 14th instant for Shanghai, arrived at that port on the 22nd instant.

MR. SOYEDA JUICHI, a Councillor of the Finance Department, was appointed on the 18th instant a private secretary of the Minister of State for Finance, being raised to third class *sonin* rank.

A KUMAMOTO telegram under date the 22nd instant conveys intelligence that the section between Kumamoto and Takashi on the Kyushu Railway line will be opened for traffic on the 1st proximo.

A MEETING of members of the Central Sanitary Association was held on the 22nd instant, at the Home Department to discuss the Regulations as to the examination of vessels coming from infected ports.

COUNT TERAJIMA, Vice-President of the Privy Council, is at present confined to his residence on account of illness. Count Yanagiwara, a Privy Councillor, has been suffering for some time from disease of the brain.

MR. KAWASHIMA, a wealthy merchant of Tokyo, has applied to the Authorities for permission to commence mining operations for silver at Nakasaki at the foot of Asahidake, Nishimurayama district, Yamagata Prefecture.

H.I.M. THE EMPRESS, accompanied by Mr. Sannomiya, Master of Services to Her Majesty, and several Court Ladies, proceeded to the Aoyama Palace on the 23rd instant to pay her respects to H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager.

A TELEGRAM from Nagano under date the 19th instant states that nine persons have been attacked by cholera at Yasuokamura in Ina district, of whom two succumbed to the malady. There are signs of the complaint spreading.

MR. YOSHITAKE SEIICHIRO, manager of the Yokohama branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, has been appointed manager of the company's branch at Shanghai, and will start for his post about the 7th proximo. Mr. Iwanago will take his place in conjunction with his present office of manager of the Bureau of Shipping in the head office, Tokyo.

DR. CARGILL G. KNOTT, formerly of the Science College in the Imperial University, started from the capital on the 19th instant for home. Professor Kato, President, and a large number of instructors and students of the University accompanied him to the Shimbashi Station.

THE ordinary Tuesday meeting of the Cabinet was held on the 23rd instant, and was attended by Counts Matsukata, Goto, and Oki, Viscounts Shinagawa, Tanaka, Enomoto, and Takashima, and Mr. Mutsu, by whom the revision of the Regulations as to the organization of the Government was discussed.

ABOUT a week ago an outbreak of fire took place at Fujisawamura, Echigo, and some fifty-seven dwellings were burnt to the ground. The owners of the buildings intend now to raise an action for damages amounting to *yen* 70,000 against the Chief Commissioner of the Railway Bureau on the ground that the conflagration was caused by sparks from a locomotive, which passed the village shortly before the occurrence of the fire.

MAJOR-GENERAL OSHIMA, the newly appointed Commander of the Ninth Brigade (Hiroshima), left the capital on the 23rd instant for his post. Lieutenant-General Takashima, Minister of State for War, Major-General Okazawa, Vice-Minister of the War Department, Lieutenant-General Miyoshi, Inspector-General of the Army Inspection Bureau, Major-General Kodama, and over a hundred field-officers accompanied him to the Shimbashi Station.

THE recent improvement in the Import trade has fallen off somewhat in consequence of the farmers having been busily engaged in rice-planting, in addition to which the rise in exchange has affected the market by causing holders to press sales, and this following on the late extensive business to arrive has made dealers buy sparingly. Nevertheless business has been done in Yarns, Shirtings, and Cotton Piece-goods generally, and a small demand has set in for Flannels, Serges, and other Woollen goods. There is no change to note in the Metal trade, holders still refusing business at a decline in rates. Kerosene is still dull, and two of the cargoes which we recently referred to as being near port have arrived, which further increases the stock of American Oil by over 100,000 cases. The Sugar trade remains dull, though there have been dealings in White sorts; Browns, however, receive but little attention. The Silk trade has not been extensive in volume, though most of the parcels purchased have been new staple. The rise in exchange has caused some disturbance, and operators have obtained Silk at a reduction on the opening rates. The business done has been chiefly for the United States, and hereafter arrivals will probably come in sufficient quantities to admit of large transactions. Everything points to a large crop of first-class Silk, and reeling is now in very extensive operation. Nothing worth reporting in Waste Silk. The Tea trade has fallen off, partly due to buyers seeking a reduction in price, and to some extent on account of the inferior quality of second crop leaf, which is not comparatively equal to the early pickings. Exchange has fluctuated somewhat, and after improving at the commencement of the week declined partially, but a check to the downward tendency came yesterday, and rates are firm at the close.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Tokyo Rice Exchange affair has been the principal topic of discussion in the columns of the vernacular press during the present week. The leading facts bearing on this incident have been already published in these columns. Public faith in the business management of existing companies has of late been rudely shaken by a series of astonishing disclosures, of which the Rice Exchange affair has attracted the greatest attention. According to trustworthy information thus far obtained, there seems to be good ground to believe that the brokers and some of the patrons of the institution will arrive at an understanding with Mr. Nakamura, President of the Exchange, and that the place will be soon re-opened for business. Two courses are now spoken of: either Mr. Nakamura will return over 300,000 *yen* which he owes, through the 6th National Bank, to the Exchange; or failing that result, the brokers and some of the interested parties will supply the institution with funds to begin its life anew.

* * *

The Tokyo papers, with a few exceptions, approve the measure taken by the Authorities for the protection of the shareholders and brokers of the Rice Exchange, but most of them accompany their approval with expressions of regret that the Government's method of supervision over corporations under its special control has left something to be desired. The *Mainichi Shimbun* notably criticises the fact that the Authorities did not take speedier measures to correct the irregularities of the President of the Tokyo Rice Exchange. The 6th National Bank was known to have forfeited the trust of business men, and the Government should have interfered at the outset to prevent the depositing of the funds of the Exchange in such a dangerous institution.

* * *

Not a few Japanese believe with the *Nippon*, that the recent disclosures of irregularities and corruption in the business world are indications of an approaching revolution in the character of Japanese merchants. "Gamblers and speculators," who, by flattery and corruption, monopolize all profitable official business, have been suffered too long to contaminate the atmosphere, and to mar the prospects of honest and conscientious tradesfolk. That people of such a depraved character should become objects of general condemnation is but natural and just. The *Nippon* rejoices that things are growing more and more favourable for the rise of a new and true generation of business men.

* * *

What excites most curiosity is the so-called "political aspect" of the Rice Exchange affair. In certain quarters it is believed a deep political intrigue may be traced throughout the whole trouble. It is rumoured that the money said to have been used by Mr. Nakamura for speculative purposes, was really employed in the interests of the *Kaishin-to* as well as for the personal benefit of its leader Count Okuma, and that the present Cabinet has brought the matter before the public with the object of injuring the reputation of that party and its distinguished leader. We (*Japan Mail*) do not put the slightest confidence in any of these rumours, but it will not be uninteresting to note what the papers say on this aspect of the question, if only to show how high party feeling runs among certain journalists of the capital.

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimpo*, deploring the generally unsatisfactory condition of companies and banks, observes that one of the evil consequences of such a state of things is to tempt destitute politicians into various improper schemes for obtaining money. It refers, by way of illustration, to the connection between a certain party, hitherto proud of its wealth, and various companies and banks, as the Imperial Fisheries Company, the Specie Bank, and the Stock Exchange. In another article, the same paper discusses the Rice Exchange question, and while disclaiming any faith in the rumour that the Government's real object in examining the books of the Exchange was to embarrass the *Kaishin-to*, concludes that the latter has no ground to complain of the part taken by the Government, since, whatever might be the motive of the authorities, it cannot be gainsaid that the Exchange has been guilty of great irregularities.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* observes with surprise an increasing rise in the standard of living among politicians of the opposition who have hitherto been proud of their plain and simple mode of life. Where do they obtain money to support such luxurious habits? Perhaps by borrowing from usurers, or by receiving subsidies from statesmen in power. At all events, the effect of their present way of life will be to necessitate recourse to some such help. The pro-Government party, continues the Tokyo paper, has already commenced to embarrass the Opposition by cutting off its sources of supply. Our contemporary recommends parties out of power not to fall into the snares of officialdom.

* * *

The *Kokkai*, conspicuous for its dislike of the *Kaishin-to*, writes at great length on the evil of mixing politics and business. It believes in the rumours about Count Okuma's connection with the Rice Exchange, and condemns the conduct of both the *Kaishin-to* and the Cabinet. The latter did wrong to leave things so long uninvestigated, and will do wrong again if it is actuated in its present somewhat precipitate conduct toward the Exchange by any political move against the *Kaishin-to*.

* * *

It is significant that the Radical organs do not even notice the prevailing rumours about the political aspect of the President of the Rice Exchange difficulty. Three or four years ago these papers would have been the first to circulate such rumours. The silence in the present instance is a strong proof, if proof were wanted, of a changed attitude towards their former bitter enemies.

* * *

The repeated suspensions of the lecture meetings lately held by the Radicals and the Progressionists forms the subject of vigorous remonstrance in the organs of those parties. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* complains that lately the *Kaishin-to* held lecture meetings four times and was ordered to suspend the meeting on each occasion; and similarly the *Jiyu-to* held four lecture meetings and had to suspend them all. A member of the staff of the *Yomiuri* called on the Metropolitan Police Inspector-General and sought his opinion on the matter. Mr. Sonoda is said to have replied that the standard by which he is guided in suspending lecture meetings is the character of the views expressed. Our contemporary questions the wisdom of such a standard. Opinions may be unreasonable without being in the least injurious to public peace and good order. The Tokyo paper advises Mr. Sonoda to consider the question carefully.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* writes in a more outspoken manner. It does not hesitate to state that on several occasions the police authorities gave orders for suspension without any adequate reason. It further states that the speakers were directed to leave the platform whenever they referred to the Otsu affair and to the Cabinet's responsibility in connection with that affair, though in point of fact they were merely repeating on the platform what had already appeared in the press. The Tokyo paper apprehends that the Government's severity in dealing with its opponents may revert upon its own head one of these days. It asks Cabinet Ministers to reflect upon the causes that led to the downfall of the great fabric of the Tokugawa Government. Among those courses, one of the most important was the contempt with which the officials of that Government regarded the young student politicians of the time. Members of the parties out of power are far ahead of the youthful politicians of those days in knowledge as well experience. Our contemporary recommends Cabinet Ministers to abandon despotic measures and to engage in open and constitutional contention with their political adversaries.

* * *

The *Choya Shimbun* still indites interminable essays on the revival of the *jo-i* spirit. Continuing from the articles of last week, it goes on to remark that some foreign diplomatists in Japan, especially the late Sir Harry Parkes, were instrumental in sowing the seeds of umbrage in Japanese breasts. Further the haughty and insulting conduct of Westerns toward Japanese, coupled with their licentiousness and vulgarity, have been extremely repugnant to the Japanese, and have in some measure helped to call forth the present antagonism to foreigners.

* * *

The *Chiusei Nippo* following at the heels of the *Choya*, attempts to refute every one of its opinions. We will refer to the controversy again when it is finished.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* states that there is an increasing tendency in a certain quarter to desire a foreign war, and expresses fears that this tendency may, if not put under proper restraints, lead to disastrous consequences. There are statesmen in every country and in every age who are always on the watch to utilize such a warlike tendency for the attainment of their own selfish ambition. That the tendency is discernible is declared to be an unmistakeable sign that the people have become weary of the way things are going on in the country. It is now only a little more than twenty years since Japan entered on her career of new progress, and she is still in the period of her active youth. There, can be, therefore, no difficulty in keeping the energies of the people entirely absorbed in various works of reform and improvement. It is the fault of statesmen in power that there should be people with leisure and cause to wish for a foreign war. Our contemporary recommends the Cabinet to turn the warlike spirit of the people into the more profitable spheres of navigation, commerce, and colonization.

* * *

The *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* has excellent articles on the responsibility of journalists as representatives of public opinion in matters of morality. It deplores the general break-down of national morality. There are only two ways in which this state of things can be mended, namely, education and public opinion. Education is incomparably the more efficient, but its results are slow of realization. Consequently it is of great importance to pay attention to the more immediate if less thorough-going, agency of public opinion. Newspapers and periodicals are the organs through which public sanction or disapproval is expressed. While such is the great responsibility of journalists, our contemporary regrets to observe that very few Japanese journalists pay serious attention to the important functions with which they are entrusted.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* also deplores the low standard of public morality among journalists of the present day. Some of the so-called respectable papers do not hesitate to indulge in personal abuse of the lowest kind without the least justification. The immediate occasion evoking this remonstrance is the Rice Exchange affair. The *Mainichi* complains of the unjust and absurd charges that have been preferred against the *Kaishin-to* by the organs of its enemies, and says that the originators and the disseminators of such vile reports have placed themselves in a disgraceful situation.

* * *

The artizans of the capital—carpenters, masons, smiths, *sakwan*, and so forth, recently formed an association called the *Kōgyō Kyōkai* (Industrial Association). The principal promoters of the movement are the Governor of Tokyo and a man named Sakuma, evidently belonging to the artizan class. The present members number a little over two hundred, and are said to represent twenty-six different kinds of trades. The *Hochi Shimbun* writing on this

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subject, observes that this is a most desirable step by way of precaution against future troubles between labour and capital. At present the relations between masters and employés are very cordial; the two stand to each other in the position of *oya-bun* and *ko-bun* respectively, or parents and children. But with the introduction of modern machines and European systems of industry, our contemporary is sure that, unless some precautionary measures are taken, Japan will be harrassed by the same troubles respecting capital and labour as those now embarrassing Western countries. An association like the one just formed in Tokyo, if led in a proper manner, should prove a good means of mitigating the evils of the approaching conflict between capital and labour. The *Hochi* further expresses a hope that the Government will consult the views of the Industrial Association about the Labour Regulations, which it is reported to be drawing up.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE TOKYO RICE EXCHANGE.

THE commercial world of Tokyo has been thrown into a state of excitement and consternation by intelligence of serious troubles in connection with the Tokyo Rice Exchange. According to the present law, every broker doing business in the Exchange is obliged to lodge security to the amount of 2,400 *yen*. The number of persons by whom security had been lodged under the provisions of this law was a hundred, and the sums lodged by them aggregated two hundred and forty thousand *yen*. This money appears to have been under the control of the President of the Exchange, Mr. Nakamura Michita, who also had charge of the bargain money entrusted to the brokers by speculators among the general public, its total being two hundred thousand *yen* approximately. Recently, it began to be rumoured that Mr. Nakamura had fallen into financial difficulties, and ere long the report assumed the definite shape that he had borrowed two hundred and eighty thousand *yen* from the Specie Bank, and that the latter, failing to obtain payment, was about to sue for its money. The aggregate sums in the President's hands, namely, four hundred and forty thousand *yen*, were supposed to be deposited in the Sixth and Third National Banks, the Kawasaki Bank, and the Mitsui Bank, but people said that three hundred thousand *yen* of the total had been spent by Mr. Nakamura on his own account. The suspicions of the Government having been aroused, two officials, Messrs. Sekine and Yamada, were despatched from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce on the 18th instant, without any warning, to inspect the books of the Rice Exchange; and at the same time the Finance Department sent officers to the head office of the Sixth National Bank in Fukushima, to its branch office in Honcho, Tokyo, and to the Third National Bank, with instructions to make full inquiries. Nothing is yet clearly known as to the results of these inquiries, but it is stated that great irregularities were discovered in the books of the Sixth National Bank. At all events the Bank was ordered to cease doing business from the 20th instant, and it may well be supposed that this step did not tend to allay public excitement. So far as we can gather from the statements in the vernacular press, the money nominally deposited in the Sixth National Bank consisted of the security lodged by the brokers, whereas the Third National Bank held the sums deposited by dealers in stocks. The latter, as we have said, aggregated two hundred thousand *yen*, but the deposit held by the Third Bank does not exceed one hundred and forty thousand. There appears thus to be a deficiency of sixty thousand *yen* in the funds for which the Exchange is responsible to the general public. A sum comparatively so insignificant ought not to cause serious embarrassment, and hopes were at first entertained that Mr. Nakamura would make it good without difficulty. But the closing of the Sixth National Bank suggests that the brokers' surety monies will be found deficient, and as the Exchange itself was closed by order on the same day (20th instant), something very like a panic has resulted. Indeed it is now confidently stated that the Sixth National Bank never received any monies on account of the Exchange, but simply gave deposit vouchers to suit Mr. Nakamura's convenience. A proceeding so singular is explained by reference to the relations existing between Mr. Nakamura and Mr. Tsuji, the President of the Bank. It is stated that when Mr. Nakamura was President of the Specie Bank several year ago, he saved the Sixth National Bank from ruin, and subsequently placed its present head, Mr. Tsuji, under great obligations to him. Owing to this record, and to a feeling of complete confidence in Mr. Nakamura's ability, Mr. Tsuji did not hesitate to give deposit vouchers without touching the money which they represented. How much of these explanations may be false, how much trustworthy, we cannot pretend to say. The latest rumour is that the deficiency in the funds of the Exchange amounts to six hundred thousand *yen*. At such a time it may well be supposed that the gossips are not idle. The *Toyo Shimpo*, for example, faithful to its rôle of reckless sensation, pretends to be correctly informed that the money made away with by Mr. Nakamura has gone to meet the outlay of the *Kaishin-to* for political purposes, but that is doubtless a mere canard. The President of the Tokyo Rice Exchange, we may add, is not a Government nominee. He is elected by the shareholders, but his final appointment to office has to be approved by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

* * *

According to the books of the Tokyo Rice Exchange, as examined on the 20th instant, the following sums stand to the credit of the Exchange on current or deposit account, in the Banks enumerated:—

	YEN.
1st National Bank	1,500
27th National Bank	27,600
12th National Bank	5,200
100th National Bank	24,000
13th National Bank	18,000
77th National Bank	23,800
Imamura Bank	20,000
30th National Bank	7,000
3rd National Bank	25,100
5th National Bank	10,000
113th National Bank	18,500
Yasuda Bank	7,000
150th National Bank	16,000
Mitsui Bank	3,700
Kujime Bank	3,510
32nd National Bank	26,100
Kawasaki Bank	15,000
27th National Bank (fixed deposit)	52,000
77th National Bank (fixed deposit)	10,000
150th National Bank (fixed deposit)	10,000
32nd National Bank (fixed deposit)	36,000
Kawasaki Bank (fixed deposit)	12,500
Total	372,010

According to the statements previously published, the aggregate amount that ought to be standing to the credit of the Exchange is 440,000 *yen*. Hence it would appear that the deficiency is 68,000 *yen*. Nevertheless, the vernacular press continues to assert that the Exchange is condemned to lose three hundred thousand *yen*. Pending further information it is, consequently, impossible to arrive at a clear understanding of the situation.

THE JAPANESE IN AMERICA.

WE take the following from the *San Francisco Chronicle*:—The immigration question at this port is assuming great importance, particularly with reference to the landing of Japanese, who are coming over in great numbers and making determined efforts to stay here. It is proposed to establish a Japanese colony on the Pacific coast, and agents in Japan are now holding forth promises of the great riches to be gained here to induce the natives to enter into the scheme. Indeed little coaxing is necessary, and the indications are that a great influx of Japanese immigrants is imminent. The customs officials view the matter this way, and every effort is being made to get such legal machinery as may be used against them in such shape as to be ready for any emergency.

* * *

The *City of Peking* recently brought news to the Inspector of Immigration at this port of the organization of a Japanese colony to settle somewhere in California. Kataoka Kenkichi is the originator of the movement. He is a native of Tosa, Japan, and a member of the House of Representatives, a gentleman noted for his "shrewdness and virtue," it is said, who has become weary of the ever changing condition of political affairs in his native land. He was once an influential member of the Liberal party, but now proposes to resign his seat in the Diet and devote himself to his pet scheme of establishing a Japanese colony in California. At present he is soliciting the co-operation of other moneyed men in the empire, and already his plans have assumed practical shape. At Tosa and other places in the interior of Japan his agents are selecting able-bodied married farmers of from 20 to 30 years of age. These are to form the advance guard for the colony. Mr. Kataoka is a Christian by conversion, and two of his sons are at present in Vancouver. To them has been intrusted the task of selecting a suitable site for the colony.

* * *

Dr. Hatch, the newly appointed Inspector of Immigration at this point, finds that the provisions of the Federal law under which he is working are but little understood by those most interested. For instance, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company was greatly surprised yesterday when notified that the law held it responsible for the board and keeping of the four Japanese women to whom the Inspector refused a landing from the steamer *Belgic* and who are now being cared for by the Methodist Mission pending their deportation if such should be the result of the legal proceedings now being taken in the case. The law provides that "the cost of their maintenance while on land, as well as the expense of the return of such aliens, shall be borne by the owner or owners of the vessel on which such aliens came; and if any master, agent, consignee, or owner of such vessel shall refuse to receive back on board the vessel such aliens, or shall neglect to detain them thereon, or shall refuse or neglect to return them to the port from which they came, or to pay the cost of their maintenance while on land, such master, agent, consignee, or owner shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine not less than $300 for each and every offence; and any such vessel shall not have clearance from any port of the United States while such fine is unpaid."

* * *

After reading the new immigration law, counsel for the four Japanese women who are now held at the mission pending the result of their *habeas corpus* petitions, has taken the same view of the matter as Assistant District Attorney Witter, who maintained that the Inspector's decision was final, the only appeal being to the Secretary of the Treasury. So the appeal to Circuit Judge Sawyer, which was to have been made this week, has been abandoned and the appeal will be made direct to Washington. It should, under the law, be lodged with the Superintendent of Immigration, but as no Superintendent has yet been appointed, the document, which is now almost ready for transmission, will go to the Secretary. The appeal sets forth that the petitioners are not paupers, nor liable to become public charges, nor yet intending to enter houses of prostitution. Little Tanchi Iku, the Japanese woman who made her escape from the mission one night last week by lowering herself from the third story window on a slender cord that was eighteen feet too short, has complained to Hasegawa, the Japanese who interested himself in the women and got out the writs for them, of severe internal pains, caused by the shortness of that cord and the resultant fall on the wooden pavement beneath. Yesterday Inspector Hatch inquired into the matter, and found that no serious injury had been sustained by Tanchi. It

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has since been learned that on the night Tanchi stole away, she wandered down to the water's edge, intending to end her life. A night watchman hovered around her, however, and prevented the suicide. Then she changed her mind, jumped into a hack and was driven to a hotel where she spent the night. The next day the superintendent of the mission found her on Merchant Street, and again she was led into captivity. Tanchi and her three companions all maintain their intention to lead honourable lives, and declare that if they are driven back to their native land, where they cannot earn more than a dollar a week, they will be driven to lives of shame. The matron of the institution speaks well of them all, and efforts are being made to keep them here. Dr. Harris, the superintendent of the Japanese Mission on Jessie Street, is to be appealed to, and if bonds of $100 in each case can be raised, guaranteeing that the women will not become public charges nor enter upon immoral lives for one year, they may escape deportation. The youngest of the damsels is but 13. She is remarkably bright, and in the two weeks or more she has been at the Methodist Mission has learned the English alphabet, and has been led through several pages of the "cat saw the fox run," etc.

* * *

Twenty-six Japanese arrived on the *City of Peking*. All of them were allowed to land. Only two women were in the party, both servants of a lady who is to reside in Berkeley for a couple of years. All of the men had money. Some claimed to own considerable property in Japan. Some were students, some farmers, some artisans. One bright young fellow said he came over here to study the customs of the people, with the intention of going back and teaching his countrymen the ways of civilized, Chrisianized men.

* * *

The dispatch from Portland announcing the decision of United States Judge Deady in the cases of the nine Japanese women who were refused a landing here, has filled the Federal officials here with amazement and dismay. The women came over from Japan on the steamer *Pemptos*. Among them were Alfred Eaton and his sweetheart. They were refused a landing. Eaton tried to bribe the customs officials and he is now in the Country Jail awaiting trial for that offence. That Judge Deady should permit the women to land after the San Francisco official had remanded them to Japan has made the vexed question of Japanese immigration to this country more muddled than ever. Fears are entertained that all Japanese who are refused an entry at this port will now go to Portland and secure their release on writs of *habeas corpus*. There is a silver lining to the big cloud for one person in the city, however, and that is Alfred Eaton, the lover. When a *Chronicle* reporter saw him at the jail yesterday and told him his sweetheart had been permitted to land, he was overjoyed. "She will not have to go back to Japan? Is it really true? Then I don't care what they do with me. I know she will be true and wait for me, no matter how long. Yes, I'm sorry I tried to bribe that fellow on the boat, but I did not think it a great sin at the time. It was often done, I was told. I would not have done it for myself, but I had rather suffer anything than have her sent back."

* * *

It is evident from all this that a result long feared is now in sight. The Americans are beginning to agitate against Japanese immigration as they have already agitated with success against Chinese. Without considering the rights and wrongs of such action, we can easily foresee its issue, namely that the very exceptional popularity now enjoyed by the United States in Japan, will be changed into dislike and indignation. The Japanese will be bitterly and justly hurt to find themselves treated as uncivilized Orientals, whose ingress into a Western State tends to demoralize its people and disturb its good order. It has never been charged against them that they are prone to any of the vices which are supposed to render the Chinese undesirable acquisitions, and if America adopts an exclusionary attitude towards them, there will be difficulty in discovering any tangible reasons for it. We cannot conceive, however, that the agitation now seemingly imminent is likely to extend beyond a limited section of the people of the Pacific slope, or to be seriously regarded by American Legislators. At all events the contingency opens up a new phase of Japan's foreign relations, and will certainly not help to smoothe the ruffled feelings of Japanese conservatives.

RAILWAY PROBLEMS IN JAPAN, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

THE above is the title of an elaborate essay recently distributed among his friends by Mr. K. Saburi, M. E., Chief Engineer of the projected Ko-shin Railway. Briefly stated, the author's object is, first, to show that the existing Japanese railways "are unsatisfactory from industrial as well as from strategical points of view; secondly, to demonstrate that it is of urgent importance to lay out lines through the central mountainous districts; and thirdly, to prove that in Japan railways ought to be in the hands of a few big private companies, instead of being owned by the State, as advocated by some people. The existing lines run in most cases along the sea coast and though the open country. But localities bordering the sea had long enjoyed the full advantages of modern navigation, and in this respect stood comparatively in little need of increased facilities of land transportation. The author therefore thinks that the laying of iron roads through these districts has not led to any remarkable development of either commerce or industry, and has been distinctly injurious to the growth of the mercantile marine. As for the strategical disadvantages of laying railways along the sea-shore, they are too obvious to be pointed out. It thus results that from a military as well as an industrial point of view, railways must be constructed through the central mountainous regions of the country; for such lines, in addition to affording safe routes of transit for troops in times of a foreign war, would at the same time serve to open the hitherto undeveloped resources of the interior, and to carry modern civilization into the most backward localities of the Empire. That the lines already constructed, with a few exceptions, have not served to stimulate the growth of commerce and industry, is shown, in the author's opinion, by the ratio between the receipts from passengers and those from goods conveyed, their respective percentages being 70.3 and 29.7; while the average ratio between these two items of receipts in the nine Western countries of Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, France, the United States, Russia, England, and Switzerland, is 34 to 66. Mr. Saburi concludes that the great desideratum of the time is the construction of what he calls "lines of the second period," as distinguished from the lines now running in the open regions, which he calls "lines of the first period." According to his estimate, about 2,470 miles of lines of the second period will have to be constructed during the next two or three decades, at an aggregate outlay of about 133,000,000 *yen*, in order to bring the railway system of the country into a state of tolerable completeness. The proposed roads are divided by him into five systems, thoseof Oshu, of the Centre, of San-in-do, of Shikoku, and of Southern Kyushu. In respect of the outlay connected with these lines, the author is of opinion that the average cost of construction per mile would be 53,860 *yen*, the average cost per mile of the lines of the first period being 44,319. These figures show, it is observed *en passant*, that the expense of construction is exceptionally low in Japan; the average per mile being £38,000 in England, £25,385 in Belgium, £19,585 in Italy, £11,092 in the United States, 53,456 dollars in Africa £21,236 in Germany, £27,704 in France, £22,570 in Switzerland, £13,202 in India, and 68,770 dollars in Austrialia. As to the cost of maintenance, Mr. Saburi believes that there would be little difference between the lines of the first period and those of the second. Neither would there be much difference in respect of the profits obtainable from the two. The sooner the lines of the second period are constructed the better for the country. Then follows the question: how is the requisite capital to be obtained? Here we learn the author's view as to the comparative merits of private and state ownership of railways. Trade, we read, is dull; money is tight; there are even several railway companies already plunged deep in the sea of financial embarrassment. Under such circumstances few capitalists will be found willing to invest money in railway enterprise. The difficulty is, not scarcity of money, but want of confidence in the future of such undertakings. Many persons, therefore, advise that all existing private railways should be purchased by the Government and that all future lines should be constructed and owned by the State. But Mr. Saburi is strongly opposed to such a course. Its advocates base their arguments on strategic expediency and on considerations of national as well as of railway economy. As to strategical expediency, the author thinks that people fall into the error of likening the condition of Japan to that of the continental countries of Europe, which maintain towards each other an attitude of armed peace. Japan is more like England in her military position; and in accordance with England's example, her railways had better be owned by private companies than by the Government. Moreover, all necessary precautions may be taken by means of a law or an ordinance binding all the private companies to place their lines at the service of the State in times of emergency. Considering the matter from the standpoint of national economy, the advocates of State ownership claim that the best means of developing railways is to place them in the hands of the State, since capitalists then invest with a sense of perfect security. But Mr. Saburi finds no reason in such a contention What is required being credit, he thinks that a Government guarantee of 4 or 5 per cent. profit for the first five or six years would answer the purpose equally well. Finally, our author deals with the arguments that the existence of many small independent railway companies prevents any process of equalizing profits and losses, and that much of what is now required for the maintenance of separate work-shops, and of the employment of officials, could easily be economized if the different lines were in the hands of a single owner. Guided by the experience of more than twenty years, and holding the most profitable lines in the country, the Government obtains only six per cent. profit per annum, and the Railway Bureau has spent about 34½ million *yen* for the construction of only 541 miles of lines. From these circumstances our author infers that it is not necessarily a measure of sound economy to put railways in the hands of the Government. None the less he fully recognizes the disadvantages incidental to the separate existence of many small companies. He thinks that a system of centralization should be carried out, and that the railways throughout the country, both those already existing, and those to be hereafter constructed, should be owned by five or six large companies. Under ordinary circumstances Japanese capital should be employed, but when necessary he recommends the introduction of foreign capital. Further, he holds that not only is the State bound to give guaranty of interest ■ the lines of the second period, but also that the localities through which particular lines are to pass should afford some substantial help to the respective companies. The pamphlet, apart from any question of its intrinsic value, has been very opportunely distributed, as the railway question is fast becoming one of the most prominent problems of practical politics.

THE TOKYO ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.

THE Tokyo Electric Light Company's affairs have apparently fallen into great disorder. According to the accounts published in the capital, the Company has been unable to meet bills of exchange held by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, and the latter, having instituted a suit at law,

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proceeded, through their counsel, Mr. Kawamura, to place seals on the Company's plant and other property. This happened on the 18th instant, and immediately after the departure of Mr. Kawamura and the Court Officials, some of the seals were broken. An investigation was held at the office of the Company the following day, and rumour says that criminal proceedings will be instituted in connection with the breaking of the seals. However this may be, it appears certain that the Company is in serious difficulties, and that it will probably constitute another addition to the list of Japanese enterprises which, inaugurated with fair prospects of success, have failed through lack of organizing ability, or owing to some other cause fatal to success in business. Such incidents as the over-issue of shares of the Sapporo Sugar Manufacturing Company, the closing of the Tokyo Rice Exchange and the Sixth National Bank, and the failure of the Electric Light Company, happening within a space of three weeks, cannot but produce embarrassing disturbance, if not a panic, in the share market.

A ROMANTIC PHANTASY.

It has been objected that when we spoke of the Asiatic Society's having deprived itself, in deference to a "romantic phantasy," of the excellent reports prepared by its Hon. Recording Secretary, we intended to attack "the Society." The charge is scarcely worth noticing. It certainly would not be preferred by any member of the Society who paused to reflect on the facts, which, as we understand them, are briefly these:—It used to be the habit of the Asiatic Society to furnish to the *Japan Mail* an account of its proceedings, inclusive of a summary of the papers read at each meeting. During Dr. Knott's tenure of the office of Hon. Recording Secretary, these summaries were quite exceptional in respect of lucidity, comprehensiveness, and terseness. The labour of preparing them must have been very great, and their compilation for the use of the *Japan Mail* ultimately became a matter of arrangement between the Hon. Recording Secretary and this journal. At the close of last year, however, a protest was advanced by the editor of the *Japan Gazette*, who claimed that his paper was equally entitled to receive the reports, and the Council admitted the justice of this view, thus departing from the unvaried practice of the past twenty years, and necessarily putting an end to the arrangement existing between the Hon. Recording Secretary and the *Japan Mail*. The immediate consequence was that the Hon. Recording Secretary ceased to prepare special reports, and confined himself to very brief accounts of the meetings, the newspapers being left to supplement these outlines by means of the resources at their own command. It will therefore be seen that, as a matter of plain fact, Dr. Knott's admirable digests of the Society's papers were no longer given to the public, a change which naturally excited regret. As to the principle endorsed and acted on by the Society's Council, it is, in our opinion, a "romantic phantasy," and we use the words, not in any offensive or aggressive sense, but because they appear applicable without being at all discourteous. The notion that a newspaper has the smallest shadow of title to be supplied with the reports of a learned Society, can only be called a romantic phantasy. Every Society, equally with every private individual, has a perfect right to choose the organ through which its proceedings shall be published. The Asiatic Society choose the *Japan Mail* and having abode by that choice for twenty years, suddenly departed from it in deference to a claim for equal treatment advanced by another newspaper. We ourselves do not pretend for an instant that we possess any title to exceptional consideration at the hands of the Council, though a title might perhaps be constructed out of our original relations with the Asiatic Society and our recognised position as its sole medium of publication during twenty years. So far from seeking special treatment, or complaining because we no longer receive it, we are distinctly of opinion that the Society should seek the utmost possible publicity for its proceedings, and should endeavour to have them published by every English journal in the East. But that is a question of the Society's interests, pure and simple. It has nothing in common with the admission that newspaper A is justified in protesting because newspaper B is the sole recipient of a Society's reports. The Society's absolute right of choice is indisputable, and that any journal should impugn it is mere impertinence. If the Council of the Asiatic Society, influenced by a very altruistic conception of justice, showed itself good-naturedly lenient towards a plea of this shadowy character, its complaisance certainly furnishes no ground for attack especially by critics who, like ourselves, distinctly consider that the result is conducive to the interests of the Society. Indeed, to be suspected of "attacking" the Society seems to us almost comical. Men with Dr. Knott's special facility for preparing a lucid digest are few and far between, and even though the Society could count on the perpetual possession of such Secretaries, it would probably consult its own interests best by following the course now adopted, and leaving newspapers to prepare their own detailed reports.

CRUELTY TO HORSES.

When will a Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Society be organized in Tokyo? Here is a lesson for the drivers of omnibuses and tramcars in the capital:—An exemplary sentence by Sir Andrew Lusk has just been pronounced in the City of London Police Court. It often happens that charges of cruelty to horses by cab-drivers are dismissed with a caution, or if a conviction is secured the penalty is generally a fine; and cautions and fines are proved to be only partially deterrent. Evidence was offered in the case which came before Sir A. Lusk which proved that the defendant's conduct to the horse he was driving was outrageously brutal. He stood up on his seat and slashed the animal over the head and back. A police sergeant declared that he had never seen so flagrant a case during his twenty years' experience. The magistrate would not accept the excuses offered, and condemned the man to seven days' hard labour. As sentences of the kind are intended to act as warnings and to prevent similar outrages in the future, it is to be hoped that the Society which so zealously concerns itself with the practical encouragement of kindness to animals will take steps to let those who are both ignorant and cruel know to what their disregard of the ordinary laws of humanity will render them liable.

SAILING RACE.

A race for the boats of the A Division of the Sailing Club took place on Saturday. The course was the Home Course once round, a distance of about 8½ miles. The start took place at two o'clock, the wind being then about N.E., a fresh breeze. *Daimyo* was first to round the mark placed at the eastern end of the south breakwater, *Molly Bawn* next, *Lady Louise* a minute later, then *Princess Maud*, and *Lesbiolle* last of all. This order was maintained to the South Mark, a flag boat moored off the Bluff, but *Lady Louise* was not slow to avail herself of a chance offered to squeeze round between *Molly* and the mark, and of thus establishing a lead which she maintained to the finish. *Lesbiolle* similarly gave the mark a wide berth, and *Princess Maud* hauling up sharp round, got one step ahead in the race. The beat to the North Mark was not marked by any particular incidents except that the blue cutter, which went like a witch from first to last, and agreeably astonished those who had read of the casualty that she was subjected to not long ago, increased her lead upon *Molly*; that *Princess Maud* also gradually overhauled *Molly*, and that at length, half way to the mark, *Lesbiolle* came up and passed both these craft. After the latter event *Princess Maud* decided to try different tactics and going about stood out on the port tack for a considerable distance. Meanwhile the others continued on the starboard tack till well in to the land, and then went for the mark fetching it in from three to five tacks. During the beating *Lesbiolle* fell back, and was astern of both *Lady Louise* and *Molly* in rounding, while *Princess Maud*, who seemed at first likely to profit by a slight eastering of the wind, was three and a half minutes astern of the big yawl. Spinnakers were in use during half of the run back to the South Mark and the position of affairs remained practically unaltered, *Lady Louise* however, increasing her advantage on *Molly* to a full minute. A reach to the mark at the breakwater entrance was followed by a run in, when *Molly* setting her spinnaker was able to cut a few yards off the blue cutter's lead but not enough to enable her to save time allowance. A prize in each class was awarded respectively to *Lesbiolle*, *Daimiyo*, and *Lady Louise*. *Lesbiolle* did not show up well in the race at all, but having no competitor probably Captain Weston did not care to push her. The duties of officer of the day were discharged by Mr. J. O. Averill, junior, assisted by Mr. Beart. Following are the official times:—

	Rating.	Round Breakwater. h.m.s.	South Mark. h.m.s.	North Mark. h.m.s.	Finish. h.m.s.
Lesbiolle	38	2.18.50	2.32.45	3.13 00	4.03.40
		3.53.15	3.36.05		
Daimyo	31	2.18.45	2.30.25	3.06.30	3.53.35
		3.44.05	3.29.50		
Lady Louise	25	2.18.05	2.31.55	3.09.09	3.57.07
		3.47.06	3.31.00		
Molly Bawn	24½	2.17.10	2.31.50	3.09.45	3.58.55
		3.49.45	3.32.00		
Princess Maud	24	2.18.20	2.32.45	3.16.30	4.04.10
		3.55.33	3.38.30		

	Allowance.	Corrected Time h m.s.
Lesbiolle	—	4.03.40
Daimyo	—	3.53.35
Lady Louise	allows m.s.	3 57.00
Molly Bawn	— 31	3.58.24
Princess Maud	1. 03	4.03.07

A "TIMES" FOR JAPAN.

The idea of starting a big newspaper which shall serve as a *Times* for Japan is again on the *tapis*. It will be remembered that there was much talk of such a scheme some time ago, and that Viscount Aoki was supposed to be the originator. On the present occasion the names of the chief promoters are not mentioned, but the motive influencing them is described in the same terms as before, namely, a conviction that the chief obstacle in Japan's path towards obtaining international recognition is the ignorance of foreigners as to her true condition and as to the real character of her people. All the present journals of the capital are classed by the projectors of the new paper as political organs, which, while professing independence and impartiality, are in fact edited and published in the interests either of some party or of the Government. A first class journal, honestly independent and free from all political bias, would therefore supply a patent want. The capital of the new journal is said to be two hundred thousand *yen*, of which three-fifths have been put up by a nobleman, and one-fifth is promised by a commoner. The idea is to print the paper in English and to secure for it a life of six years, which is the period within which, according to the estimate of the promoters, Treaty Revision and its correlated problems are likely to be fully solved. Messrs. Toyama, Kato, Nishimura, and others are spoken of as editors.

A STRIKE OF CHINESE WORKMEN.

From China we hear of a strike among the workmen employed at the Heho Palace Gardens, Peking, built by the Emperor as a place of recreation for the Empress Dowager after her retirement from the active management of affairs of State. It is stated that "more than 10,000 workmen have been engaged to hasten the work. Of these 3,000 or more are carvers, who have caused much trouble while working in other portions of the Imperial Palace ere this. Knowing that the date for completing the gardens was close, they struck for higher wages, and in this demand all the carpenters joined. They were receiving individually three meals and 2,000 Peking cash per diem. They demanded 7,500 Peking cash a day. On their employers refusing to comply with this exorbitant request, a signal gun, previously agreed upon, was fired, and thousands of workmen, carvers, carpenters, and masons began to make threatening demonstrations. The officials on guard, finding the police unable to cope with

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the multitude, especially as the carpenters were armed with axes, quickly sounded the alarm, calling on the rifle brigade, Yuen-ming-yuen guards, and cavalry for assistance. These came with all speed and surrounded the strikers. The officials and the head firms now began to negotiate, and all parties were satisfied by an increase of 2,000 Peking cash a day for each man."

THE RADICALS AND THE POLICE.

THE section of the Radical Party which follows the banner of Mr. Oi Kentaro, the opponent of Mixed Residence, held a meeting on the evening of the 21st in the Yayoi-Kan, Shiba Park. A stormy meeting it proved. Fifteen gentlemen were advertised to speak, but only five of them managed to obtain a hearing. The fifth was Mr. Hayashi Homei, who commenced a violent diatribe against the Government, and the police ordered the suspension of the meeting. This order seems to have produced great exasperation. A *Soshi* who was present, seizing a glass that stood on the rostrum, hurled it at the constable who had given the order. The glass struck a pillar and was broken. The constable at once summoned his comrades from without, and a regular melée ensued. The windows were all broken, the furniture smashed, and several policemen and spectators received more or less severe injuries. It appears that a number of *Soshi* had attended the meeting with the express intention of watching for an opportunity to create a disturbance. They were successful. Meanwhile, the Radicals are acquiring uneviable notoriety as disturbers of the public peace. The laws may be rigorous and harsh, but they are the laws nevertheless, and when a section of the men whose business it is to legislate set the example of violating the laws, they may pretend to be acting in the cause of liberty, but in truth they are propagandists of license. One of the police engaged in attempting to quell the disturbance on the 21st instant, was so badly hurt that he had to be taken to hospital. The Radicals, however, claim that the police behaved with needless violence, and a complaint has been addressed to the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of Police on the subject.

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The behaviour of the police at the Radicals' lecture meeting in the Yayoikan on the 21st instant, gave so much umbrage to the politicians who had convened the meeting that three of them, Messrs. Yamada Toji, Ishizaka Masataka, and Shimoizaka Gonzaburo, waited on the Chief of Police the following day and preferred a complaint to him, alleging that the man who had commenced the disturbance was in no way connected with the meeting, and that the conduct of the constables had greatly exceeded the bounds of propriety. Mr. Sonoda's reply was of an eminently practical and decided character. The account given by his visitors, he said, represented the police as having greatly exceeded the limits of their duty. Letters had also been sent to him in the same sense, some of them assuming a threatening tone. But the report submitted by the police themselves did not bear out these complaints. In these days of constitutional government it was an extremely grave matter to interfere with freedom of speech to the extent of suspending a meeting, and his constant instructions to the police were to avoid such an extreme measure as far as possible. That very morning he had summoned all the Inspectors and admonished them to extend to public speakers the utmost license compatible with good order. Doubtless shortcomings on the side of the police were sometimes responsible for the necessity of suspending lecture meetings or interrupting speeches, but the chief cause of these incidents was the want of moderation shown by the speakers themselves. The action recently taken by members of the Radical Party to persuade the Cabinet to resign was a case in point. Failing to accomplish their purpose, they had alleged arbitrary rejection of their memorial by the Ministers, and had delivered inflamatory speeches calculated to excite their audience. From the point of view of preserving public order, the prime duty of police officials, such proceedings could not be tolerated. When the meeting was announced at which Count Itagaki spoke, the police had been exceptionally desirous to avoid all interference, but the nature of the addresses delivered had forced their hand. Then followed the assembly at the Koseikan, when a number of *soshi*, taking advantage of the occasion, planned a disturbance. The measures taken by the police, however, sufficed to prevent anything of the kind. Finally, with regard to the affair on the 21st, the statements made by the police differed totally from those made on the other side. Moreover, the written reports of the speeches delivered at that and at other meetings, showed that language calculated to excite its hearers to acts of violence was used. Whatever forbearance the police might exercise, so long as speeches of that nature were delivered, trouble could not possibly be avoided. It was alleged in the present instance that the originator of the disturbance had no connection with the meeting, but the evidence submitted by the constables on duty did not bear out that allegation. On the contrary, it appeared that, immediately on the order of suspension being given, the first rioter, Yamada Keiji, had ascended the rostrum, and announced his intention of speaking in lieu of the last member whose address had been stopped, and that his fashion of speech was to seize a glass and hurl it at the constable. Appearances indicated not only that he was connected with the meeting, but that his procedure was dictated by previous arrangement. It was the desire of the police to pay the utmost respect to the privilege of free speech, and to avoid all recourse to force. But they were bound to ensure the preservation of public peace and good order, and with that end they must employ strong measures if the necessity arose. Politicians had it in their own power to avert all unpleasant conjunctures by observing moderation, and he hoped that his visitors would assist in that respect. Finally, he regretted to be obliged to return the document of complaint which the three representatives had brought, but he trusted that if they had any reason to find fault with the action of the police hereafter, they would not fail to address him.

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Mr. Sonoda spoke well and forcibly. The farce which the Radicals are playing now deceives nobody. It is perfectly easy for them to hold their meetings and conduct their campaign against the Government without provoking police interference. But that is precisely what they do not want. A great part of their game is to pose as victims of official tyranny; to persuade the public that so long as the present Government remains in power, the liberty of the subject exists only in name. Doubtless they will succeed to a certain extent, for ignorant people impressed by the fact, and not troubling themselves to investigate the true reasons of these frequent suppressions of speeches and dispersals of meetings, will conclude that the Government keeps itself in power by force only. All that is very well understood, and so long as the Radicals perform their farce merely for the benefit of the giddy and illiterate masses, their procedure may avoid ridicule though it certainly merits no applause. But when they undertake to carry their complaints to the Chief of Police, they impart to their acting an air of realism that becomes absurd. There are limits to credulity.

THE "NIPPON'S" SURPRISE.

THE *Nippon* avows itself greatly surprised that any one should be so unreasonable as to accuse it of fostering an anti-foreign spirit. Emerging from a period of suspension, it lost no time in protesting against this charge. The United States excludes Chinese immigrants and Russia expels the Jews from her dominions. These says the *Nippon*, are to be classed as genuine results of *Jo-i* (barbarian expelling) sentiment. But in Japan no such spirit exists. There are, however, some Japanese who love the Occident more than they love their own country; trust Europeans more than they trust Japanese, and would replace Japanese institutions, manners, and customs by Western. "In opposition to these folks we endeavour to give expression and impart strength to the sentiment of national individuality, a sentiment that sways Western peoples more powerfully than it sways the Japanese. If our contemporaries imagine that we seek to revive the *Jo-i* spirit because we criticise foreign things and foreign ways, we invite them to consider the language used by foreign journals towards Japan. If our readers desire that we should cease to criticise Europeans and confine ourselves to admiring and extolling them, then we must recommend the abandonment of any attempt to strengthen the army and navy because every addition to our military force must seem offensive to foreigners." In another article the same paper laughs at the chimera of the *Jo-i* spirit being revived. "Living in houses of Occidental build, wearing the garments of the West, and studying the arts and sciences of Europe and America, it is impossible for Japanese to be really inimical to foreigners. We are entirely at a loss, therefore, to understand why the Government and a portion of the public entertain apprehensions that the *Jo-i* spirit may be revived. The lovers of the West among our countrymen preach about the fraternity of nations, but the principle they would inculcate existed a thousand years ago in Japan. Does it exist to-day among Christian nations? The exclusion of the Chinese from America, the expulsion of the Jews from Russia—these events furnish an answer. Every patriot is bound to watch the attitude and actions of alien nations. If we be told that such a mood is not consistent with the genuine principles of fraternity, then we answer, what of Western peoples themselves? Does their conduct towards each other, do their huge armaments and their mutual distrust, accord with this creed of fraternity? Are we to imitate them in one direction and condemn them in another?"

* * *

These utterances form part of a controversy provoked chiefly by the *Choya Shimbun's* protests against the writings of the so-called Conservative and Nationalistic journals. The *Nippon*, prominent among the latter newspapers, fights temperately and intelligently. The *Chusei Nippo*, prominent among the former, adheres to its old methods of trenchant abuse. It calls its opponents *shurui*, or "ill-favoured folks," and upbraids them for seeking to prevent the development of a spirit essential to Japanese independence. To fix upon the Conservatives the name of the "*Jo-i* party" is a mere device on the part of the ill-favoured folks to obscure the truth, says the *Chusei Nippo*. At the same time, that journal does not object to the title of *Jo-i*. On the contrary, it holds the appellation sacred, as having been used by the loyal men who, a quarter of a century ago, made it their battle-cry to overthrow the Tokugawa Shogunate and restore the Imperial Government. "The *Jo-i* spirit," declares the Conservative organ, "is only another name for the spirit of national self-esteem. If a nation is without self-esteem, its independence must be shortlived."

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The *Choya Shimbun*, in the sequel of a series of articles protesting very strongly against the Conservative idea that the better traits of Japanese disposition are being undermined by a wholesale adoption of foreign fashions, refers the origin of the conservative reaction in great part to Sir Harry Parkes. Its method of arriving at this conclusion is thus:—At the time of the fall of the Tokugawa Regency, a result which Sir Harry Parkes had anticipated, and to which he had contributed, British influence in Japan was strongly in the ascendancy. Sir Harry made the most of the situation. He insisted on having his own way in everything, and sometimes his masterful, imperious disposition betrayed him into disregard of courtesy. To his management is to be attributed the conclusion of the Austro-Hungarian Treaty, the most unfavourable to Japan of all her foreign covenants. To his example, also, must be attributed something of the overbearing, exacting methods

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employed by other Foreign Representatives towards Japan—methods inaugurated and practised in China. Little by little the Japanese, under these circumstances, began to dislike and distrust Europeans, of whom they regarded Sir Harry Parkes as a type, and the evil impression was deepened by the conduct of England in respect to Treaty Revision, for she consulted only her own interests, and paid no attention to the laws of justice and right. Perhaps the Japanese are not to be altogether blamed if these experiences engendered feelings of umbrage.

* * *

Such is the *Choya's* analysis. It does not believe that Japanese women are likely to lose any of their fine traits of unselfishness, devotion, and fidelity because they dress their hair differently from the ancient style and because they shake hands by way of salutation instead of bowing. It does not believe that the principles of economy are violated because a man lives in a brick house instead of inhabiting a wooden edifice where the flames find him out once in every seven or ten years. It does not believe, in short, that a change of externals affects a nation's individuality. But it does believe that the Japanese have been treated with scant ceremony by foreigners, and that like begets like. *Uwo-gokoro areba mizu-gokoro ari.* We reproduce these opinions without attempting to discuss them.

NEW MINES.

If all, or even a majority of, the reports published by the vernacular press be trustworthy, Japan's mineral resources still invite enterprise. We read constantly of mines being discovered here and there, though it must be confessed that their subsequent history remains, for the most part, untold. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* gives the latest of these accounts. It says that a certain Mr. Igarashi Naojiro, of Kawahigashi, in Niigata Prefecture, having devoted himself from his youth to mining matters, and spent the last ten years examining all the mineral districts in the country, has discovered a copper mine at Higashi-mine, in Niigata Prefecture. The vein is said to be 26 inches thick. He has also discovered a deposit of gold, silver, and copper at Ozato-toge in Yamagata Prefecture. Specimens of ore taken from the latter have been examined in the laboratory of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the result being that in a hundred thousand parts there were found ·0032 of gold, ·042 of silver and 25.4 of copper. Application to work these two mines has been made on the estimate that the average daily output will be 3,000 *kwan* (about 45 tons), from which the yield of gold will be 9 *momme* (522 grains Troy), of silver 126 *momme* (6,508 grains Troy), and of copper 751 *kwan* 200 *momme*.

THE SYSTEM OF THE EXCHANGES.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, while refraining from any criticism of the affairs of the Tokyo Rice Exchange and its President until full details are known, justly draws attention to the hazardous system which appears to be followed in the management of the funds of Exchanges. It seems from what has transpired that the President of an Exchange has full control of the monies held in the name of the institution. He may deposit them in any bank he pleases, and draw them out at any moment either for his own use or for some other purpose of which the shareholders have no cognizance. The sums paid by brokers in the form of security and the sums received by brokers in connection with time transactions in stocks, are alike in the full charge of the President, and if he chooses to behave dishonestly, there is practically no method of checking him unless a deficit makes itself apparent as has been the case in respect of the Tokyo Rice Exchange. The *Nichi Nichi* urges the importance of stricter inspection on the part of the Government, but the question naturally presents itself, why the Government and not the shareholders themselves? Surely it is the business of the latter to look after their own affairs instead of relying on official supervision? If the shareholders inaugurated a proper system of auditing accounts and inspecting vouchers, it would not be possible for a President to play fast and loose with the funds of the company. So long as the Government is trusted to discharge functions that really devolve on private individuals, so long will things remain in an unsound condition.

SANITARY PRECAUTIONS.

The following Imperial Ordinance was issued on the 22nd instant:—

We hereby authorise the adoption of sanitary measures with regard to ships coming from foreign ports, and order the same to be promulgated.

(Imperial sign-manual).
(Great Seal).

(Countersigned) Viscount Shinagawa,
Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Dated, 22nd day of sixth month of 24th year of Meiji (22nd of June, 1891).

Ordinance No. 65.

Art. 1.—When it is held that grounds exist for apprehending an epidemic disease, ships coming from ports specially designated by the Minister of State for the Interior, even though the localities in which the ports are situated be not infected with cholera, shall be visited by health officers, and required to report whether any cases of illness or any deaths have occurred on board.

Art. 2.—Should it be found that cases of sickness or death have occurred on board, the health officers shall require the ship to anchor at an indicated place deemed sufficiently isolated to prevent the spread of the contagion to another ship or to the land. The persons suffering from disease shall be taken to a Contagious Diseases Hospital or to the attached dwellings, or to any other place judged suitable by the health officers, and the bodies of those who have died of the disease shall be cremated at places fixed by the Local Officials. If, after having been fully subjected to the process of disinfection, the people from the ship are allowed to land, then the vessel itself and such portions of its cargo as are thought liable to propagate the disease, shall be fully disinfected, after which communication with other ships and the landing of the cargo shall be allowed.

Art. 3.—Persons refusing to supply the information referred to in Art. 1, or violating the provisions of Art. 2, or offering opposition to the carrying out of any part of this Ordinance, shall be punished according to the provisions of the Penal Code.

Art. 4.—On each occasion of putting this Ordinance into force, the Minister of State for Home Affairs shall notify the date of its going into operation and the date of its termination.

Notification of the Department.

No. 26.

The provisions of Imperial Ordinance No. 65, of the sixth month of the twenty-fourth year of Meiji (June, 1891) shall become effective at Nagasaki from this day in respect of all ships coming from, or having touched at, Hongkong, Shanghai, or other ports in the south of China.

(Signed) Viscount Shinagawa,
Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Dated 22nd day of 6th month of 24th year of Meiji (22nd June, 1891).

RESCUE OF A FRENCH WAR-SHIP.

The following story, some parts of which read very strangely, especially the rescue of the Captain of the *Seignelay's* wife by a swimming Arab, is given by the *Daily Chronicle*:—

A private letter from H.M.S. *Undaunted*, at Jaffa, dated the 4th of May, and received in London on Wednesday, brings the news of a splendid feat performed by the vessel, the command of which Lord Charles Beresford has had for about sixteen months. Jaffa, the port of Jerusalem, has an evil reputation among mariners. Vessels of any burthen have to lie off in the roads, and the coasting steamers are often obliged to carry on their passengers to Beyrout or Port Said according as they are northward or southward bound. In these roads arrived and anchored on the 23rd of April the French cruiser *Seignelay*. On Sunday, the 26th, it came on to blow hard from the westward. The *Seignelay* had no steam up, and the gale increasing, first one anchor parted, then the other, and the gale drove the vessel ashore on a sandbank about half a mile from the land. The catastrophe, as it appeared to be, took place at nightfall, and the *Seignelay's* captain, evidently fearing the worst, lowered a boat, which, before it reached the shore, lost two oars and its rudder. Messrs. Cook's chief boatman, Suleiman, who greatly distinguished himself by saving life from a Russian steamer three months before, plunged into the surf with his brothers and brought the boat and men safely ashore. The Arab then swam off to the *Seignelay* with a letter offering assistance, and got back to the shore at half an hour after midnight, having been in the water some two and half hours. He reported that there was no "hole" in the ship, so that there were hopes of saving her. But in the morning she seemed so firmly embedded that the attempt was thought desperate. So the brave Suleiman swam off again through the heavy sea and brought ashore, hanging round his neck, the captain's wife. In the course of the 27th the Austrian Lloyd steamer tried to render help, but was obliged to abandon the attempt. Then Captain Lord Charles Beresford appeared on the scene in the *Undaunted*, accompanied by the gun-boat *Melita*, Commander King-Hall. They found that the heavy sea had driven the *Seignelay* into shallow water; and the *Melita*, which is of 670 tons and 1,200 horse-power, could not get nearer than 300 yards from the Frenchman, while the *Undaunted*, which is of 5,600 tons and 8,500 horse-power, could not get further in than 450 yards outside the *Melita*. In other words, the *Undaunted* was about half a mile from the *Seignelay*. However, says the letter, "with determined work night and day, a steel wire hawser, fifteen shackles of chain cable, and the help of God, we floated her in fifty-two hours. The French and English worked like Trojans together."

"Fifteen shackles of chain cable and the help of God" has a good old-time ring about it.

ORDER.

The preservation of good order, says the *Tokyo Shimpo*, is easier under a despotic than under a constitutional form of Government. If public peace and good order were not well preserved in former days, they are even less likely to be preserved now. Order in the highest ranks of the Government means, *inter alia*, that affairs which should not be published are kept hidden. But Ministerial secrets are not infrequently divulged now-a-days. Order means also that officials do not engage in trade. But can it be denied that officials do engage in trade, if not in their own names then in the names of others? Order in political parties means loyalty, but politicians in Japan are not loyal: they desert their parties and oppose their leaders. Order in schools means that the pupils are obedient and subject to discipline. But in Japanese Schools the students too often take the law into their own hands. In a word, good order cannot be said to prevail in Japan. Such is the verdict of the *Tokyo Shimpo*—a just verdict, we think.

* * *

In another article the same paper severely criticises Japanese politicians. In this country, it says, there are plenty of politicians who cry aloud for liberty, popular rights, national prestige, public responsibility, commercial morality, and industrial enterprise, but their arguments are unpractical and their own methods belie their precepts. Consider the recent movements of the Radicals: their disorderly and ill-considered attempts to induce the Cabinet to resign. They invited failure by their imprudent and futile behaviour, but failure does not seem to abash them. "With shame we are obliged to confess that the majority of the so-called politicians of the time are men without property or regular occupation who live much after the fashion of street *raconteurs* or other caterers to vulgar amusement. The object of their political movements is to procure a living for themselves, not to promote public interests. They are demoralizing politics, and if the rising generation follows their example, the future of constitutional institutions in Japan is dark."

COUNT VON MOLTKE.

It was the late Count von Moltke's fate occasionally to meet with praise out of all proportion to what he considered his deserts. In all such cases he never failed politely but unmistakably to express his disapproval. In the "Song of the New German Empire," written by an author of considerable talent, he was, in one of the poems specially dedicated to him, represented as standing in the spirit world with the shades of Alexander, Cæsar, Frederick the Great, Napoleon, and Wellington bowing to him in recognition of his superior greatness. In reply to this dedication Count Moltke wrote:—"The poet may be a spendthrift. With lavish hands he distributes diamonds and pearls, the stars of the sky and the flowers of the earth: in like manner he spends his praise. In this sense, I take it, have I in your poem been compared with the great men of antiquity, for these men were great also in misfortune, and even chiefly in that; we have seen only success. You may call this chance, good luck, fate, or Providence: men alone did not bring it about. Such gigantic achievements are the outcome of conditions that we neither create nor control. The excellent but unfortunate Pope Adrian caused the following words to be engraved on his tomb: 'What a difference the time makes in which the lot of even the best man is cast.' The irresistible current of circumstances has often caused the most worthy to suffer shipwreck, while the same force has carried to success the less deserving. If I am therefore compelled, and that not from a false or vain modesty, to consider a large portion of the praise you have bestowed upon me as quite undeserved, I am on that account no less appreciative of verses such as yours, that may well outlast many a monument of brass and marble." Not without interest, perhaps, are Moltke's replies given last year to questions put to him and thirteen other old men by the Vienna branch of the People's Education Association of lower Austria. From these it appears that when a boy he was from his tenth year onward taught ten hours a day, that in that year he removed from the country, was but few hours daily in the open air,

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did not pursue any plays or games methodically, and slept about ten hours of the twenty-four. Under "Special Remarks" he added "cheerless youth, insufficient food, far away from home." As to his more advanced years, we learn that he worked according to the requirements of the day, sometimes many hours; and his long life he ascribes in part to his habit of being some time every day out of doors, even in the worst weather. When in the country, especially in summer, he often spent half the day in the fields. His sleep, even as late as 1890, lasted between eight and nine hours; he ate very little, but concentrated and very nutritious food; and ascribed his hale old age chiefly to God's grace and to moderation in all things. From the *Révue des Révues*, appearing in Paris and edited by Ernest Smith, we learn, through similar questions and answers, that the books and authors that had on the whole influenced him more deeply than any others, were:—The Bible, Homer's Iliad, Littrow's "The Wonders of the Sky," Liebig's "Letters on Agricultural Chemistry," Clausewitz's work on War; also Schiller, Goethe, Shakespeare, Walter Scott, Ranke, Treitschke, and Carlyle's historical writings.

THE AFFAIRS OF RUSSELL AND CO.

We (*China Mail*) observe that Mr. W. H. Forbes has retired from the National Bank of China. We are authoritatively informed the Bank is not prejudicially affected by the failure of Messrs. Russell & Co. It is announced that the partners of that firm have executed an assignment in New York, where the largest creditors are, of all their estate to Mr. H. Hannah of New York, who has appointed as his agent in Hongkong and Canton, Mr. Sansom Taylor. We may note that Messrs. Shewan & Co. have been entrusted with the management of the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., and have been appointed acting agents of the Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance Co., also that Mr. F. Cass will carry on Messrs. Russell & Co.'s business in Amoy and Formosa. It is also announced that Messrs. Shewan & Co. have to-day (11th inst.) been appointed temporary General Managers of the China and Manila Steamship Co.

THE AGITATORS.

It is true that freedom of speech and of the pen is not fully enjoyed by the Japanese, and that the fact is often quoted to the nation's disadvantage, but it is equally true that the responsibility for such a state of affairs rests chiefly with agitators of whom Mr. Arai Shogo is a prominent type. This gentleman's latest performance at a meeting held in Yokohama on the 24th inst. rivals some of his previous doings. The meeting had been addressed successively by Messrs. Saito, Hasegawa, and Takahashi without provoking any police interference, when Mr. Arai ascended the rostrum and began to dilate upon his favourite topic, Cabinet responsibility. After insisting that unless the Cabinet acknowledged its united responsibility, the national desire could not be satisfied, he passed on to the Otsu affair, and with admirable patriotism and logic insisted that the outrage committed on the 11th of May against the country's honoured guest was due to the Government's negligence; that the Cabinet ought, therefore, to have resigned *en masse*, and that its failure to do so was disgraceful. From this series of declarations Mr. Arai passed to Tsuda Sanzo, whom he pronounced a lunatic, and therefore not responsible for his actions. To sentence such a man to penal servitude, he said, was contrary to justice, and could not be reconciled with the Penal Code. At this point the police interfered and ordered the meeting to disperse, but a youth immediately sprang forward and thrust the police inspector from his chair. A scene of turmoil ensued. Tobacco boxes were thrown, chairs flourished, and the constables would have been roughly handled had they not been present in sufficient force to protect themselves effectually. Four arrests were made of youths varying from twenty to twenty-six years of age. Of course it is not to be supposed that Mr. Arai Shogo contemplated such a commotion, but the physical disorder caused by his speech was only a reflection of the moral disorder under which he seems himself to labour.

THE FIGHTING IN CHILI.

An English gentleman who was an eye-witness of the recent battle at Pozo, sent the following account to a friend in Cornwall, who published it:—

The Government troops were at a great disadvantage in not being well supplied with big guns, while the Opposition were splendidly armed, their artillery including a large Armstrong gun about 8 ft. long. The Government's left wing was defeated first, and there was tremendous slaughter in that part of the field. The left wing finished off, the Opposition turned their attention to the right, and immediately began to drive their opponents towards the Oficina. They were gradually driven in, and bullets were raining down upon them as they sought to escape. The Government officers were in a great fright. As soon as they got into the house they hurriedly stripped off their uniforms and sought to disguise themselves by dressing in workmen's clothes. Soon afterwards Colonel Robles, the Commander-in-Chief of the Government troops, was carried into the house badly wounded by a shot in the back. He was placed in bed, and a doctor was soon in attendance upon him. We helped to bathe his wounds, but before we had been there five minutes the Opposition troops came swarming over the refuse heaps behind and poured several volleys right down into the place. Then they burst into the shed, pointing their rifles every way, and they uncovered several of the wounded men to see if they were shamming. A moment later the officer in charge of these men, who appeared to be nearly mad with the excitement of victory, yelled out for the manager. The manager being away, I stepped forward, when he placed a soldier on each side of me and flourished his revolver in my face. He shouted, "Where is Robles? Tell me at once, or I'll shoot you." Seeing that he was in earnest, I told him the Colonel was in the house, and he made me lead the way to the room. The savage fellow marched in, and, seeing the Colonel in bed, roared out, "Are you Robles?" "Yes," was the reply. "Will you give us satisfaction for what you have been doing?" was the next question. "No." "Then get out of that bed," yelled the fellow, and the poor old wounded Colonel crawled out of the bed and leaned against a table, and then fell on the floor in a corner as the first shot was fired at him, for the officer had ordered his men to shoot him there and then. They fired eighteen shots into him. The men rushed up to him one after the other like infuriated beasts, and discharged their rifles within a few inches of him. The old man was torn to pieces, and the walls and floors were splashed all over with blood. Meanwhile one of my friends had been collared and ordered under penalty of death to collect and take care of all arms in the place. The Oficina was full of arms, for when the Government troops retreated into the place they threw away their arms and uniforms and donned workmen's clothes in order to disguise themselves. Shortly afterwards the troops cleared out to pursue the retreating enemy. While all this had been going on in the Oficina the Opposition cavalry had got round to the north of Buen Retiro, and out on to the Pampa in time to receive the Government troops when they retreated that way, the result being that they were all either shot down or taken prisoners. In the meantime, Pozo was being sacked by the victorious party, most of whom were blind drunk and fighting among themselves like mad beasts. The streets were dotted with dead bodies, and at the doors of all the houses there were piles of them, including women and children.

COUNT OKUMA AND THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The *Kokkai* resumes its attack upon Count Okuma, this time with special reference to our contention that the reasons assigned for the financial embarrassment which it attributes to the Count are plainly erroneous. Our contemporary wonders what connection we have with Count Okuma to induce us to defend him, but this expression of surprise only confirms our previous comment that certain Japanese journals do not seem to appreciate the first duty of a newspaper, namely, to acquaint the public with the truth and to correct errors when it detects them. For our own part, we have a decided distaste to continue this discussion, deeming it an impertinence to undertake a journalistic inquisition into the pecuniary affairs of any private individual. But lest our silence should be construed as an evidence of assent, we will briefly explain why we find it impossible to credit the *Kokkai's* statements on their own merits. In the first place, then, we are wholly at a loss to understand on what ground the *Kokkai* proposes to stand. It has shifted its basis three times. At the outset it alleged that Count Okuma, in anticipation of the revised Treaties allowing foreigners to purchase real estate, had speculated largely in land, so that, when Treaty Revision failed and commercial dulness happened to ensue, he found himself a loser of half a million *yen*. Now, inasmuch as no one knew better than Count Okuma how completely chimerical was the notion that the granting of Mixed Residence would materially affect the price of land, the absurdity of this *canard* was patent. On reflection, therefore, the *Kokkai* abandoned it, and substituted another tale, namely, that the Mexican Government having offered to subsidize the Japan Mail Steamship Company to the extent of a million and a half of *yen* annually for a line of steamers between Japan and Mexico, Count Okuma foresaw a large appreciation of the Company's shares and purchased accordingly. The scheme fell through, however, owing to the failure of Treaty Revision, and a marked depreciation of the shares ensuing, Count Okuma found himself poorer by half a million of *yen*. The trouble with this tale was that the Mexican Government never made any such offer, and that the Foreign Office never gave serious consideration to a project of a line of steamers to Mexico. Once more, then, the *Kokkai* shifted its position, and assumed the ground now occupied by it in its contest with the *Japan Mail*. This time it becomes very circumstantial. The Mexican subsidy and the Mexican line of steamers disappear, and we find Count Okuma projecting a service of steamers across the Pacific to Canada and contemplating an addition of six hundred and twenty thousand *yen* to the subsidy of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, thus bringing its annual receipts from the Treasury to a million and a half *yen*. In view of the effects likely to be produced on the Company's shares, the Count then purchased 3,600 at 69 *yen* per share, and subsequently 400 at 93 *yen*. But again the project failed owing to the failure of Treaty Revision—what on earth Treaty Revision had to do with a line of Japanese steamers across the Pacific we are unable to conjecture—and Count Okuma's speculation resulted in a loss of 170,000 *yen*, for which the Mitsui Bank is pressing him. Thus we have descended by various steps from an indebtedness of half a million to less than a moiety of that amount. But in its last attempt the *Kokkai* is more unfortunate than ever, for even its arithmetic is hopelessly wrong. The shares of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are now quoted at 60 *yen*, so that if Count Okuma bought 3,600 at 69 + 400 at 93, his total less could not exceed 45,700 *yen*, instead of 170,000, as the *Kokkai* asserts. We admit the justice of our contemporary's allegation that foreigners cannot be supposed to know the private affairs of Japanese, but foreigners are not entirely without ordinary reasoning power, and when they find a Japanese newspaper giving three different versions of a matter, each disfigured by obvious extravagances, and blundering flagrantly in its arithmetic, they have some right to doubt whether they are hearing the truth. It is plain that at least two out of the three stories circulated by the *Kokkai* must be false. We leave it to choose which pleases it best, or to substitute an equally incredible fourth version at its leisure.

VISCOUNT YENOMOTO AND TREATY REVISION.

There is a good deal of talk in the *Jiyu* and other journals about Viscount Yenomoto's views in respect of Treaty Revision. The gist of the policy attributed to him is that Revision ought not be deferred; that the continuance of the present state of affairs is inconsistent not only with the national honour of Japan but also with the interests of the Orient in general; and that had previous programmes of Revision been carried out despite their minor disadvantages, the main object aimed at would have been virtually achieved ere now. The Viscount's interviewers further make him say that to revise the Treaties on a basis of absolute equality with Western nations by the process of negotiation, is a more than doubtful enterprise. We do not know how far this version of the views entertained by Viscount Yenomoto may be accurate, but we find nothing in it inconsistent with his procedure in the past. One eminent trait of his character has been unswerving loyalty to his colleagues and their cause. The same spirit that led him to remain true to a fallen dynasty twenty-four years ago, has shown itself in his career ever since. Equally staunch in his support of Count Inouye and of Count Okuma, he enjoys the enviable reputation of absolute indifference to party considerations where the interests of his

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country are at stake. Such praise, indeed, ought to belong as a matter of course to every honest statesmen, but we are compelled to confess that it has not been always deserved in Japan. Viscount Yenomoto has, therefore, the advantage of approaching this difficult task unhampered by any jealousy or resentment excited in the past. He is known, too, as a man of thoroughly sensible and practical views, who understands what is due to those with whom, as well as to those on whose behalf, he negotiates. If may be, therefore, that achievement is reserved for him.

CONCERT IN TOKYO.

On Saturday a concert was given in the principal dining hall of the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, in aid of the Meiji Girls' School, an institution which, in a very short period, has attained considerable proportions, its pupils now aggregating a hundred and seventy. A number of vocal and instrumental pieces were performed in a pleasing manner by pupils of the School and of the Ferris Seminary, as well as by foreign ladies who had kindly participated in organizing the concert. A very large audience was present. It filled the great hall of the hotel to over-flowing, and occupied every available space within hearing or seeing distance. For the majority of the spectators the musical performances in foreign style cannot have possessed much interest, since they were necessarily lacking in brilliancy, and their novelty has long worn off. But the programme was interspersed with other items that could not fail to be entertaining to the Japanese, as for example, the opening address by Mr. Shimada Saburo, President of the Committee of the Whole in the House of Representatives, various pieces on the *Koto*, *Samisen*, and so forth, and a lecture by the celebrated *Koshakushi*, Yencho, who alone is capable of attracting a big audience at any moment. The funds of the School must have benefited largely by the affair, for the expenses cannot have been great, and in addition to the audience of twelve or fifteen hundred who were present, a large number of tickets were sold to well-wishers who did not attend.

VICE MINISTERS OF STATE.

The *Kokkai* attributes to Count Goto repeated efforts to persuade the Cabinet that Vice-Ministers are unserviceable appendages, and that their abolition would be an economical and useful reform. But from the same authority we learn that the Cabinet has not fallen in with this view; or at any rate is not disposed to give practical effect to it in its entirety without calm reflection and experience. The idea is, we read, that Count Goto had better try the experiment himself in the Department of Communications. It is not easy to conceive that the Count really advocates such a change. In many Departments the Vice-Ministers have always played an important rôle, and their sudden abolition could scarcely fail to cause great inconvenience. The presence of the Minister himself in the Department is necessarily uncertain. He has to attend the Cabinet and discharge many duties calling him away from his office, and in his absence the Vice-Minister becomes essential, to say nothing of the general assistance rendered by the latter.

THE KÔSHIN RAILWAY.

Mr. K. Saburi, M.E., whose *brochure* on the Railway Problems in Japan, Present and Future, has already been noticed in these columns, has also published another pamphlet on the Kô-Shin railway. Kô-Shin is a contraction for Kôshû and Shinshû, two provinces in the interior of the main island of Japan. The great resources of these two important provinces, demand, in Mr. Saburi's opinion, the immediate construction of a railway through them. Silk, cocoons, wood, minerals, and countless other articles are exported thence, while, on the other hand, the inhabitants of the localities buy from other provinces rice, fish, salt, tea, sugar, kerosene, cotton, and various other articles of common use. At present the means of transportation are extremely bad in this region. A portion of Shinshû is traversed by the Naoetsu line, but the rest of the province and the whole of Kôshû now chiefly rely for communication with the outer world upon four routes; viz. first, the waters of the Fujikawa; secondly, the Kôshû-kaido; thirdly the Subashiri-kaido; and fourthly the Kiso-kaido. Mr. Saburi's plan is to start the line at Gotemba on the Tokaido railway, and leading it in a north-westerly direction along the northern side of Fujisan, to make it touch Kôfu, the capital city of the Province of Kai (Kôshû). Leaving that place, the line again passes in a north-westerly direction, and going through the thriving town of Suwa, is to extend as far as Matsumoto, a place recently brought into notoriety by a riot. The whole length of the proposed line is 136 miles, while the cost of construction is estimated at 5,300,000 *yen*. The most difficult part of the line would be the digging of a tunnel, 135 chains long, under the Kagikake Pass between Gotemba and Kôfu. The chief engineer calculates that it would require four years to complete the work. As to the probable profits to be realized, Mr. Saburi has made minute investigations, and estimates the receipts from goods at 467,606 *yen* 68 *sen*, while the receipts from passengers are put at 225,280,483 *yen*, the total receipts thus being *yen* 692,887,164. The expenses of working are estimated at 299,940 *yen*. Thus there is a net profit of 392,947,164 *yen* per annum, which is about 7⅜ per cent. upon the estimated cost of construction, 5,300,000 *yen*. A special point of interest to foreign residents and travellers, is that the line would give access to the cool and healthy district on the northern side of Fujisan, where there are plenty of beautiful lakes and picturesque views. The railway also traverses, between Suwa and Matsumoto, a mountainous region of great beauty. About the end of 1886, the road was first projected by the inhabitants of Matsumoto. The original projectors were soon joined by wealthy merchants of Kôfu and Tokyo. Early in 1887, Mr. Saburi make a reconnaisance, and a provisional charter was obtained for the line in July of the same year. Actual surveys were finished in March, 1888, and after the completion of drawings, application was made for a formal charter in September of the same year. But the Railway Bureau did not agree with Mr. Saburi about the practicability of the line between Gotemba and Kofu. Mr. Saburi has since gone over the route once more, and he still adheres to his original plan, which the authorities also seem to persist in condemning. Thus, although a charter has been obtained for the section between Kofu and Matsumoto, the projectors are still unable to convince the authorities of the feasibility of the section between Kofu and Gotemba. Under these circumstances the work has not yet been commenced, and there seems little prospect of it being speedily inaugurated.

* * *

With Mr. Saburi's general views as to the districts through which lines of railway ought to be constructed, most people will be in entire agreement, but it is, of course, impossible to pronounce any opinion as to the road specially referred to in the above pamphlet. We welcome, however, with distinct satisfaction, the method inaugurated by Mr. Saburi of taking the public into the confidence of the projectors. An air of honest practicality is at once imparted to any project by such a plan. Mr. Saburi's estimates of probable profit recall a feature that has often been noticed by critics of Japanese habits. The Japanese compiler of a financial project delights in fractions. When there is question of a big undertaking the cost of which cannot possibly be computed within a margin of several thousand *yen*, the Japanese builder or contractor will undertake to predict the outlay to the third or even fourth place of decimals of a *yen*. To practical folks this looks a little like playingwith a problem. Yet it is consistent with the fashions of the Japanese in everything. Just as in their theatre the spectator is never supposed to believe in the reality of anything he sees, or to be disillusionized because an imaginary corpse removes itself from the stage under cover of a bit of black crape, so the presence of hundredths of a *yen* is not expected to deprive an estimate of its hypothetical character. The compiler puts down his figures and his processes of arriving at them exactly as they have occurred to him, and makes no attempt to discard fractions wholly inconsistent with the notion of a mere estimate. The decimals in his total are like the theatrical dummies. The former make their appearance because of the exigencies of arithmetic, which is governed by rules independent of hypothesis; the latter come on the stage in obedience to laws that forbid acting to be anything more than acting, whatever the talent of the actor or the perfection of his accessories. "Why on earth do you set down *rin* and *mo* in an estimate running to half a million of *yen*?" says the practical foreigner. "Why on earth shouldn't I set them down, since they appear on my *soroban*?" says the matter-of-fact Japanese. Who shall decide between them?

THE "TOYO SHIMPO."

The *Toyo Shimpo*, an organ of the *Daido-ha*, and therefore a bitter enemy of the *Kaishin-to*, takes the trouble to collect and embody in a leading article all the stories circulated by the *Kokkai* from time to time about Count Okuma's insolvency. It is not easy to perceive whether this miserable crusade is inspired by pure malevolence to Count Okuma, or whether it aims also at discrediting Treaty Revision, on behalf of which he is represented as having expended large sums of money. Whatever be the object, it is easy to detect numerous falsehoods and discrepancies in the story. The *Toyo Shimpo* out does the *Kokkai*, for whereas the latter was content to represent Count Okuma as a wild speculator in land and a demented purchaser of shares with borrowed money, the former now seeks to prove him the cause of the trouble in connection with the Tokyo Rice Exchange. It is on his account, we are told, that Mr. Nakamura, the President of the Exchange, appropriated three hundred thousand *yen* of the funds entrusted to his care. The circulation of these slanders is a disgrace to Japanese journalism. Within a very short time of the removal of its ban of suspension, the *Toyo Shimpo* is endeavouring to show that not temporary interruption but final abolition would have been a worthier sentence.

A BRAVE WOMAN.

The following story, which we take from a home paper, is worth re-publishing:—

An extraordinary case was reported at a Huddersfield Guardians' meeting. Five years ago the guardians gave relief to the extent of nearly £50 to Matthew Messenger. Since his death his daughter, who follows the occupation of a charwoman, her maximum wages being 8*s* weekly, has denied herself all "luxuries," for the sake of repaying the money and maintaining the honest independence of the family. A few weeks ago she accomplished her purpose, and to the surprise of every one concerned repaid the whole amount, the sacrifice taking every penny of her savings. The guardians did not want to take the money, but no persuasion would induce her to accept one penny back. It was represented to her that illness would find her badly off, but she was so much in earnest in wishing to remove the pauper taint from her family that at length the guardians decided to invest the money in the names of the chairman, treasurer, and clerk of the union for the time being, to be used for her benefit in case of necessity, and at her death the balance, if any, to be paid into the funds of the union, as she has no known relative. The case was described as perfectly unique, and the hope was expressed that such an instance of honest poverty would be made known throughout the country.

THE NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

We have received from the agents, Messrs. Browne & Co, a number of tables and statements showing the advantages to be derived from insurance in the New York Life Insurance Company. It is impossible for us to enter into a discussion of the claims of rival companies, but so far as figures go the tables sent us show that at 1st January, 1889, the position of this Company relative to two others selected for comparison was this: each had a larger amount of insurance in force, a larger amount of admitted assets, and a larger income than the New York Life, but the last named had paid a larger amount of dividends to policy holders, had a larger increase in surplus, and earned more surplus in 1889 than the others. As a matter of fact it paid more dividends, made a larger increase of surplus and earned considerably larger profits

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than either of the two companies selected for comparison. Taking the accounts for 1890 it is shown that the cash dividends of the New York Life amounted to $2,148,447 and the dividends in reversion added to policies to $3,691,400, as against $1,666,930, and $1,552,192 for one of the companies previously referred to. Among the other items we note that the percentage in the New York Company of income to living members is 22.81 as against 14.95 for the company mentioned. But for full information on a subject which possesses deep interest to all, we must refer our readers to pamphlets which we do not doubt the agents will place at the disposal of any applicant.

JAPANESE GUIDES AGAIN.

THE following case has been brought to our notice by the principal person concerned. An English gentleman, at present on a visit to this country, engaged at Nagasaki, as guide, one K. Isogawa. Amongst other places visited was the store of Ikeda, at Kyoto, and here the gentleman purchased goods to the amount of $450, paying a certain sum down, and requesting the goods to be sent on to Yokohama, where the balance would be paid. On the arrival of the case of goods from Kyoto, the owner went to Takanoya, the house from which he was to take delivery, but found that the case had been addressed to the guide, Isogawa. On asking if any instructions came with the case, the people at Takanoya produced a postcard, written in Japanese of course, which the owner of the goods handed to a clerk who came with him from a Yokohama firm, and asked him to interpret to him. The clerk did so to the extent of informing him that the case was from Ikeda, in Kyoto, and that there was so much to pay. But the owner of the goods thought there was something more from the appearance of the postcard, which was very full, and after a little pressure the clerk translated further to the effect that $45 of the amount of the balance was to be paid to Isogawa. Just at this moment the latter walked in, and on being asked about it, denied any knowledge of a commission coming from Ikeda. The owner of the goods, however, made such a representation of his case, that he obtained delivery and of Isogawa's commission as well—ten per cent. —an exceptional ending to a squeeze.

* * *

We have alluded more than once to this matter, but it would appear that the tourist is helplessly doomed to suffer in the manner indicated. Possibly the morality of such transactions may be condoned by some people in whose eyes the guide is entitled to "consideration" from the tradesmen to whom he is so kind as to conduct tourists. But it seems to us that the guide, being already paid handsomely for his services, is by no means justified in putting his hand into his employer's pocket to the tune of ten per cent. on all the latter's purchases. Dealers in bric-a-brac assure us that they cannot possibly fight against the guides. One or two have tried the experiment and found it suicidal. We really see no way out of the trouble, unless some Japanese of the better class will organise a society of trustworthy guides on the lines proposed a few years ago by Mr. Masuda and others.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

A SPECIOUS but, as we think, not altogether sound point is made by the *Mainichi Shimbun* with regard to Russia and Japan. Not a dozen Japanese, says our contemporary, know the Russian language, whereas a very large number are acquainted with English. The consequence is that their ideas of Russia are derived from English writers, who are almost invariably hostile to that country. The *Mainichi* justly observes that to take one's notions of a person or a nation entirely from a hostile witness is a pretty sure way to acquire a prejudiced view. But it goes on to say that, thirty years ago, the Japanese were strongly imbued with the *Jo-i* sentiment in consequence of the teachings of Chinese books, whereas access to direct sources of information led to a complete change of mood. Is that so? We were not aware that the *Jo-i* sentiment had its origin in the writings of Chinese authors. It is generally attributed by historians to an entirely different source. At the same time we entirely agree with the *Mainichi Shimbun* that the Japanese ought to study Russia more closely and directly than by merely reading English works, which, it must be admitted, are usually tinged with hostility to Great Britain's supposed rival in Asia.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for May, showing the foreign trade of Japan for the month:—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

	1890. SILVER YEN.	1891. SILVER YEN.
Exports	4,356,692,180	6,493,465,080
Imports	7,194,952,320	4,843,208,750
Total exports and imports		11,336,673,830
Excess of exports		1,650,256,330

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

	SILVER YEN.
Exports	149,377,717
Imports	180,501,425
Miscellaneous	10,045,289
Total	339,924,431

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
United States of America	2,697,760,340	522,698,910	3,220,459,250
Great Britain	704,341,260	1,535,211,590	2,239,452,850
Hongkong	1,103,907,960	326,180,270	1,430,088,230
China	382,303,460	816,776,970	1,199,079,430
France	605,695,080	197,990,440	803,685,520
Germany	179,989,040	395,940,320	575,929,360
Korea	110,391,570	339,857,150	450,248,720
British India	52,559,020	320,399,800	372,959,420
Canada & other British America	187,064,020	2,719,440	189,783,460
Belgium	5,678,410	97,807,450	103,485,860
Australia	62,365,900	4,322,740	66,688,640
Switzerland	24,680,000	37,243,020	61,923,020
Italy	43,058,500	9,114,820	52,073,320
Philippine Islands	12,560,000	35,984,750	48,450,750
Russia	29,668,040	2,226,670	31,895,610
Hawaii	17,388,340	12,581,800	29,970,140
Austria	10,689,000	668,240	11,357,240
Spain	2,313,900	1,958,600	4,272,500
Holland	1,774,730	2,434,940	5,209,670
Denmark	—	2,188,320	2,188,320
Sweden & Norway	—	1,629,440	1,629,440
Portugal	—	526,820	526,820
Peru	—	408,000	408,000
Other Countries	91,247,520	176,337,050	267,584,570
Total	6,526,842,590	4,843,208,750	11,169,451,340

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Totals. Silver Yen.
Yokohama	3,506,800,950	2,426,323,800	5,933,124,750
Kobe	2,489,924,660	1,779,791,350	4,269,696,010
Osaka	91,499,030	325,211,710	416,710,740
Nagasaki	251,720,120	233,306,320	485,026,440
Hakodate	7,067,170	612,000	7,679,170
Shimonoseki	38,677,060	60,148,090	98,825,150
Moji	38,202,000	—	38,202,000
Hakata	949,230	12,670,420	13,619,650
Karatsu	13,681,500	—	13,681,500
Kuchinotsu	101,780,250	—	101,780,250
Misumi	2,810,500	—	2,810,500
Idzugahara	1,726,130	3,278,230	5,004,360
Shishimi	1,472,300	1,391,100	2,863,400
Sasuna	1,128,120	484,730	1,612,850
Specie and Bullion { Exports			9,830,350
Specie and Bullion { Imports			163,683,030
Total			203,513,380
Excess of imports			123,852,680

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants { Exports		582,976,180
By Japanese Merchants { Imports		1,225,526,750
Imported by Government		61,832,370

THE TOKYO ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.

WE described in a recent issue how the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha, being unable to obtain repayment of monies due to it by the Tokyo Electric Light Company, had instituted legal proceedings against the latter and attached its plant, sealing the machines; and how a novel feature had been introduced by the secret removal of the seals at the instance of officers of the Company. It is now stated that the breaking of the seals was perfectly open and above-board. The facts are that when the sealing of the machines was reported to Mr. Minakawa Shiro, Manager of the Electric Light Company, he hastend at once to the place and removed the seals, so that the supply of electric light to the customers of the Company was not interrupted. The Tokyo newspapers say that the directors of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha were much incensed by this conduct, regarding it as contumelious towards the Court which had granted the attachment, but Mr. Minakawa maintained that the procedure followed by the creditors had been faulty in practice and entirely wrong in principle. In what respect the practice erred we are not told, but the principle alleged was that the creditors had no right to inflict a needless injury on the property of the Company by stopping its business. Both sides were equally interested in avoiding anything prejudicial to the value of the Company's assets, and nothing could be were prejudicial than to suddenly convert the Electric Light Company from an active, money-earning concern, into a bankrupt establishment with no property except the market value of its plant and buildings. It must be confessed that this view is sound in theory, but without knowing the whole history of the affair it is impossible to form a conclusion. The directors of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are not all likely to have behaved in a precipitate or imprudent manner.

THE THREE DEPARTMENTS.

AT present the topic of discussion among administrative reformers in Japan is the *sansho haishi-ron*, or abolition of the three Departments. Members of the House of Peers are credited with the conception, and the three Departments are those of Education, of Communications, and of Agriculture and Commerce. How the functions now discharged by these Departments would be fulfilled in the event of the proposed abolition becoming an accomplished fact, we have not the least idea. The whole project seems vague in the extreme; so vague that one result of the reform (?) is described as a saving of twenty million *yen* annually, the total appropriation on account of the three Departments; from which estimate it may apparently be inferred that the abolitionists consider the three Departments wholly useless parts of the executive machine, and that in eliminating them they would not assign any portion of their duties to other officials. It is in the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* that we find the statement, and it seems to us worthy to be classed among the airy and impractical schemes that show how little the business of State administration is understood by some good folks.

THE MINISTER PRESIDENT AND THE VICE-MINISTERS.

THE *Jiyu* has a story evidently taken from the repertoire where it keeps the pretty tales ventilated in its columns from time to time about Count Ito and others dignitaries of State against whom the Radicals entertain so strongly the proverbial grudge of the "outs" against the "ins." It asserts that the Minister President of State recently assembled all the Vice-Ministers of the Departments and made them a speech consisting of one platitude and two injunctions. The platitude was that officials should discharge their duties with zeal and in such a manner as to assist their chiefs; the injuctions were, first that as the Government contemplates a large reduction of administrative expenditure this year, correspondingly increased activity will be required on the part of officials who remain; and secondly, that when the Diet meets and when Vice-Ministers have to appear before it, they must act so as to strengthen the Government. Count Matsukata is further alleged to have pointed out that the reduction of administrative expenditure would disarm the Diet's attacks in one direction, but that, inasmuch as the Government had already been assaulted with reference to the Otsu incident, it must expect to have this subject brought up again when Parliament re-assembles. The *Jiyu* speculates whether Count Matsukata's frequent references to the Diet are to be construed as an evidence of respect or of uneasiness, a somewhat trivial and profitless line of conjecture, we venture to think.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOKYO RICE EXCHANGE.

IT may well be supposed that Mr. Nakamura, President of the Tokyo Rice Exchange, is the object of a great deal journalistic attention at present. Investigations into the state of his resources are said to have revealed that he had speculated in various shares to the amount of over fourteen hundred thousand *yen*, and that, in connection with these transactions, he had incurred losses amounting to seven hundred thousand. Mr. Nakamura must have been an ex-

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ceedingly rash operator and phenomenally unfortunate into the bargain, if his operations on 'Change resulted in a loss of fifty per cent. all round. We cannot recall any class of Japanese securities which suffered such large depreciation as fifty per cent. during the past four years, but that appears to have been the average fate of all the scrip in which Mr. Nakamura had the misfortune to deal, if we may credit this report. Various other details of his property and circumstances are given, but it seems unnecessary to re-produce them in the context of a statement so obviously incredible as the above. Meanwhile, Count Okuma and Mr. Kabayama are said to be interesting themselves actively in order to effect a satisfactory arrangement of Mr. Nakamura's affairs, and the latest version is that a sum of less than seventy thousand *yen* will secure the Exchange against all loss. It will be remembered that from sixty to seventy thousand *yen* was the amount originally estimated by comparing Mr. Nakamura's available assets with the deficit said to exist in the funds controlled by him on account of the Exchange. There is therefore good reason to hope that this trouble, which threatened at first to be so serious, will be tided over without direct loss to the shareholders or brokers of the Exchange.

FOREIGN MASTERS OF JAPANESE SHIPS.

THE fact that Japanese Steam-ship Companies employ foreigners to command their vessels in so many cases, is attributed by the vernacular press, not to the superior skill of the foreigner as a navigator, but to the greater confidence placed by foreign merchants in ships so commanded. A case illustrating this is quoted from the recent experiences of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha After the loss of the *Tokachiho Maru*, the Company placed the *Toshima Maru* on the Vladivostock line as a substitute. The latter vessel was commanded by a Japanese, Mr. Sakai Chinkichi, who seemed a thoroughly competent officer, and the Japanese residents of Vladivostock were prepared to find the service continued by the *Toshima Maru*. Subsequently, however, she was replaced by the *Higo Maru*, Captain Thompsen, and it was found that the cargo obtained by the latter vessel greatly exceeded that obtained by the former. No change in tradal conditions sufficient to account for such a difference had occurred, and an investigation into the cause was accordingly undertaken, with the result that the increase of cargo appeared unmistakably attributable to the greater trust placed by shippers in a vessel having a foreign master. It is therefore concluded that even an inferior foreigner is better, from a pecuniary point of view, than an inferior Japanese. We do not see why these adjectives should be employed in stating the verdict, but they accord, doubtless, with the spirit of the time."

JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY.

THE *Minken Shimbun*, formerly the *Rikken Jiyu Shimbun*, gives an analysis of the sources of Japan's foreign policy. Count Kuroda, it says, is responsible for three parts; Viscount Yenomoto for two and a half; the Cabinet in a body, for four and a half; and the remainder emanates from Count Ito and the Electric Count, as Count Inouye is now called. What the "remainder" may be we should like to know, since without that knowledge it is difficult to discover how these figures are to stand as percentages. At any rate it seems to us that a grave omission has been made. Our contemporary ought surely to have added that journalistic imagination is responsible for about as many parts as the aggregate attributed to Count Kuroda, Viscount Yenomoto, and the Cabinet, taken together.

THE "KAISHIN-TO."

THE *Kaishin* Party, according to the *Kokkai Shimbun*, seeing how utterly futile have been the attempts of the Radicals to shake the Cabinet, are resolved to concentrate their own forces against one particular Minister of State, instead of essaying to attack the whole body. It may well be supposed that since Mr. Tanaka Shozo wields considerable influence in the ranks of the *Kaishin-to*, the Minister selected as the object of the first onset is Count Goto. Next on the list of statesmen to be assailed comes Mr. Mutsu. Apparently the chief consideration dictating this course of action is that the eminent and influential Ministers of Satsuma or Choshu extraction do not present an easy mark for the missiles of their opponents. Such a consideration seems superficial, however, for the avowed aim of the opposition is to overthrow the *Sat-Cho* combination. The campaign now said to be contemplated is too vicarious to be admired.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY ON STUDENTS' DUELLING.

THE Emperor of Germany's speech to the students of the Bonn University at the beer *commers* held to open the summer session, was as follow:—

It is my firm conviction that every youth who enters a corps or beer drinking and duelling club will receive the true direction of his life from the spirit which prevails in them. It is the best education which a young man can get for his future life, and he who scoffs at the German students' corps does not penetrate their real meaning. I hope that as long as there are German corps students the spirit which is fostered in their corps and which is steeled by strength and courage will be preserved, and that you will always take delight in handing the duelling-blade. There are many people who do not understand what our duels really mean, but that must not lead us astray. You and I, who have been corps students, know better than that. As in the Middle Ages manly strength and courage were steeled by the practice of jousting or tournaments, so the spirit and habits which are acquired from membership of a corps furnish us with that degree of fortitude which is necessary to us when we go out into the world and which will last as long as there are German universities. You have been good enough to refer to my son (the Crown Prince), and I give you my hearty thanks for doing so. I trust that the young man when he is advanced enough will matriculate here and join your clubs, and that he will then meet with the same kindly sentiments that were extended to me. And now a word to those young freshmen who are but beginning to lead a corps life. Train your courage, your discipline, and your obedience, without which we cannot as a State continue to live, and I trust that many officials and officers will emerge from your midst.

GOLD AND SILVER RATIOS.

THE *Official Gazette* gives the following table of comparative values of gold and silver coins and of the pound sterling for the week ended the 20th inst., as derived from the returns of the Bank of Japan and the Yokohama Special Bank:—

Day	Gold Coin, (Per *yen* 100) Silver Yen.		Pound Sterling (Per £1) Silver Yen.
15th	127.000	A.M.	6.2540
		P.M.	
16th	127.000	A.M.	6.2540
		P.M.	
17th	127.400	A.M.	6 2540
		P.M.	
18th	127.400	A.M.	6.2540
		P.M.	
19th	127.400	A.M.	6.2337
		P.M.	
20th	127.000	A.M.	6.1935
		P.M.	
Averages	127.200		6.2405

The above averages show for gold coin an increase in value of *yen* 0.567 per cent., and for the pound sterling a decrease in value of *yen* 0.0067 as compared with the previous week.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

THE amounts of convertible notes and reserves in the Bank of Japan for the week ended the 20th inst. were as follow:—

Convertible Notes.	Yen.	Reserves and Securities,	Yen.
Notes issued	93,958,536	Gold coin and bullion	25,820,544
		Silver coin and bullion	21,904,894
		Public Loan Bonds	15,470,450
		Treasury Bills	—
		Government Bills	22,000,000
		Other securities	2,963,515
		Commercial Bills	7,833,333
	93,958,536		93,988,536

Of the above total issue of notes, the sum of *yen* 4,857,443 is in the treasury of the Bank, 22,000,000 has been transferred on loan to the Government, and *yen* 67,131,093 is in actual circulation, the latter showing an increase of *yen* 531,355 as compared with *yen* 66,599,738 at the end of the previous week.

ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN HORSES.

THE steamer *Pemptos*, which arrived here recently, brought a pair of trotting stallions bred by Hornsby Bros., of Emminence, Kentucky, whose stud has some of the finest strains of trotting stock in America. One stallion is two and the other three years old. By the same steamer there came a handsome brown runningmare by the same breeders, six years old, the winner of several races; a span of large black driving horses, five years old, a 2.30 single trotting gelding, six years old, and a chesnut saddle horse. The stock was landed in good condition considering the long and stormy passage of 22 days.

YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE.

THE annual meeting of the Yokohama Fire Brigade is announced to be held on Monday next, when some important changes will probably be effected. We understand that an entire reorganization will be shortly brought about in the constitution of the brigade, and that a London fireman of experience, who has served for a number of years under Captain Shaw, has been engaged, and will shortly take over charge of the Fire Brigade in Yokohama. The only change to be regretted is the retirement of Mr. James Walter, who had rendered such valuable service to this community for a great number of years.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

IMPORTANT changes are to be effected in the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, by which the services of the following foreign employés of the company will be dispensed with, and their posts given to Japanese:—Mr. S. D. Hepburn, manager of the Yokohama branch; Mr. F. Plate, manager of the Kobe branch; Mr. E. H. Duus, manager of the Nagasaki branch; and Mr. J. W. Graham, manager of the Shanghai branch.—*Jiji Shimpo.*

SCHOONER ON THE BREAKWATER.

ON Thursday morning shortly after eight o'clock a small Japanese schooner, when making for the harbour, ran on the breakwater. The *Monocacy* sent a launch to ascertain if she was damaged, and found she was not making much water. The P. and O. launch tried to tow her off, but was unsuccessful. She was eventually got off at high tide in the afternoon after discharging her cargo (which was salt), and is now making but little water.

BURGLARY.

AN attempt was made on Sunday night or early on Monday morning to rob the store of the London and New York Tailoring Co., No. 100. The thieves entered the workshop at the back, to which it is thought they gained access from the out-houses of the Parsonage. They were, however, foiled in their efforts to effect an entrance into the shop, so solaced themselves with two pairs of scissors and decamped.

DEATH BY DROWNING.

ON Sunday morning at daybreak the dead body of M. Tansey, a saloon keeper, at No. 81, was found on the beach near the boat-house. The face was cut a good deal, probably from the body beating on the stones, and one shoe was missing, the body otherwise being fully dressed. The deceased, we learn, was seen on Saturday night at ten o'clock near the Grand Hotel.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

MR. HIRATAMA NARINOBU, Private Secretary of the Minister of State for Finance and of the Minister President of State, has been appointed Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, *vice* Mr. Su, who proceeds as Governor to Hyogo; and Mr. Yamawaki Gen, a Councillor of the Legislative Bureau, has been gazetted chief of that Bureau.

A PLUCKY CANTONESE WOMAN.

IT was reported at Kiukiang that the Cantonese wife of Mr. Green, the Custom House officer at Wusueh, defended her home with a Japanese sword, and killed four of the Chinese assailants before she was herself overpowered and murdered.—*N. C. Daily News.*

RESIDENTS on the Bluff complain of the importunities of two foreigners, who are supposed to be collecting money for some religious order, but they do not make themselves well understood nor do they appear to have any consular or other recommendation to the consideration of the charitable, and their manner and appearance are very much against them.

A KOBE telegram to the *Jiji Shimpo* reports that Tsuda Sanzo will be conveyed from that port on the 24th instant to Sorachi in the *Wakanoura Maru*.

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MR. OKI MORIKATA.

THE EMPEROR has been pleased to pardon Mr. OKI MORIKATA, who was removed from his post as Governor of Shiga Prefecture in consequence of the Otsu outrage. In the *Official Gazette* a brief intimation of the act of clemency is made through the Minister President of State. It will be remembered that the CZAREVITCH twice intervened on behalf of Mr. OKI, and that, on the second occasion when travelling with the EMPEROR by train from Kyoto to Kobe, His Imperial Highness urged that Governor OKI, having been but a few hours in office when the outrage was committed, could scarcely be held responsible. To this the EMPEROR replied that however short an official's tenure of office may have been, he must bear all the responsibilities of his position. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the request of the CZAREVITCH carried weight, for whereas not only the removal of Governor OKI but also his degradation are understood to have been originally contemplated, the latter punishment was ultimately omitted. According to the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the CZARÉVITCH did not confine his kindly efforts to these two interventions. He also instructed the Russian Representative to take an early opportunity of addressing HIS MAJESTY again on the subject, and our contemporary refers the pardon now gazetted to the efforts of M. SCHÊVITCH. Next to the act of TSUDA SANZO himself no incident of the whole affair produced such a painful impression on the foreign public as the removal of Governor OKI, and we are extremely reluctant to accept the explanation now offered by the *Mainichi Shimbun*. It is far more satisfactory to assume that the removal of Governor OKI was, from the first, a mere formality, and that no intention existed of allowing the unhappy incident to injure his official career. We are unable to perceive any principle of justice in accordance with which responsibility for TSUDA'S crime could be imposed on the Governor of the Prefecture where the affair occurred. Had Mr. OKI been ten years Governor of Shiga, instead of ten hours, there would have been the same difficulty in connecting him with the act, though his punishment might have appeared less startling. In China, indeed, the principle of administration suffers no discrimination to be exercised in regard to the responsibility of local officials towards the Central Government, but the Chinese system provides peculiar compensations in other respects, and people cannot fail to be surprised that in Japan, where these compensations do not exist, the bonds of responsibility should nevertheless be drawn with Chinese rigour. Despite the *Mainichi Shimbun's* analysis, we are disposed, therefore, to conclude that Governor OKI'S official pardon would have been granted as a matter of simple justice. At the same time the kind offices said to have been exercised by the CZATEVITCH and the Russian Representative are worthy of the forbearance and friendliness exhibited by Russia throughout this affair. What has to be now regretted is that the pardon of Mr. SAITO, the Chief of the Shiga Police, continues deferred. Had there been any tittle of evidence to show that TSUDA SANZO'S condition was such as to suggest doubts, however slight, of his trustworthiness or sanity, the Chief of Police might fairly be held responsible for not having entertained and given effect to these doubts. But TSUDA was in every respect an exemplary official. Self-contained, attentive to duty, thrifty and uniformly sober, with fifteen years' service and a decoration for bravery in the field, he was precisely the man to be chosen for a duty of the nature assigned to him on the 11th of May. No chief would have been justified in distrusting such a subordinate. That the Chief of the Shiga Police should have been deposed and degraded for trusting him, is a mystery not to be solved by any ordinary process of reasoning, or reconciled with any common principles of justice. We would fain see the unfortunate Mr. SAITO restored to the office which he had reached by patient and meritorious services, and from which he was degraded in consequence of an incident beyond human sagacity to foresee or prevent.

COUNT OKUMA AND THE "KOKKAI."

WITH singular persistence the *Kokkai* continues its attacks upon Count OKUMA. It commenced the campaign by asserting that the Count, when he presided over the Foreign Office, purchased large quantities of land in view of the accomplishment of Treaty Revision, which event was expected by ignorant people to exercise a strong influence on the price of real estate. Treaty Revision having failed, however, the anticipated appreciation of values did not ensue, and land having since then fallen steadily owing to general commercial depression, Count OKUMA, according to the *Kokkai*, found himself some five hundred thousand *yen* to the bad. The patent absurdity of supposing that a statesman so thoroughly acquainted with the situation as Count OKUMA, could be led away by the silly fancy that the inauguration of mixed residence would materially effect the price of land, probably became plain to the *Kokkai* after a time, for it changed its ground, and has now published a story the gist of which is that Count OKUMA made a heavy loss by speculating in shares of the *Nippon Yusen Kaisha*. We learn for the first time from the columns of the *Kokkai* that the Mexican Government offered a subsidy of a million and a half dollars annually to the Japan Mail Steamship Company provided that the latter would establish a line of steamers between this empire and Mexico. Everybody except the *Kokkai* must be astonished by this intelligence. Count OKUMA, however, is supposed to have known it in 1889, and to have bought a number of the Steamship Company's shares at their highest figure, 96, expecting that when the Mexican subsidy came to be received the shares would rise twenty or thirty per cent. Such statements in the columns of a leading Japanese newspaper make one rub one's eyes in amazement. The truth about the Mexican affair, as all those directly concerned in it are well aware, was that the Mexican Government originally offered to subsidize a line of steamers between Mexico and the Orient, touching at Japan, provided that the ships were Mexican vessels flying the Mexican flag, and provided that the service was started within two years. Out of this offer there grew an unofficial proposal to Japan which turned out to be a mere fiasco, and which never impressed serious people in the slightest degree. Subsequently another project was mooted in this country, its basis being the chimera that Mexican silver would come to Japan to be minted if ships were available for its transport, but we need scarcely say that this scheme found its way immediately to the Foreign Office pigeon-holes. It will be seen, therefore, that the foundation of the *Kokkai's* tale is a pure myth. A double-barrelled story of such a nature is convenient, for while, on the one hand, it enables the *Kokkai* to represent Count OKUMA as a wild speculator crippled with debts, it provides, on the other, a weapon for attacking the Government, since the latter is charged with endeavouring to destroy Count OKUMA politically by urging the Bank to which he is indebted to press him mercilessly for payment. So far, indeed, does the *Kokkai* carry its disingenuous rôle that it pretends to remind the Cabinet Ministers of their old relations with Count OKUMA, and to upbraid them for cruel conduct toward a man who worked hand and glove with them twenty years ago. What is to be said of such journalism? Hardly, we think, in the whole history of Japanese newspapers are there to be found two incidents so disgraceful as the *Nippon's* action in the TEI affair and this reckless attempt of the *Kokkai* to traduce Count OKUMA. The Count himself can afford to treat a slanderer so extravagant with quiet contempt, but surely that cannot be a wholesome state of affairs which permits newspapers to exercise license of such a gross and unprincipled character. We are constrained to think that the *laissez-faire laissez-aller* principle is carried too far in Japan. It is certainly an excellent habit in many respects to go through the world minding one's own business and leaving other folks to settle their own. But the principle, pushed to ex-

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tremes such as it seems to reach in Japan, is inconsistent with the growth of anything like active and wholesome public opinion. It leads inevitably to a state of indifference and narrowness of moral vision, among the results of which are the toleration extended to the *soshi* and the apathy shown towards escapades like those of the *Nippon* and the *Kokkai*. If people had a larger conception of their responsibilities as units of the nation and of society, they would not suffer over-grown school-boys to convert the political arena into a Donnybrook Fair, neither would they be content to shrug their shoulders and pass on the other side of the way when a newspaper deliberately sets itself to traduce a public man. It is true, indeed, that in the presence of this *insouciant* mood libels like those of the *Kokkai* produce a correspondingly trivial effect. But moral anæsthesis, however convenient it may be under certain circumstances, is essentially characteristic of inferior beings. In Japan's wholesale process of grafting the new upon the old, some anomalies are bound to make their appearance, and newspapers should labour to remedy this state of affairs instead of regarding it as an opportunity for license.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE OTSU INCIDENT.

IN a recent issue we had occasion to allude to an extraordinary tale circulated by an English local journal of Kobe with reference to action falsely attributed to the Russian Representative in Tokyo. In making the correction we expressed surprise that any journalist should employ his columns for the purpose of publishing stories the effects of which can only be mischievous, and the details of which are obviously inconsistent with reasonable probability. A feeling of still greater astonishment is excited by an article published on the 23rd instant in an English newspaper of this Settlement. The purpose of the writer is to prove that, in dealing with the complications growing out of the Otsu affair, the Japanese Government showed culpable indifference to the national dignity, and the Russian Representative marked unconcern for the friendly relations between his country and Japan. The attempted demonstration is founded on two classes of arguments, expressions of opinion and statements of alleged facts. To the former category belong assertions that the Emperor of Japan "waived his dignity" when he proceeded from Tokyo to Kyoto to visit the wounded CZAREVITCH, and that HIS MAJESTY "sunk the proper dignity pertaining to the occupant of a throne" when he consented to lunch with the Russian PRINCE IMPERIAL on board the latter's ship. Both of these incidents are described in language plainly intended to bring the acts of the Japanese Sovereign into contempt. We are told that HIS MAJESTY "bustled down to Otsu to wait upon the young Russian PRINCE," and that when the EMPEROR invited the CZAREVITCH to partake of his hospitality, "HIS MAJESTY'S proferred civility was declined, and he was informed instead that the PRINCE would entertain the SOVEREIGN of Japan at tiffin afloat." Writing so reckless of effect and so careless of truth needs no explicit condemnation. That the EMPEROR of Japan should have proceeded in person to visit his Imperial guest, who had been the victim of a cruel outrage within HIS MAJESTY'S dominions and while guarded by HIS MAJESTY'S officials, was an act of common humanity, to say nothing of the dictates of hospitality or the promptings of international amity. To have remained coldly in Tokyo under the circumstances would have been to fail altogether in the duties of civilized intercourse, and none would have been louder in their denunciations of such discourteous apathy than the critics who now pretend that the standard of kingly dignity has been lowered by the gracious act of a humane and hospitable sovereign. As for HIS MAJESTY'S visit to the CZAREVITCH on board ship, it has already been officially stated that the medical advisers of the wounded PRINCE forbade him to undertake the fatigue and excitement of landing. If the Imperial host and his guest were to meet again before the CZAREVITCH left Japan, the only course was for the EMPEROR to accept the PRINCE'S hospitality, and we can only marvel at the singular bias which professes to consider that the prestige of the Throne was compromised by a choice so natural and so kindly as that made by the EMPEROR under these conditions. It was by no means the first occasion of HIS MAJESTY'S visiting foreign Princes on board their ships in Japanese waters, but even though no precedents existed, the nature of the case would have amply warranted exceptional procedure.

Turning from expressions of opinion to statements of alleged facts, we find several astounding assertions, as that the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs was most unceremoniously refused audience of the CZAREVITCH when he had journeyed expressly from Kyoto to Kobe to pay his respects to the PRINCE, and that the Russian Representative in Tokyo subsequently procured the removal of the Minister by declining to continue diplomatic relations with him. On the strength of this evidence the Japanese Government is accused of "pusillanimity in sacrificing Viscount AOKI to propitiate the Russian Envoy," and the Russian Representative is held up as behaving in a manner inconsistent with every acknowledged principle of international etiquette. Few persons will be found, we imagine, to credit such obviously wild canards, and fewer still to approve of the conduct of a foreign newspaper published in Japan which deliberately endeavours to bring the Sovereign of the country into contempt, to injure the friendly relations between this State and a neighbouring empire, and to educate among the people discontent and umbrage against their rulers.

THE ERI SILK OF ASSAM.

AS everything relating to silk is of interest in this country, the record of the efforts being made by the local government of Assam to improve and bring into commercial favour the peculiar silk known as *eri* silk, cannot fail to attract attention here as elsewhere in countries in which silk is a staple. A report of Mr. DARRAH, the Director of the Agricultural Department of Assam, published recently at Shillong, places several facts at our disposal. The report itself is a lengthy and ill-digested document, as such official publications, especially in India, have a knack of being; but the gist of the whole will be found in the following abstract.

The *eri* silk of Assam is the product of a polyvoltine worm known as the *philosamia ricini*, which feeds on the castor-oil plant and the *keseru* tree (*heteropanax fragrans*). The worm derives both its scientific and its vulgar name from its attachment to the castor-oil plant called *eri* in Assamese, and is reared entirely indoors. The castor-oil plant grows abundantly in the ryot's garden, springing up from dropped seed in every little patch of unoccupied land around his house. The tending of the worms devolves principally upon the women of the family, and goes on all the year round. As many as eight broods can be obtained in twelve months, but the number actually reared never exceeds five or six, and depends a good deal upon the quantity of food which chance has provided, since no care is taken to ensure a supply by planting out trees. The autumn, winter, and spring broods, spinning their cocoons in November, February, and May respectively, are chiefly destined for use, and of these the spring cocoons are the most numerous, and yield the largest quantity of silk. The broods of the rainy months are reared for the purpose of perpetuating the stock. But both breeding and spinning, to a greater or less extent, go on all the year round. Cocoons reserved for breeding are placed in a round basket woven of bamboo, with a narrow mouth, and are hung up in the house out of the way of rats and insects. After about 15 days in the hot season, and 20 to 30 days in the colder months, the moths emerge, and are allowed to move about in the basket for four-and-twenty hours. The females, distinguished by their larger body and broader and flatter abdomen, are then tied to pieces of reed or *ulu* grass by a ligature passing under the shoulder joint of a pair of wings on one side of the body only, leaving the pair of wings on the other side free. The moths will thus be tied to a

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piece of reed two feet long. The males, though left at liberty, do not attempt to fly away, but remain with the females, to which they have attached themselves, until the latter have laid their eggs, when the males depart. If some of the females, as may easily happen for want of any criterion of sex in the cocoon, are unprovided with males, they are exposed on the eaves of the house in the evening, and are visited by any stray males that may be in the vicinity. The female lays about 200 eggs in three days, and the life of the moth lasts a day or two longer. The eggs are picked off the straws, wrapped in a piece of cloth, and hung up in the house. The period of hatching varies according to the season; with an average temperature of 83° F., it has been found not to exceed a week, but in the winter it is about 15 days, and in the months of medium temperature 9 or 10 days is the usual term. When the eggs begin to hatch, the cloth is opened, and tender leaves of the castor-plant, previously crushed between the fingers to render them still softer, are supplied to the young worms for food, and subsequently they are transferred to a bamboo tray suspended in a place of safety. As the worms grow stronger, older leaves are given to them. Their supply of food is occasionally intercepted by swarms of caterpillars appearing on the castor-oil plant about June. It is at seasons like these that the leaves of a variety of trees are used as substitutes for the favourite food of the worm. Large numbers of worms are lost by disease, of which neither the nature nor the remedy is known, but which probably has its origin in uncleanliness. The native account of the disease is simply that the worm ceases to eat and withers away. The ichneumon fly is a deadly enemy. Its bite, which leaves a black mark, usually proves fatal to the worm at the next moulting; and if the wound has been inflicted after the last moulting, the worm spins a smaller cocoon, and dies before it is completed, leaving the eggs of the fly to hatch inside the cocoon. Rats are still more destructive, sometimes sweeping off an entire brood in a single night. The number of moultings is four. The caterpillar is first about a quarter of an inch in length, and appears of a blackish yellow colour. As it increases in size, it becomes orange with small black spots on each of the twelve rings which form its body. The head, claws, and holders are black; after the second moulting, they change to orange; and the colour of the body gradually becomes lighter, in some approaching to white, in others to green; the black spots also gradually approximate to the colour of the body. After the fourth or last moulting, the colour is a dirty white or a dark green. After the final moulting, the worms are transferred from the tray to forked twigs of the castor-oil plants, with the leaves on suspended across a piece of reed. As the worms attain maturity, they cease to feed, and crawl to the top of the fork; and if held up to the ear, and gently rolled between the fingers, their bodies emit a crackling or rustling sound. They are now placed on a bundle of dried plantain-leaves, or branches of trees with the withered leaves attached, and this also, like the feeding-tray, is suspended from the roof within doors. Here they begin to spin, usually on the same day, and not unfrequently two worms will select the same leaves as their covert, and join their cocoons together. The time occupied in spinning is three to six days. A complete cycle of the insect may be as long as twelve weeks in winter, or as short as six weeks in summer, while in the intermediate months it varies between these extremes. The dimensions of a full-sized cocoon are about $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. The cocoon without the chrysalis weighs five grains. It is destitute of floss. Its proper colour is white, but a large proportion of the cocoons are of a dark brick-red colour, for which it is difficult to account. Worms of the same brood, fed on the same leaves, will produce dark and light cocoons indifferently. The dark colour can be purged away by boiling the cocoon in alkali water. It is said that in some places where cocoons are sold the white cocoons are sorted out, and command a higher price. There is reason to believe that, with proper care in providing the worms with suitable shelter for spinning, the proportion of white cocoons could be increased, and the quality also of the silk could be improved. In preparing the cocoons for use, the first step is to destroy the life in the chrysalis. For this purpose exposure to the sun during one or two days is usually sufficient, and this is the method preferred by the cultivators as enabling them to keep the cocoons longer, and avoiding the discolouration which is caused by fire. When fire has to be employed, it is applied under bamboo trays, upon which the cocoons are placed. Cocoons intended for immediate use are boiled for two or three hours in an alkaline solution of the ashes of the plantain stem in water, which serves the double purpose of killing the chrysalis and softening the cocoon. Usually, however, the cultivator keeps his cocoon until he has a stock sufficiently large to make it worth his while to begin to spin. He then boils them in this solution. In this way cocoons several years old, if they have been kept uninjured, can be softened and rendered capable of spinning. After this process, the cocoons are opened, and the chrysalis is extracted; they are next washed white, slightly kneaded in the hand, dried in the sun, and are then ready for use. The *eri* cocoon has been successfully reeled in Italy, and experiments have shown that it can be reeled in India, but the only method employed by the cultivator is that of spinning off the silk by hand. At the time of spinning, the empty cocoons are placed in an earthen bowl containing water, with which a little cowdung is sometimes mixed. Each cocoon is taken up separately, and the silk is drawn off in a coarse thread, nearly as thick as twine. Uniformity of thickness is roughly preserved by rubbing the thread between the finger and thumb, and in this way also new cocoons are joined on. It is said that six spinners can spin about 8 oz. of thread in a day, consuming 1,200, to 1,500 cocoons. The most important fabrics woven from the thread are waistcloths and sheets. The latter are large pieces of cloth about 6 to 7 yards long, by 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width, and their price varies from Rs. 7 to Rs. 20, according to quality. The cloth is often extremely coarse, and of a dark colour and open texture, but it is always very durable, and the texture grows closer by weaving, as the nap or floss rubbed off the thread serves to fill the interstices. A superior piece of *eri* cloth, on the other hand, is nearly as white as linen, and fine enough to make a travelling dress for a lady. One excellent quality of these fabrics is their exceeding durability. An ordinary piece of cloth is reckoned to last thirty years. Until recently the trade was mainly local in that region of India, but it now extends to England, where the demand is increasing, owing to the discovery of machinery adapted for utilizing the cocoon, which practically cannot be reeled, but must be spun.

Since 1886 successive experiments have been made at the expense of the Government to make *eri* silk a commercial commodity. Mr. DARRAH says he is of opinion that the silk has great possibilities, although all these experiments have failed. He believes the culture can be conducted on a commercial scale, and that the time will come when much capital will be embarked in it, and when it will form one of the most important staples of Assam. The climate is ideal for the growth of silk. The food of the worm is almost a weed in many parts of the province, and actually a weed in others. The worm is exceedingly prolific and the labour required for rearing it is such as can be given by decrepit and infirm members of the community. This sort of labour exactly suits the Assamese, to whom even the light work of a tea-garden is repugnant. The produce required needs no skill in the handling; reelers are not wanted; nothing but the empty shell from which the chrysalis has been extracted or the moth has escaped is asked for in England, and for this commodity the demand far exceeds the supply. It is difficult to imagine a combination of circumstances which promise better for the commercial success of any commodity, and if a small amount of capital were to be invested in this enterprise by a man who was prepared to watch closely all details, to live on the spot with his castor-oil plants, to record

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carefully all facts, however unimportant apparently, connected with his experiment, there is no doubt that he would inaugurate an industry capable of rendering profitable again the land of many an exhausted tea-garden in Assam. For this purpose Mr. DARRAH gives various detailed directions with which, however, we are not concerned here.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Some time ago there appeared in the *Mail* a severe criticism of a letter written by a Japanese lawyer in reply to the printed requests for information about land-tenure issued under the auspices of the Asiatic Society.

The discourtesy of the reply was, in my humble opinion, entirely justified. The Society has issued a demand that three hundred complicated legal questions be answered, that maps and documents of all sorts be collected and forwarded, that manuscript, to the amount of many hundred folio pages, be written for their benefit—without one cent of compensation, except a mention of the worker's name. However praiseworthy the object of the undertaking, the methods followed seem to me both logically and morally unjust. I certainly should never dream of asking any Japanese to do one hundredth part of the work without ample compensation. Some of the information demanded, such as the personal history of Daimyōs, would require much research and time. Nor is it reasonable or right to ask for maps and legal documents from the Japanese without paying for them. Irritable answers to such requests may be naturally expected; and the making of such requests, in the name of any society, however learned, is apt to create in Japanese minds an exaggerated idea of foreign selfishness, and little respect for the Society itself.

I am, Sir,

ONE WHO RECEIVED THE CIRCULAR.

June 15th, 1891.

CHRISTIAN "SCIENTIFIC" METHODS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Mr. Tyng, in his reply to my criticisms on Professor Howard, seems to misapprehend the points I put with reference to the writings of the early Fathers and their bearing upon New Testament criticism and Christian "evidences," and it may be well to restate the argument briefly as follows:—The New Testament, the story of Christ, and the doctrines associated therewith, are, in the opinion of competent scholars, compilations from many sources, and developments or corruptions of older philosophies, in which Greek and Hebrew learning mingled with legend and tradition, and became the foundation of a system and a literature which only took form and shape as we now have it at the end of the second century; and especially that our Four Gospels were not the work of the writes whose names they bear, but were compiled at a much later date from earlier and varying authorities who are continually referred to by the early Fathers. Only by this means it is considered possible to account for the many and diverging characteristics of what ultimately came to be called Christianity.

It used to be held that the nearer we got back to the supposed days of Christ, the nearer should we be to beholding what the Church of Christ ought to be, and Christian sects have sometimes prefixed the word "primitive" to their distinctive names, apparently quite in ignorance that "primitive" Christians differed far more in essentials from each other than do the most diverse sects of Christians to-day.

Mr. Tyng seems to think that if he can produce from the early Fathers a certain number of quotations *more or less resembling* our present Gospels, he thereby establishes the fact that those early Fathers were acquainted with our New Testament in its present form, whereas they really prove something very different—namely, that as these quotations differ sometimes most strikingly from our existing Gospels, the writers were evidently quoting from [illegible] and quite different authorities.

[illegible] will best explain what I mean. [illegible] at Shakespeare in constructing [illegible] h of the work of historians who [illegible] ularly Holinshed's *Chronicles*, in some instances simply casting the actual language of his authorities into poetic form. Now suppose we were to find a writer of the sixteenth century quoting from an unknown source a phrase or incident which Shakespeare, with a few verbal alterations, had incorporated into one of his works, would "one or two coincidences" or "points of resemblance" be a proof that the sixteenth-century writer was acquainted with the works of the seventeenth-century Shakespeare? The answer is easy as regards Shakespeare simply because we have contemporary evidence for the period in which he lived; yet it is quite within the bounds of probability that contemporary evidence may in the course of ages disappear, and the question as to what century his works belong may have to be settled by the very method in which criticism is now settling the age of the writings in our New Testament.

But on Mr. Tyng's method, we should then decide that Shakespeare must have preceded the sixteenth-century writer who has "one or two coincidences" or "points of resemblance" with him. Thus he quotes certain words of Athenagoras which that writer refers to the "Logos," and which taken by themselves seem to be quotations from the New Testament, but omits to mention that in the same work Athenagoras cites other sayings of the "Logos" which differ materially from or are not to be found in our Gospels. For example, Mr. Tyng quotes from Athenagoras and refers to Matt. v. 28, the sentence, "For he that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery already in his heart." Standing by itself, this certainly looks like a quotation; but then Athenagoras continues, "The Logos again says to us, 'If any one kiss a second time, because it has given pleasure, he sins,' adding, "Therefore the kiss, or rather the salutation, should be given with the great care, since if there be mixed with it the least defilement of thought, it excludes us from eternal life.'" Is this also a quotation from the New Testament?' If not, why should the first sentence quoted be referred thereto? Surely it is clear that Athenagoras was quoting from an authority which, though certainly not our present New Testament, may very probably have have been one of the writings upon which it was based; but if this be admitted, away goes the claim that our present gospels are either divinely inspired or written by the men whose names they bear.

I do not suppose Mr. Tyng will deny that there are Gospels quoted by name by the early Fathers which, though they have not survived, yet seem to have been regarded with equal reverence to that paid to-day to our present Gospels. As the author of "Supernatural Religion" says, even slight variations are very important in connection with the question as to the source from which quotations are derived, and he gives as illustrations the following:—"The passage, 'See thou say nothing to any man, but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest,' occurring in a work like the Homilies, would, supposing our second Gospel no longer extant, be referred to Matthew VIII. 4, with which it entirely agrees, with the exception of its containing the one extra word 'nothing.' It, however, actually corresponds with Mark I. 44, though not with our first Gospel. Then again, supposing that our first Gospel had shared the fate of so many others of the πολλοί of Luke (I. 1), and in some early work the following passage were found: 'A prophet is not without honour except in his own country and in his own house,' this passage would undoubtedly be claimed by apologists as a quotation from Mark vi. 4, and as proving the existence and use of that Gospel. The omission of the words 'and among his own kin' would, at first, be explained as mere abbreviation, or defect of memory; but on the discovery that part or all of these words are omitted from some MSS., that, for instance, the phrase is erased from the oldest copy known, the Codex Sinaiticus, the derivation from the second Gospel would be considered as established. The author, notwithstanding, might never have seen that Gospel, for the quotation corresponds with Matthew xiii. 57." It is thus perfectly evident that if we only apply to these references of the early Fathers the same method of reasoning which would most certainly be applied to them if Christianity did not have to be defended, very different conclusions would be reached by unprejudiced thinkers to those put forward in order to bolster up the historical claims of Christianity.

As regards Tatian, Mr. Tyng points out that the *Diatessaron* (of which Eusebius says, "Tatian having formed a certain collection of gospels, I know not how, has given it the title *Diatessaron*, which is in the possession of some even now") has recently (1888) been discovered in an Arabic translation, and has been published in Rome by Ciasca, and twits me with my ignorance thereof. Well, I am not ashamed to say that the discovery was unknown to me; nor, under the peculiar conditions of life in the East, where one is without the many channels through which at home such information reaches one, do I think it any disgrace that I was unaware of this particular discovery; and I should be obliged to Mr. Tyng if he will kindly refer me to authorities or quarters where I can obtain further information. Since writing my previous letter to the *Japan Mail*, my attention has been drawn to the fact that though, so far as I have had an opportunity of consulting them, English authorities appear to be silent on the point, Brockhaus' *Conv.-Lex.*, under the heading "Tatianus," says:—"Under the name *Diatessaron* he wrote the oldest Gospel Harmony, which through the medium of Ephraim the Syrian's Commentary—still existing in the Osmanic language—has been handed down to us nearly complete (*cf.* Mösinger, 'Evangelii concordantis expositio facta a S. Ephremo,' etc., Venice, 1876)." ("Er verfasste unter dem Namen *Diatessaron* die älteste Evangelienharmonie, welche durch Vermittelung des in osmanischer Sprache erhaltenen Kommentars von Ephraim dem Syrer ziemlich vollständig auf uns gekommen ist.")

From the meagre references given by Mr. Tyng, however, it is somewhat difficult to determine the precise value to be attached to the "find," for a "life of Christ formed by weaving together into one narrative the four Gospels" might prove to have as its real foundation the same authorities from which our present Gospels have been compiled. As to its "beginning with the opening part of the Gospel of St. John," the "one or two coincidences" of Mr. Tyng's other authorities have been shown to be so far from conclusive that I hope I may be pardoned for asking "more light" here; for in the admitted work of Tatian which has come down to us, the "Address to the Greeks," he commences in somewhat similar fashion to that of the fourth Gospel: "The Logos, begotten in the beginning, begat in turn our world, having first created for himself the necessary matter," and Mr. Tyng, on the same principle with which he deals with other "coincidences," is no doubt prepared here also to recognise a distinct quotation from the fourth Gospel, a conclusion which can hardly be admitted when the striking variations are considered.

Mr. Tyng thinks it surprising that any one should put forward a theory that in the second century there were Christians who had never heard of Jesus Christ. But the theory is neither very new nor very improbable, for there are many reasons for believing that what is now called Christianity was a combination of many various systems, in some of which the "Logos" mentioned by Philo occupied the place afterwards assigned to Christ. Mr. Tyng himself admits that Athenagoras and Theophilus, while calling themselves Christians, refer only to "God," "the Logos," and "Son"; and though he does not say so, surely he must himself find it surprising that these two professed Christians do not refer specifically to Jesus Christ. And it is still more curious that one of them, Theophilus, should actually give a definition of Christianity which quite omits mention of Christ altogether. The passage is so remarkable as to be worth quoting in full. It occurs in a defence of Christianity addressed by Theophilus to his friend Autolycus:—"About your laughing at me, and calling me 'Christian,' you know not what you are saying. First, because that which is anointed is sweet and serviceable, and far from contemptible. For what ship can be serviceable and seaworthy, unless it be first anointed with oil? Or what castle or home is beautiful or serviceable when it has not been anointed? And what man, when he enters into this life or into the gymnasium, is not anointed with oil? And what work has either ornament or beauty, unless it be anointed and burnished? Then the air and all that is under heaven is in a certain sort anointed by light and spirit; and are you unwilling to be anointed with the oil of God? Wherefore we are called Christians on this account, because we are anointed with the oil of God." ("Primitive Church History," p. 14). Truly, if it is difficult to realise the play of "Hamlet" with the part of *Hamlet* omitted, it is more difficult to realise a Christian giving a fairly long definition of Christianity in which there is no mention of Christ, if his creed were founded either upon our New Testament or upon the teaching of the personage whose words and actions are recorded in our Gospels.

Mr. Tyng concludes his letter by saying that the author of "Supernatural Religion" has been effectually answered by Bishop Lightfoot, and quotes the opinion of a reviewer in the New York *Nation* that the Bishop has shown the author of "Supernatural Religion" to be wanting in scholarship. Of course the writer in the *Nation* has a right to his opinion, but it is by no means impro-

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bable that he is a cleric, and so biassed, as I happen to know that some of the leading reviews employ clergymen to deal with these subjects in their columns; but however this may be, it is very amusing to notice that while every fresh answer to the author of "Supernatural Religion" is always considered perfectly conclusive—by the orthodox—the defenders of Christianity become so doubtful after a short time as to whether it really is annihilated by the latest clerical bombshell, that they go on replying to it year after year. Bishop Lightfoot, it appears, conclusively answered the author of "Supernatural Religion" in 1889, and yet in the very next year the Rev. H. W. Watkins, M.A., D.D., finds it necessary to devote considerable space in the "Bampton Lectures for 1890" to a further reply, in which he classes the writer of that book with critics such as Scholten, Tayler, Abbott, Davidson, Martineau, and Delff. It reminds one of the fashion in which Thomas Paine was for fifty years periodically "annihilated" by some great cleric or other, while much of his criticism, notwithstanding the incomplete materials to his hand, is perfectly unanswered even to-day.

However, it is worth while to note that Mr. Tyng's reply does not after all deal with my principal criticism of Professor Howard's methods; and I am even inclined to think that Mr. Tyng himself agrees with me that the lecture was at least improperly entitled "The Christ Judged by *Scientific* Methods," for surely it is very far from scientific to put forward, as if unchallenged, quotations which have been shown on very good authority to be forgeries. Professor Howard may of course regard the passages he quotes as genuine, but as a matter of honesty he should at least have stated that competent scholars have held otherwise.

I notice in yesterday's *Japan Mail* another—well, I was going to say "reply" to my remarks on Professor Howard's lecture, but I have already called Mr. Tyng's letter by that term, and it would be grossly insulting that gentleman to place his remarks in the same category as those appearing yesterday. I do not know whether Professor Howard will be flattered at the support there given him, and I very much doubt whether the editor will feel complimented in having Professor Howard's lecture rated as the "best thing" ever seen in "the *Mail*." It would be interesting, also, to know what an educated man like Mr. Tyng thinks of his ally, for if "a boy twelve years old that has ever read his first book of history and a monthly magazine" were to try and display his scholarship by signing himself "A. Amor Veritas" he would come very near a whipping for perpetrating such shocking "dog-Latin."

Yours truly,
SECULARIAN.

Kobe, June 14th, 1891.

"A STRANGE CASE" OF NEWSPAPER CRITICISM.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I notice in the leading article of the *Japan Gazette* of last night a criticism of a law case recently decided by the Fukuoka Juzai Saibansho in accordance with an order of the Court of Cassation. The criticism seems *fair so far as it goes:* but what I call "strange" is that it is stated towards the end of the very article that "It is an unfortunate circumstance for Japan that the proceedings in her courts of justice are not more fully published, as the scanty details which are ventilated in the native papers are certainly more likely to do the country harm than good. *The courts in question may possibly have both been perfectly justified in their decisions, but without knowing more of the facts than has been so far published, foreigners may be excused if they arrive at wrong conclusions as to the present condition of Japan's Judiciary, and the equity with which 'justice' is meted out to her people.*"*

Now, I should like to ask you if the duty of an editor of the newspaper press of your nation—an institution which, I am quite prepared to admit, is superior to our own, at least in respect of age—is according to your idea fulfilled by passing comments seriously in a leading article on a law case like the one in question, on the acknowledged basis of a scribbling and disjointed report appearing in an ordinary political journal, without taking the trouble to study the facts and evidence adduced in the case, which could doubtless be very easily procured by reference to the Japanese law journals of which there are more than one published? If this is so according to your idea, I am afraid that my countrymen, who are ever ready to credit and admire your various institutions, will begin to place but very little value upon at least one of them—the newspaper press—and will at best conclude that its conductors have a very unfair and unbusiness-like way of treating an important subject relating to a friendly nation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A JAPANESE STUDENT.

Tokio, June 25th, 1891.

* The italics are my own.

"SECULARIAN."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—"Secularian," in your issue of yesterday, seems to credit me with a larger attempt than I really made. I did not try to establish the fact that the early Fathers were acquainted with our New Testament in its present form? The quotations I gave were a very small part indeed of the evidence producible by any one who seriously made such an attempt. They would perhaps be sufficient, even if we did not have evidence from Clement and Polycarp and Ignatius, from Papias and Justin Martyn and many other sources. But my purpose in producing them was simply to show that "Secularian," in asserting so dogmatically that Tatian, Athenagoras, and Theophilus do not mention either Jesus Christ or the New Testament, was not quite so strict in his "scientific method" as he wished others to be.

I was very far also from wishing to twit "Secularian" with ignorance of the discovery of Tatian's Diatessaron. He is quite right in saying that here in the East such ignorance is no disgrace. His fault as I regarded it was not ignorance but unwarranted dogmatism. The only reference I can give as to the discovery of the Diatessaron is the note at the end of the essay on Tatian's Diatessaron in Bishop Lightfoot's Essays on "Supernatural Religion." Ephraem Syrus's commentary on it is somewhat more fully treated in the seventh lecture of Salmon's Introduction to the New Testament. The Diatessaron opens with the words, "In the beginning was the Word."

"Secularian's" treatment of the quotations which I gave is an excellent example of the method used by the author of Supernatural Religion. These quotations, which he speaks of as "*more or less resembling* our present Gospels," resemble them so closely that the ordinary reader would probably detect no no difference whatever. "Secularian" discovers a few slight differences, and concludes that the quotations must be, not from the Gospels which have came down to us, but from other and earlier Gospels which have been lost. Has he never heard of inexactness of quotation? Surely he will admit, on reflection, that a good many Christians even in these days quote the New Testament inexactly. Yet now we have our whole Bible in one handy volume, and concordances at hand to aid us in turning at once to any passage wished. I do not know how it would be with "Secularian," but for my own part I must confess that if my library were like that of the Fathers, if I had no concordance, and my New Testament consisted of a number of rolls like Japanese *Kakimono*, I should probably always quote from memory, except when for some special reason minute verbal accuracy was important. But quotation from memory is extremely likely to be verbally inaccurate. The quotations of the Old Testament in the New often show verbal inaccuracy. That, on "Secularian's" principles, would prove that its writers quoted from some other Old Testament than that which has come down to us, especially when we remember that the Old Testament writers themselves often refer to older authorities. Or, to take a Shakespearean illustration, rather more pertinent than that which "Secularian" has given, we will suppose that some 17th century writer has a passage closely resembling the one in "Hamlet" beginning "To be, or not to be," but differing from that in several details. "Secularian" ought then to maintain that it was quoted, not from Shakespeare, but from some author whose works have been lost to us. He would hardly, however, carry the world with him. Even if he could show that there were other dramatists in the 16th century quite equal to Shakespeare, whose works have been lost, it would help his argument very little. So also it would give very little help to his present argument if I should admit (as I am very far from doing,) that there were other Gospels quoted by the Fathers with reverence equal to that which they pay to our four.

"Secularian" supposes that I will agree with him in condemning Prof. Howard's method as unscientific. My not having attempted to defend Prof. Howard may perhaps have led him to this conclusion. The truth is, however, that I read only a part of the report of Prof. Howard's lecture, and that rather hastily, so that I did not feel competent to pronounce any judgment upon it. I cannot, however, see anything unscientific in any one's taking for granted for the purposes of an argument anything that can be maintained with any show of reason, if he states clearly what it is that he thus assumes.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to "Secularian" for the courtesy of his rejoinder to me. It would have been a very good thing if all controversies in the *Mail* on such subjects could always have been conducted with equal courtesy.

I am, very truly yours,
T. S. TYNG.

Tokyo, June 24th, 1891.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In a *Mail* received to-day, I find a letter from Doctor Howard, in which there is an attempt to represent Professor Huxley and Herbert Spencer as Bible-believing Christians. When this Doctor made these quotations, he misrepresented two of the greatest minds of our age,—a serious misrepresentation of fact which should not pass unnoticed. Herbert Spencer never uttered or wrote any such words. Professor Huxley, the sturdy champion of scientific facts against Christian prejudice and Bible superstition, is too well known as a polemicist to need any elucidation of his real opinions from friends of common-sense. But Herbert Spencer, whose work, vast as the sea, may be far less generally familiar, can be misquoted with more impunity. I should like to know from Mr. Howard when, or in what work, Mr. Spencer, or Mr. Huxley, used the language which he has taken the liberty to put in their mouths. Replying to "Secularian," who caught him in another fragrant misstatement, he quoted the Bodleian Library just as he might have quoted the South Pole. Such vast and vague assertions without substantiation, lead me to suppose that he will quote the British Museum as a reply to my question. He claims to be only a layman, with plenty of leisure;—the same claim was made by a missionary teacher in western Japan, who told his Japanese pupils that "*only ignorant people read Herbert Spencer*,"—*he* had himself never read him. There seems to be a striking similarity in the knowledge and the laymanship of both parties.

Now please allow me to quote a little from Herbert Spencer's real opinions.

"Of all antagonisms of belief, the oldest, the widest, the most profound and the most important is that between Religion and Science."—(*Synthetic Philosophy*, First Principles, page 12.)

"Religion has been compelled by science to give up one after another of its dogmas.—of those assumed cognitions which it could not substantiate." (*Ibid*, page 107.)

"It is alike our highest wisdom and our highest duty to regard that through which all things exist *as the unknowable*."—(*Ibid*, page 113.)

Regarding Mr. Howard's pretended quotation as to science being *religious*,—let me quote again:—

"Those who cannot conceive a self-existent universe, and who therefore assume a creator as the source of the universe, take for granted that they can conceive a self-existent creator. But they delude themselves. Self-existence is rigorously inconceivable. Whoever agrees that the atheistic hypothesis is untenable because it involves the impossible idea of self-existence, must perforce admit that the theistic hypothesis is untenable if it contains the same impossible idea."—(*Ibid*. page 35.)

Now let Mr. Howard reconcile that with the fables of his Christian Bible!

Again:—"Science has continually defeated it [Religion] wherever they have come into collision."

Nowhere did Mr. Spencer ever say so gross an absurdity as that "true Science is religious;"—nowhere did Professor Huxley ever disgrace his own common-sense by identifying knowledge with superstition. Religion as a universal sentiment among mankind has certainly been spoken of by Mr. Spencer as a *correlative* to Science,—and why? Simply because both Science and Religion have recognized the existence of that incomprehensible ultimate, which science modestly calls the Unknowable, and which Religion calls by a million names to no purpose. But, be it very strictly observed that even in speaking of Religion, the world's greatest philosopher speaks of *universal* religion only, as a phase in the history of human consciousness,—not the so-called religion of any petty creed or sect, and, least of all, the thing called "Bible Christianity."

Perhaps the students of the Imperial University may be induced to believe that Spencer and Huxley swallow the Bible every morning for breakfast. But, even in Japan, there are foreigners who know too much about the science of our age, and the scientific minds of our age, to suffer such misrepresentations of science and its apostles to pass unnoticed.

Yours, &c., LAFCADIO HEARN.

Matsui, June 20th, 1891.

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ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

Annual Meeting.

The annual general meeting of members of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held on Tuesday in the rooms of the Society in Tsukiji, Tokyo. Rev. Dr. Amerman presided and there was a large attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting, having been already published, were confirmed.

A paper was then read by Mr. Percival Lowell comparing the Japanese and Burmese languages. Noting at the outset the changes to which language is subject, Mr. Lowell went on to say that the inevitable evolution was to a certain extent retarded where phonetic writing was in practice. Most of the Altaic races learned to read and write quite recently so far as education went, the Japanese and the Burmese both acquiring the art about twelve centuries ago. For reasons which he described, he found that the method by which to compare the two languages must be, not sound but thought, and when that method was adopted, all at once a resemblance showed itself. Prefacing that in the matter of verbal roots they were widely dissimilar, he went on to explain that both had but two parts of speech: in place of the long grammatical list through which the Western schoolboy had to plod, his far eastern counterpart cut the whole thing in two; facts and acts were what he had to go on. The facts included all parts of speech and were incapable of alteration; acts alone were capable of modification. To show how completely and primitively the Japanese and the Burmese denote facts he instanced the far-Eastern treatment of negation—which was introduced by a verb: to the early mind a fact could not be negatived. After comparing the Burmese form of "nobody" ("There is not so much as him") with the Japanese ("who even is not") the lecturer said that in the matter of gender the Burmese were as innocent as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and this led him to speak of the practice of appending to proper names the generic name for objects of each class. A Japanese river might change its name many times in its course to the sea, but it always retained the generic name for river (*Kawa*) and the same in the case of mountains, with one salient exception, Fuji. The Burmese did the same, and in some respects went further. Another point that he noted was the use of an explanatory phrase following a word as in the Japanese *to iu*, and he instanced the sentence *Naraya to iu Yadoya*, which, with the double use of the term for "house," he termed a three storied expression for a two storied affair. The Burmese, he said, designated people in a similar circumlocutory manner. With the remark that the Burmese may be said to possess a plural after the fashion of the so called plural in Japanese as a double singular, he spoke next of pronouns, and stated that in both tongues there existed but one direct pronoun and that as it were under a cloud, the simplest form of the first person, for though there were hosts of them in polite fiction there was only one in fact. From the dawn of life every individual endowed with even the dimmest form of consciousness must be endowed with the fundamental fact, that "I is, it feels; it eats." So with the beginnings of speech there was a lively recognition of *meum*, preceding a sense of the existence of *tuum*. After speaking of the frequency of auxiliary numerals in the Burmese language and noting other peculiarities, Mr. Lowell, dealing with the verbs, said these constituted more than one half the parts of speech in Burmese, but though they represented acts they did not represent actions: deeds were not done, things eventuated. The tenses of the verb were next commented on, the similarity to Japanese in the Burmese treatment of the future being pointed out, and reference being also made to the abundance of honorifics in both tongues.

Mr. J. M. Dixon expressed the great delight with which he had listened to the paper, which he said was full of electricity. It was extremely pleasant to have heard Mr. Lowell merely as a mental gymnastic. Not being a student either of Japanese or of Burmese he could not speak as to the value of Mr. Lowell's conclusions, but in any case they were extremely suggestive.

Rev. G. T. Smith asked whether Mr. Lowell could make any comparison as to mathematics: how far could the Burmese count?

Mr. Lowell could not answer that question. The Burmese derived their numerals from the Pali. Their numerals, so far as he could see, presented no resemblance to the Chinese or Japanese. But such languages could not be taken in the same way as we would our own languages.

The Chairman had expected that a paper upon such a subject would have given rise to a most animated discussion, and in that respect he had been disagreeably disappointed. However, he was sure all had shared in high enjoyment of Mr. Lowell's paper, and if criticism were not passed that must no doubt be referred to the general pleasure the paper had given. He thanked Mr. Lowell in the name of the society.

Mr. Lowell was sorry that Mr. Dixon had spoken of electricity because that meant shocks, and that was just what he did not want to give. He had cut out the best parts, just that he might not do so.

Mr. Dixon suggested that shocks might be of a pleasurable nature.

Mr. Lowell and the Chairman having invited further discussion,

Mr. Droppers said Mr. Lowell seemed to approach the subject of language from a living, human nature point of view. His paper was a very living presentation of the subject, but the question was: could not the same thing be done with almost any two languages, for human nature was necessarily very much alike all over the world.

Mr. Lowell said the question might be answered logically—thus if it could be done of all languages he was not wrong in doing it of two; and next if it could not be done of all languages and he was wrong in doing it, then he was right.—(Laughter.) It was the combination of all the coincidences that made the thing impressive. It was not a question of verbs, or of adjectives, or of pronouns, or of numerals, or any one of these things separately, but of all them occurring concomitantly. Take our own languages, and see how many of them could be compared on these lines of thoughts. He was of opinion that Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Burmese were all of the same family, though, that was not proved yet.

Mr. Agassiz, as a visitor availed himself of the Chairman's invitation, to say that Mr. Lowell's comparison would hold good with any nations in which there was a similarity of original methods of thought, for there only a few ways in which men could think.

Mr. Lowell contended that the comparison could not be made verbally, and for it one must go back to the forms of thought.

Rev. Mr. Smith asked whether in Burmese there was not a word *she*, used as the Japanese used *sunu*.

Mr. Lowell thought there was such a word, but did not know whether it was so used or not, but pointed out that Burmese had not yet reached the agglutinative stage.

Dr. Divers asked whether Mr. Lowell meant that the two languages had a common origin, or that in the course of time languages that had a common origin lost their common words but in the most marvellous way preserved their common thoughts.

Mr. Lowell meant that they were of the same family.

Dr. Divers thought Mr. Lowell's paper suggested rather a common racial origin because their language showed a common primitive order of thought.

Rev. Clay McCauley instanced the case of tribes of North American Indians to show that peoples closely allied might evolve different languages.

Dr. Florenz expressed the opinion that the Burmese and Japanese languages were entirely different, and cited various points to prove his contention.

The meeting then proceeded to general business.

Mr. Chamberlain read the report as follows:—

Report of the Council for the Session October, 1890—June, 1891.

The session now brought to a close has been a highly productive one. Two Parts of the volume of "Transactions" for the current year (Vol. XIX.) have already been published, and a third is in the printer's hands.

Ten General Meetings of the Society have been held in Tokyo, at which thirteen papers have been read, and two in Yokohama, at one of which a paper was read, while at the other a popular lecture was delivered. A glance at Appendix *A* will suffice to show how great is the variety of subjects that have been treated. The Society has furthermore endeavoured to enlist in the cause of Japanese studies even those who do not belong to its ranks, by issuing in pamphlet form a series of questions on the subject of Japanese Land Tenure. Copies of this pamphlet, both in English and Japanese, have been distributed throughout the country to missionaries, school teachers, and others whose opportunities may enable them to give assistance in a matter of such interest to the student of early Japanese law and customs.

The list of Exchanges (Appendix *B*) gives the titles of the periodical publications of other learned societies which are at the disposal of the members in the Reading-room, No. 17, Tsukiji, Tokyo.

The Treasurer's statement (Appendix *C*) bears witness to the satisfactory condition of the Society from a financial point of view. This it is that has permitted of the setting apart of a sum of $300 for the purchase of sundry valuable books on Japan, and for the purpose of enabling Professor J. H. Wigmore to carry out the plan of translating and editing several volumes relating to civil and commercial customs and to judicial matters under the Tokugawa Shogunate.

The Society has sustained the loss of one of its founders and most valued Honorary Members, the Rev. Dr. E. W. Syle, who passed away at an advanced age, respected and regretted by all. The general membership of the Society has slightly increased, bearing witness to the sustained interest felt in the Society's labours both here and beyond seas.

The Council are pleased to be able to announce that they have concluded an arrangement whereby the library has been placed in No. 17, Tsukiji, and a reading-room for members opened in connection with it.

Appendix *A*.

List of Papers Read before the Society during the Session 1890-1891.

"The Depth of the Pacific off the East Coast of Japan, with a Comparison of other Oceanic Depths," by Rear-Admiral G. E. Belknap, U.S.N.

"Mental Characteristics of the Japanese," by Walter Dening, Esq.

"Notes on Land Tenure and Local Institutions in Old Japan," by the late Dr. D. B. Simmons and Professor J. H. Wigmore.

"The Music of the Japanese," by F. T. Piggott, Esq.

"The *Gekkin* Musical Scale," by Dr. F. Du Bois.

"Remarks on Japanese Musical Scales," by Dr. C. G. Knott.

"The Mito Civil War," E. W. Clement, Esq.

"An Abridged History of the Copper Coins of Japan," by Léon Van de Polder, Esq.

"The Funeral Rites of Japan," by A. H. Lay, Esq.

"*Hana-awase*, a Japanese Game of Cards," by Major-General Palmer, R.E.

"Reply to Mr. Parker," by W. G. Aston, Esq., C.M.G.

"The Habits of the Blind in Japan," by J. M. Dixon, Esq.

"The Summer Climate of Karuizawa," by Dr. C. G. Knott.

"A Comparison of the Japanese and Burmese Languages," by Percival Lowell, Esq.

A Lecture on "The Nicaraguan Canal in relation to the Commerce of Japan," was delivered by Captain Taylor, U.S.N.

The Hon. Treasurer then submitted his accounts as follows:—

Accounts for the Year ending May 31st, 1891.

	Dr.	
To Hakubunsha for Printing		420.84
To Hakubunsha for Stationery		41.13
To Postage		21.07
To Insurance of Library and Transactions		32.50
To Illustrations, &c., for Transactions		16.64
To Carriage of Books		11.00
To Yokohama Public Hall		30.00
To Advertisements		6.00
To Japan Directory		2.00
To Error in Last Year's Accounts		10.00
		584.62
Balance		1,825.06½
		2,409.68½

	Cr.	
By Balance from Last Year		1,114.43½
By Entrance Fees		75.00
By Life Subscriptions		128.00
By Yearly Subscriptions		743.00
By Sale of Transactions		327.10
By Interest at Bank		22.15
		2,409.68½

Examined and found correct, June 21st, 1891.

J. N. Seymour, Treasurer.
C. S. Eby,
A. Tison, } Auditors.

The Chairman explained, in justice to the Treasurer and the Bank as well, that the error referred to in the accounts arose from no laxity of theirs, but that one of the members paid into the Bank twice as much as he ought to have paid, and they had to pay him back.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The election of Officers and Councillors for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—

President—B. H. Chamberlain, Esq.
Vice-Presidents—Rev. Dr. G. W. Knox, James Troup, Esq.
Corresponding Secretary—J. M. Dixon, Esq.
Recording Secretaries—A. Tison, Esq., J. K. Goodrich, Esq.
Treasurer—Dr. J. N. Seymour.
Librarian—J. McD. Gardiner, Esq.

Councillors:

Rev. Dr. J. L. Amerman.	Rev. T. M. MacNair.
Dr. E. Divers.	W. B. Mason, Esq.
Rev. Dr. D. C. Greene.	R. Masujima, Esq.
Rev. Clay MacCauley.	Dr. H. Veipert.
Rev. Dr. D. Macdonald.	J. H. Wigmore, Esq.

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The CHAIRMAN said they had all hoped to have the pleasure of the presence of Judge Hannen, but he had written saying it was impossible for him to be present, and asking the Chairman to thank the members for electing him as President, and to express the sorrow he felt in severing his active connection with them, and also the interest he should always take in their prosperity.—(Applause.) In conclusion, Dr. Amerman expressed the deep regret with which the members viewed the loss of Judge Hannen and Dr. Knott, and their high estimate of the most valuable services rendered to the society by those gentlemen.

CLUB HOTEL (LIMITED).

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Club Hotel (Limited), adjourned from last month, was held on Monday afternoon in the Hotel at 4 o'clock. Among those present were Messrs. J. W. Hall, D. Fraser, O. Keil, G. H. Allock, J. Ph. von Hemert, J. R. Best, R. Ward, McDonald, T. J. Morriss, A. Hearne, Jubin, and Wilson Walker.

Mr. HALL took the chair and said—I regret to inform you, gentlemen, that Mr. Johnstone is very unwell and unable to attend the meeting, and I have been requested to take the chair on his behalf. I am sorry to say that we are rather short of directors at this meeting, Mr. Von Hemert and myself representing the board, Mr. Blakeway being absent and Mr. Cocking being also unable to attend.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The CHAIRMAN then said—The report and balance sheet of the Company having been in your hands for some time, I presume I may take them as read and proceed to move that they be adopted and passed. I wish, however, to give some explanation in regard to the remark made by the auditor. Mr. Keil objected to use the ordinary expression "Certify that the accounts are correct" on account of certain entries which, I quite agree with Mr. Keil, are not sufficiently explicit to pass unchallenged. The fact is that Mr. Blakeway in the interest of the company made cash advances out of his private purse, free of interest, to meet the first outlays for the Tokyo Branch. The reason for this was that at that time there was no available money of the Company to be used, as the advance from the Trust and Loan Co. had not been arranged. Later when the money had been obtained from the Trust and Loan Co. Mr. Blakeway partly refunded himself for what he had advanced, but part of the money so advanced is still unpaid and Mr. Blakeway appears in the list of sundry creditor for the amount due him. In making these advances to the Company Mr. Blakeway did not pass his cheque through the Company's bankers, but made payments on behalf of the Company by his private cheques drawn on another bank, and then credited himself simply with the cheques so drawn, without giving a detailed explanation for what particular purpose the money was used. The vouchers no doubt are there, but being partly Japanese receipts and mixed up with different payments, it is nearly impossible to get a clear insight into every special payment without the assistances of Mr. Blakeway. Mr. Keil and your directors are well satisfied with the aggregate correctness of the entries made, but for the necessary particulars to satisfy the auditor we must await the return of Mr. Blakeway. I trust gentlemen, you will be satisfied with this explanation. I may say that our earnings for the last year are less than those of the previous year. I think I may say that this is attributable to the epidemics which occurred. During the summer the cholera no doubt kept away many of our supporters from China, and during the winter the influenza was the cause of much harm to our local business. The bar-room receipts alone dropped some six or seven hundred dollars below the average. The present outlook is as good as could be expected, and I may say that the past quarter of this working year shows well, and a satisfactory result may be anticipated. By the assiduous efforts of the manager, Mr. Hearne, the Club Hotel has maintained its good name amongst the travelling public and local supporters. I therefore move that the report and accounts as already rendered to you be adopted and passed.

Mr. BEST said he would like to ask a question, which, however, might be more in form after the accounts were passed. The Chairman had said the $12,000 item in the accounts was money due to Mr. Blakeway on account of the Tokyo Branch.

Corrected on this point,

Mr. BEST said he would pass from it and ask another question. The sum of $45,000 was borrowed on account of the Tokyo Branch, was it not?

The CHAIRMAN said yes.

Mr. BEST said further the Tokyo Branch now stood upon the accounts at $53,728; in other words the Tokyo Branch had cost this branch nearly $9,000. In the report the directors said that as the branch had not been in operation for 12 months no statement of accounts had been drawn up. Could the directors not tell the meeting something about the approximate loss or gain on the Tokyo Branch?

The CHAIRMAN said the Tokyo Branch had not so far been a support to the earnings of the company, and as the year only closed in June no balance sheet, as stated in the report, had been made up. It was found that the accomodation of the branch was not sufficient and certain alterations and improvements had been made.

Mr. BEST only wanted to know whether the directors were able to tell the meeting what profit or loss had been made up to date.

The CHAIRMAN said as the business had not been working for a year no accounts had been made.

Mr. BEST thought that if the Tokyo Branch was to continue to cost this branch at the rate shown in the balance-sheet it would be better to have it closed if possible.—(Hear, hear.) A branch that was going to cost money at this rate would hardly be worth the company's while to keep.

The CHAIRMAN stated that up to the end of last year the Tokyo Branch paid its expenses. While the repairs and improvements were going on there certainly was not much business doing, but as soon as the workmen could leave the place and the improvements were finished, the directors had every hope that the branch would not only pay for itself but be a source of profit to the company.

Mr. BEST trusted it might. He simply put it that the shareholders—and he himself was only a small shareholder—could go only on the balance-sheet; and in the balance-sheet it appeared that the Tokyo Branch had already cost this branch the sum of nearly $9,000.

The CHAIRMAN said there was a further sum for the improvements and repairs.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Scheuten) explained that the amount included furniture, stores, and so on.

Mr. BEST quite understood that, but it appeared upon the balance sheet that $53,000 had been spent upon it in one way or another.

The SECRETARY said that had not all gone.

Mr. BEST said he understood that. But he wanted to know what the branch was doing. The directors said they could not give any account of it, and according to the balance sheet it had cost this branch $9,000. As a shareholder he could only look for his facts to the balance-sheet.

The CHAIRMAN repeated that up to the end of the year the Tokyo branch had paid its expenses. Lately the place had been turned inside out by workmen, and of course there had been a loss of business, but as soon as the work was finished and they could take guests there would be a change for the better.

Mr. BEST then proceeded to formulate a motion to be put to the meeting.

Mr. FRASER seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, which was agreed to.

Following are the report and accounts:—

CLUB HOTEL, LIMITED.

The Directors beg to submit to you their Second Annual Report under Sec. 52 of the Articles of Association.

BUSINESS.

After deducting all expenses and writing off sundry accounts $3,711.49, there remains a net profit of $10,400, out of which we recommend that a dividend of 8 per cent for the year should be paid to the Shareholders.

PROPERTY.

The property has been kept in an efficient state of repair, and additions to the furniture to the value of $3,875.46 have been made during the year, although this account has only been increased to the extent of $1,739 84.

TOKYO BRANCH.

This Branch not having been in operation for 12 months, no statement of accounts has been drawn up; the working accounts of same do not therefore come into the present Balance Sheet. The Directors in the meantime have been using every endeavour to enlarge the premises, in order to place the business on a paying basis. The additions are now almost completed, and will be ready for occupation early next month.

CHANGES.

Mr. J. Johnstone retires from the Board, as provided in Sec. 78 of the Articles of Association, but offers himself for re-election.

Mr. O. Keil was elected to audit the accounts, in accordance with Sec 3 of the Articles of Association. He retires but offers himself for re-election.

J. JOHNSTONE,
J. PH. VON HEMERT, } Directors.

H. A. SCHEUTEN, Secretary.

Yokohama, Japan, June 15, 1891.

Balance Sheet on 31st March, 1891.

Dr.

To Cash account	$	670.99
To New Oriental Bank Corporation		344.34
To Insurance account		834.18
To Wines, stores, and provisions account		5,640.58
To Steam launch account		2,500.00
To Ground account		45,000.00
To Building account		70,000.00
To Furniture account		36,739 84
To Tokyo Branch		53,728.84
To Guide book account		110.80
To Annex, No. 40		483.20
To Sundry debtors		5,510.64
To Dividend account (Interim Dividend paid 1st November, 1890)		6,500.00
		$228,009.41

Cr.

By Capital account		$160,000.00
By Sundry creditors		12,609.41
By Trust and Loan Co., Limited		45,000.00
By Profit and Loss account		10,400.00
		$228,009.41

Profit and Loss Account—March 31st, 1891.

Dr.

To General expenses	$	9,640.94
To Wages and salaries		10,187.88
To Fire Insurance		1,553.75
To Wines, stores, and provisions		28,934.17
To Balance, profit	$14,111.49	
Less written off:		
Sundry debtors; bad and doubtful debts	$ 769.41	
Furniture account	2,135.62	
Steam launch account	103.09	
Repairs and improvements	703.37	
	$3,711.49	
Balance available for division:		
Dividend 8 % on $130,000...$10,400.00	$14,111.49	
		$64,428.23

Cr.

By Balance brought forward from March 31st, 1890.	$	2,235.62
By Working account		62,227.03
By Interest account		63.58
	$	64,428.23

Statement of assets and liabilities on March 31st, 1891.

LIABILITIES.

Stock, 1,600 shares at $100	$	160,000.00
Trust and Loan Co., Limited		45,000.00
Bills payable		12,609.41
Total Liabilities		217,609.41
Balance net profit		10,400.00
	$	228,009.41

ASSETS.

Cash in hand	$	670.99
Cash in New Oriental Bank Corporation		344.34
Fire Insurance policies		834.18
Wines, stores, and provisions		5,640.58
Steam launch		2,500.00
Ground, buildings, and furniture at Yokohama		151,739 84
Ground, buildings, and furniture at Tokyo		53,728.84
Property at the Annex		483.20
Guide book		110.80
Bills receivable		5,510.64
Dividend paid 1st November, 1890		6,500.00
	$	228,009.41

E. & O. E.

J. JOHNSTONE,
J. PH. VON HEMERT, } Directors.

H. A. SCHEUTEN, Secretary.

So far as I am able to form an opinion from an examination of the books of the Company and a comparison therewith of the Vouchers submitted to me, I believe the foregoing statement of Assets and Liabilities, and Balance Sheet, to be correct.

Yokohama, June 12th, 1891. O. KEIL, Auditor.

Mr. BEST proposed "That in the event of the Tokyo branch not coming up to the expectations of the directors as to profitable working within a reasonable time from date, a meeting of shareholders be called to discuss the advisability of closing or continuing it."

Mr. WARD seconded.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that if the shareholders had confidence in the directors they might rely that they would have brought the matter before the meeting in the event of there being any chance of its being a loss.

Mr. BEST said he was passing no reflection upon the directors, but he thought it was well that the Company should know what the Tokyo branch was doing and have the decision of it in their hands. Because the directors might, out of anxiety and a wish that the place should pay, keep it on longer than a meeting of the shareholders might care to do.

Mr. FRASER regarded the motion as almost unnecessary. As the Chairman had remarked, he thought it the business of the directors to see whether the company paid at all its points or not, but he certainly thought that there had been some laxity—no, he would not use that word, but he did think the accounts for the Tokyo Branch should have been presented at this meeting. That was to say, the business of the Tokyo Branch up to the date of the company's accounts should have been balanced and a statement shown to the shareholders as to how it stood. As to its paying or not, he thought that might be left to the directors. It had not been in existence a year yet, and it really had never been finished. The house and the accommodation had not been completed, and until that was done it would be impossible to say whether as a branch it would pay. It was rather difficult for him as a business man to understand why the accounts of one branch of a limited liability company should be shown and the other not,

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for the Tokyo Branch was included in the whole company. However, there had been difficulties in the way no doubt, and on the whole, without proposing a counter motion, he thought it might be for a while left to the directors to give it a good trial before the shareholders interfered.

Mr. BEST said he would withdraw the motion, as he could bring it forward at any time. He repeated that he did not intend to put any reflection on the directors, but he believed that they might be too sanguine in their expectations, and in their anxiety to see the branch pay, keep it on longer than a meeting of the shareholders would.

Mr. FRASER said they could not keep it on longer than a year.

Mr. WARD, as seconder of the motion, agreed to its being withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the re-election of Mr. Johnstone as a director.

Mr. WARD proposed Mr. Fraser as a director.

Mr. FRASER seconded Mr. Johnstone's re-election.

Some discussion arose as to the advisability of electing a director in the place of Mr. Blakeway during that gentleman's absence.

Mr. FRASER asked if Mr. Blakeway had leave of absence.

The CHAIRMAN said he had.

Mr. FRASER said then no one could be elected in his place.

Mr. WARD thought the new director should be balloted for in proper form.

Mr. MCDONALD seconded the election of Mr. Fraser.

Mr. FRASER said if Mr. Johnstone was not on the board he himself should refuse to act as a director.

Mr. JOHNSTONE'S re-election was then carried, two voting against.

The CHAIRMAN said the subject of increasing the number of directors had been under consideration for some time, and it was the intention of the board to ask Mr. Fraser to join them if he would do so. He thought the directors had power at any time to increase their number to not more than seven, and he therefore proposed that the number of directors be increased from five to six.

Mr. VON HEMERT seconded the proposal.

Mr. WARD proposed again the name of Mr. Fraser as a director; the CHAIRMAN seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. FRASER, seconded by Mr. VON HEMERT, Mr. Keil was unanimously re-elected auditor.

Mr. ALLCOCK, with regard to what had been said by the Chairman as to vouchers not being available, asked when Mr. Blakeway was likely to come back.

The CHAIRMAN said from letters received, he thought Mr. Blakeway might be expected in the next three months.

Mr. WARD asked whether it was intended to keep the electric engine behind the buildings at Tokyo puffing away every night. People complained bitterly about it and would not go to the house, as they could not sleep at night.

Mr. HEARNE said an arrangement had been come to with the Tokyo Electric Light Co., and the engine and machinery would be removed at the end of this month.

The CHAIRMAN gave a similar assurance. Mr. Hall then informed the meeting that the dividend warrants would be issued during to-morrow. He said he would also call the attention of the shareholders to the fact that since the establishment of the company the balance-sheet had contained no item for directors' fees or remuneration. Of course the honour was very great, but at the same time a small cheque at the end of the year increased the honour very considerably.—(Laughter.) In the next balance-sheet therefore, they might be prepared to see an item for remuneration to directors—though it might not be a very large amount.

Mr. BEST hoped they would also see good profits at the same time.

The usual votes of thanks brought the proceedings to a close.

Mr. A. B. Blackburn, of the Manchester Association of Engineers, concludes that the dynamo has been brought to such perfection in the last few years that little radical change can be expected in its general proportions and design. Its efficiency is already so high that increase is scarcely possible, being rarely less than 80 per cent. and in the best machines over 90, and even as high as 95 per cent. It is probable that future improvements will be chiefly in details of construction, labour saving in production, and perhaps new and less perishable insulating materials; the most important problem yet to be solved being the abolition of the variable sparking point.

IN H.B.M.'s COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before N. J. HANNEN, Esq., Judge.—THURSDAY June 25th, 1891.

THE DENING-"GAZETTE" CASE.

The action brought by Walter Dening against the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Co. (Ld.) was commenced this morning.

Mr. A. Tison appeared for the plaintiff, and Messrs. A. B. Walford and H. C. Litchfield for the defendant company.

In opening the case, Mr. Tison said his first word here was to be one of thanks for the privilege of thus appearing, or being here at all, and he thought it also his duty to say to the Court that it was not the choice of the plaintiff or of himself that the former was condemned to the imperfect assistance which was the best he could offer to the Court in this matter. If would be unbecoming in Counsel to say what he thought of the justice of the plaintiff's cause to the Court at this time, but he might say that he would have refused to appear here at all if he could have reconciled his non-appearance with a due regard to what he thought common fairness to any man who wished to appear in a Court of Justice with legal advice. If he could not help the Court, he hoped not greatly to embarass it. He had made such preparation as the short time at his command would allow him, and he only asked the indulgence of the Court that any errors he might make or any unfamiliarity with the Court would not prejudice the plaintiff's case. He was assured in advance it would not do so. He supposed his first duty was to read the pleadings. They were as follows:—

PETITION.

Between WALTER DENING, plaintiff; and THE YOKOHAMA PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO., Limited, Defendant.

To N. J. HANNEN, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Judge for Japan.

The Petition of Walter Dening, journalist, the Plaintiff abovenamed, shows as follows:—

1.—The Plaintiff is a British subject in Yokohama, Japan.

2.—The Defendant is a British Corporation duly registered as such, and carrying on the business of Printing and Publishing at No. 70, Yokohama, Japan.

3.—On or about November 6th, 1890, a written Contract with the Plaintiff was made by John Frederic Lowder, James Walter, and William Gordon, said three persons acting for and on behalf of the Defendant Company of which they were the promoters.

4.—Thereafter and on or about January 1st, 1891, said Contract was with the concurrence of all the parties thereto by the Defendant in writing duly adopted, and made in all respects the act and deed of the Defendant.

5.—By said Contract the Plaintiff was employed to serve the Defendant as Editor for the term of four years from the first day of January, 1891, at a monthly salary of five hundred ($500) dollars local currency, payable on the last day of every month during the said term.

6.—The Plaintiff duly entered upon and performed all the engagements and duties by him to be performed under said Contract, until on or about 20th May, 1891, when he was unwarrantably prevented by the Defendant from so doing as hereinafter stated.

7.—On or about May 18th, 1891, Plaintiff received notice from the Defendant, that it had been voted by the Directors of the Defendant to dismiss Plaintiff from its service. Such action by the Directors was wholly unwarranted and without proper cause. Plaintiff so informing the Defendant, and insisting upon his right to continue performance of said Contract, offered and attempted on the 20th May, 1891, to perform his usual duties as Editor for the Defendant, but was prevented and excluded from so doing solely by the wrongful acts of the Defendant. From thence hitherto Defendant has wrongfully omitted and refused to allow Plaintiff to perform any of his engagements under said Contract, though Plaintiff has at all times being ready and willing to comply in all respects therewith, whereof Defendant has had notice.

8.—Defendant has not paid Plaintiff his salary for the month of May, 1891, though the same was due and payable on the last day of said month, but Plaintiff received $250 on account of said salary.

9.—The Defendant has dismissed Plaintiff from its employ, and omits and refuses to pay him his salary as aforesaid, without any reasonable or justifiable cause whatever, in consequence of which Plaintiff has become unemployed and is likely so to continue, to his damage of $21,750.000, which amount Plaintiff otherwise would have received as salary under the said contract with Defendant.

10.—On or about the last of December, 1890, Plaintiff at the request of the Directors of the Defendant moved from Tokyo to Yokohama, in consequence whereof Plaintiff's house in Tokyo, in which he had hitherto lived, was necessarily left vacant and become wholly useless and unproductive to the Plaintiff for the period of four months before the Plaintiff with his best endeavours in this behalf was able to let the same. The rental value of said house is $50 a month, and Plaintiff has thus lost $200, no part of which has been repaid by the Defendant.

The plaintiff therefore prays:—

1.—That he may have judgment against the Defendant for the sum of twenty-one thousand seven hundred and fifty ($21,750) dollars, being the amount of Plaintiff's salary for the remainder of his contract time of service with defendant.

2.—That Defendant be decreed to pay Plaintiff the farther sum of two hundred ($200) dollars with interest.

3.—That the Defendant pay the Plaintiff the costs and disbursements of this action.

4.—That the Plaintiff may have such farther or other relief as the nature of the case may require or as to this Honourable Court may seem fit.

The Defendant to this petition is
The Yokohama Printing and Publishing Co., Limited,
70, Yokohama, Japan.
represented by John Frederic Lowder, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

(Signed) WALTER DENING,
Plaintiff.

Dated Yokohama, Japan,
June 2nd, 1891.

The Answer of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, the above-named Defendants to the Petition of the above-named Plaintiff.

In answer to the Petition, the Defendants say as follows:—

1.—The Defendants admit the first five paragraphs of the Petition, but do not admit any other part thereof, and refer to the Agreement when produced.

2.—By the said Agreement the Plaintiff undertook from the 1st day of January, 1891, to edit the *Japan Gazette* newspaper; but proving unable to do so to the satisfaction of the Directors of the Defendant Company without assistance, they, on the 15th day of February last, appointed a Mrs. Smith to be the Sub-editor of the said newspaper; by the said Agreement the Plaintiff also promised that he would use his best endeavours to promote the interests of the Company, but in breach of his said Agreement, and to the injury of the interests of the Company, he neglected to avail himself of the assistance so provided him as aforesaid, to the extent he might have done, and altered, or suppressed, or refused to insert in the said newspaper several contributions of the Sub-editor, and misled the Directors by representing to them that she was incompetent to perform the duties she had undertaken, and so induced them to give her notice that her services would not be required after the expiration of three months from the 15th day of March last. Thereafter, the Directors having reason to believe that they had been misled by the Plaintiff as aforesaid, caused a letter to be written to the Plaintiff, requiring him to place at the disposal of the Sub-editor at least one column of the *Japan Gazette* every day until the termination of her agreement with the Company; but the Plaintiff, though by the said Agreement he had agreed to comply in all respects with the directions from time to time given by the Directors of the Company, in breach of his said Agreement, refused and neglected to obey the order so given to him, whereupon the Directors, as they lawfully might, dismissed the Plaintiff from the service of the Defendant Company.

3.—The Defendants deny that the Plaintiff has sustained the damage mentioned in the Petition, and submit that they are not answerable for any part of the damage thereby claimed.

Continuing, Mr. Tison said he was happy to be able to say that most of the plaintiff's evidence was documentary in form, and could be put in in very short time, and would not, he thought, give rise to very much discussion as to the evidence itself. To understand certain things, however, in reference to this case it would be necessary to go back to a little before the formation of this company, and this would be necessary for two reasons. First, there was a charge here that the directors gave to this plaintiff an authority which he had transcended and abused, and it would be necessary therefore to go into the origin of the company and the plaintiff's first connection with it to show what that authority really was, because a very great light was thrown upon it by the correspondence which took place between the plaintiff and the chief promoter of the defendant company. And in the second place it would be necessary in order to show the true amount of damage suffered by the plaintiff in this matter. The formation of the company dated, in idea at least, as far back as the 1st of October, or some time in the month of September, soon after a meeting which took place in this port concerning the revision of the treaties. He should have nothing to say in reference to that meeting one way or the other, except to say that those gentlemen who were most concerned in the foundation of this company had also much to do with the meeting, and it seemed to have been desired by them soon after the meeting to come into possession of a newspaper. Whether it was to champion a cause or to put money in their purses might not altogether be known—possibly there was a mingling of those two motives. There was some idea of championing a cause, at any rate the *Gazette* had already advocated a cause which was dear to the minds of those promoters. He had nothing to say one way or the other with regard to the cause, or their views as to it, but it was important to note that the views urged by those gentlemen were not such as met the approval of the Japanese Government, in whose employ the plaintiff was at the time, and whose employment he had to abandon to enter into the service of the company, and to whom now he might turn for employment by which he might hope to mitigate the damages the defendant company was liable to pay. It was not a question of the justice of the feeling of the Japanese Government with reference to this matter, it was a question of its existence in fact, and he dared to say that the learned chairman of the Board of Directors would be the last person to deny its existence in fact, however he might quarrel with its justice. The first thing thought of and desired in connection with this paper was to secure an editor—even before they had secured a paper. They approached the plaintiff; the plaintiff did not approach them. He was in no menial position with reference to this defendant. Some of the authorities which might be cited here were more applicable to menial servants than to a gentleman in the position of the plaintiff. He occupied no such position. Counsel should produce letters to be used in case of necessity, some of which must go in. He should show that during a few weeks between 30 and 40 letters—not mere notes, for some of them were of four pages—on several days two, and on one day three letters, were written by the chief promoter of this company to the plaintiff at his home in Tokyo. Not merely did they build an absolute trust upon him, but they would almost seem to have built their whole enterprise about him. That could not but affect the plaintiff with reference to the authority he was to have. If it had not been a company, if it had been a partnership, he ventured to say plaintiff would have been a partner for his knowledge of Japanese affairs. He had been in Japan for a great time, and was well acquainted with its literature; its public men and its public prints—the man of all men they desired and wished to secure. He was not in a "coming

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on" position, and it was thought necessary to reassure him on many points. He had slowly gathered together that which was yielding him a good living, possibly $400 a month. He was asked to give that up; to burn his bridges behind him, come to Yokohama and enter the service of the company, and according to all appearance the plaintiff saw, as he saw now, that he would be a *persona non grata* to the Japanese Government. He desired security, and several times the most complete expressions of assurance were uttered by the chief promoter of the company to assure him on that point, and that gentleman even suggested that he should be secured by a bill of sale, a chattel mortgage on the stock, printing press, and machinery which they had in their place of business, to secure him to the extent of at least one half of his unexpired salary in case of the company going into liquidation. Eventually under a clause of the agreement he availed himself of this and took a bill of sale which was prepared by the chairman of the board. Mr. Dening also wished to be reassured on another point, and that was as to how much authority he would have. There was some discussion as to the *personnel* of the company, but several times he was put off when he suggested that it should be discussed. Mr. Dening wanted to know what authority he was to have, and Counsel should read letters, one after the signing of the contract, that he was to have absolute and entire control. They were going to have a Japanese paper, which was only suppressed on the repeated protests of the plaintiff. The *Gaikoku Shimbun* never saw the light, but it would have seen the light and probably been a fruitful source of loss to the company if not suppressed. When it was suggested that there should be a French paper it was made a condition that the French editor should come to take orders from the plaintiff, and that everything to go into it should pass through his hands, and he should have a veto on it. The Japanese editor of the ill-fated *Gaikoku Shimbun* was similarly to take his orders from him, and he was to have control of all newspapers to be printed by this company. That would appear when the contract was put in evidence. More than once when the chairman sent round to the plaintiff matter for the paper, he accompanied it with a request for its insertion "if you think proper." The plaintiff was required to move from Tokyo, which was not provided in his contract—against his wish—for he believed there would be advantages for the company by his remaining there. He came to Yokohama and suffered considerable loss by not having his Tokyo house rented—loss estimated at $200. He made no claim for moving expenses, possibly no claim for rent would have been made if this contract had been fulfilled in good faith. They were short-handed when he came, and he was asked if things went hard at first to make allowance. His Honour knew from cases brought in this Court that two members of the staff of the *Gazette* were not in their places when the New Year came,—the reporter and the sub editor. The plaintiff was not responsible for their absence, but he mailed at his desk like a galley slave. The directors scattered a smile now and then, and he lived on that. Then they suggested that being unable to do the work they should take on a sub editor, and on the very day that the letter was written by this lady's husband from Nagoya there came from the directorate unsought a letter thanking the plaintiff for the improved tone and the general advancement of the *Gazette* under his management, and recognizing the fact that he had had no proper assistance hitherto. The plaintiff suggested certain reasons why he thought their choice was not a wise one, and if called upon could testify to what he then said. But they must have a book keeper, and the sub-editor, if taken at the same time, could be got almost for nothing—as the chairman himself told the plaintiff, the book-keeper would cost $150 and the two would cost $200 if they were both taken, being husband and wife. Counsel would not have said that, but the suggestion was put into the answer by a man who he thought did not know the facts that these two persons were taken because the plaintiff was unequal to his work. Nothing could be farther from the fact, unless it were some of the conceptions under which the defendant's counsel laboured in this matter. The agreement did not say plaintiff should do without a sub-editor; it was silent on that point. Passing now to the time when the plaintiff was married. The arrival in Japan of the lady who is now Mrs. Dening necessarily made some demand upon the time of the plaintiff, but that could not have led to this case. On the 12th of May, when Mrs. Smith's engagement was about to expire, the plaintiff, having in mind a Mr. Cuven, wrote with reference to his taking Mrs. Smith's work when she should leave. To that the directors replied on the 13th that they should interpose no difficulty in the way of plaintiff employing Mr. Curwen and paying him out of his own pocket to enable him to perform his contract, but they were not going to employ any more sub-editors. They said that it was the directors' desire that one column should be placed at Mrs. Smith's disposal during the rest of her engagement. The plaintiff on the 14th replied that he regarded what they said about the sub-editor as an interference with his duties as editor, reminding them that it was necessary to revise, certainly to read, whatever went into the paper, that it was not his disposition to suppress anything offered by Mrs. Smith, and that he would continue to avail himself of her services so far as he might be able to. Next day at noon the plaintiff was married, and on the same day the directors wrote to him that it had been voted to dismiss him for disobedience to the lawful orders of the directors. They did not say that he was hereby dismissed, but it was voted to dismiss him. The letter was written on the 15th, and they sent it where they knew the plaintiff was not. He had asked and obtained leave of absence, and had gone to Miyanoshita on his honeymoon, but they sent the letter to the office, and it lay there till the 18th, when he returned. He ventured to say that the learned chairman of the board would hardly maintain as a matter of law that such a letter of dismissal, even though warranted, could take effect from the day on which it was written. During his absence the plaintiff did work for the paper, having supplied leading articles and left behind a stock of translations. On his return he received the letter mentioned, and on going to see the Chairman he was told the latter could say nothing to him. He tried to find legal advice in Yokohama, but failed because all the Counsel had been retained before his return—the lawyers who usually practised in this Court. He wrote in answer to the latter that he was sure there had been some mistake; that nothing was farther from his purpose than to disobey the orders of the directors, that they had used the word "desire," and he did not construe that as an order. He of course remembered the long correspondence he had with Mr. Lowder while he was in Tokyo. But he said if they did mean it as an order he now announced his willingness to comply with it, as he had always been anxious to comply with the orders of the directors. He did not interpret their letter as a dismissal, and it was a long time before that fact became clear. He intimated that he would be at his desk on the 20th to continue his duties. They replied on the 19th that, having read the correspondence, they had voted to stand by what they had written. He went to his desk on the 20th, communicated to Mrs. Smith that she was to have a column a day, and went about his work, but no one would print what he offered. He asked the chairman in a courteous note if he had forbidden them to print his matter, and was told that he had no right to the information. He asked the reporter; the reporter asked the chairman, and was told to say that he could not tell him what he wanted to know. No one would print the matter, and so he came away. On the very day on which the letter was written, when he might have resented this meddling on the part of the directors in affairs as to which they were clearly not informed, on that very day Mrs. Smith had 2½ columns in the paper—one a leading article, or at any rate in the place of the leading articles. As a matter of fact in the month of May she had an average of over a column daily, and plaintiff had found that during 74 days on which the paper appeared she had 105 columns and 21½ inches, or at the rate of $1\frac{43}{100}$ columns per day. And yet this was the lady whom the editor-in-chief was charged with excluding from the columns of the paper under his charge. Some days she had as much as 4 columns, and if on half a dozen days there were none, probably all were used, for he supposed there was a limit even to the productiveness of sub-editors. When it became clear that dismissal was intended, plaintiff wrote protesting and informing the directors that he should prosecute such rights as he might be advised he possessed. To this the directors replied that they had nothing to add, and requested him to vacate his room in the office. He ventured to think that some of those letters could hardly have come under the scrutinising eye of the chairman, or he would have discerned some looseness in their phraseology. As to the damage, he should contend that the plaintiff ought to be paid the balance of his salary for the full term of the agreement. He was willing, and consented to take his risks with the rest of the subscribers. He held, or at one time held, some shares in this company and he had agreed that in case of disaster—should the company be overtaken by bankruptcy—he would take one half of the remainder of his salary. But he never contemplated anything like this. He never consented to be bundled out in this way and then take one-half. He had used such diligence as he could, but the Japanese Government turned from a man who had been connected with this paper. The burden was laid upon the defendants to show that he could get something else, but having been a journalist he was not bound to go about seeking this, that, and the other employment to lighten the pockets of these gentlemen. The law was clear on this point—that it was not every business offered to a man that he could be made to take to lighten the damages of those who dismissed him. He thought Mr. Nuttall's case decided that point, because Mr. Nuttall had been offered a better salary, and yet his Honour held that he was not bound to take it. Counsel had said nothing about Mrs. Smith beyond what he had to say, and he really hoped that the defendants would not open that door as widely as they seemed in their answer to do. Because it was painful. It was not the plaintiff's desire to lay a straw in the way of a lady who was battling bravely in her struggle with the world. He should not think that the directors would want him to do that. It was no secret from them why the plaintiff had refused the admittance of certain articles, or why he had revised others. It was his duty to tell them, and he had told them frankly, but that was different from coming here and saying it. He might say it to them, and it would be a privileged communication, but if he were to blazon it from the house tops he would render himself amenable to a charge of libel, though such statements in this Court would not be libelous. He contended that even though the directors proved everything they alleged, that would still constitute no offence. It would only be a mistake of judgment, and his Honour would not hold that plaintiff's conduct was to be reviewed here, now, and in this way. After citing a couple of cases, Mr. Tison went on to say that the directors said the plaintiff had misled them about Mrs. Smith, that she could do more than the plaintiff said she could do. They had elevated her to the chair which the plaintiff had occupied. Counsel congratulated her, but suggested that she should rejoice with trembling, because this directorate seemed to have a way of removing an editor who was *de trop* beside which the bow-string of Eastern dispots was a dilatory transaction. But she took that risk; that was not the plaintiff's affair, but let her be warned by the same precedent that no resuscitation from euthanasia would be assisted by any of the eminent barristers who were admitted to the privilege—he would say the duty—of seeing to it in this Court that every subject of England should have exact and impartial justice. But he begged the pardon of the Court and of the lady in question for introducing these death's heads and memento moris into the blythe and jocund days which came of her promotion. He only said he should think the directors would not intrude this matter here: that they would not use as a shield for themselves one editor against another. He only said that if their editor did not gain credit it would be their own affair and not the plaintiff's; that they should be sorry; that it should be painful, disagreeable, distasteful to the plaintiff in the last degree. But they seemed to hold editors cheap, and they might be of another opinion. Yet let them not misconstrue what he had said. It was not because of weakness that he said this, because the plaintiff was ready to enter any line of enquiry to which the defendant might see fit to open the door.

Walter Dening, sworn, deponed—I am the plaintiff. I came to Japan on December 14th, 1873, and have lived in Tokyo since 1883. I have been in the employment of the defendant company. I was first approached with reference to my engagement on the *Gazette* early in October—October 3rd I think. I was first approached through Mr. Irwine who was desired by the directors of the company to send me a letter. I have not that letter. Mr. Irwine asked me first whether I would be prepared to accept the editorship of a paper in Yokohama. He mentioned no conditions. I wrote asking conditions and had another letter saying that they were prepared to pay me $500 a month and make a three or four years' contract. I said I would accept that offer on certain conditions; that a partizan paper would not be required, that I should not be required to become the editor of a partizan paper. I was then employed in the Naval Department, at the Imperial Naval University. I also contributed to the *Japan Mail*, and that was a regular source of income. My income was tolerably permanent. It was from various sources, some of which might be a little uncertain. My engagement with the Naval Department was new for two years. Mr. Lowder was, I think, chief promoter of the Anti-Revision meeting and was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company. I have had letters from Mr. Lowder, 34 in all, concerning the proposed company and my connection with it. Sometimes I got 3 letters a day, and I had several conferences also. Some of the letters that I received are not here. I had hesitation and reluctance in entering the service of the

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company, on the ground of the business insecurity of the company as a company. I communicated that to Mr. Lowder, and he promised to secure me against loss. If necessary he said he would secure me personally. We also discussed the subject of the staff of the paper. That subject was shelved by Mr. Lowder. It was put off from time to time to be discussed at a later date. My reason for being distrustful as to the prospects of the company, was that it had been founded half on sentiment and half on the prospects of business profits, and I thought it improbable that the two elements would work well together, and that it might end in failure. I considered that the way would be shut against my return to my former employment. I do not recollect whether I ever said so to Mr. Lowder. I may have said so in a letter. It would be so in consequence of the fact that the Japanese Government must regard the movement to establish the company as in connection with the treaty revision meeting on the 11th. That guided me on the point of having three or four years engagement. Mr. Lowder made the suggestion as to the security. It was said that I should have sole authority over the contents of the paper. I was also to have authority over the French paper. All the matter to go into it was to be submitted to me. I would have to have power to exclude. It was suggested to me by Mr. Lowder that a Japanese paper, to be named the *Gaikoku Shimbun*, was to be published by the Company, and that I should have control over its editor. I said that the scheme was a wild one, and was bound to end in financial failure, and I advised Mr. Lowder to drop the idea of starting anything of the kind. They acted on that advice. I was consulted about everything in connection with the company. It was suggested that I should prepare a prospectus, but I thought it better that the chairman of the directors should prepare it. That was done, and I offered certain criticisms some of which were adopted. They consulted me about the price of the paper, and in deference to my opinion they altered the method of stating the price. I entered into a formal contract with the company—with certain individuals in the first place, and later on it was endorsed by the directors. I produce the document, the signatures of which are those of the directors and myself:—

An agreement made this Sixth day of November 1890, between John Frederic Lowder, James Walter, and William Gordon for and on behalf of the Company hereinafter referred to of the first part and Walter Dening of 15, Masago-cho, Hongo, Tokyo, of the other part. Whereas a Company is about to be formed for the purchase of the newspaper called the *Japan Gazette* together with the printing and publishing business heretofore carried on by the proprietor thereof, and for other purposes; now this agreement witnesseth:—

1.—The said Walter Dening shall be the editor of the said newspaper and of any other newspaper or newspapers to be published by the Company, and shall hold the said office for the term of four years from the 1st day of January, 1891.

2.—The said Walter Dening, unless prevented by ill-health, shall, during the said term, devote the whole of his time, attention, and abilities to the editorship of such newspaper or newspapers as may be published by the Company, shall obey the orders from time to time of the Directors of the said Company, and in all respects conform to and comply with the directions and regulations given and made by them, and shall well and faithfully serve the Company and use his utmost endeavours to promote the interests thereof.

3.—There shall be paid to the said Walter Dening as such Editor, a salary of Five Hundred Dollars of local currency on the last day of every month during the said term.

4.—The Company shall, on the written request of the said Walter Dening, hypothecate to him such specific portion of the property of the Company as shall secure to him, in the event of the Company being wound up before the expiration of the said term, a sum equal to $250 a month for the unexpired period of the said term at the date of such winding up.

5.—The said John Frederic Lowder, James Walter, and William Gordon shall procure the adoption of this agreement by the Company, in such manner as to render the same binding on the Company, whereupon they shall be discharged from all liability in respect thereof.

As witness the hands of the parties hereto the day and year first above written.

(Signed.) J. F. Lowder.
W. Gordon.
James Walter.
Walter Dening.

An Agreement made the 1st day of January, 1891, between the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, of the first part, John Frederic Lowder, James Walter, and William Gordon of the second part, and Walter Dening, of No. 70, Yokohama, of the third part; Whereas since the execution of the within-written agreement the company has been incorporated in accordance with the intention in that behalf referred to in such agreement; now it is hereby mutually agreed as follows:—

1.—The within-written agreement is hereby adopted by the Company, and shall be binding on the said Walter Dening and on the company in the same manner and take effect in all respects as if the company had been in existence at the date thereof and had by these presents ratified the same.

2.—The said John Frederic Lowder, James Walter, and William Gordon shall from henceforth be discharged from all liability under or in respect of the said agreement.

In witness whereof the parties of the second and third part have hereunto set their hands and caused the seal of the company to be affixed the day and year first above written.

W. J. S. Shand, R. S. Schwabe, Directors of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited.
J. F. Lowder.
W. Gordon.
James Walter.
Walter Dening.

What effect would your entering the service have on the prospect of your future employement on the *Japan Mail*?—It would seriously effect it to my prejudice, because one of the objects of this paper was opposition to the *Japan Mail*.

Was anything said by Mr. Lowder as to what he wanted to do to the *Mail*?—He said he wanted to kill the *Mail*.—(Laughter.) The letter shown me is from Mr. Lowder, and is dated October 23rd. (Letter produced and read, in which Mr. Lowder, writing to plaintiff, said he was more pleased than he could tell at the course taken by Brooke's friends at the meeting on the previous evening. He had had his opportunity and had thrown it away, leaving "us" free to act, and the writer had not been slow to take advantage of the occasion. He had made an agreement with Anglin for $55,000, of which the latter wished to retain $35,000 for himself. If the company was formed well and good: if not he would himself find the balance necessary for the purchase of the *Gazette*. The arrangement was that "we" take the paper from the 1st January, but its columns were open to them in the meantime if they choose to assume the Editorship, so that if plaintiff was still "on it" let the writer know at once that he might set to work on the preliminaries. Plaintiff could make his own arrangements. The enterprise would have the support of the Yokohama community. The letter mentioned a number of names of supporters.) Mr. Lowder proposed that in case the scheme fell through, he himself should go on with it, taking half a share from Mr. Anglin. He thought my security would be greater; that I should be responsible to only one man instead of to a number, and things would work better. He said he would regard it as a very good speculation.

That would imply you as editor?—Certainly. I recognise the letter of Nov. 8th. (Letter of Nov. 8th put in as bearing on the question of authority, being in reply to one from plaintiff as to the extent of Mr. Anglin's authority.) Mr. Lowder thought it quite necessary to move to Yokohama. I at first objected, but eventually gave way, and came about the end of December. I had a house in Tokyo, my own, which I had had for a long time; I advertised it in the papers, but for four months had no rent for it. It was eventually rented at $50 a month, a low figure. When I went on the 1st January I found the reporter, Mr. Littlewood absent, and only the manager there. There was no sub-editor. This gave me the whole work of the office to do, seeing that the manager, as may be remembered, was an entirely illiterate man, not able to correct any proofs or anything of that kind. I said for many reasons I thought it would not be advisable to retain Mr. Nuttall. I did not say that I did not want any help. I simply gave as a reason the feeling of Mr. Nuttall in reference to his having been removed from the editorial chair. I did not say I did not want a reporter. (Shown letter of January 19th.) I don't think that bears Mr. Lowder's signature. Mr. Lowder anticipated that 400 missionary subscribers would be obtained; I did not think so—I never dreamt of it. They were to get the paper at half-price, provided 400 came forward. I imagine it would have paid on those rates.

19th January, 1891.

W. Dening, Esq.,

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Directors held on the 17th inst., it was resolved that their appreciation of the energy you put into your work and of the improved tone of the *Gazette* under your Editorship should be recorded in the Minutes and communicated to yourself: and I have much pleasure in being made the medium of conveying to you this expression of the opinion of the Board. With the assistance we have only now been able to give you in the person of Mr. Littlewood, it is hoped you will be able to obtain more items of local news, and to give a fair share of attention to the outports, in the business of which many subscribers to the paper are interested. It was also thought that the extracts from home papers might be shortened with advantage. These matters are mentioned, not with the object of interference or fault finding, but to place you in possession of views which have been expressed to members of the board. Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) J. F. Lowder, Chairman.

The extracts from home papers were so long on account of the smallness of the staff. There was no one but myself, and I could not leave the office and go round the streets of Yokohama to collect local news and edit the paper at the same time. Mr. Lowder asked me to put up with the office being short-handed. I applied for the hypothecation named in my contract. It was given to me. Mr. Lowder drew it; Mr. Mason was by when it was executed by me. I did not have it recorded or filed. Mr. Lowder did not tell me to do so, and I had no other legal advice in reference to it. I attempted later, but found it was too late. The hypothecation is as follows:—

This Indenture made the 23rd day of March, 1891, between The Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited (hereinafter called the company) of the one part and Walter Dening of Yokohama of the other part; Whereas by an agreement made the 1st day of January, 1891, between the parties hereto it is provided that the Company shall on the written request of the said Walter Dening hypothecate to him such specified portion of the property of the Company as shall secure to him in the event of the Company being wound up before the expiration of the four years from the 1st day of January, 1891, a sum equal to $250 a month for the unexpired period of the said term at the date of such winding up; And whereas the said Walter Dening has preferred to the Company a request in writing calling upon the Company to give effect to the said agreement; Now This Indenture Witnesseth that in pursuance of the said agreement the Company doth hereby assign unto the said Walter Dening all and singular the chattels and effects which are particularly described in the Schedule hereto annexed and all the right title interest claim And demand of the Company of in and to the said chattels and premises and every part there of to have and to hold the said chattels and premises hereinbefore assigned or intended to be assigned unto the said Walter Dening, provided Always And it is hereby declared and agreed by and between the Company and the said Walter Dening that this indenture is given to secure the payment of $250 a month to become due from the Company to the said Walter Dening in the event of the Company being wound up before the expiration of a period of four years from the first day of January, 1891, and it is hereby also further declared and agreed by and between the company and the said Walter Dening that until the company shall make default in any such monthly payment of $250 if and when the same shall become due and payable it shall be lawful for the Company to hold possess use and enjoy the said Chattels and premises hereby assigned without let hindrances or disturbance of from or by the said Walter Dening. But in case the Company shall make default in any such monthly payment of $250 if and when the same become due and payable it shall be lawful for the said Walter Dening peaceably and quietly to take into possession hold and enjoy all and singular the said Chattels and premises or such part thereof as shall be of the value of the balance of the moneys that shall be due and payable to him by virtue of these presents at the time of such default. In Witness thereto two of the Directors of The Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company Limited have hereunto set their hands and have caused the seal of the company to be affixed, and the said Walter Dening hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written

J. F. Lowder.
W. J. S. Shand.

Signed and Delivered by two of the Directors of The Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited and the seal of the said company attached in the presence of W. B. Mason.

Signed Sealed and Delivered by the within named Walter Dening in the presence of Walter Dening.
W. B. Mason.

Adjourned till two o'clock.

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Examination resumed—The paper was not secured when I was engaged. Negotiations were carried on with the *Herald* which fell through, but negotiations with the owner of the *Gazette* proved successful eventually. That was on the 22nd October. My contract was practically settled in the first week of October. Mention was first made of the engagement as sub-editor of Mrs. Smith about the 17th or 18th January. I received a letter from Mrs. Smith and another from her husband, advising me that they were in negotiation with the directors on the subject of coming to Yokohama, Mr. Smith to act as book-keeper and Mrs. Smith as sub-editor. They had offered themselves to Mr. Lowder, and it was put in this way that Mrs. Smith's services should be thrown in on consideration of Mr. Smith being appointed book-keeper. On consideration of their both receiving $200 Mrs. Smith's services were to be given gratis. Mr. Lowder consulted me on the point, and I thought, apart from the question of Mrs. Smith's literary qualifications, her sex would make it inadvisable. Mr. Lowder could not see that, and I replied that she would have to receive people in the office and go out and take reports which her sex would make inconvenient. Eventually Mr. Lowder told me that the directors wished to make the appointment unless I actually vetoed it. I said I did not care to veto, it but he knew my view. (Witness identified the letters received from Mr. and Mrs. Smith.) A statement was made in the native papers that Mr. Dening who had been employed by the Government and been known as a man of pro-Japanese feelings, had undertaken the editing of a paper for the anti-revision party, and that some one intended to wait on me and enquire the reason of the change. The police in consequence of this set a body guard at my gate for 5 or 6 weeks.

What effect did your engagement have on your relations with the editor of the *Mail*?—As readers of the paper are aware, the paper came into collision with the *Mail* very early in January, and remained in collision with the *Mail* throughout the whole time. I have been recently married. My wife arrived on May 10th, and I was married on the 15th at noon. I am shown a letter written by me to the company dated 12th May:—

"Japan Gazette" Office,
Yokohama, May 12th, 1891.

My dear LOWDER,—In another month or so Mrs. Smith's time will be up, and it is high time to think of after arrangements. The enclosed letter was handed to me by Mr. Anglin some weeks ago. Thinking it desirable to have further information on Mr. Cuven's qualifications, I wrote off to him, asking for testimonials, &c. Until the business of the Company pays a fair dividend I am prepared to pay $50 a month towards the salary of a sub-editor, and I think it most important that we should get a man who has had newspaper experience. Mr. Cuven's answer will probably be here by the next mail. Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. DENING.

My reason for making the offer of $50 was that I had heard that the concern was not paying, and out of regard to the paper and the cause I offered to pay $50 out of my own salary to secure a sub-editor and try to obtain a dividend. I received a letter dated 13th May, as follows:—

May 13th, 1891.

WALTER DENING, Esq., Editor "Japan Gazette."

SIR,—Your letter to Mr. Lowder of yesterday's date, in which you contemplate the employment of Mr. Cuven as sub-editor of the *Japan Gazette* on the termination of Mrs. Smith's period of service, has been laid before the Directors of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, by whom I am instructed to inform you that whilst it is not their intention to employ a sub-editor after the 15th June next, they would place no obstacle in the way of your engaging the assistance necessary to enable you to carry out your agreement with the Company. I am to add that it is the desire of the Directors that at least one column of the *Gazette* be placed daily at the disposal of Mrs. Smith during the remainder of her term of employment.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. B. MASON, Secretary.

To it I replied as follows:—

"Japan Gazette" Office,
Yokohama, May 14th, 1891.

The Secretary of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing, Company (Limited).

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of to-day's date. The first part of the letter will receive my attention later on. The latter part I regard as interfering with my duties and powers as editor. What goes into the paper day by day has to depend on circumstances. I may say there is hardly anything wholly written by Mrs. Smith; since what she writes needs correction, it often has to wait over till I find time to revise it. At the same time, her services have been and will be utilized as much as possible. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. DENING,
Editor of the "Japan Gazette."

My marriage took place before I received the answer. I went to Miyanoshita, and had leave of absence. I named the time from Friday at noon to Monday morning, but Mr. Lowder told me I could take as long as I pleased. I received the latter dated May 15th:—

15th May, 1891.

W. DENING, Esq., Editor, "Japan Gazette."

Sir,—At a meeting of the Directors of this Company held here to-day, your letter of 14th inst. together with the preceding correspondence were read, and it was resolved; That Mr. Dening be dismissed from the service of the Company for disobedience to the legitimate orders of the Board of Directors, and that the Secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Dening and inform him of this decision. I am, your obedient servant,

(Signed) THOMAS WATSON, Secretary.

I received that letter on the morning of the 18th. It was on my desk in the office. I told the directors I would be back on the 18th. I left two leading articles which were published on the 15th and 16th, and I left a long translation. We had no translator who understood English, and I had been in the habit of preparing all the more difficult translations myself, as I always thought it better to prepare things myself to ensure perfect accuracy in matter of controversy, especially with the *Mail*. My reason for objecting to the hard and fast line drawn by the directors was that pressure of matter might cause exclusion of work done by the editor himself; besides, some matter required a good deal of correction, and on certain days when I was preparing translations and picking out controversial points and a variety of other matter to go into the paper, it was perfectly impossible for me to correct the sub-editor's matter, and such days it would be detrimental to the interests of the paper that I should stop to correct some of the plays of Shakespeare or Spenser's "Faerie Queen" referring to days long gone by. I have had contributions from other quarters which cover the whole ground treated by the sub-editor and rendered her writing entirely unnecessary for that day. I did not consider the word "desire" as an order, and when I returned from Miyanoshita I called upon the chairman and said the matter was evidently founded on an entire misconception. He said he did not mind whether it was or not; he would not give any advice, and I had to go elsewhere for advice. I said I should go down to my office and carry on my work. He said he had made arrangements that my honeymoon should be lengthened two days. He said he should make no legal use of this extension of my honeymoon. I said I should afterwards go back to the office. I thought it advisable to take legal advice. I wrote to and afterwards had an interview with Mr. Walford, who informed me that he was retained by the company, and could not serve me, and Mr. Litchfield also told me he had been retained that morning. I wrote the following letter dated May 18th:—

Yokohama, May 18th, 1891.

The Secretary of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited.

SIR,—I have this day received with surprise your communication dated the 15th instant. I have re-read the correspondence to which you refer, and I am sure that there has been some misunderstanding on the part of the Directors of the Company. I certainly am not conscious of any disobedience to the orders of the Board of Directors. Their letter of the 13th instant merely expressed a "desire" that Mrs. Smith should have at her disposal at least one column of the *Gazette* daily. My answer to that was such as I considered my duty to the interests of the Company required me to make. I was far from taking it as an order. However, now that the Directors make it plain that they so intend it, I very cheerfully accede thereto. I may say that I think Mrs. Smith has all along had on an average more than a column of space in the paper daily, and that there has been no disposition on my part to cut this down; but I wished the Board to understand the difficulty of establishing any hard and fast rule for each day. Not to have made this clear would have been, I then thought, to fail in my duty to the Directors. I am, however, as I have always been, ready to obey all orders from the Board of Directors in this as in all other matters connected with the editorship of the paper. I do not interpret your letter of the 15th instant as a dismissal, and beg to say that I have returned from the leave of absence kindly granted me by the Directors, and I shall be at my desk in the office of the *Gazette*, at 8 a.m. to-morrow, the 20th instant, to continue my editorial duties. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) WALTER DENING,
Editor of the "Japan Gazette."

Nothing had been said before, and no enquiry made as to the space accorded to Mrs. Smith. No one had said anything to me. I had asked for a meeting of directors, but it was always refused. As a matter of fact on the 14th May Mrs. Smith had two columns, one a leading article. While I was at Miyanoshita Mrs. Smith was in charge, perhaps the manager more than she was. During twelve days of May Mrs. Smith had 18½ columns. Up to the 14th May she had 105 columns 21½ inches or an average of $1\frac{4}{100}$. Some days she had 4 columns in the paper, 4½ columns, 4 columns and 8 inches, &c. I made those measurements myself, and now produce a paper in which the figures are shown. When nothing of hers appeared it was because a larger amount than usual had appeared on the previous day or because of press of matter on that day. It was that which I had in my mind when I objected to any hard and fast rule being laid down as to Mrs. Smith's contributions. On 19th May I received the following letter:—

19th May, 1891.

WALTER DENING, Esq., "Japan Gazette" Office.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Board of Directors of this Company to state to you that, having taken into consideration your letter of yesterday's date, they have determined to abide by the decision previously arrived at, and which was communicated to you in my letter of 15th inst. I am further instructed to forward you the accompanying cheque for Two Hundred and Fifty dollars in payment of your salary to the date of your dismissal.

I am, your obedient servant,

(Signed) THOMAS WATSON, Secretary.

I received the cheque for $250 on the 20th. I went to the office at 8 o'clock. I informed Mrs. Smith that it was the desire of the directors that she should have a column of matter in the paper, and told her that I had resumed my editorial duties. I prepared some things which were published in the morning paper, but afterwards one of the Japanese printers told me he had been instructed by the manager not to print anything more of mine. I tried to get a statement but without avail. I asked Mr. Littlewood, but he said he must consult Mr. Lowder, and after doing so he told me he had been forbidden to give the information. I then wrote to Mr. Lowder the letter dated May 20th:—

"Japan Gazette" Office.
Yokohama, May 20th, 1891.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company (Limited.)

SIR,—I write to ask whether you, in your capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the above named Company, have written to instruct Mr. Anglin, the Manager of this Office, not to print any copy prepared or revised by me. If you answer in the affirmative, I should be obliged by your furnishing me with a copy of the said instructions given to Mr. Anglin in reference to copy furnished by me. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) WALTER DENING,
Editor of the "Japan Gazette."

To this Mr. Lowder replied:—

20th May, 1891.

Sir,—I cannot acknowledge your right to the information asked for in your letter just received.

Yours faithfully, (Signed) J. F. LOWDER.

W. Dening, Esq.

On May 21st I wrote as follows:—

"Japan Gazette" Office,
Yokohama, May 21st, 1891.

The Secretary of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company (Limited).

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favour dated the 19th instant, with cheque enclosed for $250. I receive this cheque only as a payment in advance of one-half of my salary for the current month made by the Directors of their own motion, and I shall ask to receive the other half in due course, with regular payments as usual thereafter. I wholly deny that I have given cause to the Directors to cancel my engagement, and I protest against their arbitrary assumption of power to vacate at will my contract with the Company. That contract is still in force, and performance thereof on my part is only prevented by the present unwarranted interference of the Board of Directors.

I beg respectfully to inform the Company through its Directors that I shall maintain my rights against it by such means as I may be advised. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) WALTER DENING,
Editor of the "Japan Gazette."

On May 22nd the directors replied:—

Yokohama, 22nd May, 1891.

Sir,—I am instructed by the Directors of this

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Company to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st inst. and to say in reply thereto that they have nothing to add to communications that have already been addressed to you on the subject of your dismissal. Understanding that you still continue the use of the rooms hitherto occupied by you in the "Japan Gazette" Office, I am desired to request you to vacate them at your earliest convenience, as they are required for the use of the Company. I am, your obedient servant,

(Signed) THOMAS WATSON, Secretary.

My reason for putting repeated questions to the staff was that I did not know what legal action the company would take. I did not consider myself legally dismissed. I have received nothing since the receipt of the cheque for $250, nothing for my work between the 15th and 20th. I have no employment to speak of. I have tried the Japanese Government for employment. I did not succeed. I have no employment on the *Mail*. I have no newspaper work whatever. I see no prospect of employment.

Cross-examined by Mr. Walford—The nature of my employment is only instruction to a private pupil one or two days each week. The pupil was an old friend, and I go to Tokyo to teach him, having leisure. Nothing has been settled, but it may represent 60 *yen* a month. I have not tried to get pupils. I have made no endeavour—naturally—to contribute to the *Mail*. Mrs. Smith was my sub-editor, so named by the directors. She was at first simply called regular contributor. I made several complaints about her writing. I thought her inaccurate. I consider it important to be accurate. I am so myself, as far as possible. I am an Englishman; it is for others to judge whether I have a good knowledge of English. I have had a long experience in the use of it.

Mr. Tison said this looked like incompetency, and if incompetency was the plea it must be pleaded.

The Judge said if it was incompetency, that plea ought to have been put in.

Mr. Walford said he did not intend to bring forward that plea.

Witness—I am not prepared to answer the question whether I think the letter of the 15th a dismissal or not. I thought at that time it was not a dismissal. I do not think the letter sent to me by the Secretary on May 15th was a dismissal. In the letter of 13th May I did not think the word "desire" meant an order. I can suggest other ways of conveying an order; it might be "we order or command." I do not think it is a question of politeness or not. I did not refuse to put the column into the paper. I said the desire expressed was one rather difficult to carry out. I do not consider that I refused to put a column in. I answered that it would be an interference with my duties and powers as editor. I do not say it was a wish; it was a desire, and if carried out would have interfered with my powers. My powers were given by the agreement and the whole 32 letters which preceded it. The letter of 8th November is no doubt in reply to a letter of mine, probably expressing anxiety as to my relations with the manager. The letter shown me dated November 7th is the one I wrote. (Letter put in [which plaintiff said he rather fancied Anglin might find it rather hard, after running the whole office, to confine himself to a small section, and it might be as well that he should be told that the sub editor, the other foreigner, and the translator would be under plaintiff's control.) What I feared was that Mr. Anglin would be interfering with me. I afterwards expressed myself as willing to carry out the "desire" already mentioned. It had actually been carried out all along. The contribution by Mrs. Smith the day I went away had, I think, been through my hands. I do not recollect to whom I gave it. I did not tell Mrs. Smith then that she had a column at her disposal. I did not tell Mrs. Smith the paper was in her hands while I was away. I had told Mr. Littlewood that he was to see all that Mrs. Smith wrote—to see that there was no bad spelling, &c. I do not recollect, but probably I gave him such material of hers as was to go in. Before I joined the paper I do not think I had a large experience with newspapers. I told Mr. Lowder I had 7 years' experience as a proof-reader and that proof reading came very easy to me, and that I was willing to do a very large amount of work of all kinds. I do not recollect whether I wanted only one foreigner; I certainly wanted a force sufficient to run the paper efficiently. I may have said I would be satisfied with one foreigner, but I expected then that the Manager would be able to do more: to read all but the more difficult proofs. The letter shown to me of October 25th is mine; it says that two foreigners in addition to Mr. Anglin were not needed. That referred to a previous letter as to the engagement of Mr. Nuttall. The letter says that Nuttall and a Japanese shorthand writer would be quite ample. I had no special reason for naming Nuttall, but he had had long newspaper experience, and I thought he would help me in writing, proof reading, and general newspaper work. I cannot say that I had as a whole a good opinion of Mr. Nuttall's writing. I wrote "as a writer he is of little use." When I joined I had no assistance from Mr. Littlewood. I found that if they required a much fuller and better paper we should have more assistance. It all depended on the quality of paper required. I found it inconvenient when Mr. Littlewood was out reporting. I expressed an opinion to that effect, and I may have given the directors to understand that I wished some one else. The lines of the prospectus were the lines on which I was working.

Had you not been strictly instructed not to bring yourself into conflict with the *Mail*?—No.

Had not that subject been brought up before you?—It had been brought before me.

The desire of the directors was expressed that you should not bring yourself into conflict?—The opinion of Mr. Lowder only was expressed, and it differed on different occasions. We have already a quotation from one of his letters in which the the *Mail* is to be killed.

Did not Mr. Lowder instruct you, or express a desire on behalf of the directors, that you should not come into conflict with the *Mail*?—He expressed different desires on different occasions; he expressed both that desire and the opposite.

You did come into conflict with the *Mail*?—Yes, or rather the *Mail* came into conflict with us.

What was the result of that conflict? Was it creditable to you or to the *Mail*?—That is for the public to judge. I remember the letter in which I was complimented on the improved tone of the paper. After that letter Mr. Lowder called upon me and discussed the matter of Mrs. Smith's engagement. He told me several complaints had been made about the paper. He said it was heavy and required a lighter touch.

And he suggested that Mrs. Smith give it the lighter touch?—Yes.

You objected to her on the ground of her being a lady, and at the same time agreed that she did write pleasantly?—Yes. Eventually my first objection to her was removed and she was engaged. She entered upon her duties on I believe 16th Feb. On the 21st February I remember writing a letter of complaint about her, having written a private letter to Mr. Lowder on the 19th:—

"Japan Gazette" Office
Yokohama, February 19th, 1821.

My dear LOWDER,—* * * I shall wait till Saturday and then write about Mrs. Smith!! I fear that as a permanency she will not do. It is a sore trial to me that neither she nor Littlewood can be trusted to see original writing through the press with the certainty of no grammatical mistakes.

Mrs. S. seems helpless at business subjects. Sentimental writing is her forte, but we can't have too much of that. More about this anon.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. DENING.

You complained about her spelling?—Yes.

How do you write forte?—Have I made a mistake?

How do you think forte should be spelt?—Fort. I wrote to Mr. Lowder on February 21st as follows:—

February 21st, 1891.

My dear LOWDER,—Herewith my epistle about Mrs. Smith. I am decidedly of opinion that she will not suit our purpose for any length of time, and that we can do better with one hundred *yen* a month. Here are the results of a week's experience. (1). She cannot be trusted in the matter of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and proof reading. The latter she may improve in. (2). She can only write things of the style of "Splashes of the Pen," which even then have to be altered and cut down very much. Ordinary business things she dresses up so much that they look ridiculous and are no longer accurate. (3). A still more serious drawback is that she objects to go about and get information, &c. I offered her a reserve seat ticket for the concert. She said that she could not go without her husband, and that he could not afford to pay for a ticket. I replied that I would go myself. To-day I asked whether she could go to Tokyo and write a description of the funeral ceremony on Wednesday next, and her husband came to remonstrate with me for making such a request, saying that Mrs. Smith was sub-editor, and not a reporter, and so on. I told him that I objected to her being called a sub-editor, and that if she was not prepared to go about and get information, that I did not see how she could remain permanently under me, as it was absolutely essential to the success of the paper for one of the staff to attend entainments, &c. Now my idea is this, that without spending any more money (or at any rate very little more money) we might fill her place very well. If he keeps the books well and is anxious to stay on at $100 a month, he can do so. It was about as much as he was getting in Nagoya. She can still write for the home journals and help him in that way. We certainly ought to have a man in the office who at a push could see the paper through without me. It is a tremendous anxiety to feel that day by day and week by week everything depends on me. I don't anticipate being ill, though as a secret I may tell you that I do expect to get married some time in April or May, if I can find time!! I shall probably make the thing known some time next week, till then please not mention it. Littlewood is working well, and he is getting more and more reliable in small matters. How would it be to make him sub editor later on, and put a cheap man in his place. He is a nice fellow to work with, and very anxious to please. The expense of getting somebody new out from home would be great, and hence it would be better to take somebody on who is here already if possible. I anticipated that Mrs. Smith would not suit. She is very unbusiness-like in little things, which gives me a good deal of extra trouble in my busy hours. It is my wish that after the 3 months are up that some other arrangement be made. It does not work a bit, and never will. These kind of things happen. Littlewood is away reporting. A sea captain comes in, and says, "Please, sir, I should like to give you some information if your reporter will take it down." You can't ask such a man to go to a lady to give his information. There are a hundred and one things that a lady cannot do in this country, that she could do at home. All sorts of folks come to the office, who hush their voices when they know there is a lady next door. These may appear small matters, but put together they give a good deal of annoyance.

Yours very truly, (Signed) W. DENING.

I received a letter from Mr. Lowder on February 23rd:—

February 23rd, 1891.

My dear DENING,—Mrs. Smith has already written to me on the subject of your letter of the 21st, and the enclosed copy of my reply will show you the view I take of the two specific complaints you make against her. As regards that of a more general nature, it must be remembered that she has only been with you for a week; and that if our ability were tested by so short a term of probation, few of us would be found to give satisfaction. At all events, as your letter is addressed to me individually, and not to the Board of Directors, no official action can be taken upon it.

Yours very truly, (Signed) J. F. L.

I then wrote to the Board on the 24th:—

The "Japan Gazette" Office,
February 24th, 1891.

The CHAIRMAN of the Board of Directors of the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company, Limited.

Dear Sir,—At the special request of the Directors, against my own inclination, I consented to give Mrs. Smith a trial as regular contributor to the paper of which I am the editor. During the eight days she has been working in the office I have had abundant proof that her permanent retention in her present post would not be conducive to the interests of the Company. It is my opinion that even if Mrs. Smith were qualified to act as sub-editor in every other respect, which is by no means the case, owing to local customs, her sex would debar her from doing a great part of the work devolving on a member of a newspaper staff. I therefore beg that the Directors will take steps to make arrangements by which I may have other assistance as soon as can conveniently be managed.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. DENING.

I mentioned the possibility of obtaining Mr. Mason's services. I should have been pleased if it could be done. I next wrote:—

"Japan Gazette" Office,
Yokohama, February 28th, 1891.

My dear LOWDER,—The news is that Mason has received his congé from the Japanese. He was down yesterday, and though he does not wish anything done yet, he would like to join us later on, and my idea is that with such a man we could overcome any obstacle whatever. Mrs. Smith is far too inaccurate to be employed permanently. I spend hours every day in correcting what she does write, and even then, it is not as I should like it. Mason told me to-day that he would be content with a small income as he has money of his own and is expecting a pension.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. DENING.

Reference being made to the articles published by Mrs. Smith from the date of her entering the office up to the time the letter of complaint, witness continued—I could not at this time point out exactly what I had to correct. I could not without

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the manuscript copy. Shown the manuscript of one of the first articles, witness said the corrections there did not represent all that were made.

Mr. Walford proposed to put in a file of the paper with the manuscripts, and hoped his Honour would not cause him to read through all the manuscripts.

His Honour remarked that he might as well hope that Mr. Walford would not expect him to read through them all.

Discussion here took place as to the manuscripts being put in.

The witness (being confronted with "Splashes of the Pen" in the *Gazette* on 17th February) said he could not say whether there were not other "Splashes of the Pen" in his possession when he said Mrs. Smith could only write things in the style of "Splashes of the Pen." I do not know, he said, that my statement as to her unbusinesslike qualities was founded on anything she had written. The note shown me as to Reynell's case was written by her, but I do not know whether it was supplied by me or not—I think it came to me from Mr. Masujima, with all the business terms in writing. (Mr. Walford here read the manuscript, while the Court looked on one file and the witness and his Counsel looked at another and checked the language, pointing out such corrections as "direct trade" for "free trade" "has" for "having," "actually," for "really," the insertion of "about" before 10,000 *yen*, "authorities" for "dock" and so on.)

Mr. Walford asked in what respect was the note not a fair one.

Witness—The alterations made must have been to secure accuracy. I must have had the statements of the native papers before me at the time and I cannot say now whether it was inaccurate.

His Honour thought all this was like crushing a butterfly with a sledge hammer.

Mr. Walford said this was part of the defence—that Mrs. Smith had been misrepresented to the directors by Mr. Dening, when as a matter of fact she was doing good work.

Witness—I can say on comparison that there is nothing untrue in the manuscript of Mrs. Smith. I remember "The Social Departure" reviewed by Mrs. Smith on 25th February, the opening part of which was corrected by me. The manuscript came to me first, but I did not always correct it; if I was pressed by work I left the correction till it came to me in proof. In an article on "India-rubber," taken from another paper, and worked up by Mrs. Smith, I corrected an expression of hers in the weekly. I may have complimented her on the protest "Still they Come." I wrote a private letter to Mr. Lowder on March 14th as follows:—

March 14th, 1891.

My Dear Lowder,—I am afraid you will think I am a troublesome man, but I assure you that I have the company's best interest at heart when I write about Mrs. Smith. Her work is less and less satisfactory. If she gathers facts out of the home papers she spells the names of writers and places wrong. She cannot spells some of the simplest words. She actually had lion spelt lyon to-day. Now I would infinitely rather have $50 a month to pay for really good articles at $5 a column than have somebody that is not reliable. Her style I can't endure. She hates simplicity and always tries to dress everything up till it looks utterly ridiculous, instead of saying "he who desires the gratitude of his countrymen" she writes "he who desires to bring his grey hairs down to the grave weighted with the most elaborate gratitude of his countrymen." These are her own words in a piece of composition which lies before me. As literary composition this is consummate rubbish. Yet it is a fair example of her style. The things that I published of hers have to be corrected throughout. Now, while I am correcting I could write something better still myself. The whole business is a losing job, and I do beg of you to take some action. It is waste of money to pay her $100 a month. This sum represents 12 or 15 good leading articles worth publishing, which I could easily get, or the employment of a good man like Mason. If you wish another official letter, I will write one. If she must have her three months' notice, by all means let us give it. The success of the paper depends on our laying out what money there is to spare in the best way possible.

In haste, yours very truly,

(Signed) W. Dening.

I wrote to the directors also on March 16th:—

"Japan Gazette" Office,
Yokohama, March 16th, 1891.

The Chairman of the Directors of the Yokohama Printing & Publishing Co., Limited.

Sir,—I venture, in the interests of the Company, to address you again on the subject of Mrs. Smith. As you are aware, she has been appointed to act as sub-editor. Having given her a month's trial, I find that she is not competent to fill such a post. The duties of a sub-editor may be briefly summarised under four heads:—(1). The drafting of notes or reports from material supplied; (2) Proof-reading; (3) The preparation of epitomes of home news; (4) Such original writing as the person filling such a post may be qualified to undertake. Mrs. Smith has performed none of these duties to my satisfaction. She spells badly; her grammar is extremely incorrect, and she quotes the words and opinions of other writers in a most inaccurate and slipshod manner. As a proof-reader she is absolutely useless. A case occurred a few days ago in which the word lion was written lyon, and was so left by Mrs. Smith after two perusals. Mrs. Smith, I am ready to admit, has written some clever things in her life time. A certain class of writing she can manage very well, that is, if there is anyone at hand to correct her grammar. But the class of composition in which she excels is only very occasionally required for a newspaper, and she, having no special knowledge of any purely local subjects, when it is considered desirable to lighten the paper by introducing such writing, it would be far preferable to draw material from the literary productions of master-pens, when no correction of grammar is required and no inaccuracy of facts is to be feared. With all due deference to the Directors, I beg to point out that the retention of Mrs. Smith on the staff of the "Japan Gazette," for the reasons stated above, cannot but seriously injure the reputation of the paper. It is quite impossible that inaccuracies can be avoided if the sub-editor of a paper is entirely unreliable.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

(Signed) Walter Dening,
Editor of the "Japan Gazette."

Upon that letter Mrs. Smith was dismissed. More business writing is wanted than she could supply. She had tried. She had written some business notes, but I cannot specify them. I knew she was there to lighten the paper. She had a room next to mine. The home papers were handed to her and she used them. They were kept partly in her room and partly in Mr. Anglin's room. She wanted them for home news and mail matter. A great many of the extracts were chosen by myself. I could not specify the proportions of those she extracted. I had done so before she arrived, and some subjects I liked to chose myself. I did not complain in a letter dated 17th April that I had to chose the extracts. I only mentioned it as showing the amount of my work.

Mr. Walford asked whether the plaintiff objected to the letter being read.

Mr. Tison objected, but Mr. Walford insisted and the Court upheld him.

Mr. Tison asked the Court to look at the letter and decide whether, as a private letter, it should be put in.

Mr. Walford said he was quite content that His Honour should read it.

On another letter from Mr. Lowder to Mr. Dening dated 20th April being produced by the defence,

Mr. Tison objected also to it, pointing out that, like the last one, it was opening the door for the bringing forward of a charge of incompetency, which was not referred to in the answer.

Mr. Walford did not press the matter.

Other letters belonging to the same series as the above were also put in, a strong wish being expressed on both sides that they should not be published as personal matters were referred to in them. The prospectus was also put in.

Witness—Before Mrs. Smith joined the Company she wrote to me asking whether her connection with the paper would continue. I said the expenses were so heavy that we could not pay for her writing, but I offered her a free copy of the paper if she would write. She refused. Proofs usually go through three hands before they are published. I am not aware that it is usual to return manuscript. I don't think I returned Mrs. Smith's manuscripts during the first month; probably the manuscripts stayed in her room when she read the proofs. There may have been occasions when she did not see proofs of her articles. I did not tell her she should insert references in the article. I told her she must be accurate. I liked some of her "Splashes of the Pen." I did not stop the contributions, but I stopped the use of the title; I thought it better to use the articles without the title. I believe I told her I did not want any more of that style of writing. She also wrote "Literary Echoes." I also stopped the title of that, but inserted the contributions. I did not in April tell her we did not want any more of them. I asked her at the commencement of her engagement not to mention what she had written, as it was not usual for authors to be indicated. She had contributed to the paper before leading articles and "Splashes of the Pen." I do not recollect saying that she should not write leading articles—as a matter of fact there have been some published—"Chinese Secret Societies" is one of hers. The article "The *Japan Mail's volte face*" was partly worked up by her, and was objected to by Mr. Lowder.

Adjourned till to-morrow (Friday morning).

REVIEW.

The Intercourse between the United States and Japan, an Historical Sketch. By Inazo (Ota) Nitobe. Baltimore. The Johns Hopkins Press.

Considering the difficulty of learning Japanese, and the few English speaking people who have the leisure to attempt the task, we must feel grateful when a Japanese scholar puts the results of his researches into the history of his country in our language. This has been done several times, and it is to be hoped that it will be done still more in the future by some of the numerous bright Japanese students perfecting their knowledge of English in American and English universities. With their ready command of this tongue they are the only English-using writers, except perhaps a score of English and American scholars, who can thoroughly investigate all the original authorities on any Japanese subject.

Lately the above work was issued from the press of a great American University. The author was thoroughly fitted for the task. He had had the benefit of the liberal aids for acquiring English provided in his native country. Afterwards he studied for several years in America, and about an equal number in Germany, finally receiving there the title of Doctor of Philosophy. It seems almost needless to say that he uses English as though it were his mother tongue.

Among the many points of interest in this work, we can note only a few.

True to his historical training at great universities, our author starts with the earliest beginnings of intercourse between Japan and outside lands. Leaving out the traditions of communications between Japan and Persia in the eighth century, and Japan and America through a legendary traveller in the thirteenth century, history first—according to Mr. Inazo, though other scholars do not endorse his view—reaches solid ground in the touch between Japan and Korea in the second century B.C., and to this dim source may be traced the sponsorship of Japan at the opening of Korea a few years ago. What America once did for Japan, Japan did for Korea. The parallel seems very fitting in several respects; the attacks of the Korean Mobo, the indemnity for these outbreaks, and the return of the indemnity out of sympathy.

Although only a few words are given to the relations between Japan and her immediate neighbours on the mainland, China and Korea, yet the fullest testimony is borne to the value and importance of this relation. To these near sisters, Japan is indebted for her "literature and science, art and industry, religion, and philosophy, law and administration."

Her touch with the Western world commences in a way that brings together Europe, Japan, and America—very appropriate to refer to at this time when the people of the United States are making such preparations for the vast Columbian Exhibition. Marco Polo, a celebrated Venetian traveller in the 13th century, in his wanderings through Asia, heard of Japan (Chi-pan gu), and wrote a most extravagant account of the quantities of gold in that land. Columbus is said to have read and pondered over this report, and in consequence, when he came upon one of the West Indies, he thought he had reached this Eastern El Dorado. But neither Columbus nor Polo had the pleasure of seeing those palaces paved and floored and roofed with gold. The first European, so far as known, to enter this island home, was Fernao Mendez Pinto in 1542. As illustrating the depths to which Chinese roots have sunk in Japan, we note that this first Occidental to set foot on this soil made known his object through the Chinese language. The Japanese traced their questions in Chinese characters on the beach, and a Chinese in Pinto's party made answer in the same way.

Although the English made early efforts to get permanently established here, they could not successfully hold their own against their active competitors, the Dutch. In some ways, Japan seems more indebted to the Dutch than to any other European country at this early period, nor did this friendly help cease then. William II. of Holland, in 1844, wrote to the Shogun, calling his attention to the opium war in China, and warning him to be prepared either for defence or for opening his country. The Dutch also gave notice of Perry's expedition, and it was largely through the medium of the Dutch that Perry held his Conferences.

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Japan's first knowledge of the "arts of engineering, mining, pharmacy, astronomy, and medecine" as studied then in Europe, was also derived from the Dutch.

But of all western nations, Spain left the deepest impression on the subsequent history of this country. The influence of the others had been chiefly of a material nature, in imparting the rudiments of the commercial and industrial arts, but through her propagandists Spain introduced Christianity. The results of the consequent persecutions on the happiness and progress of the people cannot be calculated. This faith came through Francisco Xavier in 1549, and almost like a wild fire swept through the land. Considering the slow spread of Christianity at present, it is interesting to learn the views of a historical scholar as to the reasons for its rapid propagation at this early day. This growth was chiefly due to the high character and great gifts of Xavier, the irreligious state of the populace and the protection afforded by Nobunaga, the Shogun of the time. In twenty years, the number of converts reached three hundred thousand "in the highest and lowest walks of life." After fifty years the adherents counted up to nearly two millions. But relentless persecution came on, and in another half century "Catholicism disappeared from our national life, surviving till the present era only in some of the retired villages." The causes of this complete revulsion of feeling are very diverse, but Professor Inazo seems to think the Christians had only themselves to blame for this overthrow and destruction of their faith. He also notes the opinions of others that this stain on Japanese history was due to fear of Spanish domination, to the intrigues of English and Dutch traders, and to Buddhist instigation.

The feeling called forth by this event that has been full of consequences to Japan. It was the spirit of distrust and suspicion that prompted Japan to her *exclusive* and *inclusive* policy. Isolation was not her national character. A rapid sketch of her intercouse with foreign countries shows that this was not her policy. She had opened trade with other lands, she had allowed missionaries to enter, she had kindly treated foreigners wrecked on her coast, and her sons had gone abroad for business and pleasure. But it was this bitter experience with an alien religion that drove her to the long seclusion of several centuries. Had the conduct of those early Christians been wiser and more conciliating, Japan would probably have embarked on the current of Western life and thought three hundred years ago.

America came to these shores the last of the Occidental peoples but she has become first in the regard of the nation. Perry was informally preceded by several vessels, one coming before the close of the last century. Two or three times slight steps were officially taken looking towards such an expedition as Perry's. As far back as 1832 an agent was appointed to negotiate treaties with Oriental countries. Again in 1846, Commodore Biddle, bearing a letter from President Polk to the Emperor, sailed into the bay of Yedo and remained there ten days, trying to establish trade relations with the Japanese. But his request for commercial privileges was curtly refused and he was advised to "depart immediately" and not come again.

Finally Perry came, but his aim was not entirely of a peaceful commercial character: it had more of the protective spirit in it. American whalers had often been wrecked and cast upon Japanese shores, and in some cases they had been treated with great rigour. Besides, many million dollars, some say seventeen, had been invested in this industry in the seas of China and Japan. It was for the guardianship of these bold fishermen and this large capital, that Perry entered the Bay of Yedo. Mr. Fillmore, then President of the United States, afterwards in an address seemed to think that it was sympathy for these marine interests that chiefly moved the Americans. Our author holds the same view, for he gives the honour of the event to the "humble American whalers." For where more fitly could the idea originate than in the "dark dungeons" where they lay "longing for home and heaven?"

Without any possibility of knowing it beforehand, Perry came at a most opportune time. Under the teaching of history the Japanese had been led to see that the Emperor should be the real as well as formal head. They were aroused to cast out the usurping Shoguns, and return to the early conditions when all were directly under the Emperor. This spirit was destined to bring on a civil war, whether any foreigner knocked for entrance or not. If the American envoy had sailed sooner, the temper of the people would not have permitted the Shogun to carry out any engagement: if he had come later, he would have found the land torn with civil war.

It was at this auspicious time that the American flag floated before the eyes of the Japanese. Perry emulated the Orientals in reserve and leisurely dignity. He refused to meet in person any officials except the highest. All others were received by his subordinates. The conferences were conducted in Dutch, Chinese, and Japanese.

Perry was evidently a born diplomat of diplomats, if grandiloquent dust-throwing is a prime qualification for that profession. He told the Japanese that "Americans are people of few words and they always mean what they say." Our author humorously remarks that "as he did not take with him the *Congressional Record* to verify the contrary he made good his word by his reserved demeanour."

After Perry had successfully opened the door, Townsend Harris went in and completed the work. He stands next to Perry in this momentous period, if, indeed, his influence has not been of greater importance to the happiness of the Japanese. So highly were his services valued by the Japanese that the United States Government was formally requested to prolong his stay in Japan. What he accomplished he did peacefully and mildly, and he won the confidence of the nation; unfortunately, no adequate memorial of him exists, even his papers have not been published. His name is not often heard, but his work was silent and beneficent.

But, against his own sense of right and justice, he has been the father of the most vexed problem in Japanese politics. It was he who first introduced into the treaties the clauses relating to tariff regulations and extra-territorial rights. He often declared he did so against his own conscience, but it was a necessity so far as extraterritoriality is concerned. As early as 1855 the American Secretary of State had condemned such a provision as interfering with the municipal law of a country, but he thought it must be inserted in any treaty with an Oriental country in order to get the consent of the American Senate for its ratification.

In this connection a temperate statement is given of the troubled question of treaty revision, and a short historical sketch of the efforts made in that direction. In a foot-note an amusing incident is told as illustrating the pratical workings of extra-territoriality. A young lady, possibly an American, was accused of abstracting some article from a jeweller's shop. The Consul after hearing the case decided that she had not been guilty of so common a thing as thieving, but her crime was only "a form of kleptomania," and discharged her. The poor Japanese jeweller could only hang a large placard in front of his shop stating that "among the late arrivals from abroad a germ of a most dangerous disease is discovered."

On the subject of diplomatic relations, high tribute is paid to the United States and her representatives here. American policy in the East has always been characterised by a spirit of fair play, and the United States has at all times been prompt to accede to any proposals Japan may make so long as they are "within the bounds of reason and justice." Judge Bingham during his thirteen years as Minister in Tokyo in many ways showed his warm friendship for Japan. He broke loose from the diplomatic cooperation and defended the right of the Japanese Government to issue "Customs regulations without consulting the foreign Consuls." He also upheld Japan's right to quarantine vessels during a cholera epidemic. Numerous arts of similar friendliness make it true that, "in the breast of every Japanese is implanted a deep feeling of goodwill to America, and it is literally true that to be an American is to be loved and respected."

With regard to American religious influence in Japan, the same unreserved commendation is not to be seen. "Indifference to religious truth is considered a deplorable feature" in present Japan. The Japanese have but little "regard for religion in any form or with any formula." With such an open field before them, why have not the missionaries been more successful? Our author seems to think the reasons are about the same as for the overthrow of Christianity in the seventeeth century—failure is largely to be laid at the doors of the Christians themselves. The missionaries are often inexperienced, scantily educated, sectarian in their views, and repellant in their contact with the Japanese. He alleges that there is good ground for Mr. House's statement that the views of the missionaries are "superficial, one-sided, utterly selfish," but in this respect he is guilty, we think, of a great injustice. He regrets that there is so little intercourse between missionaries and Japanese, and again approvingly quotes Mr. House, "To look down upon the heathen was in a great measure what they had come to the East for." It is probably due to the immaturity and slender intellectual training of many of them that the "field of mission activity confines itself to the lower strata of society." But on the other hand, Professor Inazo thinks the missions have conferred "inestimable benefits" on the civilization of the land. The good done by them has been chiefly moral in transplanting to the East "the idea of a Christian home," and it is likely Christianity will ultimately conquer in one form or another as "notwithstanding the small results of their labours, the missionaries by their zeal and perseverance have become a power in the land."

A few pages are devoted to short notices of works on Japan by Americans. The "Mikado's Empire," by Dr. W. E. Griffis, is pronounced to be by far the best. Others are impartially mentioned and some with praise. But on the whole, Americans have no reason to be proud of their scholarship on Japan. With few exceptions it is neither accurate nor painstaking. For scientific care and research, readers must go to the writings of such Englishmen as Satow, Chamberlain, and Anderson, and such Germans as Rein, Liebscher, and Siebold.

LETTER FROM CINCINNATI.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Cincinnati, May 27th.

I have been in this city just a week, and leave to-night. I cannot say that I should care to live here; for it is very dirty and smoky, at least in the *shita-machi*. It seems as if I had been running small coal mines in my nose, mouth, ears, and under my finger-nails. Even as I write, the smuts come flying in at the window, and settle all over the table and paper. I suppose, however, that it is better in the *uwa machi*, say on Walnut Hills or Mount Auburn, or in the suburbs. I rode up on the hills the other day, and found handsome houses, with green lawns and beautiful yards, and every sign of comfort and convenience. I happened once to go up that hill where about two years ago the electric car, just as it reached the top, broke loose, and came flying back down the hill to carry all its passengers except one to a dreadful death. It is, certainly, an awful place, and made me feel more or less nervous until I was once more safely at the foot of the hill. Now they claim, that, with two cables and a "dog," it is perfectly safe. Evidently, the hundreds of people who every hour ride up and down there consider it secure.

That is the line to take to the Zoölogical Gardens, which, an ardent Cincinnatian informed me, are the best,—not only in the United States, but in the whole world, London and Paris not excepted! Well, there is a large and rare collection of "critters" from all parts of the world; and, as I have no means of instituting a comparison, I leave the matter there.

Cincinnati is well provided with street cars of all kinds—horse, cable, and electric—to pull people around the city and on the hills. Sometimes all three kinds may be seen running on the same track. There are also a number of "put-a-penny-in-a-slot" contrivances. One of these is a pair of scales on street corners: I stood on one of these, but could not move the pendulum until I dropped a cent in the slot; then I saw my weight in a flash. Great is the inventive genius of man!

By-the-way, have you heard of Edison's latest wonder, which he intends to exhibit at the World's Fair? He says that it will do "for the eye what the phonograph does for the voice. It will register the looks and gestures of any person, and then reproduce them at any future time and place. By combining this with the phonograph a man may be seen and heard at the same time, and speeches, plays, and scenes may be reproduced at will. I can place one so that it will command a street corner, and, after letting it register the passing sights for a time, I can have it cast them on a canvas, so that every feature and motion of the persons, even to the twitching of the face, can be seen, and, if a friend passed during the time, you may know it." He also says that "the idea of producing a Shakespearean drama by electricity" has not been abandoned, but "is practically completed, and can be put in order in a short time!" A Chicago daily suggests, that "the Wizard of Menlo Park" will soon discard railroads, and travel by electricity or on the wings of the lightning.

But, to return to Cincinnati, I reached here the last day of the national conference of the Farmers' Alliance. It was a union gathering, composed of a lot of heterogeneous and chaotic elements, such as farmers' associations, knights of labour, people's party, socialists (of all types), greenbackers, etc., etc. I am sorry that I was unable to attend one of their sessions. I was told by a corner druggist that the delegates did not patronize his soda-water fountain very much, but were more at home in the saloon; and that he never, *even* in Cincinnati saw so many corn-fed waggons out pick-

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ing up the unfortunates who had fallen by the way side! Perhaps, that explains why they neglected to put a prohibition plank in their platform.

Well, after considerable wrangling between Ignatius Donnelly, of Minn. Weavour, of Iowa, "Sockless" Simpson, of Kansas, and others of rural fame, they organized a new party, called "The People's Party." They formulated a formidable platform of reform, and claim, of course, that they will carry the next Presidental election. But it is difficult as yet to make any prognostications; it looks, however, as if this farmer's movement would be as short-lived and futile as all previous ones. But it may live just long enough to defeat the Republican party in the next election; for it will draw more from the Republicans of the West than from the Democrats of the south. There are some signs of a breaking up of old party lines.

This has been a fortnight of conventions. Beginning May 18th, the Baptist hosts of the Northern States met in this city for their anniversaries. The Women's Home Mission and Foreign Mission Society, the Publication Society, the Missionary Union, all held sessions, lasting together till yesterday. The Baptist missionaries of Japan were not represented by a single one of their number, only two young men, who had been, not organically, but sympathetically, connected with the work. But the committee on Japanese missions unanimously and heartily endorsed the appeal for $25,000 for the establishment of a boys' school in Tokyo. Then a gentleman arose, and announced that he knew where just that amount was ready to be given as a memorial fund to the cause of foreign missions.

The most striking feature of the Baptist meetings was the presentation of a "chapel car," named "Evangel," to the Publication Society. It was the gift of half a dozen rich men, to whom the plan had been suggested by a minister. The car contains, in one end, accommodations for the missionary who has charge of it; in the main part of the car are seats for from 75 to 100 persons, and an organ. This car will be carried, absolutely free of charge, on the Northern Pacific and Wisconsin Central line. It will stop, for instance, at a small town or village where there is no place for a meeting, and will be itself available for a meeting on the side-track. It is really, you see, quite a novel method of evangelism, and is sure to be imitated by other denominations and on other railroads. It seems to be a plan which promises wonderful results in the work of spreading the Gospel.

On May 21st began the one hundred and third Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States in Detroit, Mich. Rev. Dr. William H. Green, of Princeton Theological Seminary, was elected Moderator. I have not seen in the papers the name of any delegates from Japan; but I have observed prominent mention of Mr. W. A. P. Martin, of China. The vexed question of the revision of the confession of faith came up the second day, when the committee handed in a report recommending certain specified changes. But, as the report of the committee was ordered to be sent down to the presbyteries, the battle was postponed till another year. The now absorbing topic is the trial of Rev. Dr. Briggs, of New York, for heresy. His colleagues in the Union Theological Seminary, and ministers throughout the country, have expressed confidence in his orthodoxy. The trial, which may have already begun, will be of great interest.

The papers to day bring news of the sudden death of Rev. Henry J. Van Dyke, D.D., of Brooklyn. He had just been elected to a chair in the Union Theological Seminary, and was one of Dr. Brigg's warmest supporters. He has been one of the most prominent and famous men in the Presbyterian Church. His sermon on "The Character and Influence of Abolitionism" made his fame.

The same papers contain an item from Portland, Oregon, to the effect, that "nine Japanese women, who were brought to this country on the steamship *Pemptos*, and who were refused a landing at San Francisco by the custom's officers on the ground that they had been brought to this country for immoral purposes, were brought before U.S. Judge Deady to-day on a writ of *habeas corpus*. Judge Deady ordered the women set at liberty." It is sincerely to be hoped that there is no truth in the suspicion.

The World's Fair directors declined to accede to the demands of trade and labour representations concerning the minimum rate of wages, hours of work, etc. They are reported to be alarmed at the proposition "received from a professor in the University of Tokyo, Japan" (presumably your Prof. Milne) "for at least 200 square feet of space in which to demonstrate the operation of earthquakes." But, as Chicago purposes to have every possible novelty, I doubt not that the professor will have a chance to bring over some earthquakes.

When I was in Chicago on my way here, I had an opportunity to run out to Jackson Park for a few minutes. The workmen are busy digging up, dredging, and in every way spoiling that beautiful park, to get the place in readiness for the World's Fair buildings. It is, at any rate, a very fine location.

There is no great change in the matter of "strikes," since I wrote last. The crop reports, in spite of more frost in some localities, are pretty encouraging. And, as R. G. Dun & Co., report that "trade is improving," we may, perhaps, hope for better times for both employés and employers. About the middle of the month, however, forest fires, raging in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, caused considerable damage to property.

There is no news yet from the *Itata*, the Chilean privateer, which the *Charleston* is chasing. The latter ran into Acapulco, and accidentally met the Chilean gunboat *Esmeralda*, but did not engage in any conflict. As the *Esmeralda* was trying to obtain coal at Acapulco, it is surmised that she transferred her supply to the *Itata*, and hastened the latter on her flight. It seems now to be a race between the *Charleston* and the *Itata* to the Chilean coast.

Ex Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, has not yet been assigned a foreign mission. His successor, Dr. Gallinger, by the way, boasts that "he has set type in nearly every newspaper office north of Mason and Dixon's line and between Maine and the Mississippi."

The U.S. Supreme Court has unanimously affirmed the constitutionality of the Kansas "Original Package Law," and also held that it is unnecessary for Kansas to re-enact its prohibitory law after the passage of the Congressional Act. You will remember, that even in prohibition States, liquor could be sold in "original packages," and was sold in that way to an enormous extent. But since Congress has passed an Act forbidding any interference with "State rights" on that question, prohibition was once more enforced. And now, by this decision of the Supreme Court of the land, prohibition has scored a victory, and will advance its cause.

The latest news from Newfoundland announces that the legislature, last Saturday night, with closed doors, passed a local coercion bill, whatever that may be, and that the public are highly indignant. The Governor's proclamation of a holiday in honour of the Queen's birthday, was disregarded, and all the business places were open. The Colonial building flagstaff was cut down; and an attempt was made to burn down the royal standard flagstaff at Government House. If these reports are true, there is reason for much anxiety.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Boston, May 22nd.

The burning political question of the hour in the opinion of some heelers and speculators (for office) is whether or not James G. Blaine, our Secretary of State, is a candidate for the presidency in 1892. It is not an easy matter to determine, especially when J. G. Blaine himself, apparently, is on the fence—a picket fence, if it be true that he has expressed himself as reported. He is now hot for the race, and now is interested only in the success of the present incumbent. Mr. Blaine has been ill in New York several weeks, and is still in the grip of the rheumatism. Perhaps on account of his helplessness, the papers have improved the opportunity to put him into the presidential race, or to rule him out as suited them, knowing that his sharp eye and sharper pen could not do immediate justice to rumour till it had settled into apparent fact. But it is of the greatest importance (to some) to know how Mr. Blaine stands. Will he leave the field to Harrison, or will he enter the lists again (if he has a chance)? If he does he may have the same opponent who defeated him before by less than a thousand votes. Naturally, Harrison's friends wish the matter settled as soon as possible, as they are beginning to build the foundation of Harrison's nomination.

President Harrison has just completed what is called a remarkable journey. Certainly, there is one thing remarkable about it, namely, the cost of it, nearly $200,000, if report be correct. He has "swung around the circle" from Washington south, west, north, east to Washington again, and has made more speeches than any man living or dead ever attempted in the same time. An administration paper says of the trip: "A spontaneous feeling of manly hospitality and chivalry existed throughout the south, west, and north. Everybody realized that he (Harrison) was a far greater and abler man than he had been credited with being, and his simple manner, sincere warmth, and ready appreciation of everything that he saw, made a wonderful impression. The President travelling through all this wild region and meeting all kinds of people, refused to have an escort of any kind. There was not a revolver on the whole train. Governors of States offered to send an escort, but the President declined and said that he was as safe as anybody."

Our pension office is up again for correction and discipline. Corporal Tanner, former commissioner of pensions, was probably the greatest fool ever elevated to high office. After bringing the office into disrepute and ridicule, he was removed, and George B. Raum appointed in his place. Raum was investigated by the last congress, but is still in office. The present difficulty is with Geo. B. Raum, Jun., son of the commissioner (a whole family of Raums is in the pension office) who has been found guilty of such irregularities that he was removed. Meanwhile Tanner is getting $40,000 a year as pension agent. It appears to be more lucrative to be a pension agent than an honest pension commissioner. If Tanner had stayed in office every soldier might have had a carriage and span and a brown stone mansion as long the "surplus" lasted, but there is no danger now, for the surplus has dwindled, and Raum is commissioner and Tanner is agent working for himself. With these worthies between the treasury and the soldier, the soldier may be thankful if he gets the pittance that rightfully belongs to him.

The "Italian episode," or its result, is still with us. It is hoped that it may soon drop out of the daily budget of news. Mayor Shakespeare of New Orleans excites afresh the fury of the Italian monachy by recommending that the exequatur of the Italian consul in New Orleans be recalled. The Mayor in his letter to the Governor, says: "If, as Italian consul, Mr. Corte has ever had any usefulness here, he has outlived it, and has become through his own acts not only an unacceptable person, but an element of danger to this community, in that by his utterances, he incites his inflamable people to riot or sullen opposition to the laws and customs of the country they have sought as an asylum. Being the depository, as he confessed himself to be, of criminal secrets relating to individuals of his race resident among us, he refuses to give to the department of the police and justice the information he has, and thereby increases the danger to the community from these criminals. For these reasons, I have the honour to request that you ask the Secretary at Washington to obtain the recall of Consul Corte's exequatur by the president." Italy will not dare to look us in the face after this snub of one of its consuls. Italy is a good place for Americans to keep away from at this time, but that will be bad for Italy, for Italy is living or has been in good part living on Americans. If any American wants experience with brigands, he need not go to Italy, he may be accommodated nearer home, in fact, at home, at any of the summer resorts on the shore or inland. The professional brigand may learn something from his fellow craftsmen, the keepers of hotels at "watering" places. The Italian episode, however, has drawn attention to every Italian colony in all cities, and it is believed that all are similar to the New Orleans variety. There may be a worthy Italian in this country, as there may be a good apple in a barrel of rotten ones, but, Zounds! We have too many of them and still they come on every ship. The emigrant laws must be amended or we are swamped by the scum of Europe. The persecution of the Jews drives them to our shores in flocks, droves from Russia and Poland. Do they think we want everybody? Do they think that our almshouses are big enough for all Europe! Let them keep their paupers at home.

The Osage Indians are the richest, not only of all Indian tribes, but are among the richest people upon the face of the earth. Their wealth per capita is five times as great as that of the American people, ten times that of the English. Among the trust funds in the United States treasury is one item to the credit of the Osages of $8,147,515, the annual interest of which is $407,376.

The poisoning of Mrs. Barnaby, referred to in my last letter, which has attracted so much attention throughout the country, is still before the people. The grand jury at Denver, Colorado, has found an indictment against Dr. Graves, the man who was Mrs. Barnaby's medical adviser, confidential friend, business agent, and who is given $25,000 by will. The grand jury is still in session, and it is reported that indictments have been found against others, presumably accomplices of Dr. Graves. It be said, however, that there are doubts as to the guilt of Dr. Graves, in spite of the indictment and the fact that the doctor is now in jail with little prospect, probably, of securing bail. If report be true, the trial of the case will be most sensational, and Graves' lawyers promise startling disclosures [illegible] will prove a conspiracy against their client.

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The cruiser *Charleston*, sent in pursuit of the Chilean man-of-war supposed to have violated the neutrality laws by entering the waters of the United States for supplies of war, has been heard from at Acapulco, Mexico. The commander reports that the Chilean has not been seen. The *Charleston* is coaling at Acapulco, and keeping watch of the *Esmeralda*, the escort of the *Itata*, the Chilean of which the *Charleston* is in search. As the latter had the start, 24 hours or more, and requires less coal than the *Charleston*, it may be presumed that she is far toward home, but it is said that she can be taken in Chilean waters. Our naval squadron on the Pacific coast has been massed at Iquique, not merely to capture the Chilean cruiser, but to protect American interests from danger from the war-like demonstrations of the Congressional party. The rendezvous was formerly at Valparaiso, but American interests are supposed to be safe at Valparaiso. The presence of our fleet in Chilean waters will be costly for the Government, for coal is $22 a ton. The cost of filling the bunkers of the *Baltimore* was $25,000. The further movements of the *Charleston* are waited with much interest.

The third-party movement has developed into a convention held in Cincinnati. Adherents to the old parties see some danger in the organization of this party. The party is christened "The People's Party of the United States." The platform "demands the abolition of national banks; free and unlimited coinage of silver; laws prohibiting alien ownership of land, and recovery of land now in the hands of aliens; taxation not to be for the benefit of one class at expense of another; all revenues limited to necessary expenses of the Government; election of national officers by direct vote of the people, and much more of less import. The old party leaders declare that if a new party is to rise, this is a good time for it to appear, because there is time enough before the presidential election to develop within the new party, antagonistic elements enough to scatter it to the four winds of heaven. Already the new party, at birth, has an element of opposition to the Farmer's Alliance, an element that will attract a part of the Alliance, and estrange other parts. At all events, the political field in the next election will have many interesting parties and performers, acrobats, and crow and fire eaters, and a great many amateur jugglers.

RECENT EXPLORATIONS IN EGYPT AND BIBLE RECORDS.

Canon Tristram's Lecture in the Central Tabernacle, Hongo, Tokyo.

On the 29th of April last a large and intelligent audience of Japanese and foreigners, many of the latter from Yokohama, availed themselves of the rare opportunity of listening to a lecture before the Christian Evidence Society of Tokyo, by Canon Tristram on Egyptian Exploration as authenticating and corroborating the Scripture records, given in Dr. Eby's Central Tabernacle, Hongo, Tokyo.

Dr. Eby opened the meeting by asking the audience to unite in singing the 100th Psalm, and Archdeacon Shaw offered the introductory prayer. Dr. Eby announced the auspices under which Canon Tristram lectured, and thought no further introduction necessary for one so well known in letters. The Japanese hearers who might not understand English would afterwards be given a resumé of the lecture in Japanese by the Rev. Y. Hiraiwa.

Canon Tristram, a vigorous but elderly man with full white beard, began by saying that when Canon Rawlinson and himself were boys there were but two or three scraps of ancient Egyptian discoveries that corroborated Scripture. Now, by the researches in Nineveh and the multiplied corroborations in Egypt, whole books of the Bible in their historical portions might be reproduced. It was like the opening of Japan, adding a new picture to the world's history; modern research had unearthed whole histories unknown to Homer and Herodotus, that Boswell of the Ancient World.

The effect of this knowledge was marked; for formerly men read the Pentateuch with their own spectacles and with their own short-lived schemes of philosophy, but the spade and photography had now rendered this impossible. Had Bishop Colenso waited twenty years he could not have written his book. In answer to the question;—"Where do all the naughty German philosophers go when they die?" it had been said, "To Oxford." As an Oxford man himself, he might say that there were other representatives of Oxford than Dr. Driver and his collaborators, who would solve all historical data out of their own inner consciousness.

Note.—The publication of this condensation of Canon Tristram's lecture has been delayed in order to have the author's revision, after he had left the city.

The Bible, until recently, was our only book on what we may call primitive man. Now in Egypt there are contemporary records going back according to one authority, to 5004 B.C., and according to another to 4400 B.C. He inclined to the former chronology. The Egyptian records were not historical, but funereal, but while giving the record of the deceased there was so much of contemporaneous incident related as to make them the source of much historical knowledge. Canon Tristram observed that, like the Chinese, their theory of men was the tripartite theory, the body, soul, and spirit. They believed in the resurrection of the body, and hence their extraordinary care for the body, its preservation in all its parts, and the further precaution of numerous figures or effigies of the deceased to help his identification.

The fact that wood kept for 5,000 or 6,000 years as perfectly sound as when first cut down, and the papyrus paper for thousands of years, made Egypt the one land of the whole world where such preservation of records is possible.

In this way the rolls in the cases of the mummies—the whole 145 chapters of their scriptures—"This book of the dead," have been recovered. Paintings of minutest accuracy of detail are to be found. The oldest painting in colours now in existence is a beautiful tablet of a Queen of 4449 B.C. Among the birds represented with the picture of the Queen is one of the red breasted goose. This bird is only found in Siberia. Once or twice it has been found in Europe as late as 1745. Had it not been for this we would have counted it a fabulous bird. It was probably a single specimen borne there by a storm from the north, and was so remarkable as to be commemorated in a tomb of a Queen. There is record also of the conquest of the Sinaitic peninsula by an early king. There are proofs of Egyptian occupation in barracks and temples built for the use and worship of the soldiers. Three thousand troops must have been there at one point to protect the smelting of copper. There is the slag and half roasted copper to this day. Where did they get charcoal from for this purpose? Now there are not a dozen trees in the whole peninsula. Then there must have been forests and brooks. Both have disappeared under the destructive woodman's axe, and Arabia Petrea is all that is left. It is easy to cut down a tree as Mr. Gladstone does, and old institutions as well, without any attempt to supply their place with other and better ones. He warned his Japanese hearers against despoiling their land of its magnificent timber growths. Nothing is more needful to man, than forest growths. He spoke of the age of the erection of the pyramids of Gizeh, by Cheops, 4,235 to 4,000 B.C.; of the Obelisks, 3,034 B.C., and the conquest of Africa to the 2nd cataract; and the assertion of some that there was as great a gap between the Sphinx and the Pyramids as from the Pyramids till now. So much for Ancient Egypt in general.

He came to the dynasty of the Hyksos, or Shepherd kings, who conquered Egypt and ruled from 2224 to about 1462 B.C., or 750 years.

These were the kings that were friends of Abraham and Joseph. Their figures are easily recognisable in Egyptian and Assyrian monuments by their high Mongolian cheek bones, and by their always being represented as booted with turned up toes. To the Egyptians who wore sandals this must have been a distinguishing mark. These shepherd kings were Hittites and built Zoan in Hebron, or Tanis in Greek, or San in Egyptian. The cartouches of three kings were chiselled out of their monuments and those of their conquerors afterwards substituted, but so unskilfully, as to leave the original writing to be recovered. The name in Egyptian, Kitti; Khatti, in Chaldee; Chitti, in Hebrew, shows they were Hittites.

Dr. Wright, formerly of Damascus, now of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and Professor Sayce show that the Hittites were a powerful nation and made a 700 years' successful struggle with Assyria and Egypt for independence and sovereignty. Homer did not know of them. The Bible now becomes a check on Egyptian history and the Egyptian history on the Bible. The first of the Hyksos was the friend of Abraham and the third of Joseph. The Hittites became reduced in the time of Joshua. An incident recorded in Numbers XIII. 33, says of the city of Hebron which was first called Kirjath-Arba or "City of Awa" (Judges I. 10.) "Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt." No one until lately could tell what earthly connection there was between Hebron and Zoan, or why such a statement was made. Now, however, it becomes not only intelligible but a convincing proof of the document recording this fact having been written at that time. For what, anyone might ask, has Hebron in Canaan to do with the building of Zoan in Egypt? But now it is known to have been called Hebron by the Hittite conquerors who made it a stronghold on their ground on their way to Egypt, where they seven years later built Zoan, it becomes intelligible, and serves to show the absurdity of the dictum of "higher Critics" that the Book of Numbers was written 1,000 or 1,500 years later by some very clever person indeed, who could supply such incidental data as that. In 1288 B.C. we come to the great epoch-making dynasty of Egypt, the 19th dynasty. A feeble dynasty of priest kings had ruled after the shepherds for about 200 years when there were many rival rulers, as during the time of feudal rivalry in Japan, before becoming united under one powerful Shogun or at the restoration under the Emperor. The first king of this dynasty, Sêti, made a league with the Hittites. A plate of silver three feet by two feet with raised characters recorded this treaty with the Hittites, and lists of some one hundred and twenty-seven cities taken on his way to the Orontes, of which a copy has been found and in the same order as recorded in Joshua. He would be a clever writer 1,000 or 1,500 years later who could reproduce with such exactness the records of both Egypt and Canaan.

The King of the Hittites' daughter was taken to wife, and his grand-daughter was probably the princess who adopted Moses. Seti rebuilt Zoan that had been demolished by the priest kings, and it is recorded that he used the Semites for this purpose. He constructed the sweet water canal. Rameses II., named Sesostris by the Greeks, was a great warrior. He conquered Nubia, Dongola, and to the Lakes. He held the Soudan and to the Tigris in the East, and to Batoum on the Black Sea. He was a patron of poetry, and the poet laureate of his time, Pentaur, celebrates the colossal columns of Thebes as "Those everlasting stones." Rameses II. undertook to build the Suez canal but was deterred from its further prosecution owing to a soothsayer telling him it would be of more use to foreigners than to Egypt,-a very true prophecy of the present Suez canal. Rameses' statue was only five feet eight and a half inches, but his energy of character is stamped upon his every feature even to the raised arm above his breast where it was originally folded over the other arm.

The account of this accident and of the preservation and the recovery of the bodies of the long line of sovereigns of Egypt is very remarkable. When Cambyses conquered Egypt 525 B.C., he attacked the tombs of the kings for plunder, as they were reported to be interred with great wealth. We are told he found the great stone sarcophagi opened and rifled of their bodies. What had become of them? The story is well known of their discovery but a few years since, when some Englishman, rummaging for antiquities, found an opening at the bottom of a well to a long cavern where he made the discovery of a great number of mummies thrown in higgeldy-piggeldy without regard to rank or condition. These proved to be the long sought bodies of the kings. Doubtless some devout and patriotic native had rescued them from the sacrilegious touch of the invader. When the recent discoverers were moving these mummies the Arabs who were assisting the Englishmen observed the arm of one slowly rising and they rushed terror stricken from the cavern shouting, "The devil; the devil." Nor could they be persuaded to re enter the cavern. The two Englishmen had to pursue their work alone, and soon solved the problem of the risen arm. It was due to the sun's rays falling through an aperture on one spot at the side and melting the wax or pitch that bound down the arm. From papyri accompanying other mummies, among other valuable works that have been found was the lost book of Aristotle entitled, "The Politics of Athens." The only royal mummy not found is that of Meneptah, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, the successor of Rameses II. The Egyptian priests have recorded that in the 3rd and 4th year of his reign the calender was rectified by observing the time of the rising of Sirius. This as we know, and as they had observed, completes its cycle every 1,461 years. They reckoned 28 days to the month, 12 months in the year, and then again by solar reckoning till the years came to be within six hours of ours; not a bad evidence that they were neither uncivilized or unscientific. This rectification of the calendar helps us to fix the date of the Exodus.

Until recently a station on the Egyptian railroad was called Rameses, more appropriately changed to Tel-el-Kebir, where so many of the noble sons of Britain a few years ago sacrificed their lives. This place proved to be not Rameses at all, but Succoth (pron. Suk Koot) which was the name of the civil city. Within was another or sacred city, called Pithom (Pitoom). These names are found on many remains; in the centre of the sacred city is found the substructure of an immense building; it covers 2,000 yards square—possibly two acres—and is built in compartments of sun-dried bricks, the walls being sixteen feet high, and in compartments having no communication with each other,

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but with corbels for beams to rest upon above, and if the apartments were accessible it must have been from above only. Now the bricks in these walls are of three kinds: in the lower stratum they are of clay mixed with straw, such as their bricks were generally made of; the intermediate stratum of bricks is clay mixed with water weeds and rushes (the real meaning of "stubble" in the Bible, evidently the word indicating a water plant), and the upper tiers of bricks are without either straw or rushes. How can this undesigned coincidence be gotten over?

Again the name of Goshen is never recorded after the Exodus. The Counties or Nomes of Egypt were settled under Seti I., but were added to by Rameses, at which time Goshen was converted into the Nome of Arabia or "Geseu Arabia," the name by which it was afterwards known. How, we enquire, could any writer 1,000 or 1,500 years after the name was lost know it and use the same?

Another of these undesigned coincidences is the addition that was made in the later list of clean animals given in Deuteronomy where are added eleven names of beasts and birds, most of which could not exist in cultivated Egypt nor in wooded and hilly Palestine, but which were only in the wilderness, as the mountain wild goat, the various antelopes, and the Bakker or wild cow. This shows most conclusively that the record could only have been written where the facts of natural history were known, and at the time and place where they took place. He based his faith on one such fact more than on all the surmises of scholarship so called. These animals can be identified by the similarity of the Hebrew and vernacular Arabic names. They still occur in the Sinaitic desert, which alone is suited to their habits. When Israel came out of Egypt, they were unacquainted with them, and therefore they are not named in the catalogue of Leviticus, but after 39 years sojourning in the desert, they were naturally familiar with them, and so they are named in their later list. How could Hilkiah or Jeremiah or Ezra, or any later writer have inserted these names of animals which they could not have known, for none of them ever visited the wilderness of their wanderings?

The attempt to make the way of the children of Israel not across the Red Sea, but through the Sarbonian bog at its head had singularly failed. Pi hahiroth had been established, and the stages of eleven days' journey to Sinai was confirmed by a letter found in a tomb, 400 years later, of an Egyptian gentleman to his friend describing his pursuit of two valuable runaway slaves. He gives the same names of the stations and the same time of eleven days as the account in Deuteronomy, to Sinai.

The lecturer remarked on the course pursued by the Israelites, that he observed on his recent trip down the Red Sea that in the early spring there was pasturage all along the western slope of the interior high lands for large herds of cattle, and that the Israelites were led out of the usual course to avoid the large force of soldiers stationed in the usual course of travel towards Canaan.

The lecturer had only time to mention one more coincidence, that of the most recent discoveries in Lachish. It had been cut down like a slice of plum-cake and its history recorded like a natural palimpsest to be re-read from the latest occupancy.

The Turkish, English and French Crusaders, the Roman and Greek occupancy, were each known by its architecture, its coins, and relics. Then the period of Jewish occupancy, recognized by its bevelled stones like the Phœnician and Syrian, in which style Solomon's temple was built; then a period of rubble and earth corresponding to the time of the Judges, and finally a wall of solid masonry, 22 ft. high and 28 ft. thick, of its original possessors, such as might give colour to the report of the spies that the inhabitants of the land dwelt in towns with walls great and high reaching unto heaven. Pottery taken from the ruins of the Phœnician strata had been sent to Paris and London, and it is declared by competent experts that it could not be later than 700 or 800 B.C. In conclusion the Canon said it is such facts as these that assure us that the Bible is the Word of God and that it will survive all the shocks that may be given it. *Magna est veritas, et prevalebit.*

NOTE.—It should be mentioned that the Lecturer said that as he had not brought data with him for reference he could not be sure that all his dates and dimensions were absolutely exact.

During the eighty-eight years of the British and Foreign Bible Society's existence it has distributed no fewer than 120,000,000 Bibles and Testaments, very many of them gratuitously of course. This number is so enormous that the mind cannot grasp its full meaning. It may be better understood by stating that, assuming there are 300 working days in a year, it represents an average daily distribution of nearly 4,500 copies.

HINTS UPON THE FORMATION OF COLLECTIONS OF JAPANESE ART.

Artistic Japan, which all its readers will hear with regret is shortly to complete its issue, cannot have existed in vain. Some portion of the seed which it has scattered broadcast over the world must have fallen on good ground and brought forth good fruit. In addition to those who, previous to its appearance, affected an interest in Japanese Art, and whose interest it has strengthened, there must be many who through its teachings have been led, not only to take up its study seriously, but to become collectors of Japanese wares.

It cannot, therefore, be altogether out of place that one of the closing articles should take as its subject some suggestions and advice to those who come under this last-named category.

I am the more emboldened to offer these because I have myself oftentimes suffered from the want of any source to which when commencing to study and collect, I could turn for guidance, and also because I feel that the time has come when all classes of Japanese collectors should regard their possessions in a more serious light than they have hitherto done, and that each and all should endeavour to assist in the elucidation of the vast field which still lies unexplored before them.

The subject divides itself into the following heads: What to collect; How to collect; How to treat a collection when made.

The question, What to collect? may seem at first sight to carry its answer with it, namely, Anything distinctly Japanese. By no means. If a collection is to have any individuality, any increasing value, any abiding interest for its owner, if he is to become on terms of intimacy with it, and a kinship, as it were, is to exist between himself and each piece of it, it must have strict and abiding limitations which the owner must make up his mind never to depart from.

The first of these limitations is as to the branch or branches of the Art which shall be selected for collection. If there is one thing in Japanese Art which there is no gainsaying, it is its extraordinary variety. To such an extent does this permeate it that if a single branch only be collected, and the collector be endowed with ample means and ample opportunity, he will probably never arrive at a time when he will have to stop for lack of specimens dissimilar to anything that he possesses. If therefore, he ranges over the varied branches of Art, no house will hold any representative collection of each, and few purses will be deep enough to supply the where withal to acquire them.

For this reason, if for no other, a choice should be made at the outset and adhered to.

Amongst the varied branches from which a selection may be made we may enumerate pictures (on rolls), engravings (coloured and plain), books, pottery, and porcelain, silks and stuffs (including costumes), lacquer, metalwork, carvings in wood, ivory, etc., household wares, or even articles made of particular materials, as for instance, bamboo. Or the collection may be formed independently of the object, as for instance, representations of the flora, the zoology, the religions, the history, the manners and customs, the myths and folklore of the country. There is much to be said for this method. Professor Church, for instance, has a quite representative collection of Japanese flora depicted on sword-guards, in that most difficult of mediums, wrought and chiselled iron.

Or, again, the collection may be made according to the occupation or tastes of the collector. As regards this, opinions differ. For instance, one would imagine that the sculptor would be attracted towards the bronzes with their marvellous patinas, or even towards the tiny netsukes; the silk merchant towards old dresses, and the goldsmith towards metalwork. But this is not by any means always or usually the case, and the reason is not far to seek; half the delight of collecting is the relaxation which it affords from the cares and troubles of business, and this can certainly best be done by something which is as entire a diversion from the day's work as possible; this will not be altogether the case if the thing collected is at all akin to the profession of the collector.

But there are other considerations besides these which should influence the choice. And the first is the capacity for storage at one's disposal. A bachelor, especially a confirmed one, may indulge in fragile china, whilst a man with children and careless housemaids may find it necessary to confine himself to substantial bronze. One who lives in a mansion may buy colossal Buddhas, while he who can only spare a corner of his dwelling-room must acquire nothing which will not go into a drawer. But Japanese Art adapts itself to everybody's requirements. A museum is not too large to adequately represent one phase of it; a couple of thousand examples of its finest art may be so stored away in a room that no one need be aware of their presence, as is the case with the writer's collection.

Then, again, there is the consideration of the length of one's purse; a very serious one, for it is astonishing how much money may be invested in a tiny drawer full of objects; and nothing is more disheartening than to find oneself face to face with an object absolutely essential to the completion of a link in one's collection, and no sufficient balance at the bank with which to acquire it. So then it is no use for one who has not a large margin on the right side between income and expenditure to embark upon costly pieces of lacquer, or he may find himself at the end of his tether before he has half-a-dozen pieces; and, on the other hand, he who is in that enviable position should confine himself to the finest piece, not only because in the long run they are the best investments, but naturally, the acquirers being limited, they are usually comparatively the cheapest.

There is yet a further matter to which I attach considerable importance, namely, that the collector should not collect one, but two branches, and these should, so far as they fall in with the conditions of space and purse, be as unlike one another as possible. I advise this for more than one reason. First of all I do not think I am singular in feeling that one is apt at times to tire even of one's *bibelots*, even when they are not confined to a single class of objects. I find that, as the year goes on and one gets jaded and fagged with work, a nausea springs up even for the most dearly beloved acquisitions, and that the key is turned upon them when the summer holiday commences without any parting pang. Fortunately in such a case absence makes the heart grow fonder, and one looks forward to seeing them again as for the friend from whom one has been long parted. Not only to mitigate, and possibly to avoid this, is it advisable to divide one's attention between two branches, but also because a collection is in this case much more likely to interest outsiders.

This may perhaps be a convenient place for noting a word of warning. All ugly things should be avoided, for nothing will so soon induce a distaste for Japanese Art. Compared with other kindred countries, Japan art is remarkably free from monstrosities and hideosities. Instead of, as in Indian and Burmese art, a great portion of it being composed of hideous representations of deities which have not even grotesqueness to recommend them, it has, apart from its illustrations of religious personages, little that is ugly. Curiously enough up to a certain period, the older the art the freer it is from this, and it is a remarkable fact that just now the Japanese artificer's mind seems to be imbued with an idea that what the foreigner likes is ugliness, and in every way he shapes his wares accordingly. Only a few days ago I came across a quantity of newly made sword-guards upon which every form of ugliness had been perpetrated.

Most people will prefer to collect objects which have a flavour of antiquity to those of more modern aspect, although in the one case there is a great chance of deception, and in the other none. But there are few modern wares which are now well enough made to be worthy of collection. One class of objects must certainly be avoided, and that is those which have the slightest western influence apparent in either their shape, decoration, or material. But interesting collections might be formed easily and very cheaply of the household wares which in a very few years European and American importations will have driven out of use. My own collection is composed of articles which have fallen into this category. It consists of swords and sword furniture, the use of which has been forbidden by imperial edict; medicine cases, and the heads and netsukes attached to them; all of which, if not already disused, are rapidly becoming so. These have three very special attributes, which entitle them to consideration by collectors. In the first place, they have the personality of the owner attaching to them, and which it is not difficult to arrive at when examining them; in the second place, they have for the most part received much consideration at the hands both of their maker and their owner, for they were the only articles of attire (except garments) which could be lavishly decorated; and lastly, they have not as yet been sufficiently collected over here to warrant modern reproductions of them being made. Additional reasons are their compactness; their comparative cheapness; in the case of medicine cases—their illustrating in the finest way every phase of lacquer manufacture; and in that of sword furniture every phase of metal-work; besides this they are exceptionally strong in illustrations of folklore, history, religion, and the flora and zoology of the country.

An advantage of confining oneself to the collection of certain specialities is this, and it is by no

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means an insignificant one, especially if the collector does not inhabit the metropolis, that the dealers get to know what he wants and what he does not, with the result that when anything likely to suit comes to them they will buy it with a view to his needs, and he will in this way have as good opportunities, if he be a liberal buyer, that is one not given to haggling and beating down, as if he lived in town.

The second section of my hints, namely—How to collect—may be dealt with more cursorily.

First of all, do not begin without previous study. Time, money, and the accumulation of much which it will be troublesome afterwards to be rid of will then be saved. It is true that opportunities for this study are rather difficult to obtain. Not only the English but the French museums still put off the acquisition of what they will one day have to pay very dearly for, and when they do buy do not always exercise discrimination. To private collectors, therefore, the student will have to turn for information, but my own experience of them is that they are not only too ready to show their treasures, but to impart all their knowledge. Reliable text-books on the subject are few and for the most part expensive, two of the best being, for Pictorial Art, Mr. Anderson's work, and for all the decorative arts, except lacquer, Gonse's *L'Art Japonais*. A reliable text-book has still to be written upon lacquer, and in fact upon almost every branch of the industrial arts. Much can be learnt from photographs, and collectors would earn the gratitude of their brethren if they would, as Mr. Gilbertson has done, photograph and circulate impressions of their most noteworthy pieces.

Do not buy too quickly. Know every piece in your collection by careful examination and comparison. This it is impossible to do if you buy a score of pieces every week. Duplicates do not often occur in Japanese Art, but you should know your collection so well as never to commit such an error as to acquire unwittingly two similar objects.

Never buy in lots. It is only natural that dealers should try to avoid being left with the indifferent pieces of a lot, but pay more rather than be saddled with what will only cumber and degrade your collection.

Never beat down the wares with a dealer you know. It not only results in his raising the price of the next article which he offers you, but if it is a question between yourself and another customer as to which shall have the first sight of new things, you will not be the fortunate one.

Have a few things and good rather than many and second-rate, and consequently never hesitate to turn out and sell for anything it will fetch a doubtful piece.

Never lose an opportunity of acquiring a piece which constitutes a missing link in your collection: in Japanese Art so rare is the chance of obtaining a duplicate that in one branch of my collection I have retained two almost similar pieces merely as a curiosity.

Never think it too much trouble to look through what may appear to be rubbish—one not only gains experience, but there is always the chance of a find. Few collectors but have had more than one pleasant experience in this way.

And now, lastly, for a few hints as to the collection when started. There are few pieces which do not improve by being carefully cleaned when they get home. Wood-carvings and lacquer should be rubbed with fine cotton wool upon which a little siccative linseed oil has been placed, and afterwards polished with a fine silk handkerchief, great care being taken that there is no dust or grit in either wool or handkerchief. Metalwork, especially if rusty, should be treated by the following process, which has the high authority of Professor Church to recommend it. Dissolve about an inch of stick potash in a quarter of a pint of warm water, then totally immerse the object for about five minutes, after which rinse in hot water until the latter is no longer discoloured by rust or dirt. If the articles should unfortunately have been coated with vaseline or paraffin oil, they must be previously rubbed with oil. When dry the specimens should receive a light coating of siccative linseed oil; after this has been rubbed in with a plate brush, any excess producing a gloss must be removed with a cloth or with pads of carded cotton. Neither shibuichi, shakudo, or incrustations of gold and silver will be harmed by this process.

Metalwork is often defaced by the labels having been affixed with injuriously-compounded gum, containing sulphuric or nitric acid, which has almost removed the delicate patina. Nothing remains in this case but to ease away the edges of the mark with oil and fine cigar-ash very delicately applied, and so render it less noticeable. A note of warning must be sounded against keeping metalwork with delicate patinas wrapped up in newspaper, the ink from which will oftentimes indelibly imprint itself upon the surface.

Having cleaned the objects, the next thing should be their cataloguing and numbering. This should not be neglected for any length of time, or difficulties will certainly ensue. A separate drawer should be reserved for uncatalogued pieces. It is not necessary for me to speak of how articles should be catalogued, but I have found it convenient to have different books for different articles, such as netsukes, inros, and sword-guards. Do not affix huge unsightly tickets to the articles themselves. A very small one will suffice for the number, the maker's name, and the price paid (in private hieroglyphics); if the owner prefers to paint the catalogue numbers on the article itself it should be done with artist's white oil paint toned with raw sienna and thinned with turpentine, so that it can be used with a pen, and strengthened with a little copal or amber varnish.

Finally, let everything look cared-for and precious. A Japanese, we know, bestows infinite care upon his treasures, not only wrapping them in the finest silks, but encasing each one in its own special box. French collectors often imitate him, and always tend their treasures more artistically than Englishmen. Not only do they place them in cabinets which are of themselves objects of art, but they dispose them therein upon rich stuffs and in an artistic manner. No doubt this may be carried too far and the objects themselves may suffer from too costly and elaborated settings, but this is a fault on the right side. I have tried various colours and have come to the conclusion that for everything (except silver and gold, for which royal blue is the best) there is nothing like pure white, dove colour, or a blue-grey, the first for choice. What is known as swansdown serves very well, in fact almost better than velvet.

The collector may wish to keep his various objects apart, but they certainly improve by being mixed in a legitimate manner; medicine cases, for instance, with netsukes and beads, and sword-guards with fuchi-kashira and kozukas.

MARCUS B. HUISH.

BASE BALL.

This game, played on Saturday, resulted in the Tokyo team winning—9 to 6. Following are details:—

TOKYO.

	Pos.	At Bat.	Runs.	1st B.	Total Bases.	P.O.	A.
Mr. Knox	C	5	2	2	6	9	6
Mr. McNair	P	5	3	4	18	2	3
Mr. Tison	1B	4	0	1	5	14	0
Mr. Tyng	3B	4	0	1	1	0	0
Mr. Gibbs	SS	5	0	1	2	0	5
Mr. Gardiner	CF	5	1	2	4	0	0
Mr. Fenton	LF	5	1	3	9	3	0
Mr. Patton	RF	5	1	2	6	0	0
Mr. Graham	2B	4	1	1	4	1	0
Total		42	9	17	48	27	14

YOKOHAMA

	Pos.	At Bat.	Runs.	1st B.	Total Bases.	P.O.	A.
Mr. Page	P	5	1	1	4	0	6
Mr. Macondray	CF	4	0	1	3	0	0
Mr. Bryan	C	4	1	1	2	7	4
r. Tilden	3B	4	2	2	8	4	2
Mr. Abbey	RF	5	0	1	3	0	0
Mr. Kane	1B	4	1	1	4	13	1
Mr. Stone	SS	4	0	1	1	0	1
Mr. Blanchard	LF	5	0	0	0	0	0
Mr. Merriman	2B	4	2	1	3	1	2
Total		39	6	11	36	27	16

INNINGS.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Tokyo	2	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	9
Yokohama	3	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	6

CRICKET.

Y.C. AND A.C. SECOND ELEVEN V. H.M.S. "SEVERN."

This match, played on Wednesday, resulted in a win for the Club youngsters by 168. E Edwards and Fenton bowled for the Club, and divided the honours between them. Oakley and Freemantle bowled for the ship, most wickets falling to the latter. The prominent feature in the batting was the extraordinary score made by Fenton, who piled up 117 before being caught by Colville off Freemantle. Following are the scores:—

Y.C. AND A.C.		H.M.S. "SEVERN."	
Mr. E. Edwards, c. Morgan, b. Freemantle	39	Mr. Freemantle, c. Hood, b. Fenton	13
Mr. Fenton, c. Colville, b. Freemantle	117	Mr. Oakley, c. Abbey, b. Edwards	1
Mr. Fardell, c. Boyde, b. Freemantle	3	Mr. G. Harris, c. Smith, b. Edwards	0
Mr. Young, b. Freemantle	0	Mr. Harris, b. Fenton	6
Mr. Abbey, l.b.w., b. Oakley	3	Mr. Boulter, not out	4
Mr. Hood, c. and b. Freemantle	8	Mr. Colville, run out	0
Mr. Smith, b. Freemantle	0	Mr. Barker, b. Edwards	0
Mr. Watt, c. Mallock, b. Freemantle	3	Mr. Morgan, run out	2
Mr. Alcock, not out	16	Mr. Boyde, c. Edwards, b. Fenton	1
Mr. Braess, c. Freemantle, b. Oakley	3	Mr. Bundy, c. Abbey, b. Fenton	0
Mr. Gibbs, b. Oakley	6	Mr. Mallock, b Edwards	0
b. ?	7	b. 3	3
	197		29

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, June 21st.

A French Squadron will shortly visit Cronstadt. This announcement is considered to be of considerable political importance.

London, June 22nd.

Water has been admitted to the Eastham section of the Manchester Ship Canal.

London, June 23rd.

Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland are about to negotiate reciprocal Treaties of Commerce.

London, June 24th.

The Emperor of Austria is about visiting Fiume, and out of compliment will inspect the British Mediterranean Squadron assembled there.

London, June 25th.

A collision between the military quartered in Chatham has occurred, in which many were injured. The combatants were men of the Line and of the Royal Engineers.

In the House of Commons, the Bill for Free Education has been read a second time.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

London, June 4th.

In his evidence in the suit for libel now being tried, Colonel Gordon Cumming admitted that he did nothing to clear himself until the scandal was made public. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales testified to the friendship existing between himself and Colonel Gordon Cumming, and stated that he saw nothing of the cheating referred to but was obliged to believe the unanimous statement of others that the plaintiff had been detected cheating.

London, June 5th.

At the trial now proceeding, several persons testified to witnessing cheating on the part of Colonel Gordon. It has transpired that the counters used belonged to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour in addressing a meeting said that the condition of Ireland was so satisfactory that it was now possible to suspend the criminal conspiracy provisions of the Crimes Act.

TIME TABLES AND STEAMERS.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

DOWN TRAINS LEAVE SHIMBASHI Station at 6,* 7, 8, 9, 9.35,† 10.45, and 11.40‡ a.m., and 1.10, 2.20,† 3.35,‡ 4.45, 5.55, 6.50,† 7.30, 8.30, 9.50,* and 11.15* p.m.

UP TRAINS LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.30, 7.45,* 8.20, 9.20,* 10.10, and 11.25‡ a.m., and 12.55, 1.50,† 2.55, 4, 4.51,* 5.45, 7.05, 8, 8.58,† 9.55, and 11.05* p.m.

FARES—First-class, *sen* 60; second-class, *sen* 40; and third-class, *sen* 20.

Trains marked (*) run through without stopping at Omori, Kawasaki, and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (†) run through without stopping at Omori and Tsurumi Stations. Those marked (‡) run through without stopping at Tsurumi Station.

TOKYO-MARBASHI RAILWAY.

TRAINS LEAVE TŌKYŌ (Ueno) (down) at 6, 6.35, 8.50, and 11.35 a.m., and 2.45 and 5.45 p.m.; and MARBASHI (up) at 6 and 11.45 a.m., and 2.40, 5.45, and 8.50 p.m.

YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

STEAMERS LEAVE the Nippon Hatoba daily at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.; and LEAVE YOKOSUKA at 8.30 a.m., and 12.30 and 3.30 p.m.—Fare, *sen* 20.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki and Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, July 3rd.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, July 4th.*
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, June 30th.‡
From America	per P. M. Co.	Monday, July 13th.
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, July 5th.

* *Oceanic* left San Francisco via Honolulu on June 13th. ‡ *Belgic* (with English mail) left Amoy on June 25th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 30th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, July 3rd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, July 5th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. M. Co.	Thursday, July 9th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, July 16th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd.	Sunday, July 19th.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 21st June,—Kobe 20th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 21st June,—Hongkong 13th, Nagasaki 17th, and Kobe 20th June, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,882, Porter, 22nd June,—Kobe 20th June, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ping-Suey, British steamer, 1,981, Jacques, 22nd June,—Kobe 21st June, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 22nd June,—Miyako 20th June, Rice.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, C. A. Spires, 22nd June,—Otaru 18th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 23rd June,—Hakodate 20th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Speigelthal, 23rd June,—Kobe 22nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gloaming, British ship, 1,498, Putnam, 24th June,—New York 14th February, 53,600 cases Oil.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 24th June,—Hakodate 21st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Melanope, British ship, 1,608, Tait, 25th June,—New York 10th February, 58,000 cases Oil and General.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 26th June,—Kobe 24th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 26th June,—Shanghai and ports 20th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Natal, French steamer, 4,800, Verron, 26th June,—Hongkong 17th, Shanghai 22nd, and Kobe 25th June, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Santa Clara, American ship, 1,474, Fuller, 26th June,—New York 11th February, Oil.—Fraser, Farley & Co.

Thorndale, British steamer, 1,970, Etherington, 26th June,—Kobe 25th June, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,082, MacMillan, 20th June,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Ekstrand, 20th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 21st June,—Hongkong, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Calédonien, French steamer, 2,500, Flandin, 21st June,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

General Werder, German steamer, 1,820, Blanke, 21st June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Hass, 21st June,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,342, Kenderdine, 21st June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iphigenia, German steamer, 1,058, Magleby, 22nd June,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Exe, British steamer, 1,368, Watson, 22nd June,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 23rd June,—Shanghai and ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Brown, 23rd June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Barstow, 24th June,—Nemuro, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,882, Porter, 24th June,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,182, Hussey, 24th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ping-Suey, British steamer, 1,981, Jacques, 25th June,—Kobe, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, Spiegalthal, 25th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Euphrates, British steamer, 1,300, Edwards, 26th June,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, J. Wynn, 26th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, F. H. Seymour, 27th June,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. A. Schmidt and servant, Mrs. R. Munson, infant, and amah, Dr. Riise, Mr. P. McLaren, Mr. and Mrs. Bevan, Miss Bevan, Messrs. Renny, Thos. Kerr, McLaren, J. H. Brewster, N. R. Gilbert, Dr. G. J. Fogerty, Dr. Bowker, Mrs. Bartol, and Miss Candee in cabin; 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Ernest Little, B. Sugi, and T. Harada in cabin; Mr. K. Shimizu in second class, and 17 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mrs. Shibada and Mrs. Ono in cabin; Messrs. M. Miyasaki, K. Hasegawa, T. Nakagawa, J. Sonogi, and M. Nakada in second class, and 23 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Grosser, Dr. and Mrs. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gordon Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Crockerham, Mrs. Blanke, Miss Graves, Lieutenant Dunbar, Mr. and Mrs. Okazaki, Misses Okazaki (2), Mr. L. L. Fobes, and Mr. Collin de Plancy in cabin; Mr. Honda and Mr. Kikuchi in second class, and 24 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Natal*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. T. Tsuno, T. Kitsunesuki, Baldwin, Bonnel, Mrs. Taichi, Mr. Reid, Sœur Auguste, Prieux, Joseph, Etienne, and Messrs. E. A. Apcar, H. Delmas, Marshall, and Delbougro in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, for Shanghai via Kobe:—Mr. Edgar W. Exle, Mr. M. Leng, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Stone, Messrs. R. Kirby, J. S. Hopper, R. P. Carroll, F. Oarnchwerts, G. Morisano, C. Onobeg, H. Robbins, H. Mauterd, Ch. Gautsch, P. Jalusot, V. Gory, Ancecrut, C. B. Carrol, J. Roberts, J. Lyons, G. Vittor, F. A. Scherzer, and G. Hayes in cabin.

Per German steamer *General Werder*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. A. W. Schellhass, Mr. T. C. Hyde, Miss Rosa Cavallona, Mr. and Mrs. Groesser, Messrs. C. Myhre, A. Yuill, E. Elfen, Chas. Timmis, Eichel, I.G.N., Krohn, I.G.N, Friedrich, I.G.N., Hillman, I.G.N., and Tensen, I.G.N. in cabin; 13 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Rt. Rev. Bishop Auzer, Mrs. Aulain and infant, Mr. E. H. Tuska, Captain J. W. Lee, Governor Sufu, Mr. Nomura, Governor Kitagaki, General Oshima, Messrs. Nomura, Mayeda, Tojiro, and Hayashi in cabin; Messrs. Yamamoto, Nomura, Fukuda, Tokio, Kobayashi, Bristro Carls, Ota, Misses A. and K. Nomura, Mr. Sakai, Mrs. Tokio and child, and Mr. Tokuda in second class, and 63 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Messrs. E. H. O. Little, J. W. Cardlestone, J. E. Davies, P. Kerr, and Kuo Chuck Wan in cabin; 1 seaman, R.N., 4 Chinese, and 3 Japanese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 125 bales; Waste Silk for France, 77 bales.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Raw Silk for France 46 bales; Waste Silk for France 51 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Brown, reports:—Left Kobe the 20th June at noon; had moderate easterly winds with passing rain showers to Oshima, which was passed at 8.50 p.m.; thence fresh to strong N.E. winds with moderate head sea and constant downpour of rain up to Sagami, which was passed at 5.45 p.m. on the 21st; thence gentle N.E. winds with drizzling rain up to port. Arrived at Yokohama at 7.50 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Hussey, reports:—Left Hakodate the 20th June at 2 p.m.; had strong E.S.E. winds with overcast weather and high sea down to Shiriya saki, which was passed at 6.40 p.m.; thence moderate breeze and misty and foggy weather and moderate south-easterly swell down to Yamada, which was passed at 7 a.m. on the 21st; thence light variable winds and cloudy weather and moderate easterly swell to Oginohama, arriving there at 5 p.m., having passed Kinkasan at 3.29 p.m. Left Oginohama the 22nd at 5.15 a.m.; had fresh breeze from the east with overcast weather and heavy rain, weather clearing up before noon; had light variable airs with fine weather and moderate easterly swell to Inuboye, passing at 10 p.m.; thence fresh W.S.W. breeze with fine weather to Noshima, which was passed at 6 a.m. on the 23rd; thence light variable winds to port. Arrived at Yokohama at 10.35 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain Speigelthal, reports:—Left Kobe the 22nd June at noon; experienced light winds and fine weather to Oshima; thence to Rock Island had gentle S.W. breeze and smooth water; passed Rock Island at 0.12 p.m. on the 23rd and passed a full rigged ship bound up the bay; light winds and smooth sea until time of arrival.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. Wynn, reports:—Left Hakodate the 22nd June at 2 p.m.; had light variable winds and thick fog to Kinkasan; thence to port light south-westerly winds with hazy weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 24th June at 1 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 24th June at noon; at 5 p.m. put into Yura for shelter; at midnight heavy winds from S.E. with heavy rain thunder and lightning; at 5.20 a.m. left Yura with moderate winds from the south and dull cloudy weather throughout the day; at 2.30 a.m. on the 26th passed Rock Island. Arrived at Yokohama at 9.15 a.m.; moderate southerly winds and dull cloudy weather throughout the passage.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 20th June at 9 a.m.; had light winds with fine weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 22nd at 2.30 a.m. and left at 5 p.m. Arrived at Shimonoseki the 23rd at 5.10 a.m. and left at 10 a.m.; had fine weather and pleasant throughout the passage. Arrived at Kobe the 24th at 6 a.m. and left the 25th at noon; had moderate to fresh S.W. winds with rain. Arrived at Yokohama the 26th June at 3 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Markets are reported to be somewhat quieter, owing it is said to the favourable weather for rice planting having monopolised the whole attention of the country folks, whilst the improvement in Sterling Exchange has caused importers to press sales, and following on a considerable business in Yarns and Shirtings done previously for arrival, dealers have responded very sparingly to the irregular quotations reported. Sales for the week comprise about 750 bales Yarn, more than half the quantity being composed of two-folds and 10 bales of Bombays, 5,000 pieces 9lb. Shirtings, 850 pieces 8½lb., 2,000 pieces T.-Cloths, 1,200 pieces Italian Cloth, and 3,000 pieces Mousseline de Laine, with some trifling sales of Flannel, Serges, and other Woollen and worsted Goods.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$1.50 to 2.10
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.75 to 2.45
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.20 to 1.45
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.20 to 1.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 1.90
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.07 to 0.15
Turkey Reds—1½ to 2¼lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	per piece. 1.10 to 1.17½
Turkey Reds—2½ to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.30 to 1.47½
Turkey Reds—3½ to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 1.97½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	5.25 to 6.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.55 to 0.70
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.35 to 2.25
Turkey Reds—1.15 to 2lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—2.4 to 2.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—2.12 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—3.4 to 3.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	
Turkey Reds—4 to 4.8lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches.	

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-44 yards, 32 inches	$1.10 to 1.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.24½ to 28
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.20 to 24
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.16 to 20
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.11¼ to 0.15½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 & 56 inches	0.30 to 0.45
Cloths—Presidents, 54 & 56 inches	0.47½ to 0.52½
Cloths—Union, 54 & 56 inches	0.30 to 0.60
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.10 to 0.39

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$24 00 to 27 00
Nos. 16/24, Medium	27 00 to 28 00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	28 25 to 29 00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	29 00 to 30 50
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	27 00 to 28 00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	29 00 to 30 00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	30 50 to 31 50
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	35 00 to 36 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	33 50 to 34 50
No. 42s, Two-fold	35 00 to 37 50
	per bale.
No. 20s, Bombay	70.00 to 78 00
No. 16s, Bombay	70.00 to 77 00
No. 10s, Bombay	—

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METALS.

Market practically unchanged. The temporary rise in Exchange gave buyers a hope that prices of metals would relax a little; but the partial subsequent decline has assisted holders to maintain values.

	per picul.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$2.80 to 2.90
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	2.85 to 2.90
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.80 to 2.90
Nailrod, assorted	Nom.
Nailrod, small size	Nom.
Iron Plates, assorted	2.90 to 3.05
Sheet Iron	3.10 to 3.40
Galvanized Iron sheets	6.20 to 6.40
Wire Nails, assorted	4.50 to 4.75
Tin Plates, per box	5.50 to 5.75
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.30 to 1.35

KEROSENE.

Nothing very lively to note in this market. The Tokyo folks are said to be offering a trifle less for most brands than they did a week ago. The *Gloaming* has arrived from New York with 50,000 cases, also ship *Melanope* with 58,000 cases from the same neighbourhood. Stock appears ample for all purposes. Quotations unchanged but nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Chester	$1.65 to 1.67½
Comet	1.62½ to 1.65
Devoe	1.60 to 1.62½
Russian	1.55 to 1.60

SUGAR.

Browns are still neglected, but there have been some sales of Zarame and Refined both at auction and by private contract. Prices mentioned are "A" $7.20 "B" $6.70, with other qualities at from $6.47½ to $5.25. We leave quotations unchanged, but the market is dull.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$4.10 to 4.20
Brown Daitong	3.10 to 3.15
Brown Canton	—
Brown Java and Penang	3.40 to 4.10
White Refined	4.80 to 7.25

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was dated the 19th inst., since which date settlements on this market are 101 piculs (being about 15 piculs old silk, the rest new) divided thus:—*Filatures*, 63 piculs, *Re-reels* 38 piculs. In addition to these figures, direct export by Japanese is 55 bales, making a total business of 150 piculs for the week.

The old silk mentioned was a consignment of *Bushu Filatures* for Europe through a foreign hong. Stock on hand is about the same as last week and comprises 100 piculs of new staple.

The principal feature of the week has been a sudden rise in exchange, which has disturbed holders considerably. The consequence has been that buyers have been able to operate at gradually declining prices, in some instances a reduction of $20 upon opening rates having been secured. The business done has been chiefly for the United States, a few parcels of ordinary *Filatures* having been taken for Europe at $540 per picul.

The course of our market so far is distinctly opposed to that of last year. Then we had a strong and unwarranted rise in prices, which was the cause of much disaster to our native silk dealers. This year prices have opened at a very moderate figure and show no signs whatever of an advance without any cause such as took place year ago.

The weather continues favourable for the crops which are not yet gathered in; and new silk from Shinshu province will be along in this market by the middle of next month. *Kakeda* silks may also be expected about the same time. We have no reason to alter our last week's estimate of the outturn of the crop.

Small arrivals are now coming in from the Shinshu factories, but as usual they are composed of silk reeled from Joshu and Koshu *Cocoons* and real Shinshu fibre will not be here for another three weeks.

The quality of the new crop improves a little from the very earliest arrivals; and the silk shows more care in the preparation. It is to be expected that the silk this year will run of rather full size, as it is well known that strong, healthy worms make a full sized thread.

There have been two shipping opportunities during the week, the Pacific Mail Steamer *China* on the 20th instant took 114 bales for the New York trade and the French Mail Steamer *Calédonien* on the 21st inst. carried 112 bales for France. These departures bring the present export figures up to 34,252 piculs against 35,722 piculs last year and 41,626 to the same date in 1889.

Hanks.—No business for export has been done. Some few parcels of old silk has arrived, but have not found buyers.

Filatures.—Several parcels have been taken for Europe in No. 2 silk at $540. For the United States *Koshu* Filatures have been taken day by day at gradually declining rates. A week ago *Fujima* brought $580. The same chop was yesterday done at $560. So far nothing has transpired in silks from Shinshu district, but business will probably be done in them during the day.

Re-reels.—Business in these has been restricted for want of supplies. Fresh arrivals are looked for daily. In the meantime a few small lots have been taken into godown at some reduction on last week's rates. Old silks are now enquired for in the absence of new silks.

Kakeda.—Nothing done during this week. Buyers are waiting for new silk.

Oshu.—In this class nothing has been done. The stock is reduced to about 80 piculs and no business is looked for until the new crop arrives.

QUOTATIONS.—(NEW SILK.)

Hanks—No. 1½	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	$560 to $570
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	550 to 555
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	530 to 540
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	550 to 555
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	540 to 545
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	—
Kakedas—No. 1½	—
Kakedas—No. 2	—
Kakedas—No. 2½	—
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	—
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 26th June, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	15,273	14,881	21,313
America	18,343	20,377	19,882
Total	Bales 33,616	35,258	41,225
	Piculs 34,252	35,722	41,626
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	piculs. 34,500	piculs. 36,250	piculs. 41 350
Stock, 26th June	1,500	1,850	700
Available supplies to date	36,000	38,100	42,050

WASTE SILK.

This market has been almost stagnant, and several days have passed without a single transaction. The only sale noted during the week has been 35 piculs Yama-ito which brought about $225 per picul. Of course this was old fibre.

The season is practically closed. A parcel of new *Joshu Noshi* about 10 piculs, has come to hand, and the owner thinks he would like to get about $83 for it. The ideas of buyers are about $10 less. It will probably be some days yet before the market for new Waste really opens.

There have been two opportunities for shipping this week. The French mail on the 21st inst. took 77 bales for Europe and the *General Werder* on the 23rd inst. took 4 bales for Italy. These departures make the present export figures 32,171 piculs, against 29,752 piculs piculs last year and 31,731 to the same date in 1889.

Pierced Cocoons.—Two samples of new *Joshu* have arrived. The price mentioned is about $105 for 75 per cent. quality. We fancy that dealers will have to take something less than this before any important business can be done.

Noshi.—As mentioned above, a few piculs of new *Joshu* have come in, but have given rise to no business so far.

In other kinds of Waste no business at all has been done. We correct our figures of stocks to agree with the actual quantity now on hand, several important lots of low qualities *Kibiso* having been returned to the country for native use.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	—
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	—
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	—
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	—
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	—
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	—
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 26th June, 1891:—

	Season 1890-91.	1889-90.	1888-89.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	30,884	27,562	29,240
Pierced Cocoons	1,287	2,190	2,491
	32,171	29,752	31,731
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	piculs. 31,750	piculs. 29,250	piculs. 31,350
Stock, 26th June	2,150	4,850	2,950
Available supplies to date	33,900	34,100	34,300

Exchange improved considerably about the 22nd, but has gradually lost ground again and closes at the following rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 3/4; Documents, 3/4⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 3/4¼; Documents, 3/4⅜; New York, 30 d/s. U.S. $80⅛; 4m/s. U.S. $81¼; Paris, 4m/s. fcs. 4 20; 6m/s. fcs. 4.22.

Estimated Silk Stock, 26th June, 1891:—

Raw.	piculs.	Waste.	piculs.
Hanks	220	Cocoons	130
Filatures	600	Noshi-ito	420
Re-reels	525	Kibiso	1,400
Kakeda	75	Mawata	170
Oshu	80	Sundries	30
Tavsaam Kiads	—		
Total piculs	1,500	Total piculs	2,150

TEA.

Market quiet, with much less doing. Shippers want a reduction in price, but holders do their best to fight against this. Exchange has risen and again partially declined. Sellers hope to see it soon back at last week's rates. Buyers complain of the quality of second crop leaf, and on that account require a reduction in price. We leave quotations unchanged, but they are far from strong.

	per picul.
Extra Choicest	—
Choicest	$27 up.
Choice	25 to 26
Finest	22 to 24
Fine	19 to 21
Good Medium	17 to 18
Medium	15 to 16
Good Common	13 to 14
Common	10 to 12

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has fluctuated, and declined from the highest point early in the week, but closes firm.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/3⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/3⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3 4⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/4⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	4.14
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.20
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72⅜
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72⅝
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	79½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	80½
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	79½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	80½
Silver	45⅛

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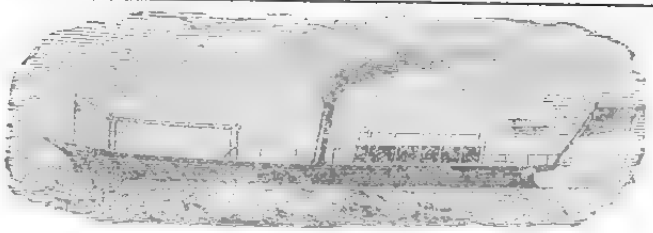

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